

July 12, 2020

9:00 am

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost * Summer Chapel Service
The Gospel Goes to Broadway – Wicked by Stephan Schwartz

*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 Medley from "Wicked" Alex Gutierrez

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Prayer Cady Gingras, 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 of the Peace**

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 For Good

At the end of their journey together at Shizz University, Elphaba and Glinda acknowledge the pain
they have caused each other. The song ends with forgiveness, love and acceptance, displaying the
profound impact their friendship has had on each other.

Focus lyric: I've heard it said that people come into our lives,
For a reason, bringing something we must learn.

And we are led to those who help us most to grow if we let them,
and we help them in return.

Well, I don't know if I believe that's true, but I know I'm who I am today,
because I knew you.

Like a comet pulled from orbit, as it passes the sun.
Like a stream that meets a boulder, halfway through the wood.

Who can say if I've been changed for the better,
but because I knew you, I have been changed for good.

'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.' Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?' Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.'

Philip said to him, 'Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.' Jesus said to him, 'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.'

Musical Interlude

As Long As You're Mine

Sermon*Defying Gravity*

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

Benediction**Postlude**

Defying Gravity

Glinda and Elphaba sing this when she decides to defy the Wizard and do what is right, instead of what is easy or expedient. Do the impossible & defy gravity!

Focus lyric (Elphaba): So if you care to find me, Look to the Western sky!

As someone told me lately, Everyone deserves the chance to fly.

And if I'm flying solo, At least I'm flying free!

To those who ground me, Take a message back from me!

Tell them how I am defying gravity, I'm flying high, defying gravity

And soon I'll match them in renown. And nobody in all of Oz,

No wizard that there is or was, Is ever gonna bring me down!

God is still speaking, *welcome* to all who are worshipping with us today in our outdoor Summer Chapel!

Our Pandemic Commandments

In order to keep our community member's safe, we ask that everyone worshipping with us in-person follow these safe gathering guidelines:

- Thou shalt stay home if you feel unwell or have a fever (and catch us on YouTube)
- Thou shalt wear a mask (if you need one, just ask!)
- Thou shalt maintain a social distance of 6 feet (even when passing peace)
- Thou shalt use handwashing/hand sanitizer stations
- Thou shalt bring your own lawn chair

In Our Prayers

Jackie Ajello(Michele Mount's mother); **Michael Barresi** (Maria's Son); **Jennifer Bittar**(Loraine Zeiner's friend); **Byron Brown & Bruce Bryant** (friends of Will Duchon); **Cheryl Ciambriello**(Wendy Colegrove's friend); **Dot Dralus; Matt Duchon; Dave Fuller** (Gail Olson's brother); **Karen Guinness** (Jennifer Nivison's friend); **Meredith Gibson**(Paul & Judy Coward's niece); **Lily Grace** (Maria Barresi's baby cousin); **Rachel Fracassini**(Jack & Linda Fracassini's niece); **Donnajeane & Ken Fredeen; Gary & Julie Hedine**(Nancy Hedine's son & daughter-in-law); **Rachel Heerema**(Julia Gutierrez's sister); **Bob Heffernan** (Ann Zeiner's son-in-law); **Brian Hopkins** (Donna Konkol's cousin); **Vera James** (Jenn Wissink's mother); **Kelti**(friend of Liska Gutierrez); **Mary-Margaret Logan**(Andrew's mother); **Beverly Lowrey**(Jackie Bleakney); **Jacquie MacLean** (Jennifer Nivison's friend); **Nicole Malia; Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **Rev. Jonathan Miller** (Paul & Judy Coward's friend); **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); **Bob, Missy, Jason & Mark Olson; 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); **Noah Santiago** (Shari Carrano's great-grandson); **Connor Scalia** (Jen Nivison's friend); **Hunter Scalzo**(Angela Cross's nephew); **Carlos Serrano** (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); **Al Shaeffer; Bob Sherbo**(Jack Fracassini's cousin); **Yessika Siccardi**(Sampson family friend); **Bernie Sippin; John Skarupa**(Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Christine Stadler; William Stadler**(Jessica Pfalzgraf's nephew); **Tom & Jane Steen** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's father & step-mother); **Christian & Dain Steiner** (Julie McClenathan's nephews); **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); **Bill & Ruth Wakeley; Susan Walker; Rita Wissink**(Larry's mother), **Margaret Woodruff** (Mike Pfalzgraf's mother); **Charles L. Wynn, Sr.,** (and his mother) **Alleane Wynn** (friends of Will Duchon); **Allen Zeiner**(Ann Zeiner's son)

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), Japan: **Chris Meneses** (Loraine Zeiner's friend), Georgia: **Zachary Peters** (Jacob Parker-Burgard's cousin), Kuwait: **Steven Roshong** (Judy & Paul Coward's nephew), **Bob Peters** (Don Parker-Burgard's brother-in-law), Afghanistan: **Samuel Siciliano**, North Carolina: **Jake Terifay**

Thank you for assisting in this morning's worship!

