

July 27, 2025

Seventh 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.*

+++++

Gathering Music

Just Voices Quartet

It is Well with My Soul

Horatio Spafford/Phillip Bliss

As The Day Begins

Gregory Norbert

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship from Psalm 138

Leader: I will give thanks to the Holy One with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing praises to you.

People: *On the day I called you answered me.*

Leader: All the rulers, the would be leaders who think they are gods, even they shall one day praise you. They will all sing of your great ways.

People: *Though you are high above everyone and everything, you regard the lowly, and you distance yourself from the arrogant.*

Leader: Though I walk in through danger and troubles, you preserve me.

All: *Let us worship with joy, sing with hope, and celebrate the Mighty God moving among us!*

Opening Prayer

Arlene Redmond, Deacon of the Day

***Our Church's Covenant**

inside front cover of hymnal

Children's Message

***Hymn**

Sweet Hour of Prayer

NCH #505

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

Call to Confession

We are a people in need of grace. Let us come honestly before God, who delights in mercy.

Unison Prayer

Merciful God, we confess that we often rely on our own wisdom and forget your faithfulness. We seek answers but do not pause to listen. We carry worries, but do not place them in your hands. We talk of prayer more than we practice it. Forgive our stubborn hearts. Teach us to rest in your grace, to trust in your promises, and to persist in seeking you. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Hear the promise from Colossians: "When you were dead in trespasses, God made you alive together with Christ, having forgiven all your sins."

*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

I Believe

Irvin Graham, Jimmy Shirl, Al Stillman, Ervin Drake

Just Voices Quartet

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 11:1-13, pg 947

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

Sermon

Ask, Seek, Knock

Rev. Edward Rawls

*Closing Hymn

Seek Ye First

lyrics below

Benediction

Postlude

Immortal, Invisible

Welsh Hymn Tune, arr. John Innes

Will Duchon, organ/Heather Hisey, piano

Seek Ye First

- V. 1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Allelu, Alleluia!
- V. 2 Ask, and it shall be given unto you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and the door shall be opened unto you. Allelu, Alleluia!

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: Arlene Redmond **Usher:** Bill & Mary Jo Brett **Lay Reader:** Vaughan Askue
Trustee: Jill Sapak **Counter:** Bill Brett **Web Steward:** Scott Young
Summer Coffee Host: Arlene Redmond, Vaughan Askue & Marge Danis



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

Kayleigh Healey ⁽²⁷⁾

Caroline Wittenauer ⁽²⁸⁾

Karen Coffey ⁽⁰²⁾

Kenny Dutton ⁽²⁸⁾

Christine Wittenauer ⁽²⁸⁾

Margery Fox ⁽⁰²⁾

Tom Kelly ⁽²⁸⁾

Kathryn Wittenauer ⁽²⁸⁾

Beverly Shaffer ⁽⁰²⁾

Alexa Sentementes ⁽²⁸⁾

Brian Campbell ⁽⁰²⁾

Jordan Yang ⁽⁰²⁾



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)

Diane & Tony Prall ⁽²⁸⁾ Kate & Tom Briggs ⁽²⁹⁾ Meg & Dan Sullivan ⁽³⁰⁾



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)



Diane is scheduled for vacation on Mondays throughout the summer. She will continue to work from home on Wednesdays where she will receive and respond to your voicemail and email messages. Happy Summer!

Fellowship



NEEDED: MCC Summertime Coffee Hour Hosts Are you interested in providing refreshments for our church members and friends following Sunday worship! All you need to do is arrive at the kitchen by 9:45 to get the coffee going (instructions found on kitchen wall). Providing baked goods or other snacks are always welcome (but not mandatory). **Please sign up in Wilton Hall.** (Although one can do it, it's fun to serve with a friend). Thank you!



Morning Circle invites the women of the congregation to join them every second Wednesday of the month (except January, February, July and August). Please contact Shari Carrano at 475-342-8145 with any questions, comments or concerns.



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.

Aug. 20th *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt

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

Young at Heart will meet on August 28th at noon. Details to follow.



The Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe is looking for your help. Volunteers can come to the Shoppe on Tuesdays at 9:30am during the summer. Stay for a couple of hours to help sort, tag and hang donated merchandise. **The Shoppe will be closed for cleaning after July 26th. This event will require lots of hands, so if you have the free time for the Tuesday after, please stop by** and the ladies will gladly show you what needs to be done. We will reopen on Friday, August 22. Please contact Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280 if you like to take a shift. Many thanks to all our diligent volunteers who man the counter and take care of our donations.



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/>

In Our Prayers

The members of Senior PF, as they journey home from their 2025 Summer Mission Trip to North Carolina; **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); **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); **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); **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**; **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**; **John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Sheldon & Nancy Smith**; **Christine Stadler**; **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); **family of Dawn Tyrell Vaicunas** (Melissa Quinn's friend); **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), **Lance Corporal Taylor Smith** (Cheri Irwin's Nephew)

MCC Community Calendar

Senior PF Mission Trip July 19-27

Pastor Jenn is on vacation July 22-28

Week of Sun. July 27th

Rev. Ed Rawls, Guest Preacher

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. July 28th

Diane Vacation - Office Closed

Tue. July 29th

9:30 am Mustard Seed Cleaning Event

Week of Sun. Aug 3rd

10:00 am Communion Worship

11:30 am Trustees

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Aug 4th

Diane Vacation - Office Closed

7:30 pm Outreach

Pastor Jenn is on vacation Aug 5-11

Tue. Aug 5th

9:30 am Mustard Seed Cleaning Event

Week of Sun. Aug 10th

Rev. Ed Rawls, Guest Preacher

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Aug 11th

Diane Vacation - Office Closed

3:00 pm St George's Supper

7:30 pm Deacons

Week of Sun. Aug 17th

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Aug 18th

Diane Vacation - Office Closed

Pastor Jenn is on vacation Aug 19-25

Wed. Aug 20th

7:00 pm Book Club

Fri. Aug 22nd

Mustard Seed Shoppe Reopens

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