

March 24, 2024

## Palm Sunday

10:00 am

*The 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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### Welcome & Gathering on the Front Lawn

#### Call to Worship

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made!

*People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!*

Leader: Open wide the gates of your hearts.

*People: Let the Savior enter!*

Leader: Shout with joy, all you people.

*All: The Savior has come forth bringing peace!*

#### \*Palm Processional & Hymn Sing

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna

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*As the congregation begins to sing, marchers will walk around the green.*

*If you choose to remain in your pew and sing,  
please welcome the marchers back joyously with shouts of "Hosanna!"*

#### Choral Call to Worship

All Glory, Laud, and Honor

#### Prayer of Preparation

Marc Cardentey, Deacon

#### \*Our Churches Covenant

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

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

*Holy One, your love is extravagant and invites us to love without limit. We confess that there are times we have much smaller and narrower views than your vision. We have expectations that you will change things only in the way we want them to be changed. Forgive us, O God, when we have narrowed your love, your power, and your presence to fit you more neatly into our boxes. Set us free to recognize your presence right in front of us. 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

### Offering Invitation

#### Offertory

Ride On, King Jesus

arr. Moses Hogan

#### \*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 11:1–11, pg. 922

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

#### Sermon

*Returning What We Borrow*

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

#### \*Closing Hymn

All Glory, Laud, and Honor (verses 1 & 3)

NCH #216

#### Benediction

#### Postlude

Ride On, Ride On in Majesty

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**Note: "Ride On, Ride On in Majesty"** is a profound Palm Sunday hymn. The text by Henry Milman poignantly illustrates how Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem was at once triumphant and ominous. One line of the text beautifully describes the scene: "In lowly pomp, ride on to die". Graham George's musical setting is triumphant, yet again shaded with an anxious sense of what awaits Jesus in the days ahead. "Ride On, Ride On in Majesty" recognizes the essence of Palm Sunday with passion and poignancy.

**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 stay home if you feel sick or have a fever (catch us on YouTube/Facebook). We have provided hand sanitizer and tissues in the pews, please use carefully as the chemicals are corrosive on wood and other surfaces.



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.

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



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

- **Deacon:** Marc Cardentey
- **Usher:** Rob McClenathan
- **Lay Reader:** Will Duchon
- **Trustee:** Caleb Nealon
- **Counter:** Scott Young
- **Coffee Host:** Jenna Rice
- **Web Steward:** Scott Young



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

Rachel Colegrove <sup>(25)</sup>

Jan Pearson <sup>(25)</sup>

Dana Jesulaitis <sup>(28)</sup>

Cliff Cuseo <sup>(25)</sup>

Judy Davis <sup>(26)</sup>

Arlene Redmond <sup>(28)</sup>

Susie Cuseo <sup>(25)</sup>

John Maiolo <sup>(26)</sup>

Bonnie Schneider <sup>(29)</sup>



The flowers this morning are given by **Linda Fracassini in loving memory of her mother Marjorie, and sister Jean Cruickshank, who both went to heaven in March.**

**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.mcc-ucc.org)



**If you are visiting today: WELCOME! It's so good to have you with us!** We hope that this time together is one that helps you feel connected to your community and faith. Our family of faith welcomes you! We'd love to include you on our e-mail distribution list, so that you get weekly updates about what's going on at MCC along with a monthly newsletter, *The Steeple*. Please e-mail our Administrative Assistant Diane Prall at

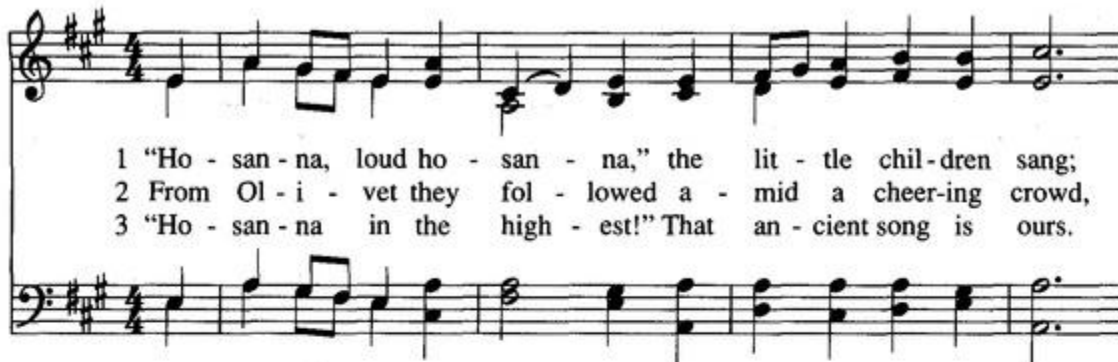
[secretary@mcc-ucc.org](mailto:secretary@mcc-ucc.org) to let us know if you'd like to be included. If you've been visiting with us for a while and you'd like to discuss making a longer-term commitment to the Monroe Congregational Church by becoming a **member**, please speak with a deacon or Pastor Jenn, who can be reached at [jenn@mcc-ucc.org](mailto:jenn@mcc-ucc.org) or her cell, 203-895-5607.

