

December 7, 2025

**Second Sunday of Advent: Peace
Communion, Christmas Play**

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*

+++++

Gathering Music

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Peace

Senior Pilgrim Fellowship

Unison Prayer

*We light this candle for Peace. In a world of noise and worry, Christ breathes calm
into our hearts. May this light steady us and make us instruments of God's peace.
Amen!*

Musical Response (seated, to the tune of *In the Bleak Midwinter*)

*Kindle Advent candles. Peace will be restored.
Clashes serve the schemers: Victims' cries ignored.
Scars appear around us. Can they ever heal?
We must walk a new path: Make peace real.*

The Story Told: Mr. Gruber's Silent Night - An original play by William Brett, depicting
the story of how the Christmas Carol "Silent Night" came to be. (insert)

Students may transition to Sunday School with their teachers.

***Hymn**

Isaiah the Prophet Has Written of Old

NCH #108

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

*You know, O God, where life can grow, where peace can take root, and how our
scattered pieces fit together. Yet we admit we struggle to believe it. We see so much
that feels hopeless. We choose everything but peace and turn from the path that
leads to life. Forgive us. Breathe new life into us. Gather our many parts and rebuild
your Body. Teach us your way again so we may shine even a small light where hope
once seemed impossible. Re-member us, O God, that we may remember your
promise, true to the ends of the earth and the end of the age.
In the name of the coming One, Jesus the Christ. Amen. (silence)*

Words of Assurance

***Passing 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

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel
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

Communion Hymn (*seated*)

O How Shall I Receive You

NCH #102

Invitation & Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

***Closing Hymn**

Awake, Awake and Greet the New Morn

NCH #107

***Benediction**

Postlude

Lift Up Your Heads

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.

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:** Vinay Sampson
- **Usher:** Mike Pelligrino
- **Trustee:** John O'Rourke
- **Counter:** Scott Young
- **Web Steward:** Scott Young
- **Sunday School Teacher:** Jenna Rice
- **Coffee Host:** Lisa Bauerle

Communion Team #1

Jennifer Wissink, Marc Cardentey,
Vinay Sampson,
Jim Hisey, and Leanne McEvoy



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.monroecongregational.org)



Owen Granello ⁽⁰⁸⁾

Ryan Granello ⁽⁰⁸⁾

Madeline Wissink ⁽¹⁰⁾

Megan Wissink ⁽¹⁰⁾

Bill Allen ⁽¹¹⁾

Ed Burke ⁽¹¹⁾

Kiersten Rooney ⁽¹¹⁾

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



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

Cindy and John O'Rourke ⁽⁰⁷⁾

2026 MCC Stewardship Campaign



Dreaming God's Dream
NO GIFT TOO SMALL, NO DREAM TOO BIG.

In November, we kicked off our annual stewardship campaign, "**Dreaming God's Dream**," a season when we intentionally reflect on how our shared gifts support the ministry and mission of the Monroe Congregational Church. Throughout worship, we've heard stories of how God is working through this congregation—how your generosity helps us serve our neighbors, strengthen our community, and make a real difference in people's lives. Each of us is invited to take part in shaping the church God is calling us to be. This is a season of great possibilities and hope for our future.

So far, 51 households have pledged a total of \$149,038.00 — thank you!

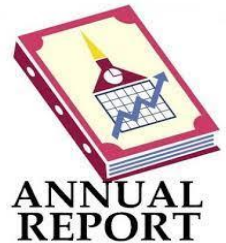
If you haven't yet responded, we hope you will prayerfully consider your 2026 pledge and return your card soon. You may mail it in, place it in the Sunday offering plate, or e-mail your intended pledge to John O'Rourke at jorourke224@gmail.com. Thank you for considering how you will help sustain and strengthen the Monroe Congregational Church in 2026.

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



Attention Board Chairs ~ Please submit your annual report to the church office by Friday, December 12th

Please call the church office with any questions.



Christmas Poinsettia order forms are available from the bulletin board in Wilton Hall! The cost is \$25.00 each. **All orders must be received no later than Sunday, December 14** 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 and **order form** may be dropped off in the brass mailbox 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



Special Christmas Coffee Hour

11 am December 21 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!

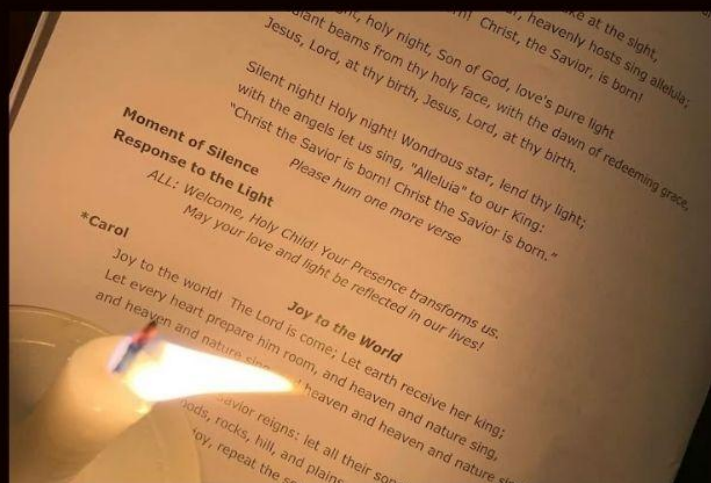


Join us Christmas Eve at MCC

4 pm Quiet Worship *Communion & Prayer Candles*

7 pm Family Worship *Chancel & Bell Choirs, Special Musicians*

11 pm Lessons & Carols *by Candlelight*



The Monroe Congregational Church, UCC

34 Church St, Monroe CT

On YouTube: [MonroeCongregationalChurchUCC](https://www.youtube.com/MonroeCongregationalChurchUCC)

Outreach

Covenant to Care Christmas Gift Collection!

It's that time of year again! Like last year we are collecting **unwrapped** gifts for children! Our CAFAF (Connecticut Alliance of Foster & Adoptive Families) social worker, Samantha Heltke, will have her case workers meet at her office and "shop" the donated gifts for the ones that are a good fit for the children on their case load.

Remember 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 Sunday, Dec. 14th!**

No Time to Shop –No Problem! Monetary gifts are also very much appreciated. Please make checks payable to MCC and Memo: C2C Xmas and Diane will do the shopping for you! Thank you so much for being such an awesome, generous resource for so many children, year after year! Diane Prall - Covenant to Care Liaison. Check out CAFAF <https://cafafct.org/>



Use your change to make a change in the world.

Your spare change can help transform the life of a family through Heifer International, whose mission is to end global hunger by investing in farmers (especially women) with tools, training, and resources to build sustainable livelihoods. So the next time you find a few coins in your pocket or between the couch cushions, consider dropping them into the collection bottle on the serving table during coffee hour.



The **Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe** needs volunteers! Help sort, tag, and hang items on Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m., just show up and you'll be shown what to do. Volunteers are also needed to work the counter in 2-hour shifts on Fridays or Saturdays. Training is simple, and written instructions are available. Serving at the counter is a fun way to meet people and support MCC's ministry. Questions? Contact Marge Fox at 203-706-2132 or mccmustardseed@yahoo.com



There is a **meal train** to support Linda Resnick's family as she continues to fight metastatic breast cancer. Thank you in advance for your support!

Signup here: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/qge0d8>

Deliver here: 520 Barn Hill Road, Monroe CT



Fellowship



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.

Dec. 17 Secret Life of Sunflowers, by Marta Molnar

Jan. 21 My Friends, by Fredrik Backman



Morning Circle invites the ladies of the congregation to its last meeting of the year for our Christmas luncheon on Wednesday December 10th at 12pm at Fusion 25 in Newtown. Carpooling is available at the church parking lot at 11:45am. Any wrapped gifts for the Giving Tree should have its tag attached and dropped off at the Monroe Police Department's front foyer. Thank you to everyone who provided a special gift that will put a smile on the receiver's face. There will be no meetings in January or February. Please contact Shari Carrano with any questions, comments or concerns at 475-342-8145.



Young at Heart will meet again in January!

Christian Education



Weekly Bible Study ~ All Are Welcome! We gather in Dineson Parlor, on **Thursdays** from **9:30-11 am**, to learn with and through one another. After a time of fellowship and prayer concerns, we read and discuss upcoming scripture texts or other faith-related topics. Bring your favorite Bible (whatever version you prefer) and a small notebook. Come as you are!

Do you enjoy spending time with teens and helping them feel connected, confident, and cared for? Our **Senior PF** youth group is looking for **adult advisors**! It's a chance to share stories, laughter, and life lessons while building lasting relationships that strengthen our church family and our wider community. If you'd like to learn more, talk with Kate Goyette or Michelle Correll, they'd love to hear from you!



Senior PF is selling Christmas wreaths! We appreciate your support as we raise funds for our summer mission trip!

EVERGREEN: 12"-\$20 16"-\$25 Bows \$2

ADVENT WREATHS & CANDLES -donations appreciated

Pre-orders and purchases will be available on Sundays during coffee hour. through 12/7. Please make checks to **MCC Sr PF** Memo: Wreath
Contact mccuccseniorpf@gmail.com with any questions.

MCC's handmade jam makes a wonderful host/hostess or teacher gift for the upcoming holidays, as well as a great stocking stuffer!



Just think of the possibilities, you can put it on toast, add it to your smoothies, make a glaze for pork or chicken, add it with cream cheese and crackers to make a yummy appetizer, top it on ice cream, pancakes or waffles and even spread it between layers of cake. There are so many things you can use the jam for. Get some, share some, and enjoy!! Strawberry Jam is available for sale online at <https://monroe-strawberry-festival-since-1972.square.site/>

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO A PIANO & CELLO RECITAL!

Donald Alfano, piano & Larry Wissink, cello

Pieces by: Bach, Schumann, Arensky and more

TODAY, Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 3 pm

First Presbyterian Church, 704 Whitney Ave., New Haven, CT 06511

Recital in the Community Room ~ Parking on the street and lawn in front. Reception following ~ Freewill offering



In Our Prayers

Ed Burke, Alison Abrams (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Jennifer Bittar** (Loraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney; Shari Carrano; Lisa Cody & Dave Barton** (friends of Julie and Rob McClenathan); **Bonnie** (Gayle Hammond's cousin); **Cathy** (Julie McClenathan's Friend); **Kevin Daly** (Gary Thompson's friend); **Dealmira** (Jonathan Ganino's grandmother); **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); **Bob Heffernan** (Ann Zeiner's son-in-law); **Heather Henning; Vera James** (Jenn Wissink's mother); **Jonathan** (Matt Colegrove's brother); **Josh** (Mary Erdmann's 2nd cousin); **Samia Khoury** (Will Duchon's friend); **Cindy Kovacs; Monica Lynch** (Bethany Dupuis' friend); **Nicole Malia; the Manuzzi Family; Mary** (Kate Brigg's Mother); **Mary Massar; John, Betty, Debbie, Kevin and Brian** (Donna Konkol's Family Members); **Meghan** (Mary Unger's niece); **Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **Olivia Morrison** (Donna Nickdow's niece); **Nancy Olofson; Missy & Gail Olson; Donna Parratt; Diane Prall; Amy Reber** (Pfalzgraf family friend); **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; Cliff Smith; 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); **Jim Woolley** (Jen Nealon's Dad); **Allen & Ann Zeiner**

The concerns of our world: Humanitarian efforts and sustained peace around the world; **LGBTQ+ children and their families** facing discrimination; **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 **unhoused, homebound** and **refugees**

Silver Lake Conference Center and the CT Missionary Society

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. Dec 7th

Advent 2 – Peace, Communion

10:00 am Worship, featuring
Silent Night: The Story Told

11:30 am Trustees

12:00 pm Girl Scout Gift Wrapping

5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF

Mon. Dec 8th

7:30 pm Deacons

Tue. Dec 9th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Dec 10th

12 pm Morning Circle Christmas (Fusion 25)

Thur. Dec 11th

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Dec 14th

Advent 3 - Joy (deadline order Poinsettias)

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF

Mon. Dec 15th

3:00 pm St. George's Supper

Tue. Dec 16th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Dec 17th

7:00 pm Book Club

Thur. Dec 18th

9:30 am Bible Study Christmas Party
(Dineson)

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Dec 21st

Advent 4 - Love

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Special Christmas Coffee Hour

5:00 pm Senior PF

Wed. Dec 24th

Christmas Eve

4 pm Quiet Christmas Eve

7 pm Intergenerational Christmas Eve

11 pm Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols

Thur. Dec 25th & Fri. Dec 26th

Christmas Holiday – office Closed

Week of Sun. Dec 28th

10 am Casual Christmas

11:15 Cheddar Together

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Dec 29th

11:00 am Red Cross Blood Drive (MCC)

Tue. Dec 30th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

New Year's Eve and Day – Office Closed