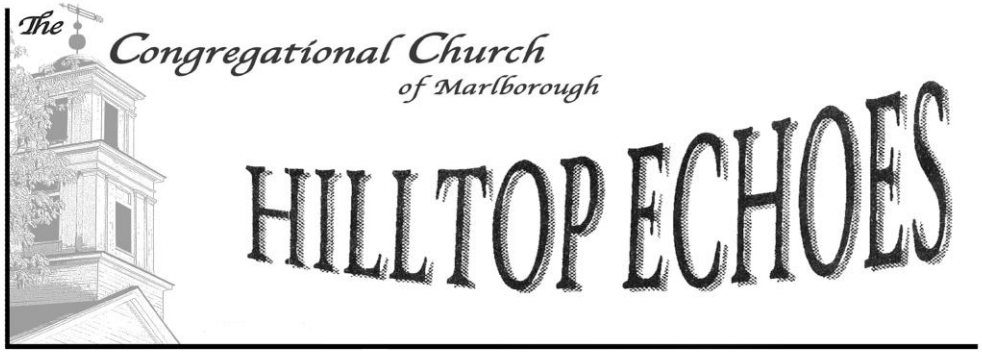
Congregational Church of Marlborough
United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Faith Community
35 South Main Street – PO Box 57
Marlborough, CT 06447

mcc.marlcongchurch.org
office - 860.295.9050
Office email ~ office@marlcongchurch.org
Pastor's private line – 860.295.0432
email ~ PastorVal@marlcongchurch.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
Janet Bishop & Denise Young……Moderators
Pam Mosdale/Marion Spaulding……..……Co-Treasurers
Finance (finance@marlcongchurch.org)

Worship in person at the church
and live streamed at 10 a.m.
mcc.marlcongchurch.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 **November 2026** **Number 10**





Worship and Big Events

Sunday Worship & Sunday School at 10 a.m.

The Worship service is

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

Nursery care provided

Every Sunday after worship

Refreshments
Meet and Greet
in the Thienes Lounge.



November 1
Holy Communion ~ All Saints Sunday
Halloween Parade
Pastor Val preaching
Larry Zarrella, greeter Rick Jacobson, reader
Flowers given by Mandeville family

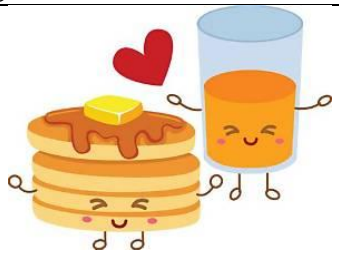
November 8
Veterans Sunday
Pastor Val preaching
Edi Dole, greeter Joan Denler, reader

November 15
Bluegrass Sunday
Pastor Val preaching
Michele Sinkez, greeter Jen Autry, reader

November 22
Thanksgiving Sunday
Gwen Lawson preaching
Jenny Nolan & Iris Mahoney, greeters
Janet Bishop, reader

November 29
Pastor Val preaching
Laura Robinson, greeter Michele Sinkez, reader





CONGREGATION APPRECIATION BRUNCH
Sunday, November 29
☺ Details to follow



Community Sing!
Hosted by Carolyn Brodginski
Friday, November 6
7 pm
(Enter through front sanctuary door.)
All are invited!



AN AMERICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL
Sat., November 7 @7 pm
in the historic 1842 meetinghouse

All are invited to an evening of music performed by our talented groups (Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, Joyful Blue) and individuals (Charles Denler, Carolyn Brodginski, Bruce Phelps, Dave Mulligan, Kathi Karp, Nicole Struth, Mike O'Mara)

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

Join us November 7 to celebrate our nation's birthday and the brilliant and colorful tapestry of music!
The event is **free** and is **open to the public.**
Any **donations will go to the Eastern Connecticut Veterans Center** in Willimantic.

Annual Fall

Sat, November 7
9 a.m. to 1 pm
Price your own!
Make a donation!



Pastoral Ponderings

November 2026

Greater love has no one than this,
that someone lay down his life for his friends.
John 15:13

Dear Church Family,

As we move from Pastor Appreciation Month into the beautiful season of November, my heart is filled with gratitude.

October brought many kind words, thoughtful gifts, and expressions of love. I want you to know how deeply you touched me. Your generosity is a reminder of the love and fellowship we share as a church family.

Serving as your pastor is one of the greatest privileges of my life. I am grateful for every opportunity to worship with you, pray with you, to walk through seasons of joy and difficulty with you. I see God's faithfulness in our congregation. Your kindness in October encouraged me, but what is more meaningful to me, is evidence of your service and love for one another.

This church is more than a place to gather; it is a family united by faith. Each of you contributes something special to our community. Whether you are serve quietly behind the scenes, welcome a visitor, care for someone in need, teach, pray or simply come to our house of worship with a willing heart, your presence matters. Together, we reflect the love of Christ in ways that reach far beyond our walls.

As we give thanks this month, please know that I am thankful for you—thankful for the privilege of walking this journey of faith with you. I cherish our church family, and I pray that God will continue to strengthen our unity, deepen our faith, and guide us in the days ahead.

May November remind us to pause and recognize the many blessings God has placed before us. May our gratitude overflow into kindness, may our worship lead to service, may our love for one another point others toward Christ.

With a grateful heart and deep pastoral love,

Pastor Val



Calling all soup makers:

Will you bring a pot of soup to the downstairs kitchen from noon to 2 pm

Saturday, November 14

Soups will be frozen and given during the year to those who are ill or who might just need a little "soup love."

♥ Souper Saturday is sponsored by the Care Team ♥

CARE MINISTRY



Reflections on the Quote...

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

I will sing the praises of Your name.
2 Samuel 22:50

God, in creating so many living creatures, gave laughter, smiles and song only to the humanity made in His image. Can you imagine a world without music!?

Not long ago I read about "a woman who was so concerned that the removal of a large tumor in her brain would impair her ability to sing, that her surgeon did something incredible and kept her awake for the pain-free surgery, asking her to sing during the procedure so he'd know that he had preserved that part of her neurological circuity. The two even recorded a duet during the operation."

from *Daily Word*, July 28, 2025

I miss my singing voice which cracked and left me at age 81. I'm thankful for the years I had with music: glee clubs, 15 years with the church choir, and simply singing when and wherever the mood moved me,

An essay I wrote in the eighth grade on the joy of music helped me go to college—a story I've shared before.

I have the words to several praise songs in my head but have never written them down, because I keep changing them,

Here is today's version of one:

Take me away Lord, take me away, to a place of quiet serenity, soft breezes and calm. Just for today, let me escape the worlds miseries and feel only the peace of your love.

Give me a four-beat rhythm of a finger-snapping tune to set my heart a-singing and my feet a-tapping.

Just for today, Lord, just for today. Then I'll be renewed and able to be all that you need me to be.

When our boys were little, their bedtime routine included my reading to them a story and singing a song. They didn't ever skip either event, always requesting the "Brett and Neil" song after the story.

It started with *Brett and Neil are good, good boys who live down on Hayes Road*…followed by a litany of their day's activities, good and bad, sad and happy, and ending with *Jesus Loves Me.*

To say that one loves music doesn't always mean concerts, choirs, big bands, etc., but also the song within the soul of the individual who sings to themself in recognition of their hopes, dreams, and love of God.

Lord God,
we set our hearts a singing for all the wonders You have created
and thank You for the music in our souls with which we soothe our spirits.
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@marlcongchurch.org

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 his Lord and Savior

† to **Marilyn Henry, Evelyn Dillman and Sarah Poulin** and their families over the passing of their mother, Eleanor Button, on October 10, 2026. Eleanor had been a loved and respected member of our church for over 70 years, serving faithfully in many areas of church life. A Memorial Service was held at the church on October 18.

A Memorial Fund in her name has been set up. If you wish to donate, please note "Eleanor Button Memorial Fund" on your check.



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

SUNDAY SCHOOL



Hello from Sunday School,

This month has been a busy o flew right by. In the classrooms started our first few lessons with reading from Genesis. The children learned the order in which God created earth and made spinning wheel craft to show what happened on each of the first 7 days. Always remembering that after all that work, he rested on the 7th day.

This is why we join on Sundays at church. We use this day to praise God for all he has done for us and take the time to slow down a bit and appreciate all we have because of Him.

