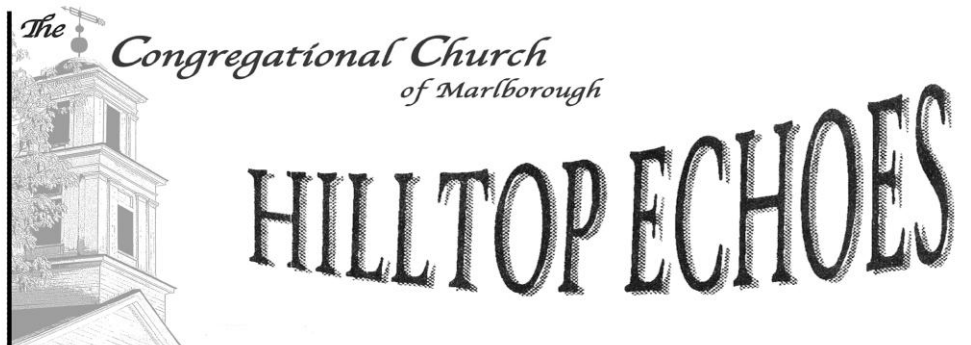


**Congregational Church of Marlborough
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Faith Community
35 South Main Street – PO Box 57
Marlborough, CT 06447**

mcc.marlconchurch.org
office - 860.295.9050
Office email ~ office@marlconchurch.org
Pastor's private line - 860.295.0432
email ~ PastorVal@marlconchurch.org

Reverend Valerie Seaver.....Pastor
David Mulligan.....Music Director
Elizabeth Kukich.....Christian Education/Youth Director
Gwen Lawson.....Worship Assistant
Alice Rowley.....Church Administrator/"Echoes" Editor
Scott Reid.....Facility Manager
Cheryl Benedetto & Linda Stachelek.....Co- Moderators
Keith Davis.....Past Moderator
Pam Mosdale/Marion Spaulding.....Co-Treasurers
Finance (finance@marlconchurch.org)

**Worship in person at the church
and live streamed at 10 a.m.
mcc.marlconchurch.org**



No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

Enter as a Stranger ~ Leave as a Friend

Volume 69

April 2026

Number 4



APRIL 2026



Sunday Worship & Sunday School at 10 a.m.

The Worship service is

LIVE STREAMED
mcc.marlconchurch.org
~ Watch live or later ~

Nursery care provided

Every Sunday after worship

*Refreshments
Meet and Greet
in the Thienes Lounge.*



April Sunday Worship Services

April 5 – Easter

Holy Communion

Pastor Val preaching

7 am Sunrise Service at the lake

10 am service at the church

Pastor Val preaching
readers

7 am – Gwen Lawson

10 am – Janet Bishop

Bonnie Anderson, greeter

April 12

Pastor Val preaching

Marge Bartlett, reader Ida Spooner, greeter

April 19 – Baptism

Pastor Val preaching

Donna & Craig Lower, greeters

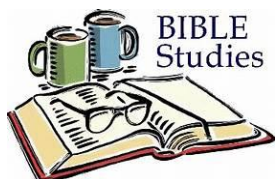
Katherine Cragnotti, reader

April 26 ~ Bluegrass Sunday

Pastor Val, preaching

Denise Young, reader

Marg Rauza & Mel Jump, greeters



All are welcome to either or both Bible studies.
held upstairs in the Thienes Lounge.

Thursdays at 11 am and 6 pm



April 2

Service of Tenebrae

7 p.m.

This beautiful **Communion Service** provides you with an opportunity to hear a dramatic reading of the **Passion Story**



AND



April 3 and 4

the sanctuary will be open for quiet meditation.

Come and go as you please.

A **labyrinth** will be set up in the lounge
for all to walk.

Labyrinth & meditation Friday, 10 am to 3 pm

Saturday, 9 am to noon



April 5

7 a.m.



Service at Lake Terramuggus

Deacons will serve hot cocoa.

Music by Bruce Phelps with the Brass Ensemble
guitarist, Steve Pozzato
Pastor Val preaching
Gwen Lawson, reader



† **one sanctuary service** †

Resurrection Celebration

10 a.m. at the church

Pastor Val preaching

**Joyous Music!
Spring flowers!**



ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED

April 15

6:30-7:30 pm

upstairs in the Thienes Lounge

Pastoral Ponderings

April 2026

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation;
the old has gone, and the new is here*

II Corinthians 5:17

Dear Church Family,

As we enter into April, and Spring comes to life all around us, we are reminded of new beginnings. The earth comes back to life after a long dormant winter. Flowers bloom, trees bud and the frigid winter gives way to the warm sunshine of spring. During this season we celebrate more than a change in the weather, we celebrate the new life we have through Christ.

We begin this month with Easter – our celebration of hope and victory. What seemed like the end on Good Friday, becomes the greatest new beginning the world has ever experienced. Every year we hope it feels as joyful as the year before!

Easter is a reminder that God is always at work bringing life out of what once seemed without life. God always invites us into something new.

During this season our church leaders look for new people to populate our boards and committees. Maybe as you reflect on this season of new life and consider serving our church. Where is God calling you?

As we gather together to celebrate Easter may we do so with hearts full of gratitude and expectations.

- **Embrace renewal, God is not finished with us yet.**
- **Share the hope of Easter with someone who needs it.**
- **Take time to notice God's incredible creation.**
- **Walk in power knowing God's love for us.**

As your Pastor I am grateful for all of you. I am grateful for every single person who walks through our bright yellow doors! It is truly a joy to walk together on this Spiritual journey.

May God grant you Easter joy and blessings every day!

Peace to you all,

Pastor Val

CARE MINISTRY



Reflections on the Quote...

A monthly column from church member Ruth Jones. Ruth is a retired elementary school teacher.

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business.

Instead I have called you friends.

John 15:15

A friend is someone who keeps confidences (Proverbs 11:13; 16:28), shares advice (Proverbs 29) and keeps boundaries. Webster's description includes being helpful, reliable, a supporter, or a sympathizer. To my surprise being on the same side is included. I'm friendly, more than just that with someone who differs on every opinion I've ever had! We are far from being enemies. In fact she might be that rare person I could call at midnight if my need called for dire support.

Many years ago when we struggled with our daughter Rachel's terminal illness, I kept my teaching job while Larry, who was retired, held down the home front. We were warmly over-whelmed by the support of the staff of the four schools in town from custodians, paras, support staff, teachers, principal, and the superintendent. A high school teach that I had never met organized all the giving food, funds, etc. You name it and it was covered. The high school staff even covered the elementary schools (where I taught) bus duty so that staff could go to the funeral. That support was steady for those long, yet too short, not quite three months and it extended for the following year.

A colleague met me in the hallway as I was leaving the building and apologized for not seeking me out sooner. She said that I

was always on her mind but she wasn't good with words spoken or written. I reached out to hug her, but she sort of stepped back in a panic saying, "not good at that either, but I'm a really good listener." She then told me that she had trouble sleeping and that she was often up hours of the early morning. She then invited, encouraged me that if I just needed to vent, complain, even curse, to call her and she would be there to listen.

It was obvious how much she wanted to help and how helpless she felt to do so. I never did make that phone call, but I've never forgotten the offer—a true gift from the heart.

Not long ago someone said to me, quite sorrowfully. "I've said I'd help you, but you never ask." I told them of my midnight phone friend and said she was that type of friend—always there if need arises.

Blessed are those who see what is needed and step in before they are asked.

*Gracious Lord and God,
help us all to be receptive to the needs of others
and recognize that the little things from the
heart are of great value. Just as you are there
for us, help us to be there for others.*

Amen.



**Do you or someone you know need...
a visit, a meal, transportation,
a note or a card?**

If so, please contact

Pastor Val (860.295.0432)

PastorVal@marlconchurch.org

OR

Coordinator, Edi Dole (860.267-8543)

edidole2@aol.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL and YOUTH GROUP



a note from Elizabeth Kukich
Christian Education/ Youth Director
ekukich@marlconchurch.org

Hello from the Sunday School,

With so much going on this month, March seemed to fly by! This important time of year is always fun but also a bit hectic with lots going on.

We started the beginning of the month with our own special Sunday school lesson with Pastor Val. She came downstairs to teach us all about Ash Wednesday and even gave us our own little service where the kids got to receive ashes during class. This was probably one of my favorite classes so far. Not everyone can attend Ash Wednesday service, and this gave them a chance to experience this special service. The kids were so attentive and interested this day. It made that much more special to see them enjoy it.

We also started a new tradition that I hope to continue each year. We hosted Girl Scout Sunday on March 15th. We have several Girl Scouts who attend Sunday School, and it was nice for them to reach out to other troops and invite them to explore their faith journeys with us. During this class, everyone made Resurrection Eggs with egg cartons and plastic Easter eggs.

Starting Wednesday, March 25, and leading up to Easter Sunday, the kids would open one egg each night at home and read a scripture verse in the egg to help them open up discussions with family about Holy Week and Jesus' Resurrection. This was a super detailed project, but they all did a great job with it.

We ended the month with our Palm Sunday celebration. Starting with the Palm Parade through the sanctuary with a Children's Message from Miss Gwen, we then enjoyed our Ice Cream Seder as one large group in the Community Fellowship Hall and followed up with an Easter Egg Hunt outside and a visit from the Easter Bunny.

Check out the dates below to see what's going on for the remainder of this Sunday School year.

Many blessings,
Elizabeth

Sunday 4/5 - **Easter!** NO SS or Nursery
Sunday 5/17- **Children's Sunday!**
NO SS or Nursery

YOUTH GROUP



Just a reminder that we will be **meeting Sunday 4/19 after coffee hour** in the lounge. This meeting we will be focused on making our Blessing Bags to deliver to St. Vincent DePaul along with our Missions Team when they volunteer in May. This meeting we are inviting our upcoming Youth members to join us (4th graders). Youth Group includes grades 5th-12th grade but we have several 4th graders who are excited to be a part of our special group, and we are so thrilled to have them. I have been planning something fun for the end of the summer to kick off the start of the next school year with our new members. So be on the lookout for more information soon. With the Youth Group growing in numbers, I'm hoping to keep the momentum going with their excitement and participation.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

WITH DEEPEST
Sympathy

Our heartfelt prayers go out to the following family over the passing of a loved one who entered into the more immediate presence of her Lord and Savior

✦ **Julie Naseef** and her family over the passing of her mother, Pauline Denson, a member of our church from Marlborough, on March 31. A service in her memory will be held at our church on May 16 at 11 am.



♥ **Trustees and the Real Estate team**

who complete the many big and little projects around the church building and grounds.

♥ **thrift shop volunteers** for their continued dedication and enthusiasm.

♥ We thank the **many others** who quietly, faithfully, and unseen who take care of projects, chores, and general maintenance around the church building and grounds.



to our members and friends.

If a birthday is missing or incorrect, please let us know at office@marlconchurch.org

- 4/1 - Pam Schlegel, Rebecca Weller
- 4/4 - Jen Carlson, Sue McCaffrey
- 4/6 - Evelyn Dillman, Karen Starkowski
- 4/9 - Nancy Titchen
- 4/13 - Eleanor Button 4/15 - Carla Clark
- 4/18 - Pat Fitton, Bob Wargo
- 4/21 - Brian Turner
- 4/24 - Beth Alves 4/25 - Rachel Peterson
- 4/28 - Carolyn Barnes, Suzi Roman

SECOND BLESSINGS



THRIFT SHOP



OPEN

Fridays from noon to 3 pm
Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm
First Sunday of every month 11:15-noon

Donations accepted during shop hours.

♥ **Thank you** to Stephanie Bunting who does everything eBay and to Geri Turner who spends MANY hours at the shop every week organizing, pricing, Facebook posting and more!

Second Blessings Thrift Shop, continued



Our eBay shop is open **all year**. Follow the link below to go directly to our store front. New items are listed every week.

<https://bit.ly/MCCebay>

♥ **Thank You Volunteers** ♥

- April 10 - Bob Wargo, Kathy Burrill
- April 11 - Bonnie Anderson, Linda Garrett, Judi McBair
- Sunday, April 12 - Laura Robinson, Geri Turner
- April 17 - Bob Wargo, Ida Spooner
- April 18 - Karen Gallmon, Cathy Glynn, Daphine Vail
- April 24 - Kathy Burrill, Betty Merritt
- April 25 - Marge Bartlett, Debbie Cook, Julie Naseef
- May 1 - Bob Wargo, Sheryl Scheidel
- May 2 - Bonnie Anderson, Kathy Burrill, Kathi Karp, Daphine Vail
- May 3 - Laura Robinson

MISSIONS



April Mission Giving

AHM Mental Health Fund

Please make your check payable to MCC

memo line: 2nd quarter missions

Drive Thru Café

April 26, 2026

(sponsored by our congregation)

for Marlborough Food Bank patrons and their families who have received vouchers from the food bank.



We collect food and other non-perishable items



Food Collection

year-round for the Marlborough Food Bank. A collection box is in the narthex.



St. Vincent de Paul
Middletown

MEETING NEEDS, OFFERING HOPE.

Our church is sponsoring a meal at St. Vincent de Paul's soup kitchen on **May 3**. Help is needed with providing supplies, to prepare the meal, deliver, and serve.

Look for an email signup or contact Sheryl Scheidel at

sbscheidel@yahoo.com

GREAT HAPPENINGS



**Sat., May 2, 2026
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

LOTS and LOTS of quality goods will fill the Community Fellowship Hall and several classrooms with a huge selection of household and seasonal items, linens, vintage, toys and games, collectibles, framed artwork, electronics and small appliances, clothing, furniture and much more~

Donations

Your "treasures" and clothing may be brought to the hall stage area during thrift shop hours:
Fridays from noon to 3 pm
Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm

Notes

clean clothing, please

We can't accept
skis/poles, air conditioners,
high chairs, cribs, car seats.

Questions

Please contact Edi Dole at
860.267.8543



RETIREMENT PARTY

for

Music Director Dave Mulligan

Sunday, April 26, 2026

Thienes Lounge after Sunday worship

All are invited.



**We Need your
SOUP and DESSERT**



for our next cookbook
featuring soups and desserts!

Everyone is welcome to participate...
friends and neighbors near and far!

- ✓ **Bring** in your recipe (can the lounge),
- ✓ **send** it to PO Box 57, Marlborough, CT 06447
- ✓ **email** to office@marlconchurch.org



**6 (ish) Ingredients
CHURCH COOKBOOK!
\$10**

Copies are available in the
Thienes Lounge
and in Second Blessings Thrift Shop
One can be sent to you for an additional \$3



April 1 - CE, 6 pm (Zoom)
 AA, noon-1 pm (Youth Room)
 AA, 7:30-8:30 pm (Comm Fell Hall)

April 2 - **Maundy Thursday service, 7 pm**
 Thrift Shop **CLOSED** Friday & Saturday

April 3 - **Good Friday** labyrinth, 10 am-3 pm

April 4 - **Holy Saturday** labyrinth, 9 am- noon

Sun., April 5 - **Easter**
 Sunrise service at the lake, 7 am
 Sanctuary service, 10 am

April 6 - CT Valley Field Music, 6:30 pm (CFH)

April 7 - Boy Scouts, 7 pm (CFH)
 ACA, 7-8:30 pm (Youth Room)

April 8 - AA, noon-1 pm (Youth Room)
 AA, 7:30-8:30 pm (Comm Fell Hall)

April 9 - Bible Study, 11 am and 6 pm (lounge)
 AA, 6-7:15 pm (Youth Room)

April 10 - Stretch & Strengthen, 9:45 (lounge)
Dorcas WF, noon-2 pm (lounge)
 Second Blessings Thrift Shop, 12-3 pm

April 11 - **Church yard cleanup** starting at 9
 Second Blessings Thrift Shop, 10-1 pm

Sun., April 12 -Worship & Sunday School, 10 am
 Second Blessings Thrift Shop, 11:15-12
 GS Troop #61097, 2:30-5 pm (CFH)

April 13-CT Valley Field Music, 6:30 pm (CFH)
 Missions, 6 pm (Zoom)

April 14 - Boy Scouts, 7 pm (CFH)
 ACA, 7-8:30 pm (Youth Room)

April 15-**Women's Circle**, 6:30-7:30 pm (lounge)
 AA, noon-1 pm (Youth Room)
 AA, 7:30-8:30 pm (Comm. Fell. Hall)

April 16 - Bible Study, 11 and 6 pm (lounge)
 AA, 6-7:15 pm (Youth Room)

April 17- *Stretch & Strengthen*, 9:45 (lounge)
 Second Blessings Thrift Shop, 12-3 pm

April 18-*Second Blessings Thrift Shop*, 10-1 pm

Sun., April 19 -Worship & Sunday School, 10 am
 Trustees, 11:15 am

April 20-Deacons/Care Team, 6:30 (in person)
 Girl Scouts, 4:45-6:15 pm (CFH)
 CT Valley Field Music, 6:30 pm (CFH)

April 21 - Boy Scouts, 7 pm (CFH)
 ACA, 7-8:30 pm (Youth Room)

April 22 - AA, noon-1 pm (Youth Room)

AA, 7:30-8:30 pm (Comm. Fell. Hall)

April 23 - Bible Study. 11 am and 6 pm (lounge)
 Joyful Blue rehearsal, 6 pm (sanctuary)
 Chancel Choir, 7 pm (sanctuary)
 AA, 6-7:15 pm (Youth Room)

April 24 - *Second Blessings Thrift Shop*, 12-3 pm

April 25 - *Second Blessings Thrift Shop*, 10 am-1 pm

Sun., April 26 - *Bluegrass Sunday*
 Worship & Sunday School, 10 am
PARTY TIME for Dave Mulligan, 11 am (lounge)
 Drive Thru Café, 1-1:30 pm (kitchen)
 GS Troop #61097, 2:30-5 pm (CFH)

April 27 - Council, 6:30 pm (Zoom)
 CT Valley Field Music, 6:30 pm (CFH)

April 28 - Boy Scouts, 7 pm (CFH)
 ACA, 7-8:30 pm (Youth Room)

April 29 - AA, noon-1 pm (Youth Room)
 AA, 7:30-8:30 (Comm. Fell. Hall)

April 30 - **TAG SALE SETUP** starting at 9 am
 NO morning Bible Study.
 Bible Study, 6 pm (lounge)
 AA, 6-7:15 pm (Youth Room)

May 1 - **TAG SALE SETUP** starting at 9 am
Stretch & Strengthen, 9:45 (lounge)
 Second Blessings Thrift Shop, 12-3 pm

May 2 - **SPRING TAG SALE! 9 am-1 p,**
 Second Blessings Thrift Shop, **9 am-1 pm**
Community Sings, 7 pm (lounge)

Sun., May 3 -Worship & Sunday School, 10 am
 Second Blessings Thrift Shop, 11:15-12
 Provide & serve meal at **St. Vincent DePaul**
 (and Blessing Bags from youth group).



Next Community Sings
Next Sing, Saturday May 2
7 p.m.
Upstairs in the Thienes Lounge
 Hosted by Carolyn Brodginiski
 Come out and sing along
 to some of your favorite songs!
 Songbooks are provided.
 Musicians are also welcome!