

January 16, 2022

Second 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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Musical Call to Worship

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made

People: We will rejoice and be glad in it!

Leader: This is the day we see God's presence face to face

People: Not bound in a building or a tradition, but in the flesh!

Leader: This is the day our relationship with God changes

People: We will push through our fear to trust in God's goodness

Leader: This is the day we have been waiting for

All: When God's vision becomes reality in the Body of Christ!

Opening Prayer

Joanne Malia, Deacon of the Day

***Our Church's Covenant**

inside front cover of hymnal

Children's Message

Students may remain with their families in worship.

Musical Interlude

Air

J.S. Bach

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

What do you see when you come among us today, O God? Show us the truth, and reveal to us your vision — for we confess sometimes there is more of a gap than we would like to admit. Forgive us when we have created barriers to seeking you in our community, either saying or implying people must be, or look, or speak, or give, a certain way to belong. With some trepidation we pray you would come among us again this day, turn over the tables and drive out our hubris, that we may see as you see, and then pursue your vision. We ask in the name of the One who embodies your presence, here and everywhere, Jesus the Christ. 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

I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to Be Free
MCC Folk Band

Billy Taylor, 1963

*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

John 2:13-25 pg 967

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

Sermon

Flipping Business as Usual

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

Benediction

Parting Music

If I Had a Hammer
MCC Folk Band

Pete Seeger/Lee Hays, 1949

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)
- Please wear a mask indoors (if you need one, just ask!)
- 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.

Thank you for assisting in this morning's worship!

- **Deacon:** Joanne Malia
- **Usher:** Arlene Redmond
- **Trustee:** James Brown
- **Counter:** Fred Dubois
- **Coffee Host:** Caleb Nealon & Linda Fracassini
- **Web Steward:** Scott Young

The flowers this morning are given by the Sampson Family.



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. Please review the available slots on Sign Up Genius and click on the button to sign up. If you do not have access to a computer, call Diane in the office 203-268-9327, and she will help you sign up!

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>



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

Thomas Culp ⁽¹⁶⁾

Braden Goyette ⁽¹⁶⁾

Ann Zeiner ⁽¹⁶⁾

Jaclyn Birn ⁽¹⁸⁾

Clark Gingras ⁽¹⁸⁾

Christine Williams ⁽¹⁸⁾

Nancy Olofson ⁽¹⁹⁾

Susan Grundt ⁽²⁰⁾

Rebecca Williams ⁽²⁰⁾

Max Williams ⁽²²⁾



Call to Annual Congregational Meeting * January 23rd, 2022

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 11:15 am on Sunday, January 23rd, 2022. The meeting will be hybrid this year (on Zoom and in person in the Meetinghouse).

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83783604562?pwd=L2dSUVPeQ3dYUnNBeUJZUHRKMnBxQT09> Meeting ID: 837 8360 4562, Passcode: Rexford

The agenda will include the following: Receiving of Reports; Electing Officers, Board Members and Delegates; Adopting the 2022 budget and any other business that must properly come before the Congregation.

Top 10 reasons to Attend the Monroe Congregational Church Annual Meeting on January 23rd after worship (11:15 A.M.)

10. That is when it is scheduled.
9. To get to know what is on other people's minds.
8. Because we are Congregationalists (see below***) and that is what we do.
7. To speak your mind have a say in how things are at MCC.
6. To be a good citizen – "to elect officers, boards, committees, and delegates to the Association and Conference to which this church belongs; to adopt an annual budget; ... and to transact such other business as may be set forth" (from the MCC Constitution).
5. To see if the Moderator can manage Robert's Rules of Order.
4. To understand where your money goes and to move to redirect, if so moved.
3. To postpone getting home to do chores.
2. To get to know other MCC members and make friends.
1. Free chocolate (calories do not count on Annual Meeting Day).

*** Many of us at MCC grew up in other religious traditions (or none). Congregationalists are pretty unique in how the church is managed. We, the congregation, run the show. We are the ministers, the managers, and the masters of our fate as a church. We run it. We finance it. Without us, it does not exist. This is what Congregational polity ("the form of government of a religious denomination" – Merriam Webster) means. We are autonomous; we are in charge of ourselves. The way to have a say in how we are run is to attend congregational meetings, e.g., the Annual Meeting. See you on the 23rd. The hybrid meeting will take place in person in the Meeting House and also via Zoom for those who cannot attend in person.

From: The Moderator

Stewardship



The 2022 MCC Stewardship campaign "Rooted in Love" update

Our goal this year is to increase our pledge base by 10%, so that we can decrease our reliance on the endowment to fund operating expenses. To date we have received **73 pledges** for a total of **\$184,196** and we are getting closer to our \$200,000 goal!

If you haven't done so already, please complete and return an estimate of giving card for 2022 in the plate or through the mail, or send your pledge via email to jorourke224@gmail.com. Thank you for prayerfully considering how to financially support the Monroe Congregational Church in 2022!

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



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

Outreach



St George's Supper February 14th 3:00 pm
Signup link coming soon!

Christian Education



Weekly Prayer & Bible Study Group! Every Thursday from 9:30-10:30 in Dineson Parlor, everyone is cordially invited and welcome to join us! Bring your favorite Bible (whatever version you prefer) and a small notebook. Let Pastor Jenn know if you have any questions.

In 2022, we are following **The Woman's Lectionary** and highlighting the stories of two Biblical women a week, some with names, some without.

January 13	Psalm 131, Luke 2:22-38 (Anna Sees Jesus)
January 20	Isaiah 60:1-6, Luke 2:41-52 (Mary Loses Jesus in the Temple)
January 27	Isaiah 62:1-5, John 2:1-11 (Mary Attends Wedding at Cana)



Sunday School We do not have Sunday School on the 16th due to the MLK Holiday.

January 23rd - Nicodemus Visits Jesus
January 30th - The Women at the Well

Jr PF will take a pause January 16th for the MLK Holiday, resuming January 23rd for a Game Date w/ Coat Drive, and on January 30th a Groundhog Day Movie Night.



Summer 2022 at Silver Lake Conference Center:

Registration for summer programs opens January 15!

[Check out the summer brochure online](#) & look for it on the church bulletin board in early January!



Given the rise in infections, and the fact that the choir has gone on hiatus, Kate and I have decided that it's best for **Adult PF** not to meet in January. If it doesn't seem wise to resume in-person gatherings in February, we'll have our meetings (2/6 and 2/20) on Zoom.

Thanks for a great fall, with lots of vigorous discussion and engagement with Genesis. Since we're not meeting this month, feel free to read ahead, or to go back and revisit what we've covered so far (chapters 1-11). Whether in person or on Zoom, we'll begin the story of Abraham and Sarah in February. Happy New Year and a blessed Epiphany! -Don



Does planning events and bringing joy to your congregation sound fun to you?? Our **Fellowship Board** who brings you your annual Easter Coffee Hour, Mother's Day Tea, Christmas Coffee Hour and other special events throughout the year are in need of help! If you are interested or have questions about what the time commitment for a role like this would be, please reach out to Michelle Cardentey (michelle.cardentey@gmail.com) or Jeanette Morales (jeanettemcardentey@gmail.com) and we would be happy to answers any questions you may have. Thank you!!



Morning Circle would like to thank those who took tags for the town's Giving Tree program. With your kindness and generosity, you've made the day of the person who will receive your gifts. We will not meet during January or February.

Please mark your calendars for the following dates:

- Wednesday, March 9th at 11AM in Wilton Hall - Birthday bags for Food Pantry
- Wednesday, April 13th at 11AM in Wilton Hall - Hygiene kits for Church World Service
- Wednesday, May 11th at 11AM in Wilton Hall - Collection of women's products for Food Pantry
- Wednesday, June 8th at 11AM - Annual Luncheon



MCC Book Club is open to all church members.

For more information, please call Paula Haggstrom 203-452-0850
email: pjsh55@gmail.com We will continue meet via Zoom.

- February 9th, 7 pm - *Slow Fire Burning* by Paula Hawkins, Host: Gayle Hammond
- March 9th, 7 pm - *Anxious People* by Fredrick Backman, Host: TBD
- April 13th, 7 pm - *The Lobotomist's Wife* by Samantha Greene Woodruff, Host: TBD
- May 11th, 7 pm - *The Indigo Girl* by Natasha Boyd, Host: TBD
- June 8th, 7 pm - *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See, Host: TBD
- July 13th, 7 pm - *The Last Mona Lisa* by Jonathan Santlofer, Host: TBD
- August 10th, 7 pm - *The Involuntary American* by Carol Gardner, Host: TBD



Young at Heart

Next luncheon will be at Jennie's Pizza in Monroe on February 24th at 12.
Please RSVP to Juliana Lavitola at 203-414-7877 or jsl.lavitola@gmail.com.



2022 Inclement Weather Policy

Here in New England we get to enjoy seasonal weather changes. At MCC, we have learned to be flexible and make safe choices about our scheduled plans. The safety and well-being of our people is one of our most important concerns. This is our inclement weather policy, including who makes decisions about closings and how the decision is spread in the community. If you serve in a position of responsibility, please find your leadership role below.

In Person Sunday Worship Services:

1. **At 7 am**, Pastor (Jenn Gingras, 203-895-5607) and the current Chair of Deacons make the decision whether or not to cancel in-person worship. If in-person worship is cancelled, Jenn will record and upload an abbreviated worship service on <https://www.youtube.com/monroecongregationalchurchucc> by noon (sermon, prayer, announcements)
2. **Jenn** notifies staff and key volunteers (who in turn notify those they work with), including Jeanette Cardentey-Morales (203-257-9637), Will Duchon (203-615-3908), Reader, Usher and Trustee of the Day. Jenn sends a church-wide e-mail and posts on FB (MCC-UCC Conversation and Monroe Cong Church Page)
3. **Chair of Deacons** notifies CT Weather/IAN Snap, Channel 8 & Channel 3
4. **Committee meetings** are cancelled at the discretion of committee chair, although many are held on Zoom at the moment, so weather shouldn't be a problem!

Sr. & Jr. PF groups will be notified of any changes or cancellations by e-mail, phone tree and/or Facebook notifications as appropriate.

1. Jenn Gingras (203-895-5607)– Makes and communicates Sr PF decision
2. Jeanette Cardentey-Morales (203-257-9637) – Makes and communicates Jr PF decision

Evening Meetings: It is the responsibility of the convener to notify the meeting participants of any changes or cancellations.

Midweek Morning Programs: If the Monroe School district either delays or cancels school, morning Bible studies and other church-sponsored morning programs are cancelled.

Church Office: If the Monroe School System is closed, and staff members are able to travel, they may choose to do so if conditions are safe. Otherwise, they may choose to work remotely.

*If you have any questions or concerns, please call the church office at 203-268-9327.
For info on parking lot conditions, our plow guy's name is Adam, his cell is 203-258-8382.*

In Our Prayers

Family and friends of The Rev. Luther C. Pierce who passed on December 15; 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; Dot Dralus; Matt Duchon; Marge Fox; Fern Griffith** (Ashley Levin's friend); **Karen Guinness** (Jennifer Nivison's friend); **Gina & Liz** (Wendy Colegrove's friends); **Gary & Julie Hedine** (Nancy Hedine's son & daughter-in-law); **Mary & Rachel Heerema** (Julia Gutierrez's mom & sister); **Bob Heffernan** (Ann Zeiner's son-in-law); **Brian Hopkins** (Donna Konkol's cousin); **Vera James** (Jenn Wissink's mother); **Kelti** (friend of Liska Gutierrez); **Walter Lane** (Marge Fox's brother-in-law); **Mary-Margaret Logan** (Andrew's mother); **Jacque MacLean** (Jennifer Nivison's friend); **Nicole Malia; Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **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); **Ray 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); **Regina Roberts** (Kathy Maiolo's niece); **Kelly Rodman** (Angela Cross' friend); **Alfredo Rodriguez** (Osirus Gutierrez's cousin); **Lisa Rozmus** (friend of the Pfalzgraf family); **Noah Santiago** (Shari Carrano's great-grandson); **Connor Scalia** (Jen Nivison's friend); **Nicholas Scalzo** (Angela Cross's Father); **Carlos Serrano** (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); **Yessika Siccardi** (Sampson family friend); **Bernie Sippin; John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Christine Stadler; Maria Stadler** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Christian & Dain Steiner** (Julie McClenathan's nephews); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Winger's granddaughter); **Olga Terwilliger** (Nancy Hedine's sister-in-law); **Ian and Dick Thompson** (Gary's cousins); **Richard Turco** (Jack Fracassini's cousin); **Susan Walker; 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: *Those who serve or live in war or conflict zones; 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: New York: **Zachary Gingras**, Washington: **Rachel Hoffman** (Vaughan Askue's daughter), Virginia: **Chris Meneses** (Loraine Zeiner's friend), Georgia: **Zachary Peters** (Jacob Parker-Burgard's cousin), Kuwait: South Carolina: **Bob Peters** (Don Parker-Burgard's brother-in-law)

MCC Community Calendar

Week of January 16th

10:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Senior PF
No Junior or Adult PF

Mon. January 17th

Martin Luther King Day –office closed
7:30 pm Council Meeting ZOOM

Tue. January 18th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag
7:00 pm Bereavement Group

Wed. January 19th

6:30 pm Confirmation (Dineson)

Thur. January 20th

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)
6:00 pm Chimes & Bells Rehearsal

Week of January 23th

Heritage Sunday
10:00 am Worship
11:15 am **ANNUAL MEETING**
5:00 pm Junior PF
5:00 pm Senior PF

Tue. January 25th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. January 26th

6:30 pm Confirmation (Dineson)

Thur. January 27th

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)
6:00 pm Chimes & Bells Rehearsal

Week of January 30th

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

Tue. February 1st

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag
7:00 pm Outreach ZOOM
7:50 pm Deacons ZOOM

Wed. February 2nd

6:30 pm Confirmation (Dineson)
7:00 Book Club ZOOM

Thur. February 3rd

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)

Week of February 6th

Scout Sunday
10:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Junior PF
5:00 pm Senior PF
5:00 pm Adult PF ZOOM

Tue. February 8th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. February 9th

6:30 pm Confirmation (Dineson)
7:00 Book Club ZOOM

Thur. February 10th

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)
6:00 pm Chimes & Bells Rehearsal

Week of February 13th

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

Mon. February 14th

3:00 pm St George's Supper

Tue. February 15th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag
7:00 Bereavement Group

Wed. February 16th

6:30 pm Confirmation (Dineson)

Thur. February 10th

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)
6:00 pm Chimes & Bells Rehearsal