

September 25, 2022 **The Sixteenth 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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Thought for preparation

The best rose bush, after all, is not that which has the fewest thorns, but that which bears the finest roses. -Emily Dickenson

Musical Call to Worship Morning Has Broken

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: God, you seek us out,

All: *In the dead of night and on this bright morning.*

Leader: Holy One, you shake us from complacency,

All: *Wrestling fear from our souls and caution from our plans.*

Leader: Loving God, you draw near,

All: *As close as our breathing, as present as the beat of our hearts.*

Leader: Loving God, you jealously desire our attention,

All: *You rejoice at our singing and welcome our worship.*

Opening Prayer Kristina Logan, Deacon of the Day

***Our Church's Covenant** inside front cover of hymnal

Third Grade Bible Dedication Jeanette Cardentey

Lily Briggs and Quinn Bauerle (4th grade)

Congregational Response: *We rejoice in this step in your journey with God. We pray that God will guide you, your family, and us as you use this Holy Bible in your home, in your Sunday school classes, and in our worship. We will learn together and grow in our love for God's Word. May the Word of God be a lamp to your feet, and a light to your path. Thanks be to God! Amen.*

Students may transition to Sunday School with their teachers.

***Hymn** Arise, Your Light Has Come NCH #164

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

Almighty God, you are holy. We confess that, in the light of your purity, we see our own impurities. We truly have fallen short of the expectations you have of us. Forgive us, we pray. In the name of Christ, come to our aid. Lead us from the paths of disaster, and direct us toward holiness. Teach us to pray. Teach us to love. And teach us to serve without counting the cost. Most of all, grant us the courage to dare to be Christians in reality rather than in pretense, however difficult it may be. Hear us now, as we pray to you in silence.

Contemplative Moment

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.*

***Hymn** In the Bulb There is a Flower NCH #433

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

Lean On Me.

Bill Withers, 1972

*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 39:1-23, pg 35 Matthew 5:11-12, pg 880

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

Sermon

Rev. Peggy Allen

***Hymn**

We Are Often Tossed and Driven

NCH #444

Benediction

Parting Music

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 in Wilton Hall for brownies and ice cream at coffee hour to celebrate Pastor Peggy on her last Sunday with our congregation.
Thank you Pastor Peggy for the pleasure of your service while Pastor Jenn has been on sabbatical - you have done a wonderful job with preaching and serving the members of our MCC congregation –we appreciate you!



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:** Kristina Logan
- **Usher:** Rob McClenathan
- **Trustee:** Fred Dubois
- **Counter:** Tom Briggs
- **Coffee Host:** Trustees
- **Web Steward:** Scott Young

**The flowers this morning are given
in celebration and gratitude for
Pastor Peggy on her last Sunday with us.**



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. If you do not have access to a computer for online signup, call Diane in the office 203-268-9327, and she will help! 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



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

Nancy Hedine ⁽²⁶⁾

John Esposito ⁽³⁰⁾

Andrea Crosnier ⁽⁰¹⁾

Priscilla Cunningham ⁽²⁹⁾

Heather Henning ⁽³⁰⁾

Vinay Sampson ⁽⁰¹⁾

Katherine Logan ⁽²⁹⁾

Laurel Post ⁽³⁰⁾

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)

Hubert & Gay Muizulis⁽²⁵⁾ Jan & Chris Pearson⁽²⁹⁾
Kate & Mark Barnhart⁽²⁹⁾ and Donna & Jim Gill ⁽³⁰⁾





Pledge Envelopes

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

Christian Education

Register Now for 2022/2023 Children & Youth Programming at MCC!

Please sign up your child(ren) and youth for the 2022/2023 season.

Sign up here

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAC2CA5FEC61-youth>

or on our website: **MCC-UCC.org**



Love working with youth, want to spread God's love to the children of our congregation in this upcoming **22/23 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!

JR PF Schedule

Sept 25 - Service Project

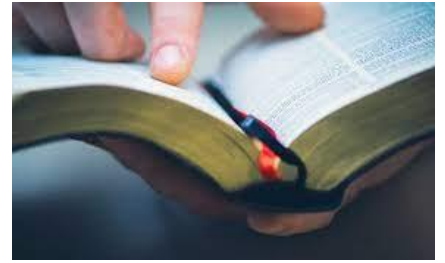


First Confirmation Orientation Meeting is Wed., Oct 5th 7:00 pm

Deacons

Share the word of God.

Join a rotational schedule of Sunday scripture readers.
Please email the office at secretarymccucc.org
or call 203-268-9327. Thank you!



Weekly Bible Study Begins Thursday, October 6, 9:30-11am:

We cordially invite you to join us each week in in Dineson Parlor as we gather together to learn with and through one another. Bring your favorite Bible (whatever version you prefer) and a small notebook.

Outreach

Outreach Wine Tasting Fundraiser



Saturday, October 8 (please note date change) at **6pm** on Pierce Lawn. Please bring a glass for sampling, a folding or lawn chair, a snack to share and a donation. **Suggested donation is \$20.00 per person.** Proceeds will go to the Empower House created by the Center for Family Justice. This is a safe transitional home for adults and children exposed to domestic violence.

Heifer International helps struggling families learn to sustain themselves with the use of animals and plants. The addition of their animal offspring and the fruit of the plants help other families make a living in order to survive. Your spare change provides the donation that supports those in need worldwide. Make your change the change for the better for families who need it the most. Contact Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280 with any questions or comments.



Have you recently cleaned out your junk drawers or come across an old pair of **prescription sunglasses or glasses**? There's a **collection basket on the serving table during coffee hour for your donations.** These glasses will be cleaned and analyzed and then given to someone who will once again see the smile on a loved one's face or be able to read the newspaper with clarity. Give the gift of sight by donating your used glasses, sunglasses and cases. Contact Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280 with any questions or comments.

Please have donations in the basket by Sunday, October 9th.

The **Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe** needs YOU! If you have a couple of hours to spare either on Tuesdays, Fridays or Saturdays, we are looking for your help. **Sorting, tagging and hanging is back to on Tuesdays at 1:00PM.** Volunteers will help you with what needs to be done. Sales associates are needed for two-hour shifts starting from 10AM to 3PM on Fridays and Saturdays. A procedure list can be emailed or you can visit the Shoppe when someone is manning the counter. It's fun and quite rewarding. Please contact Susie Cuseo with any questions or comments at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280.



Fellowship



Young At Heart

Next luncheon will be on Thursday, **October 27th at 12 pm**

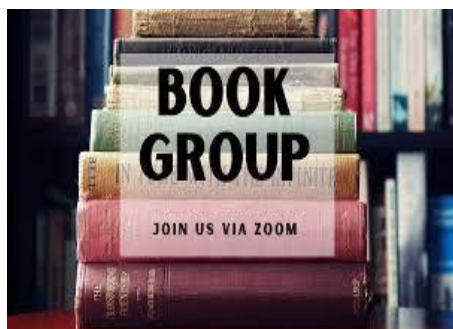
Details to com

Calling All Prayer Partners!! Do you know what a Prayer Partner is? This is someone who signs up in Wilton Hall and returns the sheet in the slot provided. They will receive a letter in the mail with the name of the person to keep in your thoughts and prayers, even if it's just for 5 seconds out of your busy day. They can send their partner a card or note in the mail signed "Your Prayer Partner" and using the church's address (34 Church St Monroe, CT 06468) as the return. On May 21, 2023 at 11:15AM we will have our "Big Reveal" potluck luncheon where we'll find out who's been praying for whom. In the meantime, make eye contact with them during the passing of the peace, seek them out during coffee hour and strike up a conversation. If you have no idea who they are, I'll do my best to point them out. It's so easy and doesn't take a ton of time to think about them and wish them well for the day. Prayer is so important in our lives when we take the time to breathe and appreciate all the people and comforts we have that make us happy. Please contact Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280 with any questions or comments. Here's a testimonial from a previous Prayer Partner: "It's always a great experience being a Prayer Partner. Although I didn't get to meet mine, I enjoyed praying for her. It's nice to keep someone in my daily prayers and it's nice to know someone is praying for me. I'm looking forward to a new partner next year. **Last day to sign up is Sunday, October 2nd.**"



MORNING CIRCLE

The women of Morning Circle invite you to our next meeting on **Wednesday, October 12 at 11AM in Dineson Parlor** to put together Trick-or-Treat bags for children who visit the Food Pantry with their parents. We are looking for donations that may include small items, such as, pencils, erasers, individually wrapped candies, toys, etc. Please bring a sandwich for lunch while we hold a short business meeting. Please contact Jackie Bleakney with any questions or comments at 203-268-5275.



MCC Book Club is open to all church members. We will continue to meet via zoom on the **3rd Wednesday of each month at 7 pm.** For more information, please call Paula Haggstrom 203-452-0850 email: pjsh55@gmail.com We will continue meet via Zoom.

- Wed., September 21, The Lost Apothecary by Sarah Penner** Host: Diane Griffiths
- Wed., October 19, The Rose Code by Kate Quinn Host: Linda Fracassini
- Wed., November 16, The Pull of the Stars by Emma Donoghue Host: Arlene Redmond
- Wed., December 21, Woman on Fire by Lisa Barr Host: Peggy Villani
- Wed., January 18, The Midnight Library by Matt Haig Host: Gayle Hammond



Chancel Choir rehearsals Thursdays at **7 PM.** The Choir is looking for more singers, so please consider giving it a try. A good first step would be to come out to our rehearsal and just sit in or listen. The Chancel Choir is blessed with having a warm and close fellowship, and the satisfaction of preparing and singing beautiful music throughout the church season.

Chime Choir rehearsals Thursdays at 6 PM. We will be preparing music for Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas.

Questions? Please see Music Director, Will Duchon.



In Our Prayers

Cliff Cuseo; Michael **Barresi** (Maria's Son); **Jennifer Bittar** (Loraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney**; **Byron Brown & Bruce Bryant** (friends of Will Duchon); **the Crea Family**; Cheryl **Ciambriello** (Wendy Colegrove's friend); **Lori Cimeno** (Peggy & Ron Villani's Daughter); **Dot Dralus**; **Matt Duchon**; **Bruno Forte** (friend of Nancy Hedine); **David Fischman** (Sue Granello's Friend); **Marge Fox**; **Dave Fuller** (Gail Olson's brother); **Fern Griffith** (Ashley Levin's friend); **Karen Guinness** (Jennifer Nivison's friend); **Gina & Liz** (Wendy Colegrove's friends); **Gary & Nancy Hedine**; **Mary & Rachel Heerema** (Julia Gutierrez's mom & sister); **Bob Heffernan** (Ann Zeiner's son-in-law); **Sage Hohlfeld** (Gary Thompson's grand niece); **Brian Hopkins** (Donna Konkol's cousin); **Bill Irwin** (Cheri's husband); **Vera James** (Jenn Wissink's mother); **Kelti** (friend of Liska Gutierrez); **Walter Lane** (Marge Fox's brother-in-law); **Danny Larkin** (Donna Konkol's relative); **Mary-Margaret Logan** (Andrew's mother); **Monica Lynch** (Bethany Dupuis' friend); **Jacquie MacLean** (Jennifer Nivison's friend); **Nicole Malia**; **Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **Mike** (Dot'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); **Jennifer Olson** (Gail Olson's daughter-in-law); **Missy Olson**; **Osborne** (Colegrove's Family friend); **Donna Parrat**; **Dean Perosino** (Gayle Hammond's brother); **Donna Parratt**; **Geno Piacentini** (Karen MacDonald's husband); **P.T. Philip** (Liz Sampson's father); **Norman & Jan Ricker** (Linda & Jack Fracassini's friend); **Kim Riffard**; **Regina Roberts** (Kathy Maiolo's niece); **Alfredo Rodriguez** (Osirus Gutierrez's cousin); **Noah Santiago** (Shari Carrano's great-grandson); **Connor Scalia** (Jen Nivison's friend); **Carlos Serrano** (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); **Yessika Siccardi** (Sampson family friend); **Bernie Sippin**; **Peggy Sippin** (Lori Sippin's daughter-in-law); **Ricky Shutt** (Susan Granello's friend's son); **John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Christine Stadler**; **Christian & Dain Steiner** (Julie McClenathan's nephews); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Winger's granddaughter); **Olga Terwilliger** (Nancy Hedine's sister-in-law); **Ian Thompson** (Gary's cousin); **Richard Turco** (Jack Fracassini's cousin); **the Walker family**; **Charles L. Wynn, Sr.**, (and his mother) **Alleane** (friends of Will Duchon); **Allen Zeiner** (Ann Zeiner's son); **Ann Zeiner**

The concerns of our world: The people of **Ukraine**; **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**; Our friends living on the **Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation** and in **Oaxaca, Mexico**

Those serving in the military, veterans & their families: Washington: **Rachel Hoffman** (Vaughan Askue's daughter), Virginia: **Chris Meneses** (Loraine Zeiner's friend), Georgia: **Zachary Peters** (Jacob Parker-Burgard's cousin), Kuwait: **Jon Sanchez** (Don Whiteley's grandson-in-law)

MCC Community Calendar

Pastor Jenn is on sabbatical until October 1.

Thank you sabbatical supply pastor, Rev. Peggy Allen!

Week of Sun. Sept 25th

10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Special Coffee Hour
5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF's

Tue. Sept 27th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thurs. Sept 29th

6:00 pm Chime Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Oct 2nd

10:00 am Worship Pastor Jenn Returns!
11:00 am Special Coffee Hour
5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF's

Mon. Oct 3rd

7:00 pm Outreach Meeting

Tue. Oct 4th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Oct 5th

7:00 pm First Confirmation Orientation Meeting

Thurs. Oct 6th

9:30 am First Bible Study Class
6:00 pm Chime Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Sat. Oct 8th

6 pm Outreach Wine Tasting (Pierce Lawn)

Week of Sun. Oct 9th

10:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF's

Mon. Oct 10th

Office Closed -Indigenous Peoples' Day
7:45 pm Deacons' Zoom

Tue. Oct 11th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Oct 12th

11:00 am Morning Circle
6:30 pm Confirmation
7:00 pm Book Club (Zoom)

Thurs. Oct 13th

9:30 am Bible Study Class
6:00 pm Chime Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Oct 16th

Confirmation Dedication
10:00 am Worship
11:30 am Trustees (Zoom)
5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF's

Mon. Oct 17th

7:30 pm Council (Zoom)

Tue. Oct 18th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Oct 19th

6:30 pm Confirmation

Thurs. Oct 20th

9:30 am Bible Study Class
6:00 pm Chime Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Sat. Oct 22

150th Anniversary of Deed of Center Green

Week of Sun. Oct 30th

10:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF's

Outreach Wine Tasting Fundraiser



Saturday, October 8 (please note date change) **at 6pm** on Pierce Lawn.
Please bring a glass for sampling, a folding or lawn chair, a snack to share and a donation.
Suggested donation is \$20.00 per person. Proceeds will go to the Empower House created by the Center for Family Justice. This is a safe transitional home for adults and children exposed to domestic violence.



The Center for Family Justice, Inc.

753 Fairfield Avenue,
Bridgeport,
Connecticut 06604.

Our new, state-of-the-art facility will offer up to a 60-day stay in highly secure and comfortable surroundings. And with 24/7, 365 days-a-year staffing, on-site counseling and other life rebuilding services, there's no place like [this] home.

<https://empowerhouseproject.org/>

Main number: 203-334-6154

Fax: 203-579-8882

24/7 HOTLINES in English and Spanish

Domestic Violence 24/hour hotline 1-888-774-2900

Sexual Assault 24-hour hotline 1-888-999-5545

Llame gratis en español 1-888-568-8332