

August 17, 2025

**Tenth 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**

Sarabande

J.S. Bach

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles**

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Come, people of God; children and elders, seekers and saints!

*People: Blessing and glory and wisdom belong to our God, now and always!*

Leader: Bring your whole self to the One who is, who was, and who is to come.

*People: Thanksgiving, honor, power, and might be yours, O Creator, Christ, and Spirit!*

Leader: Let every word, every breath, every heartbeat rise as praise.

*All: And when our words run out, may our lives keep singing to the Lord! Amen.*

**Opening Prayer**

Jim Hisey, Deacon of the Day

**\*Our Church's Covenant**

inside front cover of hymnal

**Children's Message**

**\*Hymn**

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

NCH #439

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

**Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer**

*Holy One, you are our source of life, our light, our saving love. We admit that our  
imaginings get stuck in how the world works now, and we believe that's the only way  
it can be. Forgive us for believing the lie that there are no other options, and give us the  
creativity needed to walk the path of peace. Lift our eyes to your endless grace, where a  
crowd gathers to celebrate the only true power; which is your love and goodness. We  
ask all this in the name of Jesus Christ, who leads us to green pastures and living water  
in your new creation. 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

Madrigal *Phillipe Gaubert, 1908*

Bethany Dupuis, flute

*Our offering plate will be passed among us today.  
You may give online at [www.mcc-ucc/donate](http://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

Revelation 6:1-8, 7:9-17 pg. 1120

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

#### Sermon

Between the Horsemen and the Hymn

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

#### \*Closing Hymn

Be Still, My Soul

NCH #488

#### Benediction

#### Postlude

Let All Things Now Living

*Tune:* The Ash Grove (Welsh melody)

Heather Hisey, piano Will Duchon, organ

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**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:** Jim Hisey    **Usher:** Mary Jo & Bill Brett    **Lay Reader:** Heather Hisey  
**Trustee:** Mark Barnhart    **Counter:** Mike Ganino    **Web Steward:** Scott Young  
**Summer Coffee Host:** Mike & Gloria Ganino

**The flowers this morning are given by *Diane Prall*  
in loving memory of her dad, Norm, her dear friend, Susan Walker  
and Don Whiteley on his birthday <sup>(16th)</sup>**



**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](http://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)

Mary Unger <sup>(19)</sup> and Eva Viggiano <sup>(22)</sup>



**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)

Heather & Chris Hisey<sup>(19)</sup> Michelle & Manuel Cardentey<sup>(21)</sup> Kenneth & Nancy Olofson<sup>(22)</sup>

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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

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### **Saturday, Sept 13 — MCC Field Trip to CoSM!**

Join us for a visit to the **Chapel of Sacred Mirrors (CoSM)** in **Wappingers Falls, NY**—an art museum and retreat center showcasing the ongoing work of resident artists **Alex and Allyson Grey**. Check out [www.cosm.org](http://www.cosm.org) for more information. We're looking forward to a meaningful, memorable afternoon together!



- **Carpool Departure:** 11:30 AM (*please arrive a few minutes early*)
- **Cost:** \$20 admission per person to CoSM. Bring money for dinner with the group on the return trip.
- **Sign Up:** Add your name in Wilton Hall, or contact **Pastor Jenn** or **Dave Walker** to join us.



Join us for the monthly Book Club on the **3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:pjsh55@gmail.com) or home phone or 203-452-0850.

Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt

Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan

Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson



**Young at Heart** will meet on **August 28th** at noon at **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](mailto:arleneredmond@gmail.com)

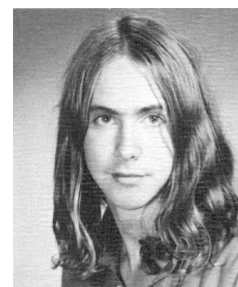
Vaughan Askue, (203)585-9824 or [vaughanaskue@gmail.com](mailto:vaughanaskue@gmail.com)

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**"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](mailto: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!



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**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 VictorianChairs; Arlene, Barbara & Jessica

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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/>



## **In Our Prayers**

**Mary Massar; Josh** (Mary Erdmann's 2nd cousin); **Cliff Smith; 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 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), **Corporal Taylor Smith** (Cheri Irwin's Nephew)

## **MCC Community Calendar**

### **Week of Sun. Aug 17<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Mon. Aug 18<sup>th</sup>**

Diane Vacation - Office Closed

*Pastor Jenn is on vacation Aug 19-25*

### **Wed. Aug 20<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 pm Book Club

### **Fri. Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Mustard Seed Shoppe Reopens

### **Week of Sun. Aug 24<sup>th</sup>**

*Rev. Ed Rawls, Guest Preacher*

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Mon. Aug 25<sup>th</sup>**

*Diane Vacation - Office Closed*

### **Tue. Aug 26<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Thur. Aug 28<sup>th</sup>**

12:00 pm Young at Heart

### **Week of Sun. Aug 31<sup>st</sup>**

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Mon. Sept 1<sup>st</sup>**

Labor Day - Office Closed

### **Tue. Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>**

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Week of Sun. Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Worship

11:30 am Trustees

5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Mon. Sept 8<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 pm Deacons

### **Tue. Sept 9<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Wed. Sept 10<sup>th</sup>**

11:00 am Morning Circle

### **Sat. Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>**

11:30 am Chapel of Sacred Mirrors

### **Week of Sun. Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF