

January 22, 2023 **Third Sunday after the Epiphany ~ Heritage 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

+++++

Gathering Music Intermezzo in A *J. Brahms, 1893*

Choral Call to Worship Thankful Praise *Richard Smallwood, 1996*

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: What is a blessing?

People: More than just a good thing that makes us happy, yet not a sign that we're God's favorite. A blessing reveals God's priorities and God's presence.

Leader: Who is blessed?

People: Not only people with plenty, or who have it all together. Blessed too are those this world looks down upon.

Leader: What does it mean to be blessed?

People: To see the kingdom of heaven, to choose to live in it, risks and all, and to know God is with us, come what may.

Leader: Blessed are we when we recognize God's presence and live for God's glory.

All: Let us worship God together.

Opening Prayer Don Parker-Burgard, 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** Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You NCH #4

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

Holy One, every blessing your pour out brings light into the shadows of this world, that all may see. Every person you call into your way of life changes the flavor of the world, until everyone can taste and see that you are good. We confess that sometimes we feel too small to make much difference, so we'd rather just be more palatable and blend in. Forgive us when we choose the world's shallow blessings instead of your deep grace. Forgive us when we ignore the little things in your word. Re-light our lamps and re-salt our lives that we may recognize ourselves in your image and join again in the work of revealing your presence and 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.*

Heritage Sunday Celebration

Eternal and Gracious God, we are so thankful for these long-term members who have given their time, talents and gifts. The world is a better place because of their dedication. We thank you for the lives that have been transformed through them. Amen.

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

How Great Thou Art
Ed Burke, guitar and vocals

Carl Boberg, 1885

*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

Matthew 5:1-20, pg 880

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

Sermon

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

***Closing Hymn**

Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life (vs. 1 & 6) NCH # 543

Benediction

Choral Benediction

I Want to Thank You Lord

Moses Hogan, 1995

Postlude

Partita

G.F. Handel, 1730

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:** Don Parker-Burgard
- **Usher:** Julio Morales
- **Lay Reader:** Vaughan Askue
- **Trustee:** Frank Wittenauer
- **Counter:** Bill Stadler
- **Coffee Host:** Jessica Pfalzgraf & Don Parker-Burgard
- **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)

Max Williams ⁽²²⁾

Marian Schmitz ⁽²⁶⁾

Margaret Villani ⁽²⁷⁾

Harper Matejek ⁽²³⁾

Call to Annual Congregational Meeting , January 29, 2023

The members of Monroe Congregational Church are hereby called to attend the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to be held in the Meeting House at 11:00 am on Sunday, January 29, 2023.

The agenda will include the following: Receiving of Reports; Electing Officers, Board Members and Delegates; Adopting the 2023 budget and any other business that must properly come before the Congregation.



This meeting will be HYBRID; on zoom and in-person.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85876023555?pwd=ZHpZcWhha3VzMDVkbGJLOUNybDZLdz09>

Meeting ID: 858 7602 3555

Passcode: Strawberry

Heritage Sunday January 22, 2023

Today we honor and celebrate the ways in which these long term members have engaged in the mission and ministry of the Monroe Congregational Church. Through their contributions of time, talent and treasure, they have helped the Monroe Congregational Church thrive as a vibrant faith home. They have nurtured children and youth. They have offered gentle hands and hearts in times of need. They have stood on the side of love and justice in our community. We are grateful for their presence and for all the ways they have participated in this congregation. Thank you for your example and for staying, serving, and growing with us. Our church is a better place because you have been here.

	Joined in...
June Winger	1947 (76 Years)
Franklin Renz	1954 (69 Years)
Jackie Bleakney	1958 (65 Years)
June Wilkes	1959 (64 Years)
Myron Winger	1960 (63 Years)
Lorrie Sippin	1964 (59 Years)
Joyce Rousseau	1965 (58 Years)
George & Mary Massar, Gay Muizulis, Gary & Gail Thompson, Don Whiteley, Ann Zeiner, Vaughan Askue	1969 (54 Years)
Tom Kelly	1972 (51 Years)
Betty Heiney	1973 (50 Years)
Carol Kelly	1974 (49 Years)
Gail Olson	1975 (48 Years)
Tony Prall	1976 (47 Years)
Donna Jones Parratt	1977 (46 Years)
Lorraine Zeiner, Ron & Peggy Villani	1978 (45 Years)
Andrea Crosnier, Bob & Janice Martin	1980 (43 Years)
Marge Fox, Julie & Rob McClenathan, David & Lois Spence, Hubert Muizulis, Mary Renz	1982 (41 Years)
George & Priscilla Cunningham, Gayle & Robert Hammond	1983 (40 Years)
Gerrie Esposito	1987 (36 Years)
Linda Fracassini	1988 (35 Years)
Jane Allen, Ginger Bartlett, Paula Haggstrom, Barbara & Richard Ruot	1994 (29 years)
David Walker, Diane Prall	1995 (28 years)
Paul & Suzanne Adams, Julie Heussner, John & Kathy Maiolo, Lauren Provost, David & Linda Rooney	1996 (27 years)
Joe & Betsy Gilberti, Osiris & Julia Gutierrez, Jim & Jennifer Halloran, John & Barbara Yeager	1997 (26 years)
Nick & Linda Caballero, Ken & Pam Kelly, Roy & Jenn Nealon, Laurel & Ken Post, Scott & Katie Young	1998 (25 years)
John & Leslie Sekelsky, Jim Vance, Sue Waters	1999 (24 years)
Mark & Stacy Andrejczyk, Rich & Michelle Correll, Josh & Carrie Friend, John & Cindy O'Rourke, Marian Schmitz	2000 (23 years)
Eve Balestiere, Andrew Logan, Kristina Logan, Kristen Provost-Switzer	2001 (22 years)
Lynda Bauer, Richard Bauer, Cliff Cuseo, Susie Cuseo, Joanne Malia, Warren Stamp, Sheila Torres, Mary Unger, Trees Whitbeck	2002 (21 years)
Susan Granello, Mark Malia, John Quinlavin, Linda Resnick, Bonnie Schneider, Chuck Schneider, Christine Wittenauer, Frank Wittenauer	2003 (20 years)

Trustees

Congratulations, members and friends of MCC! At this time, we have met our 2023 pledge campaign goal of \$200,000 (although, if you haven't returned an estimate of giving card we'd still love to hear from you!). We are currently at 74 pledges for a total of \$201,480. Thank you for faithfully supporting the mission and ministry of the Monroe Congregational Church!



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

Deacons

The flowers this morning are given by Myron and June Winger in honor of the birthdays of Myron's parents, Llewellyn and Irene Winger.



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



Please see Jessica Pfalzgraf about
Volunteering as a Deacon or an Usher.
Your service to MCC is appreciated!

Jessica (203)414-6874 jspfalzgraf@gmail.com

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.

Faith Formation

Welcome the Children: The presence of children is a gift to the church, they give us a future filled with hope, and a present filled with joy. We have some Worship Tool Bags filled with art items and quiet toys to help them find worship more engaging and meaningful. Please see an usher or Greeter to obtain one.

Our **Sunday School** is available today for pre-school through junior high age children! Simply follow the group that departs after the children's message. If this is your first time visiting with children, you may want to accompany them and get them settled in with the teachers and other students. Welcome!



JR PF Schedule Our junior-high youth group (grades 6-8) meets every Sunday from 5-6:30 in classroom 5, join us!

Jan 22	Bake-Off (Nailed It)
Jan 29	Service Project



Sr PF Schedule: Our senior-high youth group meets most Sundays from 5-7:30 in Dineson Parlor, join us!

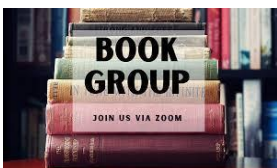
Jan 22	Blanket Making Service Project
Jan 29	Communication

Weekly Bible Study Thursday 9:30-11am

We cordially invite you to join us each week in in Dineson Parlor. This winter into the spring we will be reading together the Gospel of Matthew.



Fellowship



MCC Book Club is open to all church members. We will continue to meet via zoom on the **3rd Wednesday of each month at 7 pm.**

For more information, please call Paula Haggstrom 203-452-0850
email: pjsh55@gmail.com

Young At Heart will meet **January 26th at noon**
My Place Restaurant, 5 Queen Street, Newtown

Please RSVP to Bill and Mary Jo Brett if you plan to attend
203-270-1053 or e-mail: wrbmjb@sbcglobal.net



Morning Circle will not meet in January or February.

Our first meeting in 2023 will be on Wednesday, March 8 at 11AM in Dineson Parlor. We will be putting together birthday bags for the children visiting the Food Pantry with their parents. Included in these bags is a package of birthday napkins, candles, cake mix and frosting. **Donations are most welcome** and can be left in the Morning Circle bin across from the men's room. Please contact Jackie Bleakney with any questions at 203-268-5275.

Mark your calendars for the following meetings:

Wednesday, April 12 at 11AM in Dineson Parlor - CWS hygiene kits

Wednesday, May 10 at 11AM in Dineson Parlor - Women's products for Food Pantry

Wednesday, June 14 at 11AM - Annual June Picnic - location TBD

Women's
RETREAT
at Silver Lake



Friday, April 14 -
Sunday April 16

Save the Date!

In Our Prayers

Sophina Gingras; Judy Elmendorf, Michael Barresi (Maria's Son); **Jennifer Bittar** (Loraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney; Byron Brown & Bruce Bryant** (friends of Will Duchon); **Cheryl Ciambriello** (Wendy Colegrove's friend); **Lori Cimeno** (Peggy & Ron Villani's Daughter); **Cliff Cuseo; Donna** (Wendy Colegrove's aunt); **Dot Dralus; Matt Duchon; Bruno Forte** (friend of Nancy Hedine); **David Fischman** (Sue Granello's Friend); **Dave Fuller** (Gail Olson's brother); **Karen Guinness** (Jennifer Nivison's friend); **Gina & Liz** (Wendy Colegrove's friends); **The Haggstrom family; The Granello/Hedine family; Mary & Rachel Heerema** (Julia Gutierrez's mom & sister); **Bob Heffernan** (Ann Zeiner's son-in-law); **Sage Hohlfeld** (Gary Thompson's grandniece); **Brian Hopkins** (Donna Konkol's cousin); **Vera James** (Jenn Wissink's mother); **Shawn Kadric** (Diane Prall's brother-in-law); **Kelti** (friend of Liska Gutierrez); **Walter Lane** (Marge Fox's brother-in-law); **Danny Larkin** (Donna Konkol's relative); **Mary-Margaret Logan** (Andrew's mother); **Monica Lynch** (Bethany Dupuis' friend); **Jacque MacLean** (Jennifer Nivison's friend); **Nicole Malia; Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **Mike** (Dot's friend); **Jean Moffat; Olivia Morrison** (Donna Nickdow's niece); **Joe Mumper** (Julie McClenathan's friend); **Kathy Nivison** (Andy's mother); **Pat Nugent; Ocampo family** (friends of Liska Gutierrez); **Jennifer Olson** (Gail Olson's daughter-in-law); **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); **Norman & Jan Ricker** (Linda & Jack Fracassini's friend); **Kim Riffard; Regina Roberts** (Kathy Maiolo's niece); **Alfredo Rodriguez** (Osirus Gutierrez's cousin); **Noah Santiago** (Shari Carrano's great-grandson); **Connor Scalia** (Jen Nivison's friend); **Carlos Serrano** (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); **Yessika Siccardi** (Sampson family friend); **Bernie Sippin; Peggy Sippin** (Lori Sippin's daughter-in-law); **John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Sheldon Smith; Christine Stadler; Christian & Dain Steiner** (Julie McClenathan's nephews); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Winger's granddaughter); **Olga Terwilliger** (Nancy Hedine's sister-in-law); **Gail Thompson's family; Ian Thompson** (Gary's cousin); **Richard Turco** (Jack Fracassini's cousin); **Charles L. Wynn, Sr.,** (and his mother) **Alleane** (friends 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), Virginia: **Chris Meneses** (Loraine Zeiner's friend), Georgia: **Zachary Peters** (Jacob Parker-Burgard's cousin), Kuwait: **Jon Sanchez** (Don Whiteley's grandson-in-law) Stateside: **Joel Smith** (250th Engineering Company)

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Sun. Jan 22nd

Heritage Sunday

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

Tue. Jan 24th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Jan 25th

7:00 pm Confirmation

Thurs. Jan 26th

9:30 am Bible Study

12:00 pm Young @ Heart

5:45 pm Chime Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Jan 29th

Annual Meeting

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Annual Meeting

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

Tue. Jan 31st

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Feb 1st

7:00 pm Confirmation

Thurs. Feb 2nd

9:30 am Bible Study

5:45 pm Chime Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Feb. 5th

Communion

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

Mon. Feb 6th

7:00 pm Outreach (Zoom)

Tue. Feb 7th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Feb 8th

7:00 pm Confirmation

Thurs. Feb 9th

9:30 am Bible Study

5:45 pm Chime Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Feb. 12th

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

Mon. Feb 13th

7:45 pm Deacons (Zoom)

Tue. Feb 14th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Feb 15th

7:00 pm Confirmation

7:00 pm Book Club Zoom

Thurs. Feb 16th

9:30 am Bible Study

5:45 pm Chime Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Feb. 19th

10:00 am Worship

11:30 am Trustees

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

Mon. Feb 20th

Presidents Day -office Closed

7:30 pm Council (Zoom)

Tue. Feb 21st

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Feb 22nd

Ash Wednesday

11:30-1:00 Ashes to Go

6:30 pm Agape Community Meal

7:30 pm Worship

Thurs. Feb 16th

9:30 am Bible Study

12:00 pm Young at Heart

5:45 pm Chime Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir