

34 Church Street
Monroe, CT 06468
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www.mcc-ucc.org

Office Hours:
Mon. 9am – 5:30pm
Wed. (remotely) 8am - 6pm
Fri. 9am – 3:30pm

Senior Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Gingras
Music Director: Will Duchon
Administrator/Bookkeeper: Diane Prall
CE Coordinator: Jeanette Cardentey-Morales
Church e-mail: secretary@mcc-ucc.org



THE MONROE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE STEEPLE

Find us on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/monroecongregationalchurchucc>

December 1, 2022



I can vividly remember a conversation between my 13-year-old adolescent self and my mother on the way to church one wintry morning. I asked her, “Mom, what if I don’t want to be a Christian?” (a protest undoubtedly influenced by my teenage desire to sleep in).

Fortunately, my mother didn’t take the bait. Instead, she told me how the story of God changed her life. She told me how she couldn’t imagine her world without the church. She told me how she deeply believed in a better day, and how she felt called to be a part of that.

From the back seat of the car, I could tell that she was serious. Her joy, her hope, her conviction—they were so pure and authentic they left a lasting impression on me. It was a “generation to generation” moment. The Christmas story, of a love that came here, walked among us, that was born in a humble manger to uncertain parents with shepherds nearby, is one we pass from generation to generation, because it continues to change us. It reframes the way we hope, centers the way we love and shapes the way we live.

A line from Mary’s song tells us: *Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. (Luke 1:48b-50)*

Despite the challenges and vulnerabilities she faced, Mary glimpsed the scale and scope of the good news she was helping bring forth. This good news transcends time and space—it was and is bigger than just her. *Christ is coming: God’s redemption is at work for years to come.*

This promise is meant to be lived out and passed on from generation to generation. What are we being called to generate or bring forth? What have your ancestors and those who have come before you passed on to you? Who are the spiritual elders in our community who planted the seeds for the things that are now blooming? What seeds are you planting for the future?

Our lives, histories, actions, and stories are interconnected and woven together. The work of God is always unfolding— in and through us. In the midst of all that is

designed to divide us, what does it look like to practice belonging to one another? This Advent season, how will we carry it forth?

You are invited to come and be a part of the story that has spread like wildfire from generation to generation. Let us remember the generations from Abraham to Jesus who waited for that promised day. And let our generation be so influenced in joy and love that future ones can't help but pay attention. This Advent, let us tell the story of good news—from generation to generation. *Peace to you and yours,*
Pastor Jenn

About the Art: *Genealogy of Christ*, by Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Matthew 1:1-17 "In this image, I chose to represent Christ using a rose at the center of the composition. The women mentioned in the genealogy are imaged as foundational leaves building and upholding Christ. In the bottom left, Tamar holds her father-in-law's insignia, which represents how she assumes his role as the leader of the tribe of Judah and continues its lineage. Moving counterclockwise, Rahab holds the red cord which she lowered to ensure the safety of her family after supplying Israelite spies enough information to achieve victory in Jericho. Next, Ruth holds the wheat that she gleaned from the field. She knows that she must marry again in order to be protected, and so she takes initiative with Boaz. Bathesheba's name isn't even mentioned in Christ's genealogy; she is referred to as the "wife of Uriah." She withstands abuse from King David, survives the murder of her husband, and ensures that her son Solomon takes the throne. Finally, there is Mary who looks adoringly at the rose which represents her son. Here she holds the love and pride of a beautiful lineage that leads to the birth of her son, the Messiah."

Trustees

Our God is a generous God: One who has been revealed in Jesus as the one who deeply loves us. Our God is a God of invitation: one who invites us on a faithful path of transformation that changes us, and through us... the world. In the coming weeks, you will hear stories about how we are responding to God's invitation to bring our gifts. As we reflect on our peers' testimonies, consider that now is a time of great possibility for our congregation and the future of our mission.



If you haven't done so already, please complete and return an estimate of giving card for 2023 in the plate or through the mail, or send your pledge via email to jorourke224@gmail.com. **We are currently at 52 pledges for a total of 149,290. Our 2023 goal is \$200,000.**

Thank you for prayerfully considering how to financially support the Monroe Congregational Church in 2023!

~ Your Stewardship Committee, John O'Rourke (Receiver), Diane Prall, Rev. Jenn Gingras



Annual Reports are due Tuesday, December 6th

Please submit your annual report to the church office by Tuesday, December 6th

Please call the church office with any questions:

268-9327 or email secretary@MCC-UCC.org

Annual Meeting January 29

Many thanks to our church members and friends who worked together to make our Fall Workday a success! Volunteers ranging in age from 7 to 92 raked leaves, trimmed hedges, cleaned gutters, changed bulbs and touched up the paint on the doors in Rexford House, cleaned the Meeting House and painted the feet of the pews.

It's wonderful that MCC is returning to pre-Covid activities!! Just a reminder to those using the kitchen please sanitize the counters before preparing food; please do not leave any leftovers in the refrigerator. We ask that those using Rexford House for any activity please turn the thermostats down to 50 degrees, turn off the lights, empty the garbage, and ensure that all doors are closed and locked.

Gratefully yours,

MCC Board of Trustees



If you helped out trimming shrubs please check that you have your clippers. If not, they are on the bench outside the office!

Deacons



Join us on **Christmas Eve** at the Monroe Congregational Church!

All services in person and livestreamed. Masks are necessary indoors, there are no sign-ups this year.

- 4 pm Quiet Contemplative Service
- 7 pm Christmas Eve Worship for All Ages
- 11 pm Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols

Please see Jessica Pfalzgraf about **volunteering as a Deacon or an Usher. Your service to MCC is appreciated!**

Jessica (203)414-6874
jspfalzgraf@gmail.com

Ways you can SERVE



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

Weekly Bible Study Thursday 9:30-11am

We cordially invite you to join us each week in in Dineson Parlor as we gather together to learn with and through one another. Bring your favorite Bible (whatever version you prefer) and a small notebook.



Christmas on the Screen: Reviewing the Evolution of American Spirituality

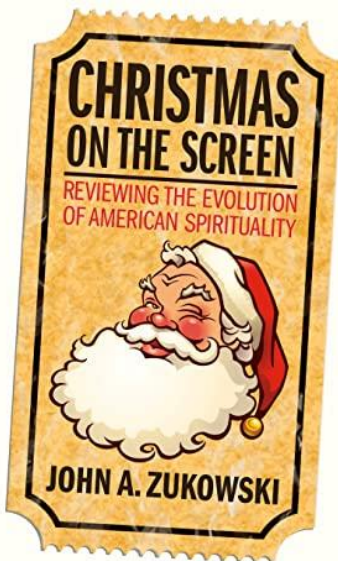
From *Miracle on 34th Street* to *Love Actually*, generations of Christmas films tell us about American spirituality and social values. Join Pastor Jenn for one or more zoom sessions, as we tour some popular seasonal films, and ask the question, "What does Christmas mean to us?" The only preparation is to watch or re-familiarize yourself with the featured films prior to our discussion.*

8 PM Tuesday, December 6: *Second Wave*, the 60's; Rankin Bass and *Chronicle of the Counterculture*; *Rudolph, Santa Claus is Coming to Town* and *The Year Without A Santa Claus*

8 PM Tuesday, December 13: *Third Wave*, post 80's; *Embracing Materialism and Accepting Dysfunctional Families*; *A Christmas Story*, *Christmas Vacation* and *Home Alone*

*For a deeper understanding, download or purchase a copy of the book which was written by John A. Zukowski.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2038955607?pwd=bWxMMDRXN3d6emJNZ2JsVzlsTFp3dz09>





A **Christmas Poinsettia order form** can be found on the **last page of your Steeple!** The cost is \$25.00 each. **All orders must be received no later than Monday, December 12** to ensure delivery by December 24th and inclusion in the bulletin dedication. Please make your check payable to Monroe Congregational Church with "poinsettia" in the memo line. The check may be dropped off in the brass mail box outside of the office, put in the offering plate, or mailed to the church. You can also donate through our website at <https://www.mcc-ucc.org/donate.html> Choose OTHER and memo poinsettias



A Note From Our Moderator

November 2022

Dear MCC Family:

Happy Thanksgiving-time...

We all reflect at this time of year on what we are grateful for. A good practice is to reflect on that every day! And to thank God for those things. That cheers us up, even if we have holiday blues.

As you know, we traditionally recognize our very hardworking staff at this time of year. We show our gratitude through a year-end holiday gift to our talented staff -- Pastor Jenn, Will Duchon, Diane Prall and Jeanette Cardentey-Morales.

They continue to offer us their unique talents in a time of extended stress and uncertainty, making MCC the wonderful place of worship and community that it is.

Your gift in *ANY AMOUNT* will combine with others and will help show our appreciation for all Jenn, Will, Diane, and Jeanette have done for every one of us – often behind the scenes, behind the pulpit, behind the desk, in front of the young people...

Please consider a contribution in any amount as a gesture of support for this outstanding team.

1. **Online is the best way**, because it's hassle-free and it's done right away!
 - a. Go to the MCC website "Donate" page (<http://www.mcc-ucc.org/donate.html>)
 - b. Click [To Donate through VANCO, Click Here](#).
 - i. If you don't have a login and profile set up already, it's easy and you can use it for your pledge or other donations to MCC.
 - ii. Scroll down to the "Other" block and then follow the prompts.
 - c. Write **2022 STAFF GIFT** in the **Notes** box so we know what it's for.
2. **By check:** Write your check to MCC and write **2022 Staff Gift** in the memo line.
 - a. You can *mail* that to Receiver, MCC, 34 Church St., Monroe, CT, 06468,
 - b. Or *drop it off* in the office in the Receiver mailbox.
 - c. Or *put it in the collection plate* on Sunday (be sure to indicate "**2022 Staff Gift**").

This week is a good time to do it, before we get even more busy than we already are!

We will recognize the team with an announcement at our Christmas Coffee Hour (December 18th) – one of the nicest, warmest events of the year.

May the peace of the Advent and Christmas season be with you,

Arlene Redmond, Moderator



Faith Formation



Dec 4 - Regularly Scheduled Sunday School
 Dec 11 - Pageant Rehearsal
 Dec 18 - Pageant
 Dec 25 - No Sunday School
 Jan 1 - No Sunday School



JR PF Schedule

Our junior-high youth group (grades 6-8) meets every Sunday from 5-6:30 in classroom 5, join us!

| | |
|--------|------------------------------------|
| Dec 3 | Christmas Shopping Outing |
| Dec 11 | Christmas Pageant Rehearsal |
| Dec 18 | Christmas Pageant & Epiphany Party |
| Dec 25 | No PF |
| Jan 1 | No PF |



Schedule:

Our senior-high youth group meets most Sundays from 5-7:30 in Dineson Parlor, join us!

| | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| 11/27/2022 | Classic PF (college kids welcome) |
| 12/2-4/2022 | Retreat – Camp Hazen (no Sunday mtg) |
| 12/12/2022 | Caroling in the Community |
| 12/18/2022 | Classic PF (college kids welcome) |
| 12/25/2022 | No PF – Merry Christmas!!! |
| | |



Camp Hazen

**Senior PF Retreat at
Camp Hazen**

Friday, Dec. 2 – Sunday, Dec. 4



*Pre-Order your
Christmas Wreathes
from Senior PF*

See us at Coffee Hour!

\$15 for 12", \$20 for 16", bows \$2

*Wreathes locally sourced from Jones Farm,
should be ready for pickup by Dec 1.*

Please make checks to MCC Sr PF

Memo: Wreath Sale

*Visit the Advent
table at Coffee Hour*

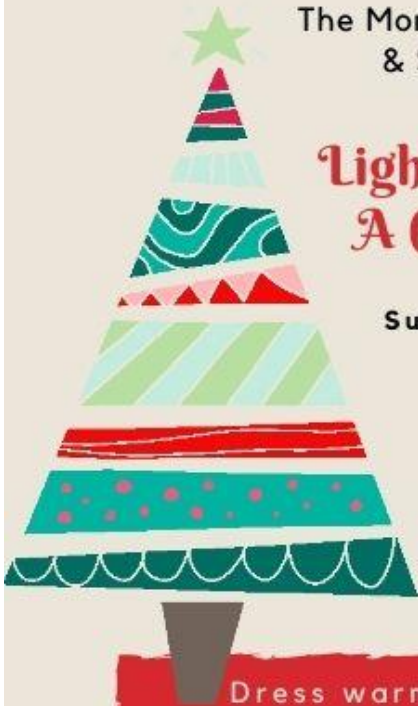
Courtesy of CE, we have the
following items for home
observance:

