

September 24, 2023

Seventeenth 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

Praise the Lord!

W.A. Mozart

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: You are a God who speaks to us,

People: Who tells your story and invites us in.

Leader: We thank you for those who came before us who spoke with you face to face,

People: Asking and telling, sometimes demanding, sometimes pleading.

Leader: Keeping the conversation going through thick & thin, showing us how it's done.

People: Hear us as we call to you today,

All: And give us ears to hear you, too. Amen!

Opening Prayer

Emma Campbell, Deacon of the Day

***Our Church's Covenant**

inside front cover of hymnal

Children's Message

***Hymn**

O God in Whom All Life Begins

NCH #401

Students may transition to Sunday School with their teachers.

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

You are a God of close relationship, a God who sits down beside us, gets your hands dirty, stays in it with us. We confess that we are tempted to treat you with kid gloves, to be careful what we say, holding back some of the whole truth, just in case. Yet you reach out and draw us in, You put your whole heart in and ask us to do the same. Forgive us when we hold back because we don't want to be changed. Forgive us when we turn away because you don't fit our neat categories. Forgive us when we aren't willing to invest in our relationship with you. Wrestle away our idols, our self-sufficiency, our need to get our own way, and bless us with a glimpse of your face and an abiding knowledge of your saving grace. 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

All Earth Rejoice With a Gladsome Voice

A. Vivaldi, 1708

*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 32:9-13, 22-30, pg 29

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

Sermon

What's in a Name?

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

*Closing Hymn

Called as Partners in Christ's Service (verses 1 & 4)

NCH #495

Benediction

Parting Music

The Storm Is Passing Over

Charles Tindley, 1905

**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.

Thank you for assisting in this morning's worship!

- **Deacon:** Emma Campbell
- **Usher:** Julio Morales
- **Lay Reader:** Bill Brett
- **Trustee:** Scott Young
- **Counter:** Bill Stadler
- **Coffee Host:** Trustees
- **Web Steward:** Scott Young



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.mccucc.org)



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

Kristen Prall-Boronski ⁽²⁴⁾
Nancy Hedine ⁽²⁶⁾

Priscilla Cunningham ⁽²⁹⁾
Katherine Logan ⁽²⁹⁾

Heather Henning ⁽³⁰⁾
Laurel Post ⁽³⁰⁾



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)

Hubert & Gay Muizulis ⁽²⁵⁾ Jan & Chris Pearson ⁽²⁹⁾
Kate & Mark Barnhart ⁽²⁹⁾ and Donna & Jim Gill ⁽³⁰⁾

Trustees



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.)



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!



2023 Capital Campaign Update

Earlier this year, the MCC Board of Trustees launched a capital campaign designed to raise funds needed to support the painting of the Meeting House and the front of Beardsley Hall. With the goal of raising \$25,000 to complete this project, the campaign has progressed well, but we are a bit short of our goal with \$17,476 donated from 47 MCC members or families as of mid-August.

If you haven't donated to this campaign, please consider making a donation in September to help us complete the campaign. If you have already donated to this campaign, but would like to make an additional donation that would be appreciated as well. Donations can be sent to the church office to the attention of the Receiver, online via the Donate button on our web site or via the offering plate at Sunday service. Thanks for your donations and consideration and please contact MCC Receiver John O'Rourke (jorourke224@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Faith Formation



Register Now for 2023/2024 Children & Youth Programming at MCC!

We are planning this year's programming!
Please sign up your child(ren) and youth for the 2023/2024 season.

Sign up on our website **MCC-UCC.org** or
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAC2CA5FEC61-youth1>



Love working with youth, want to spread God's love to the children of our congregation in this upcoming **22/23 school year**? **Please consider teaching Sunday School** (Pre k - 6th) **or being an adult advisor for our Jr PF youth group** (ages 11-14). If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to Jeanette Cardentey Morales at jeanettemcardentey@gmail.com or 203-257-9637.

Deacons



Snack & Chat with NOOMA: During this program year, Pastor Jenn will be offering a snack and chat group after Sunday Worship once a month. NOOMA is a series of 24 short films (less than 14 minutes each) that "blend [events of] everyday with discussion about God". Each short story covers a specific topic on a real-life situation, usually by relating the various experiences from a Christian perspective. The series features Rob Bell, the author of Love Wins.

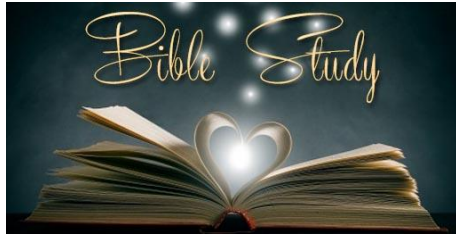
The name NOOMA comes from a phonetic spelling of the Greek word πνευμα (pneuma), meaning "wind or spirit". Join us in Dineson Parlor to enjoy some snacks, a video and light discussion – no prep necessary and all are welcome!

Sept 24 – NAME

Oct 29 – SHELLS

Nov 12 – TOMATO

Dec 10 – SHE



Weekly Bible Study 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, from **9:30-11 am**. 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. Let Pastor Jenn know if you have any questions!

Outreach



Outreach Wine Tasting Fundraiser for CWS Disaster Relief

October 14th at the Fracassini's home, 55 Misty Lane, Monroe

This year, our **Outreach Wine Tasting** will be raising funds towards Church World Service's Disaster Relief efforts. When natural disaster strikes, CWS programs help people prepare for the worst, making plans and gathering supplies. Whether in Morocco or Sudan, Maui or Mississippi, in just a few moments lives are torn apart. Whether it's a natural disaster or a humanitarian one, CWS teams up with other responders to meet immediate needs. And when the time is right, they shift focus to long-term recovery. When people are forced from their homes, CWS works hard to make sure they have safe and dignified lives. The road to recovery and safety may be a long one, but no one should walk it alone.

Please bring a wineglass and appetizer to share! Suggested donation is \$20/person. Unable to attend in person, but want to contribute? See our basket at coffee hour. Many thanks to Roy Nealon for providing the wines for the evening, and our gracious hosts Linda and Jack Fracassini! Sign up here, or in Wilton Hall: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44A8AC22A2FB6-wine>



Amos House will be holding its Annual Fundraiser Gala on Friday, September 29, 2023, at Anthony's Lake Club in Danbury.

Road to Home at Amos House is dedicated to breaking the cycle of homelessness for women and their children by ensuring residents have the opportunity to achieve the competencies required for permanent, self-sufficient independent living. Since each individual has a unique story and needs, they focus on customizing programming to nurture life skills, job and coping skills to help residents successfully launch their families into the life that they so deserve. Tickets for the event, which includes apps, dinner, beer & wine are \$100. Please let either [Rebecca Cicarelli](#) or [Pastor Jenn](#) know if you'd like to attend.



The **Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe is looking for volunteers** to help sort, tag and hang donated merchandise on Tuesdays at 1:15 PM after Labor Day. Sales associates are needed on Fridays for shifts from 10-12:30 and 12:30-3 and on Saturdays from 10-12

and 12-2. It's easy to do with a list of procedures that you can read over or visit a volunteer during business hours and they'd be glad to help you with any questions regarding opening or closing. Please contact Susie Cuseo with any questions at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280.



Did you know that your spare change can help those in need in faraway lands? A collection jar found on the table during coffee hour will be available for your change. This monetary donation purchases animals and plant products that help families make a living and any offspring from those animals will go to other neighbors making the community stronger and financially fit. Morning Circle matches a majority of the donation from the generosity of the congregation. Please contact Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280 with any questions.



Have you cleaned out your junk drawers this summer and found several prescription glasses, glass cases or sunglasses? Your used glasses can be donated to give the gift of sight. They will be cleaned, checked and given to someone in need of reading the newspaper or a book, watching the sun rise or simply seeing the smile on a loved one's face. Give the gift the sight by donating your prescription glasses/sunglasses and cases. A labeled basket will be in Wilton Hall during the month of September and October. Contact Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280 with any questions.

Fellowship



Young At Heart: Housatonic House, **Thurs., September 28** at noon.
Contact Shari Carrano at 203-400-3563 to sign up or for more information.



Prayer Partner Signups are in Wilton Hall. What's a Prayer Partner? you might ask. This is the person you've been assigned to pray for and keep in your thoughts. All you have to do is sign up and you'll get an information sheet through the mail with the name, address, hobbies, etc. of the person you are to pray for. Meanwhile someone else receives your information and they'll keep you in their thoughts. You can send them a note or card in the mail for special events signed "Your Prayer Partner" and use the church's address (34 Church St Monroe, CT 06468) as the

return. In May 2024 we'll meet for the "Big Reveal" potluck luncheon held in Wilton Hall at 11AM. Praying for each other connects us spiritually and with empathy, strengthens our relationships, promotes healing and well-being, offer support and encouragement and cultivates a sense of unity. Contact Susie Cuseo with any questions or comments at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280.



Morning Circle meets the second Wednesday of the month with the exception of January and February. We work in collaboration with the Food Pantry providing bean soup jars for Thanksgiving, birthday bags for children who visit with their families, collect women's hygiene products and make trick-or-treat bags in October. We put together Church World Service hygiene kits for international families in crisis and collect spare change for Heifer International. Please contact Shari Carrano with any questions or comments at 203-400-3563.

Our calendar of meetings

Wednesday, October 11 - Trick-or-treat bags for Food Pantry
Wednesday, November 8 - Bean Soup Jars for Food Pantry - Gift tags
Wednesday, December 13 - Annual Christmas luncheon - Location TBD
Wednesday, March 13 - Birthday bags for Food Pantry
Wednesday, April 10 - Church World Service hygiene kits
Wednesday, May 8 - Collection of Women's hygiene products
Wednesday, June 12 - Annual June picnic - Location TBD



Please join us for Adult PF the fourth Saturdays of the month in Dineson Parlor from 5:30 to 8pm! Bring your own beverage and a snack to share. We are excited to bring Adult PF back to MCC in a new format! Each month will be led by different members of the group. It could be a discussion of an article or movie, a game night or a service project for MCC or the greater community, or an outing etc. Your presence and ideas are wanted and welcome. All adults young and old are encouraged to

attend. Please reach out to Janie Allen via phone/text/email at 203-522-3686 or janeEallen@sbcglobal.net with any thoughts or questions. Our **next meeting will be Saturday, 10/28**. Come check it out!



Book club for September will be the usual 3rd Wednesday, **September 20th** and we will discuss Lessons in Chemistry. Due to it being a popular book it has been difficult to get it from the library. Hopefully we can all get a copy to read by the September meeting.

October 18th - 7 pm - The Second Mrs Astor by Shana Abe'

As always, we encourage anyone to join us. 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 or home phone. pjsh55@gmail.com or 203-452-0850



THE TIME TO **GIVE BLOOD** IS NOW **Blood Drive**

Donate at **Monroe Congregational Church** this
Tuesday, September 26

Noon – 6 PM

Sponsored by the Monroe Lions Club



In Our *Prayers*

Jackie Bleakney, Ed Burke, Clark Gingras; Ron McGlinchey (Pastor Jenn's dad) **Alison Abrams** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Griffin Allen; Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Jennifer Bittar** (Loraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney; Byron Brown & Bruce Bryant** (friends of Will Duchon); **Lori Cimeno** (Peggy & Ron Villani's Daughter); **Kevin Daly** (Gary Thompson's friend); **Dawn** (Donna Konkol's Friend); **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); **Mary & Rachel Heerema** (Julia Gutierrez's mom & sister); **Heidi** (Diane Prall's sister); **Bob Heffernan** (Ann Zeiner's son-in-law); **Brian Hopkins** (Donna Konkol's cousin); **Vera James** (Jenn Wissink's mother); **Jonathan** (Matt Colegrove's brother); **Kelti** (friend of Liska Gutierrez); **Walter Lane** (Marge Fox's brother-in-law); **Monica Lynch** (Bethany Dupuis' friend); **Nicole Malia; Betty McKeown** (Donna Konkol's mother); **Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **Jean Moffat; Olivia Morrison** (Donna Nickdow's niece); **Bert Muizulis; Joe Mumper** (Julie McClenathan's friend); **Albert Nimons** (Gary Thompson's cousin); **Pat Nugent; Ocampo family** (friends of Liska Gutierrez); **Nancy Olofson; Missy Olson; Osborne** (Colegrove's Family friend); **Dean Perosino** (Gayle Hammond's brother); **Geno Piacentini** (Karen MacDonald's husband); **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); **Charlie Schwartz** (Carol Kelly's friend); **Carlos Serrano** (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); **Yessika Siccardi** (Sampson family friend); **Bernie Sippin; Gary Sippin** (Lori Sippin's son); **John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Christine Stadler; Tom Steen** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's dad); **Rev. Dr. Sheldon Smith; Christian & Dain Steiner** (Julie McClenathan's nephews); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Wininger's granddaughter); **Olga Terwilliger** (Nancy Hedine's sister-in-law); **Richard Turco** (Jack Fracassini's cousin); **Ruth Wakeley; Charles L. Wynn, Sr.,** (and his mother) **Alleane** (friend of Will Duchon); **Allen Zeiner** (Ann Zeiner's son); **Ann Zeiner**

The concerns of our world: The people of **Ukraine; 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;** Our friends living on the **Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation** and in **Oaxaca, Mexico**

Those serving in the military, veterans & their families: Germany: **Rachel Hoffman** (Vaughan Askue's daughter), Virginia: **Chris Meneses** (Loraine Zeiner's friend), Georgia: **Zachary Peters** (Jacob Parker-Burgard's cousin), Kuwait: **Jon Sanchez** (Don Whiteley's grandson-in-law) Stateside: **CPL Zachary Gingras,** 395th Combat Sustainability Support, Middletown. **Joel Smith** (250th Engineering Company)

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Sun. Sept 24th

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Snack & Chat NOOMA
5:00 pm Junior PF
5:00 pm Senior PF

Tue. Sept 26th

11:00 am – 7 pm Lion's Blood Drive
1:15 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thurs. Sept 28th

9:30 am Bible Study
12 pm Young @ Heart (Housatonic House)
6:00 pm Chime Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Oct 1st

Communion

10:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Junior PF
5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Oct 2nd

7 pm Outreach (Zoom)

Tue. Oct 3rd

1:15 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thurs. Oct. 5th

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

Week of Sun. Oct 8th

10:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Junior PF
5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Oct 9th

Indigenous Peoples Day - Office Closed
7:30 pm Deacons (Zoom)

Tue. Oct 10th

1:15 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Oct 11th

11:00 am Morning Circle

Thurs. Oct 12th

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

Sat. Oct 14th

6:00 pm Outreach Wine Tasting -
Fracassini's Home

Week of Sun. Oct 15th

10:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Junior PF
5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Oct 16th

7:30 pm Council (Zoom)

Tue. Oct 17th

1:15 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Oct 18th

7:00 pm Book Club

Thurs. Oct 19th

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

Week of Sun. Oct 22th

10:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Junior PF
5:00 pm Senior PF

Tue. Oct 24th

1:15 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thurs. Oct 19th

9:30 am Bible Study
12 pm Young @ Heart
6:00 pm Confirmation Class
6:00 pm Chime Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir