

January 12, 2025

First Sunday after Epiphany

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.*

+++++

Gathering Music

This Is the Day

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: Remember your baptism!

People: A sign of God's love for us that never ends.

Leader: Remember your baptism!

People: A sign of our belonging in this community of God's people.

Leader: Remember your baptism!

All: A call from God to change our hearts and lives.

Opening Prayer

Jen Wissink, 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**

I Look to You in Every Need

NCH #463

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

You pour out your love, O God, and invite us into a new way of life. You call us to take care of one another here and now, to ensure that everyone has enough and no one goes without, to see each other as beloved children in your family. We confess that we have been caught by the ways of the world and find it difficult to leave them behind to turn to your kingdom way. Draw us out into the wilderness, God. Lift our eyes to recognize your image in the faces around us, and our hands to seek out our neighbors in need. Guide us to live as good ancestors, looking forward and not only back. This we ask in Jesus' name. 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

I Will Sing With the Spirit

John Rutter, 1994

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

*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

Luke 3:1–22, pg 934

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

Sermon

Get Ready

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

*Closing Hymn

You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

NCH #181

Benediction

Postlude

Send Us Now Away

John Ness Beck, 1982

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.

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.



Assisted Listening Devices: As part of the ongoing Homeland Security grant project, we added four wireless assisted listening units to our sound system in the Meetinghouse. We are thrilled to be able to enhance the experience of those needing greater accessibility. If you are interested in trying one out, asking Scott Young or an usher is a perfect way to get started!

Thank you for assisting in this morning's worship!

Deacon: Jen Wissink **Usher:** Melissa Quinn **Lay Reader:** Bill Brett
Trustee: Caleb Nealon **Counter:** Scott Young **Web Steward:** Scott Young
Coffee Host: Michelle Cardentey and Leanne McEvoy

***The flowers this morning are given by Diane Prall
in loving memory of my Aunt Jean (Stickney), a beautiful soul***



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)

Danielle Adams ⁽¹²⁾
Joanne Malia ⁽¹⁴⁾
Sara Alvarez ⁽¹⁶⁾

Thomas Culp ⁽¹⁶⁾
Braeden Goyette ⁽¹⁶⁾
Ann Zeiner ⁽¹⁶⁾

Mary Jo Brett ⁽¹⁷⁾
Clark Gingras ⁽¹⁸⁾
Christine Williams ⁽¹⁸⁾



STAR Words are HERE! Pastor Jenn has a basket of STAR words for 2025 for you to choose from. We hope that you find time to marvel at God's spirit working through these paper stars. Like the magi, may these words allow us all to go home by another road, our eyes opened to God's presence in and around us.

Interested in joining MCC? Join us Sunday, Jan. 19th
for a light lunch and a get-to-know-you meeting at 11 am
in Dinson Parlor. (*childcare provided in nursery*)
New Members join on Sunday, Jan. 26



Church Council

**Call to Annual Congregational Meeting
January 26, 2025**



The members of Monroe Congregational Church are hereby called to attend the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to be held in the Meeting House at 11:00 am on Sunday, January 26, 2025.

The agenda will include the following: Receiving of Reports; Electing Officers, Board Members and Delegates; Adopting the 2025 budget and any other business that must properly come before the Congregation.

Fellowship



Young At Heart will meet at noon on January 23rd details to follow.



Join us for the monthly Book Club 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.

January 15th The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride
February 19th The Keeper of Hidden Books by Madeline Martin

Trustees

2025 Stewardship Campaign: Better Together We're making progress with **70** pledges received totaling over **\$186,111.57**, but there are still a number of members who we haven't heard from yet regarding their donation plans for 2025. If you have pledged in prior years, we're counting on your pledge for 2025 and hope you will consider increasing your pledge to help us achieve our goals.

If you have not pledged before, but contribute to the church, please consider making a pledge for 2025, as this will help the church maintain our outstanding programs and meet our budget goals. And if you provide a recurring donation via Vanco, we still need confirmation of your donation plans for next year.

Please fill out your pledge card and bring it to worship this Sunday or return it via mail to the church office Attention: Receiver. Alternatively, you can email your pledge commitment to me at jorourke224@gmail.com Thank you for considering a financial commitment to MCC for 2025 and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for prayerfully considering how to financially support the Monroe Congregational Church in 2025!

~ Your Stewardship Committee, John O'Rourke (Receiver), Diane Prall, Rev. Jenn Gingras
.....

In Our Prayers

For the family and friends of **David Schoen** who passed away Monday, Jan. 6 (Pastor Jenn's Uncle); **Alison Abrams** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Jennifer Bittar** (Loraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney**; **Kevin Daly** (Gary Thompson's friend); **Dealmira** (Jonathan Ganino's grandmother); **Dan & Laura Dimauro** (Cuseo friends); **John Dominic** (Pfalzgraf's neighbor); **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); **Holly 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); **Vera James** (Jenn Wissink's mother); **Jonathan** (Matt Colegrove's brother); **Kelti** (friend of Liska Gutierrez); **Samia Khoury** (Will Duchon's friend); **Monica Lynch** (Bethany Dupuis' friend); **Jonathan Malia**; **Nicole Malia**; **the Manuzzi Family**; **Mary** (Kate Brigg's Mother); **Betty McKeown** (Donna Konkol's mother); **Meghan** (Mary Unger's niece); **Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **Jean Moffat**; **Olivia Morrison** (Donna Nickdow's niece); **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); **David Schoen** (Pastor Jenn's Uncle); **Carlos Serrano** (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); **Yessika Siccardi** (Sampson family friend); **Ed Simonovich** (Nancy Hedine's friend); **Bernie, Lori & Gary Sippin**; **John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Sheldon & Nancy Smith**; **Christine Stadler**; **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Winger's granddaughter); **Timara** (Mary Unger's friend); **Tom** (Wendy Colegrove's dad); **Wayne Thompson** (Gary Thompson's brother); **Richard Turco** (Jack Fracassini's cousin); **June Wilkes**; **Natica Williams** (Will Duchon's friend); **Don Whiteley**; **Allen Zeiner** (Ann Zeiner's son); **Ann Zeiner**

The concerns of our world: The people of **Gaza & the West Bank**; **Israeli hostages** and their families, the people of **Ukraine, Sudan, Syria** 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: **Lt. Col. Rachel Hoffman**, Tacoma, Washington (Vaughan Askue's daughter), **Justin Riffard**, Pensacola Naval Air Station, **Zachary Gingras**, 395th Combat Sustainability Support, **Joel Smith**, 250th Engineering Company, **Chris Meneses** (Loraine Zeiner's friend), **Lance Corporal Taylor Smith** (Cheri Irwin's Nephew)

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Sun. Jan 12th

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Jr & Sr. PF

Mon. Jan 13th

7:30 pm Deacons

Tue. Jan 14th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Jan 15th

7:00 pm Book Club Zoom

Thurs. Jan 16th

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

7:30 pm Confirmation

Week of Sun. Jan 19th

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am New Member Informational

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Jan 20th

Martin Luther King Day – office Closed

7:30 pm Council

Tue. Jan 21st

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thurs. Jan 23rd

9:30 am Bible Study

12:00 pm Young @ Heart

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

7:30 pm Confirmation

Week of Sun. Jan 26th

Annual Meeting~New Member~Heritage

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Annual Meeting

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

Tue. Jan 28th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thurs. Jan 30th

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

7:30 pm Confirmation

Week of Sun. Feb 2nd

10:00 am Worship

11:30 am Trustees

5:00 pm Jr & Sr. PF

Mon. Feb 3rd

7:30 pm Outreach

Tue. Feb 4th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Thurs. Feb 6th

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

7:30 pm Confirmation