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Office Hours:
Mon. & Wed. 9 am – 5:30 pm
Fri. 9am – 5 pm

Senior Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Gingras
Music Director: Will Duchon
Administrator/Bookkeeper: Diane Prall
CE Coordinator: Jeanette Cardentey-Morales
Church e-mail: secretary@mcc-ucc.org



THE MONROE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

STEEPLE

Find us on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/monroecongregationalchurchucc>

November 1, 2022

It's been a whirlwind of a return for me to MCC! I've really enjoyed catching up with everyone and hearing what projects have been going on here at church. Sunday school and Jr PF are actively learning (although we need more teachers/advisors to keep momentum going), Senior PF has its service projects planned out for the year (plus some fundraisers) and Confirmation has begun. A special team has reviewed our church's constitution, and that report has been sent to members of the council before it will be brought to the congregation. Fellowship has been wonderful with providing support for memorial services and will be working with Outreach for a special BINGO/Spaghetti dinner night on Nov 19th. Trustees have been making important facility improvements and will be leading us through a month of stewardship. The chancel and bell choirs have begun practicing for the Advent/Christmas season. Nominating has its work cut out for them this fall, with many transitions on the table.

And for the first time in nearly 3 years, it feels like we've returned to a somewhat "normal" rhythm of church life. And yet, the implications of the pandemic have set us in a very different place than we once were – socially, financially, and psychologically. Studies show that most houses of worship (from the tiniest family-size church to the mega-evangelicals) are experiencing (on average) a 40% drop in active participation.

And yet, our church has done an outstanding job of staying connected through an extraordinarily challenging time. Our servant-leaders and volunteers have been incredibly flexible and responsive. The joy we share on Sunday mornings (and at other times in the week) are a direct result of our community's perseverance and commitment. The empathy and compassion we give to one another is a key component of healing and moving forward into whatever the future may hold.

For some of us, it feels like we've been wandering in the desert for 40 years and we've finally made our way out. For others, we've still got a little sand in our shoe and our patience is wearing thin. I don't want to negate ANY of the difficulties each one of us as individuals may be going through. I DO want to suggest that a antidote for those feelings of unrest and discomfort is fostering a sense of gratitude. So *how about it... what are you the most thankful for today?*



-Pastor Jenn



Day Light Savings Time ends Sunday, November 6
Set your clocks back one hour Saturday night!

Trustees



We'd like to begin our 2023 MCC Stewardship campaign by simply saying "thank you!"

In the midst of constant change, a global pandemic, and learning how to "be church" in a variety of ways we never expected, you have responded to the invitation to bring your best before God. Our financial gifts do remarkable things when they are transformed into ministry and mission. Because of our commitments to shared ministry, we are a witness to the love of Jesus

Christ. Being a partner in work that changes the lives of individuals and enriches our community is so satisfying.

Our God is a generous God: One who has been revealed in Jesus as the one who deeply loves us. Our God is a God of invitation: one who invites us on a faithful path of transformation that changes us, and through us... the world. In the coming weeks, you will hear stories about how we are responding to God's invitation to bring our gifts. As we reflect on our peers' testimonies, consider that now is a time of great possibility for our congregation and the future of our mission.

If you haven't done so already, please complete and return an estimate of giving card for 2023 in the plate or through the mail, or send your pledge via email to jorourke224@gmail.com. We also hope you will be our guest at the celebratory Pancake Breakfast following church on November 20th – Commitment Sunday. Thank you for prayerfully considering how to financially support the Monroe Congregational Church in 2023!

~ Your Stewardship Committee,
John O'Rourke (Receiver), Diane Prall, Rev. Jenn Gingras



Your help would be greatly appreciated on

Saturday, November 12

8:30am – 12:30pm

Call Dave Allen with any questions: 203-767-0883 Thank you!

MCC Property Projects Fall 2022

MCC Meeting House

- a. Replace Batteries in heat thermostat
- b. Check & change clock time on thermostats
- c. Install cover on outside AC units, turn off switch to units
- d. Touch up paint feet of pews inside church
- e. Change clock time (Day light Saving)

Rexford Building

- a. Touch up paint inside of Hallway doors from the new door hardware replacement.
- b. Check and replace overhead lighting in Wilton Hall.
- c. Change clocks times (Day light Saving) all classrooms, office, Dineson & Wilton hall.
- d. Remove window AC units store in classroom # 5
- e. Clean and organize Dineson Parlor.
- f. Relocate two freezers & strawberries to meeting house basement.

Mustard Seed Building

- a. Clean gutter on backside of Gingerbread building.

