

October 13, 2024

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

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 Sing Praise to God Joachim Neander, 1680

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: Come and bring your whole self!

*People: We bring all our bits and pieces; thoughts and intentions, hopes and tears,
missed opportunities and joyful delights.*

Leader: Come before God, just as you are.

*People: Un-edited, uncertain, unfinished; we come even though we are a work
in progress.*

Leader: Into God's presence, trusting God's love,

*All: We come, hearts open to pour out what we carry and to receive true
good news.*

Opening Prayer Leanne McEvoy, Deacon of the Day

***Our Church's Covenant** inside front cover of hymnal

Children's Message

Students may transition to Sunday School with their teachers.

***Hymn** All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (verses 1 & 4) NCH #304

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

*Holy God, sometimes we're kind of a mess. We hear your call to be perfect as you're
perfect, so we try to be brave and put on a good front, but underneath we're falling
apart. We know that your perfect love casts out fear, but we feel guilty that we're still
anxious. Forgive us for the ways our hiding the mess comes out sideways in unequal
love, in harsh words, in un-empathetic quick-fixes, in broken relationships and
judgmental glares. Forgive us, Living Love, and heal us from the inside out. This we ask
in the name of the One who knows the fullness of human life, and yet still looks on us
with grace: Jesus the Christ. Amen. ~silence~*

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.*

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

It Is Well with My Soul

Philip Bliss, 1871

*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

1 Samuel 1:9-11, 19-20 pg 242 & 2:1-10 pg 243

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

Sermon

Making the Compassionate Choice

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

*Closing Hymn

How Firm a Foundation (verses 1 & 4)

NCH #407

Benediction

Postlude

Go in Peace

K. Wolfe, 1967

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: Leanne McEvoy **Usher:** Rob McClenathan **Lay Reader:** Jonathan Ganino
Trustee: Frank Wittenauer **Counter:** John O'Rourke **Web Steward:** Scott Young
Coffee Host: Ann Marie Campell

The flowers this morning are given by *Michelle Cardentey* in loving memory of *Carmelina Cardentey*



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. You can sign-up in Wilton Hall or online! 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> or 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)

Richard Bauer ⁽¹³⁾

Audra Logan ⁽¹⁵⁾

Ryan Swift ⁽¹⁸⁾

Brian Correll ⁽¹³⁾

Karen Matysczak ⁽¹⁵⁾

Ginger Barlett ⁽¹⁹⁾

Simon Rice ⁽¹³⁾

Dylan Alvarez ⁽¹⁶⁾

Carl Haggstrom ⁽¹⁹⁾

Jeffrey Vargovchik ⁽¹⁴⁾

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)

Linda & Nick Caballero ⁽¹⁵⁾ and Jessica & Michael Pfalzgraf ⁽¹⁷⁾



Outreach

St George's Supper –Sunday, October 13th



Please join us for sandwich making in the kitchen following worship. Please consider a cash donation this month to help us feed our neighbors, look for the basket at coffee hour to contribute. Any amount would be gratefully received. Please memo on checks: "St George's Supper". Questions- contact Stacy at 203-500-1279



**Save the Date ~ Spaghetti Dinner & Bingo Night
Saturday, November 23rd**

Have you cleaned out your junk drawers lately and come across those old prescription glasses/sunglasses/cases? There will be a collection basket in Wilton Hall this month by the serving table during coffee hour. These donations will be cleaned, screened and sent to those less fortunate to receive the care necessary to have a better life. Your glasses can brighten someone's day when they see the smile on a loved one's face, have the ability to read a food label, newspaper, watch their grandchildren play soccer or see what's coming at them while driving. Give the gift of sight by **donating your old glasses**. Please contact Susie Cuseo with any questions at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280.



*Give the
gift of sight*



Heifer International is an organization that supports worldwide families by using your spare change to provide a sustainable living through livestock and plants. Families share with neighbors thereby making the community stronger and self-sufficient. Please consider dropping your spare change into the collection bottle that is on the serving table during coffee hour.

Contact Susie Cuseo with any questions at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280.

Trustees



We are excited to report we received **the balance of \$1,544** toward our **MCC Raise the Roof 2024 Capital Campaign**

Thanks so much to everyone who helped!

-Your Board of Trustees

We Raised...

Updated: Capital Campaign \$26,829

Less fees: (\$60)

Insurance Recoveries: \$7,107

Total Revenue: \$33,876

We Spent...

Original Bid: \$31,476

Additional work: \$2,400

Total Expense: \$33,876



Christian Education

Registration Season has begun! If you haven't already registered your child for Sunday School or for Junior PF, please let Pastor Jenn know at Jenn@mcc-ucc.org so she can send you the form.



Love working with youth, want to spread God's love to the children of our congregation in the **24/25 school year**? **Please consider teaching Sunday School** (Pre k - 6th) Speak with Jeanette to sign up and Thank you!

Weekly Bible Study has begun – All Are Welcome! We gather together in Dineson Parlor, on **Thursdays** from **9:30-11 am**, to learn with and through one another. After a time of fellowship and prayer concerns, we read and discuss upcoming scripture texts or other faith-related topics. Bring your favorite Bible (whatever version you prefer) and a small notebook. Come as you are!

Snack & Chat with NOOMA

Join us in Dineson Parlor after worship on these dates to enjoy some snacks, a short video and light discussion about life's big questions.

No prep necessary and all are welcome!

Sep 29 - SUNDAY
Oct 27 - YOU
Dec 29 - NOISE
Feb 23 - RAIN
Mar 30 - DUST
Apr 27 - FLAME



GOT SNACKS?



Our Sunday School students love a yummy snack at coffee hour! Help us fill the snack cabinet by bringing in goodies or juice boxes!

Fellowship

Contra Dance ~ Pumpkin Carving Pot Luck

OCT. 26 ~ 5-8 pm

Join us in Wilton Hall for a night of intergenerational Fun, featuring professional Contra Dance caller Rich Sbardella!
Suggested Donation: \$5 ind or \$10 family

BYOP (Bring your own pumpkin/carve kit)
Nursery staffed and open for the littles!

**Sign up in Wilton Hall or take a picture of
←----- the QR code!**



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Young at Heart will meet **Thurs., October 24 at Noon**
Sal's Pizzeria, 630 Main St, Monroe
RSVP to June Winger at 203-268-4422



Morning Circle invites the women of the congregation to our meeting on **Wednesday, September 11th at 11am** in Wilton Hall. We will have Ray Giovanni from Union Savings Bank to discuss the local scams occurring in our town. Lunch will be provided while we hold a short business meeting. Join them every second Wednesday of the month with the exception of 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 meetings with Morning Circle:

- Wednesday, Nov 13, 11AM Kitchen/Wilton Hall - Bean Soup Jars/Giving Tree Tags
- Wednesday, Dec 11, 12PM - Christmas Luncheon - Location TBD
- Wednesday, Mar 12, 11AM Dineson Parlor - Birthday bags
- Wednesday, Apr 9, 11AM Dineson Parlor - CWS hygiene kits
- Wednesday, May 14 11AM Dineson Parlor - Women's hygiene products collection
- Wednesday, 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.



The book club selections for upcoming months:
October 16th at 7pm - On Beauty by Zadie Smith

THE MONROE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
34 CHURCH STREET * MONROE

Victorian Christmas Fair

Sunday, December 1, 2024



- 10 AM VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS WORSHIP
1-5 PM LOCAL CRAFTERS & SOUP/BAKED GOODS/WREATH SALES,
WILTON HALL
HISTORICAL CHURCH TOURS, MEETINGHOUSE
CAROLING BY JUST VOICES
5 PM COMMUNITY TREE LIGHTING ON THE CENTRE GREEN

BONUS "TIME TRAVEL" PASSPORT... (\$5 PER PERSON)
VICTORIAN MODEL RAILROAD DISPLAY (DINESON PARLOR)
CHILDREN'S CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES (REXFORD HOUSE)
VISIT WITH VICTORIAN FATHER CHRISTMAS! (BEARDSLEY HOUSE)
AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

DONATIONS OF UNWRAPPED TOYS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED FOR
COVENANT TO CARE

*Please see the signup sheet in Wilton Hall to be a part of this exciting
new MCC event!*

In Our Prayers

Alison Abrams (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Jennifer Bittar** (Loraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney**; **Kevin Daly** (Gary Thompson's friend); **Dawn** (Donna Konkol's Friend); **Dealmira** (Jonathan Ganino's grandmother); **John Dominic** (Pfalzgraf's neighbor); **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); **Lehre Fuller** (Gail Olson's sister-in-law); **Holly Hallgren**; **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); **Jonathan** (Matt Colegrove's brother); **Kelti** (friend of Liska Gutierrez), **Samia Khoury** (Will Duchon's friend); **Monica Lynch** (Bethany Dupuis' friend); **Nicole Malia**; Mary (Kate Brigg's Mother); **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); **Pat Nugent**; **Ocampo family** (friends of Liska Gutierrez); **Nancy Olofson**; **Missy & Gail Olson**; **Dean Perosino** (Gayle Hammond's brother); **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); **Carlos Serrano** (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); **Yessika Siccardi** (Sampson family friend); **Ed Simonovich** (Nancy Hedine's friend); **Bernie Sippin**; **Gary Sippin** (Lori Sippin's son); **John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Sheldon & Nancy Smith**; **Christine Stadler**; **Christian & Dain Steiner** (Julie McClenathan's nephews); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Winger's granddaughter); **Wayne Thompson** (Gary Thompson's brother); **Richard Turco** (Jack Fracassini's cousin); **June Wilkes**; **Natica Williams** (Will Duchon's friend); **Don Whiteley**; **Allen Zeiner** (Ann Zeiner's son); **Ann Zeiner**

The concerns of our world: The people of **Gaza**; **Israeli hostages** and their families, the people of **Ukraine**, **Sudan** 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:

Stateside: **Lt. Col. Rachel Hoffman**, Tacoma, Washington (Vaughan Askue's daughter) **Justin Rifflard**, Pensacola Naval Air Station, **Zachary Gingras**, 395th Combat Sustainability Support, **Joel Smith**, 250th Engineering Company **Chris Meneses** (Loraine Zeiner's friend)

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Sun. Oct 13th

10:00 am Worship
11:00 am St. George's Pack (kitchen)
5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Oct 14th

Indigenous Peoples Day –office closed
3:00 pm St. George's
7:30 pm Deacons (zoom)

Tue. Oct. 15th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Oct 16th

7:00 pm Book Club

Thur. Oct. 17th

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

Week of Sun. Oct 20th

Baptism of Juliet Aravena
10:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

Mon. Oct 21st

7:30 pm Council (zoom)

Tue. Oct. 22nd

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Oct 23rd

7:00 pm Fairfield East Association
Fall Meeting

Thur. Oct. 24th

9:30 am Bible Study
12:00 pm Young at Heart (Sal's Pizzeria)
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir
7:30 PM Confirmation Class

Sat. Oct. 26th

5–8 pm Contra Dance~Pumpkin~Pot Luck

Week of Sun. Oct 27th

Celebrating 50 years of the Mustard Seed Shop

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am NOOMA
5:00 pm Senior PF

Tue. Oct. 29th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Thur. Oct. 31th

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

Week of Sun. Nov 3rd

10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Mission Trip Presentation
11:30 am Trustees
5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF