

September 29, 2024

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am

Blessing of the Animals ~ Confirmation Dedication

*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 Bless the Beasts and The Children Barry DeVorzon & Perry Botkin, 1971

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, let us gather together!

People: Let us join the gathering, we bring fins and feathers.

Leader: Come, all is ready for all of creation!

People: Let us join the gathering, we bring scales and fur.

Leader: Come let us praise our Creator!

People: We are loved, we bring skin.

All: Come, with fins, feathers, scales, fur and skin!

Opening Prayer

Michelle Correll, 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.

***Opening Hymn**

O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth

insert

Blessing of the Animals

Prayer of St. Francis: *(said in unison) Lord, make me an instrument of your peace, where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy. O, God, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love; for it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.*

Blessing of Each Pet *(Pets and their owners may come forward for a blessing, everyone may take a moment to greet one another as a sibling in Christ)*

Unison Response: *'But ask the animals, and they will teach you; the birds of the air, and they will tell you; ...and the fish of the sea will declare to you. In God's hand is the life of every living thing...' Amen!*

Students may transition to Sunday School with their teachers.

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.

Confirmation Dedication

Sophina Gingras, Coralina Goyette, Elliott McEvoy, Madeline Wissink, Megan Wissink

Pastor: 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 this church? Will you support them as they begin to mature in faith, taking more responsibility for their own spiritual journey?

Parents: *I do, with the help of God*

Deacon: 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?

Congregation: *I will, with the help of God.*

Pastor: 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?

Confirmands: *I will, with the help of God.*

Unison Prayer (All): *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*

Time for Giving

Invitation

Offertory All God's Critters Got a Place In the Choir *Bill Stains* insert

*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 Readings

Psalm 104: 24-25, 27-28, 30-31

'O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; The earth is full of your creatures. Yonder is the sea, great and wide, Creeping things innumerable are there, Living things both small and great. These all look to you To give them their food in due season; When you open your hand, They are filled with good things. When you send forth your spirit, they are created; And you renew the face of the ground. May the glory of the Lord endure forever...'

Matthew 6: 25-26

'Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them.'

Sermon *Fur, Feathers, Fins and Faith* Rev. Jennifer Gingras

***Closing Hymn** We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky insert

Benediction

Postlude All Things bright & Beautiful Johann Dolittle, 1932

God is still speaking, welcome to all who are worshipping with us today, in-person and online! Worship is live streamed on the church's YouTube Channel under CCLI Streaming License #2169137: <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.

O God, Your Creatures Fill the Earth

ELLACOMBE 8.6.8.6 D ("I Sing the Mighty Power of God")

O God, your creatures fill the earth with wonder and delight,
And every living thing has worth and beauty in your sight.
So playful dolphins dance and swim; Your sheep bow down and graze.
Your songbirds share a morning hymn to offer You their praise.

You made the pets we welcome in — They're wondrous blessings, too.
With paws and whiskers, wings and fins, they offer praise to you.
O Lord, you call us to embrace These creatures in our care.
May we show kindness, love and grace to all pets everywhere.

Your creatures live in every land; They fill the sky and sea.
O Lord, you give us your command to love them tenderly.
We're called to have dominion here — To care for them always.
By loving creatures you hold dear, we offer You our praise.

All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir

All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir
Some sing low, some sing higher
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire
And some just clap their hands, or paws or anything they got now

Listen to the bass, it's the one on the bottom
Where the bullfrog croaks and the hippopotamus
Moans and groans with a big to do
And old cow just goes `moo`

Well the dogs and the cats they take up the middle
The honeybee hums and the crickets fiddle
The donkey brays and the pony neighs
The old coyote howls

Listen to the top where the little bird sings
The melody with the high voice ringing
The hoot owl hollers over everything
And the jaybird disagrees

Singing in the nighttime, singing in the day
The little duck quacks and he's on his way
The `possum don't have much to say
And the porcupine talks to herself

Everybody here is a part of the plan
We all get to play in the great critter band
From the eagle in the sky to the whale in the sea
It's one great symphony

All God's critters got a place in the choir
Some sing low, some sing higher
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire
And some just clap their hands, or paws or anything they got now

***Closing Hymn**

We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

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: Michelle Correll **Usher:** Susie Cuseo **Lay Reader:** Bill Brett
Trustee: Andrew Logan **Counter:** Mark Barnhart **Web Steward:** Scott Young
Coffee Hour Host: Andrew Logan

The flowers this morning are given by Glenn Brigham in honor of his mom, Marylou Brigham.



The rose on the pulpit is in celebration of the arrival of Olivia Catherine, Marge Fox's very first granddaughter who was born 9/17, weighing 7 lbs., 19 inches to parents Tim & Adrianna.



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.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)

Priscilla Cunningham ⁽²⁹⁾

Laurel Post ⁽³⁰⁾

Gayle Hammond ⁽⁰²⁾

Katherine Logan ⁽²⁹⁾

Andrea Crosnier ⁽⁰¹⁾

Andrew Young ⁽⁰³⁾

Hether Henning ⁽³⁰⁾

Vinay Sampson ⁽⁰¹⁾

Cheri Irwin ⁽⁰⁴⁾



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)
Jan & Chris Pearson⁽²⁹⁾ Mark & Kate Barnhart⁽²⁹⁾ Jeanette & Julio Morlas⁽⁰¹⁾



LAST DAY TO ORDER Pledge Envelopes: If you pledge to the church and would like a box of pledge envelopes please call 203-268-9327 or email Diane at secretary@mcc-ucc.org Thanks! (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!



Snack & Chat with NOOMA

Join us in Dineson Parlor after worship on these dates to enjoy some snacks, a short video and light discussion about life's big questions.

No prep necessary and all are welcome!

Sep 29 - SUNDAY
Oct 27 - YOU
Dec 29 - NOISE
Feb 23 - RAIN
Mar 30 - DUST
Apr 27 - FLAME



Deacons

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!



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.



Fellowship

Contra Dance ~Pumpkin Carving~ Pot Luck

OCT. 26 ~ 5-8 pm

Join us in Wilton Hall for a night of intergenerational Fun, featuring professional Contra Dance caller Rich Sbardella!

Suggested Donation: \$5 individual or \$10 family

BYOP (Bring your own pumpkin/carve kit)

Nursery staffed and open for the littles!

Young at Heart will meet Thurs., **October 24 at Noon**

Details to be announced



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



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:

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

Outreach



St George's Supper –Sunday, October 13th

Please join us for sandwich making in the kitchen following worship. Please consider a cash donation this month to help us feed our neighbors, look for the basket at coffee hour to contribute. Any amount would be gratefully received. Please memo on checks: "St George's Supper". Questions- contact Stacy at 203-500-1279

Mental health is a
universal human right

"God will not filter or less heart and justice prevail throughout the earth." - Isaiah



The **Neighbors in Need** offering, which we will receive on October 6, supports the UCC's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. Two-thirds of the offering is used to fund a wide array of local and national justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects. In addition to this year's focus on mental health, Neighbors in Need also supports our indigenous neighbors. One-third of the offering supports the UCC's Council for American Indian Ministries (CAIM).

In Our Prayers

Alison Abrams (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Jennifer Bittar** (Loraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney; David Coffey; Kevin Daly** (Gary Thompson's friend); **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; 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; Israeli hostages** and their families, the people of **Ukraine, Sudan** 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)

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Sun. Sept 29th

Blessing of the Animals
Confirmation Dedication Sunday

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am NOOMA (parlor)

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

World Communion Sunday
Neighbors in Need Special Offering

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Trustees

2:00 pm Junior PF – Webb Mountain

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Oct 7th

7:30 pm Outreach (Zoom)

Tue. Oct. 8th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Oct 9th

11:00 am Morning Circle

Thur. Oct. 10th

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

7:30 PM Confirmation Class

Week of Sun. Oct 13th

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am St. George's Pack (kitchen)

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Oct 14th

Indigenous Peoples Day –office closed

7:30 pm Deacons (zoom)

Tue. Oct. 15th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Oct 16th

7:00 pm Book Club

Thur. Oct. 17th

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

7:30 PM Confirmation Class

Week of Sun. Oct 20th

Baptism of Juliet Aravena

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

Mon. Oct 21st

7:30 pm Council

Tue. Oct. 22nd

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Oct 23rd

7:00 pm Fairfield East Association
Fall Meeting