We followed that lesson with Genesis 3, Adam & Eve. After hearing that even when they disobeyed God, He still loved and cared for them. Before being sent out of the Garden of Eden, God still made clothes for Adam & Eve as a symbol to show his love and that he will always be with them.

The kids shared how they relate to this story because we have all done something we have been told not to, and are thankful that even with consequences, we still know we are loved.

October was also a special one because it was Pastor Appreciation Month. The kids made some colorful decorations in the lounge to surprise Pastor Val as well as a large poster where they guessed fun things about our wonderful Pastor--such as what her favorite foods might be and what we love most about her.

In the next few weeks, will have special guest teacher Carolyn Brodginski come help prepare us for the Christmas Pageant. Lots going on for our youngest church members 😊

Many blessings,
Elizabeth

YOUTH GROUP



All students in grades 5 to 12 are welcome!

We took the opportunity this month to spread a little pink around church to show our support for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

The kids painted some pumpkins bright shades of pink and lined the church entryway with them. It looks so beautiful when you first enter our church.

We also packed 40 Blessing Bags and got them all ready to go with our church Mission's Team in early December. Thank you to everyone who donated items to make these bags so special for those who receive them. More from youth group soon.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth



Stretch & Strengthen
Friday, 9:45 Nov. 13 & 20
in the Thienes Lounge.
$25 per session (drop in as you wish)
Led by certified instructor Barbara LaBlanc.
Practical strength and balance exercises.

THANK YOU

♥ First Annual Chili Cook Off!

Thank you to all our wonderful Chefs who brought their delicious chilies to sample and judge as well as our talented, local musicians. They set the fun vibe for the night. Thank you for all your support to those who came out to our first chili cook off. We hope to see you back again next year. Some of you have titles to defend! 😊

Sincerely,

Elizabeth & Marion, co-chairs

OUR CHURCH FAMILY



Robby Faulhaber & Kristin Greco

who were married on October 11, 2026,

in Smithtown, New York;

officiated by his father, our previous pastor,

Rev. Bob Faulhaber.



to our members & friends

11/1 – Dean Casella
11/2 – Michele Goodwin
11/3 – Sammy Walls
11/4 – Ed Migliaro
11/6 – Cheryl Brodell
11/7 – Dori Daniel, Chip Hal, Rick Sefert
11/10 – Jay LaCaresse, Natalie Villar
11/11 – Kristin Spinelli
11/12 – Will Aubin, Karen Migliaro
11/14 – Mike Concodello, Mike Gilman
11/15 – Crystal Reid
11/17 – Daniel Villar
11/20 – Jason Smith
11/21 – Brian Turner
11/22 – Doug Turner
11/25 – Billie Bunting

Count the memories, not the years.

SECOND BLESSINGS



THRIFT SHOP



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

Thanksgiving Weekend
at Second Blessings Thrift Shop



Free Registration for a Door Prize

See the huge array of new and gently cared for items for gift giving, entertaining, decorating, the large selection of vintage decor, jewelry, new and vintage Christmas linens, children's book, and so much more. Shop often, there's new arrivals every week.

The shop is open until December 19
Fridays from noon to 3 pm
Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm
Closed from Dec. 20 to Feb. 4
Reopens Friday, February 5

➡Donations accepted during thrift shop hours.

Our eBay store is open **year-round.**
Visit us at
https://bit.ly/MCCebay

☺ **Thank You Shop Volunteers**

Stephanie Bunting (eBay)
11/6 – Bob Wargo, Ida Spooner
11/7 – Bonnie Anderson, Karen Gallmon, Kathi Karp, Daphine Vail
11/13 – Bob Wargo, **Need one more**
11/14 – Cathy Glynn, Betty Merritt, Michele Sinkez
11/20 – Bob Wargo, Kathy Burrill
11/21 – Kathi Karp, Bonnie Anderson, Cheryl Brodell
11/27 – Bob Wargo, Judi McBrair, Linda Garrett, Kathy Burrill
11/28 – Betty Merritt, Carolyn Brodginski, Kathy Burrill, Geri Turner
12/4 – Bob Wargo, Peggy Poresky
12/5 – Melanie Jump, Cathy Glynn, **Need one more**

MISSIONS



Operation Christmas Stocking

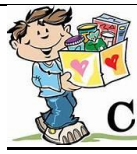
for youth at
Albert J. Solnit Children's Center

Stocking for you to fill are available at the church starting this month.
Please bring you donations to the church by December 13.

The Center, located in Middletown, services about 50 youth ages 13 to 17, is the only publicly operated psychiatric hospital within the state and the only behavioral health facility within the Department of Children and Families (DCF).

Suggested donations

Self-care products in regular or travel-size combs, shampoo, conditioners, winter hats & gloves, Cr0c Jib bits, ladies size colorful socks (low or no show), card games, journals (not spiral binding), small puzzles, stress balls, word find books, playing cards decks,
⇨A complete listing of suggested items will be found in each stocking.



Food Collection

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.

November & December Giving



Seminarian Fund
for our own seminarians:
Steve Pozzato & 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

November 29, 1-1:30 pm
for Marlborough Food Bank patrons, with vouchers, and their families
November sponsor is It's So Ranunculus.



Sunday, November 15
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



BITS OF INFORMATION

Take a look...

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

NO Women's Circle
Nov & Dec
Resumes January 20th



LET'S MAKE SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL

Look for the large white envelope from the church that was mailed last week that has giving information for 2027. If you haven't yet received the packet, we have extras at the church, or we can mail one to you. Please let us know at office@marlcongchurch.org



I SEE THERE'S MORE

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

All Women are Invited
noon to 2 p.m.



Fri., November 13
local author, Jordan Whipple

💻Want more Information?
Please email **Rebecca** at
rebecca-weller@sbcglobal.net

Weekly Meeetings

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
11/9 & 11/23 - 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, 6-7:15 pm (Youth Room)
Bible Study, 11-noon (lounge)
Bible Study, 6-7 (lounge)

Fridays

Second Blessings Thrift Shop, 12-3

Saturdays

Second Blessings Thrift Shop, 10-1

Sun., Nov. 1 – ***All Saints Sunday***
Second Blessings Thrift Shop, 11:15-noon
Mon., Nov. 2 – Care Team, 9 am
Wed., Nov. 4 – CE/Youth, 6 pm (Zoom)
Thurs., Nov. 5 – Tag Sale Setup, 9-noon
Fri., Nov. 6 – Tag Sale Setup, 9-noon
Fri.,Nov.6 - Community Sing! 7 pm (lounge)
Sat., Nov. 7 – Tag Sale, 9 am to 1 pm
An American Music Festival, 7 pm
Sun., Nov. 8– ***Veteran's Sunday***
Mon., Nov. 9 – Missions, 6:30 pm (Zoom)
Thurs., Nov. 12 – Joyful Blue practice, 6 pm
Fri., Nov. 13 – Stretch & Strengthen, 9:45 (lounge)
Dorcas WF, noon
Sat., Nov. 14 – **Yard Cleanup** (with boy scouts), 9 am
Thienes Lounge rental, 12:30-4 pm
SOUPer Saturday, 12-2 (downstairs kitchen) see article
Sun, Nov. 15 – ***Bluegrass Sunday***
Trustees, 11:15 am (Pastor's office)
"Serve the Lord" senior housing, noon
Mon., Nov. 16 – Deacons, 6:30 pm (lounge)
Wed., Nov. 18 – Council, 6:30 pm (Zoom)
Fri., Nov. 20 – Stretch & Strengthen, 9:45 (lounge)
Thurs., Nov. 26 - **Thanksgiving Blessings!**
Fri., Nov. 28 noon-3 **and Sat., Nov. 29** 10-1
Second Blessings Thrift Shop Christmas Open House
Sun., Nov. 29 - ***Congregation Appreciation Brunch***
Drive Thru Café, 1-1:30 pm (kitchen)
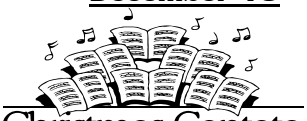
DECEMBER



Friday, December 4
outside at 6 pm
followed by hot cocoa,
cider & treats
in the lounge.
Community Sing at 7



December 13



at 10 am



before and after worship
Homemade Cookies $8/lb.

COOKIE BAKERS
If you can bake a dozen or two cookies,
please bring them in by 9:15 on Dec. 13
or a few days ahead.