

October 24, 2021

The 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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Prelude The Light That Has Lighted the World George Harrison, 1973
Ed Burke, guitar/vocals

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: God calls each of us,

People: Understanding or confused,

Leader: Powerful or trembling,

People: Fully focused on the spiritual life or busy with other things,

Leaders: Even those usually overlooked or left out,

All: Every single one of us is called, invited, and needed for God's purpose to be fulfilled. Thanks be to God!

Opening Prayer Linda Fracassini, Deacon of the Day

*Our Church's Covenant hymnal cover

***Passing 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.*

Children's Message

Sunday School students are dismissed with their teachers for outdoor Sunday School

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

You look on the heart, O God, and yet we confess that we continue to look mainly on what we can see. Although we proclaim "judge not", we also admit we are prone to judging based on our first impressions. We say "beauty is on the inside" while with our next breath we hold one another to impossible standards. Forgive us, O God, for those times when we say one thing and do another. Forgive us when we assume your call is only for some, or when we insist that leadership can reside only in particular kinds of bodies. Forgive us, and create in us a clean heart, that we may learn and teach your ways, we pray, Amen. ~silence~

Words of Assurance

Musical Interlude

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.

Offertory

Beware of Darkness *George Harrison, 1970*
Our offering plate will be passed among us today.
You may also choose to give online at www.mcc-ucc/donate.

Scripture

1 Samuel 16:1-13, pg 257; Psalm 51:10-14, pg 510

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

Sermon

Chosen

Rev. Jennifer M. Gingras

***Closing Hymn**

God Be With You

#81 NCH

Please continue to wear a mask as we sing.

***Benediction**

Parting Music

Free the People *Barbara Keith, 1970*

Bethany Dupuis, vocalist

** Please rise, in body or in spirit.*

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.

COVID-19 Safety: In order to keep our community members safe (*including children under 12, the immune-compromised and those not yet fully vaccinated*), please follow these guidelines:

- Please stay home if you feel sick or have a fever (catch us on YouTube/Facebook)
- Please wear a mask indoors (if you need one, just ask!)
- We have provided hand sanitizer and tissues in the pews, please use carefully as the chemicals are corrosive on wood and other surfaces

Thank you for assisting in this morning’s worship!

- **Deacon:** Linda Fracassini
- **Usher:** Rob McClenathan
- **Trustee:** James Brown
- **Counter:** Fred Dubois
- **Coffee Host:** Jeanette Cardentey
- **Web Steward:** Scott Young



“The Art of Preaching” – a lay preaching seminar: Have you ever wanted to know how to do the research, writing and delivering of a Sunday sermon? Would you like to be able to present a sermon or reflection in worship, or at another special occasion? Do you just want to try it out as an “auditor”? Join Pastor Jenn on Zoom, from 7:30-8:15 pm on the following Monday evenings: **Oct 25**, Nov 1 & 8.

- <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87692647191?pwd=S3B3ZURyTjRsNUhJNVh0MkE1WkxZZz09>



The flowers this morning are given by the Sampson Family.

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. Please review the available slots on Sign Up Genius and click on the button to sign up. If you do not have access to a computer, call Diane in the office 203-268-9327, and she will help you sign up!

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>



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

Allen Vaglivello ⁽²⁵⁾
Zack Gingras ⁽²⁶⁾

Hubert Muizulis ⁽²⁶⁾
Lynn Hyde ⁽²⁷⁾

Shirley Dotoratos ⁽²⁹⁾
Alison Cross ⁽³⁰⁾



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

Dona & James Perrone ⁽²⁶⁾ Tom & Lynne Hyde ⁽²⁶⁾
Mary & George Massar ⁽²⁷⁾ and Andrea & Bruno Crosnier ⁽²⁸⁾

Family Room Now Open: Thanks to the blessing of technology, our church’s nursery has been set up with a streaming option. If your young child needs a break, and you’d like to not miss out on worship, you may use the room which is setup with a TV, lots of toys and rocking chairs. Although the space is not currently staffed, it is open, clean, and ready for use by parents!



In Our Prayers

Jackie Ajello (Michele Mount's mother); **Michael Barresi** (Maria's Son); **Jennifer Bittar** (Lorraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney**; **Byron Brown & Bruce Bryant** (friends of Will Duchon); **Cheryl Ciambriello** (Wendy Colegrove's friend); **Lori Cimeno** (Peggy & Ron Villani's Daughter); **Cliff Cuseo**; **Dot Dralus**; **Matt Duchon**; **Marge Fox**; **Rachel Fracassini** (Jack & Linda Fracassini's niece); **Meredith Gibson** (Paul & Judy Coward's niece); **Fern Griffith** (Ashley Levin's friend); **Karen Guinness** (Jennifer Nivison's friend); **Gina & Liz** (Wendy Colegrove's friends); **Gary & Julie Hedine** (Nancy Hedine's son & daughter-in-law); **Mary & Rachel Heerema** (Julia Gutierrez's mom & 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); **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); **Lisa Rozmus** (friend of the Pfalzgraf family); **Noah Santiago** (Shari Carrano's great-grandson); **Connor Scalia** (Jen Nivison's friend); **Nicholas Scalzo** (Angela Cross's Father); **Carlos Serrano** (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); **Yessika Siccardi** (Sampson family friend); **Bernie Sippin**; **John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Christine Stadler**; **Christian & Dain Steiner** (Julie McClenathan's nephews); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Winingers granddaughter); **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 Walker**; **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: New York: **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), North Carolina: **Jake Terifay**

**Sign Up now for the 2021 MCC Women’s Retreat – *Let It Go!*
November 12-14, Silver Lake Conference Center**

"Let go and let God." is a wonderful thought, but often easier said than done! We tend to want to hold on to our problems and stress and worry and agonize over them instead of letting God in to help. How can we move forward if we're still holding onto yesterday's conflicts and mistakes? There's freedom in letting go. Come away with the women of MCC, and we'll share time together on retreat talking, playing games, hiking, doing art and just letting go in God's big back yard. Friends are warmly welcome too!



Some of the questions you may have:

- **How much does it cost?** \$150 for four meals and two overnights. Please submit your payment by November 1 so that we have an accurate count for planning purposes. Please also make a notation on your check or through Vanco that says "Women's Retreat 2021". There are scholarships available, just speak with Pastor Jenn to confirm your spot.
- Can I pick my **roommate** ahead of time? Yes, simply let me know in an e-mail what your preferences are.
- What if I have **limited mobility**? Great news - we have been given permission to drive those with limited mobility down to the Lake, or to meals!
- What about **COVID restrictions**? In order to care for each other, all participants should be fully vaccinated (please submit a copy of your COVID-19 vaccine card). If you are unable to be vaccinated due to a health exemption, please test for COVID and provide a negative result.

Signup here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44A8AC22A2FB6-letitgo>
any questions!

Trustees



Your help would be greatly appreciated on

Saturday, November 13

8:30am – Noon

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

Thank you!

Deacons



New Member Informational Meeting, TODAY October 24 ~ Join the deacons for an informational meeting at 11:00 am in Dineson Parlor. Find out more about the history (how we got here), theology (what we believe) and ways you might connect with others and learn more about faith doing so. New Members will join the church during worship Sunday, November 7th.



Weekly Bible Study Has Begun! We cordially invite you to join us each week as we gather together to learn with and through one another. All are welcome in Dineson Parlor, **Thursdays from 9:30-11 am**. Bring your favorite Bible (whatever version you prefer) and a small notebook. Let Pastor Jenn know if you have any questions.

Christian Education



We've started the school year off in Sunday School, Junior and Senior PF with great success! We will continue to remain outside for Sunday School so long as the weather permits. If you haven't registered for our youth programs yet, please do so here: <https://form.jotform.com/212146410084141>

Our October Jr PF Schedule: Looking forward to loads of fun, we hope you are too!!
 Sat., Oct 23 -Halloween Pizza Party and Murder Mystery! 6:30pm – 8pm in Wilton Hall
 Sun., Oct 24 - Sr. PF's Trick or Trunk Event
 Sun., Oct 31 - No JR PF – Happy Halloween!



Outreach



Thank you to everyone who walked and/or donated to this year's Crop Walk! **MCC raised over \$3,275.00 for Crop Walk 2021!!!**



Give the gift of sight: Donate unused prescription glasses/sunglasses

Have you been cleaning out your junk drawers or have unused prescription glasses/sunglasses sitting around? There will be a collection basket on the table during coffee hour for the month of October. They will be collected, donated, cleaned and distributed to places nationwide. Give the gift of sight so that someone can clearly read a newspaper or see the smiling face of a loved one. Contact Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280 with any questions or comments.



What can you give to a person who has everything?

Heifer International is an organization where your pocket change helps to send animals to families.

Giving these animals is like giving a family a small business where wool, eggs, milk and more can sustain them and the offspring that come from those animals can be given to other families giving them a hand up, increase access to medicine, school, food and a sustainable livelihood. Other donations from Heifer International are seeds, irrigation pipes, water for life, gardener's gift baskets and Biogas stoves for entire villages. The collection jar will be on the serving table during coffee hour. Please contact Susie Cuseo with any

questions or comments at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280. **Become a part of the grand mission of ending hunger and poverty while caring for the Earth with your spare change.** For more information, please visit this site: [Heifer International Gift Catalog | Heifer International](#)

Fellowship

Young at Heart: 11:30 am Thursday, October 28, 2021

Jennie's Restaurant

Co-hosts: Nancy Smith and Carol Viellett

Please call or speak to Nancy Smith, 203-880-5228 if you plan on attending





Morning Circle invites the ladies of the congregation to our meeting on Wednesday, November 10 at 11AM in Wilton Hall.
 Nov 10 (Bean Soup Jars) and Dec 8 (Christmas luncheon).
 Contact Jackie Bleakney at 203-268-5275 with any questions or comments



Fall Adult PF 1st & 3rd Sundays, 5pm 274 Wheeler Rd. -all adults are welcome!
 November 7 and 21, and December 5.
 Questions: Contact Don Parker-Burgard



MCC Book Club is open to all church members. For more information, please call Paula Haggstrom 203-452-0850
 email: pjsh55@gmail.com We will continue meet via Zoom.

- November 17th, 7 pm - *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann
- December 8th, 7 pm -*The Bookish Life of Nina Hill* by Abbi Waxman-351 pages Host - TBD
- January 12th, 7 pm - *The Henna Artist* by Alka Joshi 295pages Host - TBD
- February 9th, 7 pm - *The Exiles* by Christina Baker Kline 389 pages Host - TBD
- March 9th, 7 pm - *Slow Fire Burning* by Paula Hawkins 316 pages Host - TBD



Day Light Savings Time ends Sunday, November 7
 Set your clocks back one hour Saturday night!

TIME TO HAVE SOME SKELE-FUN!

Come and join us for raffles, candy,
and Halloween themed games



Costumes are encouraged
for all ages!

SCAN THIS CODE IF YOU PLAN ON
ATTENDING THIS EVENT



SCAN THIS CODE IF YOU PLAN
ON ENTERING A CAR



If you have any questions don't hesitate!
Email us at: mccuccseniorpf@gmail.com

MCC Community Calendar

Sat. Oct 23rd

6:30– 8pm Jr PF Halloween Pizza Party and Murder Mystery!

Week of October 24th

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am New Member Lunch & Learn (Dineson)

3-5:30 pm Trunk or Treat SR PF Fundraiser

Mon. October 25th

7:30 pm “The Art of Preaching” Zoom

Tue. October 26th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. October 27th

7:00 pm FEA Association Meeting (Zoom)

Thur. October 28th

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)

11:30 am Young at Heart (Jennie’s Pizza)

Week of October 31st

Halloween

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Music Committee (Dineson)

5:00 pm Senior PF (location/time TBD)

Mon. November 1st

7:30 pm “The Art of Preaching” Zoom

Tue. November 2nd

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

8:00 pm Outreach (Zoom)

Wed. November 3rd

6:30 pm Confirmation (Dineson)

Thur. November 4th

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)

Week of November 7th

Daylight Savings Time – Fall Back 1 Hour

New Member/Communion Sunday

10:00 am Worship

11:30 am Trustees (Zoom)

5-6:30 pm Jr PF

5:00 pm Senior PF

5:00 pm Adult PF

Mon. November 8th

7:30 pm “The Art of Preaching” Zoom

Tue. November 9th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. November 10th

11:00 am Morning Circle

6:30 pm Confirmation (Dineson)

7:30 pm UFRC

Thur. November 11th

Veterans Day

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)

Fri. November 12th - 14th

Women’s Retreat 2021

Sat. November 13th

8:30 – noon Fall Church Work Day

Week of November 14th

EmmaRae Carrol, Guest Preacher

10:00 am Worship

3-5:00 pm Senior PF (Leaf Raking)

5-6:30 pm Jr PF

Tue. November 16th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

7:00 pm Bereavement Group

Wed. November 17th

6:30 pm Confirmation (Dineson)

7:00 pm Book Club (Zoom)

Thur. November 18th

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)

Week of November 21st

Stewardship Sunday

Lay Preachers Certificates

10:00 am Worship

11:00 Stewardship Pancake Breakfast

5-6:30 pm Jr PF

5:00 pm Senior PF

5:00 pm Adult PF

Mon. November 22th

7:30 pm Council

Tue. November 23rd

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

