

34 Church Street
Monroe, CT 06468
Tel.: (203) 268-9327
Fax: (203) 268-3153
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

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



THE MONROE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
STEEPLE

December 1, 2023



The Weary World Rejoices

Are you weary this December? I am. As your pastor, I may (or may not) know what you've gone through this year, but I'm sure there are places in your soul in which you feel weary. Weariness from watching the news, weariness from taking care of a loved one, weariness from work, the list goes on. How can we have hope and joy this Christmas amid all this weariness? We may turn to familiar seasonal music to reset our souls. One of my favorite Christmas hymns has a lyric that always stands out to me:

A thrill of hope, a weary world rejoices...

"O Holy Night" is a song celebrating the birth of Jesus. It invites us into the sandals of the shepherds, the wise men, and the everyday Israelite who was waiting for the birth of the Messiah. The nation of Israel had been waiting hundreds of years for the promised Messiah to come. They knew what it was like to experience heavy burdens as they were once slaves in Egypt and eventually became exiled from their land. And even though they had returned, they were weary under Roman rule and occupation. They longed for the Messiah to come and bring them comfort, liberation and rest.

Moments of waiting can be opportunities to slow down and be still. Advent, therefore, is meant to be a time in which we may slow down. We know that Christmas is coming, but it isn't here yet. So instead of rushing to get our Christmas gift list all checked off or hurrying through all the social events between now and Dec 25th, we can allow ourselves to take opportunities for reflection and contemplation, thinking about what, (or rather whom) this season is all about. Materials for Advent home observance, including candles, a devotional and advent calendar from "Sanctified Art" may be found in Wilton Hall for your household – please help yourself.

Everything changed the night Christ was born. Those that got to see the baby with their eyes experienced a thrill of hope. The Prince of Peace, the one who would give them rest, was here. They could rejoice even in their weariness, knowing that the Messiah had finally come.

Even though we have not witnessed the birth of Christ with our two eyes, we have witnessed the work of Christ within our hearts. Christmas reminds us how the baby born in Bethlehem grew up to be an adult. He would forgive sins and heal those afflicted with disease. He would open His arms wide and say, "Come to me all who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest." The story of Christmas, and the good news of the gospel, teaches us how hope and joy can never be removed from us, no matter how weary and overwhelmed we may personally be.

If you feel weary this Christmas, I pray that you will remember that you can find rest in the arms of the Prince of Peace. I pray that hope will fill your heart, and that your soul, even in a weary world, rejoices. Join us in worship this Advent and Christmas season here at MCC. Bring your family, neighbors, and friends to "see" for themselves!

In peace, Pastor Jenn

Deacons

Join us Christmas Eve at MCC

**10 am Morning Worship
with the Chancel Choir**

**7 pm Intergenerational Worship
With the Chancel & Bell Choirs, Special Musicians**

**11 pm Lessons & Carols by Candlelight
with the Bell Choir & Special Musicians**



The Monroe Congregational Church, UCC

34 Church St, Monroe CT

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



The Monroe Congregational Church, UCC and St. Peter's Grace Episcopal Church invite you to our
Annual Tree Lighting Celebration
this Sunday, December 3
on the Monroe Centre Green at 5 pm.

MCC will be hosting the fellowship time following the lighting this year, if you are able to help out by bringing a plate of cookies or goodies, our fellowship friends would sure appreciate it!



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



Visit the Advent table at coffee hour for home observance materials:

- Advent candle set
- Devotional
- Calendar

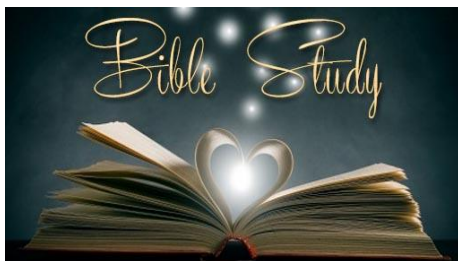
Special Christmas Coffee Hour

December 17, 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!



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 11** 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 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



Weekly Bible Study, Thursdays 9:30-11 am: We cordially invite you to join us each week as we gather in together in Dineson Parlor 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. Let Pastor Jenn know if you have any questions!

Snack & Chat with NOOMA

Join us in Dineson Parlor after worship on these dates to enjoy some snacks, a short video and light discussion about life's big questions.

No prep necessary and all are welcome!

Oct 29 – SHELLS
Nov 12 – TOMATO
Dec 10 – SHE



Faith Formation



“Almost Instant” Christmas Pageant

December 17 at 10 am in worship!
Rehearsal –Sat, Dec. 16 1-3 pm
Youth of all ages welcome to participate!

We still have roles open should anyone from the congregation wish to take part. Please contact Jeanette jeanettemcardentey@gmail.com or feel free to drop in at rehearsal.



Senior PF is taking orders for their Christmas wreath fundraiser! See their table at coffee hour to order yours for the holidays! Wreaths are locally sourced from Jones Tree Farm.

\$15 for 12”, \$20 for 16”, bows \$2
Please make checks to **MCC Sr PF**
Memo: Wreath

Sr PF Coat Drive



Let's Help Our Neighbors at the Bridgeport Rescue Mission!

Please bring your gently used coats to Wilton Hall by Monday, January 31st





ANNUAL REPORT

Attention Board Chairs ~ Please submit your **annual report** to the church office by **Friday, December 8th**

Please call the church office with any questions: 203-268-9327

A Note From Our Moderator

November 2023



Dear MCC Family:

Thanksgiving Day has just passed and gratitude is in the air. I hope you had a good one with family/ friends. It is also a time of giving and receiving.

Our amazing staff gives to us all year. It is traditional that we give a special gift to them at year end in recognition of their remarkable service to us.

We are blessed to have Pastor Jenn, Will Duchon, Diane Prall and Jeanette Cardentey-Morales devoting their considerable talents to taking care of our individual and collective souls, children, spirituality, faith, growth, education, serenity, enjoyment, church operational needs and more.

How wonderful that they create a space for us to find some peace and tranquility amidst our troubled world.

Your gift in *ANY AMOUNT* will combine with others and will help show our appreciation for all Jenn, Will, Diane, and Jeanette do for all of us.

Please consider a contribution in *ANY AMOUNT* as a gesture of support for this team we are so lucky to have.

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 **2023 STAFF GIFT** in the **Notes** box so we know what it's for.
2. **By check:** Write your check to MCC and write **2023 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 "**2023 Staff Gift**").

Now is a good time to show your appreciation of Jenn, Will, Diane and Jeanette by making a donation to the Staff Gift fund in advance of getting ourselves lost in busy-ness.

We will recognize the team with an announcement at our Christmas Coffee Hour (December 17th) – one of the loveliest events of the year. Don't miss it or the pageant which is also that morning.

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

Arlene Redmond, Moderator

Trustees



Thank you to everyone who came out November 4th to help with our Fall Church Work Day!

Working in the meeting house cleaning pews, seats, floors and windows were Heather Henning, Cheri Irwin, and Kathy Allen. Julie McClenathan worked on installing window glazing.

David Allen cleaned gutters and the roof, helped patch the driveway and remove leaves. Bill Brett, Bob Hammond, Rob McClenathan, John O'Rourke, David Walker, and Myron Winger trimmed the shrubs around Rexford House, the parsonage and sidewalks and removed leaves. Scott Young removed the leaves from Rexford House roof and cleaned the parsonage gutters. Scott and Bill Brett set the campus clocks.

We also had the help of six Boy Scouts and two scout leaders who helped with leaf removal, AC covers, and patching the driveway!

Trustees ~ 2024 MCC Stewardship Campaign



On October 29 we began our annual pledge drive, an intentional period of stewardship commitment entitled "Because of YOU, our church changes lives". May this time of thinking about our shared investment in the ministry and mission of The Monroe Congregational Church be a fruitful one!

In worship you have heard stories about how we as a congregation are responding to God's invitation to serve our neighbors. Each of us will be invited to invest in becoming the church God is urging and encouraging us to become. It is a time of great possibility for our congregation and the future of its mission.

To date we have received 56 pledge cards totaling \$141,240.00 -Thank you!

We hope you will respond to this invitation by completing and turning in your 2024 pledge card as soon as possible, either by mail, in the giving plate on Sunday, or by e-mailing your intentions to John O'Rourke at jorourke224@gmail.com.

Thank you for prayerfully considering how to financially support the Monroe Congregational Church in 2024!

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

Outreach



Tour nOURish Bridgeport's Hydroponic Indoor Farm, Wednesday, December 6th at noon. nOURish wants to open the accessibility door for people of Bridgeport who struggle with food security by not only GROWING FOOD in a food desert – but DISTRIBUTING IT to the people who need it most. Pastor Jenn and a group from MCC will tour their Indoor Hydroponic Farm and Food Pantry on Wednesday, December 6th at noon. You can either meet us there, or we leave in a car pool from the MCC lot at 11:30. Location: 2200 North Ave, Bridgeport CT, 06604 (Brick Building — Enter on North Ave only — one way street) Either way, **please let us know BY DECEMBER 1st if you can make it by signing** up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44A8AC22A2FB6-45766796-tour>



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 Friday, Dec. 15th!**

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/>

Thanksgiving Baskets



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated so generously to the **MCC Covenant to Care Thanksgiving Fundraiser!** Thanks to you, MCC raised \$920 providing a record breaking **30 Thanksgiving meals to families facing difficult times.** Your donation is greatly appreciated by myself, Samantha Heltke our CAFAF Advocacy and Support Services Regional Liaison, and the families you provided a meal for on Thanksgiving Day.

Thank you for your support!

Diane Prall – MCC Liaison to *Covenant to Care*



Heifer International is a charity Morning Circle collects spare change for. This year we have sent \$100 in gifts to families in need around the world. Bees and goats are a couple of gifts that can help families support themselves. Offspring of the animals are given to neighbors so that they too can sustain themselves making the community stronger and self-supporting. **A collection jar is set out on the table during coffee hour.** Contact Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com or call 203-268-0280 with any questions.



The Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe welcomes and encourages new volunteers to help sort, tag and hang donated merchandise on Tuesdays at 1:15 PM. Sales associates are needed on Fridays for shifts from 10-12:30 and 12:30-3 and on Saturdays from 10-12 and 12-2. It's easy to do with a list of procedures that you can read over or visit a volunteer during business hours and they'd be glad to help you with any questions regarding opening or closing. Please contact Susie Cuseo with any questions at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280.

Fellowship



Young at Heart will meet Thursday, December 14th at noon. Details to follow. Please RSVP to Peggy Villani (203)452-1505 or rvillani293@charter.net



We encourage anyone to join us 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

The book club selections for upcoming months:

January 17th - 7 pm - The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post by Allison Pataki

February 21st - 7 pm - This Tender Land by William Kent Kreuger

Christmas Luncheon

Morning Circle invites all the women of the congregation to join them at Sal's Pizza for their last meeting of the year for their annual Christmas luncheon on Wednesday, December 13th at noon.

Morning Circle meets on the second Wednesday of the month with the exception of January and February. We work in collaboration with the Food Pantry providing bean soup jars for Thanksgiving, birthday bags for children who visit with their families, collect women's hygiene products and make trick-or-treat bags in October. We put together Church World Service hygiene kits for international families in crisis and collect spare change for Heifer International. Please contact Shari Carrano with any questions or comments at 203-400-3563.

Our calendar of meetings

- Wednesday, December 13** - Annual Christmas luncheon – Sal's Pizzeria at noon
- Wednesday, March 13 - Birthday bags for Food Pantry
- Wednesday, April 10 - Church World Service hygiene kits
- Wednesday, May 8 - Collection of Women's hygiene products
- Wednesday, June 12 - Annual June picnic - Location TBD



GAME NIGHT this Saturday, December 2nd! Please bring a group game if you have one you'd like to share.

Update: Please join us for Adult PF which will now meet on

the FIRST Saturday of the month in Dineson Parlor from 5:30 to 8pm!

Bring your own beverage and a snack to share. We are excited to bring Adult PF back to MCC in a new format! Each month will be led by different members of the group. It could be a discussion of an article or movie, a game night or a service project for MCC or the greater community, or an outing etc. Your presence and ideas are wanted and welcome. All adults young and old are encouraged to attend.

Please reach out to Janie Allen via phone/text/email at 203-522-3686 or janeAllen@sbcglobal.net with any thoughts or questions. Our next meeting will be Saturday, 1/6. Come check it out!

Elisha's Corner
The Picture Gallery
By Gary Thompson, Church Historian

Additions have been made to the photo gallery in the rear entrance to the Meeting House. There are seven new pictures and two paintings. The pictures feature the Beardsley Family and a composite photo of Dr. and Elizabeth Beardsley, women of the Ladies Improvement League in front of Beardsley Hall, the first parsonage on Old Tannery Road, two of the church choir, and a photo by David Walker that you will recognize. The paintings are of the Meeting House by David K. Merrill provided by Martha Beardsley and the original rendering of Rexford House.

A handwritten note in an envelope taped to the back of the Merrill painting of the church contains the name and address of Martha (Merrill) Beardsley, the artist's sister. The note states that, "This was the women who brought painting of church by David Merrill belonging to Clara Johnson for the church." The painting is signed by Merrill in its lower

left corner, but it is undated. Clara Johnson may be a cousin of Martha Merrill, as her mother's maiden name was Marion Johnson. Martha was the wife of Olen Beardsley, who was the grandson of Dr. Edward and Elizabeth Beardsley (for whom Beardsley Hall is named). Martha died in January 2012 and Olen died in September 2019. They lived out their lives in Livermore Falls, Maine.



David Merrill is a Monroe native, was a classmate with June Winger, and later lived for a time in Newtown. Now at age 87, David Merrill lives in Southbury. For over fifty years he has painted over 24 murals and an enumerable number of commissioned paintings of New England scenery and vintage buildings; 52 of which are of Monroe. Between 1981 and 1982 he painted a mural on the wall of the Masuk High School library which was subsequently moved to the Edith Wheeler Library

in 2007, where it is today. In addition to the church painting, a lithograph of *Olde Monroe Centre Green* by David Merrill hangs over the mantle in the Dineson Parlor in Rexford House.

The rendering of Rexford House was provided by Henry T. Moeckel & Associates, Architects, of Naugatuck, Connecticut. The legend card inside the frame indicates that it is of the *"Proposed New Church Facilities for the Monroe Congregational Church United Church of Christ Monroe, Connecticut."* At the far right side of the building is the "Phase 2" part of Rexford House, not included in the final construction, which contained 4,600 square feet of additional storage and classroom space. In today's dollars it would have cost well over \$1.5 million. Good reason at the time for postponing its proposed construction.

Behind every picture there is usually an interesting story.

Historically faithful,
Gary Thompson, Church Historian

Community News

Happening at the Monroe Senior Center

- Ugly Holiday Sweater Contest – Dec 8th . . . prize for first place!
- Vascular Screening is back after two successful events earlier this year – Dec 6th – bring your insurance card!
- Our annual Christmas Luncheon is Dec 19th ~ \$10pp. If you want to sit with friends, please sign up together to ensure we can accommodate. You are not registered until you pay and receive a ticket, so sign up early!



That's just a sampling of what is happening here at The Center in December. Also check out the list of Trips we're looking at booking and let me know if there is somewhere that you would like to go ~ I'll do my best to get it on the calendar!

Warm regards, Jean G Gardino, Administrative Assistant
Town of Monroe Senior Center, 235 Cutlers Farm Rd 203.452.2815 x1



2023 Inclement Weather Policy Inclement Weather Policy



Here in New England we get to enjoy seasonal weather changes. At MCC, we have learned to be flexible and make safe choices about our scheduled plans. The safety and well-being of our people is one of our most important concerns.

This is our inclement weather policy, including who makes decisions about closings and how the decision is spread in the community. If you serve in a position of responsibility, please find your leadership role below.

In Person Sunday Worship Services:

1. **At 7 am**, Pastor (Jenn Gingras, 203-895-5607) and the current Chair of Deacons make the decision whether or not to cancel in-person worship. If in-person worship is cancelled, Jenn will record and upload an abbreviated worship service on <https://www.youtube.com/monroecongregationalchurchucc> by noon (sermon, prayer, announcements)
2. **Jenn** notifies staff and key volunteers (who in turn notify those they work with), including Jeanette Cardentey-Morales (203-257-9637), Will Duchon (203-615-3908), Reader, Usher and Trustee of the Day. Jenn sends a church-wide e-mail and posts on FB (MCC-UCC Conversation and Monroe Cong Church Page)
3. **Chair of Deacons** notifies CT Weather/IAN Snap, Channel 8 & Channel 3
4. **Committee meetings** are cancelled at the discretion of committee chair, although many are held on Zoom at the moment, so weather shouldn't be a problem!

Sr. & Jr. PF groups will be notified of any changes or cancellations by e-mail, phone tree and/or Facebook notifications as appropriate.

1. Josh Post (203-400-0884)– Makes and communicates Sr PF decision
2. Jeanette Cardentey-Morales (203-257-9637) – Makes and communicates Jr PF decision

Evening Meetings: It is the responsibility of the convener to notify the meeting participants of any changes or cancellations.

Midweek Morning Programs: If the Monroe School district either delays or cancels school, morning Bible studies and other church-sponsored morning programs are cancelled.

Church Office: If the Monroe School System is closed, and staff members are able to travel, they may choose to do so if conditions are safe. Otherwise, they may choose to work remotely.

*If you have any questions or concerns, please call the church office at 203-268-9327.
For info on parking lot conditions, our plow guy's name is Adam, his cell is 203-258-8382.*

In Our Prayers

The Senior PF on retreat; Heather Henning, Marian Schmitz; Alison Abrams (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Jennifer Bittar** (Lorraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney; Byron Brown & Bruce Bryant** (friends of Will Duchon); **Lori Cimeno** (Peggy & Ron Villani's Daughter); **Kevin Daly** (Gary Thompson's friend); **Dawn** (Donna Konkol's Friend); **Dot Dralus; Matt Duchon; Elaine** (Wendy Colegrove's Aunt); **Bruno Forte** (Nancy Hedine's friend); **David Fischman** (Sue Granello's Friend); **Giovanni J. Fracassini** (Jack's Uncle); **Dave Fuller** (Gail Olson's brother); **Clark Gingras; Mary & Rachel Heerema** (Julia Gutierrez's mom & sister); **Heidi** (Diane Prall's sister); **Brad Heines** (Susie Cuseo's friend); **Bob Heffernan** (Ann Zeiner's son-in-law); **Brian Hopkins** (Donna Konkol's cousin); **Vera James** (Jenn Wissink's mother); **Joey** (Calvert Locks); **Jonathan** (Matt Colegrove's brother); **Kelti** (friend of Liska Gutierrez); **Walter Lane** (Marge Fox's brother-in-law); **Monica Lynch** (Bethany Dupuis' friend); **Nicole Malia**; Friends and family of **George Massar; Ron McGlinchey** (Pastor Jenn's dad); **Betty McKeown** (Donna Konkol's mother); **Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **Jean Moffat; Olivia Morrison** (Donna Nickdow's niece); **Bert Muizulis; Joe Mumper** (Julie McClenathan's friend); **Pat Nugent; Ocampo family** (friends of Liska Gutierrez); **Nancy Olofson; Missy Olson; Osborne** (Colegrove's Family friend); **Dean Perosino** (Gayle Hammond's brother); **Geno Piacentini** (Karen MacDonald's husband); **P.T. Philip** (Liz Sampson's father); **Regina Roberts** (Kathy Maiolo's niece); **Alfredo Rodriguez** (Osirus Gutierrez's cousin); **Noah Santiago** (Shari Carrano's great-grandson); friends and family of **Marilyn Schultz; Carlos Serrano** (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); **Yessika Siccardi** (Sampson family friend); **Bernie Sippin; Gary Sippin** (Lori Sippin's son); **John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Christine Stadler; Tom Steen** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's dad); **Rev. Dr. Sheldon Smith; Christian & Dain Steiner** (Julie McClenathan's nephews); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Winger's granddaughter); **Olga Terwilliger** (Nancy Hedine's sister-in-law); **Richard Turco** (Jack Fracassini's cousin); **Ruth Wakeley; Charles L. Wynn, Sr.,** (and his mother) **Alleane** (friend 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: Germany: **Rachel Hoffman** (Vaughan Askue's daughter), Chicago: **Chris Meneses** (Lorraine Zeiner's friend), Georgia: **Zachary Peters** (Jacob Parker-Burgard's cousin), Kuwait: **Jon Sanchez** (Don Whiteley's grandson-in-law) Stateside: **Zachary Gingras**, 395th Combat Sustainability Support, Middletown. **Joel Smith**, 250th Engineering Company



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

Michael Snyder	12/02	Connor Halloran	12/18
Frank Wittenauer	12/02	Jennifer Halloran	12/18
Jeremy Young	12/03	Lynda Bauer	12/21
Matthew Colegrove	12/06	Trevor Rooney	12/22
Larry Wissink	12/06	Donna Parratt	12/23
Bill Allen	12/11	Ashley Prall-Lauren	12/23
Lisa Burke	12/11	Holly Hallgren	12/24
Kiersten Rooney	12/11	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
Georgia Bauerle	12/18	John Telep	12/31



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⁾
 Linda & David Rooney⁽¹⁷⁾ Holly & Peter Hallgren⁽²²⁾
 Jonathan & Vida Stone⁽²²⁾ and Vinay & Elizabeth Sampson⁽²⁹⁾

December MCC Community Calendar

Senior PF Retreat at Camp Hazen
Dec 1st – 3rd

Sat. Dec 2nd
5:30 pm Adult PF

Week of Sun. Dec 3rd

Communion Sunday ~ Advent 1

10:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Tree Lighting
5:00 pm Junior PF

Mon. Dec 4th
7:00 pm Outreach (Dineson)

Tue. Dec 5th
1:15 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Dec 6th
11:30 am Carpool to nOURish BPT Farm
12:00 pm nOURish BPT Farm Tour

Thurs. Dec 7th
9:30 am Bible Study
6:00 pm Confirmation Class
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Dec 10th

Advent 2

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Snack & Chat NOOMA
11:30 am Trustees
5:00 pm Junior PF
5:00 pm Senior PF -Caroling

Mon. Dec 11th
7:30 pm Deacons (Zoom)

Tue. Dec 12th
1:15 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Dec 13th
12:00 pm Morning Circle

Thurs. Dec 14th
9:30 am Bible Study
6:00 pm Confirmation Class
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Dec 17th

Advent 3

10:00 am Worship
Sunday School Pageant
11:00 am Special Coffee Hour
5:00 pm Junior PF
5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Dec 18th
7:30 pm Council (Zoom)

Tue. Dec 19th
1:15 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thurs. Dec 21th
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Dec 24th

Advent 4 ~ Christmas Eve

10 am Worship *Advent 4*
7 pm Intergenerational Christmas Eve
11 pm Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols

Mon. Dec 25th
Christmas Holiday -office Closed

Week of Sun. Dec 31th

New Year's Eve

Mon. Jan 1st
New Year's Day -office Closed

Add a Splash of Color to Our Meeting House for Christmas!



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. 11th, 2023 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 & **order form** 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!