

**Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

*Monroe Congregational Church is an Open and Affirming congregation. Are you visiting with us for the first time? An active member of MCC? Returning after an absence? We 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.*

+++++

<b>Gathering Music</b>	8:45am	<i>Prelude in G minor</i>	J.S. Bach
	10:30am	<i>Prelude in F-sharp</i>	F. Chopin

**Words of Welcome & Announcements**

**Lighting of the Candles** 10:30am *Blessed Jesus at Your Word*

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; sing the glory of God's name!

People: *Give glorious praise to God! Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds!"*

Leader: Come and see what God has done.

People: *God turned the sea into dry land, and the children of Israel passed through the river on foot.*

Leader: So we rejoice in God, whose eyes keep watch on the nations.

People: *Let the sound of praises to God be heard!*

**\*Hymn** *Praise to the Living God*

#8

**\*Prayer of Preparation & MCC Covenant**

**Call to Prayer– Silent Prayer– Unison Prayer**

*God of mystery and wonder, in times of joy and in times of challenge your constant presence and steady hand sustain us. You have brought us to life and nurtured us through our journey on this garden planet. You have blessed our living with precious individuals whose love and concern for us is a vehicle for your grace. Help us to look up from the stress and anxiety of the moment, that as we worship you in this sacred place, we might relax into your love. Strengthen our resolve to reflect that love in caring service to others.*

*In Jesus name we pray, Amen*

**\*Response to God's Grace** (Hymn 292 verses 1 & 2)

*Breath on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew  
That I may love the way you love and do what you would do  
Breathe on me, Breath of God, until my heart is pure  
Until with you I will one will, to do and to endure.*

**\*Passing of the Peace**

**Children's Message**

*Please see the location and announcement under Christian Education*

**\*Hymn** *Come Forth, O Love Divine*

#289

## Morning Prayers – Pastoral, Silent, 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** 8:45am *Prelude in F-sharp* F. Chopin  
10:30am *Alleluia/Be Ye Holy* Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir

#### \*Doxology and Presentation

8:45am

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow  
Praise God, all creatures, here below  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen!*

10:30am

*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

Exodus 3: 1-6

pg. 49

##### Sermon

Holy Ground

Rev. John Collins

**\*Hymn of Parting** *Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life (verses 1-4)* # 543

##### Benediction

##### Parting Music

8:45

10:30

*God Be With You Hymn # 81, verses 1&2*

*Alleluia*

Mozart

*\*Please stand if you are able.*

---

*Welcome Visitors!*

The members and friends of the Monroe Congregational Church, UCC are happy to have you with us. We hope that you feel God’s presence and find peace. We hope that you will join us for a time of fellowship immediately following the service in Wilton Hall. Handicap accessible restroom facilities are located in the hallway of Rexford House.

*Special note to parents of infants* – We’re glad that you are here and that you have chosen to bring your children to church with you. While nursery care is available in Rexford House, your infants are welcome to stay with you in the sanctuary throughout the service. If, during the service, you decide you and your baby need a quiet place, there are rocking chairs available in the Narthex.

#### Providing leadership this morning:

Trustee of the Day: Paul Coward

Deacon of the Day: Eli Parker-Burgard

8:45am Lay Reader: Kristina Logan

10:30am Lay Reader: Ed Burke

**Prayer Concerns  
January 29, 2012**

**A.J. Rogers; Tama A** (Kathy Maiolo's friend); **Bill Balliette** (Kelsey & Marissa Maiolo's grandfather); **Jean Buschbaum** (John Cross' mother); **Janie Carlisle** (the Colegroves' friend); **Cheryl Ciambriello** (Wendy Colegrove's friend); **Jean Cruickshank** (Linda Fracassini's sister); **Thomas Culp** (Karen Culp's son); **David Delia** (David Bailey's friend); **Matt Duchon; Marc Duchon** (Will Duchon's brother); **Cheryl Finch** (Judy Coward's friend); **Patricia Ford** (Jackie Bleakney's sister-in-law); **Marilyn Guerrieri** (Fred DuBois' sister-in-law); **Colleen Gilmore** (Cynthia Robinson's aunt); **Karen Guinness** (Jennifer Nivison's friend); **Beth Gullo** (Donna O'Hara's cousin); **Bob Heffernan** (Ann Zeiner's son-in-law); **Jody Heussner** (Julie Heussner's mother); **Tom Judge** (The Olofson's friend); **Sally Kelley** (Lani Siciliano's mother); **Chris Keeler** (Ann Zeiner's nephew); **Nancy Kirby** (Pamela Joy's sister); **Kathleen Krenicki** (Wendy Colegrove's friend); **Kym Langill** (The Maiolo's family friend); **Barbara Lord** (Nancy Hedine's friend); **Luba** (the Coward's friend); **Nicole Malia; Rica Mendes** (David Bailey's friend); **Sandy Morrison** (Ken Fredeen's sister); **Kathleen Murphy** (Susan Walker's friend); **Katherine N** (The Maiolo's family friend); **Sarah Post; Wanda Price** (Dave Price's aunt); **Linda Resnick; Cynthia Robinson; Connor Scalia** (Jen Nivison's friend); **Lou Scalzi** (Debbie & Bruce Gran's friend); **Carlos Serrano** (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); **Thomas Slater** (Pam Kelly's dad); **Betty Snudden** (Barabara Gerritsen's mother); **Annika Stadler; Judy Swarbrick** (Nancy Hedine's friend); **Peggy Torrito ; Heather Tusch; Ujwala** (Sampson family relative); **Shane Watson** (Will Duchon's friend); **Don Williams; Grace Wright** (Kathy Maiolo's Aunt); **George & Sue Zaleha; Richard Zeiner** (Ann's brother-in-law); those suffering from mental illness, **Caregivers**

Those serving in the military:

Iraq: **Lindsay Whitehead** (Kelsey Maiolo's friend's father)

Japan: **Bobby Herring** (Ashley & Scott Levins' cousin);

**Davis Cappabianca** (Ashley Levins' friend)

Korea: **Meara O'Hara** (Donna & Pat O'Hara's niece);

Germany: **Rachel Hoffman** (Vaughan Askue's daughter);

Afghanistan: **Capt. Caitlin Hall** (Judy Coward's niece)

**The January Coffee hour** is sponsored by Janet Schmitz

**The flowers today are given by** Mary Renz in honor of her family and children

**Happy Anniversary** to the following people and to anyone we may have missed, we will keep you in our prayers. (Number in parenthesis is anniv. date)

Al & Bev Shaffer<sup>(31)</sup>

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

Melanie Gran<sup>(30)</sup>

John Sekelsky<sup>(3)</sup>

Richard Kraus<sup>(1)</sup>

Elyana Caballero<sup>(3)</sup>

Harrison Gilberti<sup>(2)</sup>

Roy Nealon<sup>(4)</sup>

Paul Granello<sup>(4)</sup>

Attendance for January 22 10:00 Adults: 100 Children: 29 Total 129

### Deacons



**Parish Nurse Program** Great News! We are imagining a new parish nurse program at here at MCC. If you are a licensed nurse and would like to find out more information about how you can use your nursing gifts here at MCC please contact Heather Henning at 203-459-2577 or heather.henning@sbcglobal.net

### Fellowship

**MCC Book Club, February 18 hosted by Julie McClenathan**, 10 Millo Dr Monroe, 261-0360 Book: *The Most Dangerous Thing* By: Laura Lippman  
Future Book Club Selections March – *A Yellow Raft in Blue Water: A Novel* Michael Dorris; April – *Wench: A Novel* Dolen Perkins-Valdez; May – *Autobiography of Mark Twain*; Mark Twain, Harriett E. Smith, Benjamin Griffin and Victor Fischer

**Were you the kind person who brought in a goodie for some special occasion held at MCC?** Did you leave your serving dish in the kitchen? There will be a cart full of items in Wilton Hall for you to find your missing dish. This cart will be out until Sunday, January 29th when the items will be brought to the Mustard Seed. There is a great selection of glass plates that have lost a home. Thanks for looking! Susie Cuseo

**Annual Coffee House February 11<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm in Wilton Hall** –showcase your special talent - singing, dancing, comedy, magic, reciting poetry, whatever it may be - we'd like you to share it with the rest of the congregation. All proceeds from snacks will go to the Adult Mission trip. A sign up sheet will be posted in Wilton Hall.

### Christian Education

Where	January 22	For What?
Beardsley	PreK & Kindergarten	Sunday School
Kitchen	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> grade	Cooking
Beardsley	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> grade	Storytelling
Wilton Hall	5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Games
Dineson Parlor	7 <sup>th</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Sunday School
Pastor Jenn's Office	High School	Cross Roads

### Outreach

**It's that time again...the next St. George's supper is on February 20th.** It. We will be serving the St. George's Community Supper on February 20<sup>th</sup> and we need your help! Please look for the poster in Wilton Hall to sign up to help. We have a variety of needs, including shoppers, cooks and servers. **Simply take a tag (or two!) and you will be making a difference for those in need.** Questions? Please call Stacy Andrejczyk at 926-0240.



## **A Fun Way to Help our Friends at CCGB Friday March 2**

The Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport invites you to their annual FUNdraiser at the Downtown Cabaret!

**Friday, March 2** -- Face to Face, A Tribute to Billy Joel and Elton John Tickets are \$65/person, which includes sumptuous appetizers and beverages (wine, beer and soda) If you're interested, please call Pamela Joy (203) 260-8420 to find out more or to reserve a spot at the MCC table.

---



*Music Notes*

**January 29, 2012**

*Volume IX, No. 8*

### **Blessed Jesus, at Your Word**

**TUNE: Johann Ahle (1625-73)**

Ahle was a theologian, organist and also the mayor of Mulhausen during his brief life. There are suspicions that many of Ahle's melodies were actually composed by his wife Ella. Despite Ahle's advice, his daughter Thalia became a church music director. In 1663 Ahle retired and moved to Valhalla.

### **We Sing Alleluia/ Be Ye Holy**

This song was recorded by The Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir. The text is inspired by 1 Peter 1:16.

The Lord is in his holy temple  
The Lord is on his heavenly throne  
We bring our praise unto Jesus  
For all the Love that he has shown  
We sense the beauty of his presence  
We hear the great triumphant shout  
The Lamb for sinner slain is worthy  
How can we keep from crying out  
Singing Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia  
Singing Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Be ye Holy, Holy,  
For the Lord God Almighty is Holy  
Be ye Holy, Holy  
For Holy, Holy is the Lord  
We our his people  
A holy nation  
Come out of darkness to Light  
And we our his building  
His holy nation  
Were living by faith not by sight.

## Prelude in F sharp

## F. Chopin (1810-49)

This lyrical piece is the thirteenth in the set of twenty-four *preludes*, Chopin's opus 28. The lyricism of the work is enhanced by the rolling left-hand accompaniment, and Chopin's delicate sense of harmony and color. In about two minutes, this little piece manages to create an experience of serenity and meditation. The beauty of these short *preludes* is, in part, the way that they create little worlds of imagination and expression, and then, having said all that is necessary, they simply end.

---

### **MCC Community Calendar**

#### **Week of Jan. 29**

8:45am Worship  
10:30am Worship  
6:00pm Senior PF (Dineson)  
6:00pm Junior PF (classroom 5)

#### **Tues. Jan. 31**

12:00pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

#### **Wed. Feb. 1**

6:30pm Confirmation Class (Dineson)

#### **Thurs. Feb. 2**

9:30am Bible Study (Dineson)  
6:30pm Bell Choir  
7:30pm Adult Choir

#### **Week of Feb. 5**

8:45am Worship  
10:30am Worship  
6:00pm Senior PF (Dineson)  
6:00pm Junior PF (classroom 5)

#### **Tues. Feb. 7**

12:00pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag  
7:30pm Rachel's Well (Dineson)  
7:30pm Deacons (Class 4)

#### **Wed. Feb. 8**

6:30pm Confirmation Class (Dineson)

#### **Thurs. Feb. 9**

9:30am Bible Study (Dineson)  
6:30pm Bell Choir  
7:30pm Adult Choir

#### **Sat. Feb. 11**

7:00pm Coffee House (Wilton Hall)

#### **Week of Feb. 12**

8:45am Worship  
10:30am Worship  
11:45am Trustees (Dineson)  
12:00pm CE Meeting (Class 4)  
6:00pm Jr & Sr PF

#### **Mon. Feb. 13**

12:00pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag  
7:30pm Outreach (Dineson)

#### **Wed. Feb. 15**

6:30pm Confirmation Class (Dineson)  
7:30pm Fellowship (classroom 4)

#### **Thurs. Feb. 16**

9:30am Bible Study (Dineson)  
6:30pm Bell Choir  
7:30pm Adult Choir

#### **Week of Feb. 19**

8:45am Worship  
10:30am Worship  
11:45am Outreach (Dineson)  
6:00pm Senior PF (Dineson)  
6:00pm Junior PF (classroom 5)

#### **Tues. Feb. 21**

12:00pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag  
7:30pm Divorce Support (Dineson)  
7:30pm Council (Class 4)

#### **Wed. Feb. 22**

##### **Ash Wednesday**

6:00pm Confirmation Dinner (Wilton)  
7:00pm Worship

#### **Thurs. Feb. 23**

9:30am Bible Study (Dineson)  
6:30pm Bell Choir  
7:30pm Adult Choir

#### **Sat. Feb. 25**

12:00pm Sr PF Dress Sale (Wilton Hall)

*mission*  
**M O M E N T S**  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany  
(Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Even when every door is closed to us, God will make a way for us to become who we are meant to be. And so, when Teresinha, a young girl from Brazil, heard that a rural school would be opening near her small town, her heart sang with joy. At last she would be able to learn to read and write—a privilege her mother never had. But her father refused to give his permission, insisting that there was no reason for his daughter to learn such things. Schools were rare in rural Brazil many years ago, and girls were not allowed to attend. The only place that Teresinha and her sisters were allowed to go outside the home was to church.

Teresinha made her decision on one of the three-mile walks to church. After Mass, Teresinha told the priest she wanted to become a nun. The priest secured her father's permission to take Teresinha to the convent in the city, where she learned to read and write. While still a novice, she became an assistant teacher in a local grammar school and after four years, met her future husband, married, and had a family.

Today, Teresinha has but one paper diploma, from the Course for the Training of Community Health Educators, a program sponsored by Global Ministries of the United Church of Christ. Teresinha's self-esteem as a woman, able to be an active member of the community besides being a wife, mother and now grandmother, is a victory example for women. We can be proud of the role Our Church's Wider Mission played in Teresinha's story.