# "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

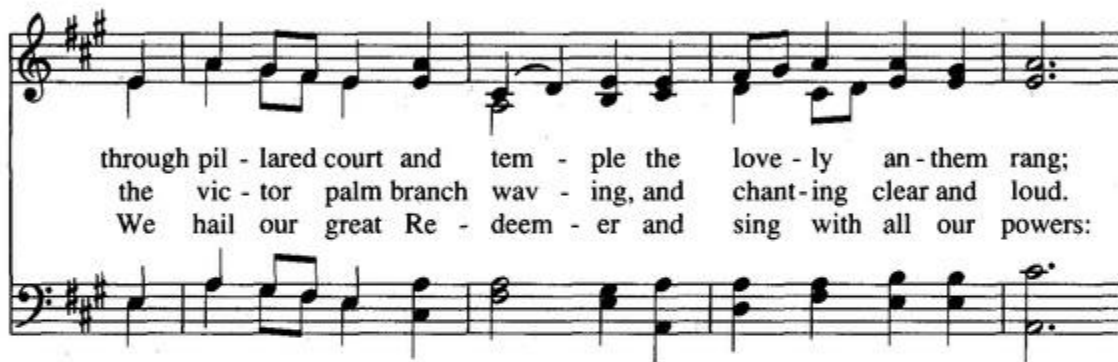
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Jennette Threlfall, 1873; alt.

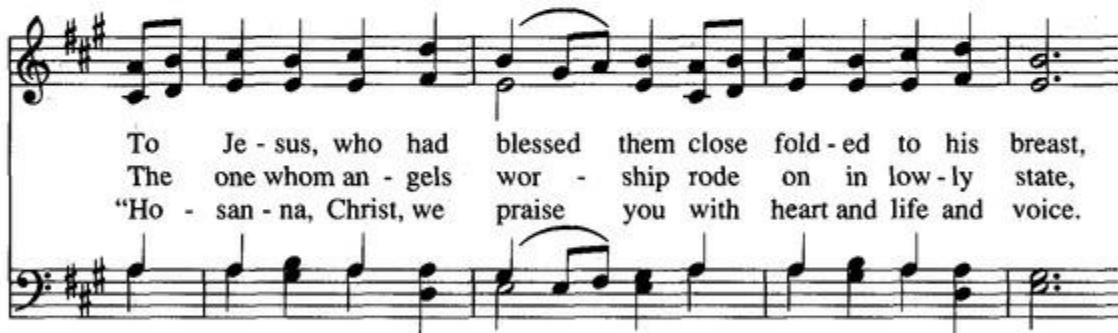
Mark 11:8-10; Matt. 21:15



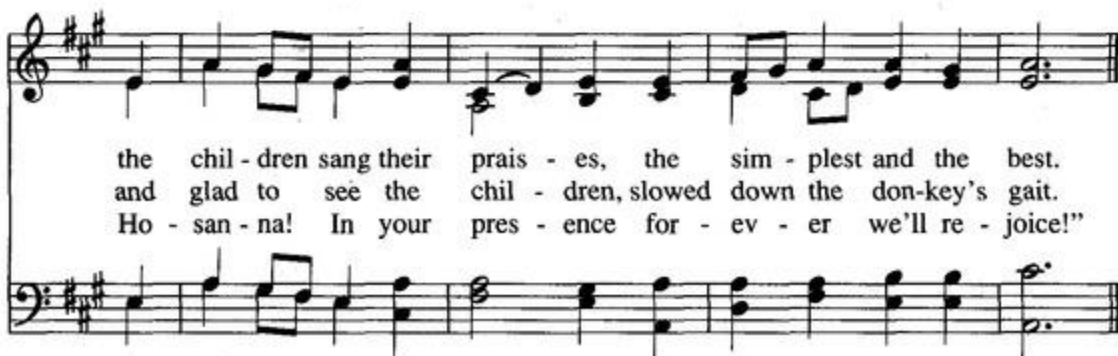
1 "Ho - san - na, loud ho - san - na," the lit - tle chil - dren sang;  
 2 From Ol - i - vet they fol - lowed a - mid a cheer - ing crowd,  
 3 "Ho - san - na in the high - est!" That an - cient song is ours.



through pil - lared court and tem - ple the love - ly an - them rang;  
 the vic - tor palm branch wav - ing, and chant - ing clear and loud.  
 We hail our great Re - deem - er and sing with all our powers:



To Je - sus, who had blessed them close fold - ed to his breast,  
 The one whom an - gels wor - ship rode on in low - ly state,  
 "Ho - san - na, Christ, we praise you with heart and life and voice.



the chil - dren sang their prais - es, the sim - plest and the best.  
 and glad to see the chil - dren, slowed down the don - key's gait.  
 Ho - san - na! In your pres - ence for - ev - er we'll re - joice!"

Jennette Threlfall of England, who was disabled by two accidents, wrote hymns that inspired hope and courage in others. This text was published in her collection *Sunshine and Shadow*.

Tune: ELLACOMBE C.M.D.  
 Gesangbuch der herzoglichen Württembergischen  
 katholischen Hofkapelle, 1784

## Holy Week at the Monroe Congregational Church



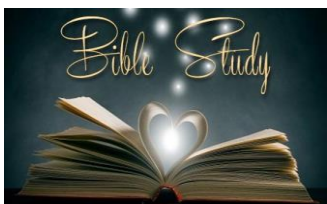
**Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm:** A candlelit evening worship service remembering Jesus' mandate to love one another.

### **Easter Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**

**6 am – Sunrise Service on Pierce Lawn:** Dress warmly and join us outside at the fire pit to welcome the resurrection!

**10 am – Easter Celebration Service:** Join us at MCC for the Great Easter Celebration! We will also join in singing the Hallelujah Chorus. After worship we will share a festive Easter Coffee Hour. Christ is Risen indeed AND Everyone is Welcome.

**11 am - Easter Sunday Celebration Coffee Hour**  
**Fellowship seeks refreshments** for our festive Easter Table! Here are a few ideas: cookies, cakes, fruit, fruit salad, finger sandwiches, veggies, and dips! Please bring your contribution to the church kitchen by 9 am on Easter morning -Thank you!



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**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! **Apr 21 – STORE**



## Outreach



Thank you to all of our volunteers who helped or donated to yesterday's **Outreach Charity Tag Sale!**



Help Needed for the **Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe!** Do you have spare time on Tuesdays at 1pm? Volunteers come to the back entrance of the Shoppe to help sort, hang and tag merchandise that have been donated. It's easy to do and any of the ladies can help you figure it out. Donations of gently-used clothing, toys, shoes, book and small household products can be left in the collection box just outside the Shoppe, brought in on Tuesdays while the ladies are sorting or during business hours: Fridays 10-3 or Saturdays 10-2. Sales associates are also needed during two-hour shifts when the Shoppe is open. You can either open or close and it's easy to do. Come visit the volunteer and she'll gladly show you what needs to be done. A procedure list can be sent to you via email by contacting Susie Cuseo at [thecuseos@yahoo.com](mailto:thecuseos@yahoo.com) or 203-268-0280, if you need more information or have questions or comments.

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## Fellowship



**Young at Heart will meet Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup>** at noon  
Little Barn, 901 Bridgeport Ave, Shelton  
RSVP to Juliana Lavitola (203)445-0284 or [JSL.Lavitola@gmail.com](mailto:JSL.Lavitola@gmail.com)



**Morning Circle** invites the ladies of the congregation to their next meeting on **Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>** at 11AM in Dineson Parlor. **We will be putting together Church World Service hygiene kits** that go internationally to locations that are suffering through a catastrophe.

These kits contain the following items:  
One hand towel measuring approximately 15" x 28" to 16" x 32" (no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber)  
One washcloth

One wide-tooth comb removed from the package (Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth. No pocket combs or picks, rattail and combs without handles are acceptable)

One fingernail or toenail clipper removed from the package (either one is acceptable)

One bath-size bar of soap in the original package

One toothbrush in the original package

Ten standard size Band-Aids

Any donations can either be dropped off in the bin across from the men's room or brought to the meeting. Monetary donations would be greatly appreciated to offset the cost of purchasing some of these items. Item line should read "Morning Circle CWS Hygiene Kits". Thank you in advance for your generosity. Please contact Susie Cuseo at [thecuseos@yahoo.com](mailto:thecuseos@yahoo.com) or 203-268-0280 for more information or comments.



**Please join us for Adult PF the 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:janeFallen@sbcglobal.net) with any thoughts or questions. **Our next meeting will be Saturday, 4/6. Come check it out!**



**We encourage anyone to join us 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

The book club selections for upcoming months:

**March 20<sup>th</sup>** 7 pm Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver

**April 24<sup>th</sup>** 7 pm The Queens Fortune by Allison Pataki Host: TBD

**May 22<sup>nd</sup>** 7 pm Master Slave Husband Wife by Ilyan Woo Host: TBD

**June 19<sup>th</sup>** 7 pm Horse by Geraldine Brooks Host: TBA

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Calling all Jam Makers!!! It's time to make the jam for Strawberry Festival. We have several volunteers willing to lead these sessions. All we need is a few extra people to help stir, pour and clean for approximately 2 and half hours.

**Sign up using this link:**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094CAEAA22A4FB6-48041861-jamsessions>

**Sign up Sheets are also posted in Wilton Hall!**

Please contact Susie Cuseo at [thecuseos@yahoo.com](mailto:thecuseos@yahoo.com) or 203-268-0280 for more information or if you have any problems accessing the link. Thank you in advance for your time in making these yummy and delicious jars of sweet goodness in so many flavors.





**Are you creative or handy with tools? The Strawberry Festival Committee is bringing back the Gaming Alley.** However, some of the original games need to be revamped and we are looking to build new ones. If you are interested in helping out with this wonderful task, please contact Susie Cuseo at 203-268-0280 or [thecuseos@yahoo.com](mailto:thecuseos@yahoo.com).



**Sale on 2023 Strawberry Jam!!!** This is the only flavor left from last year. The jars are being sold for \$3 each or 2 for \$5. They make wonderful gifts for hairdressers, bus drivers, teachers, instructors, mail carriers, doctors, etc. This sale will continue until all remaining jars are sold. See Susie Cuseo at coffee hour for your purchases.

**Strawberry Festival 2024**  
**will be held on Saturday, June 15 (10am-5pm) & Sunday, June 16 (11am-5pm).**



There's lots to do from jam making, finding coordinators for each section, revamping our games section and prepping for the big event in June to name a few. Every year our festival is a huge success because of our dedicated volunteers who offer up their time to help in all sorts of ways. Consider signing up in Wilton Hall when those sheets go up in May. We will have shortcake for communion and our kickoff for the festival on the first Sunday of June. It is an exciting event that brings our members together where we catch up with each other when we are picking strawberries, hulling the berries, prepping the pie shells, making those delicious pies, tasty shortcake or yummy jams. We celebrate the end of our collaboration with a dinner after we've cleaned up and packed up the materials at each station. We need each and every one of you! Please contact any of our co-chairs: Susie Cuseo, Jenn/Clark Gingras, Josh Post and Frank Wittenauer with any questions, comments or concerns.



## **In Our Prayers**

**Carter Harbron** (Katie Young's neighbor); **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); **Dave Coffey**; **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**; **Edith Maclean**, **Jean & Ben Schweid** (Marge Fox's mother, sister, and nephew); **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 & Gail Olson**; **Dean Perosino** (Gayle Hammond's brother); **Mike & Jessica Pfalzgraf**; **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); **Ed Simonovich** (Nancy Hedine's friend); **Bernie Sippin**; **Gary Sippin** (Lori Sippin's son); **John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Christine Stadler**; **Tom Steen** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's dad); **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); **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. Mar 24<sup>th</sup>**

*Palm Sunday*

10:00 am Worship  
11:00 am Junior PF Service (Pizza)  
11:30 am JAM Session  
5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Tue. Mar 25<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

### **Thurs. Mar 28<sup>th</sup>**

12:00 pm Young at Heart  
5:30 pm Maundy Thursday Deacon Setup  
6:00 pm Bell Choir  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir  
7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Tenebrae

### **Fri. Mar 29<sup>th</sup>**

12:00 pm JAM Session

### **Sat. Mar 30<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am JAM Session

### **Week of Sun. Mar 31<sup>th</sup>**

*Easter Sunday*

6:00 am Sunrise Easter Service  
10:00 am Easter Celebration Worship  
11:00 am Easter Coffee Hour

### **Mon. Apr 1<sup>st</sup>**

7:00 pm Outreach

### **Tue. Apr 2<sup>nd</sup>**

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

### **Thurs. Apr 4<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study  
6:00 pm Confirmation Class  
6:00 pm Bell Choir  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

### ***Women's Retreat Apr 5<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>***

### **Sat. Apr 6<sup>th</sup>**

Lion's Club Pancake Breakfast  
5:30 pm Adult PF

### **Week of Sun. Apr 7<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Worship  
11:30 am Trustees Zoom  
1:30 pm Junior PF (Movie Matinee)  
5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Mon. Apr 8<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 pm Deacons

### **Tue. Apr 9<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

### **Wed. Apr 10<sup>th</sup>**

11:00 am Morning Circle

### **Thurs. Apr 11<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study  
6:00 pm Confirmation Class  
6:00 pm Bell Choir  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

### **Week of Sun. Apr 14<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Worship  
5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF