

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

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Reverend Valerie Seaver.....Pastor
Charles Denler.....Music Director
Elizabeth Kukich.....Christian Education/Youth Director
Gwen Lawson.....Worship Assistant
Alice Rowley.....Church Administrator/"Echoes" Editor
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

September 2026

Number 8



September 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.



September 6

Holy Communion

Pastor Val preaching

Jenn Armstrong, reader

Jen Autry, greeter

September 13

Pastor Val preaching

Scott Reid, reader

Michele Sinkez, greeter

September 20

Pastor Val preaching

Denise Young, reader

Judi McBair, greeter

Joyful Blue Bluegrass Band

Sunday School resumes



September 27

Harvest Sunday

Pastor Val preaching

Marge Bartlett, reader

Cheryl Brodell, greeter



October 4

World Communion Sunday

Pastor Val preaching

Sheryl Scheidel, reader



Community Sings!

Hosted by Carolyn Brodinski

Saturday, September 5

7 pm

upstairs in the lounge

(Enter through front sanctuary door.)

All are invited to the monthly sing-along
to your favorite tunes.



Our two Bible Studies

RESUME SEPT. 17

am-noon (lounge)

6-7 pm (Pastor's office)

All are welcome!



PICNIC

Sponsored by the Youth Enrichment Team

Sunday, September 20, 2026

After the service, we are going to flip
burgers and break bread together!

Join us for great food

and even better fellowship!

Please bring a dish to share, if you are able.

Last Name begins with **A-K**: Side Dish

Last Name begins with **L-Z**: Dessert

✓ Hope to see you all there!

✓ If you have any questions,
feel free to ask Elizabeth Kukich.

WOMEN'S



Led by Pastor Val.

All women are invited.

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

Wednesday, September 16

6:30-7:30 pm

Thienes Lounge.

Pastoral Ponderings

September 2026

“Let the children come to me.”

Matthew 19:14

Dear Church Friends,

September has a way of making us feel like something new is beginning. Backpacks have come out, school buses are on the road, children are meeting new teachers and new classmates, college students head off to campuses. Parents and grandparents adjust to new schedules; even those of us who are not connected to the school calendar feel the change in the air.

Summer was amazing, a time to slow down, travel, gather with family, friends, and enjoy the longer days.

Now September arrives with an invitation:

Come back! Come home! Begin again!

After a relaxing summer September is the time to find our way back into the rhythm of worship, fellowship, learning, music, service and community. Maybe this year will be a time for some of you to try something new at church. Teach Sunday school, join the choir, attend Bible study. Maybe this is the year to sit somewhere different, next to someone you do not know that well. Invite a friend to come to church, stay for coffee hour.

Our church is not just a building we visit on Sunday morning. Our church is the people, the people we walk with through all the seasons of lives.

As we begin this new season together, my hope is that our church continues to be the place where children know they are valued, where families feel supported, where everyone feels needed and newcomers feel welcomed.

I hope this season brings us fresh energy, open hearts, and deeper faith. I cannot wait to see all of you and I cannot wait to see what God will do with us this fall!

With love and gratitude for all you do,

Pastor Val

CARE MINISTRY



Reflections on the Quote...

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

The more they were oppressed,
the more they multiplied and spread.

Exodus 1:12

The itty-bity wild blueberries of Maine are the very best of any variety I've ever tasted. In picking them as a child, I probably ate more than I dropped in the bucket and then complained about how long it took to get a full pail.

I don't know about agro-science, but to increase the yield of those wild fields farmers burned the fields every year in early spring and the blueberries that grew low to the ground flourished.

(from "Our Daily Bread" May 17, 2021)

The ancient Israelites thrived in the land of Egypt even though they were enslaved under harsh conditions working in fields, even building entire cities for Pharaoh. The king of Egypt even tried infanticide to renounce their numbers. God sustained them and the more they were oppressed the more they multiplied and spread throughout the earth. Many Bible scholars estimate that the population of Israelite men, women, and children grew to two million or more during their time in Egypt.

Our own United States of America is founded on the backs of immigrants who landed on our shores with hardly more than the shirts on their backs, hope in their hearts, and faith in their souls along with a willingness to tackle hard work.

My own heritage includes English, Scottish, Dutch and Scandinavian; however, in exploring the roots of my maiden name, Ingerson, I discovered the name's ending had been changed somewhere down the line from *sol* to *son*, opening up the possibility of German-Jewish ancestors.

The blending in the so-called melting pot was never done smoothly without

stress and strain and it still isn't. Our American Negro built the south, making cotton king while under the lash of slavery. They still press for equality. Lincoln's forty acres and a mile was taken away after emancipation when Andrew Johnson, this vice-president, took over after Lincoln was assassinated. They had less than the early immigrant, yet they became a vital part of society, a lesson in "we shall overcome."

All over the world people experience upheaval that forces the difficult decisions of leaving the familiar for the unknown in order to persevere. Life can be hard wherever they land, socially, emotionally, economically, but to claim a better life is worth the effort to them becoming blended in the country they end up in is a long and slow generational process, sometimes from refugee camps onward, but like the Israelites of old, they multiplied and spread.

The resources needed for their success pay off in productive citizens and it becomes an even win-win situation for country and immigrant.

I'm certainly glad my ancestors chose America!

Lord, help us to remember our roots,
the struggles of those who came before.
May love be understanding and accepting
of those of Your people who struggle with
displacement and acceptance.

Help us to share the love
You gave us in such abundance.

Amen.



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

☒ Pastor Val (860.295.0432)

PastorVal@marlconchurch.org

SUNDAY SCHOOL



a note from Elizabeth Kukich
Christian Education/ Youth Director

Please mark your calendar for
SEPTEMBER 20
RALLY DAY!!!



I hope you all had a wonderful and relaxing summer! Instead being sad that summer is ending, let's celebrate with all that FALL brings.

Rally Day is Sunday, September 20, and I can't wait to see you all again. We will have time to catch up, share some summer memories, and settle into our classrooms to begin Sunday school.

Join us after service for our Rally Day Picnic down in the Community Fellowship Hall.

This fall will be filled with many fun Bible lessons, activities, and games, along with some new youth group events. Here's to a great new school year!

Many blessings,
Elizabeth



CHILDREN IN CHURCH

Each Sunday children join us for the beginning of worship. Sunday School children are dismissed to their classrooms following the Passing of Peace.

➔ Children are always welcome in church. If parents wish, they may bring infants and toddlers downstairs to the nursery before worship begins for free child care.

BIG EVENTS



2026 Hebron Harvest Fair

Sept. 10, 11, 12, 13

Stop by our booth
(located at C12, Colchester Road),
say hello to our church volunteers and
enjoy a serving of our homemade
homemade apple crumble w/ice cream
apple cider ~ iced cold water

LUMOS CANDLELIGHT CONCERT



Lumos, headquartered in the UK, performs world-wide and will be at our church on **Friday, Oct. 9** with two performances ~ 6 pm and 8 pm

Their mission goes beyond music, supporting various causes. Lumos has supported Worldwide Cancer Research, Breast Cancer Now, World Food Program, Alzheimer's Society, UNICEF, and Dogs Trust Charity to name a few.

Shows sell out quickly, so buy your tickets now at
www.lumos-experiences.com



Sat., November 7
9 a.m. to 1 pm

Make a donation ~ price your own!

Tables, chairs, and outdoor will be filled,
including many quality items
from our thrift shop.

Donation drop-off during thrift shop
hours, Fridays 12-3, Saturdays 10-1

OUR CHURCH FAMILY



August 9, 2026

Bentley Jean Arnold

born December 16, 2025

daughter of

Corey and Adam Arnold.

Granddaughter of Jay and Jean Signor.

THANK YOU

♥ Our summer worship "special music" musicians were terrific!

Thank you **Carolyn Brodgerski,**
Charles Denler, Kathi Karp,
Dave & Shellie Mulligan, Mike O'Mara,
David Pelletier, Bruce Phelps,
Warren Thime.

♥ A BIG thank you to the **Trustees** and others who volunteered countless hours this summer to keep our church in excellent looking great, and to the **gardeners** who helped to beautify the grounds.



to our members & friends

9/4 – Kevin McCaffrey
9/5 - Bob Dembek, Kim Malitis, Alice Rowley,
Rob Wahl
9/6 – Matthew Bates, Wendy Lanford
9/8 – Andy McIntosh, Jean Gula
9/9 – Diane Shields
9/11 – Jim Garrett
9/13 - Adam Diener, Jonathan Trusz
9/14 – Stephanie Colacicco
9/15 – Charlotte Kukich, Sandy Bates
9/20 – Hope Caye, Samantha Spinelli
9/21 – Lisa Dann, Dalton Signor
9/23 – Katherine Cragnotti, Bonnie Tierney
9/24 – Austin Moreland,
Rebecca Henrikson
9/25 - Bailey Evans, Sierra Hersh Gordon
9/26 – BT Odoy, Cathy Glynn
9/27 - Marge Arnold, Cathy Ferry,
Donna Reynolds
9/28 – Colleen Sandberg
9/29 – John Rowley

Count the memories, not the years.



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

† to the family and friends of **Chris Hayes**, of Canterbury, CT over his passing on July 11.

Chris was the son of Phyllis Langlois.

† to family and friends of **Carolyn Aubin**, of Hebron, husband Dave Aubin, sons Will, Nick, Parker and their spouses, sister Cathy Glynn and her family over Carolyn's passing on July 11.

Carolyn had been a long-time active member of our church, faithfully serving in many areas (gardening, Care Ministry, thrift shop, to name a few). A service in her memory will be held at our church October 24 at 11 a.m.

† to **Wendy Lanford** and her family over the passing of her grandson, Alex Lanford, from Wallingford, on July 29.

† to the family and friends of **Phyllis Langlois** over her passing on August 5. Phyllis, a talented quilter and seamstress, had been a long-time active and faithful member of our church serving as a deacon and on many other committees, until her move to Deerfield, New Hampshire, with her husband Paul.



If you can knit or crochet, please consider making a Prayer Shawl to help in keeping the shelf stocked.

Patterns and yarn suggestions for **knitting or crocheting** are available in the Care Ministry Center in the church's Thienes Lounge or from the church office.

We suggest you weave prayers into your shawl as you create it.

If you know someone who you think could use the special "hug" from a shawl and to let them know someone is thinking of them, they're in a basket in the Care Ministry Center in the lounge.

MISSIONS



We collect food and other non-perishable items year-round for Marlborough Food Bank.

There's a collection box under the shelf in the narthex where you can drop off your donations and we'll take them over to the food bank.

SEPTEMBER Giving



Community Partners in Action Resettlement Program

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

Please make your check payable to MCC

memo line: *3rd quarter missions*
and drop in an offering box or
mail a check to the church at

PO Box 57, Marlborough, CT 06447



Drive Thru Café

September 27, 1-1:30 pm

for Marlborough Food Bank patrons, with vouchers, and their families



**Sunday, October 4
at noon**

Serving the Lord

Prepare and serve lunch for Florence Lord Housing residents.

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



Summer Harvest Sunday

September 27

You are invited to bring your summer harvest (your own garden, supermarket, or orchard) to worship on September 27 and we'll place the bounty around our Communion Table.

Your generous gifts will be delivered to the Marlborough Food Bank.

FOR WOMEN



*Dorcas Women's Fellowship
now in its 192nd year!*

All Women are Invited

**Fri., September 11
noon to 2 p.m.**



**Day of Sharing
Buffet Lunch**

Please bring a dish of your choice to share
...and \$5.00 for annual dues.

2026 - 2027 Program Includes

Mystery trip ~ guest speakers ~ parties
flower arranging ~ missionsand more...

 Want more Information?

Please email **Rebecca** at
rebecca-weller@sbcglobal.net

I SEE THERE'S MORE



SECOND BLESSINGS



**THRIFT
SHOP**



GRAND FALL RE-OPENING

Friday, Sept. 11 and Saturday, Sept. 12

Fridays from noon to 3 pm

Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm

first Sunday of month from 11:15 to noon

☺ The shop was closed July and August, but thanks to Geri Turner who posted weekly on Facebook (we have 800 followers), met customers, and set up the shop, summer sales totaled around \$760. Thank you to Stephanie Bunting who weekly posts items weekly weekly on eBay, making almost \$300 this summer.

☺ Recent outreach and grants included:

- Epoch Arts, Marlborough Preservation Society, Journey Home
- visitor and elevator signs
- framed artwork outside Pastor Val's office
- mulch for the Pollinator Garden
- deacons August retreat
- rug for the Youth Room

☺ There wouldn't be a thrift shop without our volunteers. As a thank you Lead Team members (Alice Rowley, Geri Turner, Jessica Trusz, Stephanie Bunting) hosted our annual luncheon on August 22. Shop volunteers enjoyed a delicious catered meal, prepared by Marlborough Bakery, which included side dishes and dessert.

☺ Thank You Shop Volunteers

9/11 –Chris Ragusa, Bob Wargo
 9/12 – Bonnie Anderson, Karen Gallmon, Kathi Karp
 Sun., 9/13 – Margie Rauza, Laura Robinson
 9/18 –Bonnie Tierney, Bob Wargo
 9/19 – Deb Diers, Cathy Glynn, Margie Rauza
 9/25 –Peggy Poresky, Bob Wargo
 9/26 – Brittany Croasdale, Linda Garrett, Judi McBrain
 10/2 – Bob Wargo, NEED ONE VOLUNTEER
 10/3 – Bonnie Anderson, Karen Gallmon, Donna Lower
 Sun, 10/4 – Jen Autry, Laura Robinson



Our eBay store is open **year-round**.

Follow the link below to go directly store front to see what's for sale.

New items are listed weekly.

<https://bit.ly/MCCebay>

Sundays

Sunday Worship at 10 am

Sunday School resumes on Sept. 20

Girl Scouts, 2:30-5 pm (Comm. Fell. Hall)

Daisy troop and GS Troop #61097

(alternate weeks)

Mondays

CT Valley Field Music, 7-8:30 pm

Tuesdays

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

ACA, 7-8:30 pm (Youth Room)

Wednesdays

AA noon-1 pm (Youth Room)

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

Thursdays

AA, noon-1 pm (Youth Room)

Starting Sept. 17

Bible Study, 11-noon (lounge)

Bible Study, 6-7 (Pastor's office)

Fridays

Stretch & Strengthen, 9:45 (lounge)

Second Blessings Thrift Shop, 12-3

Saturdays

Second Blessings Thrift Shop, 10-1

Wed., Sept. 2 - Christian Education, 6 pm (Zoom)

Sat., Sept. 5 - **Community Sings!** 7 pm (lounge)

Wed., Sept. 9 - AA 65th Ann. Dinner, 5:30 (CFH)

Sept. 9-13 - Hebron Harvest Fair **church booth**

Fri., Sept. 11 - **Dorcas WF**, noon, (lounge)

Mon., Sept. 14 - Care Team, 9 am (lounge)

Missions, 6 pm (Zoom)

Wed., Sept. 16 - **Women's Circle**, 6:30 pm (lounge)

Sun., Sept. 20 - **RALLY DAY**

Mon., Sept. 21 - Deacons, 6:30 pm (lounge)

Wed., Sept. 23 - Council, 6:30 pm (TBD Zoom/lounge)

Sat, Sept. 26 - CFH wedding rental, 7 am-10 pm

Sun., Sept. 27 - **Harvest Sunday**

Drive Thru Café, 1-1:30 (kitchen)



Saturday, October 24

Chili Cook-off

Saturday, November 7

♫ **An American Musical Festival** ♫