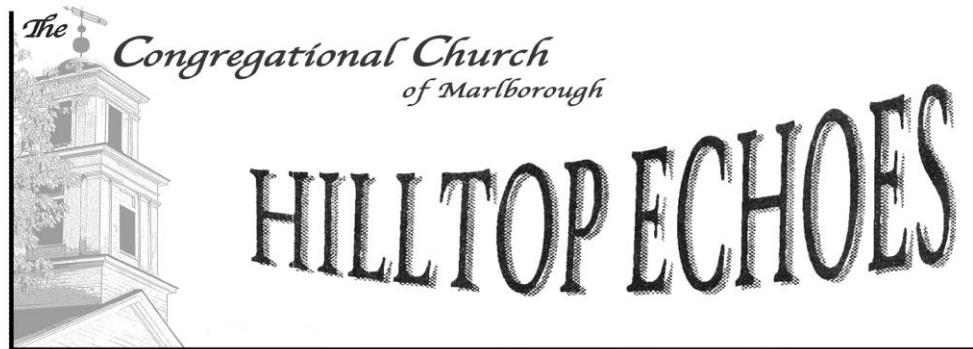


**Congregational Church of Marlborough
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Faith Community
35 South Main Street – PO Box 57
Marlborough, CT 06447**

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.

Enter as a Stranger ~ Leave as a Friend

Volume 69

July and August 2026

Number 7



JULY AND AUGUST 2026



Sunday Worship at 10 a.m.

(in our air-conditioned sanctuary)
The Worship service is

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

Nursery care and Sunday School
will resume in September.

Every Sunday after worship

*Refreshments
Meet and Greet*

in our air-conditioned lounge.



Next Community Sings

**Saturday, August 1
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!



Led by Pastor Val.

All women are invited.

A no-pressure, easy hour discussion
of a fun and general topic.

Wednesday, July 15 & August 19

6:30-7:30 pm
Thienes Lounge.



Because people asked to have a daytime program of the two evening presentations that were held in May and June, we're offering them again. They're free and open to the public.

Part I

"Everybody dies; no one wants to talk about it: Communication and Grief"

Thursday, August 13, 2026

11 am Thienes Lounge

Open to the public

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

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

Part II

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

Thursday, August 20, 2026

11 am Thienes Lounge

Open to the public

After **Beth Alves'** husband died, she suddenly found herself wading through the unfamiliar world of wills, trusts, probate, house-related issues and more. 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

...cease striving and know that I am God.

Psalm 46:10

Friends,

Summer has a way of changing our pace. The days are longer, the kids are out of school, gardens are growing, vacations are planned. Many of us find ourselves spending more time outdoors.

Summer is a season that invites us to slow down and notice God's presence in the beauty of creation.

In the busyness of life you may find yourselves not attending church, this does not mean we stop attending to our faith. Summer is the best time to strengthen our connection with God. Jesus would withdraw from the demands of his ministry and go off and be alone with God, He reminds us that rest is not a luxury – it is a gift from God; it is a commandment.

It does not matter if your vacation includes travel, or if you will be spending time in your own back yard. I encourage you, no matter where you are to look for the holy moments that surround you. I encourage you to gaze at God's beauty, to listen to the birds, to share a meal with neighbors, read a favorite Psalm while sitting on the porch or on the beach. God's love is not confined to the walls of a church; God's love meets us where we are.

As many of you are off with travel or rest, the ministry of our church continues. We still hold worship every Sunday (in our air-conditioned sanctuary); our missions still look to serve the community even when we slow down for the summer.

If you will be away, please know that you will be missed, but we will be gathered again before we know it. The summer days may be long, but I think summer feels like the shortest season of the year.

I hope you find time to celebrate the birth of our country with festivities and celebrations commemorating our 250th year.

Happy Birthday America!!!

Be Safe,

Pastor Val

*WITH DEEPEST
sympathy*

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

- + Charles Denler and Joan Franzino** and family over the passing of his father, Charlie Denler, a talented carpenter, and a well-known life-long Marlborough resident, over his passing on June 19. A service in his memory was held at our church on June 27.
 - + Sandy and David Bates** and their family over the passing of Sandy's mother, Jacki Shepard, from Rhode Island, on June 19.
-

CARE MINISTRY



Reflections on the Quote...

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

*Blessed are your eyes because they see
and your ears because they hear.*

*For truly I tell you, many prophets and
righteous people longed to see what you see
but did not see it,
and to hear what you hear,
but did not hear it.*

Matthew 13:16-17

Eyes that see and ears that hear are wonderful gifts that we often don't fully appreciate until we grow older, and those gifts aren't as keen as they used to be.

Hearing and seeing involve more than just the physical application of those abilities. It's an emotional response that builds a memory of what is visualized and taken in by the ear.

How often do we really see or hear another, experience their feelings through their voice or recognizing emotion in their eyes and truly know what they are trying to express?

A second grader gave me one of the biggest compliments of my life. He asked, with a twinkle in his eye, "Mrs. Jones, do you like your job?" I replied, with a smile, emphatically, "Yes, I do." That child beamed as he literally bounced up and down in his seat saying, "I knew it! I knew it! I knew it!" I'm sure that surprise registered in my voice and on my face as I asked, "Why? Does it show?" With more bouncing and an ever-broader smile, he exclaimed, "It sure does!" I hope that little man kept that special vision as he grew into adulthood.

Teachers are given special opportunities to see and hear deeply into the hearts and minds of their charges.

A little boy who wanted to walk home from school hid in a closet at dismissal time, sending the school into a shut-down panic. It seemed to those unwilling to really listen that the child was manipulating to get his own way. A teacher, when the boy was discovered, shut herself in the closet with him and holding him tight against her talked to him about the pros and cons of his choice to walk home—seeing things along the bus route up close, hearing the birds, feeling the sun and breeze, etc., but causing worry to parents and school staff and the dangers of walking on the side of the road.

The child sobbed with remorse and was sorry, but also his fear spilled out as he revealed that he was being bullied every day on that bus.

Success in teaching is often measured by how well students score on tests and other concrete accomplishments, but sometimes it is hard to pin-point exactly what makes a successful teacher or actually the success of anyone.

As Rose Kennedy once said, "*Life isn't a matter of milestones, but of moments.*"

When I think of that teacher in the closet, seeing and hearing that little boy, I'm sure that when people think of you as a person of warmth and caring, a person who really sees and hears, but can't list the deeds that make you so, you've become the spirit of that warmth and caring, bringing God's love to others as God has loved you.

Thank you, God, for the moments
of truly clear vision and hearing.
Please keep my mind and heart open
to hear Your call
through these gifts You have given.
Amen.

Our Church Family



Congratulations to
Bob Wargo & Pat Fitton
on the birth of their
granddaughter,
Riley, on June 5, 2026,
and to parents Chris and Amanda Wargo
from Durham, Maine.



to our members

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

July

- 1 – Jason Trusz, Stephen Lynch
- 3 – Brittany Croasdale, Michele Gliha
- 4 – Cheryl Benedetto
- 6 – Bernie Odoy
- 19 – Julie Naseef
- 20 – Kathi Karp
- 24 – Maggie Hannon
- 28 – John Henrikson
- 29 – Sharol Wilcoxon
- 30 – Sue Hollister

August

- 1 – Sarah Turner
- 2 – Joey Walls
- 3 – Kim McIntosh
- 4 – Christine Bantle
- 5 – Barry Goodwill, Leonora Fafard
- 6 – John Glynn, John Grasso
- 7 – Lori Eifler
- 8 – Tony Fafard
- 9 – Lea Poresky
- 10 – Josh Seals
- 11 – Bruce Husta
- 13 – Carolyn Aubin
- 15 – Charlie Feltz, Nicole Struth
- 17 – Rose Marie Fellman
- 18 – Bonnie Johnson, Melanie Jump
- 8/22 – Deb Lynch
- 8/23 – Marion Spaulding
- 8/26 – Carola Frantzen
- 8/27 – Gwen Lawson, Debbie Walls
- 8/29 – Chris Gaudette, Elizabeth Lynch
- 8/30 – Lucy Dembek, Dean Gibson

OUR CHURCH FAMILY, continued



Do you or someone you know need...
a visit, a meal, or a card?
If so, please contact

Pastor Val (860.295.0432)
pastorVal@marlconchurch.org



- ♥ Thank you to **Mark Merritt** and crew for all the work they did in the church garden.
- ♥ Thank you to **John Rowley** who installed elevator access and new handicap parking signs with thanks to **Second Blessings** Thrift shop for funding these signs.
- ♥ We thank the Trustees and **many others** who quietly, faithfully, and unseen who take care of projects, the church gardens, and general maintenance around the church building and grounds.

annual FUN-d RAISER



2026 Hebron Harvest Fair
Sept. 10, 11, 12, 13

homemade apple crumble booth

Anyone can help...

- ➔ Look for an email sign up link by mid-July. Don't forget to check your trash and spam folder, but if you haven't received the email by July 15, but please contact office@marlconchurch.org and we'll send you the link.

You don't need to be a church member to volunteer.

It's fun! Ask your family and friends!
co-leaders
Edi Dole and Marion Spaulding



LOOK

JULY & AUGUST

EVERY SUNDAY

• Worship at 10 am
in the air-conditioned sanctuary.

EVERY MONDAY

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

EVERY TUESDAY

- ACA, 7-8:30 pm (Youth Room)
- Marlborough Jr. Fife & Drum 6:30pm
(outside)

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

EVERY THURSDAY

- AA - 6-7:15 pm (Youth Room)
- AA, 7:30-8:30 pm (Comm Fell Hall)

Monday through Friday
Marlborough Co-Operative Nursery School
June 29 to Aug. 7 (off 7/20-24)
8:45-11:45 am (classroom and playground)

Monday, July 6 and August 3
Care Team, 9 am (Pastor's office)

Wednesday, July 15
Women's Circle, 6:30-7:30 pm (lounge)

Saturday, August 1,
Community Sings, 7 pm (lounge)

Thursday, August 13 and 20
Parts 1 & 2 **Presentation** by Beth Alves
11 am-noon (lounge)

Saturday, August 22
Second Blessings Thrift Shop
Volunteer Thank You Luncheon,
11:30 am (lounge)

Wednesday, August 26
Council, 6:30 pm (Zoom)

Sunday, August 30 after worship
Sanctuary "spruce up" (deacons)

MISSIONS



Food Collection

We collect food and other non-perishable items year-round for the Marlborough Food Bank. A collection box is located under the shelf in the narthex.



July, August, September Giving Community Partners in Action Resettlement Program

provides comprehensive reentry services from basic needs to medical care, for women reentering society.

Please note 3rd quarter missions on your check.



Drive Thru Café

Next Cafe
September 27, 2026

No Café July or August

Activity Bags



for younger children are found on the wall hangers in the narthex. Please remember to return the bags after the service.

Bulletins

for Sunday school age children with word games, mazes, picture finds and stories are available in the narthex

Sunday School resumes on Rally Day, Sept 20.

SECOND BLESSINGS



THRIFT SHOP



ON VACATION JULY AND AUGUST

Re-opens

Friday, September 11 and
Saturday, September 12



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>