

February 2, 2025

Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

10:00 am

*Monroe Congregational Church is an Open and Affirming congregation.
Our deacons and pastor 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.
May we be aware of others and feel the Spirit of God.*

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Gathering Music

Open My Eyes

Clara H. Scott, 1895

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Silence & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: There is always good to do

People: There is always a need for mercy

Leader: There is always more to learn

People: There is always risk when God's truth meets the ways of the world.

Leader: Jesus has called us and sent us to bear his light of love into the world.

*All: Let us come in the power of the Spirit to be refreshed and prepared for
this work in the days ahead.*

Prayer of Preparation

Larry Wissink, Deacon of the Day

***UCC Statement of Faith**

Reading #885 in hymnal

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Hymn (*seated*)

As We Gather at Your Table

NCH #332

Invitation and Prayer

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.*

Students may transition to Sunday School with their teachers.

***Hymn**

Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult

NCH #172

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer – Silent Prayer

*Gift-giver, you call us to seek the greater gifts in life, things like faith, hope,
and love. In grace you offer us these gifts in abundance and ask that we use
them for the common good. Help us avoid the temptation to use our influence
only to build ourselves up. As we continue to seek and learn, help us be a*

people shaped and guided by love, help us put aside childish ways as we mature in faith and love. Open our minds and hearts, empower our spirits and wills, move our hands and feet and voices to participate in your purpose. 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

Lift Thine Eyes

F. Mendelssohn, 1846

*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

Luke 6:1-16, page 938

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

Sermon

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

***Closing Hymn**

Let Justice Flow Like Streams

NCH #588

***Benediction**

Postlude

Be Thou My Vision

Irish Folk Melody

**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.



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!



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.

According to mythology, when St. Patrick was a missionary in Ireland in the 5th century, King Logaire of Tara decreed that no one was allowed to light any fires until a pagan festival was begun by the lighting of a fire on Slane Hill. In a move of defiance against this pagan ritual, St. Patrick did light a fire, and, rather than execute him, the king was so impressed by his devotion that he let Patrick continue his missionary work.



Three centuries later, a monk named Dallan Forgaill wrote the Irish poem, "Rop tú mo Baile" ("Be Thou my Vision), to remember and honor the faith of St. Patrick. Forgaill was martyred by pirates, but his poetry lived on as a part of the Irish monastic tradition for centuries until, in the early 20th century, Mary Elizabeth Byrne translated the poem into English, and in 1912, Eleanor Hull versified the text into what is now a well-loved hymn and prayer that at every moment of our lives, God would be our vision above all else.

Thank you for assisting in this morning's worship!

- **Deacon:** Larry Wissink
- **Usher:** Susie Cuseo
- **Lay Reader:** Cliff Cuseo
- **Trustee:** Bill Brett
- **Counter:** Mark Barnhart
- **Coffee Host:** Mark Barnhart
- **Web Steward:** Scott Young

Communion Team #1

Rebecca Cicarelli, 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>



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

Harrison Gilberti ⁽⁰²⁾

Roy Nealon ⁽⁰⁴⁾

Jay O'Rourke ⁽⁰⁸⁾

Paul Granello ⁽⁰⁴⁾

Jack Fracassini ⁽⁰⁸⁾



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)

Joseph & Donna Konkol ⁽⁰⁹⁾

Trustees



2025 Stewardship Campaign: Better Together We're making progress with **76** pledges received totaling over **\$199,311.57**, but there are still a number of members who we haven't heard from yet regarding their donation plans for 2025. If you have pledged in prior years, we're counting on your pledge for 2025 and hope you will consider increasing your pledge to help us achieve our goals.

If you have not pledged before, but contribute to the church, please consider making a pledge for 2025, as this will help the church maintain our outstanding programs and meet our budget goals. And if you provide a recurring donation via Vanco, we still need confirmation of your donation plans for next year.

Please fill out your pledge card and bring it to worship this Sunday or return it via mail to the church office Attention: Receiver. Alternatively, you can email your pledge commitment to me at jorourke224@gmail.com Thank you for considering a financial commitment to MCC for 2025 and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for prayerfully considering how to financially support the Monroe Congregational Church in 2025!

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



Snack & Chat with NOOMA The name NOOMA comes from a phonetic spelling of the Greek word πνευμα (pneuma), meaning "wind or spirit". Join us in Dineson Parlor after worship for a series of short films (less than 14 minutes each), snacks and a light discussion about life's big questions – no prep necessary and all are welcome! **Feb 16 –Rain, Mar 30 – Dust, Apr 27 – Flame**

Outreach



St George's Supper –Sunday, February 9th

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". Questions- contact Stacy at 203-500-1279



Join the fun group of women that keep the Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe open and thriving!

Do you have a couple of hours to spare on Tuesdays, Fridays or Saturdays? We sort, tag and hang donated merchandise in the Shoppe on Tuesdays at 1:30PM while on Fridays we are open from 10-3 and Saturdays from 10-2. It's easy to do. Just pop on over during any of those time frames and the volunteers(s) would gladly show you the ropes for opening or closing the Shoppe, a list of

responsibilities can be emailed to you for your perusal. You can always shadow a volunteer for a couple of shifts until you get the hang of it and then when you're ready, you will be put on the schedule. Monies collected from shoppers' purchases go to mission trips, outreach programs and many more. Please contact Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280 with any questions.



Let's feed hungry neighbors!

The **Feel The Warmth mobile community hot supper** needs 6-8 volunteers to cook a delicious and nutritious meal for 250 hungry neighbors on Thursday, February 20th.

Prep time in the kitchen is at **nOURish's** main headquarters, 2200 North Avenue, Bridgeport from 3 to 5:30 pm.

It's then transported to the Harrison Apartments on 651 State Street, Bridgeport and served to the displaced and homeless population from 6 to 7 pm.

Please join us! Sign up in Wilton Hall

Fellowship



Silver Lake Retreat Center - weekend of May 2-4, 2025

Soon a team will be 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 invites the women of the congregation to join them every second Wednesday of the month (except January, February, July and August). Please contact Shari Carrano at 475-342-8145 with any questions, comments or concerns. Mark your calendars for the following:

Wednesday, Mar 12, 11AM Dineson Parlor - Birthday bags

Wednesday, Apr 9, 11AM Dineson Parlor - CWS hygiene kits

Wednesday, May 14 11AM Dineson Parlor - Women's hygiene products collection

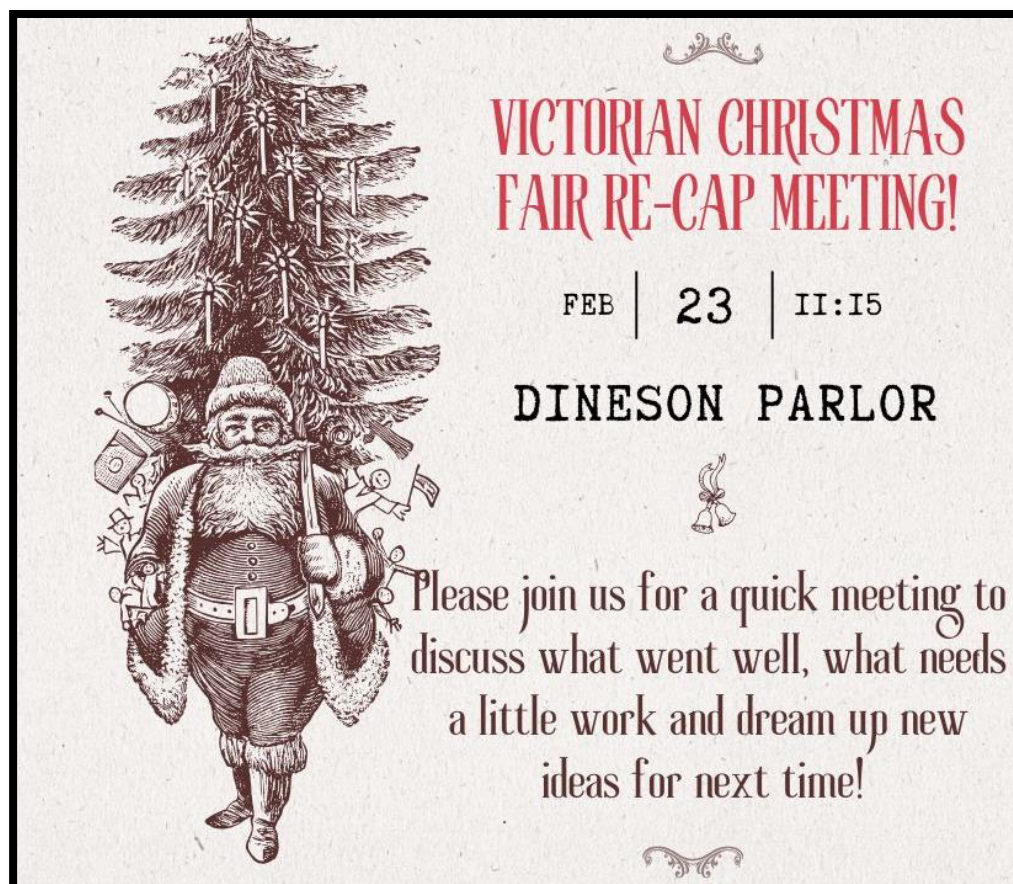
Wednesday, Jun 11 12PM - June Picnic Luncheon - Location TBD

Young At Heart will meet at noon on February 27th at TBD



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.

February 19th The Keeper of Hidden Books by Madeline Martin



⚡ MCC SR PF PRESENTS ⚡

CHILI

COOK-OFF

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 22

5:30-7:30 PM

The Monroe Congregational Church
Rexford House
34 Church St. Monroe CT
Live Music!

\$8/person
Kids
Under 5
Free!!



Between the Keys
Playing Live!

- 12 Contestants
- Raffle baskets
- Bake sale
- Band Between the Keys playing Live!

All Proceeds benefit our 2025 youth mission trip!
?'s - mccuccseniorpf@gmail.com

PHILLY SOFT PRETZEL

Step up your Super Bowl Sunday with Authentic Philly Soft Pretzels and Sweet and Salty Little Kernel's Kettle Corn! Dough-y inside, crusty on the outside, nothing beats a Philly Soft Pretzel!

Coming at you straight from the pretzel factory... pickup at MCC from 11:30am till 1:30pm on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb 9, 2025!

ORDER ONLINE

<https://pretzels.monroenonprofit.org/>
BY NOON ON SUNDAY, FEB 2, 2025.

*Proceeds benefit MCC youth programs
& Cub Scout Pack 262!*



In Our Prayers

Ken Post; Marge Fox and family on the passing of her mother age 105; **Alison Abrams** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Jennifer Bittar** (Lorraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney; Kevin Daly** (Gary Thompson's friend); **Dealmira** (Jonathan Ganino's grandmother); **Dan & Laura Dimauro** (Cuseo friends); **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); **Holly Hallgren; Mary & Rachel Heerema** (Julia Gutierrez's mom & sister); **Brad Heines** (Susie Cuseo's friend); **Bob Heffernan** (Ann Zeiner's son-in-law); **Heather Henning; Brian Hopkins** (Donna Konkol's cousin); **Vera James** (Jenn Wissink's mother); **Jonathan** (Matt Colegrove's brother); **Kelti** (friend of Liska Gutierrez), **Samia Khoury** (Will Duchon's friend); **Cindy Kovacs; Monica Lynch** (Bethany Dupuis' friend); **Jonathan Malia; Nicole Malia; the Manuzzi Family; Mary** (Kate Brigg's Mother); **Betty McKeown** (Donna Konkol's mother); **Meghan** (Mary Unger's niece); **Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **Jean Moffat; Olivia Morrison** (Donna Nickdow's niece); **Pat Nugent; Ocampo family** (friends of Liska Gutierrez); **Nancy Olofson; Missy & Gail Olson; Dean Perosino** (Gayle Hammond's brother); **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, Lori & Gary Sippin; John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Sheldon & Nancy Smith; Christine Stadler; 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); **Don Whiteley; Allen Zeiner** (Ann Zeiner's son); **Ann Zeiner**

The concerns of our world: The people of **Gaza & the West Bank; Israeli hostages** and their families, the people of **Ukraine, Sudan, Syria** and the **Middle East; 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**.

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** (Lorraine Zeiner's friend), **Lance Corporal Taylor Smith** (Cheri Irwin's Nephew)

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Sun. Feb 2nd

10:00 am Worship
11:30 am Trustees
5:00 pm Jr & Sr. PF

Mon. Feb 3rd

7:30 pm Outreach

Tue. Feb 4th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Thurs. Feb 6th

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

Week of Sun. Feb 9th

10:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Sr. PF

Mon. Feb 10th

3 pm St. George's Supper
7:30 pm Deacons

Tue. Feb 11th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Thurs. Feb 13th

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

Week of Sun. Feb 16th

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am NOOMA
5:00 pm Sr. PF

Mon. Feb 17th

Presidents Day – Office Closed
7:30 pm Council

Tue. Feb 18th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Feb 19th

7 pm Book Club

Thurs. Feb 20th

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

Sat. Feb 22th

5:30-7:30 pm Chili Cook Off

Week of Sun. Feb 23rd

10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Victorian Xmas Check-in
5:00 pm Jr & Sr. PF

Tue. Feb 25th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Thurs. Feb 27th

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