

January 19, 2025

Second Sunday after 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

Arioso

J.S. Bach

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship *(inspired by Psalm 36)*

Leader: Your steadfast love, O LORD, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

People: For with you is the fountain of life. Fill us with life!

Leader: Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains; your judgments are like the great deep.

People: For with you is the fountain of life. Fill us with life!

Leader: O continue your steadfast love to those who know you and your salvation to the upright of heart!

All: For with you is the fountain of life. Fill us with life!

Opening Prayer

Rebecca Cicarelli, 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**

God of Grace and God of Glory

NCH #436

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

Gracious God, we live in the tension between expectation and reality. Sometimes, we navigate that tension with hope and clarity. At other times, we fester in doubt, disappointment, and uncertainty. Help us to release our need to control and enable us to embrace the possibilities. May our trust in your goodness and the power you have poured into us embolden our faith. 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

Will There Really Be a Morning? *Rickie Ian Gordon, 1995*
based on a poem by Emily Dickinson

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 4:14-30, pg 936

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

Sermon

Hometown Hero

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

*Closing Hymn

Called as Partners in Christ’s Service

NCH # 495

Benediction

Postlude

Courante

J.S. Bach

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.



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.

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!



**The flowers this morning are given in honor and celebration
of Pastor Jenn's 18th year with us,
with love and appreciation from her MCC 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. 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](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAC2CA5FEC61-flowers)

Thank you for assisting in this morning's worship!

Deacon: Rebecca Cicarelli **Usher:** Mike Pellegrino **Lay Reader:** Linda Fracassini
Trustee: Frank Wittenauer **Counter:** Bill Stadler **Web Steward:** Scott Young
Coffee Host: Rebecca Cicarelli & Larry Wissink



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

Nancy Olofson ⁽¹⁹⁾

Rebecca Williams ⁽²⁰⁾

Gabriela Gerhard ⁽²²⁾

Max Williams ⁽²²⁾

Carmela Combs ⁽²³⁾

Harper Matejek ⁽²³⁾



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)

Mike & Barbara Pellegrino ⁽²⁴⁾



STAR Words are HERE! Pastor Jenn has a basket of STAR words for 2025 for you to choose from. We hope that you find time to marvel at God's spirit working through these paper stars. Like the magi, may these words allow us all to go home by another road, our eyes opened to God's presence in and around us.

Interested in joining MCC? Join us TODAY Sunday, Jan. 19th
for a light lunch and a get-to-know-you meeting at 11 am
in Dinson Parlor. (*childcare provided in nursery*)

New Members join next Sunday, Jan. 26



Church Council

Call to Annual Congregational Meeting January 26, 2025



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 26, 2025.

The agenda will include the following: Receiving of Reports; Electing Officers, Board Members and Delegates; Adopting the 2025 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/89652939434?pwd=KQWkE1X0ZOCW2NIDWcVaaA2S1bPvYc.1>

Meeting ID: 896 5293 9434 Passcode: 067229

Fellowship



Young At Heart will meet at noon on January 23rd at Sal’s Family Pizza, 630 Main St, Monroe. Hosts are Arlene Redmond & Vaughan Askue, rsvp 917-370-4711, or arleneredmond@gmail.com

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

Trustees

2025 Stewardship Campaign: Better Together We’re making progress with **71** pledges received totaling over **\$188,111.57**, 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

In Our Prayers

Joe Konkol; Alison Abrams (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Jennifer Bittar** (Loraine 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); **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); **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, Lorrie & 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), **Justin Riffard**, Pensacola Naval Air Station, **Zachary Gingras**, 395th Combat Sustainability Support, **Joel Smith**, 250th Engineering Company, **Chris Meneses** (Loraine Zeiner's friend), **Lance Corporal Taylor Smith** (Cheri Irwin's Nephew)

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Sun. Jan 19th

10:00 am Worship
11:00 am New Member Informational
5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Jan 20th

Martin Luther King Day – office Closed
7:30 pm Council

Tue. Jan 21st

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thurs. Jan 23rd

9:30 am Bible Study
12:00 pm Young @ Heart (Sal's)
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir
7:30 pm Confirmation

Week of Sun. Jan 26th

Annual Meeting~New Member~Heritage
10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Annual Meeting
5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

Tue. Jan 28th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thurs. Jan 30th

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

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

3:00 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