

34 Church Street  
Monroe, CT 06468  
Tel.: (203) 268-9327  
Fax: (203) 268-3153  
[www.mcc-ucc.org](http://www.mcc-ucc.org)

**Office Hours:**  
Mon. 9am – 5:30pm  
Wed. (remotely) 8am - 6pm  
Fri. 9am – 3:30pm

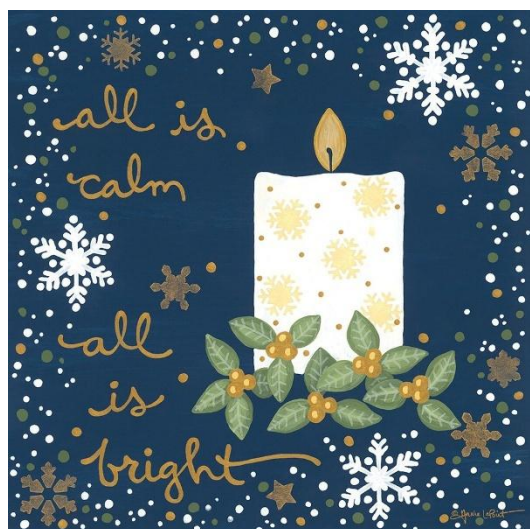
Senior Pastor: The Rev. Jennifer Gingras  
Music Director: Will Duchon  
Associate Music Director: Heather Hisey  
Administrator/Bookkeeper: Diane Prall  
Church e-mail: [secretary@mcc-ucc.org](mailto:secretary@mcc-ucc.org)

**Find us on YouTube** <https://www.youtube.com/monroecongregationalchurchucc>



# THE MONROE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST STEEPLE

**December 1, 2025**



## **Watching and Waiting for the Light**

By the time you read this, there will probably be glitter in the carpet, pine needles in the hallway, and at least one Advent candle leaning a little too far to the left.

Some of us enter this season with joy and energy; others carry heaviness or worry. Most of us feel a mix. Advent tells the truth about that, it's a season of waiting in the dark while trusting that God's light is already on the way. Isaiah promises, *"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."*

*Notice:* they're still in the darkness when the promise comes, because God meets us exactly where we are. This month, instead of trying to do more, take a moment to notice God's love showing up in ordinary moments.

As a church, we'll experience that love together in worship as we light the Advent candles, in our giving as we support ministries that make an impact, and at the Victorian Christmas Fair, other celebratory gatherings, mission projects, and of course... Christmas Eve.

Wherever you find yourself this December; joyful, grieving, tired, hopeful... please remember you don't have to be perfect or even *"feel festive"* for Christ to draw near. God comes right into the mess and beauty of our real lives, just as God came into a drafty stable long ago. My prayer for us is simple: That joy will grow, grief will be held gently, the overwhelmed will find rest, and all of us will glimpse the Light that promises to come, and always does.

I look forward to walking through this holy season with you.

*With hope, Pastor Jenn*

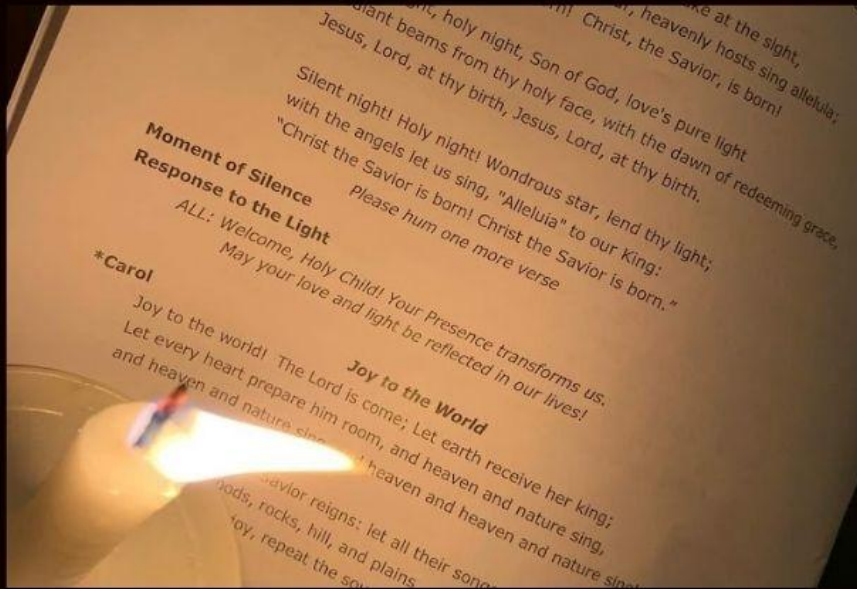
## Deacons

*Join us Christmas Eve at MCL*

4 pm Quiet Worship **Communion & Prayer Candles**

7 pm Family Worship **Chancel & Bell Choirs, Special Musicians**

11 pm Lessons & Carols **by Candlelight**



**The Monroe Congregational Church, UCC**

34 Church St, Monroe CT

On YouTube: [MonroeCongregationalChurchUCC](https://www.youtube.com/MonroeCongregationalChurchUCC)



## Sacred Pause

Join us on 1st Wednesdays from 7–8 pm for a time of guided Christian meditation, prayerful stillness, sound bath and reflection. Dress comfortably, bring a yoga mat and water bottle. Everyone is welcome!

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7 pm Wed, Dec 3, Rexford House

## **Advent 2025 at the Monroe Congregational Church**

### **November 30, 2025**

*10 am Advent 1 – Hope*

11:15 am Cheddar Together, Dineson Parlor

At **Coffee hour**, Devotional Advent materials are available, Senior PF is selling evergreen wreathes, and offering Advent Wreathes and Candles for a donation

5 pm **Community Tree Lighting** on the Green, with MCC providing refreshments afterward (donations of cookies and treats greatly appreciated)

### **December 3, 2025 (Wednesday)**

7 pm Sacred Pause, Dineson Parlor

### **December 6, 2025**

10-3 **Victorian Christmas Fair!** Volunteer here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44A8AC22A2FB6-60335090-victorian>

### **December 7, 2025**

*10 am Advent 2 – Peace, with Communion, featuring original worship play, Mr. Gruber's Silent Night: The Story Told*

12-4 Girl Scouts Gift Wrapping Fundraiser

### **December 10, 2025 (Wednesday)**

12 pm Morning Circle Christmas Luncheon, Fusion 25, 123 South Main St, Newtown

### **December 14, 2025**

*10 am Advent 3 - Joy*

### **December 21, 2025**

*10 am Advent 4 – Love*

11 am Special Christmas coffee hour (please help by bringing cookies)

### **December 24, 2025 (Wednesday) Christmas Eve**

4 pm Christmas Quiet service, with room for gentle reflection

7 pm Christmas Eve worship for all ages, music by the Chancel Choir and Bell Choirs

11 pm Christmas Eve lessons & carols

### **December 28, 2025**

10 am Christmas Casual Sunday: Wear your festive Christmas sweaters to church!

11:15 am Cheddar Together, Dineson Parlor

### **December 29, 2025 (Monday)**

12-5 pm Red Cross Blood Drive in Wilton Hall, volunteer here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F044AACAB2CA6F49-60273257-blood#/>

### **January 4, 2026**

10 am Worship with Communion by intinction

Distribution of 2026 STAR words

## New Members at MCC \* November 23, 2025

Please join us in welcoming the newest members of our church community. We hope you'll take the time to get to know them personally.



### **Ryan and Lindsay Healey**

552 Barn Hill Road, Monroe CT 06468

Anniversary: May 26

### **Ryan Healey**

Cell: (203)257-2453

Email: [rhealey28@gmail.com](mailto:rhealey28@gmail.com)

### **Lindsay Healey**

Cell: (203)258-8832

Email: [LindsayHealey3@gmail.com](mailto:LindsayHealey3@gmail.com)

**Birthdates:** November 28 (Ryan), November 3 (Lindsay), July 27 (Kayleigh), October 2 (Cassie)

### **Please join us in giving a joyful welcome to the Healey family!**

Their first Sunday with us was the previous new member Sunday, and they're happy to jump right into the life of MCC, especially with upcoming holiday projects and (of course) our beloved Strawberry Festival. Last June, Ryan did a nearly full day at the Bounce House, Lindsay sliced lots of berries, and Kayleigh helped in Children's Games!

**Ryan** works in sales at QDX Forensics, but around town he's also known as the tireless Commissioner of Monroe AYSO. He's a founding enthusiast of "*Light Up Monroe*", so if you haven't driven by the Healey house in December, you're missing some truly legendary animatronics. When he's not turning the neighborhood into a winter wonderland, Ryan loves music and all things sports.

**Lindsay** is a special education teacher at Tashua School whose kindness and patience ripple far beyond her classroom. She loves cheering on her girls from the sidelines, catching live concerts and theater, and celebrating every big moment in UConn basketball.

Their daughters **Kayleigh** (4th grade) and **Cassie** (kindergarten) bring joy, curiosity, and a whole lot of energy to Sunday School and Children's Message each week. We're delighted to have them growing up right alongside our other MCC kids.

We're so grateful the Healey's have found their way to our community. Be sure to say hello, and maybe ask Ryan for the inside scoop on the best Christmas lights route in town!





**Monroe Congregational Church**

34 Church Street

10 – 3 Saturday, December 6

FEATURING... VICTORIAN FOOD, ARTISANS,  
CHILDREN'S CRAFTS, VICTORIAN RAILROAD  
MODEL, WREATHES, FATHER CHRISTMAS



**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! [MCC-UCC.org](http://MCC-UCC.org) or

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAC2CA5FEC61-flowers>

# Special Christmas Coffee Hour

11 am December 21 Wilton Hall

\* Join us for a special Christmas coffee hour, to share some fellowship and holiday cheer! If you are able to bring a something to share, please drop it off in the kitchen between 9-9:45 that morning, thank you!



**IT'S HERE!**

Limited Edition MCC Pewter Christmas Ornament



buy yours at the Victorian Christmas Fair  
or at coffee hour (\$20 each)!



# The Story Told: Mr. Gruber's Silent Night



An original one act play depicting the story of  
how the Christmas Carol "Silent Night" came to be.

**10 am, December 7, 2025 (during worship)**

**The Monroe Congregational Church**

**34 Church St, Monroe CT**

*Donations of unwrapped toys for children and teens  
in the care of DCF will be gratefully received.*

*All are Welcome, Always.*



A **Christmas Poinsettia order form** can be found on the **last page of your Steeple!** The cost is \$25.00 each. **All orders must be received no later than Sunday, December 14** to ensure delivery by December 24<sup>th</sup> and inclusion in the bulletin dedication. Please make your check payable to Monroe Congregational Church with "poinsettia" in the memo line. The check and **order form** may be dropped off in the brass mailbox outside of the office, put in the offering plate, or mailed to the church. You can also donate through our website at <https://www.mcc-ucc.org/donate.html>

Choose OTHER and memo poinsettias

## Christian Education

Thank you for those who've supported our mission trip fundraising by purchasing an evergreen wreath and bow as well as seasonal centerpieces. All will continue to be available during coffee hour on Sundays through December 14th, at the Victorian Christmas Fair and by reaching out to PF anytime.

Senior PF is grateful for our church community!

### ***SR PF is selling wreaths!***

We appreciate your support as we raise funds for our summer mission trip!



EVERGREEN:

12" for \$20

16" for \$25

Bows \$2



Pre-orders and purchases will be available on Sundays during coffee hour through 12/7.

ADVENT WREATHS - donation appreciated

ADVENT CANDLES - donation appreciated

SEASONAL CANDLE GLOBES - donation appreciated



Contact [mccuccseniorpf@gmail.com](mailto:mccuccseniorpf@gmail.com) with any questions.



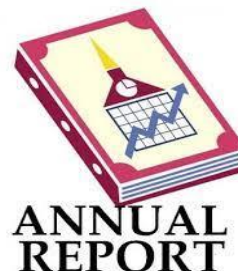
Do you enjoy spending time with teens and helping them feel connected, confident, and cared for? Our **Senior PF** youth group is looking for **adult advisors**! It's a chance to share stories, laughter, and life lessons while building lasting relationships that strengthen our church family and our wider community. If you'd like to learn more, talk with Kate Goyette or Michelle Correll, they'd love to hear from you!

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## Church Council

**Attention Board Chairs** ~ Please submit your **annual report** to the church office by **Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup>**

Please call the church office with any questions: 203-268-9327







## A Note from Our Moderator

Dear MCC Family,

I can't believe that December and Advent are actually here! This time of year is so wonderful. As we celebrate with family and friends during this joyful season, it is important to reflect on what we are grateful for, and acknowledge and appreciate all that is special in our lives. I am grateful for so many things, including my family and friends, my health, a job that I truly love to do each day, and the community of people that I surround myself with - including the people of MCC.

Part of what makes our MCC community so special is the very talented staff, and I hope you will join me in showing our appreciation for all that they do throughout the year. Our tradition is to give a holiday gift to each of our staff members who work so hard to support each member of this community: Pastor Jenn, Diane Prall, Will Duchon, and Heather Hisey.

Your gift, in any amount, will be combined with the contribution of others, to help show our appreciation for all that Jenn, Diane, Will, and Heather have done this year.

### **Please consider a contribution in any amount as a thank you to our team.**

1. Online is the best way; it is easy and immediate.
  - a. Go to the MCC website "Donate" page (<http://www.mcc-ucc.org/donate.html>)
  - b. Click "To Donate through VANCO, Click Here."
  - c. If you don't have a login and profile set up already, it's easy and you can use it for your pledge or other donations to MCC.
  - d. Scroll down to the "Staff Gift" block and then follow the prompts.
2. By check: Write your check to MCC and write 2024 Staff Gift in the memo line.
  - a. You can mail that to Receiver, MCC, 34 Church St., Monroe, CT, 06468
  - b. Or drop it off in the office in the Receiver mailbox.
  - c. Or put it in the collection plate on Sunday (be sure to indicate "2025 Staff Gift").

We will recognize the team at our special Christmas Coffee Hour on December 21st. But the sooner we know how much our gift will be for each of them, the better, so please consider making your contribution to the gift this week. That way you won't forget before you get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the holiday season!

Thank you for being a part of the MCC community. May the Advent and Christmas season bring you joy, peace, hope, and love this year.

Warmest wishes, Melissa Coleman, Moderator

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### **Trustees**

***Thank you*** to everyone who came out November 15<sup>th</sup> to help with our Fall Church Work Day!





## 2026 MCC Stewardship Campaign

In November, we kicked off our annual stewardship campaign, **"Dreaming God's Dream,"** a season when we intentionally reflect on how our shared gifts support the ministry and mission of the Monroe Congregational Church. Throughout worship, we've heard stories of how God is working through this congregation—how your generosity helps us serve our neighbors, strengthen our community, and make a real difference in people's lives. Each of us is invited to take part in shaping the church God is calling us to be. This is a season of great possibilities and hope for our future.

**So far, 40 households have pledged a total of \$120,473.40 — thank you!**

If you haven't yet responded, we hope you will prayerfully consider your 2026 pledge and return your card soon. You may mail it in, place it in the Sunday offering plate, or e-mail your intended pledge to John O'Rourke at **JOROURKE224@GMAIL.COM**.

Thank you for considering how you will help sustain and strengthen the Monroe Congregational Church in 2026.

With gratitude, Your Stewardship Committee  
John O'Rourke (Receiver), Diane Prall, and Rev. Jenn Gingras

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## Outreach

### Covenant to Care Christmas Gift Collection!

It's that time of year again! Like last year we are collecting **unwrapped** gifts for children! Our CAFAF (Connecticut Alliance of Foster & Adoptive Families) social worker, Samantha Heltke, will have her case workers meet at her office and "shop" the donated gifts for the ones that are a good fit for the children on their case load.

**Remember we will no longer need to wrap the gifts.** Easy peasy!  
Just **purchase as many gifts as you like and bring them (unwrapped) to the church office by Sunday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>!**

**No Time to Shop –No Problem!** Monetary gifts are also very much appreciated. Please make checks payable to MCC and Memo: C2C Xmas and Diane will do the shopping for you!

Thank you so much for being such an awesome, generous resource for so many children, year after year! Diane Prall - Covenant to Care Liaison

Check out CAFAF <https://cafafct.org/>





### Use your change to make a change in the world.

Your spare change can alter the life of an international family through a donation to Heifer International whose mission is to end global hunger and poverty by supporting and investing in farmers and their communities. They do so by partnering with farmers (especially women farmers) to improve their families' food security and increase their incomes by offering tools, training and resources that help them work together to build profitable, sustainable businesses with strong market linkages. So, the next time you find change lying around in your house,

pocket or in the small spaces of your couch; consider dropping it into the collection bottle that will be out on the serving table during coffee hour.



The **Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe** is always looking for volunteers to help out on Tuesdays at 1:30pm. Just show up at the door and the ladies will show you how to sort, tag and hang. The Shoppe also needs helpers who can man the counter in two-hour shifts either on Fridays or Saturdays. It's easy to open or close the Shoppe by visiting while it's open and the volunteer would gladly show you the ropes. A document

with the process can also be sent to you for your perusal. Manning the counter gives you the opportunity to chat with visitors and help MCC by accruing monies that helps the church and its members in many ways. Please contact Marge Fox with any questions, comments or concerns at 203-706-2132 or [mccmustardseed@yahoo.com](mailto:mccmustardseed@yahoo.com).



## Thanksgiving Baskets



Thank you to everyone who donated so generously to the **MCC Covenant to Care Thanksgiving Fundraiser!** Thanks to you, MCC raised \$850.00 providing **35 Thanksgiving meals to families facing difficult times.** Your donation is greatly appreciated by myself, Samantha Heltke our CAFAF Advocacy and Support Services Regional Liaison, the Town of Monroe Social Services and the families you will provided a meal for this Thanksgiving Day.

As always, well done MCC!

With deep appreciation, Diane Prall, Covenant to Care Liaison

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### Fellowship



Join us for the monthly Book Culb on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month.** 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](mailto:pjsh55@gmail.com) or home phone or 203-452-0850.

**Dec. 17** Secret Life of Sunflowers, by Marta Molnar

**Jan. 21** My Friends, by Fredrik Backman

**Feb. 18** The Frozen River, by Ariel Lawhon

**March 18** Universe of Two, by Stephen Kiernan

**April 15** Gather, by Kenneth Cado



**Morning Circle** invites the ladies of the congregation to its last meeting of the year for our Christmas luncheon on Wednesday December 10th at 12pm at Fusion 25 in Newtown. Carpooling is available at the church parking lot at 11:45am. Any wrapped gifts for

the Giving Tree should have its tag attached and dropped off at the Monroe Police Department's front foyer. Thank you to everyone who provided a special gift that will put a smile on the receiver's face. There will be no meetings in January or February. Please contact Shari Carrano with any questions, comments or concerns at 475-342-8145.

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### Community Calendar



Larry Wissink will be doing a **cello and piano recital** with Donald Alfano featuring pieces by Bach, Schumann, Arensky and more on Sunday, December 7th at 3 pm at the First Presbyterian Church in New Haven. Event is free and open to the public.

Address: 704 Whitney Ave, New Haven, CT 06511



## 2026 Inclement Weather Policy



Here in New England we enjoy seasonal weather changes. At MCC, we have learned to be flexible and make safe choices about our scheduled plans. The safety and well-being of our people is one of our most important concerns. Below you will find our inclement weather policy, including who makes decisions and how the decision is spread. If you serve in a position of responsibility, please find your leadership role below.

### **In Person Sunday Worship Services:**

1. **At 7 am**, Pastor (Jenn Gingras, 203-895-5607) and the current Chair of Deacons make the decision whether or not to cancel in-person worship. If in-person worship is cancelled, Jenn will record and upload an abbreviated worship service on <https://www.youtube.com/monroecongregationalchurchucc> by noon (sermon, prayer, announcements)
2. **Jenn** notifies staff and key volunteers (who in turn notify those they work with), including Will Duchon (203-615-3908), Reader, Usher and Trustee of the Day. Jenn sends a church-wide e-mail and posts on FB (MCC-UCC Conversation and Monroe Cong Church Page)
3. **Chair of Deacons** notifies CT Weather/IAN Snap, Channel 8 & Channel 3
4. **Committee meetings** are cancelled at the discretion of committee chair, although many are held on Zoom at the moment, so weather shouldn't be a problem!

**Sr. & Jr. PF** groups will be notified of any changes or cancellations by e-mail, phone tree and/or Facebook notifications as appropriate.

**Evening Meetings:** It is the responsibility of the convener to notify the meeting participants of any changes or cancellations.

**Midweek Morning Programs:** If the Monroe School district either delays or cancels school, morning Bible studies and other church-sponsored morning programs are cancelled.

**Church Office:** If the Monroe School System is closed, and staff members are able to travel, they may choose to do so if conditions are safe. Otherwise, they may choose to work remotely.

*If you have any questions or concerns, please call the church office at 203-268-9327.*

*For info on parking lot conditions, our plow guy's name is Adam, his cell is 203-258-8382.*

## **In Our Prayers**

**Ed Burke; Alison Abrams** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Jennifer Bittar** (Loraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney; Shari Carrano; Lisa Cody & Dave Barton** (friends of Julie and Rob McClenathan); **Bonnie** (Gayle Hammond's cousin); **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); **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); **Samia Khoury** (Will Duchon's friend); **Cindy Kovacs; Monica Lynch** (Bethany Dupuis' friend); **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); **Nancy Olofson; Missy & Gail Olson; Donna Parratt; Diane Prall; Amy Reber** (Pfalzgraf family friend); **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); **Jim Woolley** (Jen Nealon's Dad); **Allen & Ann Zeiner**

**The concerns of our world: Humanitarian** efforts and sustained peace around the world; **LGBTQ+ children and their families** facing discrimination; **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 **unhoused, 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)





# ST. PETER'S GRACE HOLLY FAIR

Saturday, December 6th  
10am to 4pm

- Cookie Walk
- Raffle
- Vendors
- Tag Sale
- Children's Craft
- Refreshments
- Apple Pies
- Free, Hot  
Apple Crisp\*

\*While supplies last

**Save the date & join us!**

**St. Peter's Grace Episcopal Church**  
175 Old Tannery Road  
Monroe, CT 06468



DATE/TIME/LOCATION: SUNDAY DECEMBER  
7<sup>TH</sup> 12PM-4PM  
MONROE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

**LET US TAKE THE STRESS OF WRAPPING GIFTS  
AWAY WHILE YOU RELAX  
WE ACCEPT CASH DONATION MINIMUM \$5 EACH  
DELICIOUS BAKED GOODS / COFFEE / HOT  
CHOCOLATE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE TO  
ENJOY**

**ALL PROCEEDS WILL HELP  
SUPPORT OUR UPCOMING TRIP TO  
NATIONAL PARKS**



**St. Peter's Grace, Monroe Congregational Church, and the American Red Cross are hosting an upcoming blood drive together at MCC's Wilton Hall,** which is accessible to all with its zero-entry access. Please join our lifesaving mission and schedule an appointment using the link below or the app today! We also have a [signup here](#) for volunteers to bake or serve refreshments for donors following their donation. Please reach out to Jen Read or Lauren Zorilla with any questions.

**Drive Details:**

Monroe Congregational Church, Wilton Hall  
34 Church St, Monroe, CT, 06468  
Monday, December 29, 2025  
12 – 5 pm

Blood Program Leader Name and phone: Jennifer Read, 774-279-4632

**The need for blood is constant, especially around the holidays at the end of the year, and only volunteer donors can fulfill that need for patients in our community. Nationwide, someone needs a unit of blood every 2 to 3 seconds, and most of us will need blood in our lifetime.**

Download the Red Cross Blood Donor App on the [App Store](#), [Google Play](#) or text BLOODAPP to 90999. Schedule appointments, view your blood type and results of your mini-physical, and track your donations. Thank you for supporting the American Red Cross blood program!



# SNOW *angels*

Volunteers shoveling driveways in  
Monroe, CT

## Recipient Sign Up



learn more at  
[www.communitycrew.org](http://www.communitycrew.org)  
or [monroeservicehour@gmail.com](mailto:monroeservicehour@gmail.com)



# SNOW ANGELS

help your community by shoveling snow!

## VOLUNTEER SIGNUP



learn more at  
[www.communitycrew.org](http://www.communitycrew.org)

If you do not have  
access to a computer,  
please call

203-394-7393



**Happy December Birthday** to the following people  
and to anyone we may have missed we will keep you in our prayers.

Lily	Briggs	12/02	Tom	Briggs	12/17
Michael	Snyder	12/02	Georgia	Bauerle	12/18
Frank	Wittenauer	12/02	Lynda	Bauer	12/18
Jeremy	Young	12/03	Trevor	Rooney	12/22
Matthew	Colegrove	12/06	Donna	Parratt	12/23
Larry	Wissink	12/06	Ashley	Prall-Lauren	12/23
Owen	Granello	12/08	Holly	Hallgren	12/24
Ryan	Granello	12/08	Kirsten	Crosnier	12/27
Madeline	Wissink	12/10	John	O'Rourke	12/27
Megan	Wissink	12/10	Leanne	McEvoy	12/28
Bill	Allen	12/11	Adam	Briggs	12/29
Ed	Burke	12/11	Annika	Stadler	12/29
Kiersten	Rooney	12/11	Ella	Rudewicz	12/30
Kathryn	Maiolo	12/14	John	Telep	12/31
Paulette	Obertz	12/14			
Emily	Barnhart	12/17			



**Happy December Wedding Anniversary** the following couples and to anyone we may have missed, we will keep you in our prayers. (Number is anniversary date)

John & Cindy O'Rourke<sup>(07)</sup> Linda & David Rooney<sup>(17)</sup>  
Holly & Peter Hallgren<sup>(22)</sup> and Vinay & Elizabeth Sampson<sup>(29)</sup>

## **December MCC Community Calendar**

### **Week of Sun. Nov 30<sup>th</sup>**

*Advent 1 – Hope*

5 pm Community Tree Lighting, MCC hosts!

#### **Mon. Dec 1<sup>st</sup>**

7:00 pm Outreach

#### **Tue. Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>**

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

#### **Wed. Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>**

7:00 pm Sacred Pause (Dineson)

#### **Thur. Dec 4<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

#### **Sat. Dec 6<sup>th</sup>**

10-3 pm Victorian Christmas Fair

### **Week of Sun. Dec 7<sup>th</sup>**

*Advent 2 – Peace, Communion*

10:00 am Worship, featuring  
*Silent Night: The Story Told*

11:30 am Trustees

12:00pm Girl Scout Gift Wrapping

5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF

#### **Mon. Dec 8<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 pm Deacons

#### **Tue. Dec 9<sup>th</sup>**

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

#### **Wed. Dec 10<sup>th</sup>**

12 pm Morning Circle Christmas (Fusion 25)

#### **Thur. Dec 11<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

### **Week of Sun. Dec 14<sup>th</sup>**

*Advent 3 - Joy (deadline order Poinsettias)*

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF

#### **Mon. Dec 15<sup>th</sup>**

3:00 pm St. George's Supper

#### **Tue. Dec 16<sup>th</sup>**

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

#### **Wed. Dec 17<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 pm Book Club

#### **Thur. Dec 18<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study Christmas Party (Dineson)

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

### **Week of Sun. Dec 21<sup>st</sup>**

*Advent 4 - Love*

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Special Christmas Coffee Hour

5:00 pm Senior PF

#### **Wed. Dec 24<sup>th</sup>**

*Christmas Eve*

4 pm Quiet Christmas Eve

7 pm Intergenerational Christmas Eve

11 pm Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols

#### **Thur. Dec 25<sup>th</sup> & Fri. Dec 26<sup>th</sup>**

*Christmas Holiday – office Closed*

### **Week of Sun. Dec 28<sup>th</sup>**

10 am Casual Christmas

11:15 Cheddar Together

5:00 pm Senior PF

#### **Mon. Dec 29<sup>th</sup>**

11:00 am Red Cross Blood Drive (MCC)

#### **Tue. Dec 30<sup>th</sup>**

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

*New Year's Eve and Day – Office Closed*



## Add a Splash of Color to Our Meeting House for Christmas!



### Christmas Poinsettia Order Form



Quantity	Cost Each	Total Cost
	\$ 25.00	

**Given by** (PRINT your name): \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory of:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**In Honor of:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**In Celebration of:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Other:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Orders must be placed no later than Sunday, Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025** to ensure delivery by December 24<sup>th</sup> and inclusion in the bulletin dedication. Please make your check payable to Monroe Congregational Church with "poinsettia" in the memo line. The check & **Order Form** may be dropped off in the brass mailbox outside of the office, put in the offering plate, or mailed to the church. You can also donate through our website at [mcc-ucc.org/donate.html](http://mcc-ucc.org/donate.html). Choose OTHER and memo poinsettias.



*Thank you and have a blessed holiday!*