

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

October 2026

Number 9



Worship and Big Events



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.



October 4

Harvest Sunday

Holy Communion

Pastor Val preaching

Jean Sundstrom, greeter

Marion Spaulding, reader

October 11

Pastor Val preaching

Cathy Ferry, greeter Sheryl Scheidel, reader

Flowers by Margie Rauza

October 18

Bluegrass Sunday

Pastor Val preaching

Melanie Jump & Margie Rauza, greeters

Joan Franzinzo, reader

October 25

Pastor Val preaching

Marion Spaulding, greeter Kathy Burrill, reader

Flowers by Kathi Karp



HALLOWEEN COOKIE SALE

Sponsored by Dorcas Women's Fellowship

Sunday, October 25

Homemade cookies @5/dozen

will be sold after worship in the lounge,

The sale benefits

Dorcas WF mission projects.



Community Sings!

Hosted by Carolyn Brodgerski

Saturday, October 3

7 pm

(Enter through front sanctuary door.)

All are invited!



Saturday, October 24

3:30 to 6 pm

in the Community Fellowship Hall

\$10 admission

to taste and judge chili entries from
individuals and restaurants

➔Beverages and desserts provided.

♪LIVE MUSIC♪

All are welcome!



**AN AMERICAN
MUSIC FESTIVAL
Sat., November 7 @7 pm**

America has such a rich musical heritage, and it seems fitting to honor that heritage in this 250th year of celebration of our nation's founding. So, we will do just that!

Fortunately, our small but musically mighty church on the hill is blessed with many very talented musicians who are willing to step up to provide a program as representative of the many American musical traditions as we can fit in just a couple of hours.

We will hear a sampling of songs from such genres as patriotic, shape-note, spiritual, film, stage, folk, ragtime, bluegrass, gospel, jazz, pop and country.

Please mark your calendar and come out on November 7 to celebrate our nation's birthday and the brilliant and colorful tapestry of music it has given the world!

The event is **free** and open to the **public**; however, any **donations** will go to a **non-profit veterans organization**.

Dave Mulligan

Pastoral Ponderings

October 2026

*...“So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone,
and especially to those who are of the household of faith.”*

Galatians 6:10

Greetings to you all!

What a very busy September we have had! Rally Day was a huge success with many of you returning from your Sabbath Summer. The sanctuary was filled with so many children, the sound of Joyful Blue brought us to our feet, and the smell of hamburgers and hot dogs on the grill brought us to the Community Fellowship Hall for a wonderful potluck (indoor) picnic. And the deserts? Lord have mercy! People in this church sure know how to bake!

We hold our Rally Day a week later than most churches because of the Hebron Harvest Fair. Each year we sell our legendary apple crumble. I love volunteering for this event, and I am always pleased to hear customers say, “I wait for this (apple crumble) all year.” I also love to hear our volunteers who “wait for this event all year.” There is wonderful fellowship at the events in our church. These events show our church at its very best. Visitors to our booth see who we are-- a community of love, friendship and laughter!

Love for our church is the thread which weaves us together; we can feel it when we are working hard to raise the funds necessary to keep things going.

If you are new to us or have never volunteered I urge you to check it out. It is great fun and an easy way to give back. It is also good for our mental health (just like going to church).

Volunteering relieves stress because it releases dopamine the “feel good” hormone, which promotes overall good health. Volunteering creates new connections; we see many people in church but do not always have the chance to get to know them better. Volunteering can cause us to step out of comfort zone, which can build our confidence and enhance self-esteem. I did not make this up. Google told me!

Volunteering does not require a big commitment; a person need not sign up for a committee or long-term job.

You never know when your smile may be what someone needs. You never know when your smile will be seen as an invitation, an invitation to come to the place where folks come as a stranger and leave as a friend!

Pastor Val

CARE MINISTRY



Reflections on the Quote...

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

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for God will speak peace to His people to His faithful to those who turn to Him in their hearts.

Psalm 85:8

About 25 years ago I was part of a team to interview and hire a part-time para-professional for the Reading Center in the elementary school where I taught reading.

I wasn't in favor of the person chosen. In fact, I wasn't impressed with any of the candidates but had a feeling that the one they hired wouldn't stay long and as I was to be her supervisor, trainer, I wanted someone worth the effort.

She was a quick study and we worked well together.

From September to December our routines and teaching methods meshed and the days flowed evenly. I'd never worked with a para before and wasn't really comfortable in the position. She put up with my weaknesses and we became friends.

In February of that school year the bottom dropped out of my world. Our 24-year-old daughter was diagnosed with terminal small cell, oat cell lung cancer—never before seen in one so young. Samples were sent to John Hopkins for confirmation of the diagnosis.

As you can imagine, life became a whirlwind of medical needs and responsibilities. My husband Larry was retired, and he held down the home front while I tried to finish out the school year.

My para became much more than a friend as she picked up the slack in the Reading Center, filling in and covering for me in dozens of little, helpful ways.

She fulfilled my premonition that she wouldn't last long at the school. She left at the end of the school year but not before

she packed up and cleaned for me as I retired that year and left before school closed when Rachel died on June 11th.

I really believe that God placed this dear person with me to see me through the pain God knew I had to face. Heaven knows I didn't help Him get started!

My Para remains my nearest and dearest friend, just as she has been for the past 26 years.

Gracious Lord and God,
thank you for the strength of Your will
and the times that Your will
overrules our own!

Amen.



**Do you or someone you know
someone in need of a visit,
a meal, a note or a card?**

if so, please contact

☒ Pastor Val (860.295.0432)

PastorVal@marlconchurch.org

Prayer Shawl Ministry



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.



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

† to **Terri and Scott Reid** and their family over
the passing of Terri's uncle, John Jones, from
Colchester on September 17.



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

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Hello from Sunday School,

Welcome back to church!

We had wonderful Rally Day to start off the new year. The rainy weather did not slow us down from all gathering and catching up after our summer break. It was so nice to see so many smiling faces down in the classrooms as well as some new ones.

We had 19 kids join us for a fun game of Candy Match. The kids took turns reading different scriptures from the Bible and then had to match it with a common candy we all know and love. For example, Genesis 9:13 "I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the Earth." This was an easy one for the kids to match up; rainbow Skittles. Who doesn't love Skittles?! 😊

Later in the next few weeks, the kids will be going over the various scriptures they matched up, and we will get a better understanding of what each one means.

We also have several new teachers joining us this year, so I am excited to have them down in the classrooms with us. It's always great to have extra hands to teach and give different opinions and thoughts on each lesson.

That is how we learn and grow; to all come together and share ideas. I look forward to seeing everyone in Sunday school.

Many blessings,
Elizabeth



YOUTH GROUP



All students in grades 5 to 12 are welcome!

Now that fall has brought us back together, Youth Group has got a few events already going. **Sat, Oct 10th** from 2-5 pm, we will be meeting to put together all the **Blessing Bags** which will be handed out early November at St. Vincent DePaul. We still are collecting items to add to the blessing bags, so feel free to drop items off in my office or the designated box in the narthex. THANK YOU to everyone who have already donated items. I know I have said this in the past, but this is such a wonderful way to give back to the community. The look of surprise and appreciation when they dig through the bags just makes your heart feel good.

Youth Group will also be helping at our church's first ever Chili Cook Off, **Sat, Oct 24th** from 3:30-6pm. Join us in tasting and judging various chilis from individuals and businesses from around the surrounding towns. It's going to be a great fall, community event!

We continue to gather and discuss new ways to stay involved in our communities and giving back. If anyone has any new ideas for Youth Group or would like to join us for our meetings, please feel free to reach out to me.

My email is above or find me anytime at church. We would love to have you join us!

OUR CHURCH FAMILY

THANK YOU

♥ Take a look at the downstairs bulletin boards (hallway and Second Blessings). Thank you to **Jessica Trusz** who took photos of the church staff, board chairs, thrift shop volunteers and created the display, along with other information

♥ Thank you to **Cheryl Benedetto, John Benedetto, & Jessica Trusz** who moved furniture and organized tag sale donations.

♥ Hebron Harvest Fair Volunteers

Thank you to everyone who worked on the Hebron Harvest Fair church booth!

to those who peeled apples:

Elaine Adams, Bonnie Anderson, Beth Alves, Barbara Armfield, Alana Armfield, Dave Arnold, Carolyn Barnes, Marge Bartlett, the Concodello family (Louise, Michael, Meredith, Alana, Adeline, Aubrey), Edi Dole, Jessie Esak, Bob Fleming, Mike Gilman, Michele Ghila, the Kukich family (Elizabeth, Charlotte, Genevieve), Donna & Craig Lower, Cathy Mayo,

Noelle McGuire, Betty Merritt, Pastor Val, Sheryl Scheidel, Ida Spooner, Jean Sundstrom, Rob Wahl, Larry Zarrella

to the booth volunteers:

Elaine Adams, Bonnie Anderson, Carolyn Barnes, Marge Bartlett, Jordan Bednarz, Michael Concodello, Debbie Cook, Ed Dalenta, Edi Dole, Lori Eifler, Charlie Feltz, Karen Gallmon, Kathi Karp, Quinn Kozak, Betty Merritt, Bernie & Teresa Odoj, Pastor Val Seaver, David Pelletier, Laura Robinson, Sheryl Scheidel, Denise Seifert, Michele Sinkez, Nicky Soucy, Marion Spaulding, Jean Sundstrom, Michael Toll, Natalie Villar, Rob Wahl, Bob Wargo, Denise Young, Larry Zarrella

A special thank you to **Jordan Bednarz, Bob Fleming, John Rowley, Larry Zarrella** for cleaning and setting up the booth and shopping for supplies, to **Keith Davis** for picking up and returning the warming oven, to those who worked a **double shift** due to cancellations, to **Alice Rowley**, who did the necessary paperwork and kept track of expenses, to **Carolyn Barnes & Marge Bartlett** for counting the cash and bank deposits. Finally, to **everyone**, you were a joy to work with & hope you had fun!

Sincerely,

Edi Dole & Marion Spaulding, co-chairs



to our members & friends

10/5 – Marge Locke

10/15 – Michelle Perillo

10/16 – Brittany (Glynn) Broderick, Doug Zybrands

10/21 – Connor McCaffrey, Matt LaBarre

10/23 – Kelly LaBarre

10/28 – Bob Kane, Jay Signor

10/30 – Genevieve Kukich

10/31 – Megan Migliaro, Tom Mosdale

Count the memories, not the years.



Living Tree

Marlborough Congregational Church

The Living Tree is located on the wall in the hallway connector to the meetinghouse.

A leaf was dedicated from Ingela O'Brien on Rally Day, September 20, 2026

Birgitta O'Brien ~ Beloved Mom
A woman of faith, a heart of love,
a life of giving.
2026

The Living Tree is a visible and timeless recognition, celebration, or remembrance of those associated with our church family.

If you wish to purchase a leaf, forms are available by the Living Tree, or a form can be mailed to you.

P⇒ Per leaf donation ~ \$100 minimum

Questions? Please email the church office at office@marlcongchurch.org

A BIT OF INFORMATION



Take a look...

For information and transparency, the monthly **Council meeting minutes** are posted on the wall plaque by the Finance office.

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.



October to December Giving Seminarian Fund

for our own seminarians:
Steve Pozzato and Nicole Struth

**Please make your check
payable to MCC**

memo line: *4th 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

October 25, 1-1:30 pm

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



Sunday, October 18

➔note date change
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

FOR WOMEN



Led by Pastor Val.

All women are invited.

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

Wednesday, October 21

6:30-7:30 pm

Thienes Lounge.



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

**All Women are Invited
noon to 2 p.m.**

Fri., October 2 ~ Game Day!

Fri., November 13

local author, Jordan Whipple

Want more Information?

Please email Rebecca at

rebecca-weller@sbcglobal.net

BIG YEARLY EVENT



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

I SEE THERE'S MORE



SECOND BLESSINGS



**THRIFT
SHOP**



⇒ **Follow us** on our Facebook page:
Second Blessings Thrift Shop
Marlborough, CT

OPEN NOW THROUGH DEC. 20
Shop often! New merchandise every week!
Fridays from noon to 3 pm
Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm
first Sunday of month from 11:15 to noon

☺ Thank You Shop Volunteers

10/2 – Bob Wargo, Kathy Burrill
10/3 – Bonnie Anderson, Karen Gallmon, Donna Lower
10/4 – Jen Autry, Laura Robinson
10/9 – Bob Wargo, Chris Ragusa
10/10 – Cheryl Brodell, Kathi Karp, Michele Sinkez
10/16 – Bob Wargo, Daphine Vail
10/17 – Carolyn Brodgerski, Kathy Burrill, Julie Naseef
10/23 – Bob Wargo, Brittany Croasdale
10/24 – Melanie Jump, Margie Rauza, Daphine Vail
10/30 – Bob Wargo, Ida Spooner
10/31 – Carolyn Brodgerski, Cathy Glynn, Betty Merritt
11/1 – Laura Robinson, Suzi Roman
11/6 – Bob Wargo, Ida Spooner
11/7 – Bonnie Anderson, Karen Gallmon, Kathi Karp,
Daphine Vail



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

Visit us at

<https://bit.ly/MCCebay>



If you'd prefer to read the *Hilltop Echoes*
on-line at mcc.marlconchurch.org
or have it **sent to you via email** and don't
need us to mail you a hard copy, please
let us know at
office@marlconchurch.org

Sundays

Sunday Worship and Sunday School
at 10 am

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
10/5 & 10/26 - Girl Scouts, 4:30-6

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)
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

Fri., Oct. 2 - **Dorcas WF**, noon

Sat., Oct. 3 - **Community Sing!** 7 pm (lounge)

Mon., Oct. 5 - Care Team, 9 am (Pastor's office)

Wed., Oct. 7 - Christian Education, 6 pm (Zoom)

Fri., Oct. 9 - **Lumos Concert**, 6 & 8 pm (sanctuary)

Sat., Oct. 10 - **Youth Group**, 2-5 pm (lounge)

Mon., Oct. 12 - Missions, 6 pm (Zoom)

Wed., Oct. 14 - Joyful Blue practice, 6 pm

Sat., Oct. 17 - **CoDE**, 10 am-2 pm

(Coalition on Diversity & Equality)

Sun., Oct. 18 - Trustees, 11:15 (Pastor's office)

"Serve the Lord" Sr. Housing, noon

Mon., Oct. 19 - Deacons, 6:30 pm (lounge)

Wed., Oct. 21 - **Women's Circle**, 6:30 pm (lounge)

Sat., Oct. 24 - Carolyn Aubin service, 11 am

Chili Cookoff, 3:30-6 pm (CFH)

Sun., Oct. 25 - Drive Thru Café, 1-1:30 (kitchen)

Wed., Oct. 28 - Council, 6:30 pm (lounge)

Sat., Nov. 7 - **Fall Tag Sale**, 9 am - 1 pm

An American Music Festival, 7 pm (sanctuary)