

February 11, 2024

Transfiguration 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

It Is Well With My Soul

Horatio Spafford, 1873

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: Come into the Messiah's bright and dazzling light,

People: *The day of God's kingdom dawns.*

Leader: Come to learn from the Son of Man,

People: *The One who helps make sense of this human life.*

Leader: Come to follow the Son of God who shines with love and power,

People: *Who lights our way into a world in need of good news.*

All: Come, let us worship!

Opening Prayer

Jessica Pfalzgraf, Deacon of the Day

***Our Church's Covenant**

inside front cover of hymnal

Children's Message

Students may transition to Sunday School with their teachers.

***Hymn**

Morning Has Broken

(bottom of next page)

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

You invite us to a new way of life, O God, based in honesty and trust. We try and follow you into the fullness of life and death and new life, with all the ups and downs. We confess that there have been times when we prefer to turn away when we see suffering coming towards us or those we love. Forgive us if we have imposed our limited understanding on you. Guide us to take our proper place following you. Show us how to orient ourselves to love, so that all else fits together in your big picture, and your light may shine out through us. Amen. ~silence~

Words of Assurance

***Passing of the Peace**

In order for those tuning in from home to feel included, please turn and greet the webcam as you share signs of peace with one another.

Pastoral Prayer – Silent Prayer -- Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our

debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Time for Giving

Invitation

Offertory

Orpheus Sara Bareilles, 2019

The Folk Band

*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 8:27–9:8, page 919

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

Sermon

God in the Cloud

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

***Closing**

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

NCH 182

Benediction

Choral Benediction

Postlude

The Spirit Sends Us Forth

Ida Knowe , 1967

Morning Has Broken

Morning has broken, Like the first morning,
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them springing, Fresh from the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall, Sunlit from heaven,
like the first dew fall on the grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where His feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise very morning,
God's creation of the new day!

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 encourage
- We have provided hand sanitizer and tissues in the pews, please use carefully as the chemicals are corrosive on wood and other surfaces

Please join us for a time of **fellowship** following the service in Wilton Hall.



If you'd like to **give online** during worship (or anytime), simply scan this QR code, which will take you to our VANCO electronic giving page. Thank you so much for your support.

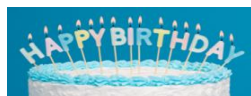
Thank you for assisting in this morning's worship!

- **Deacon:** Jessica Pfalzgraf
- **Usher:** Melissa Quinn
- **Lay Reader:** Jonathan Ganino
- **Trustee:** Bill Stadler
- **Counter:** Zach Gingras
- **Coffee Host:** Trustees
- **Web Steward:** Scott Young



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



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

Ken Post ⁽¹²⁾

Josh Friend ⁽¹³⁾

Julio Morales ⁽¹⁵⁾

Talia Barnhart ⁽¹³⁾

Sheila Torres ⁽¹³⁾

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

Suzanne & Paul Adams ⁽¹²⁾



Deacons

Remember you are loved
and to Love you shall return

Ash

Wednesday

February 14, 2024

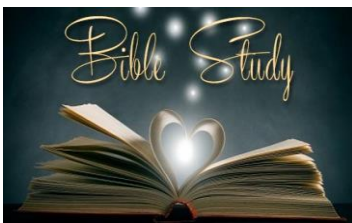
Open Labyrinth
Walk 9 am - 8 pm

Ashes-to-Go 12-1:30

Agape Supper 6:30 pm

Worship 7:30 pm

*The Monroe Congregational Church
34 Church Street * Monroe CT*



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.



TODAY - 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! **Feb 11 – LUGGAGE**, Mar 17 – OPEN, Apr 21 – STORE

Trustees

2024 MCC Stewardship Campaign In the fall we began our annual pledge drive, an intentional period of stewardship commitment entitled "Because of YOU, our church changes lives".

To date, we have received 83 pledges totaling \$193,250.68 against our goal of \$200,000 - Thank you!

We hope that if you haven't responded yet you will complete and return 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

St George's Supper – This Monday, February 12th



Please join us for sandwich making in the kitchen following worship. Please consider a cash donation this month to help us feed our neighbors, look for the basket at coffee hour to contribute. Any amount would be gratefully received. Please memo on checks: "St George's Supper".

Please contact Stacy at 203-500-1279 with questions. *Thank you!*

Save the Date! * MCC Outreach Tag Sale

March 23, 2023 * Stay tuned for more details!



The Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe is

looking for 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, February 22th at noon

Old Town Restaurant, 60 Quality St, Trumbull
RSVP to Nancy & Sheldon Smith
(203)880-5228 or revsheldonsmith@yahoo.com



Sign up for the MCC Women's Retreat at Silver Lake Conference Center

"Peace Like A River"

Leaving Friday Evening, **April 5** and
Returning Sunday afternoon, **April 7**

\$150 per person

Sign up in Wilton Hall
or call the office 203-268-9327

A team is being organized to plan the retreat. We hope you'll join in and add your thoughts and ideas!

See Pastor Jenn or e-mail her

at jenn.gingras@gmail.com



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, 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



Please join us for Adult PF which will now meet on 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 janeEallen@sbcglobal.net with any thoughts or questions. **Our next meeting will be Saturday, 3/2. 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:

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

March 20th - 7 pm- Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver

Prayer Partners

Supporting Others with Prayer

Prayer Partners Unite! There's only four more months to pray for our partners anonymously. We will meet on Sunday, May 19th in Wilton Hall at 11:15 for the "Big Reveal" potluck luncheon. This is where we'll find out who's been praying for whom. In the meanwhile, find out more information about them by striking up a conversation during coffee hour, give them the peace sign during that time of the service or send them a card in the mail for that special occasion or just because you feel like it. Don't forget to sign it, "Your Prayer Partner" and use the church's address as the return (34 Church St. Monroe, CT 06468).

Consider this: If praying out loud makes you nervous, here are seven tips to pray out loud with confidence:

- 1 - Take a deep breath and invite the Holy Spirit to speak.
- 2 - Remember it's OK to keep it short.
- 3 - Focus on just one thanksgiving or need.
- 4 - Be open to the Holy Spirit's lead for other prayer topics.
- 5 - Be you. Pray in your own voice.
- 6 - Remember God wants to hear YOUR voice as much as anyone else's.
- 7 - Keep practicing!

Please contact Susie Cuseo at 203-268-0280 or thecuseos@yahoo.com with any questions or comments.



Lost and Found items that could be yours. Have you checked out the lost items that are hung up across from the men's room? Some of these were in the Narthex of the Meetinghouse. Come and take a look to see if any of these stray clothing items are yours. By the end of February, they will be brought to the Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe. Please contact Susie Cuseo at 203-268-0280 or thecuseos@yahoo.com with any questions



Are you creative or handy with tools? The Strawberry Festival Committee is bringing back the Gaming Alley. However, some of the original games need to be revamped and we are looking to build new ones.

If you are interested in helping out with this wonderful task, please contact Susie Cuseo at 203-268-0280 or thecuseos@yahoo.com.



SR PF PRESENTS



CHILI

COOK-OFF

BRING THE HEAT! 6-8 PM

Saturday March

2nd

Monroe Congregational Church
Rexford House
34 Church St. Monroe, CT



**\$8/PERSON
KIDS UNDER
5 EAT FOR
FREE**

- 10+ Contestants
- Raffle baskets
- Bake Sale
- Mission trip slide show over the years

All Proceeds benefit our 2024 youth mission trip!

?s-Mccuccsrpf@gmail.com



As the new year begins, we hope that our friends and loved ones listed on our weekly prayer list have found healing of both body and soul. If you or your loved one finds you are no longer in need of our weekly prayer, please let Diane know so we may rejoice in the good news and remove the name making room for those who may need to be added. secretary@mcc-ucc.org or call the office 203-268-9327

In Our Prayers

Dave Coffey; Henry Bergeron, on the loss of his sister this week; **Gail Olson; Alison Abrams** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Jennifer Bittar** (Loraine 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); **Dave Fuller** (Gail Olson's brother); **Lehre Fuller** (Gail Olson's sister-in-law); **Clark Gingras; Peter Hallgren; 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; 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; 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; Tom Steen** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's dad); **Rev. Dr. Sheldon Smith; 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); **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: 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** (Loraine Zeiner's friend), Kuwait: **Jon Sanchez** (Don Whiteley's grandson-in-law)

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Sun. Feb 11th

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am NOOMA
11:30-1 pm Playground Foundation Pretzel Pickup (Wilton)
5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Feb 12th

7:30 pm Deacons

Tue. Feb 13th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Feb 14th

Ash Wednesday

9 am – 8 pm Labyrinth (Wilton Hall)
12:00 – 1:30 pm Ashes To Go
6:30 pm Agape Soup Supper
7:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship

Thurs. Feb 15th

9:30 am Bible Study
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Feb 18th

10:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Feb 19th

Presidents Day - Office Closed
7:30 pm Council

Tue. Feb 20th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Feb 21st

7:00 pm Book Club Zoom

Thurs. Feb 22nd

9:30 am Bible Study
12:00 pm Young @ Heart
6:00 pm Confirmation Class
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Feb. 25th

10:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

Tue. Feb 27th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thurs. Feb 29th

9:30 am Bible Study
6:00 pm Confirmation Class
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Sat. Mar 2nd

1:00 pm Sr PF Setup for Chili Cook off
5:30 pm Adult PF
6:00 - 8:00 pm SR PF Chili Cook Off

Week of Sun. Mar 3rd

10:00 am Worship
11:30 am Trustees
5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF

Mon. Mar 4th

7:00 pm Outreach

Tue. Mar 5th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag