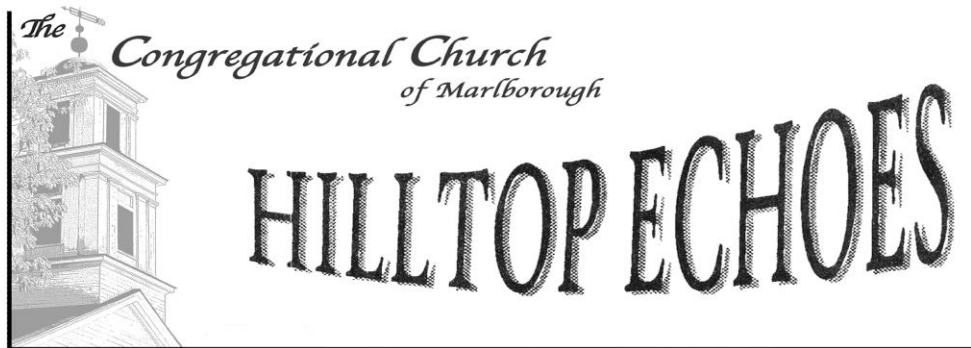


**Congregational Church of Marlborough
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Faith Community
35 South Main Street – PO Box 57
Marlborough, CT 06447**

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
Charles Denler.....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

May 2026

Number 5



MAY 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.



May Sunday Worship Services

May 3

Holy Communion

Pastor Val preaching

reader ~ Suzi Roman Terri & Scott, greeters

May 10 – Mother's Day

Pastor Val preaching

Beth Alves, reader Carolyn Barnes, greeter

May 17 – Children's Sunday

Bluegrass Sunday

readers, Sunday School students

Ida Spooner, greeter

May 24 - Pentecost Sunday

Gwen Lawson, preaching

Katherine Cragnotti, reader

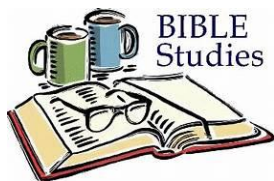
Nancy & Pete Brown, greeters

May 31

Gwen Lawson, preaching

Bernie Odoy, reader

Marilyn Henry, greeter



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

Thursdays at 11 am and 6 pm



Next Community Sings

Saturday, May 2

7 p.m.

Upstairs in the Thienes Lounge

Hosted by Carolyn Brodgerski

Come out and sing along
to some of your favorite songs!

Songbooks are provided.

Musicians are also welcome!



#UnderstandGrief

Wednesday, May 20, 2026

6:30-8 pm

Thienes Lounge

Open to the public

"Everybody dies,

no one wants to talk about it:
communication and grief."

Beth Alves, a professor at Connecticut State Community College Quinebaug Valley, shares feedback she gathered about communication when it comes to conversations about estate planning, death and grief (with the main focus on grief).

She decided to undertake a project on successes and challenges related to such conversations after the unexpected death of her husband in 2022.

What she learned through interviews and survey questions helped her create a unit for her "Interpersonal Communications" class about how people communicate (or struggle to communicate) when it comes to the most difficult of topics.

If you find it challenging to talk with someone whose friend, coworker, loved one has died, the presentation will include the advice she received on ways to communicate with those who are grieving.

Pastoral Ponderings

May 2026

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances,
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Dear Church Family,

As we come into the month of May there is a lot of talk among Clergy about prayer. May 7th is the National Day of Prayer. This Day of Prayer is an annual observance designated by Congress. On this day specifically, people are asked to turn to God in prayer and meditation. This law was enacted in 1952 due to anxiety regarding the Korean War. Ever since, The Freedom of Religion Foundation has challenged the constitutionality of a government-sponsored day of prayer.

In today's divisive times we could use prayer more than ever. Luckily for us we do not need a specified day of prayer, for we pray often and always. As followers of Christ, we are privy to the tools of prayer taught by Jesus.

In Matthew 6:25 Jesus encouraged us to pray in the privacy of our own room, emphasizing that our motivation for prayer should be a communication with God. Public prayer is important too, as I believe our collective energy is powerful, a truth we see each week in our sanctuary. Each form of prayer is equally important. Private prayer strengthens our still small voice that calls us and guides us. Public prayer strengthens our community.

I recently found a tool to help with this practice of private prayer. This practice, called "Two-Way-Prayer," was created by a priest. It was developed for a 12-Step Recovery program to help individuals with their 11th-step: "Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God, praying only for the knowledge of God's will and the power to carry it out." The two-way prayer asks participants to find a quiet space, to write down a question for God, and to listen for an answer. The answer will come. Write down the answer. Ten to twenty minutes a day of conscious meditation with God makes a useful difference in our lives. If anyone cares for more information on this go to www.twowayprayer.org

As we move into the low liturgy of these summer months, may you find sabbath time to pray. Whether it be a formal two-way prayer, the Lord's prayer, or a silent meditation of your own; take the time to pray, you will not regret it.

Prayerfully Yours,

Pastor Val

CARE MINISTRY



Reflections on the Quote...

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

What I say to you I say to everyone.

Mark 13:37

As I remember, it was a little dark; a warning to be on the lookout, but I began to think of more positive watching instead of rushing through life without noticing what you're speeding by.

We miss so much when we don't stop to "smell the roses," like the butterfly that lands on the flower or even the worm that wraps around its stem. They are God wonders, every one.

A mother writes of how her children frequently call out to her, "Mommy, watch me!" She says she tries to never miss a call, for the wonders of childhood soon slip out and away from memory early and quickly.

I remember joyfully when I was around three years old, shouting to my Mom as I made my first and last slide on a slippery slid, "Watch me!" I landed on my tailbone and screamed bloody blue murder—my memory still holds the sound and the pain! Mom was there because she watched and that's the cherished memory.

I can't remember the last time that I sat on the back steps and just enjoyed the activity of nature—birds, squirrels, butterflies, and once in a while, a fox or a groundhog, and even a deer. Yep, turkeys too, high here on Route 66!

The trees that were here 40 years ago have grown to a dense height that I hadn't noticed until recently.

There are marvels all around us that we miss because we aren't watching. Recent studies claim that watching nature has a calming effect on ones nerves which can only make a person happier.

Now, watching the moon waxing and waning through the trees doesn't suit my current sleep schedule. Right now as I sit writing at my work table, I can take frequent breaks to note the breeze gently lifting and caressing the heavy branches of leaves on the forest of trees that almost hide the end of our back yard.

There is a view of the sky with constantly changing cloud patterns—a drifting, soothing, unheard motion and many different shades of blue.

All this is given by the hand of God to soothe our troubled spirits along with flowers to add to the brightness of our days.

Pam Kid writes, "When we look into another's eyes, acknowledge their worth, and show our love, happiness lingers, for us and for them. I think that God must be pleased when we watch.

*Heavenly Father,
watch us, your children, as we pause and watch
the amazing universe that You lay out for us.*

Pam Kid, [Guideposts](#)



**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 Sunday School,

This time of year, we don't often think of as being a busy time, but with the weather slowly warming up and spring sports in full swing, Sunday school has been a little quiet this month. However, that has not stopped us from having fun with our smaller class sizes.

After celebrating Easter with a beautiful sunrise service as well as our 10 am service, we jumped right into reading a few chapters from Acts.

This month we focused on certain groups in church who help our church grow and stay strong. Starting with Acts 9:36-43, learning about Tabitha. This particular day, the kids read about Tabitha, also known as Dorcas. She was a devoted Christian who was known for her charity works, specifically making clothes for those in need. The kids crafted a shirt where they practiced their sewing skills, while hearing about our own women's group, named after Dorcas and all the wonderful things they do.

Our next reading was from Acts 6:1-7, give us our daily bread. This Sunday lesson the kids read how long ago as the church grew, the apostles called on seven godly men to help distribute food to the widows who had been overlooked. The kids learned how all jobs within church are equally as important; those who teach and

preach as well as those who solve problems with wisdom and love. This helped us teach the children about our own Deacons. After hearing all they do for our church, the kids made Thank You cards to distribute to the Deacons.

Sunday school also wanted to show our appreciation to Dave Mulligan for all the years of his wonderful music talents. The children made Thank You cards and decorations to hang up during his Retirement party. Thank You Dave for sharing your music with us. We wish you all the best with your retirement!

Many blessings,
Elizabeth

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



We Need Your

SOUP and DESSERT



by June 1, 2026

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

OUR CHURCH FAMILY



BAPTISM
April 19, 2026

Ziggy Rowan Menzie
born July 12, 2025,
son of Scott & Emma Menzie
(Emma is daughter of Carolyn Brodgerski.)

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

✦ **Audra Defelice** and her family over the passing of her sister, Majorie Defelice Aucoin, from Berlin, CT on March 26.



- ♥ **Trustees and the Real Estate team** who complete the many big and little projects around the church building and grounds with special thanks to **Scott Reid** who repaired the lift, saving the church a great deal of expense, **Bob Fleming & Larry Zarrella**, who repaired the double entry doors, **John Rowley & Larry Zarrella** for installing visitor parking signs, **Scott Reid & John Benedetto** for removing the pipe under the stairwell in the lower lobby, **Wayne Nichols & Larry Zarrella** for disposing Applefest cooking oil and broken folding chairs.
- ♥ **Michele Sinkez & Keith Davis** who maintain the Pollinator Gardens.
- ♥ **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!
- ♥ **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.



Thank you, thank you, thank you to all who attended the wonderful retirement send-off for me (and Shellie)!

Many thanks also to Pastor Val for her "Musical Shepherd" sermon, which (although all of it true, of course - haha) had me blushing while stretched out on that spacious organ bench! I am even grateful to Kevin and the other committee members who put together quite the counterweight to Val's sermon, which outlined the many humorous (although also true) ways in which my Music Director tenure will be remembered by our faithful (and not at all horrible) choir members and other musicians!

We love you all and wish you glorious music in the months and years ahead! (But you're not getting rid of me quite that easily - I'll be back for Bluegrass Sundays, and Charlie has already recruited Shellie and me for bells on May 31st.)

Faithfully,

David Mulligan Music Director (Retired)



Congratulations

first time grandparents,
Richard and Lori Eifler,
on the birth of granddaughter,
Mila Lane Fishbone,

to Jacquelyn (Eifler) and Justin Fishbone,
on April 14, 2026.



to our members

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

5/2 – RuthAnn Lofmark 5/3 – Rob Faulhaber
5/4 – Paul Schlegel 5/6 – Eileen Byrnes
5/7 – Barbara Armfield 5/9 – Meghan Maher
5/11 – David Henry, Jean Jordan
5/13 – Warren Thime 5/15 – Denise Young
5/16 – Lisa Butterfield 5/19 – Tyler Caye
5/22 – Edi Dole, Gene LaMantia
5/23 – David Johnson, Pam Mosdale
5/24 – Dana Hersey, Patrick Caye
5/25 – Adam Guy, Laura Jane Wallington
5/27 – Sheryl Scheidel, Sally Zakszewski
5/31 – Bernie Trafford

MORE HAPPENINGS

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.

CHARITY OUTREACH

In April a \$500 donation was made to Connecticut Draft Horse Rescue located in East Hampton, CT

Our eBay shop is open **year round**.



Follow the link below to go directly to our store front. New items are listed every week.

<https://bit.ly/MCCebay>

♥Thank You Volunteers♥

May 1 – Bonnie Anderson, Sheryl Scheidel, Geri Turner

May 2 – Bonnie Anderson, Kathy Burrill, Kathi Karp, Stephanie Bunting, Daphine Vail

May 3 – Laura Robinson, Bonnie Anderson

May 8 – Bob Wargo **Need one more**

May 9 – Bonnie Anderson, Kathy Burrill, Karen Gallmon

May 15 – Bob Wargo, Betty Merritt

May 16 – Bonnie Anderson, Michele Sinkez
Need one more

May 22 & 23 – *Memorial Weekend* – **Shop Closed**

May 29 – Bob Wargo, Bonnie Tierney

May 30 – **Need three volunteers**

Our Newest Members

Welcome
to our
Church Family



Joined on March 1, 2026

Josh and Amanda Seals

Josh and Amanda and their two children live in Colchester. Josh owns Champions Karate School in Colchester and is also a realtor.

Amanda teaches first grade in East Hartford. The family enjoys reading good books, playing board games and walking their two “puppies.”

