

May 4, 2025

Third 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

Jesus, Bread of Heaven

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: Jesus said, "Love one another—just like I've loved you!"

People: That's the kind of love we're here for!

Leader: Not just words—real love. Bold love. Everyday love.

People: Love that serves, gives, and forgives!

Leader: When we love like Jesus, the world sees who He is.

People: Let us worship with hearts wide open!

Leader: Let us love big, live loud, and rejoice!

All: Come, let us worship!

Opening Prayer

Michelle Correll, Deacon of the Day

***Our Church's Covenant**

inside front cover of hymnal

***Hymn**

Faith of the Martyrs, Vs. 1,3-4

NCH #381

*Students may transition to Sunday School during the hymn for a communion lesson
with their teachers and deacons.*

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

*God, we want so badly to do what is right. In our zeal, we forget to listen for your voice,
forging ahead on our own since we cannot imagine another way. We close our eyes to
your image shining in the faces of the wrong people. We close our ears to your word
coming from those with whom we disagree. We close our hearts against those who are
different. Instead, we offer advice or ultimatums, when what you desire is relationship,
compassion, and justice. Forgive us, O God. Heal our hard-heartedness. Shift our thinking
and open our eyes. Turn us to follow your way of love. Amen. ~silence~*

Words of Assurance

***Passing of the Peace**

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

Deep Waters

Pepper Choplin, 2002

*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

John 13:31-35, pg 951

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

Sermon

A New Commandment for a New Season

Tony Kiniry, Raymond Fellow

*Closing Hymn

The Church of Christ, in Every Age

NCH #306

Benediction

Postlude

Christ Is Risen

Hal Hopson, 1988

Although we typically share **communion** on the first Sunday of the month, due to an abundance of scheduling reasons the sacrament has been moved to next Sunday, May 11th. Thank you for your understanding!

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.



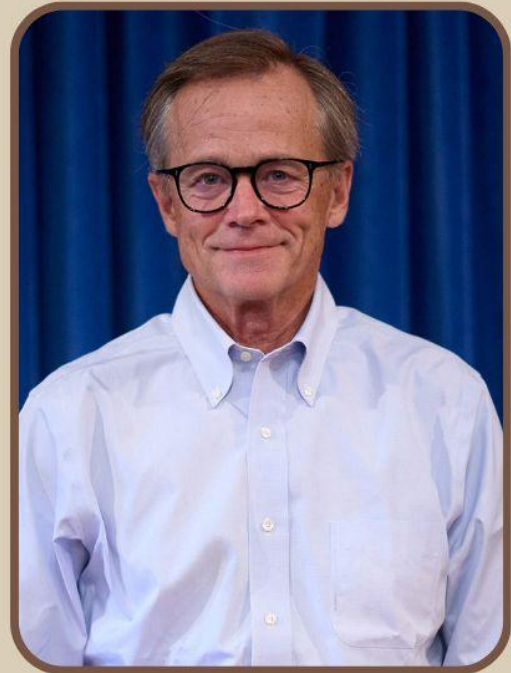
Assisted Listening Devices: As part of the ongoing Homeland Security grant project, we added four wireless assisted listening units to our sound system in the Meetinghouse. We are thrilled to be able to enhance the experience of those needing greater accessibility. If you are interested in trying one out, asking Scott Young or an usher is a perfect way to get started!



May 4 - Welcome Raymond Fellow Guest Preacher!

Tony is the Executive Director of Recovery Community Development, a nonprofit organization that creates affordable, supportive housing in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Previously, he served as Executive Director of Pivot Ministries, where he also held roles as Board Member and President. He is the Co-Founder of The Lighthouse in New Canaan, CT, which offers and manages sober living and supportive housing for local residents in need. Tony is a Certified Recovery Advisor with extensive personal, managerial, and operational experience in the field of addiction and recovery.

He was a member of the Congregational Church of New Canaan for 30 years, where he served as a deacon, participated in the missions committee, and contributed to the senior minister search committee. Tony's professional background also includes more than 25 years of financial management experience at firms such as Morgan Stanley, Deutsche Bank, and Credit Suisse. He holds a BA from the University of Connecticut and lives in Westport, Connecticut, with his wife and son. **Welcome Tony!**



Tony Kiniry
Executive Director of Recovery
Community Development

Thank you for assisting in this morning's worship!

Deacon: Michelle Correll **Usher:** Rob McClenathan
Trustee: Caleb Nealon **Counter:** Bill Brett **Web Steward:** Scott Young
Coffee Host: Lisa Bauerle and Ann-Marie Campbell



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

Jenna Rice ⁽⁰⁵⁾
Hank Allen ⁽⁰⁶⁾
Nora Blaiotta ⁽⁰⁶⁾
Jonathan Culp ⁽⁰⁶⁾
Kristina Logan ⁽⁰⁶⁾

Gay Muizulis ⁽⁰⁶⁾
Gilles Rousseau ⁽⁰⁶⁾
Gary Thompson ⁽⁰⁶⁾
Will Duchon ⁽⁰⁷⁾
Alexa Unger ⁽⁰⁷⁾

Tyler Vaglivello ⁽⁰⁷⁾
Corey Schneider ⁽⁰⁸⁾
Nate Cooper ⁽¹⁰⁾
Chip Mortenson ⁽¹⁰⁾

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 ⁽⁴⁾

Outreach



CROP Walk TODAY! MCC will be participating in the 2025 CROP Hunger Walk to support CWS and help families who are struggling with hunger. We're asking you to join us - with your steps and your donations - to provide more meals for the growing number of people in our community who need them, and greater food security in communities around the world.

Please join Team Monroe Congregational Church or donate by using the link below today! Julie McClenathan [2025 CROP Hunger Walk - Team Monroe Congregational Church](https://resources.crophungerwalk.org/download/4713/Congregational Church)<https://resources.crophungerwalk.org/download/4713/>



Feel The Warmth with nOURish Bridgeport! Our crew felt grateful and inspired to cook and serve the Feel the Warmth community hot supper in Bridgeport last month. **Our next opportunity to serve will be on May 15th.** Please look for the signup sheet and join us to bring some hope, laughter and nourishment to neighbors dealing with food insecurity. A typical meal includes making and distributing salad (featuring greens from their hydroponic garden), dessert and a main dish for about 200 folks, serving alongside Sacred Heart students and more seasoned volunteers. Join us! 203-268-0280 with any questions.

Notice:

Join us for our 53rd Strawberry Festival Area Chairs Meeting: Tuesday, May 6th 7pm on Zoom

Fellowship



Morning Circle invites the women of the congregation to join them every second Wednesday of the month (except January, February, July and August). Please contact Shari Carrano at 475-342-8145 with any questions, comments or concerns. Mark your calendars for the following:

- Wed., May 14** 11AM -Dineson Parlor - Women's hygiene products collection
- Wed., Jun 11** 12PM - June Picnic Luncheon - Location TBD

Join us for the monthly Book Club 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



- May 21st** The God of the Woods by Liz Moore Host: TBD
- June 18th** The Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters Host: TBD
- July 16th** Brave New World by Aldous Huxley Host: TBD

In Our Prayers

Alison Abrams (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Jennifer Bittar** (Lorraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney; Lisa Cody and Dave Barton** (friends of Julie and Rob McClenathan); **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); **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; Dean Perosino** (Gayle Hammond's brother); **Regina Roberts** (Kathy Maiolo's niece); **Alfredo Rodriguez** (Osirus Gutierrez's cousin); **Noah Santiago** (Shari Carrano's great-grandson); **Jill Sapak; 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 Winger'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** (Lorraine Zeiner's friend), **Lance Corporal Taylor Smith** (Cheri Irwin's Nephew)

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Sun. May 4th

10:00 am Worship
11:30 am Trustees
1:00 pm Crop Walk
5:00 pm Jr & Sr. PF

Mon. May 5th

7:30 pm Council (Zoom)

Tue. May 6th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Thurs. May 8th

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

Week of Sun. May 11th

Mother's Day ~ 3rd Grade 1st Communion
10:00 am Worship

Mon. May 12th

7:30 pm Deacons (Zoom)

Tue. May 13th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Thurs. May 15th

9:30 am Bible Study
3:00 pm Feel the Warmth w/ nOURish Bpt.
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. May 18th

10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Prayer Partner Lunch
5:00 pm Jr & Sr. PF

Mon. May 19th

7:30 pm Council (Zoom)

Tue. May 20th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Thurs. May 22nd

9:30 am Bible Study
12:00 pm Young @ Heart
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir
7:30 pm Confirmation

Week of Sun. May 26th

10:00 am Worship
1:00 pm Memorial Day Parade
5:00 pm Sr. PF

Mon. May 26th

Memorial Day – Office Closed

Tue. May 27th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Thurs. May 29th

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