

August 10, 2025

Nineth 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

Spring Song

Frank Bridge, 1912

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship from Psalm 138

Leader: I will give thanks to the Holy One with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing praises to you.

People: *On the day I called you answered me.*

Leader: All the rulers, the would be leaders who think they are gods, even they shall one day praise you. They will all sing of your great ways.

People: *Though you are high above everyone and everything, you regard the lowly, and you distance yourself from the arrogant.*

Leader: Though I walk in through danger and troubles, you preserve me.

All: *Let us worship with joy, sing with hope, and celebrate the Mighty God moving among us!*

Opening Prayer

Vinay Sampson, Deacon of the Day

***Our Church's Covenant**

inside front cover of hymnal

Children's Message

***Hymn**

Take My Life, God, Let It Be

NCH #448

*Students may remain with their families; there are worship bags available
and the nursery is open for the littles*

Call to Confession

We are a people in need of grace. Let us come honestly before God, who delights in mercy.

Unison Prayer

Merciful God, we confess that we often rely on our own wisdom and forget your faithfulness. We seek answers but do not pause to listen. We carry worries, but do not place them in your hands. We talk of prayer more than we practice it. Forgive our stubborn hearts. Teach us to rest in your grace, to trust in your promises, and to persist in seeking you. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Hear the promise from Colossians: "When you were dead in trespasses, God made you alive together with Christ, having forgiven all your sins."

***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 Love to Tell the Story *Katherine Hankey/William G. Fischer, 1866*
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

Isaiah 1:1, 10–20, pg 617

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

Sermon

What Does God Want in this Time

Rev. Edward Rawls

*Closing Hymn

I Am Yours, O Lord

NCH #455

Benediction

Postlude

Gigue

J.S. Bach

MCC is grateful for the leadership of the Rev. Ed Rawls this Sunday.

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: Vinay Sampson **Usher:** Mike Pellegrino **Lay Reader:** Rebecca Cicarelli
Trustee: Dave Allen **Counter:** Andrew Logan **Web Steward:** Scott Young
Summer Coffee Host: Julie and Rob McClenathan



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

Wendy Colegrove ⁽¹²⁾

Van Smith ⁽¹²⁾

Franklin Renz ⁽¹³⁾

Amy O'Rourke ⁽¹²⁾

Heather Hisey ⁽¹²⁾

Kelsey Kaminski ⁽¹⁴⁾

Danielle Rooney ⁽¹²⁾

Donna Konkol ⁽¹³⁾

Mary Renz ⁽¹⁵⁾



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. You can 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.monroecg.org)

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/>



Diane is scheduled for vacation on Mondays throughout the summer. Diane will continue to work from home on Wednesdays where she will receive and respond to your voicemail and email messages. Happy Summer!

Fellowship



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.

Aug. 20th *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt

Sept. 17th *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan



Young at Heart will meet on August 28th at noon.

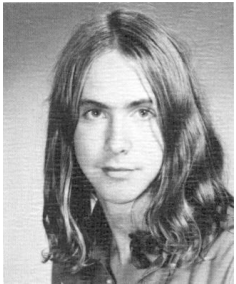
Nostrano Italian Eatery

274 S. Main Street, Newtown (Plaza South, where Himalaya is located)

Please RSVP: Arlene Redmond, (917)370-4711 or arleneredmond@gmail.com
Vaughan Askue, (203)585-9824 or vaughanaskue@gmail.com

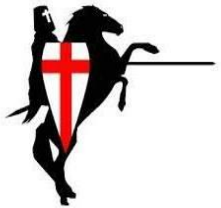
"Guess Who? Then & Now" – A Fun Church Photo Challenge! We're inviting all members to take a stroll down memory lane! As part of our upcoming "Guess Who? Then & Now" event, we ask you to submit **two photos**:

- One from your **teen years** (or a **baby photo** if you're currently a teen), and
- One **recent photo** of yourself.



We'll be displaying the photos— **without names** — on the bulletin board in **Wilton Hall**, where everyone can try to guess who's who! This is a fun way to celebrate our church family through the years, put names to faces, and share a few laughs and memories along the way. Please email your photos to secretary@mcc-ucc.org or drop off physical copies at the church office **by August 31st**. Be sure to label them clearly on the back or in the email (we'll keep the labels hidden during the guessing!). Let's see how well we know each other!

Outreach



St George's Supper –Monday, August 11th: Please join us for sandwich making in the kitchen following worship next Sunday. Please consider a cash donation this month to help us feed our neighbors, look for the basket at coffee hour to contribute. Any amount would be gratefully received. Please memo on checks: "St George's Supper". Contact Stacy at 203-500-1279 with questions. Thank you!

Victorian Fair Saturday, December 6, 2025

10am – 3pm



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 yet to be determined to deliberate and plan for the approaching celebration.

Yours faithfully and most sincerely,

The Victorian Chairs; Arlene, Barbara and Jessica

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); **Mary Jo Brett**; **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); **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); **Ocampo family** (friends of Liska Gutierrez); **Nancy Olofson**; **Missy & Gail Olson**; **Donna Parratt**; **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**; **John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Sheldon & Nancy Smith**; **Christine Stadler**; **Chuck Stearns** (Cheri Irwin's cousin); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Wininger'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), **Corporal Taylor Smith** (Cheri Irwin's Nephew)

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Sun. Aug 10th

Rev. Ed Rawls, Guest Preacher

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Aug 11th

Diane Vacation - Office Closed

3:00 pm St George's Supper

7:30 pm Deacons

Week of Sun. Aug 17th

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Aug 18th

Diane Vacation - Office Closed

Pastor Jenn is on vacation Aug 19-25

Wed. Aug 20th

7:00 pm Book Club

Fri. Aug 22nd

Mustard Seed Shoppe Reopens

Week of Sun. Aug 24th

Rev. Ed Rawls, Guest Preacher

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Aug 25th

Diane Vacation - Office Closed

Tue. Aug 26th

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Aug 28th

12:00 pm Young at Heart

Week of Sun. Aug 31st

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Sept 1st

Labor Day - Office Closed

Tue. Sept 2nd

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Week of Sun. Sept. 7th

10:00 am Worship

11:30 am Trustees

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Sept 8th

7:30 pm Deacons

Tue. Sept 9th

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Sept 10th

11:00 am Morning Circle

Week of Sun. Sept. 14th

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF