

April 28, 2024

Fifth 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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Gathering Music Let Me Enter God's Own Dwelling

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: Grace to you, and peace in the name of God our Maker and Jesus
Christ our Lord.

People: Grace to you, and peace. We give thanks to God for you!

Leader: Together, we come to learn from the Spirit and each other,

*People: And to pass on what we have heard, so together we may grow
in faith.*

Leader: We are one link in the chain, one ripple moving outward,

All: Embodying our faith so all may see and know God's love!

Opening Prayer Rebecca Cicarelli, Deacon of the Day

***Our Church's Covenant** inside front cover of hymnal

Children's Message

Students may transition to Sunday School with their teachers.

***Hymn** Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You NCH #4

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

Living God, sometimes it's so hard to live in your kingdom. You have shown us what is possible, and yet we become focused by the rewards of this world. We listen to voices that praise us for doing good, and feed our egos instead of focusing on your call. Forgive us when we have enforced our vision of calm rather than pursuing your peace. Set our eyes on those whose example we might follow, so that our living faith may be an example to others. Together, may we persevere in the love that holds us fast, even through all the challenges of this life. Amen. ~silence~

Words of Assurance

***Passing of 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.*

Pastoral Prayer – Silent Prayer -- Lord's Prayer

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.

Time for Giving

Invitation

Offertory

Christ Be In my Waking
*Our offering plate will be passed among us today.
You may give online at www.mcc-ucc/donate.*

Stuart Townend

*Doxology and Presentation

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ, the Word in flesh, born low,
Praise Holy Spirit, evermore,
One God, triune, whom we adore. Amen!*

*Prayer of Dedication

Scripture

Acts 17:1-9, pg 1010; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, pg 1078

If you would like to read along, Bibles may be found underneath the pew in front of you.

Sermon

Love Letters

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

*Closing Hymn

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

NCH #77

Benediction

Parting Music

Peace, I Give to You

Craig Courtney

God is still speaking, welcome to all who are worshipping with us today, in-person and online! 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"

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.

Health & Safety: In order to keep our community members healthy (*including children under 12, the immune-compromised and those not yet fully vaccinated*), please stay home if you feel sick or have a fever (catch us on YouTube/Facebook). We have provided hand sanitizer and tissues in the pews, please use carefully as the chemicals are corrosive on wood and other surfaces.



Please join us for a time of **fellowship** following the service in Wilton Hall



If you'd like to **give online** during worship (or anytime), simply scan this QR code, which will take you to our VANCO electronic giving page. Thank you so much for your support.

Thank you for assisting in this morning's worship!

- **Deacon:** Rebecca Cicarelli
- **Usher:** Susie Cuseo
- **Lay Reader:** Jim Hisey
- **Trustee:** Zach Gingras
- **Counter:** John O'Rourke
- **Coffee Host:** Kathy Allen & Leanne McEvoy
- **Web Steward:** Scott Young



Flowers for Worship: Would you like to honor or remember a loved one, or celebrate a milestone? You can do so, while also helping Monroe Congregational Church continue its tradition of fresh **flowers** on the communion table. You can sign-up in Wilton Hall or online! You may choose to arrange flowers from your garden, purchase an arrangement, or send a check (\$25) to Monroe Congregational Church (memo: "flowers" & the date) or use our website to pay online, and we will order for you. If you are supplying the flowers yourself, please set them up between 9:30am and 9:45am, before worship. Thank you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAC2CA5FEC61-flowers> or MCC-UCC.org



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

Joseph Konkol ⁽²⁸⁾

James Hisey ⁽²⁹⁾

Allen Crosnier ⁽⁰²⁾

Jessica Pfalzgraf ⁽²⁸⁾

Michelle Correll ⁽³⁰⁾

Joyce Rousseau ⁽⁰³⁾

Donald Elmendorf ⁽²⁹⁾

Chuck Schneider ⁽⁰¹⁾



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 ⁽²⁹⁾ and Gayle & Bob Hammond ⁽⁴⁾

Trustees

Church Spring Cleanup on

Saturday, May 18th

8:30 – noon

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

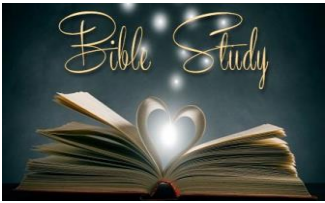


Deacons

2024 Summer Preaching Series: Bible Stories to Love & Remember

Sometimes when we return as older people to the Bible stories we learned as a kid, they can take on a different meaning. Beginning on May 26th and continuing through the summer, I'll be preaching a new sermon series: Bible Stories to Love & Remember.

But I'm going to need your help! What Bible stories should we focus on? What are your favorites? What are the ones that confuse you – even now? We have space to cover 12. Please let me know what you'd like to hear, so we can take a fresh look at them together. In these stories we might discover wisdom, love and grace. We'll likely see a little more clearly how God has worked in the past, and we'll discover how God connects with us today. *In Peace, Pastor Jenn*



Weekly Bible Study We cordially invite you to join us each week as we gather together to learn with and through one another. All are welcome in Dineson Parlor, from **9:30-11 am**. After a time of fellowship and prayer concerns, we read and discuss upcoming scripture texts or other faith-related topics. Bring your favorite Bible (whatever version you prefer) and a small notebook.



Outreach

CROP Hunger Walk – Sunday, May 5th

No one in this world should be hungry. That's why the CROP Hunger Walk is more than just a yearly gathering or event for me. It is my chance to help families who are struggling with hunger and concerned about where they'll find their next meal. The Walk is how I take action to make sure that one more person has enough to eat.

I want to help as many people as I can in my community and around the world and would love your support. Please join me in the fight against hunger by making a donation! The steps we take - and the funds we raise - support programs that provide meals and other immediate support, as well as long-lasting solutions to hunger.

This year's Bridgeport, CT Crop Hunger Walk will take place Sunday May 5, 2024. Money raised will benefit people locally and around the globe. Your tax-deductible donation helps us as individuals make a difference. You can **see me or another member of the team at coffee hour to donate. If you would like to join this year's walking team, please let me know.** - *Julie McClenathan*

Follow this link to support Team MCC!

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/julie-mcclenathan?login=true>



Morning Circle invites the women of the congregation to their next meeting on Wednesday, May 8th at 11a.m. in Dineson Parlor. Contact Shari Carrano with questions 475-342-8145.

Our calendar of meetings

Wednesday, May 8 - Collection of Women's hygiene products

Wednesday, June 12 - Annual June picnic - Location TBD

Fellowship

JOIN US FOR THE BIG REVEAL!

Prayer Partner Potluck Luncheon

May 19th at 11:15 am
in Wilton Hall

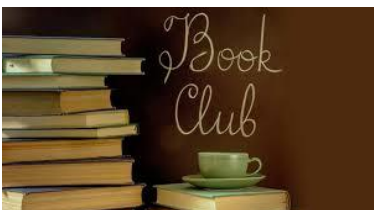
*We will soon find out
who's been praying for
whom!*



Young at Heart will meet Thursday, May 23 at noon
Details to Follow



Please join us for Adult PF the 1st Saturday of the month in Dineson Parlor from **5:30 to 8pm!** Bring your own beverage and a snack to share. We are excited to bring Adult PF back to MCC in a new format! Each month will be led by different members of the group. It could be a discussion of an article or movie, a game night or a service project for MCC or the greater community, or an outing etc. Your presence and ideas are wanted and welcome. All adults young and old are encouraged to attend. Please reach out to Janie Allen via phone/text/email at 203-522-3686 or janeFallen@sbcglobal.net with any thoughts or questions. **Our next meeting will be Saturday, 5/2. Come check it out!**



We encourage anyone to join us on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. We will continue to meet via zoom so that all members can join from wherever they may be. Questions can be sent to Paula via email pjsh55@gmail.com or home phone or 203-452-0850
The book club selections for upcoming months:

May 15th 7 pm Master Slave Husband Wife by Ilyan Woo Host: TBD
June 19th 7 pm Horse by Geraldine Brooks Host: TBA

**52nd Strawberry Festival 2024
will be held on Saturday, June 15 (10am-5pm)
& Sunday, June 16 (11am-5pm).**



Have you marked your calendars? It's been said that our event is a highlight for many people, including those who come to taste the shortcake, as well as the connoisseurs of strawberry pie and jam. Our crafters note that we are very friendly and that there are numerous volunteers who help out that weekend. That's the success of the festival: our volunteers. They are the heart and soul; a family who comes together



to serve the community and reconnect with each other while doing so. There's so many ways to help out: berry picking, jam making, face painting, being a runner for orders, sorting, hulling, dipping those beautiful berries, and then there's making pies, shortcake or smoothies. You can also help out by baking some yummy goodies that will be sold at the Country Store: breads, cookies, etc. Please consider that it will be hot under the tent, so please do not send donations that may melt with the heat.
co-chair, Susie Cuseo



Jam sessions are in full swing. You can volunteer for any area in May when signup sheets go up in Wilton Hall. Our kickoff day is Sunday, June 2 where we will have communion with the biscuits used for the shortcake. Let's make this another successful event!!! Please contact our co-chairs (Susie Cuseo, Clark/Jenn Gingras, Josh Post or Frank Wittenauer) with any questions, comments or concerns.

You can sign up using this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094CAEAA22A4FB6-48041861-jamsessions>.



Historian's Notebook:

On May 16th, from noon to 1:00 p.m. the Southern New England Conference UCC (SNECUCC) will hold a zoom presentation on "Archiving Your Church Records". If anyone is interested in joining me for this informative presentation, please contact me for the network link that will allow you to register.

Gary Thompson, Church Historian mailgt@yahoo.com

2024 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

REPLACING THE MEETINGHOUSE ROOF



Our historic campus requires regular maintenance, inside and out. The roof of the Meeting House has been leaking due to recent wind and weather damage. The estimated cost for repairs is \$30,000, and we plan to do the work done ASAP.

Thanks for your support!

**To contribute, send a check with the memo: Capital Campaign
or donate on our website (choosing Capital Projects)
<https://www.mcc-ucc.org/donate.html>**

The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.



**American
Red Cross**



Monroe Lions Club's Spring Blood Drive

Monroe Congregational Church, 34 Church St. – Monroe, CT

Wednesday, May 1

8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

How to donate? <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>

redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS

In Our Prayers

June Wilkes, Alison Abrams (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Jennifer Bittar** (Lorraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney; Byron Brown & Bruce Bryant** (friends of Will Duchon); **Lori Cimeno** (Peggy & Ron Villani's Daughter); **Dave Coffey; Kevin Daly** (Gary Thompson's friend); **Dawn** (Donna Konkol's Friend); **Dot Dralus; Matt Duchon; Elaine** (Wendy Colegrove's Aunt); **Bruno Forte** (Nancy Hedine's friend); **David Fischman** (Sue Granello's Friend); **Dave Fuller** (Gail Olson's brother); **Lehre Fuller** (Gail Olson's sister-in-law); **Clark Gingras; Peter Hallgren; Mary & Rachel Heerema** (Julia Gutierrez's mom & sister); **Brad Heines** (Susie Cuseo's friend); **Bob Heffernan** (Ann Zeiner's son-in-law); **Heather Henning; Brian Hopkins** (Donna Konkol's cousin); **Cheri Irwin & family; Vera James** (Jenn Wissink's mother); **Jonathan** (Matt Colegrove's brother); **Kelti** (friend of Liska Gutierrez); **Walter Lane** (Marge Fox's brother-in-law); **Monica Lynch** (Bethany Dupuis' friend); **Nicole Malia; Betty McKeown** (Donna Konkol's mother); **Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **Jean Moffat; Olivia Morrison** (Donna Nickdow's niece); **Bert Muizulis; Joe Mumper** (Julie McClenathan's friend); **Pat Nugent; Ocampo family** (friends of Liska Gutierrez); **Nancy Olofson; Missy & Gail Olson; Dean Perosino** (Gayle Hammond's brother); **P.T. Philip** (Liz Sampson's father); **Regina Roberts** (Kathy Maiolo's niece); **Alfredo Rodriguez** (Osirus Gutierrez's cousin); **Noah Santiago** (Shari Carrano's great-grandson); **Carlos Serrano** (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); **Yessika Siccardi** (Sampson family friend); **Ed Simonovich** (Nancy Hedine's friend); **Bernie Sippin; Gary Sippin** (Lori Sippin's son); **John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Christine Stadler; Christian & Dain Steiner** (Julie McClenathan's nephews); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Winger's granddaughter); **Wayne Thompson** (Gary Thompson's brother); **Richard Turco** (Jack Fracassini's cousin); **Charles L. Wynn, Sr.,** (and his mother) **Alleane** (friend of Will Duchon); **Allen Zeiner** (Ann Zeiner's son); **Ann Zeiner**

The concerns of our world: The people of **Ukraine** and the **Middle East; LGBTQ+ children and their families** facing discrimination; those who serve or live in **war or conflict zones** around the world; **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.**

Those serving in the military, veterans & their families: Stateside: **Justin Riffard,** Pensacola Naval Air Station, **Zachary Gingras,** 395th Combat Sustainability Support, **Joel Smith,** 250th Engineering Company Germany: **Rachel Hoffman** (Vaughan Askue's daughter), Chicago: **Chris Meneses** (Lorraine Zeiner's friend), Kuwait: **Jon Sanchez** (Don Whiteley's grandson-in-law)

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Sun. Apr 28th

10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Lincoln at Coffee Hour
5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF

Tue. Apr 30th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. May 1st

7:30-2:30 Monroe Line's Club Blood Drive

Thurs. May 2nd

9:30 am Bible Study
6:00 pm Confirmation Class
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Sat. May 4th

5:30 pm Adult PF

Week of Sun. May 5th

Communion
10:00 am Worship
11:30 am Trustees
1:30 pm Crop Walk
5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF

Mon. May 6th

7:00 pm Outreach

Tue. May 7th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. May 8th

11:00 am Morning Circle

Thurs. May 9th

9:30 am Bible Study
6:00 pm Confirmation Class
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Sat. May 11th

10:30 am Jam Session

Week of Sun. May 12th

Mother's Day
10:00 am Worship

Mon. May 13th

7:30 pm Deacons

Tue. May 14th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. May 15th

6:30 pm Confirmation Class Dinner
7:00 pm Book Club

Thurs. May 16th

9:30 am Bible Study
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Sat. May 18th

Church Work Day

Week of Sun. May 19th

Confirmation ~ Pentecost Sunday
10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Prayer Partner's Potluck
5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF