

September 14, 2025

Fourteenth 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 Working

Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir 1986

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: God is calling us by name, trying to get our attention.

People: *Here we are, turning our full attention to God's presence.*

Leader: God is calling us through the voices of our neighbors.

People: *Here we are, listening for truth through holy human stories.*

Leader: God is calling us to see the world anew.

All: *Here we are, looking for what God will reveal and provide today.*

Opening Prayer

Jennifer Wissink, Deacon of the Day

***Our Church's Covenant**

inside front cover of hymnal

Children's Message

***Hymn**

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

NCH #410

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

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

Gracious God, you invite us to bring our whole selves to you, yet we confess that we are not always present. Too often we move through life on autopilot, ignoring your Spirit's nudges and neglecting one another. We act without pausing to ask if there is more to the story. Forgive us when we cause harm in your name. Forgive us when we believe the end justifies the means. Draw us close and teach us to walk as true partners in your covenant of love and 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

I Saw the Light

Hank Williams, 1948

*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

Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-14 pg. 16

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

Sermon

Slow Down, Abraham

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

***Closing Hymn**

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

NCH #252

Benediction

Postlude

May the Peace of God Go With You

W. Duchon, 1909

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.

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: Jen Wissink **Usher:** Melissa Quinn **Lay Reader:** Chris Hisey
Trustee: Andrew Logan **Counter:** Scott Young **Web Steward:** Scott Young
Sunday School Teacher: Michelle Cardentey & Larry Wissink
Coffee Host: Michelle Cardentey



**The flowers this morning are given by Kathy Maiolo
in celebration of Colby's 1st birthday!**

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.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAC2CA5FEC61-MCC-UCC.org)



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⁾
Colby Kaminski ⁽¹⁶⁾
Joshua Post ⁽¹⁶⁾

Ronald Villani ⁽¹⁶⁾
David Rooney ⁽¹⁹⁾
Collen Konkol ⁽²⁰⁾

Marisa Pinto ⁽²⁰⁾
Vandana Sampson ⁽²⁰⁾



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)

Reggie & John Hastedt ⁽¹⁶⁾ Shirley & Jamie Dotoratos ⁽¹⁶⁾
and Julia & Osiris Gutierrez ⁽¹⁶⁾



A **meal train** has begun to support Linda Resnick's family while she remains in the hospital undergoing tests and treatments. Thank you in advance for your support!

Signup here: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/qge0d8>
Deliver here: 520 Barn Hill Road, Monroe CT



Pledge Envelopes: If you pledge to the church and would like to use pledge envelopes, please call 203-268-9327 or email Diane at secretary@MCC-UCC.org before the **September 30th order deadline** – thank you!

(Offering envelopes are also available in the pews.)



Fellowship

2026 MCC Women's Retreat: The Lodge at Silver Lake,
Friday, April 10 – Sunday, April 12, 2026. Details to follow!

HOMECOMING PICNIC

Come enjoy a nice meal, fun & games
and reconnect with your church family!

12-4pm September 14, 2025 at the Rotary Pavillion at Wolfe Park

Sign up in Wilton Hall

Bring a salad or dessert to share. Drinks, hot dogs, hamburgers and veggie burgers will be provided.



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.

Sept. 24th 7pm - Mad Honey by Jennifer Finney Boylan & Jodi Picoult

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



Morning Circle invites the women of the congregation to their meeting on **Wednesday, October 8th at 11am in Dineson Parlor:** Trick-or-Treat bags

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

Young at Heart will meet on September 25th at noon.
Testo's Restaurant, 505 Main Street, Monroe
Marge Fox (203)706-2132 margefox48@gmail.com



Be a 2025/2026 Prayer Partner!

We're kicking off MCC's Annual Prayer Partner activity and would love for you to join in. Sign-up sheets are in Wilton Hall. Fill it in, and e-mail it to Michelle at michelle.cardentey@gmail.com, or put your completed form in the pocket on the bulletin board.

Last May's celebration was a joy! We learned who was praying for us, shared good food, and had lots of laughs. This year will be just as simple and meaningful: pray for your partner and send a note now and then to let them

know you're thinking of them.

I'll assign you a partner once all the forms are in (hopefully by Oct 15). One more thing: keep your identity a secret until May—it's part of the fun! Thanks for helping us cover our

church family in prayer. 🙏💕

In faith and fellowship, Michelle Cardentey

Christian Education

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 Jr PF youth group (ages 11-14).** You can speak to Jeanette with any questions or to express interest. Thank 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



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.

Covenant to Care welcomes any donations of NEW backpacks, lunch boxes, and school supplies for all ages! Monetary gifts are always welcome! Please bring whatever you can to the church (marked *Covenant to Care: attention Diane*) as soon as possible so the children can start using your generous donations -thank you!





Cleaning out your drawers for the fall? If you come across any **used prescriptions glasses, sunglasses or cases, please consider donating them** in the collection basket in Wilton Hall on the coffee table until the end of September. Your donations get cleaned, checked and given to someone who will finally see the skyline clearly, read the label on food products or enjoy the smile on a loved one's face. Give the gift of sight by donating your prescription glasses, cases or sunglasses. Please contact Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280 with any questions. Christian Education



NOURISH BRIDGEPORT INC.

Let's feed hungry neighbors!

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 September 18th

Talk to Pastor Jenn for info!

Music Notes



Always wanted to try Handbells, but not sure if it is right for you? Now's the time! We have a great group of amazing people ringing, and are looking for more. Rehearsals are on **Thursdays 6-7pm in the Meeting House**. We will show you all the steps of learning to read your notes and play your bells.

Sing to the Lord a new song! If you've ever considered singing in the **Choir**, now is the time to give it a try. You don't need to be a trained singer. All that's required is a love of sharing music with our congregation, music that celebrates the love of God and the beauty of a spiritual path.

Not sure? Come sit in on a rehearsal. Just observe and listen. Our Choir is not only about singing. We have a warm and genuine fellowship among the members. We even have fun at each rehearsal.

This is the best time of the year to give the Choir a try. We will soon be preparing wonderful music for Advent and Christmas. Preparing and presenting this music is a profound and meaningful experience. **Choir rehearsals are every Thursday at 7 PM.** Take a chance and give it a try!

Talk to Heather or Will today to become a part of these fun groups!

Deacons



Event Date:

Saturday, December 6, 2025 10 am – 3 pm

Dear Victorians of MCC:

The Chairs of the forthcoming Second Annual Victorian Christmas Fair shall require your valuable experience from the previous annum, as well as your gracious desire to partake newly in this most festive of endeavors. Pray, don your Victorian thought caps and bonnets, and lend us your presence and ideas at a **meeting to be held on September 21st at 11:15 am in the parlor** to deliberate and plan for the approaching celebration.

Yours faithfully and most sincerely,

The Victorian Chairs, Arlene, Barbara & Jessica

Blessing of the Animals

Join us Sunday, September 28th at 10 am
as we worship in Wilton Hall and bless the animals
that bring us such joy and love!
BYOP! (Bring your own pet!) *Please keep on leash
or in a carrier, or bring a picture*****





Did you forget to buy **JAM** at the Strawberry Festival? Good news!
We have some available for sale online at <https://monroe-strawberry-festival-since-1972.square.site/>

Monroe Lions Club Sherd & E-Waste Fundraiser Oct. 4th, 9am – Noon
435 Main Street (Corner of Route 25 & 59)
To Benefit Masuk High School ~ H.S. Scholarships

Document Shedding \$15 (any size box) and Electronic Recycling (cell phones \$10, computers \$20, hard drives \$10, laptops \$20, tablets \$10 and more!

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 Houry** (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: 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. Sept 14th

10:00 am Worship
12-4 pm Homecoming Picnic (Wolfe Park)
5:00 pm Senior PF

Tue. Sept 16th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Sept 17th

7:00 pm Book Club Zoom

Thur. Sept 18th

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

Week of Sun. Sept 21st

10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Victorian Fair Meeting
5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

Tue. Sept 23rd

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Thur. Sept 25th

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)
12:00 pm Young at Heart
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Sept 28th

Blessing of the Animals
10:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Senior PF

Tue. Sept 30th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Thur. Oct 2nd

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

Week of Sun. Oct 5th

Communion Sunday
10:00 am Worship
11:30 am Trustees
5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Oct 6th

7:30 pm Outreach

Tue. Oct 7th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Oct 8th

11:00 am Morning Circle

Thur. Oct 9th

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