

Seventeenth 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 8:45am & 10:30am *It Is Beautiful Here* Rachmaninov

Words of Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Quiet

Lighting of the Candles 8:45am *This Little Light of Mine*

Call to Worship

Leader: Welcome to this place of worship.

People: *God's presence is all around us.*

Leader: Greet the stranger near you with the love of Christ.

People: *God's presence is all around us.*

Leader: When you leave here, remember God never leaves you.

People: *God's presence is all around us.*

Leader: As you worship, feel God's presence in the embrace of your neighbor, in the sound of the congregation singing, in the quiet meditations of your heart.

All: Let us worship!

***Hymn** *Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer* # 18

***Prayer of Preparation & MCC Covenant**

Call to Confession– Silent Prayer– Unison Prayer

Loving Jesus, we have tried to be true friends. But all too often we have gossiped and spread rumors; we have lied and failed to keep promises; we have betrayed and denied our responsibilities to others. Forgive us for failing to love our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us for failing to be the friends and family we ought to be to each other, for not following your ways of love and trust. Help us to share the joy of your love with all whom we meet. In Your name, our Savior, Redeemer and Friend, 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 / Bible Presentation for 3rd Graders

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** *As Pants the Hart for Cooling Streams* #481

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

Wade In the Water

Spiritual

10:30am

Pie Jesu

Faure

Suzanne Powers, soprano

*Doxology and Presentation

8:45am:

10:30am:

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow

Praise God, all creatures, here below

Praise Christ, the Word in flesh, born low

Praise God above, ye heavenly host

Praise Holy Spirit, evermore

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen!

One God, triune, whom we adore. Amen!

*Prayer of Dedication

Scripture

Philippians 4:1-9

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Sermon

Rejoice... always!

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

*Hymn of Parting

Blessed Be the Tie That Binds

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Benediction

Benediction Response 8:45am

Alleluia

Thompson

Parting Music 8:45am & 10:30am

Rigaudon

Grieg

**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: Rich Draus

Deacon of the Day: Fred DuBois

8:45am Lay Reader: David Walker

10:30am Lay Reader: Warren Stamp

CE Person of the Day: Angela Cross

October 9, 2011

Will, Matt and Lauren Duchon, Eric Fox, 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 Dave & Jacque Ward in celebration of Casey's marriage to Rodrigo DeSouza

The rose on the pulpit today is in celebration of the birth of Madelyn Whitney Worob, born Sunday October 2. The happy grandparents are Lois and Dave Spence .

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)

Clark & Jenn Gingras⁽¹⁰⁾
John & Barb Yeager⁽¹³⁾

Nick & Linda Caballero⁽¹⁵⁾

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

Jerry Conlon⁽⁹⁾
Jackie Bleakney⁽¹⁰⁾
Rebecca Brinkso⁽¹⁰⁾
Lisa DeSiero⁽¹¹⁾
Liz Sampson⁽¹²⁾

Pete LaQuesse⁽¹²⁾
Joe Gilberti⁽¹²⁾
Richard Bauer⁽¹³⁾
Sue Guglielmo⁽¹³⁾
Brian Correll⁽¹³⁾

Al Shaffer⁽¹⁴⁾
Dona Perrone⁽¹⁴⁾
Janet Schmitz⁽¹⁵⁾
Andy Robertson⁽¹⁵⁾
Justin Pringle⁽¹⁵⁾
Audra Logan⁽¹⁵⁾

Attendance for October 2nd 8:45am Adults: 51 & Children: 0 = 51; 10:30am Adults 78 & Children: 28= 86 Total for both services: 157



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

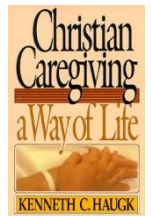
Are you interested in making a commitment to this faith community? Or curious about the opportunities for learning and service found here? If so, please join the pastors and deacons for a new member informational on Sunday, October 23rd at 11:45 in Dineson Parlor. New Members will be welcomed into fellowship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



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

Join us at 11:45 in Wilton Hall for a potluck lunch and 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.



Prayer Partners

It's a slow start I've got 25 sign ups for Prayer Partners. All you have to do is complete a form that can be found in Wilton Hall, return in the slot on the board and you will receive a letter from me indicating who you'll be praying for. At the same time, someone else will get your name. Keep your partner in your thoughts, maybe send a note or card, from October to May. We will finally meet over a potluck luncheon to find out who was praying for whom. This does not require a lot of time or energy; just give a moment to consider your prayer partner. Please contact Susie Cuseo at 203-268-0280 or thecuseos@yahoo.com with any questions.

Christian Education

Don't forget to register your kids for Sunday School! Registration forms can be found on the MCC website www.mcc-ucc.org, the church office or Wilton Hall.

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

Outreach

It Takes Many Hands To Make a Difference!



Shoppers, Cooks & Servers are needed for the **St. George's Community Supper on Monday October 17th**. We understand that it is a very busy time of the year. We need your help! Look for our poster in Wilton Hall to sign up to join the gang. Help with the shopping by taking a tag (with a shopping item) and dropping the food off in the Wilton Hall Kitchen. Tags for all needs can be found on the poster. It is a great way for youth to get service hours and share in the experience of giving. Questions? Contact Stacy Andrejczyk at 926-0240

Neighbors in Need

In October we gather the annual Neighbors in Need offering, which supports the United Church of Christ's ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. 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.

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.

**Thank you to everyone who contributed to
Covenant to Care's request for help.
The gift cards, clothes and toiletries will help this family greatly.**

-Diane Prall-Covenant to Care Liaison

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

Snacks Needed!

The Snack Lady will dress up Old Mother Hubbard for Halloween since her cupboard is getting bare. 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. Thank you for your yummy treats. Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com.



MCC Book Club, October 17th at 7:30pm

Please join us on October 17th for our monthly book club. We will meet at the home of: Linda Fracassini, 55 Misty Lane, 203-261-5485

Upcoming Selections:

November – The Cookbook Collector: A Novel, *Allegra Goodman*

December – Little Women, *Louisa May Alcott*

January – March, *Geraldine Brooks*

February – The Most Dangerous Thing, *Laura Lippman*

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*



The Retired Men's Breakfast will be held on October 12 in Dineson Parlor. Join us for great conversation and a cup of coffee. If you need a ride please call the church office by Tuesday, October 11. 203-268-9327

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-O are asked to bring a dessert while those with P-Z are asked to bring an appetizer. 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.

Morning Circle invites all the women of the congregation to attend our next meeting on Wednesday, **October 12th at 11AM in Dineson Parlor**.



We will be putting together Trick or Treat bags for the children who visit the Food Pantry this month. We are looking for donations of individually wrapped candy, small gift items like pencils, stickers, toys, bubbles, nail polish, etc. to put into the gift bags. Please leave them in the bin outside the church office. You can also place your empty 30-32 oz jars there so we can use them when we put together the bean soup jars in November. All different kinds of dried beans go into this recipe, so if you purchase an extra bag, please consider putting one in the collection bin. Your help is greatly appreciated. Contact Jackie Bleakney at 268-5275 with any questions.

Trustees



Fall Workday Saturday, Nov. 5th at 8:00 am

We have plenty of fall cleanup jobs to tackle, so please come out and spend a few hours helping to spruce up our campus. This is a good opportunity for students that may need service hours. Breakfast will be provided. If you are able to assist, please sign up in Wilton Hall.

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!



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 Oct. 9th

8:45am Worship
10:30am Worship, 3rd grade Bible Presentation
2:00 – 4:00pm Junior PF Webb Mountain service project
6:00pm Senior PF Freshman Cook (Wilton / Dineson)

Mon. Oct. 10th

Office closed in observance of Columbus Day

Tues. Oct. 11th

12:00pm Sort & Tag at the Mustard Seed
7:30pm Deacons Meeting (Dineson)

Wed. Oct. 12th

9:00am Retired Men's Breakfast
11:00am Morning Circle
6:30pm Confirmation Class (Dineson)
8:00pm Men's Fellowship (Dineson)

Thurs. Oct. 13th

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

Fri. Oct. 14th

5:30pm Junior PF Retreat carpool leaves for Silver Lake

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 Hayride in Newtown

Mon. Oct. 17th

3:45 St. George's Supper

Tues. Oct. 18th

12:00pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Oct. 19th

7:30pm Taize' Service

Thurs. Oct. 20th

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

Sat. Oct 22nd

CT Conf. Annual Meeting Middletown 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
6:00pm Junior PF
6:00pm Senior PF (Dineson)

Tues. Oct. 25th

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

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
8:45am Worship
9:00am Junior Choir Practice (Classroom 5)
10:30am Worship
11:45am Christian Caregiving
Potluck and Book Discussion (Wilton)
6:00pm Senior PF

Tues. Nov. 1

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

Wed. Nov. 2nd

6:30pm Confirmation Class (Dineson)

Thurs. Nov. 3rd

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

Sat. Nov. 5th

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

