

January 29, 2023

**Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany**

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**

Lyric Piece

*Edvard Grieg, 1876*

**Choral Call to Worship**

Let the Heav'n Light Shine on Me

*Spiritual*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles**

**Call to Worship**

Leader: In the kingdom of heaven,

*People: there is plenty.*

Leader: In the kingdom of heaven,

*People: everyone and everything is in God's care.*

Leader: In the kingdom of heaven,

*People: no one is out on their own.*

Leader: The kingdom of heaven has come near,

*All: and we come to re-orient our lives in it.*

**Opening Prayer**

Michelle Correll, 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**

The Church's One Foundation

NCH #386

**Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer**

*Holy One, we confess that we have no answer to "how much is enough" because we are never quite secure, never quite satisfied. We admit that the more we have, the more we want, and we can't seem to stop. Forgive us. Not so we can add forgiveness to our list of achievements, but so we can experience freedom. Set us free from always trying to get ahead: ahead of others, ahead in the business, ahead of the bills, ahead of ourselves. In that freedom may we learn to trust, and so turn our eyes and hearts and hands first to your work, to find your care is indeed enough for us all. 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** Concertato on "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" *Tune: ST. ANNE*

*Our offering plate will be passed among us today.  
You may give online at [www.mcc-ucc/donate](http://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 6:25-34, pg 882

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

#### Sermon

*What, Me Worry?*

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

#### \*Closing Hymn

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

NCH #393

#### Benediction

#### Choral Benediction

A Parting Blessing

*J. Jerome Williams, 1974*

#### Postlude

Fanfare

*Josef Oberdoerffer, 1923*

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**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:** Michelle Correll
- **Usher:** Christine Wittenauer
- **Lay Reader:** Lisa Burke
- **Trustee:** Scott Young
- **Counter:** Bill Stadler
- **Coffee Host:** Kristina Logan & Owen Correll
- **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)

Harrison Gilberti <sup>(02)</sup>

Paul Granello <sup>(04)</sup>

Roy Nealon <sup>(04)</sup>

Elayna Caballero <sup>(03)</sup>

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**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 TODAY at 11:00 am..



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

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**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 **76 pledges for a total of \$202,080.** 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 Michelle Correll  
in celebration of our amazing church community!**



**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:jenn@mcc-ucc.org) or her cell, 203-895-5607.

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### 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 29	Service Project
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Join Jr PF **Sunday Feb 12** (after worship) for **Souper Bowl Sunday!**

**Any donation amount is welcome, and all proceeds will be donated to the Monroe Food Pantry!!** If you are interested in making soup to share, would like to donate but won't be there in person that day, or have questions of any kind, please contact Jeanette Cardentey.



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

Senior

PF

Jan 29	Communication
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**Sr PF Chili Cookoff!**  
**Saturday, February 25**  
**5:30 – 7:30 pm**  
 MCC Rexford House

\$6/person

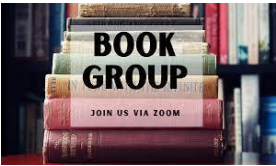
All proceeds benefit our 2023 youth group mission trip!

**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](mailto:pjsh55@gmail.com)

**February 15<sup>th</sup>**

West with Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge

Host: Julie McClenathan

**March 15<sup>th</sup>**

The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles

Host: TBD

**Young At Heart** will meet **February 23<sup>th</sup> at noon**

**Details to be announced**



**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!

# SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY



**Join Junior PF for a hot bowl of soup after worship  
on February 12th! Donations gratefully accepted  
in support of The Monroe Food Pantry!  
If you'd like to help out, speak with Jeanette!**

# Sr PF Chili Cookoff!

Saturday, February 25

5:30-7:30 pm

The Monroe Congregational Church

Rexford House

34 Church St, Monroe CT

- 12 Contestants
- Raffle Baskets
- Bake Sale
- The PF Band



**Admission  
\$6/person  
Kids under 5  
free!**

## It's spicy

*All proceeds benefit our 2023 youth mission trip!*

*?s - [mccuccseniorpf@gmail.com](mailto:mccuccseniorpf@gmail.com)*



# Prayer LIST

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](mailto:secretary@mcc-ucc.org) or call the office 203-268-9327

## *In Our Prayers*

**Michael Barresi** (Maria's Son); **Jennifer Bittar** (Lorraine 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**; **Judy Elmendorf**; **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); **Sophina Gingras**; **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** (Lorraine 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 29<sup>th</sup>**

*Annual Meeting*

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Annual Meeting

4:00 pm SPF Leadership meeting

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

### **Tue. Jan 31<sup>st</sup>**

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

### **Wed. Feb 1<sup>st</sup>**

7:00 pm Confirmation

### **Thurs. Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study

5:45 pm Chime Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

### **Week of Sun. Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>**

*Communion*

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

### **Mon. Feb 6<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 pm Outreach (Zoom)

### **Tue. Feb 7<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

### **Wed. Feb 8<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 pm Confirmation

### **Thurs. Feb 9<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study

5:45 pm Chime Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

### **Week of Sun. Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Worship

11:30 am Trustees

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

### **Mon. Feb 13<sup>th</sup>**

7:45 pm Deacons (Zoom)

### **Tue. Feb 14<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

### **Wed. Feb 15<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 pm Confirmation

7:00 pm Book Club Zoom

### **Thurs. Feb 16<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study

5:45 pm Chime Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

### **Week of Sun. Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

### **Mon. Feb 20<sup>th</sup>**

*Presidents Day -office Closed*

7:30 pm Council (Zoom)

### **Tue. Feb 21<sup>st</sup>**

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

### **Wed. Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>**

*Ash Wednesday*

12-1 Ashes to Go

6:30 pm Agape Community Meal

7:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship

### **Thurs. Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study

12:00 pm Young at Heart

5:45 pm Chime Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

### **Sat. Feb 25<sup>th</sup>**

3:00 pm Sr PF Setup for Chili Cookoff

5:30 - 7:30 pm SR PF Chili Cook Off

### **Week of Sun. Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Worship

11-12 Lenten Labrinth Walk (Wilton Hall)

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

### **Tue. Feb 28<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

### **Wed. Feb 29<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 pm Confirmation

### **Thurs. Mar. 1<sup>st</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study

5:45 pm Chime Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir