

***Prayer of Dedication**

Scripture 2 Peter 3:8-15a page 1109, Mark 1:1-8 page 910
Sermon Just the Beginning Rev. Jennifer Gingras
Communion Song Kristen Graves

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation
Communion Prayer
Sharing the Bread and Cup
Unison Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, Almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

***Hymn of Parting** O Come, O Come Emmanuel (verses 1 & 2) # 116

***Benediction**
Parting Music Carol of The Bells The Belle Choir

**Please stand if you are able.*

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Welcome Visitors!

God is still speaking, welcome to all who are worshipping with us today! Please let an usher know if you would like a large print bulletin.

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.

To learn more about our church’s programs and outreach in the community, or to subscribe to our electronic newsletter “The Steeple”, please visit our website: www.mcc-ucc.org.

Providing leadership this morning:

Trustee of the Day: Dave Allen
Deacon of the Day: Bill Stadler
Lay Reader: Tony Unger

**Prayer Concerns
December 4, 2011**

Thomas Culp (Karen Culp's son); **The family and friends of Dennis Collins who passed away November 23** (Lynn Draus' student); **Tama A** (Kathy Maiolo's friend); **Bill Balliette** (Kelsey & Marissa Maiolo's grandfather); **Larry Barnes** (John and Angela Cross' friend); **Jean Buschbaum** (John Cross' mother); **Janie Carlisle** (the Colegroves' friend); **Cheryl Ciambriello** (Wendy Colegrove's friend); **Jean Cruickshank** (Linda Fracassini's sister); **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); **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); **Peter Litchfield** (the Gran's brother-in-law); **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); **Nick Scalzo** (Angela Cross' father); **Lou Scalzi** (Debbie & Bruce Gran's friend); **Ethel Slater** (Pam Kelly's mom); **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 Zaleha; Richard Zeiner** (Ann's brother-in-law); those suffering from mental illness, **Caregivers**

Those serving in the military:

Iraq: **Tony Cuseo** (Cliff Cuseo's nephew)

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)

Concerns of our nation and world:

- The people of **Turkey** as they recover from a recent earthquake
- The people of the **Middle East** and **Libya**: may they have justice and peace
- The people of **Haiti** and the people who seek to aid them
- The people of **Somalia** and the horn of Africa suffering with drought, disease and famine

The flowers today are given by The Allen's in memory of Don & Lillian Allen

The December Coffee hour is sponsored by Myron & June Winger

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)

Lynn & Rich Draus⁽⁴⁾

Mary & Tony Unger⁽⁸⁾

Cindy & John O'Rourke⁽⁷⁾

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

Ann Wallis⁽⁵⁾

Alex Denner⁽⁶⁾

Lindsay Protsko⁽⁹⁾

Sam Siciliano⁽⁵⁾

Caroline Jarecki⁽⁶⁾

Don Williams⁽¹⁰⁾

Heather Tusch⁽⁵⁾

Julianne Spillane⁽⁸⁾

Madeline Wissink⁽¹⁰⁾

Kristen Denner⁽⁶⁾

Ryan Granello⁽⁸⁾

Megan Wissink⁽¹⁰⁾

Matthew Colegrove⁽⁶⁾

Owen Granello⁽⁸⁾

Attendance for November 27 8:45am Adults 40; Children 0; 10:30am Adults 86 & Children 39 Total for both services: 135

Church Council

The members of Monroe Congregational Church are hereby called to attend a Congregational Meeting to be held at 11:00 a.m. TODAY in the Meetinghouse. The agenda will include the following: The report of the Senior Pastor Search Committee, the terms of the Senior Pastor Covenant and Call Agreement, with a vote on the candidacy of the Reverend Jennifer M. Gingras as the Monroe Congregational Church's 50th Senior Pastor following the receipt of the reports. - Suzanne Adams, Clerk

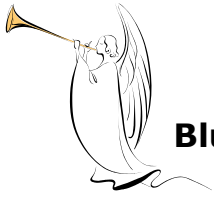
STEP INTO THE FUTURE WITH MCC!

We are so grateful to everyone who has already responded so generously to our Giving Campaign here at MCC! We have reached that crucial point where we need everyone who hasn't yet returned their pledge card to do so as soon as possible. The October storm disrupted our process and we need to get back on track as we head into the holiday season. So please help us strengthen the life of this wonderful church with your generosity. Extra pledge cards are available in the narthex or by contacting the church office. Thank you so much!

Nominating Committee

Your Church Needs YOU!!! Our need for Servant Leaders is greater than ever and will help set our vision for the future. Being a servant leader is a wonderful gift to your church family, and can also open the doors to spiritual growth while helping you build great friendships. If you are unsure about what being a servant leader means, please feel free to speak to Kathy or Tony Unger or our Pastors. Please consider saying "YES" when you get that phone call asking you to serve on a Board. If you can't wait for us to call you and you want to call us, please feel free to do so! Peace, Kathy Maiolo and Tony Unger, The Nominating Committee





Deacons

Blue Advent Service December 11th at 4pm

Have you lost someone you love? Has a relationship ended? Are you struggling with health issues, sadness, anxiety, financial pressures, addiction, or something else? Sometimes, the *holly jolly* part of Advent and Christmas doesn't speak to us or feed us. On December 11 at 4 p.m., please join your pastors in the meetinghouse for our annual Blue Advent service. Soothing music, quiet prayer, and an honest, hopeful message await.



The **Christmas Poinsettias** are ready to order! All poinsettias are red or pink double plants. The cost is \$25.00. You will find order forms in Wilton Hall, the meetinghouse, or church office. **All orders must be received no later than December 18** to ensure delivery by December 23. Please make your check payable to Monroe Congregational Church with "poinsettia" in the memo line. The check may be dropped off in the church office, left in the offering plate or given to Ann Zeiner. If you have any questions please call Ann Zeiner 268-5302

Worship Schedule Changes: Please note that there will be one 10 am worship service on Sunday December 25, and Sunday January 1st.



MCC Facebook Identity

As of mid-November, there are now two ways on Facebook to connect with your MCC friends.

MCC-UCC Conversation 'Group': This is the place to go for opinions and conversations, think of this place as a virtual coffee-hour. Anyone can post to or join this non-moderated group, but we do ask that conversations or debates be courteous and respectful, in keeping with our MCC Covenant.

Monroe Congregational Church, UCC 'Community Page': This is the place to get news and updates about the ministries, worship and programs of the Monroe Congregational Church. It is also where you may find information about the church to give to your friends who may be interested in joining us. The Steeple is also posted here (as well as on our website, mcc-ucc.org).

If you are already a part of the Conversation group, you might also want to visit our community page to get your news and updates.

Christian Education

Children 3rd grade and younger are dismissed after the first hymn to Dineson Parlor for a video. Our confirmation class students will care for them until the congregational meeting and vote have been completed.



Special Advent Intergenerational Art Project, December 11th at

9:45 am Cynthia Robinson will be leading another installment of an intergenerational art sculpture to be used in worship each week of Advent. Using non-toxic Tempera paint we will be decorating wooden blocks, which will be placed in different areas in the Meetinghouse in configurations of our own design. Each week the configuration of the blocks will be different, surprising us as we enter into this time of waiting for the birth of Jesus. In Epiphany, these wooden blocks will be burned in a bonfire vesper service as we celebrate the coming of the Light into the world. All ages and abilities are welcome! If folks would like to see an example of this, they can go to my blog to see what was done at [Woodmont UCC: http://reverendmom.blogspot.com/2010/12/church-blocks.html](http://reverendmom.blogspot.com/2010/12/church-blocks.html)



Outreach

It's that time again...the next St. George's supper is on December 19. It Takes Many Hands to Make a Difference. We will be serving the St. George's Community Supper on December 19. 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.



Habitat for Humanity-We had a great Blitz Build – Thank to everyone who participated. Please check out the Coastal Fairfield County Habitat for Humanity Facebook page. There is 1 more workday setup for this fall: December 10. Please let me know if you are able to make it. We'll meet in the church parking lot at 8AM to carpool. David Kingsbury, 445-0647

Sponsor a month of Coffee Hours

Would you like to help the people who come to worship get to know each other? What if we told you that sponsoring a month of coffee hours at the low, low price of \$40 could feed four children for 3 weeks? You will not only get that warm and fuzzy feeling of doing something generous, but you can use your sponsorship to honor loved ones – a dedication goes on a plaque and in the bulletin.

Take home some Simply Smiles Coffee today

As you consider Christmas gifts for families and friends, remember that Simply Smiles coffee is a great way to be part of a long-term solution for our friends in Southern Mexico. Only \$10 per bag feeds a child for 3 weeks.

Fellowship

There are many ways to connect with members of the church community this Advent season! Please consider joining us for:



Christmas Tree Lighting on the Green TODAY at 5:00pm. Ring the season in with song and cheer! A reception will be held immediately after in Wilton Hall. What a great way to bring the community of St. Peters and MCC together.

Christmas Coffee Hour on Sunday, December 18th at 9:45AM in Wilton Hall. Celebrate the holiday season with everyone over coffee or tea. Donations of baked goods for this event are needed by 8AM that morning in the kitchen.

Caroling on Sunday, December 18th at 5PM in Wilton Hall. Pizza and drinks will be served prior to caroling. Bring some joy into the lives of those who appreciate the time and effort of the carolers who come and sing at their doorsteps. Dress warmly and bring a \$5 donation to help offset the cost of food.



Retired Men's Christmas Breakfast December 14th at 9:00am



at
Olde Town Restaurant
Town Hall Plaza
Main St
Trumbull, CT 06611
(Super Stop & Shop Plaza)

The cost will be about \$10-\$12 for each of us. If you have any questions please contact Gary Thompson 203-261-4699 or glmailto@yahoo.com

Lost and Found

Have you misplaced a clothing item somewhere at MCC? Come and check the lost and found area across from the men's room. Any leftover items will be brought to the Mustard Seed [on Monday, December 12th](#). Thank you for checking and helping with the clean up of that area for the holidays. Susie Cuseo 268-0280.

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Dec. 4th

Second Sunday in Advent: Peace

10am Senior Pastor Candidating Service,
Congregational Meeting & Vote

5:00pm Tree Lighting on the Green

6:00pm Jr & Sr. PF

Tues. Dec. 6th

12:00pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

7:30pm Rachel's Well (Dineson)

Wed. Dec. 7th

2:30pm Parish Nurse Meeting (Dineson)

6:30pm Confirmation Class (Dineson)

Thurs. Dec. 8th

9:30am Bible Study (Dineson)

6:30pm Bell Choir

7:30pm Adult Choir

Week of Dec. 11

Third Sunday in Advent: Love

8:45am Worship

10:30am Worship

12:00pm Trustees (Classroom 4)

4:00pm Blue Advent Worship Service

6:00pm Jr & Sr PF

Tues. Dec. 13th

12:00pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Dec. 14th

9:00am Retired Men's Breakfast (Old
Town Restaurant, Trumbull)

11:00am Morning Circle (Dineson)

8:00pm Men's Fellowship (Dineson)

Thurs. Dec. 15th

9:30am Christmas Carol Bible Study
(Dineson)

6:30pm Bell Choir

7:30pm Adult Choir

Week of Dec. 18

Fourth Sunday in Advent: Joy

8:45am Worship

Special Christmas Coffee Hour

10:30am Worship

5:00pm Pizza in Wilton Hall

6:00pm Caroling

Mon. Dec. 19

3:45pm St. George's Supper

Tues. Dec. 20

12:00pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Dec. 24th

4:00pm Children's Service, Instant
Christmas Pageant

4:00pm Quiet Service

7:00pm Traditional Family Service

11:00pm Candlelight Service

Week of Dec. 25th

Christmas Day

10:00am Worship Service with
Communion

Tues. Dec. 27th

7:30pm Divorce Support Group (Dineson
Parlor)

Week of Jan. 1

New Years Day

10:00am Worship Service with
Communion

Tues. Jan. 3

12:00pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

7:30pm Rachel's Well (Dineson)

Wed. Jan. 4

6:30pm Confirmation Class (Dineson)

Thurs. Jan. 5

9:30am Bible Study (Dineson)

6:30pm Bell Choir

7:30pm Adult Choir

Fri. Jan. 6-8

Men's Retreat at Silver Lake

**December 15 Steeple Articles are due
by noon on December 13.**