

October 5, 2025

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost**

10:00 am

Communion ~ *Neighbors in Need Special Offering*

*The Monroe Congregational Church is an Open and Affirming congregation. Our deacons and pastor 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. May we be aware of others and feel the Spirit of God.*

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**Gathering Music**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Moment of Silence & Lighting of the Candles**

**Call to Worship**

Leader: In the big flashy moments and in the everyday little things,

*People: God provides.*

Leader: Whether we have done more than enough or next to nothing,

*People: God provides, and calls.*

Leader: When we're looking back longingly, lamenting what we've lost,  
or looking around us now,

*People: God provides, calls, and teaches us to trust.*

Leader: Come, let us worship!

*All: We come to worship the One who shows us a new way.*

**Prayer of Preparation**

Jim Hisey, Deacon of the Day

**\*UCC Statement of Faith**

Reading #885 in hymnal

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Hymn** (*seated*)

We Worship You, God (vs. 1, 4-5)

NCH# 26

**Invitation and Prayer**

**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.*

**\*Hymn**

I Come With Joy

NCH# 349

*Students may transition to Sunday School with their teachers.*

## **Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer**

*God, you provide for us every day, yet we confess we don't trust it. We hoard what we have, afraid there won't be enough. We grumble about what's missing, envy what others receive, and spread our fear of scarcity instead of your hope.*

*Forgive us for misusing your gifts and forgetting your mercy. Turn us back to your abundance and teach us to live with open hands and grateful hearts. Through Christ, our daily bread. 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.*

## **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**

For the Bread Which You Have Broken  
*Our offering plate will be passed among us today.  
You may give online at [www.mcc-ucc/donate](http://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**

Exodus 16:1-18, pg. 62

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

## **Communion Meditation**

*Manna, Meat & the Myth of Scarcity*

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

## **\*Closing Hymn**

God, Whose Giving knows No Ending (vs. 1, 3-4)

NCH #565

## **\*Benediction**

## **Postlude**

I Thank you, Jesus

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**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.

Please join us for a time of **fellowship** following the service in Wilton Hall. We will celebrate Jacque Bleakney's birthday with a cake provided by Morning Circle!



**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!

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:** Jim Hisey
  - **Usher:** Rob McClenathan
  - **Lay Reader:** Ed Burke
  - **Trustee:** Jill Sapak
  - **Counter:** Bill Stadler
  - **Sunday School Teacher:** Ann-Marie Campbell
  - **Coffee Host:** CE
  - **Web Steward:** Scott Young
- Communion Team #1**  
Rebecca Cicarelli, Jennifer Wissink,  
Marc Cardentey, Jim Hisey,  
Vinay Sampson and Leanne McEvoy

The flowers this morning are given by **Dave Allen in honor of family** and by **Linda & Jack Fracassini in honor of Jacque Bleakney's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday**



**Congratulations to Sara and Dylan Alvarez, on the** Birth of Penelope Grace, born 9/22/25 at 5:11pm weighing 7lbs 14oz and 20 in, she's perfectly healthy and her parents are over the moon happy!

**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.monroecch.org)





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

Lorraine Zeiner <sup>(07)</sup>  
Lucas Cuseo <sup>(08)</sup>

Rob McClenathan <sup>(08)</sup>

Jackie Bleakney <sup>(10)</sup>



**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)

Lois & David Spence <sup>(06)</sup> and Jenn & Clark Gingras <sup>(10)</sup>



**Neighbors in Need offering Today, October 5, 2025**  
**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.



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

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## Fellowship



Join us for the monthly Book Club on the **3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:pjsh55@gmail.com) or home phone or 203-452-0850.

**Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>** 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, October 8 at 11am in Dineson Parlor where they will be putting together **trick-or-treat bags** for the children who visit the Food Pantry with their parents. Donations are needed to supply the bags with small change, small toys, stickers, individually wrapped candies (no peanuts), etc. Please bring a sandwich lunch while we hold a short business meeting.

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** will meet on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon.  
More details to come



**Prayer Partner sign-ups** are coming to a close on October 15. For those who've signed up, you will receive a letter in the mail with an information sheet of the person you'll keep in your prayers while someone else is praying for you by mid-month. All of this is done anonymously when you sign your card or note when you sign it with "Your Prayer Partner" and use the church's address (34 Church St Monroe CT 06468) as the return.

We will meet on Sunday, May 18th next year for the "Big Reveal" potluck luncheon where we find out who's been praying for whom. It's super easy to do: just take a few moments to breathe and think of your Prayer Partner and wish them a great day or hope that they're having fun at their hobby. Take some time during coffee hour to converse with them or make an effort to seek them out during the passing of the peace. Please contact Michelle Cardentey with any questions at [michelle.cardentey@gmail.com](mailto:michelle.cardentey@gmail.com) or 203-814-6784.



### 2026 MCC Women's Retreat

The Lodge at Silver Lake

Friday, April 10 – Sunday, April 12, 2026

Details to follow.





## 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](mailto: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 this upcoming **25/26 school year**? **Please consider teaching Sunday School** (Pre k - 6th) **or being an adult advisor for our Sr or Jr PF youth group**. You can speak to Jeanette with any questions or to express interest. Thank you!

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## Outreach



### Wine Tasting Fund Raiser to Benefit Project Warmth

**Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>**

**6- 8 pm in Wilton Hall**

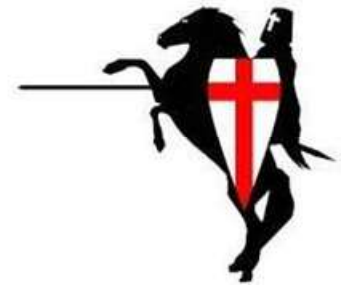
**Bring an appetizer or dessert to share and a wine glass.**

**Suggested Donation: \$20**

**To learn more, visit [WWW.MonroeCT.gov/P/Energy-Assistance](http://WWW.MonroeCT.gov/P/Energy-Assistance)**

### St George's Supper –Sunday, October 13<sup>th</sup>

Please consider a cash donation this month to help us feed our neighbors, look for the basket at coffee hour to contribute. Any amount would be gratefully received. Please memo on checks: "St George's Supper". Questions- contact Stacy at 203-500-1279



**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](mailto: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 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**5pm – 8pm**

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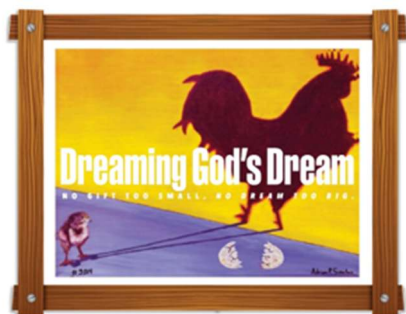


**Looking for an after church pick-me-up?** Join us in Dineson Parlor for *Cheddar Together* — an hour of faith, fellowship, and finger foods. We'll share charcuterie snacks, open up a conversation about life and faith, and simply enjoy being together. Because everything really is better when we're Cheddar Together!

*Oct 26, Nov 30, Dec 28, Jan 18, Feb 22, Mar 29, Apr 26, May 31*

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### **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.

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### **Trustees**



Your help would be greatly appreciated on

**Saturday, November 15**

**8:30am – 12:30pm**

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

## 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!*

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*7 pm Wed, Nov 5, Rexford House*

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**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're so many things you can use the jam for. Get some, share some and enjoy!!



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



## **In Our Prayers**

**Alison Abrams** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Jennifer Bittar** (Loraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney**; **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 Winingers 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:** The people of **Gaza & the West Bank**; **Israeli hostages** and their families, the people of **Ukraine, Sudan, Syria** 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:** **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 5<sup>th</sup>**

*Communion Sunday*

10:00 am Worship

11:30 am Trustees

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

### **Mon. Oct 6<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 pm Outreach

### **Tue. Oct 7<sup>th</sup>**

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Wed. Oct 8<sup>th</sup>**

11:00 am Morning Circle

### **Thur. Oct 9<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

### **Fri. Oct 10<sup>th</sup>**

7 pm Jr PF at Legends of Fear

### **Week of Sun. Oct 12<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Mon. Oct 13<sup>th</sup>**

*Indigenous People's Day – Office Closed*

3:00 pm St George's Supper

7:30 pm Deacons

### **Tue. Oct 14<sup>th</sup>**

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Wed. Oct 15<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 pm Book Club

### **Thur. Oct 16<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

### **Week of Sun. Oct 19<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

### **Tue. Oct 21<sup>st</sup>**

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Thur. Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)

12:00 pm Young @ Heart

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

### **Sat. Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 pm car pool leaves for Bend of River  
Audubon Trip

1:30 pm Bend of River Audubon Trip

### **Week of Sun. Oct 26<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Worship

11:00 Cheddar Together (Dineson)

5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Tue. Oct 28<sup>th</sup>**

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Thur. Oct 30<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir