

September 13, 2020

Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

9:00 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

How Great Thou Art

Katherine Logan

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: In the beginning, and now, and forever,

People: *God the Maker, God the Son, and God the Spirit danced together, worked together, belonged together.*

Leader: In the beginning, and now, and forever,

People: *God created the earth and its inhabitants, plants and animals and people, to dance together, work together, belong together.*

All: *As one with God's people in every place and time, grounded in God's goodness, we join our voices with the trees of the field, the stars in the heavens, the mountains and the seas, to worship together.*

Opening Prayer

Don Parker-Burgard, 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

Air in G

Scripture

Genesis 2:4b-7, 15-17; 3:1-8

Michelle Correll

⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created. In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, ⁵when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; ⁶but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— ⁷then the LORD God formed man

from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

³Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' ²The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die." ' ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'

⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

⁸They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

Sermon

Back to Eden

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

Benediction

Postlude

God Be With You Till We Meet Again

Katherine Logan

God is still speaking, welcome to all who are worshipping with us today in our outdoor Summer Chapel!

✦ 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.

Our Pandemic Commandments

In order to keep our community member's safe, we ask that everyone worshipping with us in-person follow these safe gathering guidelines:

- Thou shalt stay home if you feel unwell or have a fever (and catch us on YouTube)
- Thou shalt wear a mask (if you need one, just ask!)
- Thou shalt maintain a social distance of 6 feet (even when passing peace)
- Thou shalt use handwashing/hand sanitizer stations
- Thou shalt bring your own lawn chair

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"

At this time, due to COVID-19 the only coffee hour we're able to host is virtual! Join us on zoom at 10:30, when we can share updates and prayer concerns:

<https://zoom.us/j/460134127?pwd=cjYrUDhSSkppdjNMYjhvQ0ZDci9hUT09>

In Our Prayers

Jackie Ajello (Michele Mount's mother); **Michael Barresi** (Maria's Son); **Jennifer Bittar** (Loraine 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); **Rachel Fracassini** (Jack & Linda Fracassini's niece); **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); **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); **Bill & Ruth Wakeley; Susan Walker; 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** (Loraine Zeiner's friend), Georgia: **Zachary Peters** (Jacob Parker-Burgard's cousin), Kuwait: **Steven Roshong** (Judy & Paul Coward's nephew), **Bob Peters** (Don Parker-Burgard's brother-in-law), Afghanistan: **Samuel Siciliano**, North Carolina: **Jake Terifay**

If your computer's video or microphone capabilities aren't working with ZOOM, or you'd prefer to call over a LAN line, you can dial 1 (929) 205-6099, enter Meeting ID: 460 134 127 and Password: 894471

Thank you for assisting in this morning's worship!

- **Trustee:** Liz Sampson
- **Deacon:** Don Parker-Burgard
- **Lay Reader:** Michelle Correll

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

Andrew Logan ⁽¹⁴⁾

Joshua Post ⁽¹⁶⁾

David Rooney ⁽¹⁹⁾

Angela Cross ⁽¹⁵⁾

Ronald Villani ⁽¹⁶⁾

Romeo Crea ⁽¹⁸⁾

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):

Mike & Kim Riffard⁽¹⁴⁾

Osiris & Julia Gutierrez⁽¹⁶⁾

Jamie & Shirley Dotoratos⁽¹⁶⁾

Andy & Jenn Nivison⁽¹⁹⁾

MCC This Fall

This program year, we hope and pray for the best but need to remain careful and flexible. More specific program details will be forthcoming as they develop. For now, we are working towards:

- **A return to worship in the Meetinghouse, with safeguards and livestreaming in place, on September 20 at 10 am.**
- A hybrid faith formation program for school age children, which meets in person once a month and online with small family pods at other times.
- In-person small groups, with Jr and Sr PF on Sunday afternoons, Bible study on Thursday mornings, Morning Circle etc., all with safeguards in place, shifting indoors to Wilton Hall (classrooms and parlor are closed for now)
- Additional online opportunities – online devotions, zoom gatherings, etc.
- Church staff to continue working mostly from home, church business meetings to continue on Zoom, pastoral care mostly over the phone/text/email/zoom/Facebook, and limited in-person porch visits.



Socially Distanced Office Hours

Pastor Jenn offers socially distanced office hours by appointment on the parsonage side lawn, 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.



Fruit of the Spirit Sunday school

There will be no in-person gatherings in September. Debi will send some simple at home activities for families to do at home. In October, there will be an all ages Faith, Fellowship & Fun gathering for families on October 25th during worship, with safety protocols in place. We are following the school system's example of hybrid education, with a combination of in-person and at-home faith formation activities.

Worshiping with Children

Our hope on the weeks we do not have in-person Sunday School is that families will attend worship together. Once we move inside for worship in late September, that there will be additional family-friendly seating in Wilton Hall with services streaming so that we can safely social distance. Because of safety protocol, worship time has been decreased from an hour to 30-45 minutes.

Throughout the year, we will be providing every child and youth from Pre-K through 8th grade with Worship Journals that will have prompts and activities for them to use to enhance their worship experience. These journals can be decorated and personalized and we will store them at the church for use each week. If you need assistance or have any suggestions, please contact Debi at debi@mcc-ucc.org.

Nursery Closed

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



Jr. PF

09/13 – Gather from 12:00-1:30 pm on the Green

09/20 – Gather from 12:00-1:30 pm on the Green

09/27 – Gather from 12:00-1:30 pm on the Green

YOUTH CONFIRMATION

Youth Confirmation

Confirmation at MCC is a 9 month journey for freshman exploring their faith and talking about the big questions, as they move towards a decision about whether or not they are ready and willing to become adult members of the church. The program is led by Pastor Jenn and Debi, with adult sponsors that partner with the confirmands through the year. We meet most Wednesday nights from 6:30-7:30 - in person, outdoors, socially distanced with masks until we need to move to Wilton Hall. Of course, if the local metrics change in a way that schools suspend in-person programming, we will need to pivot accordingly for the safety of all.

Learn more on our ZOOM call for parents, teachers and confirmands on **Wednesday, September 16 at 6:30** - here's the link below. In-person will begin the following Wednesday, September 23rd at 6:30.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88274800068?pwd=L2hwYXBGeGVFTzlldklnZkZzSGx3QT09>



Thursday Morning Bible Study Began September 3rd

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, sometimes on a theme, such as the "Parables of Jesus" study we did a while back. We also enjoy reading and discussing inspirational books from time to time, and spending time in fellowship and prayer. This year, we will 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.



Join the MCC ZOOM Book Club

Transatlantic by Colum McCann

discussion via Zoom on Wednesday, October 7th

Questions -contact Mary Unger (203) 268-5754



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



Hi folks! Since we have been safely gathering for service outside, Outreach decided to hold our **annual Wine & Craft Beer Tasting outside under a tent** on Pierce Lawn on **September 26, 4-7 pm**. Woohoo!!

*Please bring your own appetizer - NOT to share this year - and your own wine glass. Our awesome Roy Nealon will wow us again with a selection of great wine and craft beer. Hopefully next year we will be able to gather at the wonderful Fracassini home. As is our tradition, we ask a suggestion donation of \$20 per person, recipient TBD.

I'm so looking forward to seeing you all and having a wonderful, safe evening of fellowship. Hugs, Kathy and the Outreach board.

*Thank you for your commitment
to the Monroe Congregational Church
during this challenging time.*

Mail or drop off donations to 34 Church Street,
Monroe CT 06468, attn MCC Receiver.

Give online: <http://www.mcc-ucc.org/donate.html>

Arrange for automatic payments
via your bank

