June 22,2025  **Second 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**  Lord of All Beauty   *Clara Schumann, 1854*

**Welcome & Announcements**

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

**Call to Worship**

**Leader:** Come on in, however you're feeling today: calm, tired, joyful, or unsure.

***People:*** *We’re here, and Jesus meets us just as we are.*

**Leader:** If you’ve ever felt left out, or like you didn’t quite belong…

***People:*** *Jesus sees us, knows us, and welcomes us.*

**Leader:** This is a place for healing,

***People:*** *A place to grow and be made new.*

**Leader:** So come, let’s worship,

 ***All:*** *And get ready to be part of what love can do!*

**Opening Prayer** Rebecca Cicarelli, Deacon of the Day

**\*Our Church’s Covenant**inside front cover of hymnal

**Children’s Message**

*The nursery is open for children younger than 5.
Worship bags are available for school-aged children near the front door.*

**\*Hymn**  For the Beauty of the Earth NCH #28

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

*Loving Jesus, you saw someone everyone else had given up on, and you didn’t look away. Sometimes we avoid hard things. Sometimes we ignore people who are hurting
because we’re scared, confused, or just too busy. But you show us a better way. Forgive us when we close our hearts. Heal what is broken in us, and help us share your love with kindness, courage, and hope. 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** Touch the Hand of Love *Blossom Dearie, 1981*

*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** Luke 8:26-39, pg 942

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

**Sermon**  *Even on Vacation, Jesus Shows Up* Rev. Jennifer Gingras

**\*Closing Hymn** The Church's One Foundation (verses 1 & 4) NCH #386

**Benediction**

**Postlude**  Toccata in E-flat   *Annamarie Schiller, 1853* \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

**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:** Rebecca Cicarelli **Usher:** Bill & Mary Jo Brett **Lay Reader:** Frank Wittenauer **Trustee:** Glenn Brigham **Counter:** Scott Young **Web Steward:** Scott Young

**Coffee Host:** Michelle Cardentey & Jessica Pfalzgraf



**The flowers this morningaregiven by** ***Rick & Mary Erdmann
in loving memory of our mom, Dorothy***



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

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| --- | --- | --- |
| Michael Ganino (23)Julia Gutierrez (23) | Molly Kinahan (23) | Hannah Halloran (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)

Ron & Peggy Villani (24)

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**To All The Strawberry Festival Volunteers**

You rose with the sun with a smile in your heart,
Each task you embraced was a labor of art.
With aprons and signage and hats askew,
You showed what a faithful community can do.

You mixed up the batter and whipped up the cream,
Welcoming each guest like a midsummer dream.
You picked berries fresh with the dew on their skin,
And turned them to shortcake with joy baked within.

You hauled and you hammered, you carried and cooked,
You greeted the curious folks who just looked.
You poured out your time, your sweat, and your care,
Transforming our Green into joy everywhere.

Though your feet may be sore and your voices grown hoarse,
You’ve nourished the spirit at its very source.
In laughter and kindness, in strawberries dipped,
God’s love—through your service—was beautifully sipped.

So here’s to you all, each one who took part,
With dish towel or clipboard or generous heart.
May you rest now and know that the Festival’s through,
We give thanks to God, remembering you.

*Much love from Clark, Frank, Susie & Pastor Jenn*

**Trustees**

Through your generosity, encouragement, and “above-and-beyond” spirit, we have officially closed the 2025 stewardship gap, with $7,020 in gifts. Thank you for showing once again that when we come together with purpose, we can meet any challenge!

The anonymous $5,000 matching donation was given to Senior PF to help fund their mission trip to North Carolina this July. Thanks to everyone’s generosity, they’ll be better equipped to carry the love of this church family with them every step of the way.

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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 Thursday, **June 26** at noon,
**My Place Restaurant**, 8 Queen Street, Newtown
**RSVP** Cliff Cuseo @ 203-243-8216



****Join us for the monthly Book Club on the **3rd 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 or home phone or 203-452-0850.
**July 16th** Brave New World by Aldous Huxley Host: TBD

Mustard Seed Summer Sorting and Tagging group
will meet at **9:30 starting June 10.**

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**Deacons**

**Welcome Summer Guest Preacher Rev. Ed Rawls** – Jun 29, Jul 27, Aug 10 & 24

Rev. Ed Rawls is a retired UCC Pastor who lives in Milford, CT with his wife, Sandy, and his stepson, Lyle. He served over 40 years as a UCC Pastor. His first call was to start a theologically progressive church in Cary, North Carolina. He then went on to serve as the pastor of First Congregational Church in Stratford (our mother church) for over 20 years. He has two daughters and two step-sons. One of his greatest joys in retirement is helping to care for his step-son, Lyle.

*The above pic is from Halloween in Milford. Ed is the cowboy, and his stepson Lyle is Maverick from Top Gun.*

**In Our Prayers**

The family and friends of **Cadence Sharon**, **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); **James Brown, 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); **Pat Nugent**; **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); **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)

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| **MCC Community Calendar****Week of Sun. June 22nd**10:00 am Worship5:00 pm Sr. PF *Pastor Jenn is on vacation June 24–30***Tue. June 24th**9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag**Thurs. June 26th**12:00 pm Young at Heart**Week of Sun. June 29th***Rev. Ed Rawls, Guest Preacher*10:00 am Worship 5:00 pm Senior PF**Mon. June 30th**Diane Vacation - Office Closed**Tue. July 1st**9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag**Fri. July 4th***Independence Day* -office closed**Week of Sun. July 6th***Communion*10:00 am Worship 5:00 pm Senior PF**Mon. July 7th**Diane Vacation - Office Closed**Tue. July 8th**9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag | **Week of Sun. July 13th**10:00 am Worship 5:00 pm Senior PF**Mon. July 14th**Diane Vacation - Office Closed**Tue. July 15th**9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag**Wed. July 16th**7:00 pm Book Club*Senior PF Mission Trip July 19-27***Week of Sun. July 20th**10:00 am Worship *Pastor Jenn is on vacation July 21- 27***Mon. July 21st**Diane Vacation - Office Closed**Tue. July 22nd**9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag**Thurs. June 24th**12:00 pm Young at Heart**Week of Sun. July 27th***Rev. Ed Rawls, Guest Preacher*10:00 am Worship 5:00 pm Senior PF**Mon. July 28th**Diane Vacation - Office Closed**Tue. July 22nd**9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag |