

September 27, 2020

Seventeenth 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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Prelude Prelude from Suite # 2 J.S. Bach Larry Wissink, cello

Welcome & Announcements

Opening Prayer Caleb Nealon, 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**

Confirmation Dedication

Hanna Andrecyck, Emma Campbell, Owen Correll, Isabella Pinto, and Julia Telep

Today marks the beginning of an important journey. In the baptismal promises we make as a faith community, we agree to grow with our young people, to help them and their parents on their journey of faith. Confirmation is a process by which these young people choose whether to affirm their baptism and become adult members of this church and Christ's universal Church. It's also a process in which parents to allow their children to make mature faith decisions on their own.

And so, we joyfully celebrate the beginning of this journey with the new members of our 2021 confirmation class! Hanna, Emma, Owen, Bella, and Julia, please stand where you are (with your parents), whether you are tuning in online or here in-person to receive your Study Bible and remain standing while we make some promises together.

Parents, do you promise your continued love, support, and care as your children explore what it means to be a Christian and a member of the church? Will you support them as they begin to mature in faith taking more and more responsibility for their own spiritual journey? If so, please answer, *I do, with the help of God.*

Parents: I do, with the help of God

Will the congregation please rise, if comfortably able? Members and friends of Monroe Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, will you show these young people examples of Christian love? Will you support them through your prayers and interest? Will you care for them by sharing your time and experience in the faith? If so, please answer, *I will, with the help of God.*

Congregation: I will, with the help of God.

Confirmands, today marks the beginning of a commitment to grow and learn. Soon we will explore questions about God, Jesus Christ, the Bible, the Church, and Christian faith. You have heard the promises of your parents and the congregation. With this support, do you promise to attend worship regularly (in person or online), to prepare and participate when asked, and to support each other along the way, as best you are able? If so, please answer, *I will, with the help of God.*

Confirmands: I will, with the help of God.

Unison Prayer: Gracious God, Bless these confirmands on their journey. May they grow in knowledge and faith. Guide them with your spirit, and show them the love and peace of Christ, that passes all understanding. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

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 Sarabande Suite # 2 J.S. Bach Larry Wissink, cello

Scripture Genesis 37:3-8, 17-22, 26-34; 50:15-21

³Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. ⁴But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

⁵ Once Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. ⁶He said to them, 'Listen to this dream that I dreamed. ⁷There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright; then your sheaves gathered around it, and bowed down to my sheaf.' ⁸His brothers said to him, 'Are you indeed to reign over us? Are you indeed to have dominion over us?' So they hated him even more because of his dreams and his words. ¹⁷The man said, 'They have gone away, for I heard them say, "Let us go to Dothan."' So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. ¹⁸They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. ¹⁹They said to one another, 'Here comes this dreamer. ²⁰Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams.' ²¹But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, 'Let us not take his life.' ²²Reuben said to them, 'Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him'—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. ²⁶Then Judah said to his brothers, 'What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? ²⁷Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.' And his brothers agreed. ²⁸When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

²⁹ When Reuben returned to the pit and saw that Joseph was not in the pit, he tore his clothes. ³⁰He returned to his brothers, and said, 'The boy is gone; and I, where can I turn?' ³¹Then they took Joseph's robe, slaughtered a goat, and dipped the robe in the

blood. ³²They had the long robe with sleeves taken to their father, and they said, 'This we have found; see now whether it is your son's robe or not.' ³³He recognized it, and said, 'It is my son's robe! A wild animal has devoured him; Joseph is without doubt torn to pieces.' ³⁴Then Jacob tore his garments, and put sackcloth on his loins, and mourned for his son for many days.

¹⁵ Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, 'What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?' ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, 'Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷"Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you." Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father.' Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, 'We are here as your slaves.' ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, 'Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones.' In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

Sermon

Jealous Dreams

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

Benediction

Postlude

Allemande from Suite # 2 J.S. Bach

Larry Wissink, cello

God is still speaking, welcome to all who are worshipping with us today, in-person and online!

Our Pandemic Commandments

In order to keep our community members safe, please follow these gathering guidelines:

- Thou shalt stay home if you feel sick or have a fever (and catch us on YouTube/Facebook)
- Thou shalt wear a mask (if you need one, just ask!)
- Thou shalt maintain a social distance of 6 feet (even when passing peace)
- Some pews are taped off, to allow space between the seating of households. Please respect the tape, and enter/exit from the side of the pew that is open.
- We have provided hand sanitizer and tissues in the pews, please use carefully as the chemicals are corrosive on wood and other surfaces

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"

Please join us for a time of fellowship following the service on Pierce Lawn. We also offer a virtual zoom coffee hour, hosted by Arlene Redmond at 11:30:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81347810863?pwd=SERMb1LNUZLdHVNc3VMcm5wcEhUT09>

✦ 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.

In Our Prayers

Roshong (Judy Coward's nephew); **Jackie Ajello** (Michele Mount's mother); **Michael Barresi** (Maria's Son); **Jennifer Bittar** (Lorraine 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); **Jacquie 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** (Lorraine Zeiner's friend), Poland: **Zachary Peters** (Jacob Parker-Burgard's cousin), Kuwait: **Steven Roshong** (Judy & Paul Coward's nephew), Germany: **Bob Peters** (Don Parker-Burgard's brother-in-law), Afghanistan: **Samuel Siciliano**, North Carolina: **Jake Terifay**

Thank you for assisting in this morning's worship!

- **Trustee:** Tom Briggs
- **Deacon:** Caleb Nealon
- **Usher:** Christine Wittenauer

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

Priscilla Cunningham ⁽²⁹⁾	John Esposito ⁽³⁰⁾	Vinay Sampson ⁽⁰¹⁾
Katherine Logan ⁽²⁹⁾	Heather Henning ⁽³⁰⁾	Gayle Hammond ⁽⁰²⁾
John Cross ⁽³⁰⁾	Laurel Post ⁽³⁰⁾	Andrew Young ⁽⁰³⁾
Everlee DiMenna ⁽³⁰⁾	Andrea Crosnier ⁽⁰¹⁾	

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):

Chris & Jan Pearson ⁽²⁹⁾ Jim & Donna Gill ⁽³⁰⁾



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.



Worship Bags Since we are resuming indoor worship, I thought it would be a good idea to have some activities that might keep our younger folks engaged during services. We are offering "Worship Bags" for all children and youth from age 4 through 8th Grade! Bags can be colored and personalized and will become their bag, please put their name on it. You will leave the bags in the Narthex and pick it up there each Sunday too. Inside each bag is a Worship Journal with prompts, games, and coloring pages for each week, a "Bendy Jesus" and Stress Balls too. I would even encourage you to bring something that doesn't make noise from home to keep in the bag too! Lastly, if there are any needs for the bags (broken pencil, markers that don't work, etc.) please just let me know by emailing me at debi@mcc-ucc.org. Peace, Debi

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



Fruit of the Spirit Sunday school There will be no in-person gatherings in September. Debi will send some simple 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.



Adult PF is returning to the first and third Sundays of the month. For our October 4 meeting, we'll gather in the overflow parking lot behind Rexford House. More details to come, but you can put October 4 and October 18 on your calendars. For information about Adult PF please contact Don Parker-Burgard. dpburgard@sbcglobal.net



Thursday Morning Bible Study 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 7pm
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



Virtual CROP Walk Sunday, October 18


The Board of Christian Outreach is asking for your help raising funds for Church World Service CROP hunger walk. CROP helps our neighbors locally, nationally and internationally to overcome hunger, poverty, displacement and disaster. In 2019 CROP supported families in 55 countries emphasizing self-sustaining agricultural practices. Now in 2020 the global pandemic has exacerbated an already dire situation for many. In a matter of mere months, the coronavirus has wiped out global gains that took two decades to achieve, leaving an estimated two billion people at risk of abject poverty.

This year instead of gathering at Seaside Park we will walk in our own communities on Oct 18. To date we have a team made up of Julie and Rob McClenathan, Don and Kate Parker-Burgard, Kristina Logan and Jeanette Cardenty. If you would like to join the walk and help raise funds please contact Julie McClenathan 203-261-0360. If you are moved to sponsor a walker please see one of the folks listed above.

Thank you as always for your generosity, Julie McClenathan, Board of Christian Outreach

*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



Community News

Today, from 2-4, the Monroe Playground Foundation is holding an ice cream social fundraiser **on the green**. Bring a picnic blanket or drive through the take-out. Masks and social distancing rules are in effect, rain date is October 4th

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Sept. 27th

Confirmation Dedication

10:00 am Worship
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour
2:00 – 4:00 pm Ice Cream Social (Green)
5:00 pm Senior PF (Newbies cook)
6:00 pm Junior PF

Wed. Sept. 30th

6:30 pm Confirmation Class (Parsonage Porch)

Thurs. Oct. 1st

9:30 am Bible Study

Sat. Oct. 3rd

7:00 pm JR PF - Haunted Hayride

Week of Oct. 4th

World Communion Sunday

10:00 am Worship - First Communion
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour
2:00 – 4:00 pm Ice Cream Social (Green) *Rain Date
4:00 pm Adult PF
5:00 pm Senior PF

Wed. Oct. 7th

6:30 pm Confirmation Class (Parsonage Porch)
7:00 pm Zoom Book Club

Thurs. Oct. 8th

9:30 am Bible Study

Week of Oct. 11th

10:00 am Worship
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour
5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Oct 12th

Closed for Columbus Day

Wed. Oct. 14th

11:00 am Morning Circle
6:30 pm Confirmation Class (Parsonage Porch)

Thurs. Oct. 8th

9:30 am Bible Study
7:00 pm CE

Week of Oct. 18th

Virtual CROP Walk

10:00 am Worship
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour
11:15 am Outreach
12:30 am Trustees
4:00 pm Adult PF
5:00 pm Senior PF
6:00 pm Junior PF - outdoors

Mon. Oct. 19th

3:00 pm St George's Supper
7:30 pm Church Council

Wed. Oct. 21st

6:30 pm Confirmation Class (Parsonage Porch)

Thurs. Oct. 22nd

9:30 am Bible Study

Week of Oct. 25th

10:00 am Worship
10:00 am Faith, Fellowship & Fun
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour
5:00 pm Senior PF
6:00 pm Junior PF -outdoors

Thurs. Oct. 29th

9:30 am Bible Study

Week of Nov. 1st

****DAY LIGHT SAVINGS**

10:00 am Worship -Communion Sunday
4:00 pm Adult PF
5:00 pm Senior PF
6:00 pm Junior PF

Thurs. Nov. 5th

9:30 am Bible Study

Fri. Nov. 6th – Sun. Nov. 8th

Senior PF Retreat, YMCA Camp Hazen

Week of Nov. 8th

10:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Senior PF

Wed. Nov. 11th

11:00 am Morning Circle
6:30 pm Confirmation Class

Thurs. Nov. 12th

9:30 am Bible Study

Week of Nov. 15th

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Outreach

4:00 pm Adult PF

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Nov. 16th

7:30 pm Church Council

Wed. Nov. 18th

6:30 pm Confirmation Class

Thurs. Nov. 19th

9:30 am Bible Study

7:00 pm CE