

October 20, 2024

Twenty-second 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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Gathering Music

God Is Here

Fred Pratt Green/Cyril Taylor, 1979

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: From our first breath to our last day:

People: Always, God is faithful.

Leader: In the comfort of home, God is with us.

People: In the wandering near and far, God is with us.

Leader: When we listen and when we forget, God is with us.

People: When our motivation is pure and when it is complicated, God is with us.

Leader: From before the beginning to beyond the end:

All: Always, God is faithful.

Opening Prayer

Jennifer Wissink, Deacon of the Day

***Our Church's Covenant**

inside front cover of hymnal

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

Your promise is still true, O God, and your Spirit is still active, your voice still heard, even when we have tried to mold you in our own image. Move among us today, and slow us down. Make space in our spirits and minds so that we may experience your nearness in the gathering of your people and learn to recognize your presence in every place. Help us to grow into a faithfulness that carries us through all the instability and uncertainties of 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.

Sacrament of Baptism

Juliet James Aravena

Invitation, Welcome & Address

Pastor: Members and friends in Christ, we gather to celebrate the gift of grace in the sacrament of baptism.

People: There is one body and one Spirit. There is one hope in God's call to us.

Pastor: There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Creator of us all.

Questions of the Parents & Sponsors

Congregational Assent

People: We promise our love, support and care.

Affirmation of Faith

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the Triune God. Do you believe in God?

People: I believe in God.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

People: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

People: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

Prayer of Baptism * Act of Baptism * Prayer for the Baptized

Introduction of the Baptized

***Hymn**

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

NCH 325

Students may transition to Sunday School with their teachers.

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

Psalm 100

Zebulon M Highben, 2019

*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

2 Samuel 7:1–17, page 278

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

Sermon

The House and the Tent

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

***Closing Hymn**

For the Fruit of All Creation

NCH 425

***Benediction**

Parting Music

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

Thomas Hawels, 1792

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.

The **flowers** this morning are given by Peggy & Ron Villani, in celebration of Juliet James Aravena's baptism today!



Would you like to honor or remember a loved one, or celebrate a milestone? 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 9:30 am and 9:45 am, before worship. Thank you!



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: Jen Wissink **Usher:** Bill & MaryJo Brett **Lay Reader:** Melissa Quinn
Trustee: Dave Allen **Counter:** Scott Young **Web Steward:** Scott Young
Coffee Host: Jenna Rice



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

Shari Carrano ⁽²¹⁾

Jocelyn Allen ⁽²⁴⁾

Zachary Gingras ⁽²⁶⁾

Juliana Lavitola ⁽²¹⁾

Allen Vaglivelo ⁽²⁵⁾

Hubert Muizulis ⁽²⁶⁾

Lois Spence ⁽²²⁾



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

Outreach



Join us from 5-8 pm on Saturday, November 23rd for a **Spaghetti Dinner & Bingo Night** to benefit **Church World Service Hurricane Relief & Project Warmth.**

Have you cleaned out your junk drawers lately and come across those old prescription **glasses/sunglasses/cases**? There will be a collection basket in Wilton Hall this month by the serving table during coffee hour. These donations will be cleaned, screened, and sent to those less fortunate to receive the care necessary to have a better life. Your glasses can brighten someone's day when they see the smile on a loved one's face, have the ability to read a food label, or newspaper, watch their grandchildren play soccer, or see what's coming at them while driving. Give the gift of sight by **donating your old glasses**. Please contact Susie Cuseo with any questions at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280.



Heifer International is an organization that supports worldwide families by using your spare change to provide a sustainable living through livestock and plants. Families share with neighbors thereby making the community stronger and self-sufficient. Please consider dropping your spare change into the collection bottle that is on the serving table during coffee hour. Contact Susie Cuseo with any questions at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280

Christian Education

Registration Season has begun! If you haven't already registered your child for Sunday School or for Junior PF, please let Pastor Jenn know at Jenn@mcc-ucc.org so she can send you the form.



Love working with youth, want to spread God's love to the children of our congregation in the **24/25 school year**? **Please consider teaching Sunday School** (Pre k - 6th) Speak with Jeanette to sign up and Thank you!



Weekly Bible Study has begun – All Are Welcome! We gather together in Dineson Parlor, on **Thursdays** from **9:30-11 am**, to learn with and through one another. 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. Come as you are!

Snack & Chat with NOOMA

Join us in Dineson Parlor after worship on these dates to enjoy some snacks, a short video and light discussion about life's big questions.

No prep necessary and all are welcome!

Sep 29 - SUNDAY
Oct 27 - YOU
Dec 29 - NOISE
Feb 23 - RAIN
Mar 30 - DUST
Apr 27 - FLAME



GOT SNACKS?



Our Sunday School students love a yummy snack at coffee hour! Help us fill the snack cabinet by bringing in goodies or juice boxes!

Fellowship



CONTRA DANCE
Pumpkin Carving
POT LUCK!