MISSIONS



May Mission Giving
AHM Mental Health Fund
Please make your check payable to MCC

memo line: *2nd quarter missions*



Drive Thru Café

May 31, 2026

(Sponsored by St. John Fisher Church.)
for Marlborough Food Bank patrons and their families who have received vouchers from the food bank.



Food Collection

We collect food and other non-perishable items 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**. **Blessing Bags**, made by the youth group, and filled with various items, will be given to those attending the soup kitchen.



Florence Lord Housing
Saturday, May 23 at 9 am
planting and barbeque lunch

For more information please contact Scott or Terri Reid at manatee85@yahoo.com

LOOK



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 pm**
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).
May 4 - Care Team, 6 pm (Zoom)
CT Valley Field Music, 6:30 pm (CFH)
May 5 - Boy Scouts, 7 pm (CFH)
ACA, 7-8:30 pm (Youth Room)
May 6 - - CE, 6 pm (Zoom)
AA, noon-1 pm (Youth Room)
AA, 7:30-8:30 pm (Comm Fell Hall)
May 7 - Bible Study, 11 am and 6 pm (lounge)
Chancel Choir, 7 pm
AA, 6-7:15 pm (Youth Room)
May 8 - *Stretch & Strengthen*, 9:45 (lounge)
Second Blessings Thrift Shop, 12-3 pm
Dorcas WF Mystery Trip
May 9 - *Second Blessings Thrift Shop*, 10-1 pm

May 10 - Worship & Sunday School, 10 am
May 11 - Missions, 6 pm (Zoom)
Girl Scouts, 4:45 (CFH)
CT Valley Field Music, 6:30 pm (CFH)
May 12 - Boy Scouts, 7 pm (CFH)
ACA, 7-8:30 pm (Youth Room)
May 13 - AA, noon-1 pm (Youth Room)
AA, 7:30-8:30 pm (Comm Fell Hall)
May 14 - Bible Study, 11 am and 6 pm (lounge)
Bluegrass, 6 pm (sanctuary)
AA, 6-7:15 pm (Youth Room)
May 15 - *Stretch & Strengthen*, 9:45 (lounge)
Second Blessings Thrift Shop, 12-3 pm
May 16 - **Memorial Service** (P. Denson) 11 am
Second Blessings Thrift Shop, 10-1 pm

Sun., May 17- Worship, 10 am
Bluegrass Sunday
Children's Sunday
Trustees, 11:15 am (Pastor's office)
GS Troop #61097, 2:30-5 pm (CFH)

May 18 - Deacons, 6:30 pm (Zoom)
CT Valley Field Music, 6:30 pm (CFH)
May 19 - Boy Scouts, 7 pm (CFH)
ACA, 7-8:30 pm (Youth Room)
May 20 - **PRESENTATION**, 6:30 pm (lounge)
AA, noon-1 pm (Youth Room)
AA, 7:30-8:30 pm (Comm. Fell. Hall)
May 21 - Bible Study, 11 and 6 pm (lounge)
AA, 6-7:15 pm (Youth Room)
May 22- *Stretch & Strengthen*, 9:4 (lounge)
Thrift Shop CLOSED this weekend.
May 23 - **Florence Lord planting & bbq** 9 am
Thrift Shop CLOSED this weekend.
CFH Rental, 10 am-5 pm

Sun., May 24 - Worship, 10 am
May 25 - Memorial Day
May 26 - Council, 6:30 pm (Zoom)
Boy Scouts, 7 pm (CFH)
ACA, 7-8:30 pm (Youth Room)
May 27 - AA, noon-1 pm (Youth Room)
AA, 7:30-8:30 pm (Comm. Fell. Hall)
May 28 - Bible Study, 11 and 6 pm (lounge)
AA, 6-7:15 pm (Youth Room)
May 29 - *Stretch & Strengthen*, 9:4 (lounge)
Second Blessings Thrift Shop, 12-3 pm
May 30 - *Second Blessings Thrift Shop*, 10-1 pm
250th Reenactment, 9:30-12:30 (CFH & church)

Sun., May 31 -Worship, 10 am
Drive Thru Café, 1-1:30 (downstairs kitchen)


Dorcas Women's Fellowship
Friday, May 8
Mystery Trip?
All women are invited.
 **Want more Information?**
Please email Rebecca at rebecca-weller@sbcglobal.net