

Monroe Congregational Church is an Open and Affirming congregation. Our deacons and pastor 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. May we be aware of others and feel the Spirit of God.

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Musical Call to Worship

Take Me to The Alley

Gregory Porter, 2016

Take me to the alley
Take me to the afflicted ones
Take me to the lonely ones
That somehow lost their way

Let them hear me say
I am your friend
Come to my table
Rest here in my garden
You will have a pardon

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Silence & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship (based on a prayer by William Walker, 20th century Baptist minister)

Leader: Spirit of God, we have gathered in this place to pray, and to make ourselves ready for your coming. Give us faith, that when you arrive like the wind, though we do not see you, yet we may hear what you are saying to us and discern your movement.

All: Give us courage, that we may not fear the tongues of flame. May we know that it is love that burns so brightly.

Leader: Give us an open mind, Lord, that the truth you bring may make its home with us; truth to set us free, truth to guide us and inform us, truth to lead us in the way of your will.

All: Holy Spirit, with the whole church we wait for you in every place and in every generation. Come to us as we worship.

***Prayer of Preparation**

Jessica Pflazgraf, Deacon of the Day

***UCC Statement of Faith**

Reading #885 in hymnal

***Hymn**

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

NCH #4

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer (from Psalm 51)

Have mercy on us, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Cast us not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation, and uphold us with a willing spirit. Amen. ~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.*

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

Come Sunday

Duke Ellington, 1942

*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**

Sacrament of Holy Communion - Intinction

The communion table is open to all who wish to partake. The cup that we offer is grape juice. If you require gluten free elements, please take from the paper cups on the plate.

Scripture Acts 2:17-18 pg 992, Matthew 28:16-20 pg 909, John 14:18-27 pg 983
If you would like to read along, Bibles may be found underneath the pew in front of you.

Meditation

Rev. Peggy Allen

Communion Hymn (seated)

Draw us in the Spirit’s Tether

NCH #337

Invitation and Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

*Eternal God, you have called your people from east and west and north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ’s presence and for the spiritual food of Christ’s body and blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will. God with us to you home, our communities, and our places of labor and leisure that whether we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice to pray.
Amen.*

***Closing Hymn** Lord, You Give the Great Commission (last page)

***Benediction**

Parting Music Prelude in D J.S. Bach, 1722

**Please rise, in body or in spirit*

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.

COVID-19 Safety: In order to keep our community members safe (*including children under 12, the immune-compromised and those not yet fully vaccinated*), please follow these guidelines:

- Please stay home if you feel sick or have a fever (catch us on YouTube/Facebook)
- Please wear a mask indoors (if you need one, just ask!)
- We have provided hand sanitizer and tissues in the pews, please use carefully as the chemicals are corrosive on wood and other surfaces

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.

Thank you for assisting in this morning's worship!

- **Deacon:** Jessica Pflazgraf
- **Usher:** Christine Wittenauer
- **Trustee:** Frank Wittenauer
- **Counter:** John O'Rourke
- **Coffee Host:** ☒
- **Web Steward:** Scott Young



The flowers this morning are in honor of Joseph and Betsy Gilberti's 25th Wedding Anniversary!

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!

Sign up on our Website HOME page: mcc-ucc.org

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



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

Jeff Vargovchik ⁽⁰⁷⁾

Sophina Gingras ⁽⁰⁸⁾

Amy O'Rourke ⁽¹²⁾

Jenn Nealon ⁽⁰⁸⁾

Isabella Pinto ⁽¹¹⁾

Donna Colgrove ⁽¹³⁾

Anthony Prall ⁽⁰⁸⁾

Wendy Colegrove ⁽¹²⁾

Frank Renz ⁽¹³⁾



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)

Eric & Daniela Gerhard⁽⁰⁷⁾ and Joe & Betsy Gilberti⁽⁰⁹⁾



Diane is schedule for vacation on Mondays throughout the summer.

The church office will be open on Wednesdays & Fridays. Thank you!

Trustees



For the summer, **please do not lock the nursery, kitchen or Dineson parlor doors.** The summer camp is using these rooms and they do not have keys. Thank you, Dave Allen

The **Monroe Summer Day Camp** is renting our MCC campus again this year. The camp will provide added income for the church during the months of June, July and August paying \$550 per week for 65 campers and \$10 more for each additional camper with a cap of 75 campers this year.



Due to camp regulations/safety protocols if you need to enter the building Monday – Friday between 7:30 AM and 5:30 PM we ask that you **please use the walkie-talkie to contact the camp director**, Karen, to alert her of your presence and need to enter the building. **Thank you for your patients and cooperation -it is appreciated.**



Please check in the narthex for glasses, coats, and a sweater, or see Arlene Redmond for more information –thank you!

Christian Education



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! See you in the fall!

Outreach



Your spare change can make a difference in the lives of families who struggle day after day in foreign countries. It adds up and at the end of the year **Morning Circle purchases livestock through Heifer International** that aid a family in becoming self-sufficient and productive. They pass on to others the offspring of their livestock, giving their neighbors the opportunity to produce a lucrative future of their own. So drop your spare change in the collection bottle found on the serving table during coffee hour. Please contact Susie Cuseo

at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280 with any questions or comments.

St George's Supper – Help Slay Hunger - Monday, August 8



Please consider signing up to help us serve those in need. **All items need to be delivered to the MCC kitchen by 3:00 pm on August 8th. *You will need to use the walkie- talkie at the front door to gain access to the building on Monday (see below).** Sandwiches may be placed in the refrigerator. Please contact Stacy at 203-500-1279 if you need to help with sign-up or if you have questions.

Thank you! **Sign up on our Website HOME page: mcc-ucc.org**

Sign up Link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F054AADAF2EA2F85-stgeorges8>

Items needed:

- 10 turkey & cheese wheat bread sandwiches (x3)
- 10 ham & cheese wheat bread sandwiches (x2)
- 12 apples (x4)
- 25 packs of chips or snack pack (x2)
- 25 cereal bars (x2)

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. **Summer sorting, tagging and hanging happens on Tuesdays at 9:30AM.** 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.



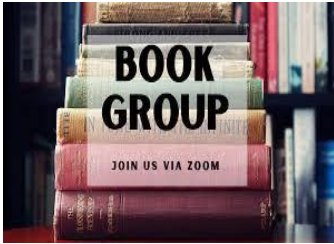
Fellowship

MCC Summertime Coffee Hour Hosts



Are you interested in providing refreshments for our church members and friends following Sunday worship! All you need to do is arrive at the kitchen by 9:45 to get the coffee going (instructions found on kitchen wall). Providing baked goods or other snacks are always welcome (but not mandatory). Please review the available slots on our SignUpGenius website link below and click on the date you would like to sign up for. There are slots for 2 people per Sunday (although one can do it, it's fun to serve with a friend). If you don't have access to a computer you can sign up in Wilton Hall or just call Diane in the office and she will help you get signed up - Thank you! **Sign up on our Website HOME page: mcc-ucc.org**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c48adac2ca5fec61-mccsummertime>



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.

Monday, August 15th, 7 pm - The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes, Host: Kristina Logan
 Wednesday, September 21, The Lost Apothecary by Sarah Penner
 Wednesday, October 19, The Rose Code by Kate Quinn
 Wednesday, November 16, The Pull of the Stars by Emma Donoghue
 Wednesday, December 21, Woman on Fire by Lisa Barr
 Wednesday, January 18, The Midnight Library by Matt Haig



Young At Heart

Next luncheon will be on Thursday, **August 25th at 12 pm**



Morning Circle will not meet in August. Our first meeting of the program year will be on Wednesday, September 14th at 11AM in Dineson Parlor. We will have guest speaker Ray Giovanni from Union Savings Bank to talk about scams affecting the local area. Please bring a donation for the Food Pantry and a sandwich while we hold our short business meeting. Contact Jackie Bleakney at 203-268-5275 with any questions.



Prayer Partners Prayer Partner Signups!! Do you know what a Prayer Partner is? It's easy to do. Signup in Wilton Hall from the end of August through September, you'll get a letter in the mail with the information of the person you will keep in your prayers, mail them a note or card signed "Your Prayer Partner" while using

the church's address (34 Church St. Monroe, CT 06468) as the return, find them during service to pass the peace, strike up a conversation with them over coffee or tea and then in May 2023 come to the "Big Reveal" potluck luncheon to find out who's been praying for whom. Please contact Susie Cuseo with any questions or comments at 203-268-0280 or thecuseos@yahoo.com.



Signups coming soon

In Our Prayers

Susan Walker; Michael **Barresi** (Maria's Son); **Jennifer Bittar** (Loraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney**; **Byron Brown & Bruce Bryant** (friends of Will Duchon); **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); **Jacque 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); **Bert Muizullis**; **Kathy Nivison** (Andy's mother); **Pat Nugent**; **Ocampo family** (friends of Liska Gutierrez); **Missy Olson**; **Osborne** (Colegrove's Family friend); **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); **Susan Walker**; **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.

Welcome sabbatical supply pastor, Rev. Peggy Allen!

Week of Sun. Aug 7th

10:00 am Worship

Mon. Aug 8st

Diane Vacation -Office Closed

Tue. Aug 9th

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Week of Sun. Aug 14th

10:00 am Worship

Mon. Aug 15th

Diane Vacation -Office Closed
7:00 pm Book Club (Zoom)

Tue. Aug 16th

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Aug 17th

5:30 pm Trustees' Meeting –Maria's

Fri. Aug 19th

5:30 pm Council Planning Meeting –Arlene's

Week of Sun. Aug 21st

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Aug 22nd

Diane Vacation -Office Closed

Tue. Aug 23rd

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thur. Aug 25th

12:00 pm Young At Heart

Week of Sun. Aug 28th

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Aug 29th

Diane Vacation -Office Closed

Tue. Aug 30th

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Aug 31st

7:00 pm Fellowship Meeting

Week of Sun. Sept 4th

10:00 am Worship

Mon. Sept 5th

Labor Day -Office Closed

Tue. Sept 6th

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Week of Sun. Sept 11th

10:00 am Worship

Mon. Sept 12th

Labor Day -Office Closed

7:45 pm Deacon's Meeting

Tue. Sept 13th

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Sept 14th

11:00 am Morning Circle

7:00 pm Book Club (Zoom)

Music Insert "Lord, You Give the Great Commission"