OCT 26
5-8PM

Join us in Wilton Hall for a night of intergenerational fun, featuring Professional Contra Dance caller Rich Sbardella!

Suggested Donation \$5/ind or \$10/fam
BYOP (Bring your own pumpkin/carve kit)
Nursery staffed and open for the littles!

Contra Dance ~ Pumpkin Carving Pot Luck

OCT. 26 ~ 5-8 pm

Join us in Wilton Hall for a night of intergenerational Fun, featuring professional Contra Dance caller Rich Sbardella!
Suggested Donation: \$5 ind or \$10 family

BYOP (Bring your own pumpkin/carve kit)
Nursery staffed and open for the littles!

Sign up in Wilton Hall or take a picture of ←----- the QR code!



Young at Heart will meet **Thurs., October 24 at Noon**
Sal's Pizzeria, 630 Main St, Monroe
RSVP to June Wininger at 203-268-4422



Morning Circle invites the women of the congregation to join them every second Wednesday of the month (except January, February, July and August). Please contact Shari Carrano at 475-342-8145 with any questions, comments or concerns. Mark your calendars for the following:

- Wednesday, Nov 13, 11AM Kitchen/Wilton Hall - Bean Soup Jars/Giving Tree Tags
- Wednesday, Dec 11, 12PM - Christmas Luncheon - Location TBD
- Wednesday, Mar 12, 11AM Dineson Parlor - Birthday bags
- Wednesday, Apr 9, 11AM Dineson Parlor - CWS hygiene kits
- Wednesday, May 14 11AM Dineson Parlor - Women's hygiene products collection
- Wednesday, Jun 11 12PM - June Picnic Luncheon - Location TBD

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.



THE MONROE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
34 CHURCH STREET * MONROE

Victorian Christmas Fair

Sunday, December 1, 2024



- 10 AM VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS WORSHIP
1-5 PM LOCAL CRAFTERS & SOUP/BAKED GOODS/WREATH SALES,
WILTON HALL
HISTORICAL CHURCH TOURS, MEETINGHOUSE
CAROLING BY JUST VOICES
5 PM COMMUNITY TREE LIGHTING ON THE CENTRE GREEN

BONUS "TIME TRAVEL" PASSPORT... (\$5 PER PERSON)
VICTORIAN MODEL RAILROAD DISPLAY (DINESON PARLOR)
CHILDREN'S CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES (REXFORD HOUSE)
VISIT WITH VICTORIAN FATHER CHRISTMAS! (BEARDSLEY HOUSE)
AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

DONATIONS OF UNWRAPPED TOYS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED FOR
COVENANT TO CARE

Please see the signup sheet in Wilton Hall to be a part of this exciting new MCC event!

In Our Prayers

Tom (Wendy Colegrove's dad); **Alison Abrams** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Jennifer Bittar** (Loraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney**; **Kevin Daly** (Gary Thompson's friend); **Dawn** (Donna Konkol's Friend); **Dealmira** (Jonathan Ganino's grandmother); **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); **Nicole Malia**; Mary (Kate Brigg's Mother); **Betty McKeown** (Donna Konkol's mother); **Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **Jean Moffat**; **Olivia Morrison** (Donna Nickdow's niece); **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); **Sheldon & Nancy Smith**; **Christine Stadler**; **Christian & Dain Steiner** (Julie McClenathan's nephews); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Winingers' granddaughter); **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**; **Israeli hostages** and their families, the people of **Ukraine**, **Sudan** 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: **Lt. Col. Rachel Hoffman**, Tacoma, Washington (Vaughan Askue's daughter) **Justin Rifflard**, Pensacola Naval Air Station, **Zachary Gingras**, 395th Combat Sustainability Support, **Joel Smith**, 250th Engineering Company **Chris Meneses** (Loraine Zeiner's friend)

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Sun. Oct 20th

Baptism of Juliet Aravena

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

Mon. Oct 21st

7:30 pm Council (zoom)

Tue. Oct. 22nd

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Oct 23rd

7:00 pm Fairfield East Association
Fall Meeting (zoom)

Thur. Oct. 24th

9:30 am Bible Study

12:00 pm Young at Heart (Sal's Pizzeria)

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

7:30 pm Confirmation Class

Sat. Oct. 26th

5-8 pm Contra Dance~Pumpkin~Pot Luck

Week of Sun. Oct 27th

*Celebrating 50 years of the Mustard Seed
Shop*

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am NOOMA

5:00 pm Senior PF

Tue. Oct. 29th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Thur. Oct. 31st

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Nov 3rd

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Mission Trip Presentation

11:30 am Trustees

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

Mon. Nov 4th

7:30 pm Outreach

Tue. Nov 5th

Election Day

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Thur. Nov 7th

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

7:30 pm Confirmation Class

Sat. Nov 9th

8-12 pm Church Fall Clean Up Day

Week of Sun. Nov 10th

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

Mon. Nov 11th

Veterans Day – Office Closed

7:30 pm Deacons (zoom)