

Monroe Congregational Church ■ United Church of Christ

“That they may all be one”

www.mcc-ucc.org

34 Church Street ■ Monroe, CT 06468 ■ Church Phone: 268-9327

Rev. Jennifer M. Gingras, Sr. Pastor ◇ William Duchon, Music Director ◇ Heather Hisey, Associate Music Director



September 15, 2024 Homecoming ~ New Member Sunday (2) 10 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.

+++++

Gathering Music Welcome Into This Place *Juarez Orlando, 1991*

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: God's word comes to us: "I am with you."

People: In our worries as in our celebrations, always.

Leader: God's word comes to us: "look up."

People: See the stars — always present, signs of a bigger story.

Leader: God's word comes to us: "I promise."

All: We trust that however impossible it seems, God's word is true.

Opening Prayer

Marc Cardentey, Deacon of the Day

***Our Church's Covenant**

inside front cover of hymnal

***Hymn**

When Morning Gilds the Skies

NCH #86

Students may transition to Sunday School with their teachers.

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

Your promise shines, O God, whether we can see it or not. We confess that while we wait, we worry, seeking our own security and taking matters into our own hands. We ignore how our demands for comfort and stability and predictability dim the light and mute the colors of life in all its fullness. We confess we are ready to take less than full life if we can have it our way. Yet, you call us out to places where we can encounter your glory and take the leap of faith. Forgive us, O God, and lift the eyes of our hearts beyond what we think we know, that we may come to trust you and be bearers of your blessing to the world. 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.

Reception of New Member: Margery Danis

Pastor: Let us affirm our faith together as we receive this new member into our church.

Congregation: We believe in God who has created and is creating.

Deacon: God has come to us in Jesus Christ to reconcile and make us new. God works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: We trust God. God calls us to be Christ's body in the world.

Pastor: *Margery*, will you promise to support this congregation with your time, talents and resources, participating regularly in the worship and work of the Monroe Congregational Church, United Church of Christ and contributing to our life and ministry in this place as best you are able?

New Member: I do promise. With you, we will celebrate God's presence, love and serve others, care for creation, seek justice and resist evil.

Deacon: With your love, God will love. With your hands, God will touch this community. With your lives, God will bring justice and compassion to the world. We will make mistakes, but in those moments we will learn the power of forgiveness and grace. Congregation, what is your promise to our newest members?

Congregation: We welcome you with joy as partners in the common life of Monroe Congregational Church, United Church of Christ and we promise you our love, support and care. We promise to pray, serve and laugh with you as we share the hopes, labors and joys of the church of Jesus Christ. We promise to look forward with you in hope as we strive to be Christ's witnesses in the world.

All: Together we will proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope. In life and death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

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

True Light

Keith Hampton, 2002

*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

Genesis 15:1-21, pg 11

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

Sermon

Starry Starry Night

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

***Closing Hymn**

There Is a Name I Love to Hear

NCH #52

Benediction

Postlude

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

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: Marc Cardentey **Usher:** Arlene Redmond **Lay Reader:** Michelle Correll
Trustee: Glenn Brigham **Counter:** Scott Bill Stadler **Web Steward:** Scott Young
Coffee Hour Host: Glenn Brigham



Come and reconnect with your church family at the Homecoming Picnic TODAY!!! **12-4 pm at the pavilion at Wolfe Park. Please bring a salad, side dish or dessert to share!**



The flowers this morning are given by Jessica and Mike Pfalzgraf in honor of Jane Steen

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)

Joshua Post ⁽¹⁶⁾
 Ronald Villani ⁽¹⁶⁾
 David Rooney ⁽¹⁹⁾

Jeff Swift ⁽¹⁹⁾
 Colleen Konkol ⁽²⁰⁾
 Marisa Pinto ⁽²⁰⁾

Vandana Sampson ⁽²⁰⁾
 Grace Hisey ⁽²¹⁾
 Mary Massar ⁽²¹⁾



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)

Reggie & John Hastedt ⁽¹⁶⁾ Shirley & Jamie Dotoratos ⁽¹⁶⁾ and Julia & Osiris Gutierrez ⁽¹⁶⁾



Pledge Envelopes: If you pledge to the church and would like to use pledge envelopes please call 203-268-9327 or email Diane at secretary@MCC-UCC.org **before the September 30th** order deadline –thank you!
 (Offering envelopes are also available in the pews.)

Christian Education

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!



Deacons



Join us Sunday, Sept. 29th at 10 am as we worship outside and bless the animals that bring us such joy & love! ***Please keep pet on a leash or in a carrier.**

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!

Fellowship



Young at Heart will meet Thurs., **September 26** at noon.

Everyone is welcome to MCC's informal, fun, lunch group for food and conversation! Location: **Shelton Kitchen** (Thai), 509 Howe Avenue. There is street parking as well as a free parking lot on the left, a ½ block before the restaurant, when coming from Monroe.)

RSVP to Heather Henning (203)543-3126 or Heather.Henning@icloud.com (new)



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:

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 beginning of September. By the end of the month you will receive someone else's information in the mail. 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. If you don't know who they are I'll be happy to point them out. This is all done anonymously until May 18, 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 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, Oct 9, 11AM Dineson Parlor - Trick-or-Treat bags

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



Silver Lake Retreat Center - weekend of May 2-4, 2025

Outreach



Covenant to Care welcomes any donations of NEW backpacks, lunch boxes, and school supplies for all ages! Monetary gifts are always welcome! Please bring whatever you can to the church (marked *Covenant to Care: attention Diane*) as soon as possible so the children can start using your generous donations -thank you!

