

January 23, 2022

3rd Sunday after Epiphany, Heritage Sunday

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

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: All who seek the kingdom of God, come!

People: *From the confines of preconceived notions,*

Leader: From the well-worn box of "the way things have always been,"

People: *From the muffled cocoon of personal comfort,*

Leader: Come and be born anew into a good and spacious land,

People: *Come and be born anew into a community of love and justice,*

All: Come and be born anew into the light of life.

Opening Prayer

Mike Pfalzgraf, Deacon of the Day

***Our Church's Covenant**

inside front cover of hymnal

Heritage Sunday Celebration

Eternal and Gracious God, we are so thankful for these long-term members who have given their time, talents and gifts over so many years to our church community. The world is a better place because of their dedication. We thank you for the many lives that have been transformed through them, and the service they have given. Amen.

Students may depart with their teachers for Sunday School.

Musical Interlude

Prelude

Bach/Siloti

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

Loving God, you come among us that we may recognize the truth and so live your abundant life, even now. Your grace opens us to the honesty that allows us to change directions. We confess that we do not want to look at ourselves in the full light of your day. We confess we find it easier to pretend everything is fine, because then we have no need to change. Forgive us, Holy God, and turn our eyes to look upon our shadows head-on. Help us to face those things that have hurt us, others, and your creation, that we may be healed. We ask in the name of the One who embodies your presence, here and everywhere, Jesus the Christ. Amen. ~silence~

Words of Assurance

***Passing of 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

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

God's Eye Is On The Sparrow

Civila Martin, 1905

*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

John 3:1-21 pg. 968

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

Sermon

Nic at Night

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

Benediction

Parting Music

Praise the Lord, Ye Heavens Adore Him

Welsh Hymn Tune

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:

- 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

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

Thank you for assisting in this morning's worship!

- **Deacon:** Mike Pfalzgraf
- **Usher:** Jessica Pfalzgraf
- **Trustee:** Fred Dubois
- **Counter:** Kate Briggs
- **Coffee Host:** Cady Gingras & Mike Pfalzgraf
- **Web Steward:** Scott Young



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

The flowers today are given with love to our church family from Senior PF!



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 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>



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

Harper Matejek ⁽²³⁾

Marian Schmitz ⁽²⁶⁾

Margaret Villani ⁽²⁷⁾



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

Mike & Barbara Pellegrino ⁽²⁴⁾



Call to Annual Congregational Meeting * TODAY 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 11:15 am on Sunday, January 23rd, 2022. The meeting will be hybrid this year (on Zoom and in person in the Meetinghouse).

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83783604562?pwd=L2dSUWpEQ3dYUnNBBeUJZUHRKMnBxQT09> Meeting ID: 837 8360 4562, Passcode: Rexford

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.

Top 10 reasons to Attend the Monroe Congregational Church Annual Meeting on January 23rd after worship (11:15 A.M.)

10. That is when it is scheduled.
9. To get to know what is on other people's minds.
8. Because we are Congregationalists (see below***) and that is what we do.
7. To speak your mind and have a say in how things are at MCC.
6. To be a good citizen – "to elect officers, boards, committees, and delegates to the Association and Conference to which this church belongs; to adopt an annual budget; ... and to transact such other business as may be set forth" (from the MCC Constitution).
5. To see if the Moderator can manage Robert's Rules of Order.
4. To understand where your money goes and to move to redirect, if so moved.
3. To postpone getting home to do chores.
2. To get to know other MCC members and make friends.
1. Free chocolate (calories do not count on Annual Meeting Day).

*** Many of us at MCC grew up in other religious traditions (or none). Congregationalists are pretty unique in how the church is managed. We, the congregation, run the show. We are the ministers, the managers, and the masters of our fate as a church. We run it. We finance it. Without us, it does not exist. This is what Congregational polity ("the form of government of a religious denomination" – Merriam Webster) means. We are autonomous; we are in charge of ourselves. The way to have a say in how we are run is to attend congregational meetings, e.g., the Annual Meeting. See you on the 23rd. The hybrid meeting will take place in person in the Meeting House and also via Zoom for those who cannot attend in person.

From: The Moderator

Heritage Sunday January 23, 2022

Today we honor and celebrate the ways in which these long term members have engaged in the mission and ministry of the Monroe Congregational Church. Through their contributions of time, talent and treasure, they have helped the Monroe Congregational Church thrive as a vibrant faith home. They have nurtured children and youth. They have offered gentle hands and hearts in times of need. They have stood on the side of love and justice in our community. We are grateful for their presence and for all the ways they have participated in this congregation. Thank you for your example and for staying, serving, and growing with us. Our church is a better place because you have been here.

	Joined in...
June Winger	1947 (75 Years)
Franklin Renz	1954 (68 Years)
Jackie Bleakney	1958 (64 Years)
June Wilkes	1959 (63 Years)
Myron Winger	1960 (62 Years)
Lorrie Sippin	1964 (58 Years)
Joyce Rousseau	1965 (57 Years)
George & Mary Massar, Gay Muizulis, Gary & Gail Thompson, Don Whiteley, Ann Zeiner, Vaughan Askue	1969 (53 Years)
Tom Kelly	1972 (50 Years)
Betty Heiney	1973 (49 Years)
Carol Kelly	1974 (48 Years)
Gail Olson	1975 (47 Years)
Tony Prall	1976 (46 Years)
Donna Jones Parratt	1977 (45 Years)
Loraine Zeiner, Ron & Peggy Villani	1978 (44 Years)
Andrea Crosnier, Paul Haringa, Bob & Janice Martin	1980 (42 Years)
Marge Fox, Julie & Rob McClenathan, David & Lois Spence, Hubert Muizulis, Mary Renz	1982 (40 Years)
George & Priscilla Cunningham, Gayle & Robert Hammond	1983 (39 Years)
Gerrie Esposito	1987 (35 Years)
Linda Fracassini	1988 (34 Years)
Jane Allen, Ginger Bartlett, Paula Haggstrom, Barbara Ruot	1994 (28 years)
Dave & Susan Walker, Diane Prall	1995 (27 years)
Paul & Suzanne Adams, Julie Heussner, John & Kathy Maiolo, Lauren Provost, David & Linda Rooney	1996 (26 years)
Joe & Betsy Gilberti, Osiris & Julia Gutierrez, Jim & Jennifer Halloran, John & Barbara Yeager	1997 (25 years)
Nick & Linda Caballero, Roy & Jenn Nealon, Laurel & Ken Post, Scott & Katie Young	1998 (24 years)
Michael & Michele Mount, John & Leslie Sekelsky, Jim Vance, Sue Waters	1999 (23 years)
Mark & Stacy Andrejczyk, Rich & Michelle Correll, Josh & Carrie Friend, John & Cindy O'Rourke, Marian Schmitz	2000 (22 years)
Eve Balestriere, Andrew & Kristina Logan, Kristen Provist-Switzer	2001 (21 years)
Lynda & Richard Bauer, Cliff & Susie Cuseo, Suan Grundt, Joanne Malia, Warren Stamp & Sheila Torres, Mary Unger, Trees Whitbeck	2002 (20 years)

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 **78 pledges** for a total of **\$196,706** which means we are only \$3,294 away from our \$200,000 goal! **Will yours be the pledge to put us over the top this year?**

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*

Outreach

St George's Supper – Feel the Love! Monday, February 14

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)



Sign up Link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F054AADAF2EA2F85-stgeorges5>

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 February 14th. Sandwiches may be placed in the refrigerator. Please contact Stacy at 203-500-1279 if you need to help with sign-up or if you have questions. Thank you!

Christian Education



Weekly Prayer & Bible Study Group! Every Thursday from 9:30-10:30 in Dineson Parlor, 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.

In 2022, we are following **The Woman's Lectionary** and highlighting the stories of two Biblical women a week, some with names, some without.

January 27	Isaiah 62:1-5, John 2:1-11 (Mary Attends Wedding at Cana)
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SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School

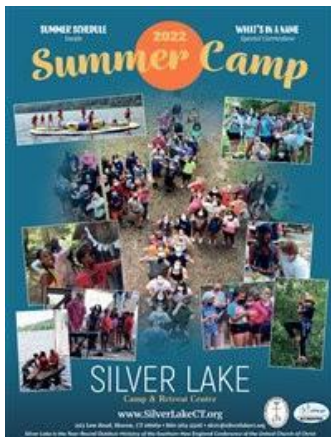
January 23rd - Nicodemus Visits Jesus
January 30th - The Women at the Well

Jr PF resumes today, January 23rd for a Game Date w/ Coat Drive, and on January 30th a Groundhog Day Movie Night.



Jr PF Coat Drive January 2022

Jr PF is hosting a coat drive in support of our local community. If you have any gently used or new coats you would be willing to donate, please leave them in the Box located in Wilton Hall. If you have any questions or need help getting your donated items to MCC please call Jeanette at 203 257 9637. We would like to have all items received no later than January 31st. Thank you!!



Summer 2022 at Silver Lake Conference Center:

Registration for summer programs opened January 15! Save \$50 off all summer registrations made in the month of January using code EARLY22.

Learn more about summer camp at Silver Lake, view the 2022 summer brochure, and look through the upcoming sessions at <https://www.silverlakect.org/summercamp>

Scholarships are available from the Fairfield East Association, just ask Pastor Jenn for a form.



Given the rise in infections, and the fact that the choir has gone on hiatus, Kate and I have decided that it's best for **Adult PF** not to meet in January. If it doesn't seem wise to resume in-person gatherings in February, we'll have our meetings (2/6 and 2/20) on Zoom.

Thanks for a great fall, with lots of vigorous discussion and engagement with Genesis. Since we're not meeting this month, feel free to read ahead, or to go back and revisit what we've covered so far (chapters 1-11). Whether in person or on Zoom, we'll begin the story of Abraham and Sarah in February. Happy New Year and a blessed Epiphany! -Don



Young at Heart: Next luncheon will be at Jennie's Pizza in Monroe on February 24th at 12. Please RSVP to Juliana Lavitola at 203-414-7877 or jsl.lavitola@gmail.com.



Does planning events and bringing joy to your congregation sound fun to you?? Our **Fellowship Board** who brings you your annual Easter Coffee Hour, Mother's Day Tea, Christmas Coffee Hour and other special events throughout the year are in need of help! If you are interested or have questions about what the time commitment for a role like this would be, please reach out to Michelle Cardentey (michelle.cardentey@gmail.com) or Jeanette Morales (jeanettemcardentey@gmail.com) and we would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you!!



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



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.

February 9th, 7 pm - *Slow Fire Burning* by Paula Hawkins, Host: Gayle Hammond
March 9th, 7 pm - *Anxious People* by Fredrick Backman, Host: TBD
April 13th, 7 pm - *The Lobotomist's Wife* by Samantha Greene Woodruff, Host: TBD
May 11th, 7 pm - *The Indigo Girl* by Natasha Boyd, Host: TBD
June 8th, 7 pm - *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See, Host: TBD
July 13th, 7 pm - *The Last Mona Lisa* by Jonathan Santlofer, Host: TBD
August 10th, 7 pm - *The Involuntary American* by Carol Gardner, Host: TBD

In Our Prayers

Marge Fox; 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; 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); **Kelti** (friend of Liska Gutierrez); **Walter Lane** (Marge Fox's brother-in-law); **Mary-Margaret Logan** (Andrew's mother); **Jacque MacLean** (Jennifer Nivison's friend); **Nicole Malia; Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **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); **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 Fracassini's friend); **Regina Roberts** (Kathy Maiolo's niece); **Kelly Rodman** (Angela Cross' friend); **Alfredo Rodriguez** (Osirus 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's 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 McClenathan's nephews); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Winger's granddaughter); **Olga Terwilliger** (Nancy Hedine's sister-in-law); **Ian and Dick Thompson** (Gary's cousins); **Richard Turco** (Jack Fracassini's cousin); **Susan Walker; 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: *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** (Loraine Zeiner's friend), Georgia: **Zachary Peters** (Jacob Parker-Burgard's cousin), Kuwait: **Jon Sanchez** (Don Whiteley's grandson-in-law), South Carolina: **Bob Peters** (Don Parker-Burgard's brother-in-law)

*Thank
you*



With my recovery progressing well, time to thank MCC for their prayers, concerns, understanding, visits, phone calls and cards during the past year. All were very much needed and appreciated. Several times, in past years, I have had to lean on my church and my church never failed me. This church is the best.

Peace, Good Health and Love Betty aka the Queen

MCC Community Calendar

Week of January 23th

Heritage Sunday

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am **ANNUAL MEETING**

5:00 pm Junior PF

5:00 pm Senior PF

Tue. January 25th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. January 26th

6:30 pm Confirmation (Dineson)

Thur. January 27th

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)

6:00 pm Chimes & Bells Rehearsal

Week of January 30th

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Junior PF

5:00 pm Senior PF

Tue. February 1st

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

7:00 pm Outreach ZOOM

7:50 pm Deacons ZOOM

Wed. February 2nd

6:30 pm Confirmation (Dineson)

7:00 Book Club ZOOM

Thur. February 3rd

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)

Week of February 6th

Scout Sunday

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Junior PF

5:00 pm Senior PF

5:00 pm Adult PF ZOOM

Tue. February 8th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. February 9th

6:30 pm Confirmation (Dineson)

7:00 Book Club ZOOM

Thur. February 10th

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)

6:00 pm Chimes & Bells Rehearsal

Week of February 13th

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Junior PF

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. February 14th

3:00 pm St George's Supper

Tue. February 15th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

7:00 Bereavement Group

Wed. February 16th

6:30 pm Confirmation (Dineson)

Thur. February 17th

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)

6:00 pm Chimes & Bells Rehearsal