MCC Campus

- a. Trim evergreen shrubs in front of Parsonage
- b. Trim evergreen shrubs by light fixtures and in front of church
- c. Trim planting & evergreen shrubs along sidewalk and driveway.
- d. Clean up leaves around campus
- e. Clean parking lot and remove leaves.
- f. Check and remove leaves from roof on Rexford if needed.
- g. Remove leaves from Gutters on Parsonage



Don't miss the **MCC "Thank you" Pancake Breakfast** following church on **November 20th - Commitment Sunday!**



Annual Reports are due Tuesday, December 6th

Please submit your annual report to the church office by Tuesday, December 6th

Please call the church office with any questions:

268-9327 or email secretary@MCC-UCC.org

Annual Meeting January 29

Deacons

Share the word of God.

Join a rotational schedule of Sunday scripture readers. We currently have 10 Lay Readers (thank you!) and are looking for 2 more!

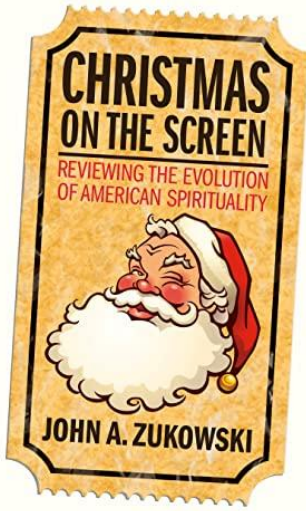
Please email the office at mccsecretary123@gmail.com or call 203-268-9327. Thank you!



Weekly Bible Study Thursday 9:30-11am

We cordially invite you to join us each week in in Dineson Parlor as we gather together to learn with and through one another. Bring your favorite Bible (whatever version you prefer) and a small notebook.





Christmas on the Screen: Reviewing the Evolution of American Spirituality

From *Miracle on 34th Street* to *Love Actually*, generations of Christmas films tell us about American spirituality and social values. Join Pastor Jenn for one or more zoom sessions, as we tour some popular seasonal films, and ask the question, "What does Christmas mean to us?" The only preparation is to watch or re-familiarize yourself with the featured films prior to our discussion.*

8 PM Tuesday, November 29: First Wave, Post WW2 Community and Anti-Materialism; Holiday Inn and It's a Wonderful Life

8 PM Tuesday, December 6: Second Wave, the 60's; Rankin Bass and Chronicling the Counterculture; Rudolph, Santa Claus is Coming to Town and The Year Without A Santa Claus

8 PM Tuesday, December 13: Third Wave, post 80's; Embracing Materialism and Accepting Dysfunctional Families; A Christmas Story, Christmas Vacation and Home Alone

*For a deeper understanding, download or purchase a copy of the book which was written by John A. Zukowski.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2038955607?pwd=bWxMMDRXN3d6emJNZ2JsVzlsTFp3dz09>

Christian Education



JR PF Schedule

Our junior-high youth group (grades 6-8) meets every Sunday from 5-6:30 in classroom 5, join us!

Nov 6	Service Project - Food Drive
Nov 13	Friendsgiving
Nov 19	Spaghetti Dinner & Bingo Night
Nov 27	No PF - Thanksgiving Weekend

Jr PF is still accepting donations for the food pantry –Please support our youth by bringing in something for the Monroe Food Pantry by 5 pm this Sunday, Nov. 6.



SR PF Schedule: Our senior-high youth group meets most Sundays from 5-7:30 in Dineson Parlor, join us!

11/6/2022	Corn Maze/Hayride/Bonfire
11/13/2022	Faith
11/19/2022	Fall Service Project
11/20/2022	Thankfulness
11/27/2022	Classic PF (Thanksgiving Weekend)



Save the Date: Dec. 2-4, Senior PF Retreat – Camp Hazen

Fellowship



Young At Heart

Next luncheon will be on Thursday, **November 17th at 12 pm**
Details to follow. There will be no luncheon in December.

Morning Circle invites the women of the congregation to our next meeting on Wednesday, **November 9th at 11am in the MCC kitchen** where we will put together **bean soup jars for the Food Pantry.**

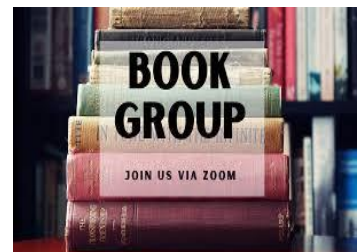
We will be handing out gift tags for the **Giving Tree Program** that is run by the town. Your generous donation will bring a smile to someone who does not have the financial means to have a joyous holiday. **Please wrap your gift and attach the gift tag to it. Bring it to the church office no later than Sunday, November 27.** Please bring a sandwich for lunch during a short business meeting. Contact Jackie Bleakney at 203-268-5275 with any questions.



Many thanks to those who donated their prescription glasses, sunglasses and cases. You will put a smile on someone's face when they can clearly see a loved one or have the ability to once again read a prescription or newspaper. We collected 15 pairs of glasses. Thank you for giving the gift of sight. Please contact Susie Cuseo at 203-268-0280 or thecuseos@yahoo.com with any questions or comments.

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 We will continue meet via Zoom.



Wed., November 16, Woman on Fire by Lisa Barr Host: Peggy Villani
Wed., December 21, The Midnight Library by Matt Haig Host: Gayle Hammond



The Monroe Congregational Church, UCC and St. Peter's Episcopal Church invite you to save the date of **Sunday, December 4 for our Annual Tree Lighting Celebration on the Monroe Centre Green at 5 pm.**

Women's
RETREAT
at Silver Lake



Friday, April 14 -
Sunday April 16

Save the Date!

Outreach

Thanksgiving
Baskets



The **MCC Covenant to Care Thanksgiving Basket Fundraiser** will return this month! Keep an eye out for the poster at coffee hour!

Thank you for your past and present support!
Diane Prall, Covenant to Care Liaison

Christmas is coming!
What can you get the person who has everything?



Heifer International helps struggling families learn to sustain themselves with the use of animals and plants. The addition of their animal offspring and the fruit of the plants help other families make a living in order to survive. Your spare change provides the donation that supports those in need worldwide. Make your change the change for the better for families who need it the most. Contact Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280 with any questions or comments.

OUTREACH

BINGO & SPAGHETTI NIGHT

SATURDAY, NOV 19 In MCC's Wilton Hall

BENEFITTING PROJECT WARMTH

Tickets on sale at coffee hour!
Includes dinner & 5 cards w/chips
\$12.50/ea \$40/family of 4



Happy November Birthday to the following people
and to anyone we may have missed we will keep you in our prayers.

James	Allen	11/03	Madison	Caballero	11/20
Diane	Fraser	11/05	Betty	Heiney	11/20
Mark	Malia	11/07	Tess	Bauer	11/21
Catherine	Goyette	11/09	Robert	Hammond	11/21
Dorothy	Dralus	11/10	Trees	Whitbeck	11/22
Diane	Prall	11/10	Ruth	Wakeley	11/24
Gail	Olson	11/11	Abby	Clausen	11/26
Linda	Resnick	11/11	Gail	Thompson	11/26
Jordan	Vaglivello	11/11	Marc	Cardentey	11/27
Osiris	Gutierrez	11/14	James	Brown	11/28
Michelle	Cardentey	11/15	Katherine	Hyde	11/28
Kathy	Allen	11/17	Henry	Bergeron	11/29
Jonathan	Malia	11/18			



Happy November Wedding Anniversary the following couples and to anyone we may have missed, we will keep you in our prayers. (Number is anniversary date)

Gilles & Joyce Rousseau⁽⁰²⁾ Karen Matysczak & James Brown⁽⁰⁴⁾ Laurel & Ken Post⁽⁰⁵⁾
 Andrew & Kristina Logan⁽⁰⁹⁾ Paul & Susan Granello⁽¹²⁾ Debra Hansen & Alan Vaglivello⁽²¹⁾ and
 Dana & Al Jesulaitis⁽²⁹⁾

MCC Community Calendar

Tue. Nov 1st

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Nov 2nd

7:00 pm Confirmation

Thurs. Nov 3rd

9:30 am Bible Study
5:45 pm Chime Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Nov 6th

Communion

Daylight Savings – Fall Back!

10:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF's

Mon. Nov 7th

7:00 pm Outreach Meeting

Tue. Nov 8th

Election Day

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Nov 9th

11:00 am Morning Circle
7:00 pm Confirmation
7:00 pm Book Club (Zoom)

Thurs. Nov 10th

9:30 am Bible Study
5:45 pm Chime Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Fri. Nov 11th

Veterans' Day - Office is Closed

Sat. Nov 12th

8:30 am – 12:30 MCC Fall Work Day

Week of Sun. Nov 13th

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Deacons (Dineson)
11:30 am Trustees (Zoom)
5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF's

Tue. Nov 15th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Nov 16th

7:00 pm Confirmation

Thurs. Nov 17th

9:30 am Bible Study
12:00 pm Young @ Heart
5:45 pm Chime Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Sat. Nov 19th

5:30 pm Spaghetti & Bingo

Week of Sun. Nov 20th

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Pancake Breakfast
5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF's

Mon. Nov 21st

7:30 pm Council Meeting

Tue. Nov 22nd

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thurs. Nov 24th

Thanksgiving Day –Office is Closed

Fri. Nov 25th

Thanksgiving Holiday –Office is Closed

Week of Sun. Nov 27th

First Sunday of Advent
10:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF's

Tue. Nov 29th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Nov 30th

7:00 pm Confirmation

