

September 19, 2021

**The Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost
Homecoming Sunday**

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

Prelude from Suite #6 in D JS Bach

Larry Wissink

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: God without name...

People: You are the Great I Am

Leader: As we journey up the mountain with Abraham and Isaac,
may we offer only the sacrifice of Praise.

All: Come, let us praise God together!

Opening Prayer

Nancy Smith, Deacon of the Day

***Our Church's Covenant**

hymnal cover

***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.*

Third Grade Bible Dedication

Jeanette Cardentey

*Abigail Coleman, Carmela Combs, Lainey Duva (4th grade), Marlo Duva, Kaelyn McEvoy
(4th grade), Avrie Sheppard*

Congregational Response: *We rejoice in this step in your journey with God. We pray
that God will guide you, your family, and us as you use this Holy Bible in your home, in
your Sunday school classes, and in our worship. We will learn together and grow in our
love for God's Word. May the Word of God be a lamp to your feet, and a light to your
path. Thanks be to God! Amen.*

*After the Bible Dedication, children aged PreK-6th grade may leave
for Outdoor Sunday School with their teachers.*

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

*God, we confess that it is hard to know if we are hearing you right. We often cannot
find the answers to hard questions. We confess that the struggle is real. Will you
provide for us when we forget to bring the sheep? Help us when we do not know
what to do, or who to ask for help. Help us to make the right decisions, and to do
that which is loving and right, we pray. Amen. ~silence~*

Words of Assurance

Confirmation Dedication

Jocelyn Allen, Alexa Cross, Stephen Sentementes, Mathias Aoaeh

Today marks the beginning of an important journey. In the baptismal promises we make as a faith community, we agree to grow with our young people, to help them and their parents on their journey of faith. Confirmation is a process by which these young people choose whether to affirm their baptism and become adult members of this church and Christ's universal Church. It's also a process in which parents to allow their children to make mature faith decisions on their own.

And so, we joyfully celebrate the beginning of this journey with the new members of our 2021 confirmation class! Jocelyn, Alexa, Stephen, Mathias please stand where you are (with your parents), whether you are tuning in online or here in-person to receive your Study Bible and remain standing while we make some promises together.

Parents, do you promise your continued love, support, and care as your children explore what it means to be a Christian and a member of the church? Will you support them as they begin to mature in faith taking more and more responsibility for their own spiritual journey? If so, please answer, *I do, with the help of God.*

Parents: I do, with the help of God

Will the congregation please rise, if comfortably able? Members and friends of Monroe Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, will you show these young people examples of Christian love? Will you support them through your prayers and interest? Will you care for them by sharing your time and experience in the faith? If so, please answer, *I will, with the help of God.*

Congregation: I will, with the help of God.

Confirmands, today marks the beginning of a commitment to grow and learn. Soon we will explore questions about God, Jesus Christ, the Bible, the Church, and Christian faith. You have heard the promises of your parents and the congregation. With this support, do you promise to attend worship regularly (in person or online), to prepare and participate when asked, and to support each other along the way, as best you are able? If so, please answer, *I will, with the help of God.*

Confirmands: I will, with the help of God.

Unison Prayer: Gracious God, Bless these confirmands on their journey. May they grow in knowledge and faith. Guide them with your spirit, and show them the love and peace of Christ, that passes all understanding. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

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

Meditation *by Frank Bridge*

Jane Allen

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

Scripture

Genesis 21:1-3 & 22:1-14 page 16

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

Sermon

The Test

Rev. Jennifer M. Gingras

Benediction

Parting Music

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

Jane Allen

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

"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 27, Oct 4 & 25, Nov 1 & 8.

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

Thank you for assisting in this morning's worship!

- **Deacon:** Nancy Smith
- **Usher:** Maria Barresi
- **Trustee:** Frank Wittenauer
- **Counter:** Tom Briggs
- **Coffee Hosts:** Frank Wittenauer
- **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)

David Rooney ⁽¹⁹⁾
Jeff Swift ⁽¹⁹⁾
Collen Konkol ⁽²⁰⁾

Marisa Pinto ⁽²⁰⁾
Vandana Sampson ⁽²⁰⁾

Mary Massar ⁽²¹⁾
Kristen Prall-Boronski ⁽²⁴⁾



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)

Jenn & Andy Nivison ⁽¹⁹⁾ Marilyn & Robert Schultz ⁽²⁰⁾ and Gay & Hubert Muizulis ⁽²⁵⁾

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** (Loraine 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** (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**

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.

Family Room Now Open: Thanks to the blessing of technology, our church's nursery has been 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!

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.

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



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



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: **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.



The Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe is looking for volunteers to help with **sorting, tagging and hanging on Tuesdays at 1PM** 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.



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!



Many hands make light work.



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

**CELEBRATING
MORNING
CIRCLE**

***HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY***

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THE MONROE
CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH



**September 26,
Coffee Hour**

MCC Community Calendar

Week of September 19th

Homecoming Sunday

3rd Graders Receive Bibles

Confirmands Bible Dedication

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

7:30 pm Council

Tue. September 21st

8:00 pm Outreach Zoom

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

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

Tue. September 28th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. September 29th

6:30 pm Confirmation (Parsonage Porch)

Thur. September 30^h

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)

Sat. October 2nd

8:00-1:00 Outreach Tag Sale

12:30 pm PF Help with Tag Sale Pickup

Week of October 3rd

Communion Sunday

10:00 am Worship

5-7:30 pm Jr PF

5:00 pm Senior PF

5:00 pm Adult PF

Oct 4-9 Pastor Jenn on Vacation

Mon. October 4th

7:30 pm "The Art of Preaching" Zoom

Tue. October 5th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

8:00 pm Outreach Zoom

Thur. October 7th

7:00 pm Deacons

Week of October 10th

10:00 am Worship

4:00 pm Senior PF (kitchen)

5-7:30 pm Jr PF

Mon. October 11th

Indigenous Peoples' Day –office closed

Tue. October 12th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. October 13th

11:00 am Morning Circle

6:30 pm Confirmation (Parsonage Porch)

Thur. October 14^h

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)

Fri. October 15^h

Family Dinner Night - Playground Foundation