Outreach Wine Tasting to Benefit Project Warmth

21
SEP



JOIN US AT LINDA & JACK FRACASSINI'S,
55 MISTY LANE FROM 6-8 PM! BRING AN APP
OR DESSERT TO SHARE AND A WINE GLASS.

SUGGESTED DONATION: \$20
TO LEARN MORE, VISIT
WWW.MONROECT.GOV/P/ENERGY-ASSISTANCE



American Red Cross

Community of Giving

Monroe Lions Club



Fall Blood Drive

Monroe Congregational Church

34 Church St. Monroe

9/24/2024

1:00 – 6:00

For an appointment, please visit redcrossblood.org
Or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Historian's Notebook

Victorian Christmas Fair Update

The **Victorian Christmas Fair** will be held on the **first Sunday of Advent, December 1st** (Yes, two days after Thanksgiving). *Why are we doing this?* To welcome our wider community to our beautiful church campus and provide a family-friendly Christmas activity that also teaches a bit of history. Funds that are raised will be put aside for future church campus building needs.

So far, our plans include:

- 10 am Victorian Christmas worship service (costumes welcome!)
- Local Crafters in Wilton Hall from 1:00 to 5:00 (get those last-minute gifts!)
- Historical tours of the Meetinghouse
- Caroling from "Just Voices"
- A working Victorian model train village display
- A visit with Victorian Santa (toy drive for Covenant to Care, photo opportunity)
- Children's crafts and activities
- And more! (to be defined or confirmed)



This will be followed by the tree lighting with our friends from St. Peter's Grace Episcopal on our Centre Green at 5pm.

In the meantime, Bill Brett has already finished laying the track and has fired up the **Victorian model train**. He is now working on completing the village and landscaping of the display. He will need the use of a pickup truck with a 4-foot-wide bed and is looking for help to transport and help set up the display in Dineson Parlor a day or two before the Fair. If you would like to help Bill please



contact him directly; see him at coffee hour, email him at wrbmjb@sbcglobal.net, or call him at 203-241-8761. He will be glad to hear from you.

Historically faithful, Gary Thompson

Ps, see our sign-up sheet in Wilton Hall if you'd like to help out!

In Our Prayers

Alison Abrams (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Jennifer Bittar** (Lorraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney**; **David Coffey**; **Kevin Daly** (Gary Thompson's friend); **Danis-Pearce family**; **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**; **the Manuzzi family**; 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** (Lorraine Zeiner's friend)

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

MCC Community Calendar

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 (zoom)

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

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Sat. Sept 21th

4:00 – 8:00 pm Panera Bread Fundraiser

6:00 pm Outreach Wine Tasting
(Fracassini's, 55 Misty Lane, Monroe)

Week of Sun. Sept 22nd

10:00 am Worship

11:15 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

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

7:30 PM Confirmation Class

Week of Sun. Sept 29th

Blessing of the Animals Sunday

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am NOOMA

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

Tue. Oct. 1st

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Thur. Oct. 3rd

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

7:30 PM Confirmation Class

Week of Sun. Oct 6th

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Trustees

2:00 pm Junior PF

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Oct 7th

7:30 pm Outreach

Tue. Oct. 8st

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Oct 9th

11:00 am Morning Circle

New Member at MCC * September 15, 2024

Please join us in welcoming the newest member of our church community. This short introduction will help you to learn a little more about our new member. We hope you'll take the time to get to know her and her family personally.



Margery Danis

7 Wilton Avenue, Trumbull, CT 06611

Cell: (203)550-1765

Tel: (203)372-1186

Email: buglet@snet.net

Birthdate: March 16

Anniversary: April 23

Margery Danis has been married to her husband Ray for 43 years. They have a daughter, Rachel and a son, Joshua and 3 grandchildren; Charlotte, Mia, and Aya. Margery is retired and enjoys cooking, baking, crafts, and gardening. She is happy to help out at MCC in any way she can and is looking forward to helping at the Mustard Seed Shop, with snacks for the children at coffee hour, and the Strawberry Festival. A warm MCC welcome to you Margery!



**RAISE SOME
DOUGH**
Help support us!

25% of sales will benefit
Monroe Congregational Church

June 22, 2024
4:00 pm to 8:00 pm EDT
205 Monroe Turnpike
Monroe, CT

In Cafe • Drive-Thru • Pick-Up • Delivery
Enter promo code **FUND4U** at online checkout.

Panera
FUNDRAISING

Order dinner from Panera in Monroe on Sep 21st between 4-8, use promo code FUND4U and 25% of your order will go towards replacing the well-loved furniture in Dineson Parlor!

ROAD TO HOME AT AMOS HOUSE

A ROAD TO HOME GALA

SEPTEMBER 20TH, 2024 | 6:30 PM
ANTHONY'S LAKE CLUB
DANBURY, CT

COCKTAILS, HORS D'OEUVRES, DINNER,
AUCTIONS AND MORE

HOMEcoming PICNIC

Come enjoy a nice meal, fun & games
and reconnect with your church family!

12-4pm September 15, 2024 at Wolfe Park

Join us TODAY

Bring a salad or dessert to share. Drinks, hot dogs,
hamburgers and veggie burgers will be provided.