

May 12, 2024

Seventh Sunday of Easter

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

Lead Me Lord

Carol Cymbala, 1992

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, beloved of God,

People: *Laying aside the hard and harsh ways of the world.*

Leader: Come, beloved of God,

People: *To practice the patient and kind ways of love.*

Leader: Come, beloved of God,

People: *To trust the love that holds fast in all things.*

All: Hearts soft and minds open, we come.

Opening Prayer

Jen Wissink, Deacon of the Day

*Our Church's Covenant

inside front cover of hymnal

Children's Message

Students may transition to Sunday School with their teachers.

*Hymn

To God Compose a Song of Joy

NCH #36

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

Your love stands firm, no matter how hard we push, O God. Forgive our shallow hearts. Remind us that when we do not practice love, all else we do is just that: performance, getting attention but leaving us only hollow nothingness. You have shown us the more excellent way, the way that leads to life deeper than the masks we wear. May your forgiveness draw us into building up our capacity to love more and more, as you do. 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

My Good Lord Done Been Here *Spiritual, arr. Moses Hogan*
Our offering plate will be passed among us today.
You may give online at 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

1 Corinthians 13:1-13, pg. 1047

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

Sermon

Where is the Love?

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

*Closing Hymn

Children of God (verses 1 & 4)

NCH #533

Benediction

Parting Music

Our Mothers

Ed Burke

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.

Health & Safety: In order to keep our community members healthy (*including children under 12, the immune-compromised and those not yet fully vaccinated against communicable diseases*), please follow these guidelines:

- Please stay home if you feel sick or have a fever (catch us on YouTube/Facebook)
- Masks are highly encourage
- 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.

Mother's Day Blessing

May those with children feel appreciated,
May those grieving empty arms be comforted,
May those mourning and missing the one who gave them life
Be wrapped in goodness and love today.

Thank you for assisting in this morning's worship!

- **Deacon:** Jen Wissink
- **Usher:** Mike Pellegrino
- **Lay Reader:** Heather Hisey
- **Trustee:** Frank Wittenauer
- **Counter:** Bill Stadler
- **Coffee Host:** Barbara Pellegrino, Juliana Defeo, Kate Briggs & Melissa Coleman
- **Web Steward:** Scott Young



***The flowers this morning are given by Dave and Kathy Allen
in loving memory of Don & Lillian Allen***

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

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

James Hisey ⁽¹²⁾

Jonathan Hyde ⁽¹²⁾

Cindy O'Rourke ⁽¹³⁾

Dave Spence ⁽¹³⁾

Nicole Williams ⁽¹⁴⁾

Mark Barnhart ⁽¹⁵⁾

Marissa (Maiolo) Ryan ⁽¹⁸⁾



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)

Kathy & John Maiolo⁽¹⁴⁾ Lorrie & Bernard Sippin⁽¹⁴⁾ and Ann-Marie & Brian Campbell⁽¹⁷⁾

Trustees



**SPRING
CLEANING
WORK DAY**

SAT., MAY 18
8:30 am - Noon

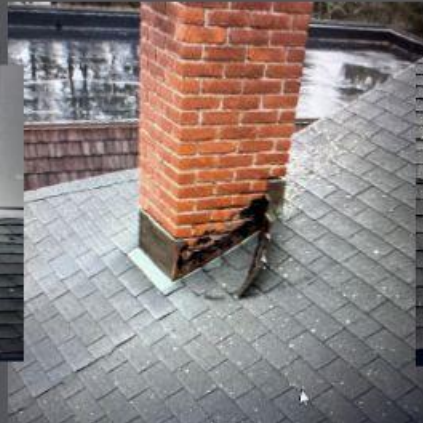


**Church Spring Cleanup on
Saturday, May 18th
8:30 – noon**

Whether you can give MCC an hour or a whole morning, please come and help us beautify and maintain our campus - See you there!

2024 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

REPLACING THE MEETINGHOUSE ROOF



Our historic campus requires regular maintenance, inside and out. The roof of the Meeting House has been leaking due to recent wind and weather damage. The estimated cost for repairs is \$30,000, and we plan to do the work done ASAP.

Thanks for your support!

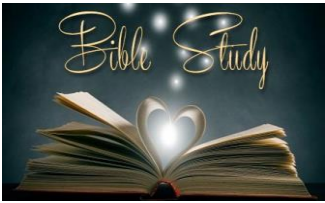
**To contribute, send a check with the memo: Capital Campaign
or donate on our website (choosing Capital Projects)
<https://www.mcc-ucc.org/donate.html>**

Deacons

2024 Summer Preaching Series: Bible Stories to Love & Remember

Sometimes when we return as older people to the Bible stories we learned as a kid, they can take on a different meaning. Beginning on May 26th and continuing through the summer, I'll be preaching a new sermon series: Bible Stories to Love & Remember.

But I'm going to need your help! What Bible stories should we focus on? What are your favorites? What are the ones that confuse you – even now? We have space to cover 12. Please let me know what you'd like to hear, so we can take a fresh look at them together. In these stories we might discover wisdom, love and grace. We'll likely see a little more clearly how God has worked in the past, and we'll discover how God connects with us today. *In Peace, Pastor Jenn*



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.

Christian Education

Junior PF Schedule through the end of the program year:

May 12th – Mother's Day (no Jr PF)

May 19th - 5 pm, Crafts with Leanne & Larry

May 26th – Memorial Day Parade, find the Big Red MCC Truck in the parade lineup on Elm Street by 12:15 (when they shut down Rt 111), bring Sunscreen, a water bottle, dress in Strawberry Festival shirts & Red, White & Blue

June 2nd – 11 am, Jr PF Graduation Party

June 9th – Jr PF sees M&M's show (Jeanette's Birthday!)

June 15/16 – Jr PF helps with Country Store & Children's Games

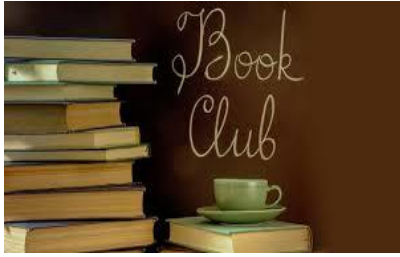
Fellowship



Please join us for Adult PF the 1st 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 janeEallen@sbcglobal.net with any thoughts or questions. **Our next meeting will be Saturday, 6/1.**



Young at Heart will meet Thursday, May 23 at noon
Details to Follow



We encourage anyone to join us on the 3rd 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 or home phone or 203-452-0850. The book club selections for upcoming months:

May 15th 7 pm Master Slave Husband Wife by Ilyan Woo Host: TBD
June 19th 7 pm Horse by Geraldine Brooks Host: TBA

JOIN US FOR THE BIG REVEAL!

Prayer Partner Potluck Luncheon

May 19th at 11:15 am
in Wilton Hall

*We will soon find out
who's been praying for
whom!*

Outreach



Morning Circle Annual Picnic Wednesday, June 12 - Location TBD!

Please contact Shari Carrano with any questions, comments or concerns at 475-342-8145.

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Historian's Notebook: On May 16th, from noon to 1:00 p.m. the Southern New England Conference UCC (SNECUCC) will hold a zoom presentation on "Archiving Your Church Records". If anyone is interested in joining me for this informative presentation, please contact me for the network link that will allow you to register. Gary Thompson, Church Historian mailq1t@yahoo.com

52nd Strawberry Festival 2024

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



The Strawberry Festival is fast approaching. This weekend signup sheets will be posted in Wilton Hall. The festival is a huge success because of you.

Volunteers come together to help out in so many different areas: shortcake prep, dipping strawberries, hulling with friends, selling/making smoothies, manning the order line or smiling at shoppers when they peruse all the items at the Country Store. There is also a link to Sign Up

Genius where you can go online and volunteer:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094CAEAA22A4FB6-49507863-strawberry>

Please sign up.



Remember that the **Country Store will need baked goods to sell.** So please bake up your delicious goodies! Please do not send in things that will melt.

Monroe Congregational Church

Strawberry
Festival
Kick Off

Our kickoff will be on Sunday, June 2 when communion will be served with biscuit and festival wear will be sold during coffee hour. Please contact co-chairs with any questions, comments or concerns: Susie Cuseo, Clark/Jenn Gingras, Josh Post and Frank Wittenauer. They'll be the ones wearing their Festival shirts for the occasion.

**The Original Mother's Day
Proclamation
By Juliet Ward Howe, 1870**



Arise, all women who have hearts,
whether your baptism be that of
water or of tears!

Say firmly: "We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies, our husbands shall not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience. We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs."

From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says, "Disarm, disarm! The sword is not the balance of justice." Blood does not wipe out dishonor nor violence indicate possession.

As men have often forsaken the plow and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel. Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead. Let them then solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, each learning after his own time, the sacred impress, not of Caesar, but of God.

In the name of womanhood and of humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women without limit of nationality may be appointed and held at some place deemed most convenient and at the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace.



Graduate Sunday, June 16, 2024

Have you or a loved one recently
completed high school, college/
university, graduate school, or another
educational program?

Join us for Worship on June 16th so we
can celebrate your achievement!

Contact the church office with the
details, and let us know where you are
headed next!

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 Cimen** (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); **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); **Walter Lane** (Marge Fox's brother-in-law); **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); **Bert Muizulis**; **Joe Mumper** (Julie McClenathan's friend); **Pat Nugent**; **Drake Oatis**; **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 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**, **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: **Justin Riffard**, Pensacola Naval Air Station, **Zachary Gingras**, 395th Combat Sustainability Support, **Joel Smith**, 250th Engineering Company **Chris Meneses** (Loraine Zeiner's friend)

Germany: **Rachel Hoffman** (Vaughan Askue's daughter), Kuwait: **Jon Sanchez** (Don Whiteley's grandson-in-law)

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Sun. May 12th

Mother's Day

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Mother's Day Tea

Mon. May 13th

7:30 pm Deacons

Tue. May 14th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. May 15th

6:30 pm Confirmation Class Dinner

7:00 pm Book Club

Thurs. May 16th

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Sat. May 18th

8:30 am Church Work Day

Week of Sun. May 19th

Confirmation ~ Pentecost Sunday

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Prayer Partner's Potluck

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. May 20th

7:30 pm Council

Tue. May 21st

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thurs. May 23rd

9:30 am Bible Study

12:00 pm Young at Heart

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. May 26th

Memorial Day Weekend

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Lincoln at Coffee Hour

12:15 pm Parade Lineup (Elm Street)

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. May 27th

Memorial Day – Office Closed

Tue. May 28th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thurs. May 30th

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Sat. June 1st

5:30 pm Adult PF

Week of Sun. June 2nd

10:00 am Worship

11:30 am Trustees

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

Mon. June 3rd

7:00 pm Outreach



June 17th & 18th



51st Annual Strawberry Festival