

September 1, 2024 **Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost** 10:00 am

Monroe Congregational Church is an Open and Affirming congregation.

Our deacons and pastor 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.

May we be aware of others and feel the Spirit of God.

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Gathering Music Sarabande G.F. Handel, 1730

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Silence & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: Gather us in, Lord, and hear our prayers.

People: We have come to this place in need of healing and hope.

Leader: Gather us in, Lord, and heal our spirits.

People: We come here seeking guidance and strength.

Leader: Gather us in, Lord, and open our hearts to receive your word.

All: Open our hearts, our spirits, our souls to comprehend your word and follow you faithfully, Amen!

Prayer of Preparation

Larry Wissink, Deacon of the Day

***UCC Statement of Faith**

Reading #885 in hymnal

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Hymn (*seated*) Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face (vs 1-3) NCH 336

Invitation and Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior, Amen.

Students may remain with their families, the nursery is open and staffed for children 4 and under.

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

Holy One, sometimes it seems like the whole world is shrieking in pain. Innocent people are destroyed by the whims of the wicked. We turn an indifferent ear to the cries of others because we are overwhelmed by the need and feel helpless in the face of such chaos. We walk away because we are afraid to become too involved. Help us, O Lord, to engage those in need. Heal

our spirits as well as our bodies. Open our hearts and our eyes to see you, O Christ, that we may be empowered to service rather than apathy. Make us ready to truly become your disciples. 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.*

***Hymn** For the Beauty of the Earth NCH 28

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

This Train (*Traditional Spiritual*) John O'Rourke
*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

Luke 10: 25-37, pg 946
If you would like to read along, Bibles may be found underneath the pew in front of you.

Communion Reflection

Draw Near Rev. Jennifer Gingras

***Closing Hymn**

Let There Be Light, O God of Hosts NCH 589

***Benediction**

Postlude Lead On Eternal Sovereign (NCH 573, v 4. Please sing along!)

**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.

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:** Bill & Mary Jo Brett
- **Lay Reader:** Vaughan Askue
- **Trustee:** Dave Allen
- **Counter:** John O'Rourke
- **Coffee Host:** Dave Allen & John O'Rourke
- **Web Steward:** Scott Young

Communion Team #2
Michelle Correll, Larry Wissink,
Michelle Cardentey, Leanne McEvoy
Jocelyn Allen



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](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAC2CA5FEC61-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)

Mia Briggs⁽⁰²⁾

Vinathi Sampson⁽⁰²⁾

Mathias Aoaeh⁽⁰⁵⁾

Liska Gutierrez⁽⁰²⁾

David Bailey⁽⁰³⁾

Elliott McEvoy⁽⁰⁵⁾

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)

Jenna & Stephen Rice⁽⁰⁴⁾



Christian Education



Bible Study begins Thursday, **September 5th at 9:30 am** in Dineson Parlor. **Join Us!**



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) **or being an adult advisor for our Jr PF youth group** (ages 11-14). Thank you! See you in the fall!



Fellowship

Young at Heart will meet Thurs., September 26 at noon. Details to follow.



Come and reconncet with your church family at the Homecoming Picnic! **September 15, 12-4 pm at Wolfe Park.**
See the signup in Wilton Hall.



Join us for the monthly Book Culb 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:

September 18th at 7 pm- Tom Lake by Ann Patchett

October 16th at 7pm - On Beauty by Zadie Smith



Do you know what a **Prayer Partner** is? It's the easiest thing to do. All that's required is filling out an information form that can be found in Wilton Hall at the end of August. In a few weeks you will receive someone else's information in the mail. Use that form to approach them during coffee hour and strike up a conversation, pass them the peace at service or send them a card or note in the mail signed "Your Prayer Partner" using the church's address (34 Church St Monroe CT 06468) as the return. This is all done anonymously until next May 2025 when we hold the "Big Reveal" potluck luncheon in Wilton Hall. It only takes a few seconds out of your busy schedule to think of your prayer partner and wish them the best for the day. Be in the comfort that someone else is praying for you. Please contact Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280 with any questions.



Morning Circle will meet on Wednesday, September 11 at 11am in Wilton Hall. These ladies work hard on service projects like Church World Service, Heifer International and the Food Pantry. They provide bean soups, birthday bags, Trick-or-Treat bags and women's hygiene products for the Pantry. They also support the town's Giving Tree program with their generosity. 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.



Did you miss the **Panera Bread** fundraiser in June? Well, you have another opportunity to support the refurbishing plan for Dineson Parlor which is used by many groups. Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 21 from 4-8PM. Use a promotion code for online orders any time of that day or at checkout at the Monroe location (205 Monroe Turnpike) when ordering at the counter or kiosk. With your purchase, 25% will go to help brighten up the parlor with new furniture that will stand up to lots of years of use by so many people. Please contact Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280 with any questions.

In Our Prayers

David Coffey; Ron Villani & family, on the loss of his brother Bob last week; **Alison Abrams** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Jennifer Bittar** (Loraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney; Lori Cimeno** (Peggy & Ron Villani's Daughter); **Kevin Daly** (Gary Thompson's friend); **Dawn** (Donna Konkol's Friend); **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**; the people of **Ukraine** 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 Riffard**, Pensacola Naval Air Station, **Zachary Gingras**, 395th Combat Sustainability Support, **Joel Smith**, 250th Engineering Company **Chris Meneses** (Loraine Zeiner's friend)

Kuwait: **Jon Sanchez** (Don Whiteley's grandson-in-law)

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Sun. Sept 1st

Communion

10:00 am Worship

11:30 am Trustees

7:30 pm Mass Fusion Reschedule Concert

Mon. Sept 2nd

Labor Day - Office Closed

Tue. Sept 3rd

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

7:00 pm Safe Church

Wed. Sept 4th

6:30 pm Council Planning (Redmond)

Thur. Sep 5th

9:30 am First Bible Study of Season
(Dineson)

Week of Sun. Sept 8th

New Member Sunday

10:00 am Worship

11:015 am Victorian Christmas Meeting

5:00 pm Senior PF (Parlor)

5:00 pm Junior PF (Classroom 5)

Tue. Sept 10th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Sept 11th

11:00 am Morning Circle

Thur. Sep 12th

9:30 am Bible Study

Week of Sun. Sept 15th

Homecoming, New Member Sunday

10:00 am Worship

12 – 4 pm Homecoming Picnic (Wolfe
Park)

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Sept 16th

7:30 pm Council

Tue. Sept 17th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Sept 18th

7:00 pm Book Club

Thur. Sept 19th

9:30 am Bible Study

Sat. Sept 21th

4:00 – 8:00 pm Panera Bread
Fundraiser

Week of Sun. Sept 22nd

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Confirmation Orientation

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

Tue. Sept 24th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

1-6 pm Blood Drive at MCC

Thur. Sept 26th

9:30 am Bible Study

12:00 pm Young at Heart

7:30 PM Confirmation Class