- **Trustee:** Andy Nivison
- **Deacon:** Cady Gingras
- **Lay Reader:** Clark Gingras

Please note that our Summer Chapel worship is also live streamed on church's new YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/monroecongregationalchurchucc>

At this time, due to COVID-19 the only coffee hour we're able to host is virtual!

Join us on zoom at 10:30, when we can share updates and prayer concerns:

<https://zoom.us/j/460134127?pwd=cjYrUDhSSkppdjNMYjhvQ0ZDci9hUT09>

If your computer's video or microphone capabilities aren't working with ZOOM, or you'd prefer to call over a LAN line, you can dial 1 (929) 205-6099, enter Meeting ID: 460 134 127 and Password: 894471

✦ 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.

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

Alex Gutierrez⁽¹²⁾

Mark Malia IV⁽¹⁴⁾

Kate Parker-Burgard⁽²⁰⁾

Therese Zalenski⁽¹²⁾

Mike Pellegrino⁽¹⁵⁾

Happy Anniversary to the following people and to anyone we may have missed, we will keep you in our prayers. (Number in parenthesis is anniv. date):

Matt & Wendy Colegrove⁽¹⁷⁾



Ladies Room Renovation Capital Campaign Project Update

Thanks to an exceptionally generous donation of \$6,175.00 we have enough money to begin the renovations of our Ladies Room! Thank you to everyone who helped us reach our goal!

What Happens if it Rains for Outdoor Worship?

Maybe we'll be fortunate and it won't rain on a Sunday for the foreseeable future. But... it's probably more likely that it will!

Normally, if it rains Sunday morning we'd shift to holding worship in Wilton Hall, with folks sitting on their own lawn chairs, wearing masks, socially distanced. We'll open doors, run fans and STILL be livestreaming, so if you think it's too risky for you and your household to be indoors with others, join us on Youtube or Facebook.



There are two notable exceptions this summer:

- **Worship on July 26th will be held outdoors rain or shine because it is Youth Sunday AND a baptism.** Our plan is to set up a number of pop-up tents, so even if it rains we'll be protected. The reason we're staying outside is that with the anticipated crowd size, we'll have too much difficulty socially distancing indoors.
- **Worship on August 30th will be pre-recorded** and led by the Rev. Dr. Sheldon Smith, there will not be an in-person summer chapel service.

What Plans do we have for worship this Fall?

For now, our plan is to continue outdoor, in-person summer chapel worship at 9 am on the parsonage side lawn through September 13th, with streaming for the folks who continue to shelter in place. Over the summer, your pastor and church leaders are discerning what to do beginning September 20th.

My hope is that we can come up with a plan for moving forward by Labor Day and communicate it with all of you. I know this is a difficult time, and many of us yearn for a sense of normalness, but we're just not there yet. Thank you for being so patient and supportive as we figure it all out. – *With love, Pastor Jenn*



The Gospel Goes to Broadway: 2020 Summer Chapel Worship Series:

Every year musicals are produced in theaters around the world. Some are successful, and some are not. When we look at critically acclaimed works that stand the test of time, we see that they have some things in common. In addition to being

well written, directed and produced, they all find a way to touch the depths of the human spirit. If the musicals on Broadway deal with life's truths in such a way to touch the heart, there must be some of God's truth to be found in them. Let's take some time this summer to plumb the depths together.

7/19 Les Miserables
8/9 South Pacific

8/16 Phantom of the Opera
8/23 Carousel



Socially Distanced Office Hours

Pastor Jenn will be offering socially distanced office hours by appointment on the parsonage side lawn, provided the weather holds. If you are unable to leave your home, she can also come to you and stay (socially distanced) outside your storm door for a chat. Arrange with her by calling 203-895-5607.



"Compassion Camp", an At Home/Virtual

Vacation Bible School!

For more information check your July Steeple or the MCC-UCC.org website!



Faith First Aid

On Tuesday mornings at 10:30am and Wednesday evenings at 7:30pm we will be having an Adult Faith Formation Group "Faith First Aid". In this group we will look at and discuss ways that Scripture intersects with our lives and can be a tool for helping during times of difficulties.

The dates for the group are Tuesday mornings, August 4th-25th and Wednesday evenings, August 5th-26th. All gatherings will be held via Zoom.

Please register by clicking the link below. On your registration please indicate which day you will be participating. Please register to receive the Zoom links.

<https://form.jotform.com/201756451956159> Thanks, Debi



Bible Study Reunion! Join us on the parsonage side lawn on Thursday, July 30th at 9:30 for an outdoor, socially distant, in-person reunion (rain date Friday, July 31). We've been praying for each other virtually for a long time, it will be nice to gather safely to share updates, joys and concerns. Please wear a mask and bring some food for yourself.



Young at Heart is on a hiatus. Until we meet again, may all take care and be well. - Betty Heiney



*Thank you for your commitment
to the Monroe Congregational Church
during this challenging time.*

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Monroe CT 06468, attn MCC Receiver.



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