

October 18, 2020

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

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 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling (Will Thompson, 1880)

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Prayer Mike Pfalzgraf, 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 I'd Rather Have Jesus (George Shea/Rhea Miller, 1922) Cady Gingras, vocalist

*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.*

Scripture

1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20; 2:1-10

After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the LORD. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD, and wept bitterly. She made this vow: "O LORD of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head."

They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. In

due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the LORD."

Hannah prayed and said, "My heart exults in the LORD; my strength is exalted in my God. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in my victory. "There is no Holy One like the LORD, no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble gird on strength. Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry are fat with spoil. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. The LORD kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. The LORD makes poor and makes rich; he brings low, he also exalts. He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honor. For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and on them he has set the world. "He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness; for not by might does one prevail. The LORD! His adversaries shall be shattered; the Most High will thunder in heaven. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king, and exalt the power of his anointed."

Hymnodly Meditation If You But Trust in God to Guide You *(insert)*
The current safety recommendations do not allow us to sing together as a congregation at this time. Our music director and pastor will play and speak the words of the hymn. Should you want to hum along, please do so, continuing to wear your mask.

Sermon Prayer and Promise Rev. Jennifer Gingras

Benediction

Postlude Secret O' Life (James Taylor, 1977) Katherine Logan, vocalist

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 safe gathering guidelines:

- Thou shalt stay home if you feel unwell or have a fever (and catch us on YouTube or Facebook)
- Thou shalt wear a mask (if you need one, just ask!)
- Thou shalt maintain a social distance of 6 feet (even when passing peace)
- Some pews are taped off, to allow space between the seating of households. Please respect the tape, and 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

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

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Georg Neumark, 1641

Ps. 55:22

Transl. Catherine Winkworth, 1863; alt.

1 If you but trust in God to guide you, with hope-ful heart through
2 On - ly be still, and wait God's plea - sure in cheer-ful hope, with
3 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv-ing; of - fer your ser - vice

all your ways, you will find strength, with God be - side you,
heart con - tent, trust-ing that grace which knows no mea - sure
faith - ful - ly, and trust God's word, though un - de - serv - ing,

to bear the worst of e - vil days; For those who trust God's
will by un - bound - ed Love be sent; Nor doubt our in - most
there find the truth to set you free; God will not fail to

change-less love build on the rock that will not move.
wants are clear to One who holds us al - ways near.
guide and bless those who em - brace God's faith - ful - ness.

In Our Prayers

Claire Stenzel (June and Myron Winger's granddaughter); **Richard Turco** (Jack Fracassini's cousin); **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); **Karen Guinness** (Jennifer Nivison's friend); **Meredith Gibson** (Paul & Judy Coward's niece); **Lily Grace** (Maria Barresi's baby cousin); **Donnajean & Ken Fredeen: Gary & Julie Hedine** (Nancy Hedine's son & daughter-in-law); **Mary Heerema** (Julia Gutierrez's mom); **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); **Jacque 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); **Roshong** (Judy Coward's nephew); **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; 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); **Ruth Wakeley; Susan Walker; John Whitbeck; 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** (Lorraine Zeiner's friend), Poland: **Zachary Peters** (Jacob Parker-Burgard's cousin), Kuwait: **Steven Roshong** (Judy & Paul Coward's nephew), Germany: **Bob Peters** (Don Parker-Burgard's brother-in-law), Afghanistan: **Samuel Siciliano**, North Carolina: **Jake Terifay**

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"
Please join us for a time of fellowship following the service on Pierce Lawn.

We also offer a virtual zoom coffee hour, hosted by Arlene Redmond at 11:30:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81347810863?pwd=SERMb1ILNUZLdHVnc3VMcmswcEthUT09>

✦ 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!

- **Trustee:** Andy Nivison
- **Deacon:** Mike Pfalzgraf
- **Usher:** Clark Gingras



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

Ryan Swift ⁽¹⁸⁾	Shari Carrano ⁽²¹⁾	Lois Spence ⁽²²⁾
Ginger Bartlett ⁽¹⁹⁾	Juliana Lavitola ⁽²¹⁾	Kerri Swift ⁽²²⁾
Carl Haggstrom ⁽¹⁹⁾	Lindsey Dubois ⁽²²⁾	Jocelyn Allen ⁽²⁴⁾

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

Mary & Franklin Renz ⁽²³⁾ and Frank & Christine Wittenauer ⁽²³⁾



Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe will reopen only on Saturdays starting November 7th from 10-2. The Shoppe is not yet accepting any donations at this time due to the overflow of merchandise we have in storage.

Our plan to reopen the doors and keep our volunteers and customers as safe as possible will include:

- Volunteers will wear masks and gloves throughout their shifts
- Hand sanitizer and wipes will be available for both worker and shopper
- A Plexi-safety screen will be placed at the counter for the consideration of both the worker and shopper
- Dressing room will not be available to use
- A sign will be posted outside the Shoppe indicating that masks **MUST** be worn upon entering and a limit of 5 persons are allowed to shop at one time

Volunteer shifts are 10-12 and 12-2. We have a few volunteers willing to return at this time, but we need a few more to cover each shift. If you'd like to work behind the counter on Saturdays either at 10-12 or 12-2, please contact Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com or call 203-268-0280 and let her know your availability. It's easy and worthwhile for the church and the community.

Deacons



Socially Distanced Office Hours Pastor Jenn offers socially distanced office hours by appointment on the parsonage porch, 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.



Prayer Partners 2020-2021 Season Sign Up

It's time to sign up to be a Prayer Partner whether you have already been one or want to join up! Questions? Ask Susie Cuseo thecuseos@yahoo.com

Trustees



All outdoor work: trim shrubs, clean gutters, remove leaves.
Your help would be greatly appreciated on

THIS Saturday, October 24

8:30am – 1:00pm

Call Dave Allen with any questions: 203-767-0883

Thank you!

Christian Education

Nursery Closed Out of an abundance of caution, nursery services are closed at this time.



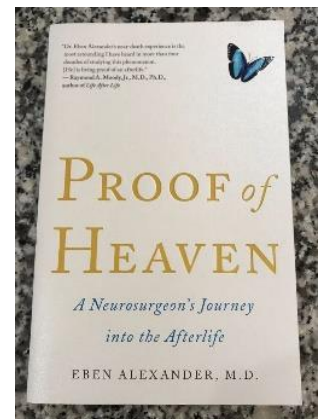
Worship Bags Since we are resuming indoor worship, I thought it would be a good idea to have some activities that might keep our younger folks engaged during services. We are offering "Worship Bags" for all children and youth from age 4 through 8th Grade! Bags can be colored and personalized and will become their bag, please put their name on it. You will leave the bags in the Narthex and pick it up there each Sunday too. Inside each bag is a Worship Journal with prompts, games, and coloring pages for each week, a "Bendy Jesus" and Stress Balls too. I would even encourage you to bring something that doesn't

make noise from home to keep in the bag too! Lastly, if there are any needs for the bags (broken pencil, markers that don't work, etc.) please just let me know by emailing me at debi@mcc-ucc.org. Peace, Debi



Fruit of the Spirit Sunday School: Faith, Fellowship and Fun gathers on **October 25th at 10:00 am**. This gathering is for families to attend (parents/guardians and children/youth, age 4-8th grade). We will gather for a Bible lesson and related activities. In the weeks in between you will receive Faith At Home activities via email and our Facebook group.

Thursday Morning Bible Study We offer a weekly Bible Study at MCC on most Thursday mornings from 9:30-11 through the program year. Sometimes we'll focus on what will be offered in worship on Sunday, sometimes we'll focus on a particular book of the Bible. Over the next few weeks, we are reading "*Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon's Journey Into the Afterlife*" by Eben Alexander, M.D. This year, we meet in Wilton Hall so that we can spread out and be safer. Please wear a mask. As always, we invite anyone to come and join us – please speak with Pastor Jenn if you have any questions.



Adult PF is returning to the first and third Sundays of the month. For our October 18 meeting we'll gather in the overflow parking lot behind Rexford House. More details to come. For information about Adult PF please contact Don Parker-Burgard. dzburgard@sbcglobal.net

Senior PF Trunk or Treat to be held Friday, October 30, 5:30-8:30!

Senior PF Invites their church family to the first ever TRUNK OR TREAT, right here in the church parking lot! Put your costumes on and join us for raffles, candy and family fun! If you would like to be one of our 13 decorated vehicles, e-mail Kelsey at mccuccseniorpf@gmail.com. Admission = \$5 per kid, or \$12 for a family, all proceeds go towards our 2021 Mission Trip. Masks and social distancing rules are in effect.

Outreach



Virtual CROP Walk Today, Sunday, October 18

The Board of Christian Outreach is asking for your help raising funds for Church World Service CROP hunger walk. CROP helps our neighbors locally, nationally and internationally to overcome hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. In 2019 CROP supported families in 55 countries emphasizing self-sustaining agricultural practices. Now in 2020 the global pandemic has exacerbated an already dire situation for many. In a

matter of mere months, the coronavirus has wiped out global gains that took two decades to achieve, leaving an estimated two billion people at risk of abject poverty.

This year instead of gathering at Seaside Park we will walk in our own communities on Oct 18. To date we have a team made up of Julie and Rob McClenathan, Don and Kate Parker-Burgard, Kristina Logan and Jeanette Cardentey. If you would like to join the walk and help raise funds please contact Julie McClenathan 203-261-0360. If you are moved to sponsor a walker please see one of the folks listed above. Thank you as always for your generosity, Julie McClenathan, Board of Christian Outreach



MCC Book Club

- November 11th The Keeper of Lost Things by Ruth Hogan. Host: Linda Fracassini
- December 9th Last Christmas in Paris: A Novel of World War I by Hazel Gaynor and Heather Webb. Host: Paula Haggstrom
- January 13th The Accidental Empress by Allison Pitaki. Host: Linda Fracassini
- February 10th The Book of Lost Friends by Lisa Wingate. Host: Peggy Villani
- 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



SENIOR PF INVITES IT'S CHURCH
FAMILY TO THE 1ST EVER

TRUNK OR TREAT

PUT YOUR COSTUMES ON AND JOIN US FOR RAFFLES,
CANDY, AND FAMILY FUN!

October 30, 2020 | 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM Monroe Congregational Church

ADMISSIONS: \$5 PER KID \$12 PER FAMILY

all proceeds go to our 2021 Mission Trip

MASKS REQUIRED

We are looking for 13 cars, to sign up or RSVP, email
Kelsey at mccuccseniorpf@gmail.com

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Oct. 18th

Virtual CROP Walk

10:00 am Worship Bible Sunday
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour
11:15 am Outreach
12:30 am Trustees
4:00 pm Adult PF
5:00 pm Senior PF
6:00 pm Junior PF - outdoors

Mon. Oct. 19th

3:00 pm St George's Supper
7:30 pm Church Council

Wed. Oct. 21st

6:30 pm Confirmation Class (Parsonage Porch)

Thurs. Oct. 22nd

9:30 am Bible Study

Sat., Oct. 24th

Church Grounds Cleanup Day
8:30am-1:00pm

Week of Oct. 25th

10:00 am Worship
10:00 am Faith, Fellowship & Fun
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour
5:00 pm Senior PF
6:00 pm Junior PF -outdoors

Thurs. Oct. 29th

9:30 am Bible Study

Fri. Oct. 30th

5:30 – 8:30 pm Trunk or Treat!
Hosted by Senior PF

Week of Nov. 1st

****DAY LIGHT SAVINGS**

10:00 am Worship -Communion Sunday
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour
4:00 pm Adult PF
5:00 pm Senior PF
6:00 pm Junior PF

Tues. Nov. 3rd

****Election Day 2020**

Thurs. Nov. 5th

9:30 am Bible Study

Fri. Nov. 6th – Sun. Nov. 8th

Senior PF Retreat, YMCA Camp Hazen

Week of Nov. 8th

10:00 am Worship
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour
5:00 pm Senior PF

Wed. Nov. 11th

11:00 am Morning Circle
6:30 pm Confirmation Class

Thurs. Nov. 12th

9:30 am Bible Study

Week of Nov. 15th

10:00 am Worship
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour
11:15 am Outreach
4:00 pm Adult PF
5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Nov. 16th

7:30 pm Church Council

Wed. Nov. 18th

6:30 pm Confirmation Class

Thurs. Nov. 19th

9:30 am Bible Study
7:00 pm CE

Week of Nov. 22th

10:00 am Worship
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour
11:15 am Outreach
4:00 pm Adult PF
5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Nov. 23rd

7:30 pm Church Council

Wed. Nov. 25th

6:30 pm Confirmation Class

Thurs. Nov. 26th

9:30 am Bible Study

Week of Nov. 29th

10:00 am Worship
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour
4:00 pm Adult PF
5:00 pm Senior PF

Wed. Dec. 1st

6:30 pm Confirmation Class

Thurs. Dec. 2nd

9:30 am Bible Study

