

December 4, 2022

Second Sunday of Advent: Peace

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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Musical Call to Worship O Come, O Come Emmanuel 15th Century French Melody

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Peace

The Cuseo Family

Unison Prayer

*May the light be a reminder that Christ is coming.
God was with generations before, God is with us today,
and God will be with us tomorrow. Even now, God is on the way. Amen!*

Musical Hymn Response (sung to the tune Greensleeves or What Child is This)

*The call to peace rings in our ears when all around is raging.
Within, without temptation shouts – our wrathful whims engaging.
Wait, wait, our Savior's near: our weapons drop to the ground here.
Be joined in family, the holy fire of Advent!*

Students may transition to Sunday School with their teachers.

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

Patient God, you know just how often we make decisions from a place of fear rather than love. You know just how often we allow fear to take the place of logic, fanning unhealthy fires in our lives. You know just how often we tuck your words, "Do not be afraid" on dusty shelves and in the back of closets, stubbornly holding onto our own point of view. Forgive us for giving fear the microphone. Silence the voices of scarcity, shame, and rejection, which spark and feed so much of our fear, to recenter us in love. With hope we pray, amen. Amen. ~silence~

Words of Assurance

***Passing the Peace**

*In order for those tuning in from home to feel included,
please turn and greet the webcam as you share signs of peace with one another.*

Pastoral Prayer – Silent Prayer -- Lord's Prayer

*After each prayer concern and joy, Pastor Carra will say, "God, in your light and mercy,"
the congregation responds with "Hear our 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.

Offering Invitation

Offertory Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord *Michael W. Smith, 2008*
Ed Burke, vocal and guitar

*Our offering plate will be passed among us today.
You may also choose to 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!*

*Unison Prayer of Dedication

*With these gifts, dear God, accept the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts,
which rejoice in your goodness and love. Let our gifts point to your presence in the
world, and further your dream for the world through Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-
us. Amen*

Sacrament of Holy Communion - Intinction

*The communion table is open to all who wish to partake. The cup that we offer is grape juice.
If you require gluten free elements, please take from the paper cups on the plate.*

Scripture

Luke 1:26-38 page 931

Meditation

Here Am I

Rev. Carra McFadden

Communion Hymn (seated)

As We Gather at Your Table

NCH #332

Invitation & Words of Institution

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.*

*Closing Hymn

The Angel Gabriel (insert)

*Benediction

Parting Music

Come, O Long-Expected Jesus (verses 1 & 3)

* Please rise, in body or in spirit.



Please welcome The Reverend Carra McFadden. Pastor Cara retired from full-time ministry in November 2019 and moved to Sherman, CT with her husband, John. She graduated from Andover Newton Theological School, Newton Centre, MA in 2002 and has pastored churches in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. Carra has always been active in the UCC Conference as well as interfaith community building and youth activities and Confirmation. She and John are both board members of Friends of Kenya Rising (friendsofkenyarising.org), a nonprofit supporting 250+ families and over 1,000 students in western Kenya to rise above poverty.

Angel Gabriel Insert

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.

COVID-19 Safety: In order to keep our community members safe (*including children under 12, the immune-compromised and those not yet fully vaccinated*), please follow these guidelines:

- We are mask optional at this time
- Please stay home if you feel sick or have a fever (catch us on YouTube/Facebook)
- We have provided hand sanitizer and tissues in the pews, please use carefully as the chemicals are corrosive on wood and other surfaces

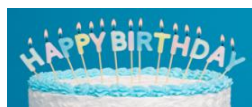
Please join us for a time of **fellowship** following the service in Wilton Hall.



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:** Don Parker-Burgard
- **Usher:** Arlene Redmond
- **Lay Reader:** Cliff Cuseo
- **Trustee:** James Brown
- **Counter:** Bill Stadler
- **Coffee Host:** Fellowship Board
- **Web Steward:** Scott Young



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

Mathew Colegrove ⁽⁰⁶⁾

Larry Wissink ⁽⁰⁶⁾



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

Cindy and John O'Rourke ⁽⁰⁷⁾

Annual Reports are due Tuesday, December 6th

Please submit your annual report to the church office by Tuesday, December 6th Please call the church office with any questions: 203-268-9327 or email secretary@MCC-UCC.org

Annual Meeting January 29





Trustees

Our God is a generous God: One who has been revealed in Jesus as the one who deeply loves us. Our God is a God of invitation: one who invites us on a faithful path of transformation that changes us, and through us... the world. In the coming weeks, you will hear stories about how we are responding to God's invitation to bring our gifts. As we reflect on our peers' testimonies, consider that now is a time of great possibility for our congregation and the future of our mission.

If you haven't done so already, please complete and return an estimate of giving card for 2023 in the plate or through the mail, or send your pledge via email to jorourke224@gmail.com. **We are currently at 53 pledges for a total of 153,290. Our 2023 goal is \$200,000.**

Thank you for prayerfully considering how to financially support the Monroe Congregational Church in 2023!

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

Deacons

The rose on the pulpit is in celebration of the Thanksgiving day birth of Elliott Malia, child of Mark IV and Kristin, grandchild of Mark and Joanne. Welcome little one!

The flowers this morning are given by Holly Owen-Hallgren in loving memory of her son, Kyle, on his birthday.



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.mcc-ucc.org)

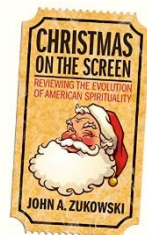


Join us on **Christmas Eve** at the Monroe Congregational Church! All services in person and livestreamed.

- 4 pm Quiet Contemplative Service
- 7 pm Christmas Eve Worship for All Ages
- 11 pm Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols

Faith Formation

Adult Advent Study: *Christmas on the Screen - Reviewing the Evolution of American Spirituality* From *Miracle on 34th Street* to *Love Actually*, generations of Christmas films tell us about American spirituality and social values. Join Pastor Jenn for one or more zoom sessions, as we tour some popular seasonal films, and ask the question, "What does Christmas mean to us?" The only preparation is to watch or re-familiarize yourself with the featured films prior to our discussion.*



8 PM Tuesday, December 6: Second Wave, the 60's; Rankin Bass and *Chronicle of the Counter Culture*; *Rudolph*, *Santa Claus is Coming to Town* and *The Year Without A Santa Claus*

8 PM Tuesday, December 13: Third Wave, post 80's; Embracing Materialism and Accepting Dysfunctional Families; *A Christmas Story*, *Christmas Vacation* and *Home Alone*

*For a deeper understanding, download or purchase a copy of the book which was written by John A. Zukowski.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2038955607?pwd=bWxMMDRXN3d6emJNZ2JsVzlsTFp3dz09>



Dec 4 - Regularly Scheduled Sunday School
 Dec 11 - Pageant Rehearsal
 Dec 18 - Pageant
 Dec 25 - No Sunday School
 Jan 1 - No Sunday School



JR PF Schedule Our junior-high youth group (grades 6-8) meets every Sunday from 5-6:30 in classroom 5, join us!

Dec 3	Christmas Shopping Outing
Dec 11	Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
Dec 18	Christmas Pageant & Epiphany Party
Dec 25 & Jan 1	No PF

Sr PF Schedule: Our senior-high youth group meets most Sundays from 5-7:30 in Dineson Parlor, join us!

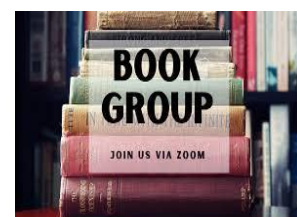
12/12/2022	Caroling in the Community
12/18/2022	Classic PF (college kids welcome)
12/25/2022	No PF – Merry Christmas!!!



Fellowship

The Monroe Congregational Church, UCC and St. Peter's Episcopal Church invite you to our **Annual Tree Lighting Celebration TODAY!**
Sunday, December 4 at 5 pm on the Monroe Centre Green.

MCC Book Club is open to all church members. We will continue to meet via zoom on the **3rd Wednesday of each month at 7 pm.** For more information, please call Paula Haggstrom 203-452-0850 email: pjsh55@gmail.com We will continue meet via Zoom.



Wed., December 21 rescheduled for January 18,
 The Midnight Library by Matt Haig Host: Gayle Hammond

Young At Heart will not meet in December –Merry Christmas!

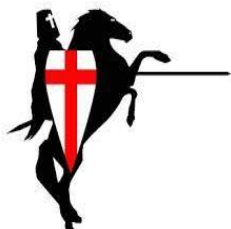
Outreach

Christmas is coming! What can you get the person who has everything? Heifer International helps struggling families learn to sustain themselves with the use of animals and plants. The addition of their animal offspring and the fruit of the plants help other families make a living in order to survive. Your spare change provides the donation that supports those in need worldwide. Make your change the change for the better for families who need it the most. Contact Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280 with any questions or comments.

Covenant to Care Christmas Gift Collection! It's a new year and we have a whole new system! MCC is such an awesome, generous resource that we have been assigned to support several social workers lead by our new CAFAF (Connecticut Alliance of Foster & Adoptive Families) social worker, Samantha Heltke. Samantha's case workers will meet at



her office and "shop" the donated gifts for the ones that are a good fit for the children on their case load. **We will no longer need tags or to wrap the gifts.** Easy peasy! Just **purchase as many gifts as you like and bring them (unwrapped) to the church office by Thursday, Dec. 15th!** As always, thank you for your loyal and outstanding support of Covenant to Care, *Diane Prall* - *Covenant to Care Liaison*



St George's Supper – Slay Hunger! Monday, December 12

Items needed:

- 10 turkey & cheese wheat bread sandwiches (x3)
- 10 ham & cheese wheat bread sandwiches (x2)
- 12 apples (x4)
- 25 packs of chips or snack pack (x2)
- 25 cereal bars (x2)

Please consider signing up to help us serve those in need. All items need to be delivered to the MCC kitchen by 3:00 pm on December 12th. Sandwiches may be placed in the refrigerator. Please contact Stacy at 203-500-1279 if have questions. Thank you!



This year we are **collecting "like new", warm, winter coats, men's size large!** **Please deliver to the MCC kitchen before 3 pm on Mon., Dec 12th -thank you!**

Dear MCC Family:

November 2022

Happy Thanksgiving-time... We all reflect at this time of year on what we are grateful for. A good practice is to reflect on that every day! And to thank God for those things. That cheers us up, even if we have holiday blues.

As you know, we traditionally recognize our very hardworking staff at this time of year. We show our gratitude through a year-end holiday gift to our talented staff -- Pastor Jenn, Will Duchon, Diane Prall and Jeanette Cardentey-Morales.

They continue to offer us their unique talents in a time of extended stress and uncertainty, making MCC the wonderful place of worship and community that it is. Your gift in *ANY AMOUNT* will combine with others and will help show our appreciation for all Jenn, Will, Diane, and Jeanette have done for every one of us – often behind the scenes, behind the pulpit, behind the desk, in front of the young people...



Please consider a contribution in any amount as a gesture of support for this outstanding team.

1. **Online is the best way**, because it's hassle-free and it's done right away!
 - a. Go to the MCC website "Donate" page (<http://www.mcc-ucc.org/donate.html>)
 - b. Click [To Donate through VANCO, Click Here](#).
 - i. 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.
 - ii. Scroll down to the "Other" block and then follow the prompts.
 - c. Write **2022 STAFF GIFT** in the **Notes** box so we know what it's for.
2. **By check:** Write your check to MCC and write **2022 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 "2022 Staff Gift").

This week is a good time to do it, before we get even more busy than we already are!

We will recognize the team with an announcement at our Christmas Coffee Hour (December 18th) – one of the nicest, warmest events of the year.

May the peace of the Advent and Christmas season be with you, Arlene Redmond, Moderator

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 Monday, Dec. 12th, 2022 to ensure delivery by December 24th and inclusion in the bulletin dedication. Please make your check payable to Monroe Congregational Church with "poinsettia" in the memo line. The check may be dropped off in the brass mail box 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 Choose OTHER and **memo poinsettias**



Thank you and have a blessed holiday!

In Our Prayers

Donna (Wendy Colegrove's aunt); **Michael Barresi** (Maria's Son); **Jennifer Bittar** (Loraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney**; **Byron Brown & Bruce Bryant** (friends of Will Duchon); **Cheryl Ciambriello** (Wendy Colegrove's friend); **Lori Cimeno** (Peggy & Ron Villani's Daughter); **Cliff Cuseo**; **Dot Dralus**; **Matt Duchon**; **Bruno Forte** (friend of Nancy Hedine); **David Fischman** (Sue Granello's Friend); **Dave Fuller** (Gail Olson's brother); **Fern Griffith** (Ashley Levin's friend); **Karen Guinness** (Jennifer Nivison's friend); **Gina & Liz** (Wendy Colegrove's friends); **Gary & Nancy Hedine**; **Mary & Rachel Heerema** (Julia Gutierrez's mom & sister); **Bob Heffernan** (Ann Zeiner's son-in-law); **Sage Hohlfeld** (Gary Thompson's grand niece); **Brian Hopkins** (Donna Konkol's cousin); **Bill Irwin** (Cheri's husband); **Vera James** (Jenn Wissink's mother); **Shawn Kadric** (Diane Prall's brother-in-law); **Kelti** (friend of Liska Gutierrez); **Walter Lane** (Marge Fox's brother-in-law); **Danny Larkin** (Donna Konkol's relative); **Mary-Margaret Logan** (Andrew's mother); **Monica Lynch** (Bethany Dupuis' friend); **Jacquie MacLean** (Jennifer Nivison's friend); **Nicole Malia**; **Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **Mike** (Dot's friend); **Jean Moffat**; **Olivia Morrison** (Donna Nickdow's niece); **Joe Mumper** (Julie McClenathan's friend); **Kathy Nivison** (Andy's mother); **Pat Nugent**; **Ocampo family** (friends of Liska Gutierrez); **Jennifer Olson** (Gail Olson's daughter-in-law); **Missy Olson**; **Osborne** (Colegrove's Family friend); **Donna Parrat**; **Dean Perosino** (Gayle Hammond's brother); **Geno Piacentini** (Karen MacDonald's husband); **P.T. Philip** (Liz Sampson's father); **Norman & Jan Ricker** (Linda & Jack Fracassini's friend); **Kim Riffard**; **Regina Roberts** (Kathy Maiolo's niece); **Alfredo Rodriguez** (Osirus Gutierrez's cousin); **Noah Santiago** (Shari Carrano's great-grandson); **Connor Scalia** (Jen Nivison's friend); **Carlos Serrano** (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); **Yessika Siccardi** (Sampson family friend); **Bernie Sippin**; **Peggy Sippin** (Lori Sippin's daughter-in-law); **Ricky Shutt** (Susan Granello's friend's son); **John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Christine Stadler**; **Christian & Dain Steiner** (Julie McClenathan's nephews); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Wininger's granddaughter); **Olga Terwilliger** (Nancy Hedine's sister-in-law); **Ian Thompson** (Gary's cousin); **Richard Turco** (Jack Fracassini's cousin); **Charles L. Wynn, Sr.**, (and his mother) **Alleane** (friends of Will Duchon); **Allen Zeiner** (Ann Zeiner's son); **Ann Zeiner**

The concerns of our world: The people of **Ukraine**; **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**; Our friends living on the **Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation** and in **Oaxaca, Mexico**

Those serving in the military, veterans & their families: Germany: **Rachel Hoffman** (Vaughan Askue's daughter), Virginia: **Chris Meneses** (Loraine Zeiner's friend), Georgia: **Zachary Peters** (Jacob Parker-Burgard's cousin), Kuwait: **Jon Sanchez** (Don Whiteley's grandson-in-law)

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Sun. Dec 4th

Second Sunday of Advent

Communion - Intinction

10:00 am Worship - Rev. Carra McFadden

5:00 pm Tree Lighting on the Green

Tue. Dec 6th

Annual Reports Due to Office

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

8 pm Christmas on the Screen (Zoom)

Wed. Dec 7th

7:00 pm Confirmation

Thurs. Dec 8th

9:30 am Bible Study

5:45 pm Chime Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Dec 11th

Third Sunday of Advent

10:00 am Worship

11:30 Trustees Meeting

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF (Caroling)

Mon. Dec 12th

Deadline to order Poinsettias!

3:00 pm St George's Supper

Tue. Dec 13th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

8 pm Christmas on the Screen (Zoom)

Wed. Dec 14th

11:00 am Morning Circle

7:00 pm Confirmation

7:00 pm Book Club Zoom

Thurs. Dec 15th

9:30 am Bible Study

5:45 pm Chime Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Dec 18th

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Christmas Pageant Service

Special Christmas Coffee Hour

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

Mon. Dec 19th

7:30 pm Council Meeting

Tue. Dec 20th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thurs. Dec 22nd

5:45 pm Chime Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Sat. Dec 24th

Christmas Eve Services

4 pm Quiet Contemplative Service

7 pm Christmas Eve Worship for All Ages

11 pm Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols

Week of Sun. Dec 25th

Christmas Day

10:00 am Worship

Mon. Dec 26th

Christmas Holiday –office Closed

Tue. Dec 27th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thurs. Dec 29th

9:30 am Bible Study

5:45 pm Chime Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Sat. Dec 31th

New Year's Eve

Week of Sun. Jan 1st

New Year's Day

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Jan 2nd

New Year's Day Observed –office Closed