

The Third Sunday in Lent & Holy Communion

*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 Deck Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness *arr. J. Brahms, 1896*

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Prayer Caleb Nealon, Deacon of the Day

***UCC Statement of Faith**

*We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God,
and to your deeds we testify:*

*You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before
each one the ways of life and death.*

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

*You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets
and apostles.*

*In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come
to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world
to yourself.*

*You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus
Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.*

*You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your
servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist
the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his
passion and victory.*

*You promise to all who trust you, forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage
in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal
life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto
you. Amen.*

***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.*

Call to Confession– Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

*Most Patient One, we recognize how much we need you for life itself. But how often
have we behaved as if we did not know or even care about you, your people or this
precious earth on which we live? Forgive us for these times when we have lost our
way. We want to be among those whom you seek. Shower your mercy upon us.
Find us and lead us safely home to faithfulness. 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

Prelude from Suite. No. 5.

J.S. Bach, 1722

*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.*

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

At MCC, Communion is open to all who wish to participate. Individual sanitized cups of juice and a gluten-free wafer may be found at the hospitality table.

Scripture

Luke 15:1-10

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

So he told them this parable: 'Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, "Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost." Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous people who need no repentance.

'Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, "Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost." Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.'

Communion Meditation

Rev. Jennifer M. Gingras

Invitation & Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Benediction

Postlude

Courante from Suite No. 5

J.S. Bach, 1722

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

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 (and 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

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 offer a virtual zoom coffee hour at 11:30:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81347810863?pwd=SERMb1ILNUZLdHVNc3VMcm5wcEthUT09>

✦ 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.

Thank you for assisting in this morning's worship!

- **Deacon:** Caleb Nealon
- **Usher:** Jim Gill
- **Trustee:** James Brown
- **Counter:** Tom Briggs



to Deborah Vargovchik ⁽⁰⁷⁾ and to anyone we may have missed, we will keep you in our prayers. (Number is birth date)

In Our Prayers

Lori Sippin; Leo Ket-Ying (Susie Cuseo's father); **Lauren Price** (friend of Susie and Cliff Cuseo); **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); **Dot Dralus; Matt Duchon; Dave Fuller** (Gail Olson's brother); **Meredith Gibson** (Paul & Judy Coward's niece); **Fern Griffith** (Ashley Levin's friend); **Karen Guinness** (Jennifer Nivison's friend); **Rachel Fracassini** (Jack & Linda Fracassini's niece); **Gary & Julie Hedine** (Nancy Hedine's son & daughter-in-law); **Mary & Rachel Heerema** (Julia Gutierrez's mom and 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); **Beverly Lowrey** (Jackie Bleakney); **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; William Stadler** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's nephew); **Tom & Jane Steen** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's father & step-mother); **Christian & Dain Steiner** (Julie McClenathan's nephews); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Wininger'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); **Susan & the Walker family; 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); **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**



49th Strawberry Festival News!

Many of you have been asking if it is possible to have a Strawberry Festival this year. We believe the answer is YES (with some added precautions), so we are forging ahead for June 19th and 20th! We'll need to gather our community's creativity, ingenuity and patience, but with a good team effort we're eager to start planning for another great event, as we responsibly follow protocols from our Monroe Board of Health, the state of Connecticut and the CDC. More information will be coming out soon on the various ways you can help. For now, here's what we need to begin:

- Join Johnny & Clark on a **49th Strawberry Festival Summit** Sunday, March 14th at 4 pm. If you are willing to lend your help and expertise, or are looking for ways to serve, please join us. We need you! ZOOM Meeting ID: 852 9415 8663, Passcode: 401434

Deacons

Lenten Zoom Study – "Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi" by Amy Jill Levine. Tuesday nights, 7:30-8:30 pm

Led by Pastor Jenn with a distanced learning format. You may choose to purchase the book from any preferred seller and read along, or just come as you are.

Zoom Meeting ID: 896 6457 2134 Passcode: 815586

- March 9 – The Pearl of Great Price
- March 16 – The Mustard Seed
- March 23 – The Laborers in the Vineyard
- March 30 – The Widow and the Judge

Christian Education

Senior PF Parents Meet TODAY at 5pm in Wilton Hall to discuss our possible mission trip options!! Our adult team is working very hard to plan a safe mission trip for our high schoolers, however, we need parental input before making any lasting decisions. If you are not available to attend, we will send out an online survey to get your input. Thanks, as always for your support of PF!

Junior PF is starting up in-person regular meeting again, beginning March 21st! 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. Pandemic commandments (masks, social distancing, handwashing, etc.) are in place. Here are our March events:

- March 21, 4-5 - Getting to Know You
- March 28. 4-5 – Goofy Game Night



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



MCC Book Club Questions -contact Mary Unger (203) 268-5754

March 10th The Gown: A Novel of the Royal Wedding by Jennifer Robson. Host: Trees Whitbeck

April 14th The Children Act by Ian McEwan. Host: Arlene Redmond



The ladies of the congregation are invited to our first meeting of the year on **Wednesday, March 10 at 11AM in Wilton Hall.** We will be putting together birthday bags for the Food Pantry. These bags will contain donated cake mix, birthday candles and frosting. Napkins will already be provided. Please wear your masks and practice safe distancing during this meeting. No foods or drinks should be brought or shared. Please contact Jackie Bleakney with any questions at 20-268-5275. Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity for your donations. Children visiting the Pantry with their parents greatly appreciate it and receive these bags with big smiles on their faces.

MCC Community Calendar

Tues. Mar. 2nd

7:30 pm Lenten Zoom Study

Wed. Mar. 3rd

9:00 am SF Kick-off Cleaning Dream Team (kitchen)

6:30 pm Confirmation Class

Thurs. Mar. 4th

9:30 am Bible Study

Week of Mar. 7th

10:00 am Worship - Communion

11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour

4:00 pm Adult PF

5-7:30 pm Senior PF (Wilton)

Mon. Mar 8th

8:00 pm Outreach (Zoom)

Tues. Mar 9th

8:00 pm Lenten Zoom Study

8:00 pm Deacons

Wed. Mar. 10th

11:00 Morning Circle

6:30 pm Confirmation Class

Thurs. Mar. 11th

9:30 am Bible Study

Week of Mar. 14th

Day LIGHT SAVINGS

10:00 am Worship

11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour

**4:00 pm 49th SF Summit,
ZOOM Meeting ID: 852 9415 8663,
Passcode: 401434**

5-7:30 pm Senior PF (Wilton)

Mon. Mar 15th

7:30 pm Council (Zoom)

Tues. Mar 16th

7:30 pm Lenten Zoom Study

Wed. Mar. 17th

6:30 pm Confirmation Class

Thurs. Mar. 18th

9:30 am Bible Study

7:00 pm CE

Week of Mar. 21st

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Trustees (Zoom)

11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour

5:00 pm Adult PF

4-5 pm Junior PF (Wilton)

5-6:30 pm Senior PF (Wilton)

Tues. Mar. 23rd

7:30 pm Lenten Zoom Study

Wed. Mar. 24th

6:30 pm Confirmation Class

Thurs. Mar. 25th

9:30 am Bible Study