- Advent candle set
- Devotional
- Calendar



Hope

Fellowship



The Monroe Congregational Church, UCC
& St. Peter's Episcopal Church
cordially invite you to:

Lighting the Christmas Tree: A Community Celebration

Sunday, December 4, 2022 • 5 PM
Monroe Centre Green



Dress warmly, bring a flashlight,
and join us after for cocoa and
cookies in the undercroft of
St. Peter's Episcopal Church

Special Christmas Coffee Hour

December 18, 11 am Wilton Hall

Join us for a special Christmas coffee hour, to
share some fellowship and holiday cheer! If
you are able to bring a something to share,
please drop it off in the kitchen between
9-9:45 that morning, thank you!





Young At Heart will not meet in December –Merry Christmas!



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.

Wed., December 21 rescheduled for January 18, The Midnight Library by Matt Haig Host: Gayle Hammond

Women's
RETREAT
at Silver Lake



Friday, April 14 -
Sunday April 16

Save the Date!



Christmas Luncheon

Morning Circle invites all the women of the congregation to join them at **My Place in Newtown** for their last meeting of the year for their annual Christmas luncheon on **Wednesday, December 14th**. We will carpool at the MCC parking lot at **11:45AM for a 12PM reservation. Please contact Jackie Bleakney at 203-268-5275 if you plan to attend.** Many thanks to everyone who picked gift tag(s) for the Giving Tree program where many recipients will be grateful for your generosity and kindness during this holiday season. On behalf of the members of Morning Circle have a wonderful and safe Christmas filled with loved ones and cherished memories. We will not meet in January or February. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, March 8th at 11AM in Dineson Parlor.



Prayer Partners and Advent - I hope that you are keeping your partner in your thoughts as we are in the midst of Advent. The flock letter that you received in the mail contained an Advent calendar that will help you connect with family, friends and prayer partners. Use this calendar every day to give you some peace of mind while putting together your nativity scene.

So much is happening at MCC: Tree Lighting, Special Coffee Hour, Christmas pageant, Advent study on Zoom and hot cocoa+ on Christmas and New Year's after service for coffee hour. Remember that you can send a card or note for the holiday to your partner signed as "Your Prayer Partner" using the church's address (34 Church St, Monroe CT 06468) as the return.

We will meet in May 2023 for our "Big Reveal" potluck luncheon in Wilton Hall. Please contact Susie Cuseo with any questions at 203-268-0280 or thecuseos@yahoo.com.

Outreach

Thanksgiving Baskets



A HUGE heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated so generously to the **MCC Covenant to Care Thanksgiving Basket Fundraiser!** Thanks to you, MCC provided a record breaking **27 Thanksgiving food baskets to families facing difficult times.** Your donation is greatly appreciated by me, our large group of DCF social workers, and the families you provided a meal for on Thanksgiving Day. Thank you for your support!
Diane Prall – MCC Liaison to *Covenant to Care*



Samantha Heltke, CAFAF Advocacy and Support Services Regional Liaison, and Diane Prall, Monroe Congregational Church Liaison to Covenant to Care, loading Samantha's SUV with your generous donations of Thanksgiving dinners! Check out CAFAF <https://cafafct.org/>

THANK YOU

Diane & Monroe Congregational
Church,

You made such a difference,
and it is so deeply appreciated.



Thank you so much for
the generous donation of
Thanksgiving packages for
those in need (our foster families)
in our community! We are so
truly blessed to have caring
people such as yourselves to make
this holiday a special and
memorable one! Thank you & happy
Thanksgiving!

- Sam Helke (CAFAF)

Our families are
very thankful for this.

Thank you for
making a difference

in the lives of our children
& their families ☺



**Thank
you!**

What a fun night of *Pasta & BINGO* for *Project Warmth*! Together, we raised over \$1,400 to help our neighbors stay warm this winter!

**ALL I WANT FOR
CHRISTMAS IS ...**
A Better World



Christmas is coming!

What can you get the person who has everything?

Heifer International helps struggling families learn to sustain themselves with the use of animals and plants. The addition of their animal offspring and the fruit of the plants help other families make a living in order to survive. Your spare change provides the donation that supports those in need worldwide. Make your change the change for the better for families who need it the most. Contact Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280 with any questions or comments.



Covenant to Care Christmas Gift Collection!

It's a new year and we have a whole new system! MCC is such an awesome, generous resource that we have been assigned to support several social workers lead by our new CAFAF (Connecticut Alliance of Foster & Adoptive Families) social worker, Samantha Heltke. Samantha's case workers will meet at her office and "shop" the donated gifts for the ones that are a good fit for the children on their case load.

We will no longer need to wrap the gifts. Easy peasy! Just **purchase as many gifts as you like and bring them (unwrapped) to the church office by Thursday, Dec. 15th!**

No Time to Shop –No Problem! Monetary gifts are also appreciated. Please make checks payable to MCC and Memo: C2C XMas

As always, thank you for your loyal and outstanding support of Covenant to Care, Diane Prall - Covenant to Care Liaison
Check out CAFAF <https://cafafct.org/>



St George's Supper – Slay Hunger! Monday, December 12

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)

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

December 12th. Sandwiches may be placed in the refrigerator. Please contact Stacy at 203-500-1279 if have questions. Thank you!

This year we are **collecting "like new", warm, winter coats, men's size large! Please deliver to the MCC kitchen before 3 pm on Mon., Dec 12th** -thank you!





Strawberry Jam for Christmas!

Christmas is just around the corner, and you have no idea what to get your child's teacher, coach, co-worker or boss. Here's a wonderful solution: Strawberry Festival jam at \$6/jar or \$10 for two. Susie Cuseo will be at a table in Wilton Hall during coffee hour on Dec 11. We have Strawberry, Strawberry Jalapeno and a small assortment of other mixed flavors.

Add a **JR PF fundraiser JAM GIFT BAG** and you have an awesome host/hostess gift, stocking stuffer, grab bag, or gift basket addition –the possibilities are endless! (Look for the JR PF table at coffee Hour!)

Congratulations to the Malia family on the Thanksgiving day birth of Elliott Malia, child of Mark IV and Kristin, grandchild of Mark and Joanne. Elliott was born weighing 6lbs 8 oz. and 19^{1/2} inches long. Welcome little one!



The office will be open

Mondays, 9 – 5:30 PM

Fridays, 9 - 3:30 PM

Diane will be working remotely on

Wednesdays, 8 AM - 6 PM

She will still be able to receive and respond your voice mails and emails on Wednesdays. Please be aware, there are church tasks that require Diane to leave the office. Please call ahead to be sure she is on site if you need her assistance. Thank you!

The Walker Family extend their heartfelt thanks to all who joined us on October 29 for the Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving for Susan Walker. We're especially grateful to all those who contributed their time and effort to the music, streaming video, flowers, food and hospitality at the reception (lots of work!), and welcoming and ushering guests into the meeting house. Many visitors told us they were moved by the earnest welcome and genuine enthusiasm they found at MCC. Thank you all for being present to celebrate and help transform this sorrow into joy.

*A heartfelt
Thank You* ❤️

Dear MCC Member:

As you may recall from the January 2022 annual meeting or from a subsequent Steeple article, a small group of us have been working on the MCC Constitution. The constitution revision team is Michelle Cardentey, Paster Jenn Gingras, Jessica Pfalzgraf, Gary Thompson and Arlene Redmond.

We had noticed quite a few discrepancies between what say we do and what we were actually doing; also, we wanted to simplify the language. The attached 2023 Proposed MCC Constitution is for your consideration and input. We will have a **congregational meeting** after worship on **January 8th** to get your input. We will vote on the final on **January 29, 2023** at the **Annual Meeting**.

As part of our process, we checked in with some of you on practices. Also, the chairs of the five boards have reviewed it and given input. The five major boards are Deacons, Trustees, Outreach, Christian Education and Fellowship.

We decided to reinstate an earlier practice at MCC where we had bylaws to get into the nitty gritty procedural matters in addition to a broader, more stable constitution that is more foundational, as per the quote below from the UCC website.

From the United Church of Christ Website:

"Churches find it helpful regularly and systematically to review and revise their constitution and bylaws to conform to and complement the mission strategy, size, abilities and commitments of the present congregation... Most churches have a constitution that states the mission and general governing rules. The bylaws, which often are more easily amended, have more specifics."

This proposed constitution is a new constitution as it is the result of a major revision. It will replace the 2017 version. The proposed 2023 MCC Constitution**:

1. Is friendlier.
2. Uses language that is updated, modernized, and clear.
3. Is easier to read.
4. Is understandable to a modern audience.
5. Is simpler.
6. Better reflects current practices.

In addition:

7. A lot of the "guts" have been moved to Bylaws which are "*subordinate rules adopted by the church to augment the Constitution.*" The Constitution "*is the broader body of mutually agreed upon principles and purposeful structure that govern the affairs and action of the church*" (from the UCC website).
8. Discrepancies between what we really do vs. what the Constitution says we do have been eliminated or narrowed.
9. Amendments have been *incorporated* into the new revised version, as per Article XIII (2023). If this constitution (2023) is amended prior to the next major revision, an amendment would be listed at the end until it could be incorporated.

Numbers 1 through 9 above are the reasons we undertook this revision: to eliminate discrepancies between what we do and what the Constitution says, to make it more readable, to make it more relevant and unified as a document.

What is **not** changed:

1. Underlying faith.
2. Our Covenant (UCC Statement of Faith is not ours to change).
3. Articles and Sections.
4. Purpose.
5. Intent.
6. Principles.

7. General practices.

8. Church structure.

Copies of the proposed constitution, proposed bylaws, and the current constitution, have been previously emailed for reference. You can also get a copy from the information rack outside of the church office. Please review and let us know your input.

Thank you and peace, Arlene Redmond, Moderator

Elisha's Corner

By Gary Thompson, Church Historian

Dedication of This Olde House – 1847

This has been a year for anniversaries. The fifteenth anniversary of Pastor Jenn's pastorate at MCC; the fiftieth anniversary of the modern day Strawberry Festival; the one hundredth anniversary of our incorporation as the Monroe Congregational Church, thus dissolving the Ecclesiastical Society; and the one hundred fiftieth anniversary of the purchase of the Monroe Centre Green with St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Now there is just one more. One hundred seventy-five years ago on Wednesday, December 15, 1847, our current Meeting House (less its expansion) was formally dedicated. The following was transcribed from the New Stratford Ecclesiastical Society Book of Records regarding the building and the dedication of our current Meeting House:

Miscellaneous Notices

Transferred from page 273 by Rev. Robert Dexter Gardner, June 28, 1847.

The Presbyterian or Congregational Meetinghouse in this town was raised June 21 & 22, 1769.

In 1824 the Meeting house was new roofed.

In 1826 the Meeting house was covered anew by donations received through the hands of Rev. Chauncey G. Lee. The house was last occupied for public worship June 13, 1847.

The second house of worship was raised July 20, 1847. It was dedicated to the worship of God Dec. 15, 1847, with religious service as follows.

Invocation and reading of the Scriptures by Rev. C.T. Prentice of Easton – portions from Kings Chap. 4, and Psalm 24.

Singing – Anthem "The Earth Is the Lords" & Ps. 24.

Prayer by Rev. T. Punderson of Huntington.

Singing Hymn, "When Here, O Lord, We Seek Thy Face" & Sermon and Dedicatory prayer by Rev. R.D. Gardner, the Pastor of the Church, from Ephesians 2:20, 21.

Singing, Anthem "How Beautiful Upon the Mountain", & Concluding prayer by Rev. J. Atwater of Newtown.

Singing Ps. 117, "From All That Dwell Below the Skies" & with Doxology to God the father, & Benediction by the Pastor.

The same entry records that, "New church built this year at expense of \$2,650", which converts to \$90,100 in today's currency value. This olde house has seen its changes. It is a bit bigger, the side balconies, pew doors, gas lighting, and stained glass windows, have long departed. A cross and flags now adorn the newer chancel. But the original bell from our first Meeting House still peels the "call to worship" to a still devoted congregation of faith, hope, and love that does justice, loves kindness, and walks humbly with the Lord our God. It is rededicated every Sunday.



Happy December Birthday to the following people
and to anyone we may have missed we will keep you in our prayers.

| | | | | | |
|----------|------------|-------|-------------|--------------|-------|
| Frank | Wittenauer | 12/02 | Connor | Halloran | 12/18 |
| Jeremy | Young | 12/03 | Jennifer | Halloran | 12/18 |
| Matthew | Colegrove | 12/06 | Lynda | Bauer | 12/21 |
| Larry | Wissink | 12/06 | Trevor | Rooney | 12/22 |
| Bill | Allen | 12/11 | Donna | Parratt | 12/23 |
| Lisa | Burke | 12/11 | Ashley | Prall-Lauren | 12/23 |
| Kiersten | Rooney | 12/11 | Holly | Hallgren | 12/24 |
| Judy | Elmendorf | 12/13 | Dana | Firmender | 12/24 |
| Daniela | Gerhard | 12/13 | Christopher | McHugh | 12/24 |
| James | Perrone | 12/13 | Kirsten | Crosnier | 12/27 |
| Kathryn | Maiolo | 12/14 | John | O'Rourke | 12/27 |
| Paulette | Obertz | 12/14 | Leanne | McEvoy | 12/28 |
| Ryan | Firmender | 12/15 | Maria | Barresi | 12/31 |
| Tom | Briggs | 12/17 | Janet | Haringa | 12/31 |
| | | | John | Telep | 12/31 |

**Congratulations to Peter Hallgren and Holly Owens
who will be married on December 22!**



Happy December Wedding Anniversary the following
couples and to anyone we may have missed, we will keep
you in our prayers. (Number is anniversary date)

Richard & Lynn Draus⁽⁰⁴⁾ John & Cindy O'Rourke⁽⁰⁷⁾
Judy & Donald Elmendorf⁽¹⁶⁾ Linda & David Rooney⁽¹⁷⁾
Jonathan & Vida Stone⁽²²⁾ & Vinay & Elizabeth Sampson⁽²⁹⁾

December MCC Community Calendar

Thurs. Dec 1st

9:30 am Bible Study
5:45 pm Chime Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Fri. Dec. 2-4

Sr PF Retreat - Camp Hazen

Week of Sun. Dec 4th

Second Sunday of Advent
Communion - Intinction
10:00 am Worship - Rev. Carra McFadden
5:00 pm Tree Lighting on the Green

Tue. Dec 6th

Annual Reports Due to Office
1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag
8 pm Christmas on the Screen (Zoom)

Wed. Dec 7th

7:00 pm Confirmation

Thurs. Dec 8th

9:30 am Bible Study
5:45 pm Chime Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Dec 11th

Third Sunday of Advent
10:00 am Worship
11:30 Trustees Meeting
5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF (Caroling)

Mon. Dec 12th

Deadline to order Poinsettias!
3:00 pm St George's Supper

Tue. Dec 13th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag
8 pm Christmas on the Screen (Zoom)

Wed. Dec 14th

11:00 am Morning Circle
7:00 pm Confirmation
7:00 pm Book Club Zoom

Thurs. Dec 15th

9:30 am Bible Study
5:45 pm Chime Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Dec 18th

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Pageant Service
Special Christmas Coffee Hour
10:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

Mon. Dec 19th

7:30 pm Council Meeting

Tue. Dec 20th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thurs. Dec 22nd

5:45 pm Chime Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Sat. Dec 24th

Christmas Eve Services
4 pm Quiet Contemplative Service
7 pm Christmas Eve Worship for All Ages
11 pm Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols

Week of Sun. Dec 25th

Christmas Day
10:00 am Worship

Mon. Dec 26th

Christmas Holiday -office Closed

Tue. Dec 27th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thurs. Dec 29th

9:30 am Bible Study
5:45 pm Chime Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Sat. Dec 31th

New Year's Eve

Week of Sun. Jan 1st

New Year's Day
10:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Jan 2nd

New Year's Day Observed -office Closed



Christmas Poinsettia Order Form



| Quantity | Cost Each | Total Cost |
|----------|-----------|------------|
| | \$ 25.00 | |

Given by (PRINT your name): _____

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Celebration of: _____

Other: _____



Orders must be placed no later than Monday, Dec. 12th, 2022 to ensure delivery by December 24th and inclusion in the bulletin dedication. Please make your check payable to Monroe Congregational Church with "poinsettia" in the memo line. The check may be dropped off in the brass mail box outside of the office, put in the offering plate, or mailed to the church. You can also donate through our website at mcc-ucc.org/donate.html Choose OTHER and **memo poinsettias**



Thank you and have a blessed holiday!