

August 24, 2025

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

10:00 am

*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

Sarabande in E

J.S. Bach

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: To whom can we compare you, O Holy One?

People: We lift up our eyes,

Leader: We wait upon the Eternal our God.

People: How good it is to sing praises to our God.

Leader: A song of praise is fitting!

All: Let us worship God together.

Opening Prayer

Jen Wissink, Deacon of the Day

***Our Church's Covenant**

inside front cover of hymnal

Children's Message

***Hymn**

Must Tell Jesus

NCH #486

*Students may remain with their families; there are worship bags available
and the nursery is open for the littles*

Call to Confession Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Unison Prayer

*Compassionate God, we come before you to ask forgiveness and mercy. We are sorry
for the things we have done wrong, for the times we have fallen short of the right
thing to do. We have regarded as "blessed" the things of this world and not the
values you have taught us. We have not held your light up to guide us as we know we
should. Forgive us, we pray, and renew us so that we may better walk in your ways.
Amen. Silence*

Words of Assurance

The greatness and the glory of God, the saving love of Christ and the power of the
Spirit take form in forgiveness. Receiving forgiveness, we experience closeness with
God. Acknowledging forgiveness, we offer words of praise. Glory to God.

***Passing of the Peace**

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.

Time for Giving

Invitation

Offertory Air in G J.S. Bach Bethany Dupuis, flute Larry Wissink, cello

*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

Luke 13:10-27, pg 950

If you would like to read along, Bibles may be found underneath the pew in front of you.

Sermon Choking on Gnats and Swallowing Camels Rev. Edward Rawls

***Closing Hymn** I Am Yours, O Lord NCH #455

Benediction

Postlude Gigue J.S. Bach

MCC is grateful for the leadership of the Rev. Ed Rawls this Sunday.

God is still speaking, welcome to all who are worshipping with us today, in-person and online! Worship is live streamed on church's You Tube Channel under CCLI Streaming License #2169137 on: <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. Please join us for a time of **fellowship** following the service in Wilton Hall.

Assisted Listening Devices: As part of the ongoing Homeland Security grant project, we added four wireless assisted listening units to our sound system in the Meetinghouse. We are thrilled to be able to enhance the experience of those needing greater accessibility. If you are interested in trying one out, asking Scott Young or an usher is a perfect way to get started!



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: Jennifer Wissink **Usher:** Clark Gingras **Lay Reader:** Bill Brett
Trustee: Bill Brett **Counter:** Caleb Nealon **Web Steward:** Scott Young
Summer Coffee Host: Linda Fracassini



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

George Cunningham ⁽²⁴⁾

Nicole Malia ⁽²⁸⁾

Sue Waters ⁽²⁸⁾

Jennifer Wissink ⁽²⁵⁾



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)

Rob & Kelsey Kaminski⁽²⁴⁾ and Kristen Prall & Nicolas Boronski⁽²⁹⁾

The flowers this morning are given by Kathy and John Maiolo in celebration Kelsey and Rob Kaminski's 7th Anniversary



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.monroecch.org)



A **meal train** has begun to support Linda Resnick's family while she remains in the hospital undergoing tests and treatments. Thank you in advance for your support!

Signup here: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/qge0d8>

Deliver here: 520 Barn Hill Road, Monroe CT



Did you forget to buy **JAM** at the Strawberry Festival? Good news!

We have some available for sale online at <https://monroe-strawberry-festival-since-1972.square.site/>



Young at Heart will meet on **August 28th** at noon at **Nostrano Italian Eatery** 274 S. Main Street, Newtown (Plaza South, where Himalaya is located)

Please RSVP: Arlene Redmond, (917)370-4711 or arleneredmond@gmail.com
Vaughan Askue, (203)585-9824 or vaughanaskue@gmail.com



Saturday, Sept 13 — MCC Field Trip to CoSM!

Join us for a visit to the **Chapel of Sacred Mirrors (CoSM)** in **Wappingers Falls, NY**—an art museum and retreat center showcasing the ongoing work of resident artists **Alex and Allyson Grey**. Check out www.cosm.org for more information. We're looking forward to a meaningful, memorable afternoon together!

- **Carpool Departure:** 11:30 AM (*please arrive a few minutes early*)
- **Cost:** \$20 admission per person to CoSM.
Bring money for dinner with the group on the return trip.
- **Sign Up:** Add your name in Wilton Hall, or contact **Pastor Jenn** or **Dave Walker** to join us.



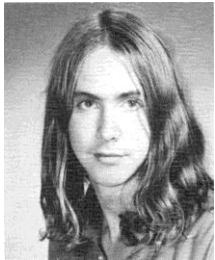
Join us for the monthly Book Club on the **3rd Wednesday of the month at 7 pm**. We will continue to meet via zoom so that all members can join from wherever they may be. Questions can be sent to Paula via email pjsh55@gmail.com or home phone or 203-452-0850.

Sept. 17th *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult and Jennifer Finney Boylan

Oct. 15th *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson

"Guess Who? Then & Now" – A Fun Church Photo Challenge! We're inviting all members to take a stroll down memory lane! As part of our upcoming "Guess Who? Then & Now" event, we ask you to submit **two photos**:

- One from your **teen years** (or a **baby photo** if you're currently a teen), and
- One **recent photo** of yourself.



We'll be displaying the photos— **without names** — on the bulletin board in **Wilton Hall**, where everyone can try to guess who's who! This is a fun way to celebrate our church family through the years, put names to faces, and share a few laughs and memories along the way. Please email your photos to secretary@mcc-ucc.org or drop off physical copies at the church office **by August 31st**. Be sure to label them clearly on the back or in the email (we'll keep the labels hidden during the guessing!). Let's see how well we know each other!



Homecoming Picnic Sept. 14 12-4 pm Wolfe Park Rotary Pavillion

Come enjoy a nice meal, fun & games and reconnect with your church family! Sign Up in Wilton Hall

Bring a salad or dessert to share. Drinks, hot dogs, hamburgers & veggie burgers will be provided!



Victorian Fair Saturday, December 6, 2025 10am – 3pm

For more information contact a Victorian Chair;
Arlene Redmond, Barbara Pellegrino & Jessica Pfalzgraf

In Our Prayers

Amy Reber (Pfalzgraf family friend); **Alison Abrams** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Jennifer Bittar** (Loraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney**; **Lisa Cody & Dave Barton** (friends of Julie and Rob McClenathan); **Mary Jo Brett**; **Cathy** (Julie McClenathan's Friend); **Debbie Cuseo** (Cliff's sister-in-law); **Kevin Daly** (Gary Thompson's friend); **Dealmira** (Jonathan Ganino's grandmother); **Dan & Laura Dimauro** (Cuseo friends); **Dot Dralus, Matt Duchon**; **Elaine** (Wendy Colegrove's Aunt); **Bruno Forte** (Nancy Hedine's friend); **David Fischman** (Sue Granello's Friend); **Donnajean Fredeen, Dave Fuller** (Gail Olson's brother); **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); **John** (Donna's father); **Jonathan** (Matt Colegrove's brother); **Josh** (Mary Erdmann's 2nd cousin); **Kelti** (friend of Liska Gutierrez), **Samia Khoury** (Will Duchon's friend); **Cindy Kovacs**; **Monica Lynch** (Bethany Dupuis' friend); **Jonathan Malia**; **Nicole Malia**; **the Manuzzi Family**; **Mary** (Kate Brigg's Mother); **Mary Massar**; **Betty McKeown** (Donna Konkol's mother); **Meghan** (Mary Unger's niece); **Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **Olivia Morrison** (Donna Nickdow's niece); **Ocampo family** (friends of Liska Gutierrez); **Nancy Olofson**; **Missy & Gail Olson**; **Donna Parratt**; **Linda Resnick**; **Regina Roberts** (Kathy Maiolo's niece); **Alfredo Rodriguez** (Osirus Gutierrez's cousin); **Noah Santiago** (Shari Carrano's great-grandson); **Palma Senatore** (Sara Alvarez's grandmother); **Carlos Serrano** (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); **Ed Simonovich** (Nancy Hedine's friend); **Bernie, Lori & Gary Sippin**; **Cliff Smith**; **Sheldon & Nancy Smith**; **Christine Stadler**; **Chuck Stearns** (Cheri Irwin's cousin); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Winger's granddaughter); **Timara** (Mary Unger's friend); **Tom** (Wendy Colegrove's dad); **Wayne Thompson** (Gary Thompson's brother); **Richard Turco** (Jack Fracassini's cousin); **June Wilkes**; **Natica Williams** (Will Duchon's friend); **Allen & Ann Zeiner**

The concerns of our world: The people of **Gaza & the West Bank**; **Israeli hostages** and their families, the people of **Ukraine, Sudan, Syria** 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: **Lt. Col. Rachel Hoffman**, Tacoma, Washington (Vaughan Askue's daughter), **Zachary Gingras**, 395th Combat Sustainability Support, **Joel Smith**, 250th Engineering Company, **Chris Meneses** (Loraine Zeiner's friend), **Corporal Taylor Smith** (Cheri Irwin's Nephew)

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Sun. Aug 24th

Rev. Ed Rawls, Guest Preacher

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Aug 25th

Diane Vacation - Office Closed

Tue. Aug 26th

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

5:30 pm Trustees Potluck Planning Meeting

Thur. Aug 28th

12:00 pm Young at Heart

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Aug 31st

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Sept 1st

Labor Day - Office Closed

Tue. Sept 2nd

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Thur. Sept 4th

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)

7:00 pm Chancel Choir



Sat. Sept. 6th - Sun. Sept. 7th



St Peter's Grace Apple Festival

Week of Sun. Sept. 7th

Communion

10:00 am Worship

11:30 am Trustees

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Sept 8th

7:30 pm Deacons

Tue. Sept 9th

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Sept 10th

11:00 am Morning Circle

Thur. Sept 11th

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Sat. Sept. 13th

11:30 am Chapel of Sacred Mirrors

Week of Sun. Sept. 14th

10:00 am Worship

12:00–4:00pm Homecoming Picnic (Wolfe Park)

5:00 pm Senior PF

Tue. Sept 16th

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Sept 17th

7:00 pm Book Club Zoom

Thur. Sept 18th

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)

3:00 pm Feel the Warmth

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir