

September 12, 2021

The Sixteenth 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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Prelude

Glory Bound *The Wailin Jennys*

The MCC Folk Band

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: Why do we give thanks this day?

People: Because we are created in God's image.

Leader: Why are we called to reach out to and love God's children?

People: Because we are created in God's image.

Leader: Why are we called to care for and watch over God's creation?

People: Because we are created in God's image.

Leader: So, then, as those who are created in the image of God,

All: Come, let us worship the Lord!

Opening Prayer

Caleb Nealon, Deacon of the Day

***Our Church's Covenant**

We declare our faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

In Holy covenant, we bind ourselves to God and each other, becoming devoted disciples and active apostles.

We promise each other to be faithful in worship and in support of this church, whose Savior and Lord is Jesus Christ.

In Christian love, we will care for and support each other.

With the Bible as our guide, we willingly promise all that we are and all that we have, to the fulfillment of God's Kingdom

Freely we say these things, glorying in the joy of our salvation.

***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

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

Lord, we give you thanks for your constant presence, even as we admit that we don't always see or hear you with us. So often we find ourselves standing at the edge...of uncertainty, of fear, of society, of faith, of life. We pray for your path to be

clear, to show us your way. We long for comfort, stability, familiarity. Forgive us for our selective memory, our tendency to focus on the ways things were, our hearts set on self-preservation. Turn our eyes forward, to where you are leading. Remind us that you are our God and will never leave us. Give us faith to see your way, and courage to walk it. 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.

Offertory

Imagine John Lennon

The MCC Folk Band

*Our offering plate will be passed among us today.
You may also choose to give online at www.mcc-ucc/donate.*

Scripture

Genesis 1:1-2:4a, page 1

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

Sermon

Order Out of Chaos

Rev. Jennifer M. Gingras

Benediction

Parting Music

If This Is Goodbye

Emmylou Harris & Mark Knopfler

A note from the MCC Folk Band: Yesterday marked the Twentieth anniversary of the darkest day in recent US history. Thousands of heart-wrenching voicemails and text messages were sent to loved ones that morning from victims of the attack. Musician Mark Knopfler took some of them and wrote this next song as a tribute in memory of that day. The lyrics can be found below.

If This Is Goodbye

My famous last words are laying around in tatters
Sounding absurd whatever I try
But I love you and that's all what really matters
If this is goodbye if this is goodbye

Your bright shining sun would light up the way
before me
You were the one made me feel I could fly
And I love you whatever is waiting for me
If this is goodbye if this is goodbye

Who knows how long we've got or what we're made of
Who knows if there's plan or not
There is our love, I know there is our love

My famous last words could never tell the story
Spinning unheard in the dark of the sky
But I love you and this is our glory
If this is goodbye, if this is goodbye
If this is goodbye, if this is goodbye

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:** Caleb Nealon
- **Usher:** Clark Gingras
- **Trustee:** Bill Stadler
- **Counter:** John O'Rourke
- **Coffee Hosts:** Bill Stadler
- **Web Steward:** Scott Young



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. Check out our easy online sign up!

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

If you do not have access to a computer, call Diane in the office 203-268-9327, and she will help you sign up!



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

Andrew Logan⁽¹⁴⁾

Joshua Post⁽¹⁶⁾

Julie McHugh⁽¹⁷⁾

Angela Cross⁽¹⁵⁾

Ronald Villani⁽¹⁶⁾

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)

Kim & Mike Riffard⁽¹⁴⁾ Reggie & John Hastedt⁽¹⁶⁾ Julia & Osiris Gutierrez⁽¹⁶⁾

Shirley & Jamie Dotoratos⁽¹⁶⁾ and Anne & Pete LaQuesse⁽¹⁷⁾

In Our Prayers

Jackie Ajello (Michele Mount's mother); **Michael Barresi** (Maria's Son); **Ben** (Maria Barresi's son-in-law's brother) **Jennifer Bittar** (Lorraine Zeiner's friend); **Byron Brown & Bruce Bryant** (friends of Will Duchon); **Cheryl Ciambriello** (Wendy Colegrove's friend); **Lori Cimeno** (Peggy & Ron Villani's Daughter); **Dot Dralus; Matt Duchon**; The Family of **Roy Ford** (Jacque Bleakney's brother); **Marge Fox; Rachel Fracassini** (Jack & Linda Fracassini's niece); **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); **Heather Henning; 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); **Logan/Weiss family; Mary-Margaret Logan** (Andrew's mother); **Jacque 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); **Roshong** (Judy Coward's nephew); **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; Christian & Dain Steiner** (Julie McClenathan's nephews); family of **Norm Stickney** (Diane Prall's father); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Wininger's 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** (Lorraine 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**

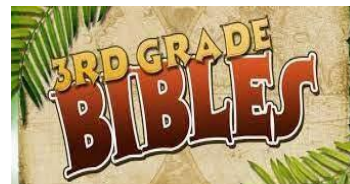
Christian Education



Register Now for 2021/2022 Children & Youth Programming at MCC! Please sign up your child(ren) and youth for the 2021/2022 season here (<https://form.jotform.com/212146410084141>).

Jeanette Cardentey, our new CE Coordinator/Jr PF Lead Advisor, is seeking volunteer teachers and helpers – to help out, send her an e-mail - jeanettemcardentey@gmail.com.

3rd Grade Bible Dedication: Sunday, September 19th at 10 am: It's time for our third graders to receive their Bibles! We will present them on Sunday, September 19th at the 10 am worship service. If you have a child in third grade, please be sure to let our church office know (mccsecretary123@gmail.com) so that we will have a Bible ready for them.



Nursery Room Now Open: Thanks to the blessing of technology, our church's nursery is now set up with a streaming option. If your young child needs a break, and you'd like to not miss out on worship, you may use the room which is setup with a TV, lots of toys and rocking chairs. Although the space is not currently staffed, it is open, clean, and ready for use by parents!



Youth Confirmation Begins! Freshman year of high school is the traditional time for Confirmation at MCC (although, we are also open to having older students participate!). In Confirmation, participants build a supportive covenant community with the other members of the class; they explore, understand and own the vows of baptism; and they discover and assume the privileges and responsibilities of adult church membership. Confirmation is an important rite of passage, but we hope it is more than that for them. We hope it is the beginning of a wonderful life-long adult spiritual journey.

A **Confirmation Orientation Meeting** for parents and confirmands will be held today **Sunday, September 12th at 11 am** outdoors at the fire pit on Pierce lawn. There will be a **Dedication** moment during worship on Sunday, September 19th. **Classes are held from 6:30-7:30 on most Wednesdays beginning September 22nd.** As long as the weather holds, we will meet outdoors on the parsonage porch. If you have any questions or concerns, please let Pastor Jenn know.

Deacons

Weekly Bible Study Has Begun! We cordially invite you to join us each week as we gather together to learn with and through one another. All are welcome in Dineson Parlor, **Thursdays from 9:30-11 am**. Bring your favorite Bible (whatever version you prefer) and a small notebook. Let Pastor Jenn know if you have any questions!





Prayer Partners are wanted for 2021-2022. Sign-ups sheets are posted on the bulletin board in Wilton Hall. Please leave completed forms in the slot provided by the end of the month. It's easy to do: you'll get a letter in the mail with the information of the person you'll be praying for, keep them in your thoughts, send them a note or card in the mail using the church's address as the return (don't forget to sign them "Prayer Partner"), continue to pray for them until May 29, 2022 when we will hold the "Big Reveal" potluck luncheon in Wilton Hall. We'll dine, converse and find out who's been praying for whom. I look forward to contacting you and speaking with you. Here's a testimonial from one of last year's prayer partners:

"Each morning at my prayer time, I felt blessed at the privilege of having been given my Prayer Partner. I will continue to keep her and her family in my daily prayers as well as our MCC family. I look forward to my next Prayer Partner and its special connection and finding joy in knowing someone is praying for me also."

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

"The Art of Preaching" – a lay preaching seminar: Have you ever wanted to know how to do the research, writing and delivering of a Sunday sermon? Would you like to be able to present a sermon or reflection in worship, or at another special occasion? Do you just want to try it out as an "auditor"? Join Pastor Jenn on Zoom, from 7:30-8:15 pm on the following Monday evenings: Sep 13 & 27, Oct 4 & 25, Nov 1 & 8.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87692647191?pwd=S3B3ZURyTjRsNUhJNVh0MkE1WkxZZz09>

Fellowship

Morning Circle invites the ladies of the congregation to our meetings on Wednesday, October 13 at 11AM in Wilton Hall, (Trick-or-Treat Bags), Nov 10 (Bean Soup Jars) and Dec 8 (Christmas luncheon). Contact Jackie Bleakney at 203-268-5275 with any questions or comments



Outreach Wine & Beer Tasting to Benefit CFJ's New Safe House

Join us **Saturday, September 18th** (Rain Date: Sat. Sept. 25th) **6:00-8:00 pm** on Pierce Lawn. Bring a chair, a snack and a glass for the Center for Family Justice's new safe house. Suggested donation: \$20

Fall Adult PF –all adults are welcome!



One of the good things that the pandemic has done for me is lead me to take a close look at my religious roots, and I've thought a lot about what it is that I most deeply believe. This has led me to an idea for something we've never done before in Adult PF—study the Bible.

Starting this fall and going until we finish, I'd like for us to take a deep dive into the Bible's great storybook: Genesis. Of course, Genesis has had a profound influence on Jewish and Christian self-understanding, theology, art, literature, etc., but even today it remains a collection of stories that can leave you feeling awestruck or disturbed. I'm already getting excited about the thought of exploring them with you.

Let's get started on September 19. With the pandemic on the upswing again, I imagine that among us are various levels of comfort with being indoors together the way we used to. For that reason, I'm going to suggest that we (1) trim our meeting time to two hours, (2) bring snacks that are easy to pick up (e.g., not a bag of chips that we all reach into), and (3) open windows during our time together. Also, anyone who wants to wear a mask is welcome to do so.

Kate and I look forward to welcoming you back to our house on a regular basis, so please put the following dates on your calendar: **September 19, October 3 and 17, November 7 and 21, and December 5.** –Don Parker-Burgard



MCC Book Club welcomes new members who love to read and have lively discussions. No expertise is necessary. For more information, please call Julie McClenathan 203-261-0360 All meetings will continue to be via Zoom for now.

October 13th - A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith
November 10th - Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann

Outreach



Heifer International is an organization where your pocket change helps to send animals to families. These animals are like a small business where wool, eggs, milk and more can sustain a family 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. **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. Your spare change will support the lives of families in need.

It's the return of the **Outreach Tag Sale** at the Monroe Congregational Church! This is one of the larger fundraisers for the church, the tag sale helps us raise money for good causes by selling other people our gently used good stuff, which keeps it out of landfills (a win-win!)

Donation Drop-offs will be received in Wilton Hall September 28-30, from 9am - 8pm. All items must be clean and in good condition.



Here's what we cannot accept: electronics including old computers, monitors, boom boxes or phones (of any type), coffee mugs, cribs, car seats or pack and plays, encyclopedias, textbooks or VHS tapes, bicycles that are not complete and rideable, blankets, comforters, or linens that have holes or are not clean, Tupperware or kitchen storage items without lids, Anything broken or chipped, large or heavy items such as dining room sets, particle board furniture, bookcases or upholstered chairs or couches. Please email Julie McClenathan (juliemcclenathan@gmail.com) pictures of furniture items before donating.

If you are able to help this year, please review the available slots on our sign-up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d44a8ac22a2fb6-outreach>
Thank you!



The Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe is looking for volunteers to help with sorting, tagging and hanging on Mondays at 9AM and manning the counter. Counter hours are Fridays (10-12:30 or 12:30-3) and/or Saturdays (10-12 or 12-2). It's easy to open or close the Shoppe. Come visit a sales associate during business hours and get a tutorial or you can read the list of instructions that can be emailed to you. Please contact Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280 with any questions or comments.



CROP Walk coming up, October 17th at 1:30
(in person this year, rather than virtual).

The kick-off rally will be on Sunday, September 19th at 2pm at Unity Hill Church in Trumbull. We were told by Carole Fanslow (committee chairperson) that MCC will be honored at the rally for being one of the largest contributors to the event. (We've been told we raised the most money last year!) For information or to sign up contact MCC chairperson: Julie McClenathan juliemcclenathan@gmail.com

Wine & Beer Tasting to Benefit CFJ's New Safe House

18
SEP

JOIN US ON PIERCE LAWN FROM 6-8PM!
BRING A CHAIR, A SNACK AND A GLASS.
PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE CENTER FOR
FAMILY JUSTICE'S NEW SAFE HOUSE.
SUGGESTED DONATION: \$20.
RAIN DATE SEP 25

**Join the Board of Outreach and CFJ Board Member Scott Redfern at our
Wine & Beer Tasting THIS Saturday, September 18th from 6-8 pm
outside at the fire pit (rain date, Sep 15)**

Proceeds will benefit this important Empower House project. Thanks to Roy Nealon and Al Jesulaitis for providing the wines and beers that we will sample. Friends and neighbors are warmly welcomed! Bring a lawn chair, a glass and a snack to share. Suggested donation is \$20. Hope to see you there!

MCC Community Calendar

Week of September 12th

10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Confirmation Orientation (Dineson)
11:30 am Trustees Zoom
5:00 pm Senior PF (Wilton Hall)

Mon. September 13th

9:00 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag
7:30 pm "The Art of Preaching" Zoom

Thur. September 16th

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)
7:30 pm CE Zoom

Sat. September 18th

6:00-8:00 pm Outreach Wine/Beer Tasting (Pierce Lawn)

Week of September 19th

Homecoming Sunday
3rd Graders Receive Bibles
10:00 am Worship, Outdoor Sunday School
2:00 pm Crop Walk Rally (Unity Hill CC)
5-7:30 pm Jr PF (Classroom 5)
5-7:30 pm Sr PF (Dineson)
5:00 pm Adult PF

Mon. September 20th

9:00 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag
7:30 pm Council

Tue. September 21st

8:00 pm Outreach Zoom
7:00 pm Bereavement Group

Wed. September 22nd

6:30 pm Confirmation (Parsonage Porch)

Thur. September 23rd

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)

Sat. September 25th

6:00-8:00 pm Outreach Wine/Beer Tasting **Rain Date** (Pierce Lawn)

Week of September 26th

10:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Jr PF (Classroom 5)
5:00 pm Sr PF (Dineson)

Sept 27 – Oct 1 Tag Sale Setup

Mon. September 27th

9:00 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag
7:30 pm "The Art of Preaching" Zoom

Wed. September 29th

6:30 pm Confirmation (Parsonage Porch)

Thur. September 30th

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)

Sat. October 2nd

8:00-1:00 Outreach Tag Sale

Week of October 3rd

Communion Sunday
10:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Senior PF

Oct 4-10 Pastor Jenn on Vacation

Mon. October 4th

9:00 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag
7:30 pm "The Art of Preaching" Zoom

Tue. October 5th

8:00 pm Outreach Zoom

Week of October 10th

10:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. October 11th

Indigenous Peoples' Day –office closed
9:00 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Tue. October 13th

11:00 am Morning Circle

Thur. October 14^h

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)

Fri. October 15^h

Family Dinner Night - Playground Foundation

