

April 25, 2021

**The Fourth Sunday of Easter**

10:00 am

*Monroe Congregational Church is an Open and Affirming congregation.  
Our deacons and pastors hope you will feel at home here. No matter who you are or  
where you are on life's journey, we welcome you in Christ's name*

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**Prelude** Morning Has Broken, *Traditional Scottish Melody* Bethany Dupuis, flute

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Opening Prayer** Deborah Vargovchik, Deacon of the Day

**\*Our Church's Covenant**

*We declare our faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.  
In Holy covenant, we bind ourselves to God and each other, becoming devoted  
disciples and active apostles.  
We promise each other to be faithful in worship and in support of this church,  
whose Savior and Lord is Jesus Christ.  
In Christian love, we will care for and support each other.  
With the Bible as our guide, we willingly promise all that we are,  
and all that we have, to the fulfillment of God's Kingdom.  
Freely we say these things, glorying in the joy of our salvation.*

**\*Passing the Peace**

*In order for those tuning in from home to feel included,  
please turn and greet the webcam as you share signs of peace with one another.*

**Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer**

*God of Community, you bring us together as one body, one people. No one is more  
special than another, we are equally treasured as a part of your church. Sometimes  
we are thirsty for you, but we forget to seek you out. We can be distracted, unaware  
of your grace, and overwhelmed by the violence and sickness that exists in this world.  
We are lost and weary in a dry land. As we seek out your sanctuary of grace, help us  
to find true rest. This we pray in Jesus' name, amen. ~silence~*

**Words of Assurance**

**Morning Prayers**

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will  
be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us  
our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us  
from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

**Offertory** Meditation, *Norman Dello Joio (1965)*

*Our offering plate may be found on the hospitality table as you leave worship today.  
You may also choose to give online at [www.mcc-ucc/donate](http://www.mcc-ucc/donate).*

## Scripture

Acts 8:26-39

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, *"Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza."* (This is a wilderness road.) So, he got up and went.

Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, Queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah.

Then the Spirit said to Philip, *"Go over to this chariot and join it."* So, Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, *"Do you understand what you are reading?"* He replied, *"How can I, unless someone guides me?"* And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him.

Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: *"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth."* The eunuch asked Philip, *"About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?"*

Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, *"Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?"* He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him.

When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing.

## Sermon

*Instant Family: Just Add Water*

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

## Benediction

## Postlude

Sent Forth by God's Blessing, *Welsh Melody*

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**God is still speaking, welcome** to all who are worshipping with us today, in-person and online! We are an **Open & Affirming** congregation of the United Church of Christ, and we invite everyone to join in the full life and ministry of this church. We strive in word and deed to be faithful to Jesus' model of loving acceptance and welcome to all persons, inclusive of every age, race, ability, economic and social status, nationality, faith background, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, marital standing and family structure.

Worship is live streamed on church's You Tube Channel under CCLI Streaming License #2169137 on: <https://www.youtube.com/monroecongregationalchurchucc>, as well as on our Facebook page "Monroe Congregational Church, UCC"

## Thank you for assisting in this morning's worship!

- **Deacon:** Deborah Vargovchik
- **Usher:** Rob McClenathan
- **Trustee:** Scott Young
- **Counter:** Bill Stadler

## ***In Our Prayers***

**The Logan/Weiss family**, on the loss of Kristina's mother Ellie; **Jackie Ajello** (Michele Mount's mother); **Michael Barresi** (Maria's Son); **Jennifer Bittar** (Lorraine Zeiner's friend); **Byron Brown & Bruce Bryant** (friends of Will Duchon); **Cheryl Ciambriello** (Wendy Colegrove's friend); **Lori Cimeno** (Peggy & Ron Villani's Daughter); **Dot Dralus**; **Matt Duchon**; **Marge Fox**; **Rachel Fracassini** (Jack & Linda Fracassini's niece); **Meredith Gibson** (Paul & Judy Coward's niece); **Fern Griffith** (Ashley Levin's friend); **Karen Guinness** (Jennifer Nivison's friend); **Gina, Liz** (Wendy Colegrove's friends); **Gary & Julie Hedine** (Nancy Hedine's son & daughter-in-law); **Mary & Rachel Heerema** (Julia Gutierrez's mom & sister); **Bob Heffernan** (Ann Zeiner's son-in-law); **Brian Hopkins** (Donna Konkol's cousin); **Vera James** (Jenn Wissink's mother); **Heather Joyce** (Paul & Judy Coward's daughter); **Kelti** (friend of Liska Gutierrez); **Walter Lane** (Marge Fox's brother-in-law); **Mary-Margaret Logan** (Andrew's mother); **Jacque MacLean** (Jennifer Nivison's friend); **Nicole Malia**; **Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **Rev. Jonathan Miller** (Paul & Judy Coward's friend); **Jean Moffat**; **Olivia Morrison** (Donna Nickdow's niece); **Joe Mumper** (Julie McClenathan's friend); **Kathy Nivison** (Andy's mother); **Pat Nugent**; **Ocampo family** (friends of Liska Gutierrez); **Olson Family**; **Ray Osborne** (Colegrove's Family friend); **Dean Perosino** (Gayle Hammond's brother); **Geno Piacentini** (Karen MacDonald's husband); **P.T. Philip** (Liz Sampson's father); **Norman & Jan Ricker** (Linda & Jack Fracassini's friend); **Barbara Rivel** (Judy Coward's friend); **Regina Roberts** (Kathy Maiolo's niece); **Kelly Rodman** (Angela Cross' friend); **Alfredo Rodriguez** (Osirus Gutierrez's cousin); **Roshong** (Judy Coward's nephew); **Noah Santiago** (Shari Carrano's great-grandson); **Connor Scalia** (Jen Nivison's friend); **Carlos Serrano** (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); **Al Shaeffer**; **Yessika Siccardi** (Sampson family friend); **Bernie Sippin**; **John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Christine Stadler**; **Christian & Dain Steiner** (Julie McClenathan's nephews); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Winger's granddaughter); **Ellie Swindlehurst** (Joanne Malia's mother); **Olga Terwilliger** (Nancy Hedine's sister-in-law); **Ian Thompson** (Gary's cousin); **Dick Thompson** (Gary's cousin); **Meg Trogolo** (Paul & Judy Coward's niece); **Richard Turco** (Jack Fracassini's cousin); **Charles L. Wynn, Sr.**, (and his mother) **Alleane Wynn** (friends of Will Duchon); **Allen Zeiner** (Ann Zeiner's son); **Ann Zeiner**

**The concerns of our world:** *Those who serve or live in war or conflict zones; first responders and those who serve in law enforcement; those who suffer discrimination; those who struggle with mental illness, addiction, divorce or separation; Caregivers; the homeless, homebound and refugees; Our friends living on the Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation and in Oaxaca, Mexico*

**Those serving in the military, veterans & their families:** South Korea: **Zachary Gingras**, Washington: **Rachel Hoffman** (Vaughan Askue's daughter), Virginia: **Chris Meneses** (Lorraine Zeiner's friend), Georgia: **Zachary Peters** (Jacob Parker-Burgard's cousin), Kuwait: **Steven Roshong** (the Coward's nephew), South Carolina: **Bob Peters** (Don Parker-Burgard's brother-in-law), Afghanistan: **Samuel Siciliano**, North Carolina: **Jake Terifay**

## Our Pandemic Commandments

In order to keep our community members safe, please follow these gathering guidelines:

- Thou shalt stay home if you feel sick or have a fever (catch us on YouTube/Facebook)
- Thou shalt wear a mask (if you need one, just ask!)
- Thou shalt maintain a holy distance of 6 ft from a neighbor (even when passing peace)
- Some pews are taped off, to allow space between the seating of households. Please respect the tape, enter/exit from the side of the pew that is open.
- We have provided hand sanitizer and tissues in the pews, please use carefully as the chemicals are corrosive on wood and other surfaces
- We have slightly propped open the two front windows and church doors to allow for optimum air circulation and HEPA filtering, the heat is on and lap blankets are available



to the following people and to anyone we may have missed, we will keep you in our prayers. (Number is birth date)

Donna O'Hara <sup>(25)</sup>

Jessica Pfalzgraf <sup>(28)</sup>

Michelle Correll <sup>(30)</sup>

Emily Rooney <sup>(27)</sup>

Donald Elmendorf <sup>(29)</sup>

Chuck Schneider <sup>(01)</sup>

Joseph Konkol <sup>(28)</sup>

**Happy Wedding Anniversary** to the following couples and to anyone we may have missed, we will keep you in our prayers. (Number is anniversary date)

Jennifer & Jim Halloran <sup>(29)</sup>

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## Deacons



**New Member Informational Zoom, THIS Tuesday April 27<sup>th</sup>, 11 am**  
*~ Has the Monroe Congregational Church ministered to you during this last year of pandemic? Are you interested in learning more about membership?*  
Join Pastor Jenn and deacons to find out more about the history of our church (how we got here), our theology (what we believe) and ways you might connect with others.

New Members will join the church during worship on Sunday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Zoom Meeting ID: 842 5241 1976 Passcode: 778189

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## Trustees



**MCC Spring Cleanup on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 8:30 – noon**

Whether you can give MCC an hour, or a whole morning, please come and help us beautify and maintain our campus!

Outdoors: Rake, install new mulch, and trim shrubs

Inside work: clean windows and replace lightbulbs in Wilton Hall

## Christian Education

**Junior PF** is starting up in-person regular meetings again! Pastor Jenn and a rotating group of adult volunteers will be getting together with middle schoolers (6-8 grade) on most Sunday afternoons from 4-5 in Wilton Hall, unless otherwise noted. Pandemic commandments (masks, social distancing, handwashing, etc.) are in place.

Here are some upcoming events:

- April 25, 3:30-4:30 pm – Earth Day Clean-up of Rails to Trails
- May 2, 4-5 pm – Kindness Rocks!
- May 9 – Off (Mother’s Day),
- May 16, 4-5 Tie-Dye!
- May 23, 4-5 – Jr PF Time Capsule
- May 30 – Off (Memorial Day)



### Outdoor Sunday School – TODAY!

**SUNDAY,  
APRIL 25**

**Outdoor Sunday School**  
for children 4-12 (and  
younger, if accompanied  
by a parent)

Join us at 10 am on Pierce  
Lawn! Dress for outside,  
we'll be learning all about  
the Giving Garden and  
planting seedlings!





**Prayer Partners Unite!!!** We will be meeting on **Sunday, May 23rd between 10:45-11 in Wilton Hall.** Depending on the restrictions placed on us regarding bringing food and sharing dishes, we may meet on Pierce Lawn with individual chairs and sharing our experiences as a Prayer Partner. Please mark your calendars!! Keep your partner in your thoughts and prayers. Remember that you can send them a note or card in the mail using the church's address as the return (34 Church St. Monroe, CT 06468). Please contact Susie Cuseo at [thecuseos@yahoo.com](mailto:thecuseos@yahoo.com) or 203-268-0280 with any questions or comments.



All the ladies of the congregation are invited to the Morning Circle meeting being held on **Wednesday, May 12 at 11AM** in Wilton Hall.



**May 12<sup>th</sup>**  
**June 9<sup>th</sup>**

**MCC Book Club** Questions -contact Mary Unger (203) 268-5754  
The Clockmaker's Daughter by Kate Morton  
The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah



**Adult PF meets via Zoom the first and third Sundays of the month.**

For information about Adult PF please contact Don Parker-Burgard.  
[dpburgard@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dpburgard@sbcglobal.net)



The Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe is open **Fridays 10-3 and Saturday 10-2!** To protect our volunteers and clients, all current health and safety guidelines for the retail sector will be in place.

Join us for sorting/tagging/hanging every Tuesday at 1:00 pm. We are also accepting gently used clothing, shoes, handbags, books, jewelry and household items (smaller than a breadbox) from church members. To volunteer as a sorter or a cashier, please contact Susie Cuseo at [thecuseos@yahoo.com](mailto:thecuseos@yahoo.com). Thank you for your support!

## 49<sup>th</sup> Strawberry Festival Volunteer Opportunities

Would you like to have fun & make jam? If you have never made jam before, this is the best way to learn how!

### Requirements:

Please be fully vaccinated. Wash your hands upon arrival. You must wear a Mask and Hat at all times. Do not wear shorts or sandals because we work with boiling water and pots of very hot strawberries that can sometimes spatter. A long sleeve-shirt is a clever idea :-)

We will make 2-4 batches of jam which takes about 2 hours.

Fri., 4/30 3-5pm  
Sat., 5/1 9-11am & 11am-1pm  
Sun., 5/2 12-2pm & 2-4pm  
Thurs., 5/6 5-7pm  
Fri., 5/7 3-5pm  
Sat., 5/8 9-11am & 11-1pm  
Fri., 5/21 9-11am & 11-1pm  
Sat., 5/22 9-11am  
Sun., 5/23 12-2pm

Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4baaa923a0ffce9-jamsession>  
or email JAM [John Anthony Maiolo] JAM [johnnymaiolo@gmail.com](mailto:johnnymaiolo@gmail.com)

If you don't have time to volunteer to make jam, **we could always use a donation of some supplies or help in other areas.**



### ZOOM Update

Soon we will be hosting a second zoom about the festival where we will describe the 2021 plan and the usual and new areas where you can volunteer. After the zoom meeting, I will send out a volunteer email similar to the JAM making one above, where you can sign-up. Thank you!

Clark, Frank, John

## Community



The Monroe Playground Foundation is having a **Friday Night Family Takeout Dinner** starting at 5 pm on April 30<sup>th</sup> featuring ziti, meatballs, salad, bread.



**Scout Troop 63, chartered by Monroe Congregational Church, is holding their inaugural flower, plant and vegetable fundraiser.**

Prepare your yard for spring and summer and help Troop 63 raise funds to support the Scouts in camping and other outdoor adventures. Whatever your preference, flowers or vegetables, in the ground or hanging on your porch, they have you covered. The hardest part will be deciding what to get out of their wide selection.

Follow the link to see their selection and place your order: [bit.ly/Troop63](https://bit.ly/Troop63)

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING TROOP 63!**

**This is Troop 63's inaugural spring plant sale**

**Proceeds from sales help fund programming, troop gear and campership funds**

**ORDER BY: 4/26/21**

**PICK-UP**

**Monroe Congregational**

**Saturday 5/8/21 | 9:00AM - 12:00PM**





MCC SENIOR PF

# MOTHER'S DAY CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, May 8th

11am-1pm

Monroe Congregational Church

FIND YOUR MOM THE PERFECT LOCAL GIFT

hand-made jewelry, candles, decorated wine  
glasses, baked goods, and more!

PRE-ORDER/PICK-UP ORDERS AVAILABLE

to pre-order, email us at  
[mccuccseniorpf@gmail.com](mailto:mccuccseniorpf@gmail.com)



## **MCC Community Calendar**

### **Week of Apr. 25<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Worship  
10:00 am Outdoor Sunday School  
3-4:30 pm Junior PF (Rails to Trails Earth Day Cleanup)  
5-7:30 pm Senior PF (Wilton)

### **Tues. Apr. 27<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 pm Sort and Tag

### **Wed. Apr. 28<sup>th</sup>**

6:30 pm Confirmation Class (Wilton)

### **Thurs. Apr. 29<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study

### **Friday. Apr. 30<sup>th</sup>**

5:00 pm Playground Fundraiser Family Take Out Dinner

### **Sat. May 1<sup>st</sup>**

8:30 am – 12pm MCC Spring Clean Up Day

### **Week of May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

10:00 am Worship with Communion  
4:00 pm Junior PF  
5-7:30 pm Senior PF  
5 pm Adult PF

### **Tues. May 4<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 pm Sort and Tag  
8:00 pm Outreach Zoom

### **Wed. May 5<sup>th</sup>**

6:30 pm Confirmation Class (Wilton)

### **Thurs. May 6<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study

### **Sat. May 8<sup>th</sup>**

8am – 1pm Boy Scout Plant Sale  
11am – 1pm Sr PF Mother's Day Craft Fair

### **Week of May 9<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Worship  
11:00 am Mother's Day Tea

### **Tues. May 11<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 pm Sort and Tag

### **Wed. May 12<sup>th</sup>**

11:00 am Morning Circle  
6:30 pm Confirmation Class (Wilton)

### **Thurs. May 13<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study

### **Week of May 16<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Worship, YOUTH SUNDAY!  
10:00 am Outdoor Sunday School (Communion)  
11:30 am Trustees  
4:00 pm Junior PF  
5:00 pm Senior PF  
5:00 pm Adult PF

### **Mon. May 17<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 pm Council

### **Tues. May 18<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 pm Sort and Tag  
7pm Bereavement Group

### **Wed. May 19<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 pm Confirmation Celebration! (Pierce)

### **Thurs. May 20<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study  
7:30 pm CE

### **Week of May 23<sup>rd</sup>**

10:00 am Worship – CONFIRMATION & NEW MEMBERS!  
11:15 Prayer Partner Luncheon (Pierce)  
4:00 pm Junior PF  
5:00 pm Senior PF