

March 31, 2024

Easter Sunday

10:00 am

*Monroe Congregational Church is an Open and Affirming congregation.
Our deacons and pastors hope you will feel at home here. No matter who you are or
where you are on life's journey, we welcome you in Christ's name*

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Gathering Music Easter Morning Fanfare *Louise Rospini, 1993* *The Bell Choir*

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen! *TUNE: Earth and All Stars* *The Chancel Choir*

Sharing the Good News of Easter

Leader: Christ has risen!

All: Christ has risen indeed! Alleluia!

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Larry Wissink, Deacon of the Day

Leader: Christ has risen!

People: He is risen indeed, alleluia!

Leader: A new day has dawned,

People: The first day of a new creation!

Leader: Look up and see what God has done,

People: The stone is rolled away, once and for all!

Leader: Christ is going ahead of you,

All: And we must share the good news! alleluia!

***Opening Hymn** Christ the Lord is Risen Today NCH 233

***Opening Prayer**

***Easter Gloria**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ by your wounds on Calvary
From death's dread sting your servants free;
That we may live eternally, Alleluia!

***Passing of the Peace**

Children's Message *Children will remain in the Meetinghouse with their families.*

***Hymn** *The Strife Is O'er* NCH 242

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

Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!

TUNE: *Earth and All Stars*

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

Scripture

Mark 16:1-8, pg. 929

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

Sermon

The Rising

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

*Benediction

Parting Music

Hallelujah!

G.F. Handel

(Attendees are invited to come forward and join the choir in singing)

**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)
- Masks are highly encouraged
- We have provided hand sanitizer and tissues in the pews, please use carefully as the chemicals are corrosive on wood and other surfaces



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.

We hope you can join us for our **Easter Celebration Coffee Hour** in Wilton Hall following worship.



Thank you for assisting in this morning's worship!

- **Deacon:** Larry Wissink
- **Usher:** Melissa Quinn
- **Lay Reader:** Frank Wittenauer
- **Trustee:** Frank Wittenauer
- **Counter:** Bill Stadler
- **Coffee Host:** Board of Christian Fellowship
- **Web Steward:** Scott Young



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

Brian Coleman⁽⁰⁵⁾

The flowers this morning are given by **Danielle & Joel Smith in loving memory of Marge and Tom, and in honor of Aunt Jess & Uncle Mike Pfalzgraf, Ryan, Abbie, Griffen, Steffy and the Great Grandbabies.**



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.mcc-ucc.org)



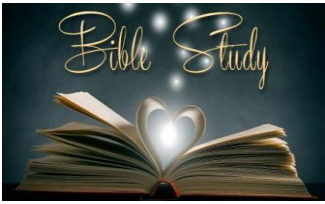
If you are visiting today: WELCOME! It's so good to have you with us! We hope that this time together is one that helps you feel connected to your community and faith. Our family of faith welcomes you! We'd love to include you on our e-mail distribution list, so that you get weekly updates about what's going on at MCC along with a monthly newsletter, *The Steeple*. Please e-mail our Administrative Assistant Diane Prall at

secretary@mcc-ucc.org to let us know if you'd like to be included. If you've been visiting with us for a while and you'd like to discuss making a longer-term commitment to the Monroe Congregational Church by becoming a **member**, please speak with a deacon or Pastor Jenn, who can be reached at jenn@mcc-ucc.org or her cell, 203-895-5607.

Easter Flowers Are Given with Love by the Following People

Kathy & Dave Allen	In memory of Don and Lillian Allen
Vaughan Askue and Arlene Redmond	In celebration of the MCC community
Michelle Cardentey	In memory of all our loved ones
Rev. Jennifer & Clark Gingras	In memory of Rita, Armand, Mildred and Michelle
Cheri Irwin	In memory of my parents, Neil & Dorothea Streans
Mike and Jessica Pfalzgraf	In memory of Thomas Steen & Marge Woodruff In honor of Jane Steen & Alison Abrams
Joyce and Gilles Rousseau	In memory of their parents, George & Susan Zaleha, Adolphe and Jeanne Rousseau, and daughter, Lauren
Rev. Sheldon & Nancy Smith	In memory of Donald A Spargo, Elsie F. Hedges, Horace S. Smith and Marjorie H. Smith
Aaron, Paige, Lilly and Lark Ribaud-Smith	In memory of Theodore N. Ribaud
Anson, Corryn, Aubrey, Kylie, and Leah Smith	In memory of Maude (Nana) Voigt and Gail Eileen Voigt
Ruth Wakeley	In memory of Bill Wakeley
The Walker Family	In memory of Susan Walker
Myron and June Winger	In memory of Lew and Jean Winger
Don Whiteley	In celebration of all my grandchildren
Ann Zeiner	In memory of Bob, Val and Carol





Weekly Bible Study We cordially invite you to join us each week as we gather together to learn with and through one another. All are welcome in Dineson Parlor, from **9:30-11 am**. 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.



Snack & Chat with NOOMA: NOOMA is a series of 24 short films (less than 14 minutes each) that "blend [events of] everyday with discussion about God". Each short story covers a specific topic on a real-life situation, usually by relating the various experiences from a Christian perspective. The series features Rob Bell, the author of Love Wins. The name NOOMA comes from a phonetic spelling of the Greek word πνευμα (pneuma), meaning "wind or spirit". Join us in Dineson Parlor to enjoy some snacks, a video and light discussion – no prep necessary and all are welcome! **Apr 21 – STORE**

Outreach



Thank you to all of our volunteers who helped or donated to yesterday's **Outreach Charity Tag Sale!**



One Great Hour of Sharing® is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.

To date we have received donations totaling \$920 –thank you to all who gave.



Help Needed for the **Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe!** Do you have spare time on Tuesdays at 1pm? Volunteers come to the back entrance of the Shoppe to help sort, hang and tag merchandise that have been donated. It's easy to do and any of the ladies can help you figure it out. Donations of gently-used clothing, toys, shoes, book and small household products can be left in the collection box just outside the Shoppe, brought in on Tuesdays while the ladies are sorting or during business hours: Fridays 10-3 or Saturdays 10-2. Sales associates are also needed during two-hour shifts

when the Shoppe is open. You can either open or close and it's easy to do. Come visit the volunteer and she'll gladly show you what needs to be done. A procedure list can be sent to you via email by contacting Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280, if you need more information or have questions or comments.

Fellowship

Young at Heart will meet Thursday, April 25th at noon



Details to be announced



Morning Circle invites the ladies of the congregation to their next meeting on **Wednesday, April 10th** at 11AM in Dineson Parlor. **We will be putting together Church World Service hygiene kits** that go internationally to locations that are suffering through a catastrophe.

These kits contain the following items:

One hand towel measuring approximately 15" x 28" to 16" x 32" (no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber)

One washcloth

One wide-tooth comb removed from the package (Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth. No pocket combs or picks, rattail and combs without handles are acceptable)

One fingernail or toenail clipper removed from the package (either one is acceptable)

One bath-size bar of soap in the original package

One toothbrush in the original package

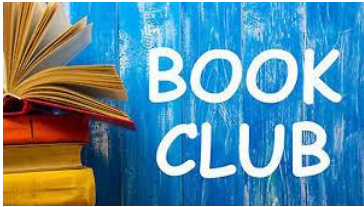
Ten standard size Band-Aids

Any donations can either be dropped off in the bin across from the men's room or brought to the meeting. Monetary donations would be greatly appreciated to offset the cost of purchasing some of these items. Item line should read "Morning Circle CWS Hygiene Kits". Thank you in advance for your generosity. Please contact Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280 for more information or comments.



Please join us for Adult PF the 1st 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 janeFallen@sbcglobal.net with any thoughts or questions. **Our next meeting will be Saturday, 4/6. Come check it out!**



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:

April 17th 7 pm The Queens Fortune by Allison Pataki Host: TBD

May 15th 7 pm Master Slave Husband Wife by Ilyan Woo Host: TBD

June 19th 7 pm Horse by Geraldine Brooks Host: TBA



**52nd Strawberry Festival 2024
will be held on Saturday, June 15 (10am-5pm)
& Sunday, June 16 (11am-5pm).**



Have you marked your calendars? It's been said that our event is a highlight for many people, including those who come to taste the shortcake, as well as the connoisseurs of strawberry pie and jam. Our crafters note that we are very friendly and that there are numerous volunteers who help out that weekend. That's the success of the festival: our volunteers. They are the heart and soul; a family who comes together



to serve the community and reconnect with each other while doing so. There's so many ways to help out: berry picking, jam making, face painting, being a runner for orders, sorting, hulling, dipping those beautiful berries, and then there's making pies, shortcake or smoothies. You can also help out by baking some yummy goodies that will be sold at the Country Store: breads, cookies, etc. Please consider that it will be hot under the tent, so please do not send donations that may melt with the heat.co-chair, Susie Cuseo



Jam sessions are in full swing. You can volunteer for any area in May when signup sheets go up in Wilton Hall. Our kickoff day is Sunday, June 2 where we will have communion with the biscuits used for the shortcake. Let's make this another successful event!!! Please contact our co-chairs (Susie Cuseo, Clark/Jenn Gingras, Josh Post or Frank Wittenauer) with any questions, comments or concerns.

You can sign up using this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094CAEAA22A4FB6-48041861-jamsessions>.

In Our Prayers

June Wilkes; Judy Davis; 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); **Dave Coffey; 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); **Dave Fuller** (Gail Olson's brother); **Lehre Fuller** (Gail Olson's sister-in-law); **Clark Gingras; Peter Hallgren; Carter Harbron** (Katie Young's neighbor); **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); **Heather Henning; Brian Hopkins** (Donna Konkol's cousin); **Bill Irwin** (Cheri's husband); **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; Edith Maclean, Jean & Ben Schweid** (Marge Fox's mother, sister, and nephew); **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 & Gail Olson; 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); **Carlos Serrano** (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); **Yessika Siccardi** (Sampson family friend); **Ed Simonovich** (Nancy Hedine's friend); **Bernie Sippin; Gary Sippin** (Lori Sippin's son); **John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Christine Stadler; Christian & Dain Steiner** (Julie McClenathan's nephews); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Winger's granddaughter); **Wayne Thompson** (Gary Thompson's brother); **Richard Turco** (Jack Fracassini's cousin); **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: Stateside: **Justin Riffard,** Pensacola Naval Air Station, **Zachary Gingras,** 395th Combat Sustainability Support, **Joel Smith,** 250th Engineering Company Germany: **Rachel Hoffman** (Vaughan Askue's daughter), Chicago: **Chris Meneses** (Lorraine Zeiner's friend), Kuwait: **Jon Sanchez** (Don Whiteley's grandson-in-law)

MCC Community Calendar

Mon. Apr 1st

7:00 pm Outreach (Zoom)

Tue. Apr 2nd

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thurs. Apr 4th

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Confirmation Class

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Women's Retreat Apr 5th-7th

Sat. Apr 6th

1:00 pm JAM Session

5:30 pm Adult PF

Week of Sun. Apr 7th

10:00 am Worship

11:30 am Trustees (hybrid)

5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF

Mon. Apr 8th

7:30 pm Deacons (Zoom)

Tue. Apr 9th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Apr 10th

11:00 am Morning Circle

Thurs. Apr 11th

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Confirmation Class

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Apr 14th

10:00 am Worship

1ish Junior PF at the Movies

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Apr 15th

7:30 pm Council (Zoom)

Tue. Apr 16th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Apr 17th

7:00 pm Book Club

Thurs. Apr 18th

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Fri. Apr 19th

11:30 am JAM Session

6:00 pm JAM Session

Sat. Apr 20th

Junior PF Lock-in

Week of Sun. Apr 21st

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

Tue. Apr 23rd

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag