

January 5, 2025

**Second Sunday of Christmas ~ Epiphany**

10:00 am

**Communion Sunday**

*Monroe Congregational Church is an Open and Affirming congregation.  
Our deacons and pastor 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.  
May we be aware of others and feel the Spirit of God.*

+++++

**Gathering Music**                      Hark! The Herald Angels Sing                      *Charles Wesley, 1739*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Moment of Silence & Lighting of the Candles**

**Call to Worship**

Leader: We've been so busy, God, with all the things!

*People: Household and family! Travel and end-of-year deadlines! Holiday celebrations  
and cleaning it all up!*

Leader: Not to mention all the stuff that worries us. And yet, in the middle of it all,  
you have come to be here with us.

*People: Help us take note of this holy threshold moment in time.*

Leader: And in this sacred space we create together,

*All: Let your light shine! Amen.*

**Prayer of Preparation**

Leanne McEvoy, Deacon of the Day

**\*UCC Statement of Faith**

Reading #885 in hymnal

**Sacrament of Holy Communion**

**Communion Hymn** (*seated*)                      Many Are the Lightbeams                      #163, vs. 1, 3-5

**Invitation and Prayer**

**Sharing the Bread and Cup**

**Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*We give thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by  
granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our  
love for one another, and send us into the world in courage and peace,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
Amen.*

*Students may transition to Sunday School with their teachers.*

**\*Hymn**

Arise, Your Light Is Come

#164

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

*Holy One, You call us to be rooted in your Way, to prioritize You, for You are our God and there is none before You. We confess that we have many other interests that we sometimes put first. Forgive us when we forget the story you call us to live. Forgive us when we look in all the wrong places. Forgive us when we do not want to bring ourselves into the light of your Word, for fear of what we might see. Amaze us today with your grace, astound us with your understanding, and lead us home to treasure the truth of your love. We ask in the name of the One who shows us what it means to be about Your business, 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**

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying  
*Our offering plate will be passed among us today.  
You may give online at [www.mcc-ucc/donate](http://www.mcc-ucc/donate).*

*Ken Medema*

**\*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 2:41–52, page 934

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

**Sermon**

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

**\*Closing Hymn**

Jesus Calls Us, o’er the Tumult

#172, vs. 1,3-5

**\*Benediction**

**Postlude**

Savior, Again to Your Dear Name

*John Ellerton, 1866*

\*\*\*\*\*

*\*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.

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.



**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!

**Thank you for assisting in this morning's worship!**

- **Deacon:** Leanne McEvoy
- **Usher:** Bill & Mary Jo Brett
- **Lay Reader:** Heather Hisey
- **Trustee:** Andrew Logan
- **Counter:** John O'Rourke
- **Coffee Host:** Jessica Pfalzgraf
- **Web Steward:** Scott Young

**Communion Team #2**  
Michelle Correll, Jim Hisey,  
Michelle Cardentey, Leanne McEvoy &  
Jocelyn Allen



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

Don Parker-Burgard <sup>(06)</sup>

Susan Granello <sup>(10)</sup>

Christopher Hisey <sup>(11)</sup>

Katerina Vargovchik <sup>(07)</sup>

Jamie Correll <sup>(11)</sup>



**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)

Larry & Jennifer Wissink <sup>(07)</sup>

\*\*\*\*\*



**STAR Words are HERE!** At church on Epiphany Sunday (January 5th), we'll have 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 **Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>** for a light lunch and a get-to-know-you meeting at 11 am in Dinson Parlor. **New Members join on 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.

\*\*\*\*\*



**Fellowship**

**Young At Heart** will meet at noon on January 23<sup>rd</sup> details to follow.



Join us for the monthly Book Club on the **3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:pjsh55@gmail.com) or home phone or 203-452-0850.

**January 15<sup>th</sup>** The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride  
**February 19<sup>th</sup>** The Keeper of Hidden Books by Madeline Martin

\*\*\*\*\*

**Trustees**

**2025 Stewardship Campaign: Better Together** We're making progress with **63** pledges received totaling over **\$177,511.57**, 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](mailto: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

**Jonathan Malia; Alison Abrams** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Jennifer Bittar** (Lorraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney; Kevin Daly** (Gary Thompson's friend); **Dealmira** (Jonathan Ganino's grandmother); **Dan & Laura Dimauro** (Cuseo friends); **John Dominic** (Pfalzgraf's neighbor); **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); **Holly Hallgren; 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); **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); **David Schoen** (Pastor Jenn's Uncle); **Carlos Serrano** (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); **Yessika Siccardi** (Sampson family friend); **Ed Simonovich** (Nancy Hedine's friend); **Bernie, Lori & 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** (Lorraine Zeiner's friend), **Lance Corporal Taylor Smith** (Cheri Irwin's Nephew)

## **MCC Community Calendar**

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

*Epiphany, Communion, STAR Words*

10:00 am Worship

11:30 am Trustees

5:00 pm Jr & Sr. PF

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

7:30 pm Outreach

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

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

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

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

7:30 pm Confirmation

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

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Jr & Sr. PF

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

7:30 pm Deacons

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

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

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

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

7:30 pm Confirmation

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

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am New Member Informational

5:00 pm Senior PF

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

*Martin Luther King Day – office Closed*

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

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

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

9:30 am Bible Study

12:00 pm Young @ Heart

5:45 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

7:30 pm Confirmation

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

*Annual Meeting~New Member~Heritage*

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Annual Meeting

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

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

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

### **Thurs. Jan 30<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

7:30 pm Confirmation