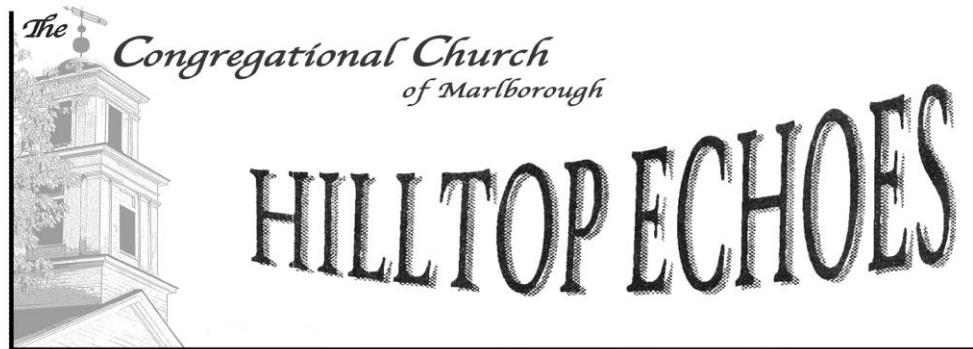


**Congregational Church of Marlborough
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Faith Community
35 South Main Street – PO Box 57
Marlborough, CT 06447**

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
Janet Bishop & Denise Young.....Moderators
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.

Volume 69

June 2026

Number 6



Enter as a Stranger ~ Leave as a Friend

JUNE 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.



Sunday Worship Services

June 7

Holy Communion

Pastor Val preaching

Marge Bartlett, reader ~ Linda Bromley, greeter

June 14

Pastor Val preaching

Suzi Roman, reader

Elaine Adams & Robert Wahl, greeters

June 21 ~ Father's Day

Bluegrass Sunday

Kathi Karp, reader ~ Marge Bartlett, greeter

June 28

Pastor Val preaching

Ed Dalenta, reader ~ Rebecca Weller, greeter



**279th annual program meeting
Congregational Church of
Marlborough, UCC
Sunday, June 7, 2026
after the Sunday worship service**

Election of Officers
Board and Committee Reports
Any Business Brought to the Chair



Next Community Sings Saturday, June 6 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!



Wednesday, June 24, 2026

6:30-8 pm

Thienes Lounge

Open to the public

**"You're Dead: How to Make Life Easier
for Those Left Behind."**

When **Beth Alves'** husband unexpectedly died of a heart attack in 2022, she came face-to-face with a lot more than shock and grief. She suddenly found herself wading through the unfamiliar world of wills, trusts, probate, house-related issues and more.

What she learned prompted Beth, a professor at CT State Community College Quinebaug Valley, to create a list of tips designed to help those who are faced with the many tasks that must be dealt with safter the death of a loved one.

She will also talk about the importance of creating an "I Am Dead" file that is designed to make life easier for your loved ones.

Pastoral Ponderings

June 2026

The summer sun climbs high and bright,
A canvas bathed in golden light.
It calls us from our hurried pace,
To find God's peace and feel God's grace.

Come, let the weary spirit rest,
And trust in God, who knows us best.
Beneath the shade of mercy's tree,
God whispers, "Come and be with me."
The seeds we planted in the spring,
Are blooming with the joy they bring.
The summer sun and gentle rain,
Help quiet doubts and ease our pain.

For every season has its worth,
As heaven touches quiet earth.
Lord, let our lives take root and grow,
And share the love we've come to know.
As summertime unfolds its days,
We see Your Glory and Your praise.

Through ocean breeze and blooming field,
Your endless love is thus revealed.
May we be refreshed, renewed, and blessed,
In every season, work, or rest.
Walk with us as we journey on,
From morning bright till day is gone.

-Author Unknown

Have a great summer!

Pastor Val

CARE MINISTRY



Reflections on the Quote...

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

Those parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable.

I Corinthians 12:22

There is a hospital ship called the Africa Mercy which takes free health care to developing countries. The staff cares for hundreds of patients daily for a variety of ailments that without their services would go untreated.

There are T.V. crews who periodically film the medical services and sometimes go below deck to where an engineer manages thousands of liters of the waste produced each day. Without the work of the engineer Africa Mercy's life-giving service would stop.

In hospitals doctors get the credit for the healing but their roles would be greatly complicated without the nurses, physician assistants, advanced practice nurses, etc. I can't picture a doctor in his or her spotless white coat, mopping the floors or emptying bedpans or dusting. Those who do the most menial of work are just as indispensable as those who are on the top scale.

In restaurants it's the meal that garners the praise, with credit to the chef. The waitress gets the tip, but what about the busboy or those who prep for the chef or keep the kitchen and dining area clean. It isn't just one job that makes a successful eatery. It's a full staff for preparation, service and clean up.

Each job supports the other. The food must please, the service be prompt and pleasant, the atmosphere be clean and orderly before anyone says, "Great restaurant"

The halls of education without the principal, vice-principal, paras, volunteers and custodians would make a teachers work much harder and a less positive atmosphere for learning.

I could go on and on and on about so-called basic blue-collar workers for just about any company or industry that you can think of.

It is easy to applaud those on the "top deck" and overlook completely those on the "lower deck" who are unseen and unheard but so vital for the smooth running of the whatever the operation is.

Every job is a gift of importance. In fact, the less prominent the roll, the greater the honor it deserves.

All work in good faith is honored by God and indispensable to us all.

*Remind me, Lord,
that just as all body parts are needed,
all workers everywhere are indispensable,
and their efforts are honored by you.*

Amen.

"With help from 'Our Daily Word' 7/30/23."



**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

SUNDAY SCHOOL and YOUTH GROUP



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

Hello from Sunday School,

"Spring being a tough act to follow,
God created June"-Al Bernstein.

No better quote to kick off our summer! Sunday school was filled with fun games and activities in between our preparation for Children's Sunday.

We took a break from the structured classroom time and once we rehearsed our readings together, we spent our time just laughing and being silly. Between all the silliness, we were able to celebrate with a wonderful Children's Sunday on May 17th.

The kids and I were thankful enough to be joined by the bluegrass band, who helped make Children's Sunday extra special. I am incredibly proud of the children who helped lead our service whether in person or via video. We were also able to recap our fun-filled year with a slideshow for our congregation to see all the excitement that goes on while we are downstairs. Thank you to everyone who attended Children's Sunday either in person or watching at home.

Showing up to support the kids means everything and it encourages them to continue all their great work as they learn and grow within our church family.

Now it is time for summer break, when we all go our separate ways from time to time, enjoying the wonderful weather and adventures that await us. We hope you do find time to join us for services during the summer months even though we will not be meeting for Sunday school.

We have plenty of quiet, activity bags hanging in the Narthex for the little ones to enjoy while they join everyone for worship.

I would like to remind everyone that there is NO Sunday school until we all meet up for Rally Day and the nursery will be CLOSED during JULY and AUGUST.

I want to Thank all the wonderful volunteers who helped with teaching and nursery over the past year. Because of you all, we had another successful year. THANK YOU!!!

Many blessings,
Elizabeth



Greeting from Youth Group,

This past month, our Youth Group was joined by our upcoming younger members. The happiness and excitement they bring to our group is contagious and has us all renewed for another year together.

The kids, grades 5-12, all met up and discussed activities and community work they would like to be a part of with the upcoming year.

Continued on next page.

Youth Group news, continued

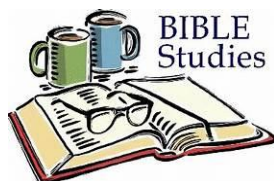
Together, we also put together 50 Blessing Bags for St. Vincent DePaul clients, which were handed out by a couple older youth members along with our Mission's Team. Those who receive the Blessing Bags are always deeply touched and grateful for them. I would like to continue having Youth Group prepare these bags throughout the year. Such a small activity for the kids, but a huge impact for others.

With summer bringing us all in different directions, I will continue to stay in touch with our Youth Group to see if there is a time for us all to get together. I don't want to put pressure on families having to meet during the all too short summer break.

I am working on a new, fun Youth Group event which will include church members of all ages. More info to follow as the summer moves on. This event will happen in time to regroup at the end of summer and kick off Rally Day! Stay tuned...

Have a wonderful, safe summer!

Sincerely,
Elizabeth



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

**Thursdays at
11 am and 6 pm**

Events for Women



Dorcas Women's Fellowship
Friday, June 12

Birthday PARTY

A celebration of all birthdays!

Pot-luck lunch and games.

All women are invited.

 **Want more Information?**

Please email **Rebecca** at

rebecca-weller@sbcglobal.net



Led by Pastor Val.

All women are invited.

A no-pressure, easy hour discussion
of a general topic,
chosen by Pastor Val.

Wednesday, June 17

6:30-7:30 pm

upstairs in the Thienes Lounge

MISSIONS

June Mission Giving

AHM Mental Health Fund

Please make your check

payable to MCC

memo line: 2nd quarter missions



Drive Thru Café

June 28, 2026

(Sponsored by our church.)

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

Thank you...and more



♥ The May 2 Spring 1 ag Sale raised over \$4,500 for our church with thanks to **Edi Dole**, chair, and to workers Dave Arnold, Bonnie Anderson, Nate Ayer, Carolyn Barnes, Marge Bartlett, Cheryl Benedetto, Julia Benedetto, Ed Dalenta, Keith Davis, Lori Eifler, Dana Hersey, Josh Howe, Marianne Lacy, Judi McBrair, Betty Merritt, Andrea Northrup, Pastor Val, Margie Rauza, Sheryl Scheidel, Linda & Richard Stachelek, Ida Spooner, Nancy Titchen, Jessica Trusz, Rebecca & Earl Weller, Larry Zarrella.

THANK YOU ALL...a job well done! Items not sold were donated to various charities (Orphan Grain Train, Goodwill, libraries, etc.) or saved for our **Nov. 7 Fall Tag Sale**.

- ♥ Thank you to Trustee **John Benedetto** who soft-washed the church building.
- ♥ 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.

SECOND BLESSINGS



THRIFT SHOP



OPEN

Fridays from noon to 3 pm
Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm

Donations accepted during shop hours.

CHARITY OUTREACH

In May a \$250 donation was made to Marlborough Preservation Society in celebration of our nation's 250th anniversary and the Society's programs and projects.

♥ Thank you June volunteers

6/5 – Bob Wargo, Sheryl Scheidel, Chris Ragusa
6/6 – Kathi Karp, Margie Rauza, Julie Naseef
6/12 – Bob Wargo, Peggy Poresky
6/13 – Karen Gallmon, Betty Merritt, Bonnie Tierney
6/14 (Sunday) – Laura Robinson, Suzi Roman
6/19 – Bob Wargo, Bonnie Tierney, Ida Spooner
6/20 – Kathi Karp, Betty Merritt, Michele Sinkez
6/26 – Bob Wargo, Bonnie Tierney
6/27 – Cheryl Brodell, Carolyn Brodgerski,
Margie Rauza

Our Church Family



to our members

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

6/2 – Elaine Adams, Betty Merritt
6/6 – Sue Roscoe
6/7 – Keith Davis
6/8 – Debbie Cook, Shellie Mulligan
6/9 – Debbie Grasson
6/10 – Linda Garrett
6/11 – Donna Arseneault, Ed Fidrych
6/14 – Donna Goodwill, Larry Zarrella
6/15 – Sarah Diener, Peggy Poresky
6/16 – Julie Goodale, Ilana Savy
6/18 – Rachel Goodale
6/20 – Grace Carlson, Julia Koch
6/22 – Ed Dalenta
6/23 – Terri Reid, Ida Spooner, Bonnie Tierney
6/25 – Pat Logan
6/27 – Jessica Trusz
6/29 – Kathy Burill
6/30
Abi Bantle, Marge Bartlett, Anne Dente,
Bob Boscarino

Our Newest Member

Welcome
to our
Church Family



Joined

April 20, 2026

Meghan Maher

Meghan lives in Amston with her family and works from home as a Family Resource Specialist.

She enjoys reading, going to the gym, family time, traveling and "anything Christmas!"



LOOK

June 2 - ACA, 7-8:30 pm (Youth Room)
 Boy Scouts - 7 pm (CFH)
 June 3 - AA, noon-1 pm (Youth Room)
 AA, 7:30-8:30 pm (Comm Fell Hall)
 June 4 - Bible Study, 11 am and 6 pm (lounge)
 AA - 6-7:15 pm (Youth Room)
 June 5 - *Second Blessings Thrift Shop*, 12-3 pm
 June 6- *Second Blessings Thrift Shop*, 9 am-1 pm
Community Sings, 7 pm (lounge)

Sun., June 7 -Worship at 10 am
Annual Program Meeting, 11:15 am (sanctuary)
 June 8 - Missions, 6 pm (Zoom)
 CT Valley Field Music, 6:30 pm (CFH)
 June 9 - Boy Scouts, 7 pm (CFH)
 ACA, 7-8:30 pm (Youth Room)
 June 10 - AA, noon-1 pm (Youth Room)
 AA, 7:30-8:30 pm (Comm Fell Hall)
 June 11 - Bible Study, 11 am and 6 pm (lounge)
 AA, 6-7:15 pm (Youth Room)
 June 12 - *Second Blessings Thrift Shop*, 12-3 pm
Dorcas WF, noon (lounge)
 June 13 - *Second Blessings Thrift Shop*, 10-1 pm

June 14 - Worship at 10 am
 Cookbook Team, 11:15 am (office)
 Trustees, 11:15 am (Pastor's office)
Second Blessings Thrift Shop, 11:15-12
 June 15 - Deacons, 6:30 pm (in person)
 CT Valley Field Music, 6:30 pm (CFH)
 June 16 - Boy Scouts, 7 pm (CFH)
 ACA, 7-8:30 pm (Youth Room)
 June 17 - AA, noon-1 pm (Youth Room)
Women's Circle, 6:30-7:30 pm (lounge)
 AA, 7:30-8:30 pm (Comm Fell Hall)
 June 18 - Bible Study, 11 am and 6 pm (lounge)
 Bluegrass, 6 pm (sanctuary)
 AA, 6-7:15 pm (Youth Room)
 June 19- *Second Blessings Thrift Shop*, 12-3 pm
 June 20-*Second Blessings Thrift Shop*, 10-1 pm

Sun., June 21- Worship, 10 am
Bluegrass Sunday
 June 22 - Council, 6:30 pm (in person)
 CT Valley Field Music, 6:30 pm (CFH)
 June 23 - Boy Scouts, 7 pm (CFH)
 ACA, 7-8:30 pm (Youth Room)

June 24 - **PRESENTATION**, 6:30 pm (lounge)
 AA, noon-1 pm (Youth Room)
 AA, 7:30-8:30 pm (Comm. Fell. Hall)
 June 25 - Bible Study, 11 and 6 pm (lounge)
 AA, 6-7:15 pm (Youth Room)
 June 26- *Second Blessings Thrift Shop*, 12-3 pm
 June 27-*Second Blessings Thrift Shop*, 9 am-1 pm
 Sun., June 28 - Worship at 10 am
Drive Thru Café, 1-1:30 (downstairs kitchen)
 June 29 - CVFM, 6:30 pm (CFH)
 June 30 - Boy Scouts, 7 pm (CFH)
 ACA, 7-8:30 pm (Youth Room)

Note: M-F June 29 to Aug. 7 (off 7/20-24)
 Marl. Co-Op Nursery School, 8:45-11:45 am



We Need Your

SOUP and DESSERT



by June 14, 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@marlcongchurch.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 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>