

May 21, 2023 **The Seventh Sunday of Easter ~ Confirmation Sunday** 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 When Morning Gilds the Skies *Joseph Barnby, 1868*
The Bell Choir

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: We await God’s instructions for our lives.

People: We eagerly look forward to learning more about ways to serve God.

Leader: The time is coming when our service will be needed here.

People: Let God’s love flood through our service to others.

Leader: Wait! Listen! The time is near!

All: Open our hearts and spirits, O Lord, to hear your word for us today. AMEN.

Opening Prayer Larry Wissink, Deacon of the Day
***Our Church’s Covenant** inside front cover of hymnal

***Hymn** God Reigns o'er All the Earth (verses 1 & 4) NCH #21
Students may transition to Sunday School with their teachers.

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

Even now You are making all things new, O God. Knowing your forgiveness covers us with grace, sometimes we think we can just dip in and out of our old ways, making little tweaks while still holding on to what is comfortable. Other times we think one mistake means we may as well not try anymore, so we simply give in. Forgive us our sins, and in the power of your resurrection Spirit re-create us. Train our hearts and minds, hands and feet in the habits of your kingdom. And should our practice fail, may your grace once again set us back on your way, committed to trying again. Amen. (silence)

Contemplative Moment

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.

Rite of Confirmation

Invitation & Introduction, Questions of the Candidates

Naming of Gifts & Blessing, Prayer of Confirmation

Welcome & Blessing from the Congregation

We pledge to you our concern, our help, and our prayers, that you may continue to grow in your knowledge and love of Jesus Christ. God grant that loving and being loved, blessing and being blessed, serving and being served, we may be united as the body of Christ.

Pronouncement & Hand of Fellowship

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

The Storm Is Passing Over

Charles Albert Tindley, 1905

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

Romans 6:1-14, pg 1028

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

Sermon

A Letter to the 2023 Confirmation Class

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

***Closing Hymn**

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

NCH #573

Benediction

Choral Benediction

God Be With You

Dorsey/Hutchins, 1940

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:** Larry Wissink
- **Usher:** Clark Gingras
- **Lay Reader:** Linda Fracassini
- **Trustee:** James Brown
- **Counter:** Mark Barnhart
- **Coffee Host:** Carol Viette
- **Web Steward:** Scott Young



The flowers this morning are given by

June and Myron Winger in celebration of their 71th Anniversary!

and by

David Walker in loving memory of Susan Walker on her birthday ⁽²³⁾



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. If you do not have access to a computer for online signup, call Diane in the office 203-268-9327, and she will help! 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>



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

Bethany Dupuis ⁽²⁴⁾
Linda Rooney ⁽²⁴⁾

Stacy Andrejczyk ⁽²⁵⁾
Debra Hansen ⁽²⁶⁾

Justin Riffard ⁽²⁷⁾



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)

June & Myron Winger ⁽²⁴⁾

Congratulations to our 2023 Confirmands

Confirmand

Adam Briggs

Braeden Goyette

John Telep

Sponsor

Zachary Gingras

Caleb Nealon

Marc Cardentey



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 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 or her cell, 203-895-5607.

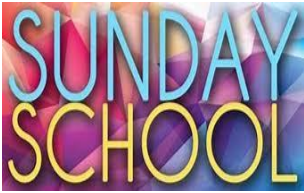


New Member Orientation, June 4th after worship.

Join the deacons for an informational meeting at 11:15 in Dineson Parlor. Find out more about the history (how we got here), theology (what we believe) and ways you might connect with others and learn more about faith doing so. New Members will join the church during worship June 11th.

Faith Formation

Welcome the Children: The presence of children is a gift to the church, they give us a future filled with hope, and a present filled with joy. We have some Worship Tool Bags filled with art items and quiet toys to help them find worship more engaging and meaningful. Please see an usher or Greeter to obtain one.



Our **Sunday School** is available today for pre-school through junior high age children! Simply follow the group that departs after the children's message. If this is your first time visiting with children, you may want to accompany them and get them settled in with the teachers and other students.



Weekly Bible Study Thursday 9:30-11am

We cordially invite you to join us each week in Dineson Parlor.

Outreach

It's been a while since you've seen the Heifer International collection bottle on the coffee table. We'll have it back out this month where we'll receive **your spare change to help Heifer International's mission to end hunger and poverty** in a sustainable way by supporting and investing alongside farmers and their communities. Your donation provides livestock, plantings and seeds to those individuals far away who in turn share with others so that they too can live better lives. Please contact Susie Cuseo at 203-268-0280 or thecuseos@yahoo.com with any questions or comments. Let your spare change change those in need of improvement in their lives.



Helping Connecticut's Children in Need.

A request from our Covenant to Care social workers. Please consider donating what you can.

Children/youth and teens in our community come into foster care sometimes with little to no belongings with them. To help aid in this transition and try to provide a sense of belonging, I am hoping to have donations of a few essential items such as hygiene items, diapers, wipes and toothbrushes to provide a family or teen to get through the first night/few days of placement in a new and unfamiliar home.

We are seeking donations of any new, full-sized hygiene items.

Top 3 Hygiene items requested: deodorant, body wash (for either gender) and shampoo/conditioner. Other hygiene items: toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, baby wash/shampoo, hair care products, skin care products, shaving cream, razors and feminine products.

Our families could also use new/unopened diapers/pull-ups any size (Newborn to size 6) and wipes. Thank you so much for this wonderful opportunity to continue partnering with Monroe Congregational Church! Our families are so thankful for the assistance and together, we are having a direct impact on children and youth within our communities experiencing foster care.

Thank you and *Be well, Samantha* Connecticut Alliance of Foster & Adoptive Families
Contact Diane Prall with any questions 203-268-9327

Fellowship

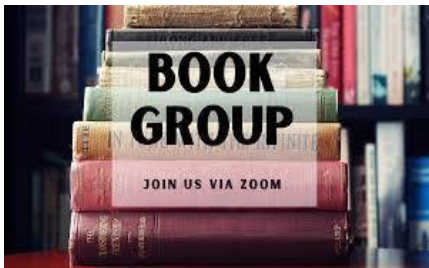
It's Back!

Please join us for **Adult PF** the **fourth Saturdays 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 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 with any thoughts or questions. Our **next meeting will be Saturday 6/24**. Come check it out!

Young
at
Heart

Young At Heart will meet Thursday, **May 25th at noon**
Little Barn, 901 Bridgeport Ave, Shelton

RSVP to Cheri Irwin 817-682-0274 or cdirwin2@msn.com



MCC Book Club is open to all church members. We will continue to meet via zoom on the **3rd Wednesday of each month at 7 pm.** For more information, please call Paula Haggstrom 203-452-0850 email: pjsh55@gmail.com

June 21 *The Library Book* (Orlean) Host: Arlene Redmond



The "**Big Reveal**" **potluck luncheon** is TODAY, **May 21st at 11:15AM in Wilton Hall**. Please bring a dish to share: appetizers, entrees or desserts. No matter what you bring, everyone enjoys the variety. I look forward to seeing you at the luncheon. Please remember that you can contact me with any questions or concerns at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280.



Morning Circle invites all the women of the congregation to our next meeting on **Wednesday, June 14th** at 11AM for our Annual June Picnic at Sal's Pizza in Monroe.

Please contact Susie Cuseo if you have any questions at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280.



Strawberry Jam sale! Consider purchasing a couple of jars at \$5 each for your teacher at the end of the school year, or for your mailman, cleaning person, Amazon deliver, or co-worker for their birthday. Jam will be sold during coffee hour during the months of April and May depending on supply. Please contact Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280 with any questions.



***See the Jr PF table at coffee hour to purchase a custom made Strawberry Jam Gift Bag!**

The Mustard Seed Shoppe would like to lovingly thank Ann Zeiner for all the many years of her devotion to the Shoppe. Every Tuesday she "tidied" up. Most importantly, Ann has been our Treasurer for MANY years. She has decided to retire now and we thank her for all that she has done. She has kept us very well organized!

We also would like to thank Jan Pearson for taking over the position of Treasurer. We know she will do a terrific job.

With much appreciation,
The Mustard Seed Committee



The Monroe Congregational Church Presents

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL CRAFT & FINE ART SHOW

CELEBRATING SINCE 1972!

Join us Father's Day Weekend

Over 100 Juried Crafters,
Strawberry Shortcakes & Pies,
Jams & Dipped Berries, Food Tent,
Bounce House, Live Entertainment!

Saturday, June 17th, 10 am - 5 pm
Sunday, June 18th, 12 pm - 5 pm

34 Church Street * Monroe, CT
203-268-9327 * mcc-ucc.org
www.facebook.com/MCCSF1972



Free admission and parking at fireman's field

In Our Prayers

Elaine (Wendy Colegrove's Aunt); **Alison Abrams** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's Stepsister); **Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Jacki** (Maria Barresi's daughter); **Michael Barresi** (Maria's Son); **Jennifer Bittar** (Loraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney**; **Byron Brown & Bruce Bryant** (friends of Will Duchon); **Lori Cimeno** (Peggy & Ron Villani's Daughter); **Dawn** (Donna Konkol's Friend); **Dot Dralus**; **Matt Duchon**; **Judy Elmendorf**; **Bruno Forte** (friend of Nancy Hedine); **David Fischman** (Sue Granello's Friend); **Dave Fuller** (Gail Olson's brother); **Karen Guinness** (Jennifer Nivison's friend); **Sophina Gingras**; **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); **Jonathan** (Matt Colegrove's brother); **Kelti** (friend of Liska Gutierrez); **Walter Lane** (Marge Fox's brother-in-law); **Monica Lynch** (Bethany Dupuis' friend); **Jacque MacLean** (Jennifer Nivison's 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); **Kathy Nivison** (Andy's mother); **Pat Nugent**; **Ocampo family** (friends of Liska Gutierrez); **Jacki O'Conner** (Maria Barresi's daughter); **Jennifer Olson** (Gail Olson's daughter-in-law); **Missy Olson**; **Osborne** (Colegrove's Family friend); **Dean Perosino** (Gayle Hammond's brother); **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); **Connor Scalia** (Jen Nivison's friend); **Carlos Serrano** (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); **Yessika Siccardi** (Sampson family friend); **Bernie Sippin**; **Peggy Sippin** (Lori Sippin's daughter-in-law); **John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Sheldon Smith**; **Christine Stadler**; **Tom Steen** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's dad); **Christian & Dain Steiner** (Julie McClenathan's nephews); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Winger's granddaughter); **Olga Terwilliger** (Nancy Hedine's sister-in-law); **Ian Thompson** (Gary's cousin); **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: Germany: **Rachel Hoffman** (Vaughan Askue's daughter), Virginia: **Chris Meneses** (Loraine Zeiner's friend), Georgia: **Zachary Peters** (Jacob Parker-Burgard's cousin), Kuwait: **Jon Sanchez** (Don Whiteley's grandson-in-law) Stateside: **Joel Smith** (250th Engineering Company)

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Sun. May 21st

Confirmation Sunday

10:00 am Worship

11:30 Prayer Partner Luncheon

5:00 pm Junior PF

5:00 pm Senior PF

Tue. May 23rd

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thurs. May 25th

9:30 am Bible Study

12:00 pm Young at Heart (Little Barn)

5:45 pm Chime Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Sat., May 27th – Sun., May 28th

Monroe's 200th Anniversary Weekend

Week of Sun. May 28th

10:00 am Worship

1:00 pm MCC Float in parade!

Mon. May 29th

Memorial Day – office closed

Tue. May 30th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thurs. Jun 1st

9:30 am Bible Study

5:45 pm Chime Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Jun 4th

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am New Member Orientation

11:30 am Trustees

5:00 pm Junior PF

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Jun 5th

7:30 pm Outreach (Zoom)

Tue. Jun 6th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thurs. Jun 8th

5:45 pm Chime Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Jun 11th

New Member Sunday

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Junior PF

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Jun 12th

7:30 pm Deacons (Zoom)

Tue. Jun 13th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Jun 14th

11:00 am Morning Circle

Thurs. Jun 15th

5:45 pm Chime Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir



June 17th & 18th



51st Annual Strawberry Festival

Week of Sun. Jun 18th

Strawberry Festival Sunday

10:00 am Worship

Mon. Jun 19th

7:30 pm Council (Zoom)

Tue. Jun 20th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Jun 21st

7:00 pm Book Club

Thurs. Jun 22nd

12:00 pm Young at Heart

Sat. Jun 24th

5:30 pm Adult PF (Dineson)