Second Sunday after Christmas, Young Adult Sunday, & Holy Communion

Monroe Congregational Church is an Open and Affirming congregation. Our deacons and pastor 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. May we be aware of others and feel the Spirit of God.

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Musical Call to Worship
Bright Morning Star
Alex Gutierrez

Welcome & Announcements
Anna Delaney

Moment of Silence & Lighting of the Candles
Dana Sorge

Call to Worship
Cady Gingras
Leader: Guided by the Star we come
People: To pay homage to the Good Shepherd
Leader: Guided by the Star we come
People: To kneel before the Light of the World
Leader: Guided by the star we come
People: And we are overwhelmed with joy
Leader: Guided by the star we come to Worship
All: We come to celebrate the Christ, our Savior

*Opening Hymn
Go Tell it on the Mountain
NCH#154

*Prayer of Preparation

*UCC Statement of Faith, Reading #885 in hymnal

Call to Confession– Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer
Lucas Cuseo

Holy One, you call us to come and see, and then to go and tell. Too often we are looking the other way—away from your image shining in the face of another, away from your people in need, away from the things we would rather not see. Forgive us for praying for vision while keeping our eyes closed. Give us courage to witness your glory and testify to your good news. Give us grace to admit our shortcomings and still point to you. Give us strength to follow in faith, wherever you might lead. Amen. ~silence~

Words of Assurance

*Response to God’s Grace (tune: Amazing Grace)

My God has promised good to me, whose word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

*Passing of the Peace
Children’s Message

Liska Gutierrez

Pastoral Prayer – Silent Prayer -- Lord’s Prayer

Milly Delaney

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

Gerrit Wissink

Offertory

Variations on “I Saw Three Ships”

Alex Gutierrez

*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

Gerrit Wissink

Sacrament of Holy Communion

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


Josh Correll

Meditations

Alex Gutierrez (Weep), Kelsey Kaminski (Through a Child’s Eyes)

Communion Hymn

Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread

NCH #342

Invitation and Prayer

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.

*Benediction

Audra Logan

Parting Music

You’ve Got a Friend, Carole King

Audra Logan

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*Please rise, in body or in spirit
**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](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:

- Please stay home if you feel sick or have a fever (catch us on YouTube/Facebook)
- Please wear a mask indoors (if you need one, just ask!)
- We have provided hand sanitizer and tissues in the pews, please use carefully as the chemicals are corrosive on wood and other surfaces

**Thank you for assisting in this morning’s worship!**
- **Deacon:** Cady Gingras
- **Usher:** Dana Sorge
- **Trustee:** Maria Barresi
- **Counter:** Bill Stadler
- **Coffee Host:** Cady Gingras and Don Parker-Burgard
- **Web Steward:** Scott Young

**The flowers this morning are given by the Sampson Family.**

**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. Please review the available slots on Sign Up Genius and click on the button to sign up. If you do not have access to a computer, call Diane in the office 203-268-9327, and she will help you sign up!

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 suppling the flowers yourself, please set them up between 9:30am and 9:45am, before worship. Thank you!

[https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAC2CA5FEC61-flowers](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAC2CA5FEC61-flowers)

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

- Chad Bauer *(02)*
- John Hastedt *(04)*
- Chris Pearson *(04)*
- Don Parker-Burgard *(06)*

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

- Jen and Larry Wissink *(29)*
STAR Words are Coming! At church on Epiphany Sunday (January 9th), we’ll have a basket of STAR words for 2022 for you to choose from. We hope that you find time to marvel at God’s spirit working through these paper stars. Like the magi, may these words allow us all to go home by another road, our eyes opened to God’s presence in and around us.

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Stewardship

The 2022 MCC Stewardship campaign “Rooted in Love” update

Our goal this year is to increase our pledge base by 10%, so that we can decrease our reliance on the endowment to fund operating expenses. To date we have received 66 pledges for a total of $174,820. Our goal for the 2022 church season is $200,000. If you haven’t done so already, please complete and return an estimate of giving card for 2022 in the plate or through the mail, or send your pledge via email to jorourke224@gmail.com. Thank you for prayerfully considering how to financially support the Monroe Congregational Church in 2022!

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

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.

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Church Council

Call to Annual Congregational Meeting

January 23rd, 2022

The members of Monroe Congregational Church are hereby called to attend the Annual Meeting of the Congregation to be held in the Meeting House at 11:00 am on Sunday, January 24th, 2021. The meeting will be hybrid this year (on Zoom and in person).

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83783604562?pwd=L2dSUVPoEQ3dYUnNBeUJJUHRKMiBxQT09, Meeting ID: 837 8360 4562 Passcode: Rexford

Dial by your location: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

The agenda will include the following: Receiving of Reports; Electing Officers, Board Members and Delegates; Adopting the 2022 budget and any other business that must properly come before the Congregation.
Christian Education

Weekly Prayer & Bible Study Group! Every Thursday from 9:30-10:30 a group of about 8 regular attendees gather in Dineson Parlor to learn with one another and share prayer concerns. You don’t have to have ANY prior knowledge of Christianity or Theology in order to participate. Everyone is cordially invited and welcome to join us! Bring your favorite Bible (whatever version you prefer) and a small notebook. Let Pastor Jenn know if you have any questions.

Our December Fruits of the Spirit Sunday School Schedule:
Sunday January 2nd No Sunday School, Happy New Year!

Our December Jr PF Schedule: Sunday, January 2nd - No Jr PF, Happy New Year!

This Month in Senior PF: January 2nd – Classic PF

Morning Circle would like to thank those who took tags for the town's Giving Tree program. With your kindness and generosity, you've made the day of the person who will receive your gifts. We will not meet during January or February.

Please mark your calendars for the following dates:
Wednesday, March 9th at 11AM in Wilton Hall - Birthday bags for Food Pantry
Wednesday, April 13th at 11AM in Wilton Hall - Hygiene kits for Church World Service
Wednesday, May 11th at 11AM in Wilton Hall - Collection of women's products for Food Pantry
Wednesday, June 8th at 11AM - Annual Luncheon

Fall Adult PF 1st & 3rd Sundays 5pm – all adults are welcome!

MCC Book Club is open to all church members.
For more information, please call Paula Haggstrom 203-452-0850 email: pjsh55@gmail.com We will continue meet via Zoom.

January 12th, 7 pm - The Exiles by Christina Baker Kline, 389 pg, Host: Linda Fracasini
February 9th, 7 pm - Slow Fire Burning by Paula Hawkins, 316 pg, Host: Gayle Hammond

Our next luncheon will be in January. Young at Heart wishes all a Blessed Christmas season.
In Our Prayers

The Culotta family on the loss of their son, Bert Muižulis, Michael Barresi (Maria’s Son); Jennifer Bittar (Lorraine 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; Marge Fox; Meredith Gibson (Paul & Judy Coward’s niece); Fern Griffith (Ashley Levin’s friend); Karen Guinness (Jennifer Nivison’s friend); Gina & Liz (Wendy Colegrove’s friends); Gary & Julie Hedine (Nancy Hedine’s son & daughter-in-law); Mary & Rachel Heerema (Julia Gutierrez’s mom & sister); Bob Heffernan (Ann Zeiner’s son-in-law); Brian Hopkins (Donna Konkol’s cousin); Vera James (Jenn Wissink’s mother); Heather Joyce (Paul & Judy Coward’s daughter); Kelti (friend of Lisa Gutierrez); Walter Lane (Marge Fox’s brother-in-law); Mary-Margaret Logan (Andrew’s mother); Jacquie MacLean (Jennifer Nivison’s friend); Nicole Malia; Mike (Janie Allen’s son); Rev. Jonathan Miller (Paul & Judy Coward’s friend); Jean Moffat; Olivia Morrison (Donna Nickdow’s niece); Joe Mumper (Julie McClennathan’s friend); Kathy Nivison (Andy’s mother); Pat Nugent; Ocampo family (friends of Lisa Gutierrez); Olson Family; Ray Osborne (Colegrove’s Family friend); Dean Perosino (Gayle Hammond’s brother); Geno Piacentini (Karen MacDonald’s husband); P.T. Philip (Liz Sampson’s father); Norman & Jan Ricker (Linda & Jack Fracassiini’s friend); Barbara Rivel (Judy Coward’s friend); Regina Roberts (Kathy Maiolo’s niece); Kelly Rodman (Angela Cross’ friend); Alfredo Rodriguez (Osiris Gutierrez’s cousin); Lisa Rozmus (friend of the Pfalzgraf family); Noah Santiago (Shari Carrano’s great-grandson); Connor Scalia (Jen Nivison’s friend); Nicholas Scalzo (Angela Cross’ Father); Carlos Serrano (Kathy Maiolo’s cousin); Yessika Siccardi (Sampson family friend); Bernie Sippin; John Skarupa (Barb Pellegrino’s brother); Christine Stadler; Maria Stadler (Jessica Pfalzgraf’s sister); Christian & Dain Steiner (Julie McClennathan’s nephews); Claire Stenzel (June & Myron Wininger’s granddaughter); Olga Terwilliger(Nancy Hedine’s sister-in-law); Ian Thompson (Gary’s cousin); Dick Thompson (Gary’s cousin); Meg Trogolo (Paul & Judy Coward’s niece); Richard Turco (Jack Fracassini’s cousin); Susan Walker; Charles L. Wynn, Sr., (and his mother) Alleane Wynn (friends of Will Duchon); Allen Zeiner (Ann Zeiner’s son); Ann Zeiner

The concerns of our world: Those who serve or live in war or conflict zones; 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: New York: Zachary Gingras, Washington: Rachel Hoffman (Vaughan Askue’s daughter), Virginia: Chris Meneses (Lorraine Zeiner’s friend), Georgia: Zachary Peters (Jacob Parker-Burgard’s cousin), Kuwait: Steven Roshong (the Coward’s nephew), South Carolina: Bob Peters (Don Parker-Burgard’s brother-in-law), North Carolina: Jake Terifay
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>MCC  Community Calendar</th>
<th>Week of January 16&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Week of January 2&lt;sup&gt;nd&lt;/sup&gt;</strong></td>
<td><strong>10:00 am Worship</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Young Adult Sunday, Communion Sunday</em></td>
<td><strong>5:00 pm Junior PF</strong></td>
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<td>10:00 am Worship</td>
<td><strong>5:00 pm Senior PF</strong></td>
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<td>5:00 pm Senior PF</td>
<td><strong>5:00 pm Adult PF</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Mon. January 17&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</strong></td>
<td><strong>Mon. January 17&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Martin Luther King Day –office closed</em></td>
<td><strong>10:00 am Worship</strong></td>
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<td>7:30 pm Council Meeting</td>
<td><strong>10:00 am Worship</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Tue. January 4&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</strong></td>
<td><strong>1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag</td>
<td><strong>7:00 pm Bereavement Group</strong></td>
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<td>7:00 pm Outreach</td>
<td><strong>7:00 pm Bereavement Group</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Wed. January 5&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</strong></td>
<td><strong>6:30 pm Confirmation (Dineson)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Thur. January 6&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</strong></td>
<td><strong>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</strong></td>
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<td>9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)</td>
<td><strong>7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Week of January 23&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</strong></td>
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<td><em>Star Words</em></td>
<td><strong>10:00 am Worship</strong></td>
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<td>10:00 am Worship</td>
<td><strong>11:15 am ANNUAL MEETING</strong></td>
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<td>5:00 pm Junior PF</td>
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<td>6:30 pm Confirmation (Dineson)</td>
<td><strong>5:00 pm Junior PF</strong></td>
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<td>7:00 pm Book Club ZOOM</td>
<td><strong>5:00 pm Senior PF</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Thur. January 13&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</strong></td>
<td><strong>Tue. January 25&lt;sup&gt;th&lt;/sup&gt;</strong></td>
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