

October 16, 2011

8:45am & 10:30am

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

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.

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Gathering Music 8:45 & 10:30am *Prelude & Fugue in D* J.S. Bach

Words of Welcome & Announcements

Step Into The Future Stewardship Moment

Time of Quiet

Lighting of the Candles 10:30am *Sing To the Lord a New Song* Hopson

Call to Worship

Leader: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

People: God is good to all; God is compassionate to all creation.

Leader: All your works shall give thanks to you, O God.

People: And your faithful ones shall bless your holy name.

Leader: May our worship be a celebration of your presence.

People: May our lives be an expression of your love.

***Hymn** *Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation* #400

***Prayer of Preparation & MCC Covenant**

Call to Confession– Silent Prayer– Unison Prayer

Eternal and loving God, we await the touch of your Spirit as we worship you this day. Remove from our souls the barriers to love we have created out of fear, and open our hearts to the refreshing newness of your presence. With faith in your perfect mercy, we ask forgiveness for all moments of thoughtlessness in our lives. Help us to drop the burdens of judgment that obscure your kingdom, and let us experience the power of loving acceptance. In Jesus name we pray, Amen.

Words of Assurance

***Response to God's Grace**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost,
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
World without end, Amen, Amen.*

***Passing of the Peace**

Children's Message

8:45 am - Children 6th grade and younger may leave for Sunday school

10:30am - Please see the location and announcement under Christian Education

***Hymn** *Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ* #520

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 *Etude in A-flat* Chopin10:30am *Precious Lord, Take My Hand****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**

Luke 13: 10-17

pg. 950

Sermon

Nurturing The Light

Rev. John Collins

Hymn of PartingYou Walk along Our Shoreline*

#504

Benediction**Benediction Response**

10:30am

Alleluia

Bach

Parting Music

8:45am

Rejoice in the Lord Always

Elvey

10:30am

Finale

Schumann

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.

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: Susie Cuseo

8:45am Lay Reader: Nick Caballero

10:30am Lay Reader: Joe Gilberti

CE Person of the Day: Jan Redfern

October 16, 2011

Chris Keeler (Ann Zeiner's nephew); **Annika Stadler, Grace Wright** (Kathy Maiolo's Aunt); **Carlos Serrano** (Kathy Maiolo's cousin) **Tama A** (Kathy Maiolo's friend); **Madeline Aeschbury** (David Kingsbury's niece); **Tammy Ainsworth** (Linda Fracassini's cousin); **Donna B** (Sue Price'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); **John Cross; David Delia** (David Bailey's friend); **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); **Marian Hampel; Bob Heffernan** (Ann Zeiner's son-in-law); **Jody Heussner** (Julie Heussner's mother); **Sally Kelley** (Lani Siciliano's mother); **Nancy Kirby** (Pamela Joy's sister); **Kathleen Krenicki** (Wendy Colegrove's 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); **Sarah Post; Wanda Price** (Dave Price's aunt); **Linda Resnick; Connor Scalia** (Jen Nivison's friend); **Nick Scalzo** (Angela Cross' father); **Ethel Slater** (Pam Kelly's mom); **Christl Stickney** (Diane Prall's mother); **Betty Strunk** (Pamela Joy's mother); **Judy Swarbrick** (Nancy Hedine's friend); **Peggy Torrito ; Heather Tusch; Shane Watson** (Will Duchon's friend); **Don Williams; 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);
Texas: **Sara Linley** (Ron Linley's granddaughter);
Kuwait: **Rachel Hoffman** (Vaughan Askue's daughter);
Afghanistan: **Alice & Eric Trivette** (Donna O'Hara's niece & husband)
Capt. Caitlin Hall (Judy Coward's niece)

Concerns of our nation and world:

- The people of **Thailand** who are suffering with flooding
- The people of **Japan** & the **Pacific** as they rebuild following the earthquake & tsunami
- 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 Mustard Seed in celebration of past members

The flowers are also given by Kristina Quinlavin in celebration of her marriage to Neil Barrett

The October Coffee hour is sponsored by Lori Sippin.

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)

Sue & Dave Wilgan ⁽¹⁷⁾

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

Ryan Swift⁽¹⁸⁾

Ginger Barlett⁽¹⁹⁾

Carl Haggstrom⁽¹⁹⁾

Kristen Manuzzi⁽¹⁹⁾

Lynne Stevison⁽²⁰⁾

Lois Spence⁽²²⁾

Phil LaMastra⁽²²⁾

June Zapherson⁽²²⁾

Philip Polizzoti⁽²²⁾

Kerri Swift⁽²²⁾

Lindsey DuBois⁽²²⁾

Attendance for October 9th 8:45am Adults: 20 & Children: 1= 21; 10:30am Adults 98 & Children: 46 = 142 Total for both services: 165

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

Taize Service, Oct 19 7:30-8:30 PM

Our next quiet and contemplative Taize service is coming up soon. Please join us in the Meetinghouse for a candlelit service with silence interspersed with singing, prayer and readings.





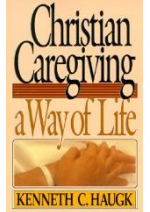
New Member Informational, October 23rd

Are you interested in making a commitment to this faith community? Or curious about the opportunities for learning and service found here? If so, please join the pastors and deacons for a new member informational on Sunday, October 23rd at 11:45 in Dineson Parlor. New Members will be welcomed into fellowship on Sunday, October 30th. Questions? Please speak with Pastor Jenn or Pastor John.

"Christian Caregiving—A Way of Life" Discussion, Oct. 30th

Join us after the stewardship breakfast in Dineson Parlor for a book discussion on "Christian Caregiving: A Way of Life" by Kenneth C. Hauck. As Christians, we often wonder "What difference does my faith make in the caring and relating that I do?" We all know someone who has struggled with illness, divorce, unemployment or death of a loved one.

Sometimes, we struggle in providing care for that person. This book is a practical manual on how to develop and use our faith resources to care for others, and we hope through breaking bread together, discussion and prayer to deal with real-life issues in caring and relating. If you haven't read the book, there is still time and one copy on loan from the office. If you can attend, please sign up in Wilton Hall so that we know how many tables to set up, and see Pamela Joy or Jenn Gingras with questions.



Welcome to Suzanne Powers, our new Associate Music Director

Please welcome Suzanne. She is professional singer (appearing in numerous musicals) and spent several years as the church choir director at the Huntington United Methodist Church.

The Associate Music Director position is a pilot program we are trying this program year (through June 2012). The goal of the pilot program is to enhance worship music quality and diversity. It will be funded through the generosity of a bequest from Foss Terry's estate. Foss was a long time member of the Adult Choir and this church and we are especially grateful to Foss and his family for remembering MCC. David Kingsbury, Chair of Deacons

Prayer Partner Blitz Sunday - This is your last chance to sign up as a Prayer Partner. Find a form in your pew, complete it and return it in the offertory plate. Anyone from Jr. PF to 90 years old can do this. At the end of the week, you will receive a letter from Susie Cuseo with the name of someone to pray for. Spend a few moments during your day to think about this person. You can send a note or card using the church's address as the return (34 Church St. Monroe, CT 06468). Keep them in your thoughts and in [May 2012](#) we will come together at a potluck luncheon and find out who's been praying for whom. Please contact Susie at 268-0280 with any questions.

Christian Education

Where	October 2nd	For What?
Beardsley	3 & 4 year olds	Sunday School
Wilton Hall	Kindergarten	Games
Kitchen	1 st grade	Cooking
Rexford 4	2 nd grade	Art
Beardsley 1	3 rd & 4 th grade	Storytelling
Rexford 5	5 th & 6 th grade	Science
Dineson	7 th & 8 th grade	Sunday School
Pastor Jenn's office	10 th - 12 th grade	Crossroads

Outreach

St. George's help needed. We will be preparing the food for the St. George's dinner immediately following 10:30 worship in the kitchen. If anyone needs service hours or would like to spend a few minutes assembling the chili, the help would be much appreciated! Thanks! Stacy Andreczyk

Potatoes for the Pantry, Nov 6th, 11:45 am

Join the Board of Christian Outreach and Jr. PF for a special baked potato lunch with all your favorite toppings! Suggested donation is \$5/person and a food item to donate to the food pantry. If you can't attend but would like to make a donation, please note "Potatoes for the Pantry" on the check or envelope. Questions? call Kate Parker-Burgard at 261-8781.



Give the Gift of Sight - Have you gone through your drawers and found used prescription glasses, non-prescription sunglasses or clip-ons with cases that no one uses anymore? Please consider donating them to MCC. These can be left in the box on the serving table until **October 30th**. They will be cleaned, checked and sent out to developing countries so that those in need can get a new focus on the world. Please contact Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com with any questions

Neighbors in Need

Our Neighbors in Need offering, which supports the United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States, has received **\$869.00 in donations**. We will continue to collect donations for the next couple of weeks. Contributions can be made in plate, or online at any time at www.ucc.org/nin. Please give as generously as you can, and thank you for your support. Thank you so much for your generosity.

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. That's one strong cup of coffee!



Take home some Simply Smiles Coffee today

Our adult mission team traveled in 2010 to the jungles of southern Oaxaca, Mexico, to feed the starving and stand with suffering. A long-term solution for our new friends includes making a sustainable income through coffee farming. You can help restore their health, dignity, and traditional way of life and help them provide their children with the basics, like food, clothing and shelter. When you purchase and take home your own $\frac{3}{4}$ pound bag of coffee after worship on Sunday mornings you can be part of a long-term solution. Only \$10 per bag feeds a child for 3 weeks. That's one strong cup of coffee! Look for the display in Wilton Hall, there is an honor system money pouch in the basket.

Fellowship



Morning Circle Afghan Raffle October 16th

Morning Circle has received a donation of a twin-sized afghan blanket from Gay DeRosa (sister of George Gerritsen) who has made some other beautiful baby blankets for Church World Service layette kits. We will be selling tickets during both coffee hours on Sunday, October 16th and 23rd. Each ticket is \$1 or you can get six for \$5. All monies collected will go to purchasing cloth diapers for those kits made in April. Please contact Jackie Bleakney at 268-5275 with any questions

The Thanksgiving Family Feast will be held on Saturday, **November 19th at 6PM**. Sign-up sheets can be found in Wilton Hall to attend the event as well as volunteering to help out with cooking turkeys, carving, set up, serving and clean up.

We are very excited to welcome **Surcari** as our family entertainment following the meal.

Last names beginning with A-M are asked to bring an appetizer or vegetable side dish while those with N-Z are asked to bring dessert. The cost of the meal and entertainment is \$10/person (over 13), \$5/child (4-12), children under four are free. Please contact Clark Gingras with questions at cgingra@earthlink.net.



Snacks Needed! Please consider donating a couple of packages of cookies and a gallon of juice for Children's snack during coffee hour. Leave a note attached to your donations and they'll get to the right place or put them in the children's snack cabinet under the serving counter. Children young and old appreciate your tasty gifts. Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com.



Comfort Food for the Cooler Months - Morning Circle will be putting together bean soup jars in November. For this to be a successful service project, we need your help with donations of empty 30-32 oz. jars and 1lbs. bags of black and white beans and split peas. Please leave these items in the bin outside the church office until **Sunday, November 6th**. These beautifully decorated jars with layered beans and a flavor packet will be brought to the Food Pantry and given to those who come to shop. Thank you for your generous offerings.



Trustees

Help us Pour the Sweet Syrup of Success on a pile of Stewardship Campaign Pancakes October 30th

The Stewardship Committee, the whole Board of Trustees, and your pastors invite all members and friends of MCC to a pancake breakfast after both services on Sunday, October 30th. We want to say *thank you* to all of those who support our church financially. Children are definitely included. Come celebrate the wonderful ministries and relationships we share. We are looking for *full participation* this year. Your pledge amount is between you and God, but please fill out a card!



Saturday morning 8:30am November 5 The Annual MCC Fall Work Day



Along with our annual raking of the leaves around the MCC campus we have the following other projects to complete.

- Trim the evergreen shrubs
- Cleanout the planting beds for the winter
- Replace the ceiling tiles in class room # 5
- Clean out the Rexford roof drains
- Construct a wood platform for a dehumidifier in the basement of the meeting house
- Installation of a louver vent for the basement furnace room.

Individual and families are welcome; the more people we have the faster the work gets done. Breakfast of coffee and baked goods will be provided and we would like to start at 8:30 am and we work until 12:00pm

Please sign up for each project in Wilton Hall.

Any questions call David Allen 203 261 2112



Quarterly Statements Are Ready Please contact June Winger with any questions or concerns. 203-268-4422 or jw633@snet.net



MCC Community Calendar

Week of October 16th

8:45am Worship
10:30am Worship
11:45am CE Meeting (Dineson)
12:00pm Trustees Meeting (Class 4)
1:30pm Jr PF returns from Retreat
5:00pm Senior PF Castle Hill Farm
Hayride

Mon. Oct. 17th

3:45 St. George's Supper
7:00pm Search Committee (Dineson)

Tues. Oct. 18th

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

Wed. Oct. 19th

7:30pm Taize' Service with confirmands

Thurs. Oct. 20th

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

Sat. Oct 22nd

CT Conf. Annual Meeting Guilfor CT

Week of Oct. 23rd

8:45am Worship
9:00am Junior Choir Practice
(Classroom 5)
10:30am Worship, Baptism of Colton
DiMenna, Jr Worship & Goals
11:45am New Member Informational
(Dineson)
11:45am Strawberry Festival Wrap Up
(Wilton Hall)
6:00pm Junior PF
6:00pm Senior PF

Mon. Oct. 24th

7:00pm Search Committee (Dineson)

Tues. Oct. 25th

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

Wed. Oct. 26th

6:30pm Confirmation Class (Dineson)

Thurs. Oct. 27th

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

Sat. Oct. 29th

4:00pm Jr PF at Lake Compounce

Week of October 30th

*New Member & Stewardship Sunday
Pancake Breakfast*

8:45am Worship
9:00am Junior Choir Practice (Classroom
5)
10:30am Worship
12:00pm Christian Caregiving
Book Discussion (Dineson)
6:00pm Senior PF

Tues. Nov. 1

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

Thurs. Nov. 3rd

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

Sat. Nov. 5th

8:00am-12:00pm Fall Work Day
12:00pm Outreach prepares for Potatoes
for the Pantry



Fall Back! Daylight savings ends November 6th. Don't forget to set your clocks back on Saturday night!

