

January 28, 2024

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

10:00 am

Heritage & Annual Meeting Sunday

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

Beautiful City

Stephen Schwartz, 1973

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, bring your burdens, your hopes, your last-ditch efforts, your pain ...

People: We come seeking God's compassion, present in Christ.

Leader: Whoever you are, whatever responsibilities you hold, whatever experiences life has brought you ...

People: We come seeking healing, restoration, peace, grace.

Leader: Trusting in what Jesus can do...

All: We come seeking the One who gives life!

Opening Prayer

Emma Campbell, Deacon of the Day

***Our Church's Covenant**

inside front cover of hymnal

Heritage Sunday Celebration

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

Students may transition to Sunday School with their teachers.

***Hymn**

Hear the Voice of God, So Tender

NCH #174

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

God among us, we give you thanks for listening when we have the courage to come before you, and for your grace in naming us part of your family. Forgive us for perpetuating the isolation of illness, and the stigma that prevents people from seeking help. Restore us to wholeness, the kind that seeks the good of all your people together, that reaches out to heal with kind hands and an open heart, that brings life to those who have suffered long. We ask in the name of Christ. whose healing power is for all creation. 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

O Happy Day

Edwin Hawkins, 1969

*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

Mark 5:21-43, page 915

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

Sermon

Where Does It Hurt?

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

*Closing Hymn

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder (verses 1 & 4)

NCH #558

Benediction

Choral Benediction

Parting Music

Each Morning Brings Us

Johann Walter, 1523

**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.

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.



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:** Emma Campbell
- **Usher:** Melissa Quinn
- **Lay Reader:** Bill Brett
- **Trustee:** John O'Rourke
- **Counter:** Mark Barnhart
- **Coffee Host:** Rebecca Ciccarelli & Marc Cardentey
- **Web Steward:** Scott Young



**The flowers this morning are given by Pastor Jenn
in celebration of our church's servant leaders,
you make MCC a brighter, kinder place every day!**

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)



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

Robert Gauthier ⁽⁰¹⁾

Harrison Gilberti ⁽⁰²⁾

Elayna Caballero ⁽⁰³⁾

Church Council

Call to Annual Congregational Meeting ~January 28, 2024



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 11:15 am.

The agenda will include the following: Receiving of Reports; Electing Officers, Board Members and Delegates; Adopting the 2024 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/83723851536?pwd=a2M3WlJlMjg4cmhjVWYwZmh0bnhQZz09>

Meeting ID: 837 2385 1536

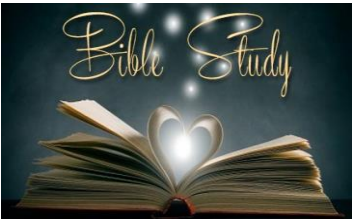
Passcode: Strawberry

Heritage Sunday * January 28, 2024

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.

	<i>Joined in...</i>
June Wininger	1947 (77 Years)
Franklin Renz	1954 (70 Years)
Jackie Bleakney	1958 (66 Years)
June Wilkes	1959 (65 Years)
Myron Wininger	1960 (64 Years)
Lorrie Sippin	1964 (60 Years)
Joyce Rousseau	1965 (59 Years)
Mary Massar, Gay Muizulis, Gary & Gail Thompson, Don Whiteley, Ann Zeiner, Vaughan Askue	1969 (55 Years)
Tom Kelly	1972 (52 Years)
Carol Kelly	1974 (50 Years)
Gail Olson	1975 (49 Years)
Tony Prall	1976 (48 Years)
Donna Jones Parratt	1977 (47 Years)
Loraine Zeiner, Ron & Peggy Villani	1978 (46 Years)
Andrea Crosnier	1980 (44 Years)
Marge Fox, Julie & Rob McClenathan, David & Lois Spence, Hubert Muizulis, Mary Renz	1982 (42 Years)
George & Priscilla Cunningham, Gayle & Robert Hammond	1983 (41 Years)
Gerrie Esposito	1987 (37 Years)
Linda Fracassini	1988 (36 Years)
Jane Allen, Ginger Bartlett, Paula Haggstrom	1994 (30 years)
David Walker, Diane Prall	1995 (29 years)
Paul & Suzanne Adams, Julie Heussner, John & Kathy Maiolo, David & Linda Rooney	1996 (28 years)
Joe & Betsy Gilberti, Osiris & Julia Gutierrez, Jim & Jennifer Halloran	1997 (27 years)
Nick & Linda Caballero, Ken & Pam Kelly, Roy & Jenn Nealon, Laurel & Ken Post, Scott & Katie Young	1998 (26 years)
John & Leslie Sekelsky, Jim Vance, Sue Waters	1999 (25 years)
Mark & Stacy Andrejczyk, Rich & Michelle Correll, Josh & Carrie Friend, John & Cindy O'Rourke, Marian Schmitz	2000 (24 years)
Eve Balestriere, Andrew & Kristina Logan	2001 (23 years)
Lynda & Richard Bauer, Cliff & Susie Cuseo, Joanne Malia, Mary Unger, Trees Whitbeck	2002 (22 years)
Susan Granello, Mark Malia, Linda Resnink, Bonnie & Chuck Schneider, Christine & Frank Wittenauer	2003 (21 years)
David & Kathy Allen, Ann-Marie Campbell, Jamie & Shirley Dotoratos, Don Elmendorf, Nancy Hedine, Joseph & Donna Konkol, Jean Moffat	2004 (20 years)

Deacons



Weekly Bible Study We cordially invite you to join us each week as we gather together to learn with and through one another. All are welcome in Dineson Parlor, from **9:30-11 am**. After a time of fellowship and prayer concerns, we read and discuss upcoming scripture texts or other faith-related topics. Bring your favorite Bible (whatever version you prefer) and a small notebook.



Snack & Chat with NOOMA: NOOMA is a series of 24 short films (less than 14 minutes each) that "blend [events of] everyday with discussion about God". Each short story covers a specific topic on a real-life situation, usually by relating the various experiences from a Christian perspective. The series features Rob Bell, the author of Love Wins. The name NOOMA comes from a phonetic spelling of the Greek word πνευμα (pneuma), meaning "wind or spirit". Join us in Dineson Parlor to enjoy some snacks, a video and light discussion – no prep necessary and all are welcome! **Feb 11 – LUGGAGE**, Mar 17 – OPEN, Apr 21 – STORE

The background of the poster is a close-up photograph of a hand drawing a large, dark 'W' shape on a light-colored surface using ash. The 'W' is the central focus, with the hand's fingers visible at the bottom left corner.

Remember you are loved
and to Love you shall return

Ash

Wednesday

February 14, 2024

Open Labyrinth
Walk 9 am - 8 pm

Ashes-to-Go 12-1:30

Agape Supper 6:30 pm

Worship 7:30 pm

*The Monroe Congregational Church
34 Church Street * Monroe CT*

Trustees



2024 MCC Stewardship Campaign In the fall we began our annual pledge drive, an intentional period of stewardship commitment entitled "Because of YOU, our church changes lives".

To date, we have received 83 pledges totaling \$189,990 against our goal of \$200,000 - Thank you!

We hope that if you haven't responded yet you will complete and return your 2024 pledge card as soon as possible, either by mail, in the giving plate on Sunday, or by e-mailing your intentions to John O'Rourke at jorourke224@gmail.com. Thank you for prayerfully considering how to financially support the Monroe Congregational Church in 2024!

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

Outreach



The Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe is looking for volunteers to help sort, tag and hang donated merchandise on Tuesdays at 1:15 PM. Sales associates are needed on Fridays for shifts from 10-12:30 and 12:30-3 and on Saturdays from 10-12 and 12-2. It's easy to do with a list of procedures that you can read over or visit a volunteer during business hours and they'd be glad to help you with any questions regarding opening or closing. Please contact Susie Cuseo with any questions at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280.

Fellowship



Sign up for the MCC Women's Retreat at Silver Lake Conference Center

"Peace Like A River"

Leaving Friday Evening, **April 5** and Returning Sunday afternoon, **April 7**

\$150 per person

Sign up in Wilton Hall
or call the office 203-268-9327

A team is being 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 meets on the second Wednesday of the month with the exception of January and February. We work in collaboration with the Food Pantry providing bean soup jars for Thanksgiving, birthday bags for children who visit with their families, collect women's hygiene products and make trick-or-treat bags in October. We put together Church World Service hygiene kits for international families in crisis and collect spare change for Heifer International. Please contact Shari Carrano with any questions or comments at 203-400-3563.

Our calendar of meetings

Wednesday, March 13 - Birthday bags for Food Pantry
Wednesday, April 10 - Church World Service hygiene kits
Wednesday, May 8 - Collection of Women's hygiene products
Wednesday, June 12 - Annual June picnic - Location TBD



Please join us for Adult PF which will now meet on the **1st Saturday of the month in Dineson Parlor from 5:30 to 8pm!**

Bring your own beverage and a snack to share. We are excited to bring Adult PF back to MCC in a new format! Each month will be led by different members of the group. It could be a discussion of an article or movie, a game night or a service project for MCC or the greater community, or an outing etc. Your presence and ideas are wanted and welcome. All adults young and old are encouraged to attend. Please reach out to Janie Allen via phone/text/email at 203-522-3686 or janeFallen@sbcglobal.net with any thoughts or questions. **Our next meeting will be Saturday, 2/3. Come check it out!**



Young at Heart will meet Thursday, February 22th at noon.
RSVP to Nancy & Sheldon Smith (203)880-5228 or revsheldonsmith@yahoo.com

Details to follow.



We encourage anyone to join us 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

The book club selections for upcoming months:

February 21st - 7 pm - This Tender Land by William Kent Kreuger
March 20th - 7 pm- Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver

Sr PF Coat Drive


Let's Help Our
Neighbors at the
Bridgeport
Rescue Mission!

Please bring your gently
used coats to Wilton Hall
by Monday, January 31st



Why not make your New Year resolution
to make more friends at MCC's

ADULT PF?



Re-scheduled

5 PM
FEBRUARY 3, 2024
Dineson Parlor
BYOB and a snack to share!

Theme: Arlene
will give a
presentation
of her trip to
Norway!

⚡ SR PF PRESENTS ⚡

CHILI COOK-OFF

BRING THE HEAT! 6-8 PM

Saturday March

2nd

Monroe Congregational Church
Rexford House
34 Church St. Monroe, CT

\$8/PERSON
KIDS UNDER
5 EAT FOR
FREE

Live Music!

- 10+ Contestants
- Raffle baskets
- Bake Sale
- Mission trip slide show over the years

All Proceeds benefit our 2024 youth mission trip!
?'s-Mccuccsrpf@gmail.com

In Our Prayers

Ed Simonovich (Nancy Hedine's friend); **Gary Thompson's niece**, on the birth of son Charles Nelson Hewitt; **Alison Abrams** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Jennifer Bittar** (Loraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney**; **Byron Brown & Bruce Bryant** (friends of Will Duchon); **Lori Cimeno** (Peggy & Ron Villani's Daughter); **Kevin Daly** (Gary Thompson's friend); **Dawn** (Donna Konkol's Friend); **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); **Clark Gingras**; **Peter Hallgren**; **Mary & Rachel Heerema** (Julia Gutierrez's mom & sister); **Heidi** (Diane Prall's sister); **Brad Heines** (Susie Cuseo's friend); **Bob Heffernan** (Ann Zeiner's son-in-law); **Heather Henning**; **Brian Hopkins** (Donna Konkol's cousin); **Bill Irwin** (Cheri's husband); **Vera James** (Jenn Wissink's mother); **Joey** (Calvert Locks); **Jonathan** (Matt Colegrove's brother); **Kelti** (friend of Liska Gutierrez); **Walter Lane** (Marge Fox's brother-in-law); **Monica Lynch** (Bethany Dupuis' friend); **Nicole Malia**; **Ron McGlinchey** (Pastor Jenn's dad); **Betty McKeown** (Donna Konkol's mother); **Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **Jean Moffat**; **Olivia Morrison** (Donna Nickdow's niece); **Bert Muizulis**; **Joe Mumper** (Julie McClenathan's friend); **Pat Nugent**; **Ocampo family** (friends of Liska Gutierrez); **Nancy Olofson**; **Missy Olson**; **Dean Perosino** (Gayle Hammond's brother); **Geno Piacentini** (Karen MacDonald's husband); **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); **Bernie Sippin**; **Gary Sippin** (Lori Sippin's son); **John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Christine Stadler**; **Tom Steen** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's dad); **Rev. Dr. Sheldon Smith**; **Christian & Dain Steiner** (Julie McClenathan's nephews); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Wininger's granddaughter); **Wayne Thompson** (Gary Thompson's brother); **Richard Turco** (Jack Fracassini's cousin); **Ruth Wakeley**; **Charles L. Wynn, Sr.**, (and his mother) **Alleane** (friend 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: Stateside: **Justin Riffard**, Pensacola Naval Air Station, **Zachary Gingras**, 395th Combat Sustainability Support, **Joel Smith**, 250th Engineering Company Germany: **Rachel Hoffman** (Vaughan Askue's daughter), Chicago: **Chris Meneses** (Loraine Zeiner's friend), Kuwait: **Jon Sanchez** (Don Whiteley's grandson-in-law)

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Sun. Jan 28th

Heritage Sunday

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Annual Meeting

5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF

Tue. Jan 30th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thurs. Feb 1st

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Confirmation Class

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Sat. Feb 3rd

5:30 pm Adult PF

Week of Sun. Feb 4th

10:00 am Worship w/communion

11:15 am Outreach (Kitchen)

11:30 am Trustees

5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF

Tue. Feb 6th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thurs. Feb 8th

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Confirmation Class

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Feb 11th

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am NOOMA

5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF

Mon. Feb 12th

7:30 pm Deacons

Tue. Feb 13th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Feb 14th

Ash Wednesday

9 am – 8 pm Labyrinth (Wilton Hall)

12:00 – 1:30 pm Ashes To Go

6:30 pm Agape Soup Supper

7:30 pm Ash Wednesday Worship

Thurs. Feb 15th

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Confirmation Class

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Feb 18th

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am NOOMA

5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF

Mon. Feb 19th

Presidents Day - Office Closed

7:30 pm Council

Tue. Feb 20th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Feb 21st

7:00 pm Book Club Zoom

Thurs. Feb 22nd

9:30 am Bible Study

12:00 pm Young @ Heart

6:00 pm Confirmation Class

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir