

July 28, 2024

**Tenth 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**

Morning Has Broken

**Welcome & Announcements**

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

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Throughout all our lives God is with us.

*People: Praise be to God for such mercy and love.*

Leader: Even when we are faced with difficult decisions, God's presence is near.

*People: When we don't know which way to go, God's Spirit will guide and lead us.*

Leader: Open your hearts today to the Shepherd's gentle leading.

*All: We open our lives to God, that we may faithfully serve all our days.*

**Opening Prayer**

Jim Hisey, Deacon of the Day

**\*Our Church's Covenant**

inside front cover of hymnal

**Children's Message**

*Students may remain in church with their families, the nursery is staffed to care for younger children.*

**\*Hymn**

All Things Bright and Beautiful

NCH #31

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

*Lord, we tend to wander in the wildernesses of our own creation. We place our needs and our schedules before our service to you. Help us to reorder our priorities. Help us to look again at the wonderful opportunities you give us to be of service to you by working with others; reaching out to heal and help. Bring us to the light of your love once again. Heal our wounded souls. Let us love you truly with our whole heart, soul, mind, and strength. Give us courage and persistence so that your great love and glory may shine through our deeds of lovingkindness. 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**

His Eye is on the Sparrow      *Civilla Martin & Charles Gabriel, 1905*  
*Heather, Grace & Chris Hisey*  
*Our offering plate will be passed among us today.*  
*You may give online at [www.mcc-ucc/donate](http://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**

Ruth 1:6-18, pg 238

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

**Sermon**

A Stubborn Kind of Loyalty

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

**\*Closing Hymn**

Lead On Eternal Savior

NCH #573

**\*Benediction**

**Parting Music**

Where the Spirit of the Lord Is

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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.



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:** Jim Hisey    **Usher:** Susie Cueso    **Lay Reader:** Frank Wittenauer

**Trustee:** Glenn Brigham    **Counter:** Scott Young

**Coffee Host:** Susie & Cliff Cuseo    **Web Steward:** Scott Young



The flowers this morning are given by **Michelle Cardentey** in honor of **Carmelina Cardentey's birthday in heaven**

**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](http://MCC-UCC.org)



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

Kenny Dutton <sup>(28)</sup>

Caroline Wittenauer <sup>(28)</sup>

Karen Coffey <sup>(02)</sup>

Tom Kelly <sup>(28)</sup>

Christine Wittenauer <sup>(28)</sup>

Margery Fox <sup>(02)</sup>

Alexa Sentementes <sup>(28)</sup>

Kathryn Wittenauer <sup>(28)</sup>

Beverly Shaffer <sup>(02)</sup>

Lynda Swift <sup>(28)</sup>

Brian Campbell <sup>(02)</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)

Diane & Tony Prall <sup>(28)</sup> Kate & Tom Briggs <sup>(29)</sup> Meg & Dan Sullivan <sup>(30)</sup>

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Diane is scheduled for vacation on Mondays throughout the summer, beginning this Monday, July 1<sup>st</sup>. Diane will continue to work from home on Wednesdays where she will receive and respond to your voicemail and email messages. Happy Summer!

The **Monroe Summer Day Camp** will be renting our MCC campus again this year. The camp will provide added income for the church during the months of June, July and August. If you need to enter the building between 7:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday please stop into the office and ask Diane to notify the camp director. **If the office is closed, please use the walkie-talkie provided to notify the camp director, Karen or Krissy, of your presence.** Thank you!

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### Fellowship



**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!





Young at Heart will meet Thurs., August 22 at noon. Details to follow

# Summer BOOK CLUB

New summer dates! **3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 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.

The book club selections for upcoming months:

**August 22<sup>nd</sup>** at 7pm - The Only Woman in the Room by Marie Benedict

**September 18<sup>th</sup>** at 7 pm- Tom Lake by Ann Patchett

**October 16<sup>th</sup>** at 7pm - On Beauty by Zadie Smith

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*St George's*  
**MEAL PACK**

8/11 AFTER WORSHIP

CHURCH KITCHEN

Come help Outreach get meals ready for our hungry Bridgeport neighbors! Cash donations gratefully accepted at coffee hour.

Your Are Invited To Join MCC at

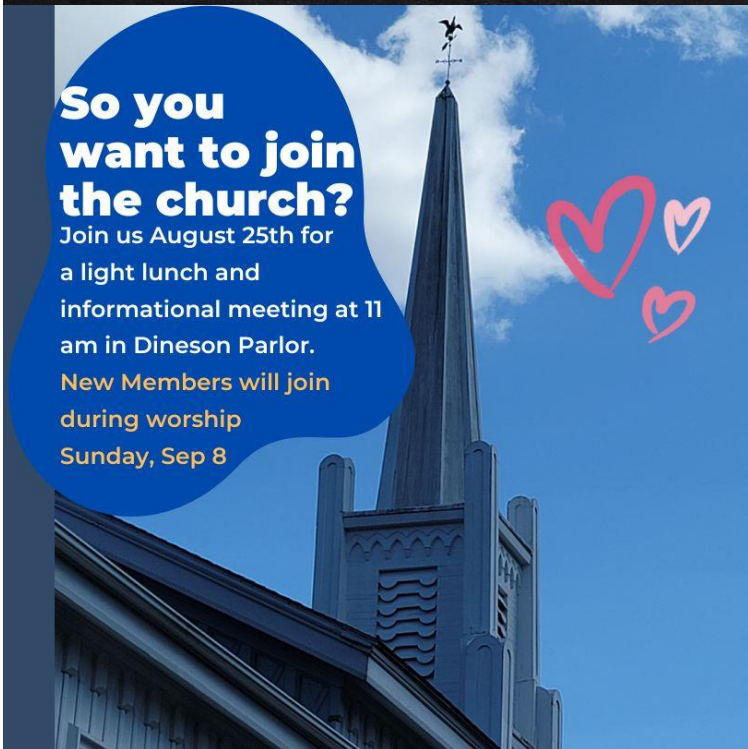
# Arts In The Park

FREE SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

- 7/19 Psychedelic Relics
- 7/26 Creative Music Studio Showcase
- 8/2 Mass Conn Fusion Band
- 8/9 Simply Swifties Band

Get ready to soak up the small town vibes and relish the joy of the great outdoors! **Bring a picnic dinner or snacks, wear a red shirt and find us!**

We can't wait to share these wonderful summer nights with you! **All shows start at 7:30 pm at Wolfe Park in Monroe.**

**So you want to join the church?**

Join us August 25th for a light lunch and informational meeting at 11 am in Dineson Parlor. New Members will join during worship Sunday, Sep 8

# HOME COMING PICNIC

Come enjoy a nice meal, fun & games and reconnect with your church family!

12-4pm September 15, 2024 at Wolfe Park

**SAVE THE DATE**



Bring a salad or dessert to share. Drinks, hot dogs, hamburgers and veggie burgers will be provided.

## In Our Prayers

**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); **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); **Bryan Garvin** (Mike Pfalzgraf's cousin); **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); **Monica Lynch** (Bethany Dupuis' friend); **Nicole Malia; Betty McKeown** (Donna Konkol's mother); **Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **Jean Moffat; Olivia Morrison** (Donna Nickdow's niece); **Joe Mumper** (Julie McClenathan's friend); **Pat Nugent; Ocampo family** (friends of Liska Gutierrez); **Nancy Olofson; Missy & Gail Olson; Dean Perosino** (Gayle Hammond's brother); **Josh Post; 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 Sippin; Gary Sippin** (Lori Sippin's son); **John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Sheldon & Nancy Smith; Christine Stadler; Christian & Dain Steiner** (Julie McClenathan's nephews); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Winger's granddaughter); **Wayne Thompson** (Gary Thompson's brother); **Richard Turco** (Jack Fracassini's cousin); **June Wilkes; June Winger; Don Whiteley; 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** 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:**

Stateside: **Lt. Col. Rachel Hoffman**, Tacoma, Washington (Vaughan Askue's daughter) **Justin Rifflard**, Pensacola Naval Air Station, **Zachary Gingras**, 395th Combat Sustainability Support, **Joel Smith**, 250th Engineering Company **Chris Meneses** (Loraine Zeiner's friend)

Kuwait: **Jon Sanchez** (Don Whiteley's grandson-in-law)

## **MCC Community Calendar**

*Senior PF Mission Trip July 20 – 28  
Appalachian Folk Life Center,  
Pipestem, WV*

### **Week of Sun. Jul 28<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Worship

### **Mon. Jul 29<sup>th</sup>**

*Diane on Vacation - Office Closed*

### **Tue. July 30<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Fri. Aug 2<sup>nd</sup>**

7:30 pm Arts in the Park Meetup

*Pastor Jenn Vacation, Aug. 4 – 10*

### **Week of Sun. Aug 4<sup>th</sup>**

*Communion Carra McFadden,  
Guest Preacher*

10:00 am Worship

11:30 am Trustees

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

*Diane on Vacation - Office Closed*

5:30 pm Outreach Planning (K. Allen's Home)

### **Tue. Aug 6<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Fri. Aug 9<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 pm Arts in the Park Meetup

### **Week of Sun. Aug 11<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Worship

11:00 Pack St. George's Supper

### **Mon. Aug 12<sup>th</sup>**

*Diane on Vacation - Office Closed*

3:00 St George's Supper

7:30 pm Deacons (zoom)

### **Tue. Aug 13<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

*Pastor Jenn Vacation, Aug. 18 - 24*

### **Week of Sun. Aug 18<sup>th</sup>**

Guest Preacher, Jim Hisey

10:00 am Worship

### **Mon. Aug 19<sup>th</sup>**

*Diane on Vacation - Office Closed*

6:00 pm Council Planning

### **Tue. Aug 20<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Thur. Aug 22<sup>nd</sup>**

12:00 pm Young @ Heart

7:00 pm Book Club

### **Sat. Aug 24<sup>th</sup>**

1:30 pm Jr PF Picnic (Morales' Home)

### **Week of Sun. Aug 25<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Worship

11:15 New Member Informational  
(Dineson)

### **Mon. Aug 26<sup>th</sup>**

*Diane on Vacation - Office Closed*