

October 26, 2025

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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Gathering Music

This is the Day

by Mark Patterson

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, travelers on the journey, God is here among us!

People: God walks beside us, through every twist and turn of life.

Leader: We come as God's covenant people, thankful for all that has been provided,
hopeful for the glory still to come.

*People: Set our feet on holy ground, O God, open our eyes to your beauty
here and now.*

All: We come to celebrate your grace, visible and tangible in this very place!

Opening Prayer

Leanne McEvoy, Deacon of the Day

***Our Church's Covenant**

inside front cover of hymnal

Children's Message

***Hymn**

God is Here! As We Your People Meet

NCH #70

Students may go to Sunday School with their teachers; the nursery is open for the littles.

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

*God of presence and promise, you make your home among us, yet we confess that we
often forget you are here. We hurry past holy moments; we take for granted the people
and places where your Spirit dwells. We chase after things that glitter and miss the
quiet glow of grace in our midst. Forgive us, O God. Turn our attention toward what is
lasting and good. Remind us that your temple is not made of stone alone, but of hearts
knit together in love. Dwell in us once more and renew your light within our common
life. Amen. ~silence~*

Words of Assurance

***Passing of the Peace**

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

Love Come Down

by Karen Marrolli

*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

1 Kings 5:1-5; 8:1-13 pg. 304

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

Sermon

Blueprints for Belonging

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

*Closing Hymn

Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary v. 1-2, 1

(insert)

Benediction

Postlude

God Be With You

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.



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!

Please join us for a time of **fellowship**
following the service in Wilton Hall.



Assisted Listening Devices: As part of the ongoing Homeland Security grant project, we added four wireless assisted listening units to our sound system in the Meetinghouse. We are thrilled to be able to enhance the experience of those needing greater accessibility. If you are interested in trying one out, asking Scott Young or an usher is a perfect way to get started!

Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary v. 1-2, 1
(from Sing! Prayer and Praise UCC supplement hymnal #128)

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy, tried and true;
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for you.

Lord, empower me to be a witness for you,
Acting boldly in your name;
Seeking justice, where there is hurting
Offering hope where there is pain.

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
Pure and holy, tried and true;
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for you.

Thank you for assisting in this morning's worship!

Deacon: Leanne McEvoy **Usher:** Mike Pellegrino **Lay Reader:** Jim Hisey
Trustee: Mark Barnhart **Counter:** John O'Rourke **Web Steward:** Scott Young
Sunday School Teacher: Jeanette Cardentey & Ann-Marie Campbell
Coffee Host: Megan Wissink



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. 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 9:30am and 9:45am, before worship. Thank you!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAC2CA5FEC61-flowers> or [MCC-UCC.org](https://www.monroecucc.org)

The ladies of the coffee hour round table would like to thank **Kate Goyette** for the seasonal tablecloths!

Thanks to **Senior Pilgrim Fellowship** for cleaning up Rexford House as their service project last weekend!





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

Zachary Gingras ⁽²⁶⁾

Hubert Muizulis ⁽²⁶⁾

Shirley Dotoratos ⁽²⁹⁾



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)

Andrea & Bruno Crosnier ⁽²⁸⁾



Join us TODAY in Dineson Parlor at 11:15 for *Cheddar Together*: 45 minutes of faith, fellowship, and finger foods. We'll share charcuterie, open up a conversation about life and faith, and simply enjoy being together. Because everything really is better when we're Cheddar Together!

Today's Topic: **Peace in the Mess: Faithful Responses to Conflict.**

Life gets messy. Disagreements happen, tempers flare, and sometimes peace feels far away. But what if conflict could become holy ground instead of a battlefield? We'll explore how to respond with courage, compassion, and confidence when things get complicated. Through reflection, discussion (and charcuterie), we'll practice finding God's peace not after the storm, but right in the middle of it. Come as you are, no perfect answers required, just an open heart and a willingness to grow.



There is a **meal train** to support Linda Resnick's family as she continues to fight metastatic breast cancer. Thank you in advance for your support!
Signup here: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/qge0d8>
Deliver here: 520 Barn Hill Road, Monroe CT



Daylight Savings ends Sunday, November 2nd at 2 am. Remember to turn your clock back 1 hour before you go to sleep on Saturday, Nov 1st (or just let your smart devices do their thing)!

Fellowship



Join us for the monthly Book Club on the **3rd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm.** 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.

Nov. 5th 7pm - The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson

Morning Circle invites the women of the congregation to their next meeting on **Wednesday, November 12 at 11am in Dineson Parlor** where they will be putting together **Bean Soup Jars** for the Food Pantry.



Mark your calendars for future meetings:

Wednesday, November 12 at 11AM in Wilton Hall - Bean Soup Jar

Wednesday, December 10 at 12PM (Location TBD) - Christmas luncheon

Please contact Shari Carrano with any questions or comments at 475-342-8145.



Young at Heart date TBD

2026 MCC Women's Retreat

The Lodge at Silver Lake

Friday, April 10 – Sunday, April 12, 2026

Details to follow.



Christian Education



Do you enjoy spending time with teens and helping them feel connected, confident, and cared for? Our **Senior PF** youth group is looking for **adult advisors**! It's a chance to share stories, laughter, and life lessons while building lasting relationships that strengthen our church family and our wider community. If you'd like to learn more, talk with Kate Goyette or Michelle Correll, they'd love to hear from you!

Weekly Bible Study has begun ~ All Are Welcome! We gather 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!

Outreach



NOURISH BRIDGEPORT INC.

The **Feel The Warmth** mobile community hot supper needs 6-8 volunteers to cook a delicious and nutritious meal for 250+ hungry neighbors. Prep time in the kitchen is at nOURish's temporary kitchen at 1st Cong Church Fairfield, 148 Beach Road, Fairfield from 3 to 5:30 pm. It's then transported to the Harrison Apartments on 651 State Street, Bridgeport, and served to the displaced and homeless population from 6 to 7 pm.

Sign up in Wilton Hall for our next meal on November 20th, talk to Pastor Jenn for more info!



Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special Mission Offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). The other two-thirds of the offering support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, direct service projects, and grants. Neighbors in Need grants are annually awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. **Offerings to NIN are gratefully received until the end of October.**



Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe is looking for volunteers!!! Sorting, tagging and hanging occurs every Tuesday at 1:30PM. It's easy to do and the staff will gladly show you what needs to be done. Shifts to man the counter on Fridays and Saturdays are available for volunteers who will open and close the Shoppe from 10-12 or 12-2 or 3. Please contact Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280 with any questions. She can provide you with a procedure list of things to do or just visit the Shoppe during business hours and the volunteer can show you around.



Save the Date
Outreach Spaghetti Dinner &
Bingo Night
Saturday, November 22nd
5 pm – 8 pm

Stewardship



This fall, our congregation embarks on a journey of faith and imagination with our stewardship theme: **"Dreaming God's Dream: No Gift too Small, No Dream too Big."** Together, we are called to remember that stewardship is not just about meeting a budget, it's about opening ourselves to God's vision for our community. Every pledge, every gift of time, every act of service (no matter how modest) becomes part of something far greater than we can accomplish alone. When we give with open hearts, we help build a church where hope is nourished, compassion is practiced, and God's dreams for peace and justice take root. With God's blessing, even our smallest gifts can inspire the biggest possibilities.

Trustees



Your help would be greatly appreciated on

Saturday, November 15
8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Call Dave Allen with any questions:
 203-767-0883 Thank you!



MCC's handmade jam makes a wonderful host/hostess or teacher gift for the upcoming holidays, as well as a great stocking stuffer!

Just think of the possibilities, you can put it on toast, add it to your smoothies, make a glaze for pork or chicken, add it with cream cheese and crackers to make a yummy appetizer, top it on ice cream, pancakes or waffles and even spread it between layers of cake. There are so many things you can use the jam for. Get some, share some, and enjoy!!

Strawberry Jam is available for sale online at <https://monroe-strawberry-festival-since-1972.square.site/>

Deacons



Sacred Pause

*Looking for a monthly midweek reset?
Join us on 1st Wednesdays from 7–8 pm for a
time of guided Christian meditation, prayerful
stillness and reflection. Dress comfortably,
bring a yoga mat and water bottle.
Everyone is welcome!*

7 pm Wed, Nov 5, Rexford House

So you want to join the church?

Join us November 16th for
a light lunch and get-to-know-
you session at 11:15 am in
Dineson Parlor.

**New Members join on Sunday,
November 23 (Commitment
Sunday)**



In Our Prayers

Bonnie (Gayle Hammond's cousin); **Alison Abrams** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Jennifer Bittar** (Loraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney**; **Shari Carrano**; **Lisa Cody & Dave Barton** (friends of Julie and Rob McClenathan); **Cathy** (Julie McClenathan's Friend); **Debbie Cuseo** (Cliff's sister-in-law); **Kevin Daly** (Gary Thompson's friend); **Dealmira** (Jonathan Ganino's grandmother); **Dan & Laura Dimauro** (Cuseo friends); **Dot Dralus, Matt Duchon**; **Elaine** (Wendy Colegrove's Aunt); **Bruno Forte** (Nancy Hedine's friend); **David Fischman** (Sue Granello's Friend); **Donnajean Fredeen, Dave Fuller** (Gail Olson's brother); **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); **John** (Donna's father); **Jonathan** (Matt Colegrove's brother); **Josh** (Mary Erdmann's 2nd cousin); **Kelti** (friend of Liska Gutierrez), **Samia Khoury** (Will Duchon's friend); **Cindy Kovacs**; **Monica Lynch** (Bethany Dupuis' friend); **Nicole Malia**; **the Manuzzi Family**; **Mary** (Kate Brigg's Mother); **Mary Massar**; **Betty McKeown** (Donna Konkol's mother); **Meghan** (Mary Unger's niece); **Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **Olivia Morrison** (Donna Nickdow's niece); **Nancy Olofson**; **Missy & Gail Olson**; **Donna Parratt**; **Diane Prall**; **Amy Reber** (Pfalzgraf family friend); **Linda Resnick**; **Regina Roberts** (Kathy Maiolo's niece); **Alfredo Rodriguez** (Osirus Gutierrez's cousin); **Noah Santiago** (Shari Carrano's great-grandson); **Palma Senatore** (Sara Alvarez's grandmother); **Carlos Serrano** (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); **Ed Simonovich** (Nancy Hedine's friend); **Bernie, Lori & Gary Sippin**; **Cliff Smith**; **Sheldon & Nancy Smith**; **Christine Stadler**; **Chuck Stearns** (Cheri Irwin's cousin); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Winger's granddaughter); **Timara** (Mary Unger's friend); **Tom** (Wendy Colegrove's dad); **Wayne Thompson** (Gary Thompson's brother); **Richard Turco** (Jack Fracassini's cousin); **June Wilkes**; **Natica Williams** (Will Duchon's friend); **Jim Woolley** (Jen Nealon's Dad); **Allen & Ann Zeiner**

The concerns of our world: Gratitude for the return of hostages in **Gaza, the West Bank** and **Israel** and hopes for a sustained peace, the people of **Ukraine, Sudan** and **Syria** and those who serve or live in war zones around the world; **LGBTQ+ children and their families** facing discrimination; **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 **unhoused, homebound** and **refugees**.

Those serving in the military, veterans & their families: **Lt. Col. Rachel Hoffman**, Tacoma, Washington (Vaughan Askue's daughter), **Zachary Gingras**, 395th Combat Sustainability Support, **Joel Smith**, 250th Engineering Company, **Chris Meneses** (Loraine Zeiner's friend), **Corporal Taylor Smith** (Cheri Irwin's Nephew)

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Sun. Oct 26th

10:00 am Worship
11:15 Cheddar Together (Dineson)
5:00 pm Senior PF

Tue. Oct 28th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Thur. Oct 30th

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Nov 2nd

*Communion Sunday, Daylight Savings
Ends (fall back!)*

10:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

Mon. Nov 3rd

7:30 pm Outreach (Zoom)

Tue. Nov 4th

Election Day
1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Nov 5th

7:00 pm Sacred Pause (Dineson)

Thur. Nov 6th

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Nov 9th

10:00 am Worship
11:30 Trustees (Conference Room)
5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF

Mon. Nov. 10th

7:30 Deacons (Zoom)

Tue. Nov 11th

Veteran's Day
1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Nov 12th

11:00 am Morning Circle (Dineson)

Thur. Nov 13th

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Sat. Nov 15th

8:30 – 12:30 Trustees Fall Church Work Day

Week of Sun. Nov 16th

10:00 am Worship
11:15 New Member Informational (Dineson)
5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF

Tue. Nov 18th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Nov 19th

7:00 pm Book Club Zoom

Thur. Nov 20th

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)
3:00 pm Feel the Warmth
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Sat. Nov 22nd

5:00 pm Spaghetti & BINGO