Rev. Jennifer M. Gingras Sr. Pastor & William Duchon, Music Director www.mcc-ucc.org 34 Church Street = Monroe, CT 06468 = Church Phone: 268-9327 Monroe Congregational Church ■ United Church of Christ "That they may all be one"

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

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Advent Candle of Hope

Musical Hymn Response Hope Waits for us at Advent

insert

Please continue to wear a mask as we sing.

Call to Worship

Leader: Advent is...

People: A pilgrimage of the soul,

Leader: Responding to a deep yearning

People: Going on a quest.

Leader: Following a star to a place of wonder and joy,

People: Waiting for a baby's cry and the angel's song,

All: Come, let us begin our Advent journey.

Welcome & Announcements

"Rooted in Love" Stewardship Testimonial

Nancy Smith

*Passing 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.

Children's Message

Students may remain in worship with their families, there is no Sunday School today.

*Hymn

Watcher, Tell Us of The Night

NCH 103

Call to Confession - Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

So soon, O God, too soon. We have hardly cleaned up from Thanksgiving, and it is Advent with Christmas coming soon. We confess that we are not ready. Yet, it is into such a world as this and such a time as this that you choose to enter. Help us to keep alert in this Advent season. Help us to see you in the midst of ordinary tasks. Help us to slow down for prayer, for family and friends. Help us to stand up for peace and justice; for Jesus comes to bring new life to us and our world. O God help us to be ready to receive you again. Amen. ~silence~

Words of Assurance

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.

Sung Prayer Response

Make of my heart a stable, a house for the Holy, a warm and sturdy place for hope to live and grow.

Make of my life a stable, a house for the Holy, a warm and sturdy place for hope to live and grow

Make of our church a stable, a house for the Holy, a warm and sturdy place for hope to live and grow.

Offering Invitation & Offertory

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.

Scripture

Jeremiah 33:1-3, 10-11, 14-16 Page 723, Psalm 25:4-6 Page 492

Sermon

Making Room

Rev. Dr. Sheldon Smith

*Closing Hymn

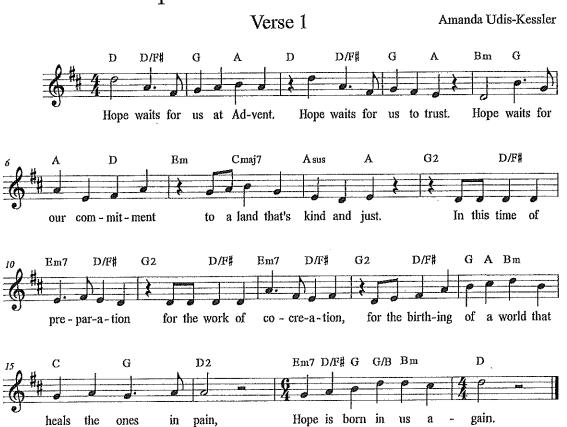
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

NCH #345

*Benediction

Parting Music

Hope Waits for Us at Advent



^{*} Please rise, in body or in spirit.

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.

COVID-19 Safety: In order to keep our community members safe (including children under 12, the immune-compromised and those not yet fully vaccinated), please follow these guidelines:

- Please stay home if you feel sick or have a fever (catch us on YouTube/Facebook)
- Please wear a mask indoors (if you need one, just ask!)
- We have provided hand sanitizer and tissues in the pews, please use carefully as the chemicals are corrosive on wood and other surfaces

Thank you for assisting in this morning's worship!

Deacon: Nancy Smith
Usher: Susie Cuseo
Trustee: Bill Stadler
Counter: John O'Rourke

Coffee Host: Vaughan AskueWeb Steward: Scott Young



The flowers this morning are in given by Cheri Irwin in loving memory of her father, Neil Stearns, who would have been 95 on November 27th. He passed 2 years ago.

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. Please review the available slots on Sign Up Genius and click on the button to sign up. If you do not have access to a computer, call Diane in the office 203-268-9327, and she will help you sign up!

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 suppling the flowers yourself, please set them up between 9:30am and 9:45am, before worship. Thank you!

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAC2CA5FEC61-flowers



Annual Reports are due Tuesday, December 14th

Please submit your annual report to the church office by Tuesday, December $14^{\rm th}$

Please call the church office with any questions: 203-268-9327 or email secretary@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 Brown ⁽²⁸⁾

Henry Bergeron (29)

Jeremy Young (03)

Katherine Hyde (28)

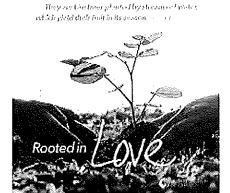
Frank Wittenauer (02)



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

Al & Dana Jesulaitis (28) and Lynn and Richard Draus (04)

Stewardship



The 2022 MCC Stewardship campaign "Rooted in Love" is off and running!

Our goal this year is to increase our pledge base by 10%, so that we can decrease our reliance on the endowment to fund operating expenses. To date we have received 50 pledges for a total of \$131,550. If you haven't done so already, please complete and return an estimate of giving card for 2022 in the plate or through the mail, or send your pledge via email to jorourke224@gmail.com. Thank you for prayerfully considering how to financially support the Monroe Congregational Church in 2022!

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



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!

Please contact Diane in the office 268-9327 or secretary@MCC-UCC.org if you would like to order a box of pledge envelopes for 2022 -thank you!







Weekly Prayer & Bible Study Group! Every Thursday from 9:30-10:30 a group of about 8 regular attendees gather in Dineson Parlor to learn with one another and share prayer concerns. You don't have to have ANY prior knowledge of Christianity or Theology in order to participate. Everyone is cordially invited and welcome to join us! Bring

your favorite Bible (whatever version you prefer) and a small notebook. Let Pastor Jenn know if you have any questions.

December 2	Tamar (Genesis 38:13-19, 24-27) & Mary (Luke 1:26-38)
December 9	Rahab (Joshua 2:1-22) & Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-45)
December 16	Christmas Party!
December 23	Off (Christmas Break)
December 30	Off (Christmas Break)



"Almost Instant" Christmas Pageant at MCC!!!

MCC is having a Christmas Pageant in church on December 19th at 10 am! Dress rehearsal will take place on Saturday, December 18th at 11 am. The only speaking parts are narrators, but we would like to have everyone at the rehearsal so that we are ready on the next day. Youth of all ages are welcome to participate, sign up here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d44a8ac22a2fb6-christmas1

SUNDAY SCHOOL

If you haven't registered for our youth programs yet, please do so here: https://form.jotform.com/212146410084141

Our November Fruits of the Spirit Sunday School Schedule: Sunday Nov 28 – No Sunday School, Happy Thanksgiving Weekend!

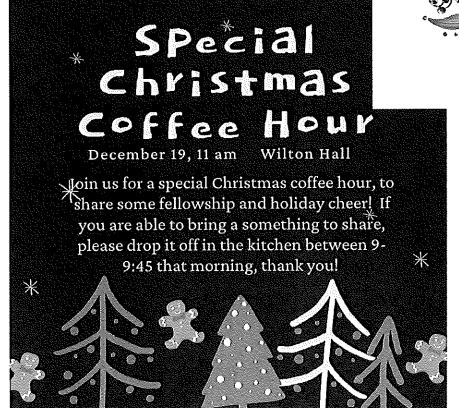
Our November Jr PF Schedule:

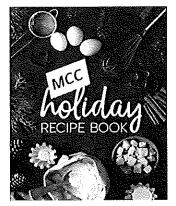
Sunday Nov 28 – No JPF, Happy Thanksgiving Weekend!

This Month in Senior PF:

- November 28 Thankfulness
- December 3-5 PF on retreat at Camp Hazen







Fellowship

With Christmas right around the corner, we would like remind you of the MCC Holiday Cookbook. If anyone would like to contribute a recipe (or another great recipe) I will be combining them into last year's cookbook. Please feel free to share any holiday recipes - Easter, Thanksgiving, Memorial Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day etc.... Please include a little note sharing why this recipe is special to you and a picture if you like. Our hope is that over time we will have an awesome book to get printed and sell as a fundraiser. E-mail your recipes to

michelle.cardentey@gmail.com and I will format them and merge them into last year's book! Thank You On Behalf of Your Fellowship Board, Michelle Cardentey



Morning Circle invites the ladies of the congregation to our last meeting of the year on Wednesday, December 8 at 12PM for a holiday luncheon at My Place in Newtown. We will meet in the church parking lot between 11:30-11:45 if you'd like to carpool. For those who took tags for the Giving Tree, please have wrapped gifts with attached tags in the church office by Sunday,

November 28th. Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity to those who do not have these little comforts.

At our last meeting, the ladies put together 25 bean soup jars for the Food Pantry. This was a successful project with the help of Stop & Shop who donated the beans while The Common Bond Market in Huntington provided a 10% discount on the seasonings. The numerous volunteers made light work of putting together these beautiful jars.

Morning Circle will not meet during the months of January and February. Please contact Susie Cuseo with any questions, comments or suggestions at 203-268-0280 or thecuseos@yahoo.com.

On behalf of the ladies of Morning Circle, have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. May it be safe and yummy. We have so much to be grateful for.



Fall Adult PF 1st & 3rd Sundays 5pm -all adults are welcome!

Kate and I look forward to welcoming you back to our house, so please put the following date on your calendar: **December 5**. -Don Parker-Burgard



MCC Book Club is open to all church members.

For more information, please call Paula Haggstrom 203-452-0850 email: pjsh55@gmail.com We will continue meet via Zoom.

December **15th**, 7 pm -*The Henna Artist* by Alka Joshi, 340 pg, Host: Arlene Redmond January 12th, 7 pm -*The Exiles* by Christina Baker Kline, 389 pg, Host: Linda Fracasini February 9th, 7 pm - *Slow Fire Burning* by Paula Hawkins, 316 pg, Host: Gayle Hammond



Young at Heart will not meet November and December.

Many members are grandparents who will be busy those holiday months. **Next luncheon will be in January.** Young at Heart wishes all a Happy Thanksgiving and a Blessed Christmas.

Outreach

Christmas is coming!

What can you get the person who has everything?





Heifer International is an organization where your pocket change helps to send animals to families. Giving these animals is like giving a family a small business where wool, eggs, milk and more can sustain them and the offspring that come from those animals can be given to other families giving them a hand up, increase access to

medicine, school, food and a sustainable livelihood. Other donations from Heifer International are seeds, irrigation pipes, water for life, gardener's gift baskets and Biogas stoves for entire villages. The collection jar will be on the serving table during coffee hour. Please contact Susie Cuseo with any questions or comments at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280. Become a part of the grand mission of ending hunger and poverty while caring for the Earth with your spare change. For more information, please visit

this site: <u>Heifer International Gift Catalog | Heifer</u> International



Interfaith Partnership for Refugee Resettlement

Working closely with IRIS (Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services), The Interfaith Partnership for Refugee Resettlement (IPRR) in Newtown co-sponsors

refugee families upon their arrival to the United States. They are committed to helping each family learn English, procure employment, enroll in school and become productive and independent community members.

IPRR will soon be sponsoring an **Afghan family, one of the special visa holders from our military operation there**. They are looking to build a very large team of volunteers to settle this next family in the greater Danbury area. They have several committees to be a part of. The time commitment varies, anywhere from 1-12 months.

- House Search Committee
- Housing Setup Committee
- Transportation Committee
- Driving Education and License Sub-Committee
- Interpreter Committee
- Family Finances Committee
- Employment Committee
- Cultural Integration Committee

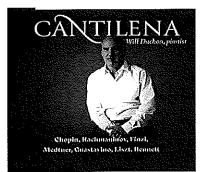
- Youth Education Committee
- · Adult ESL Committee
- · Healthcare Committee
- Childcare Committee
- Fundraising Committee
- Technology Support
- Calendar Coordinator
- Volunteer Coordinator

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact: Elaine Sleath, Volunteer Coordinator at elainsleath@yahoo.com. For more information contact: Cindy Dunn, Co-Chair of IPPR at cindylou722@gmail.com or Rich Stein, Co-Chair of IPRR at itradeoptions@tradelink.net



Deacons

Welcome back, **Chancel Choir!** Thank you for sharing your gift of music with the congregation, we are grateful for you! If you'd like to join the choir, speak with Will Duchon. Rehearsals are Thursday nights at 7, warmups are on Sunday mornings at 9:15 am.

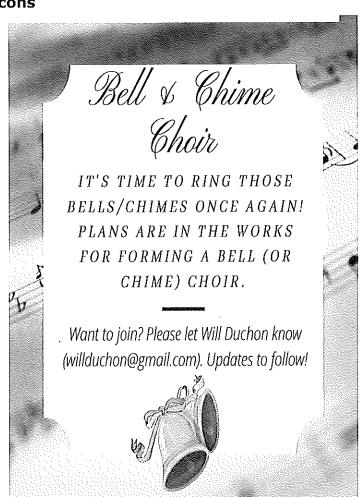


Dear MCC Friends,

I recently released a new recording of solo piano works. The album is titled "Cantilena", and includes music by Chopin, Rachmaninov, Liszt,

and four other composers.

I want to share this album with my church family, so please feel free to take a CD. They are available in the Narthex of the Meetinghouse as well as in the church office. *Will*



In Our Prayers

Jackie Ajello (Michele Mount's mother); Michael Barresi (Maria's Son); Jennifer Bittar (Loraine Zeiner's friend); Jackie Bleakney; Byron Brown & Bruce Bryant (friends of Will Duchon); Cheryl Ciambriello (Wendy Colegrove's friend); Lori Cimeno (Peggy & Ron Villani's Daughter); Cliff Cuseo; Dot Dralus; Matt Duchon; Marge Fox; 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); 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); Lisa Rozmus (friend of the Pfalzgraf family); Noah Santiago (Shari Carrano's great-grandson); Connor Scalia (Jen Nivison's friend); Nicholas Scalzo (Angela Cross's Father); Carlos Serrano (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); Yessika Siccardi (Sampson family friend); Bernie Sippin; John Skarupa (Barb Pellegrino's brother); Christine Stadler; Maria Stadler (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); Christian & Dain Steiner Claire Stenzel (June & Myron McClenathan's nephews); granddaughter); 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); Susan Walker; 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: New York: 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), North Carolina: Jake Terifay

MCC Community Calendar

Pastor Jenn is on Vacation Nov 25 - Dec 2

Week of November 28th

Rev. Dr. Sheldon Smith, Guest Preacher 10:00 am Worship 5:00 pm Senior PF

Tue. November 30th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thur. December 1st

7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Fri. December 3^{rd -} 5th

Senior PF Retreat -Camp Hazen

Week of December 5th

Advent Communion
10:00 am Worship
5-6:30 pm Jr PF
5:00 pm Adult PF
5:00 pm Community Tree Lighting

Tue. December 7th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. December 8th

12:00 am Morning Circle Christmas Lunch (My Place)6:30 pm Confirmation (Dineson)7:00 pm Book Club Zoom

Thur, December 9th

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson) 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Week of December 12th

10:00 am Worship 11:30 am Trustees 5-6:30 pm Jr PF 5:00 pm Senior PF

Tue. December 14th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. December 15th

6:30 pm Confirmation (Dineson)

Thur. December 16th

9:30 am Bible Study Christmas Party (Dineson) 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Week of December 19th

10:00 am Worship Christmas Coffee Hour 5-6:30 pm Jr PF 5:00 pm Senior PF Caroling 5:00 pm Adult PF

Tue. December 21st

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag 7:00 pm Bereavement Group

Thur. December 23rd

7:00 pm Choir

Fri. December 24th

Christmas Eve Worship 4:00 pm Contemplative Service 7:00 pm All Ages Service 11:00 pm Service of Lessons & Carols

Sat. December 25th

Christmas

Week of December 26th

10:00 am Worship Christmas Casual Sunday

Diane on vacation Dec 27- 31 Office Closed

Tue. December 28th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. December 29th

6:30 pm Confirmation (Dineson)

Thur, December 30th

7:00 pm Choir

Fri. December 31st

New Year's Eve -Office Closed



luna bu (vous sama)

Christmas Poinsettia Order Form



Quantity	Cost Each	Total Cost
	\$ 25.00	

veil by (your flame)	
Memory of:	
Honor of:	
Celebration of:	
ther:	



*A check for the total amount, made payable to Monroe Congregational Church, may be placed in the offering plate or mailed to the church office (34 Church Street).

Orders must be placed no later than Wednesday, Dec. 15th, 2021 to ensure dedication in the bulletin by December 24th. Please be sure to write "Poinsettias" on the memo line of your check.



Thank you and have a blessed holiday!

November 28, 2021

Luke 21:25-36

Sign of Things to Come United Black Christians Anniversary

'Til Love Comes is the first single on Tracy Howe's album, "Things That Grow", available at tracyhowemusic.com. On this first Sunday of Advent, these inspiring words are a prophetic reminder of the universe-transforming power of the incarnation, the coming of the Christ Child. You can find more of Tracy's music, including a link to a video of this song, at tracyhowemusic.com.

We will march on, will fight on 'Til love comes

If you cut into beauty
and try to make it bleed
you only find a deeper hope
and what makes a person free
the depths of love
come from where we've been
redeemed

So put down your guns and unlock the prison doors You can keep all your money; give yourselves to the poor learn to love Building a world of grace

We will march on, will fight on 'Til love comes

You might make your words a weapon and build power out of fear But it's your own self breaking and fading away in the mirror Because love
Is writing the song

And the mystery of suffering is the life that comes from pain And the hope we share holds it gives it a name All in love We carry on

We will march on, will fight on 'Til love comes

We gave our lives to this fight,
we gave our lives
If we fall it will be alright,
if we fall it will be alright
Our bodies wrapped in dust,
will tell the tale of both of us
I who heard your cry for help,
and you who lived for someone else

We will march on, will fight on 'Til love comes

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday 9 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Church Fax 203-268-3153 Friday 9 a.m. - 5:00 p.m