

May 2, 2021

10:00 am

## **The Fifth Sunday of Easter & Holy Communion**

*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*

+++++

**Prelude** Andante from Brandenburg Concerto #2. (J.S Bach, 1721)

### **Welcome & Announcements**

**Opening Prayer** Don Parker-Burgard, Deacon of the Day

### **\*UCC Statement of Faith**

*We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:*

*You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.*

*You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.*

*You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.*

*In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.*

*You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.*

*You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.*

*You promise to all who trust you, forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end. Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.*

### **\*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.*

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

*O God, You who are always doing a new thing, we confess that we sometimes close windows against the fresh air of new ideas, against the noise of other people's worries, against the winds of change. God of every place and time, we confess that we often draw the curtains against people who are different, against world news or community concerns. Forgive us, open up our lives, and let your Spirit blow through. Amen. ~silence~*

## **Words of Assurance**

### **Morning Prayers**

*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.*

### **Offertory**

Arioso

(J.S. Bach, 1729)

*Our offering plate may be found on the hospitality table as you leave worship today.*

*You may also choose to give online at [www.mcc-ucc/donate](http://www.mcc-ucc/donate).*

### **The Sacrament of Holy Communion**

*At MCC, Communion is open to all who wish to participate. Individual packets containing a grape and a cube of gluten free bread may be found at the hospitality table.*

### **Scripture**

Acts 15:1-12

Then certain individuals came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, 'Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.' And after Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and debate with them, Paul and Barnabas and some of the others were appointed to go up to Jerusalem to discuss this question with the apostles and the elders. So they were sent on their way by the church, and as they passed through both Phoenicia and Samaria, they reported the conversion of the Gentiles, and brought great joy to all the believers. When they came to Jerusalem, they were welcomed by the church and the apostles and the elders, and they reported all that God had done with them. But some believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and said, 'It is necessary for them to be circumcised and ordered to keep the law of Moses.'

The apostles and the elders met together to consider this matter. After there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, 'My brothers, you know that in the early days God made a choice among you, that I should be the one through whom the Gentiles would hear the message of the good news and become believers. And God, who knows the human heart, testified to them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us; and in cleansing their hearts by faith he has made no distinction between them and us. Now therefore why are you putting God to the test by placing on the neck of the disciples a yoke that neither our ancestors nor we have been able to bear? On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.'

The whole assembly kept silence, and listened to Barnabas and Paul as they told of all the signs and wonders that God had done through them among the Gentiles.

### **Communion Meditation**

*What Works Is Love*

Rev. Jennifer M. Gingras

### **Invitation & Words of Institution**

### **Sharing the Bread and Cup**

## Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

*We give thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.*

## Benediction

### Postlude

God Be With You

(Wm. Tomer, 1880)

\*\*\*\*\*

**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.

## Our Pandemic Commandments

In order to keep our community members safe, please follow these gathering guidelines:

- Thou shalt stay home if you feel sick or have a fever (and catch us on YouTube/Facebook)
- Thou shalt wear a mask (if you need one, just ask!)
- Thou shalt maintain a holy distance of 6 ft from a neighbor (even when passing peace)
- Some pews are taped off, to allow space between the seating of households. Please respect the tape, enter/exit from the side of the pew that is open.
- We have provided hand sanitizer and tissues in the pews, please use carefully as the chemicals are corrosive on wood and other surfaces
- We have slightly propped open the two front windows and church doors to allow for optimum air circulation and HEPA filtering, the heat is on and lap blankets are available

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

- **Deacon:** Don Parker-Burgard
- **Usher:** Jim Gill
- **Trustee:** Dave Allen
- **Counter:** Tom Briggs

### ***In Our Prayers***

**The family of James Mauro** on his passing from COVID-19 (Angela Cross's cousin); **Jackie Ajello** (Michele Mount's mother); **Michael Barresi** (Maria's Son); **Jennifer Bittar** (Loraine Zeiner's friend); **Byron Brown & Bruce Bryant** (friends of Will Duchon); **Cheryl Ciambriello** (Wendy Colegrove's friend); **Lori Cimeno** (Peggy & Ron Villani's Daughter); **Dot Dralus; Matt Duchon; Marge Fox; Rachel Fracassini** (Jack & Linda Fracassini's niece); **Meredith Gibson** (Paul & Judy Coward's niece); **Fern Griffith** (Ashley Levin's friend); **Karen Guinness** (Jennifer Nivison's friend); **Gina, Liz** (Wendy Colegrove's friends); **Gary & Julie Hedine** (Nancy Hedine's son & daughter-in-law); **Mary & Rachel Heerema** (Julia Gutierrez's mom & sister); **Bob Heffernan** (Ann Zeiner's son-in-law); **Brian Hopkins** (Donna Konkol's cousin); **Vera James** (Jenn Wissink's mother); **Heather Joyce** (Paul & Judy Coward's daughter); **Kelti** (friend of Liska Gutierrez); **Walter Lane** (Marge Fox's brother-in-law); **Logan/Weiss family; Mary-Margaret Logan** (Andrew's mother); **Jacquie MacLean** (Jennifer Nivison's friend); **Nicole Malia; Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **Rev. Jonathan Miller** (Paul & Judy Coward's friend); **Jean Moffat; Olivia Morrison** (Donna Nickdow's niece); **Joe Mumper** (Julie McClenathan's friend); **Kathy Nivison** (Andy's mother); **Pat Nugent; Ocampo family** (friends of Liska Gutierrez); **Olson Family; Ray Osborne** (Colegrove's Family friend); **Dean Perosino** (Gayle Hammond's brother); **Geno Piacentini** (Karen MacDonald's husband); **P.T. Philip** (Liz Sampson's father); **Norman & Jan Ricker** (Linda & Jack Fracassini's friend); **Barbara Rivel** (Judy Coward's friend); **Regina Roberts** (Kathy Maiolo's niece); **Kelly Rodman** (Angela Cross' friend); **Alfredo Rodriguez** (Osirus Gutierrez's cousin); **Roshong** (Judy Coward's nephew); **Noah Santiago** (Shari Carrano's great-grandson); **Connor Scalia** (Jen Nivison's friend); **Carlos Serrano** (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); **Al Shaeffer; Yessika Siccardi** (Sampson family friend); **Bernie Sippin; John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Christine Stadler; Christian & Dain Steiner** (Julie McClenathan's nephews); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Winger's granddaughter); **Ellie Swindlehurst** (Joanne Malia's mother); **Olga Terwilliger** (Nancy Hedine's sister-in-law); **Ian Thompson** (Gary's cousin); **Dick Thompson** (Gary's cousin); **Meg Trogolo** (Paul & Judy Coward's niece); **Richard Turco** (Jack Fracassini's cousin); **Charles L. Wynn, Sr.,** (and his mother) **Alleane Wynn** (friends of Will Duchon); **Allen Zeiner** (Ann Zeiner's son); **Ann Zeiner**

**The concerns of our world:** *Those who serve or live in war or conflict zones; 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:** South Korea: **Zachary Gingras**, Washington: **Rachel Hoffman** (Vaughan Askue's daughter), Virginia: **Chris Meneses** (Loraine Zeiner's friend), Georgia: **Zachary Peters** (Jacob Parker-Burgard's cousin), Kuwait: **Steven Roshong** (the Coward's nephew), South Carolina: **Bob Peters** (Don Parker-Burgard's brother-in-law), Afghanistan: **Samuel Siciliano**, North Carolina: **Jake Terifay**



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

Allen Crosnier<sup>(02)</sup>

Kristina Logan<sup>(06)</sup>

Will Duchon<sup>(07)</sup>

Joyce Rousseau<sup>(03)</sup>

Gay Muizulis<sup>(06)</sup>

Alexa Unger<sup>(07)</sup>

Jenna Rice<sup>(05)</sup>

Gilles Rousseau<sup>(06)</sup>

Tyler Vaglivelo<sup>(07)</sup>

Hank Allen<sup>(06)</sup>

Gary Thompson<sup>(06)</sup>

Corey Schneider<sup>(08)</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)

Gayle & Bob Hammond<sup>(04)</sup>

\*\*\*\*\*

### Christian Education

**Junior PF** Pastor Jenn and a rotating group of adult volunteers will be getting together with middle schoolers (6-8 grade) on most Sunday afternoons from 4-5 in Wilton Hall, unless otherwise noted. Pandemic commandments (masks, social distancing, handwashing, etc.) are in place.

Here are some upcoming events:

- May 2, 4-5 pm – Kindness Rocks!
- May 9 – Off (Mother's Day),
- May 16, 4-5 Tie-Dye!
- May 23, 4-5 – Jr PF Time Capsule
- May 30 – Off (Memorial Day)

### Senior PF Mother's Day Craft Fair! Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, 11-1



Are you looking for the perfect, handmade, local artisan gift for Mom or another loved one in your life? We will have affordable, handmade wine glasses, candles, jewelry, baked goods and so much more! Come support our 2021 Mission trip to Maine!

This event is being held as a curbside pick-up for those who pre-order (<https://forms.gle/ne9KcYzLMTJoZFKw5>), as well as in-person. If you choose to pre-order, please pay at pickup. We accept cash and checks, but we do not take credit cards.

## 49<sup>th</sup> Strawberry Festival Volunteer Opportunities



Would you like to have fun & make jam? If you have never made jam before, this is the best way to learn how!

### Requirements:

Please be fully vaccinated. Wash your hands upon arrival. You must wear a Mask and Hat at all times. Do not wear shorts or sandals because we work with boiling water and pots of very hot strawberries that can sometimes spatter. A long sleeve-shirt is

a clever idea :-)

We will make 2-4 batches of jam which takes about 2 hours.

Sun., 5/2 12-2pm & 2-4pm

Thurs., 5/6 5-7pm

Fri., 5/7 3-5pm

Sat., 5/8 9-11am & 11-1pm

Fri., 5/21 9-11am & 11-1pm

Sat., 5/22 9-11am

Sun., 5/23 12-2pm

Sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4baaa923a0ffce9-jamsession>  
or email JAM [John Anthony Maiolo] JAM [johnnymaiolo@gmail.com](mailto:johnnymaiolo@gmail.com)

If you don't have time to volunteer to make jam, **we could always use a donation of some supplies or help in other areas.**



### Strawberry Picking

Picking strawberries at Jones Family Farm is one of the several rewarding and important volunteer opportunities for the MCC Strawberry Festival. Volunteer to pick berries in the mornings of June; Fri-18th, Sat 19th, Sun 20th. Pick one morning or join our chairperson **Josh Post** for all three mornings!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4baaa923a0ffce9-mcc49th>



### Strawberry Dipping

Who doesn't love chocolate dipped strawberries?! Volunteer at this station and learn how to make them!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4baaa923a0ffce9-berry>



### Strawberry Sorting

After the strawberries are picked they need to be sorted for three purposes: 1- Berries for Strawberry Pies, 2- Berries for Dipping, 3- Berries for hulling and slicing. Join some friends and have fun while helping with this very important job. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4baaa923a0ffce9-berry1>



**Strawberry Festival Set Up** Your help is needed for the Friday set up!  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0c4baaa923a0ffce9-festival>





**Prayer Partners Unite!!!** We will be meeting on **Sunday, May 23rd between 10:45-11 in Wilton Hall.** Depending on the restrictions placed on us regarding bringing food and sharing dishes, we may meet on Pierce Lawn with individual chairs and sharing our experiences as a Prayer Partner. Please contact Susie

Cuseo at [thecuseos@yahoo.com](mailto:thecuseos@yahoo.com) or 203-268-0280 with any questions or comments.



The Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe is open **Fridays 10-3 and Saturday 10-2!** To protect our volunteers and clients, all current health and safety guidelines for the retail sector will be in place.

Join us for sorting/tagging/hanging every Tuesday at 1:00 pm. We are also accepting gently used clothing, shoes, handbags, books, jewelry and household items (smaller than a breadbox) from church members. To volunteer as a sorter or a cashier, please contact

Susie Cuseo at [thecuseos@yahoo.com](mailto:thecuseos@yahoo.com). Thank you for your support!

\*\*\*\*\*

### Fellowship



**You're invited to a Mother's Day Tea** following worship on **Sunday, May 9.** Please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAC2CA5FEC61-mothers> If you do not have access to the internet please call the office to make your reservation! Donations of the following are gratefully accepted: Scones, Cookies, Cakes, Finger Sandwiches, Mini Quiche, Tea Bag Donations and Gluten/Vegan Options -thank you!

All the ladies of the congregation are invited to the Morning Circle meeting being held on **Wednesday, May 12 at 11AM** in Wilton Hall. We are collecting women's hygiene products for the Food Pantry. Items include: nail files, nail clippers, shampoo, conditioner, tampons, feminine products, etc. Linda Resnick will introduce us to exercises to keep us active.



### MCC Book Club

Questions -contact Mary Unger (203) 268-5754

**May 12<sup>th</sup>** The Clockmaker's Daughter by Kate Morton  
**June 9<sup>th</sup>** The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah

**Adult PF meets via Zoom the first and third Sundays of the month.**

For information about Adult PF please contact Don Parker-Burgard.

[dpburgard@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dpburgard@sbcglobal.net)





MCC SENIOR PF

# MOTHER'S DAY CRAFT FAIR

Saturday, May 8th

11am-1pm

Monroe Congregational Church

FIND YOUR MOM THE PERFECT LOCAL GIFT

hand-made jewelry, candles, decorated wine  
glasses, baked goods, and more!

PRE-ORDER/PICK-UP ORDERS AVAILABLE

to pre-order, email us at  
[mccuccseniorpf@gmail.com](mailto:mccuccseniorpf@gmail.com)





## Trustees

### Monroe Congregational Church

#### 2021 Capital Campaign – Painting Rexford House

Dear MCC members and friends,

Our historic MCC campus includes four buildings that require ongoing upkeep and painting every 5 – 10 years. If you have been to the campus lately, you may have noticed that Rexford House is in dire need of a paint job, with the paint peeling and chipping in several areas.

The estimated cost to paint Rexford House is \$9,000, and we are hoping to have the painting completed in the Fall. Since we have been drawing on the church's endowment to support our operating budget each year, the board of trustees would like to enlist the congregation's support for the Rexford painting project.

So we are launching a capital campaign this year, with the goal of raising the \$9,000 needed to complete the painting. If we can raise the funds by the end of June, we should be able to get the project completed in the Fall as planned.

If you would like to support this campaign, please fill in the form below indicating the level of financial support you can provide for this capital project. Please consider this project and let us know if you can provide financial support by mailing this form back to the church office or by notifying John O'Rourke, the MCC Receiver at [jorourke224@gmail.com](mailto:jorourke224@gmail.com).

Thanks for your consideration – The MCC Board of Trustees

---

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Pledged:

\_\_\_\_\_\$100    \_\_\_\_\$250    \_\_\_\_\$500    \_\_\_\_\$1000    \_\_\_\_Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## **MCC Community Calendar**

### **Week of May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

10:00 am Worship with Communion  
4:00 pm Junior PF  
5-7:30 pm Senior PF  
5 pm Adult PF

### **Tues. May 4<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 pm Sort and Tag  
8:00 pm Outreach Zoom

### **Wed. May 5<sup>th</sup>**

6:30 pm Confirmation Class (Wilton)

### **Thurs. May 6<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study

### **Sat. May 8<sup>th</sup>**

8am – 1pm Boy Scout Plant Sale  
11am – 1pm Sr PF Mother's Day Craft Fair

### **Week of May 9<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Worship  
11:00 am Mother's Day Tea

### **Tues. May 11<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 pm Sort and Tag

### **Wed. May 12<sup>th</sup>**

11:00 am Morning Circle  
6:30 pm Confirmation Class (Wilton)

### **Thurs. May 13<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study

### **Week of May 16<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Worship, YOUTH SUNDAY!  
10:00 am Outdoor Sunday School (Communion)  
11:30 am Trustees  
4:00 pm Junior PF  
5:00 pm Senior PF  
5:00 pm Adult PF

### **Mon. May 17<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 pm Council

### **Tues. May 18<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 pm Sort and Tag  
7pm Bereavement Group

### **Wed. May 19<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 pm Confirmation Celebration! (Pierce)

### **Thurs. May 20<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study  
7:30 pm CE

### **Week of May 23<sup>rd</sup>**

10:00 am Worship – CONFIRMATION & NEW MEMBERS!  
11:15 Prayer Partner Luncheon (Pierce)  
4:00 pm Junior PF  
5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Week of May 23<sup>rd</sup>**

10:00 am Worship  
11:15 Prayer Partner Luncheon  
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour  
4:00 pm Junior PF  
5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Tues. May 25<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 pm Sort and Tag

### **Thurs. May 27<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Last Bible Study

### **Week of May 30<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Worship  
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour  
5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Mon. May 31<sup>st</sup>**

Memorial Day