

July 20, 2025

**Sixth Sunday After Pentecost**

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**

Prelude

*F. Chopin*

**Welcome & Announcements**

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

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Come one, come all; young and old, curious and certain, weary and  
wide-awake!

*People: We come with laughter and questions, stories and songs, crayons  
and coffee cups!*

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made; a day to dance, a day to dream,  
a day to delight in God's love together.

*People: We are God's people, gathered as one, not by age or stage, but by grace  
that makes us family.*

*All: Let us worship with joy, sing with hope, and celebrate the Spirit moving  
among us!*

**Opening Prayer**

Michelle Cardentey, Deacon of the Day

**\*Our Church's Covenant**

inside front cover of hymnal

**Children's Message**

**\*Hymn**

What a Covenant

NCH #471

*Students may remain with their families; there are worship bags available  
and the nursery is open for the littles*

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

*Holy One, You offer us a covenant written on our hearts, but we scribble over it with  
our own fears and distractions. You whisper grace, but we turn up the volume of our  
own importance. You call us to justice and mercy, but we are often too tired, too busy,  
or too afraid. Forgive us for the ways we fail to love ourselves, our neighbors, even  
You. Forgive the hardness in our hearts, and soften us again with Your Spirit. Write  
Your truth deep within us, until it shows in everything we do. Amen. ~Silent Prayer~*

**Words of Assurance**

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**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**

Yes, God Is Real  
*Our offering plate will be passed among us today.  
You may give online at [www.mcc-ucc/donate](http://www.mcc-ucc/donate).*

*Spiritual*

### **\*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**

Jeremiah 33:14-18, pg 724 31:31-34, pg 721

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

### **Sermon**

Love in Permanent Ink

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

### **\*Closing Hymn**

God's Eye Is on the Sparrow

NCH #475

### **Benediction**

### **Postlude**

Sent Forth by God's Blessing

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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. Please join us for a time of **fellowship** following the service in Wilton Hall.

**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!

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 Cardentey   **Usher:** Rob McClenathan   **Lay Reader:** Jim Hisey  
**Trustee:** John O'Rourke   **Counter:** Dave Allen   **Web Steward:** Scott Young  
**Summer Coffee Host:** Kathy Allen



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

Kate Parker- Burgard <sup>(20)</sup>

Owen Correll <sup>(24)</sup>

Bill Stadler <sup>(26)</sup>

Carol Kelly <sup>(21)</sup>

Ann-Marie Campbell <sup>(25)</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)

Rich & Michelle Correll <sup>(20)</sup>



**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.monroecg.org)



Diane is scheduled for vacation on Mondays throughout the summer. She will continue to work from home on Wednesdays where she will receive and respond to your voicemail and email messages. Happy Summer!

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## Fellowship



**NEEDED: MCC Summertime Coffee Hour Hosts** Are you interested in providing refreshments for our church members and friends following Sunday worship! All you need to do is arrive at the kitchen by 9:45 to get the coffee going (instructions found on kitchen wall). Providing baked goods or other snacks are always welcome (but not mandatory). **Please sign up in Wilton Hall.** (Although one can do it, it's fun to serve with a friend). Thank you!



**Morning Circle** invites the women of the congregation to join them every second Wednesday of the month (except January, February, July and August). Please contact Shari Carrano at 475-342-8145 with any questions, comments or concerns.



Join us for the monthly Book Club on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7 pm**. 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.

Aug. 20<sup>th</sup> *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt

Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan

**Young at Heart** will meet on July 24th at noon at The Hilltop Kitchen Restaurant located in the heart of Sandy Hook, 4 Riverside Road. The Hilltop Restaurant is located where the Villa Restaurant once served the community. The on-line menu can be confusing but all items listed as Brunch will be available along with the many varied pizza options. Depending on the numbers attending, we will either be seated in the Octagon Room or in the newly renovated main dining room. Access by the main entrance is readily handicapped accessible from the front parking lot with NO curbs. We look forward to seeing you there. For more information and reservations call Bill or Mary Jo Brett at 203-270-1053 or e-mail [wrbmjb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wrbmjb@sbcglobal.net)



**The Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe** is looking for your help. Volunteers can come to the Shoppe on Tuesdays at 9:30am during the summer. Stay for a couple of hours to help sort, tag and hang donated merchandise. **The Shoppe will be closed for cleaning after July 26th. This event will require lots of hands, so if you have the free time for the Tuesday after, please stop by** and the ladies will gladly show you what needs to be done. We will reopen on Friday, August 22.

Please contact Susie Cuseo at [thecuseos@yahoo.com](mailto:thecuseos@yahoo.com) or 203-268-0280 if you like to take a shift. Many thanks to all our diligent volunteers who man the counter and take care of our donations.

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## Outreach

Did you forget to buy **JAM** at the Strawberry Festival? Good news! We have some available for sale online at <https://monroe-strawberry-festival-since-1972.square.site/>



## **In Our Prayers**

**The members of Senior PF**, on their 2025 Summer Mission Trip to North Carolina; **Alison Abrams** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Jennifer Bittar** (Loraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney**; **Lisa Cody & Dave Barton** (friends of Julie and Rob McClenathan); **Debbie Cuseo** (Cliff's sister-in-law); **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); **Donnajean Fredeen, Dave Fuller** (Gail Olson's brother); **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); **John** (Donna's father); **Jonathan** (Matt Colegrove's brother); **Kelti** (friend of Liska Gutierrez); **Samia Khoury** (Will Duchon's friend); **Cindy Kovacs**; **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); **Olivia Morrison** (Donna Nickdow's niece); **Ocampo family** (friends of Liska Gutierrez); **Nancy Olofson**; **Missy & Gail Olson**; **Donna Parratt**; **Regina Roberts** (Kathy Maiolo's niece); **Alfredo Rodriguez** (Osirus Gutierrez's cousin); **Noah Santiago** (Shari Carrano's great-grandson); **Palma Senatore** (Sara Alvarez's grandmother); **Carlos Serrano** (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); **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 Wininger's granddaughter); **Timara** (Mary Unger's friend); **Tom** (Wendy Colegrove's dad); **Wayne Thompson** (Gary Thompson's brother); **Richard Turco** (Jack Fracassini's cousin); **family of Dawn Tyrell Vaicunas** (Melissa Quinn's friend); **June Wilkes**; **Natica Williams** (Will Duchon's friend); **Allen & 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), **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**

*Senior PF Mission Trip July 19-27*

### **Week of Sun. July 20<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Worship

*Pastor Jenn is on vacation July 22-28*

### **Mon. July 21<sup>st</sup>**

Diane Vacation - Office Closed

### **Tue. July 22<sup>nd</sup>**

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Thurs. July 24<sup>th</sup>**

12:00 pm Young at Heart

### **Week of Sun. July 27<sup>th</sup>**

*Rev. Ed Rawls, Guest Preacher*

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Mon. July 28<sup>th</sup>**

Diane Vacation - Office Closed

### **Tue. July 29<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Mustard Seed Cleaning Event

### **Week of Sun. Aug 3<sup>rd</sup>**

10:00 am Communion Worship

11:30 am Trustees

5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Mon. Aug 4<sup>th</sup>**

Diane Vacation - Office Closed

*Pastor Jenn is on vacation Aug 5-11*

### **Tue. Aug 5<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Mustard Seed Cleaning Event

### **Week of Sun. Aug 10<sup>th</sup>**

*Rev. Ed Rawls, Guest Preacher*

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Mon. Aug 11<sup>th</sup>**

Diane Vacation - Office Closed

3:00 pm St George's Supper

7:30 pm Deacons

### **Week of Sun. Aug 17<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Mon. Aug 18<sup>th</sup>**

Diane Vacation - Office Closed

*Pastor Jenn is on vacation Aug 19-25*