

April 27, 2025

Second Sunday of Easter

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 Song of the Morning *Edward Elgar, 1889* Larry Wissink, cello

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: Walking along the road

People: Our hearts are burning as we listen and share.

Leader: Standing at the door

People: Our hearts are open to welcome the stranger.

Leader: Sitting at the table

All: Our eyes are opened and we recognize him!

Opening Prayer

Rebecca Cicarelli, Deacon of the Day

***Our Church's Covenant**

inside front cover of hymnal

Children's Message

Students may transition to Sunday School with their teachers.

***Hymn**

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

NCH #252

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

Lord, you are alive, and we find it hard to believe! We've heard the women's testimony, but is it true? We struggle to discuss it, as our thoughts are confused. We long to return to familiar ground. Forgive us for wanting to go back when you move forward. Open your word to us today, not to confirm our beliefs, but to reveal the truth we never saw. Ignite our hearts, open our eyes and minds, and make us eager to follow. Let our welcome be genuine and our community an anchor for your presence. We ask in Jesus' name. 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

How Great Thou Art *arr. Carl Boberg, 1885*

Ed Burke

*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

Luke 24:13-35, pg 964

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

Sermon

It Makes No Sense, Until it Does

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

***Closing Hymn**

Yours Is the Glory, Resurrected One!

NCH #253

Benediction

Postlude

Spring Song

Frank Bridge, 1912

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.



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.

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!



Thank you for assisting in this morning's worship!

Deacon: Rebecca Cicarelli **Usher:** Arlene Redmond **Lay Reader:** Bill Brett
Trustee: Andrew Logan **Counter:** Dave Allen **Web Steward:** Scott Young
Coffee Host: Kathy Allen



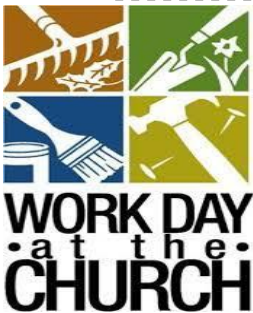
to the following people and to anyone we may have missed, we will keep you in our prayers. (Number is birth date)

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|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Kevin Cuseo ⁽²⁸⁾ | James Hisey ⁽²⁹⁾ | Chuck Schneider ⁽⁰¹⁾ |
| Joseph Konkol ⁽²⁸⁾ | Michelle Correll ⁽³⁰⁾ | Allen Crosnier ⁽⁰²⁾ |
| Jessica Pfalzgraf ⁽²⁸⁾ | Alexa Adams ⁽⁰¹⁾ | Joyce Rousseau ⁽⁰³⁾ |
| Donald Elmendorf ⁽²⁹⁾ | Steve Andrejczyk ⁽⁰¹⁾ | |

May 4th – Welcome Raymond Fellow Guest Preacher Tony Kinery!

Tony Kinery is the Executive Director of Recovery Community Development, a nonprofit organization that creates affordable, supportive housing in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Previously, he served as Executive Director of Pivot Ministries, where he also held roles as Board Member and President. He is the Co-Founder of The Lighthouse in New Canaan, CT, which offers and manages sober living and supportive housing for local residents in need. Tony is a Certified Recovery Advisor with extensive personal, managerial, and operational experience in the field of addiction and recovery.

He was a member of the Congregational Church of New Canaan for 30 years, where he served as a deacon, participated in the missions committee, and contributed to the senior minister search committee. Tony's professional background also includes more than 25 years of financial management experience at firms such as Morgan Stanley, Deutsche Bank, and Credit Suisse. He holds a BA from the University of Connecticut and lives in Westport, Connecticut, with his wife and son. **Welcome Tony!**



Trustees

Spring Cleanup Rain date: Saturday, May 3rd 8:30 – 12

Whether you can give MCC an hour, or a whole morning, please come and help us beautify and maintain our campus!

Outreach



May 4th CROP Walk MCC will be participating in the 2025 CROP Hunger Walk to support CWS and help families who are struggling with hunger. We're asking you to join us - with your steps and your donations - to provide more meals for the growing number of people in our community who need them, and greater food security in communities around the world. **Please join Team Monroe Congregational Church or donate by using the link**

below today! Julie McClenathan
[2025 CROP Hunger Walk - Team Monroe Congregational Church](https://resources.crophungerwalk.org/download/4713/)
<https://resources.crophungerwalk.org/download/4713/>



Feel The Warmth with nOURish Bridgeport! Our crew felt grateful and inspired to cook and serve the Feel the Warmth community hot supper in Bridgeport last month. **Our next opportunity to serve will be on May 15th.** Please look for the signup sheet and join us to bring some hope, laughter and nourishment to neighbors dealing with food insecurity. A typical meal includes making and distributing salad (featuring greens from their hydroponic garden), dessert and a main dish for about 200 folks, serving alongside Sacred Heart students and more seasoned volunteers. Join us! 203-268-0280 with any questions.

The Strawberry Festival will take place on Saturday, June 14 and Sunday, June 15. We'll need everyone's help to make it as successful as last year's. There's plenty to do: strawberry picking at Jones, prep/setup on Friday on campus and kitchen, hulling strawberries, sorting, dipping, children's games, crafter hospitality, face painting, kitchen help, smoothies, meetinghouse greeters, PF bounce house, prize table, Berry Mascot, table clean up and trash collection. Every part of the Strawberry Festival is important and every volunteer's time is greatly appreciated. Please contact Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280 with any questions, comments or concerns.

Fellowship

Morning Circle invites the women of the congregation to join them every second Wednesday of the month (except January, February, July and August). Please contact Shari Carrano at 475-342-8145 with any questions, comments or concerns. Mark your calendars for the following:

Wed., May 14 11AM Dineson Parlor - Women's hygiene products collection
964Wed., Jun 11 12PM - June Picnic Luncheon - Location TBD



Join us for the monthly Book Club on the **3rd Wednesday of the month.** 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



- May 21st** The God of the Woods by Liz Moore Host: TBD
- June 18th** The Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters Host: TBD
- July 16th** Brave New World by Aldous Huxley Host: TBD

Young At Heart will meet at noon on May 22 -details TBA

Faith Formation

TODAY - Snack & Chat with NOOMA The name NOOMA comes from a phonetic spelling of the Greek word πνευμα (pneuma), meaning "wind or spirit". Join us in Dineson Parlor after worship for a series of short films (less than 14 minutes each), snacks and a light discussion about life's big questions – no prep necessary and all are welcome!

TODAY – Flame

Prayer Partners will meet on **Sunday, May 18th at 11:15 AM in Wilton Hall for the "Big Reveal" potluck luncheon.** Contact Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280 if you will be attending.





Junior PF Updates Our junior-high youth group (grades 6-8) meets most Sundays from 5-6:30 in classroom 5, join us!

4/27 Earth Day Service Project – Meet and pickup at Green Hollow Lake (reg time), wear long pants, bug spray and work gloves.

In Our Prayers

Alison Abrams (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Jennifer Bittar** (Loraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney; Lisa Cody and Dave Barton** (friends of Julie and Rob McClenathan); **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); **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); **Kelti** (friend of Liska Gutierrez), **Samia Khoury** (Will Duchon's friend); **Cindy Kovacs; Monica Lynch** (Bethany Dupuis' friend); **Jonathan Malia; Nicole Malia; the Manuzzi Family; Mary** (Kate Brigg's Mother); **Betty McKeown** (Donna Konkol's mother); **Meghan** (Mary Unger's niece); **Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **Olivia Morrison** (Donna Nickdow's niece); **Pat Nugent; Ocampo family** (friends of Liska Gutierrez); **Nancy Olofson; Missy & Gail Olson; Donna Parratt; Dean Perosino** (Gayle Hammond's brother); **Regina Roberts** (Kathy Maiolo's niece); **Alfredo Rodriguez** (Osirus Gutierrez's cousin); **Noah Santiago** (Shari Carrano's great-grandson); **Jill Sapak; Palma Senatore** (Sara Alvarez's grandmother); **Carlos Serrano** (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); **Ed Simonovich** (Nancy Hedine's friend); **Bernie, Lori & Gary Sippin; John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Sheldon & Nancy Smith; Christine Stadler; 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); **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), **Lance Corporal Taylor Smith** (Cheri Irwin's Nephew)

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Sun. April 27th

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am NOOMA

5-6:30 Jr PF Earth Day Service Project,
Great Hollow Lake

5:00 pm Sr. PF

Office Closed April 28 – May 2 (Diane's Vacation)

Tue. April 29th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Thurs. May 1st

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Fri. May 2nd

Women's Retreat at Silver Lake (2nd- 4th)

Week of Sun. May 4th

Guest Preacher, Tony Kiniry

10:00 am Worship

11:30 am Trustees

1:00 pm Crop Walk

5:00 pm Jr & Sr. PF

Mon. May 5th

7:30 pm Outreach (Zoom)

Tue. May 6th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Thurs. May 8th

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

7:30 pm Confirmation

Week of Sun. May 11th

Mother's Day ~ 3rd Grade 1st Communion

10:00 am Worship

Mon. May 12th

7:30 pm Deacons (Zoom)

Tue. May 13th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Thurs. May 15th

9:30 am Bible Study

3:00 pm Feel the Warmth w/nOURish Bpt.

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. May 18th

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Prayer Partner Lunch

5:00 pm Jr & Sr. PF

Mon. May 19th

7:30 pm Council (Zoom)

Tue. May 20th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Thurs. May 22nd

9:30 am Bible Study

12:00 pm Young @ Heart

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

7:30 pm Confirmation

Week of Sun. May 26th

10:00 am Worship

1:00 pm Memorial Day Parade

5:00 pm Sr. PF