

July 6, 2025

Four Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 am

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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Gathering Music

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Silence & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: Come, exiles and dreamers, settlers and seekers, God has planted us in this time, in this place. Build your hope here, among neighbors and strangers. Plant peace, even in soil that feels foreign.

People: We come with hearts homesick for joy, longing for God in the land of now.

Leader: The Lord declares, "I know the plans I have for you... plans for a future, for fullness, for grace."

People: So we gather at the table of promise, where bread becomes presence, and a cup becomes love.

Leader: Seek me, says the Holy One, and you will find me—right here, in the breaking, in the sharing, in the waiting.

All: We come to worship the One who finds and feeds us with hope.

Prayer of Preparation

Mike Pfalzgraf, Deacon of the Day

***UCC Statement of Faith**

Reading #885 in hymnal

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Hymn (*seated*)

O God of Love, O God of Peace

NCH# 571

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.

The nursery is open for children younger than 5.

Worship bags are available for school-aged children near the front door.

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

O God of exiles and homecomings, we confess that we don't always bloom where we're planted. We resist settling into the life we've been given. We forget that you are with us, even here, even now. We chase after plans of our own making, instead of seeking

the peace of your presence. We live as if hope is scarce, as if your table has no room for others. Forgive us, O God. Plant within us a seed of trust and lead us back to you, to the place where bread is broken and hearts are mended. 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.*

***Hymn**

This is the Day

NCH# 84

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

*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

Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14 page 717

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

Communion Meditation

Shalom in the Shadowland

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

***Closing Hymn**

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

NCH #573

***Benediction**

Postlude

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:** Mike Pfalzgraf
- **Usher:** Mike Pellegrino
- **Lay Reader:** David Walker
- **Trustee:** Andrew Logan
- **Counter:** Michelle Cardentey
- **Coffee Host:**
- **Web Steward:** Scott Young

Communion Team #2

Michelle Correll, Larry Wissink,
Michelle Cardentey, Arlene Redmond,
Mike Pfalzgraf and Jocelyn Allen



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

Janie Allen ⁽⁰⁶⁾

Jessica Konkol ⁽¹¹⁾

Peter Hallgren ⁽¹²⁾

Gloria Ganino ⁽⁰⁸⁾

Alex Gutierrez ⁽¹²⁾

Therese Zalenski ⁽¹²⁾

Jim Vance ⁽⁰⁸⁾



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)

Mary & Rick Erdmann ⁽⁰⁸⁾ and Gary and Gail Thompson ⁽¹⁰⁾



The flowers this morning are given by Gary & Gail Thompson in celebration of their 60th Wedding Anniversary!

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, beginning Monday, July 9th. Diane will continue to work from home on Wednesdays where she will receive and respond to your voicemail and email messages. Happy Summer!

Fellowship

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.

July 16th *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley

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



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.



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!



Young at Heart will meet Thursday, **July 24 Details TBD**

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.





Outreach

Let's Feed Our Hungry Neighbors! **Feel The Warmth mobile community hot supper** needs 6-8 volunteers to cook a delicious and nutritious meal for 250 hungry neighbors on **Thursday, July 17**. Prep time in the kitchen is at nOURish's main headquarters, 2200 North Ave., Bpt. from 3-5:30 pm It's then transported to the Harrison Apartments on 651 State St., Bpt. and served to the displaced and homeless population from 6-7 pm.

Did you forget to buy your JAM???? Visit our online store: <https://monroe-strawberry-festival-since-1972.square.site/>

In Our Prayers

Alison Abrams (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Jennifer Bittar** (Lorraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney**; **Lisa Cody & Dave Barton** (friends of Julie and Rob McClenathan); **James Brown, Debbie Cuseo** (Cliff's sister-in-law); **Susie Cuseo**; **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); **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** (Lorraine Zeiner's friend), **Lance Corporal Taylor Smith** (Cheri Irwin's Nephew)

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Sun. July 6th

Communion

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. July 7th

Diane Vacation - Office Closed

Tue. July 8th

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Week of Sun. July 13th

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. July 14th

Diane Vacation - Office Closed

Tue. July 15th

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. July 16th

7:00 pm Book Club

Thurs. July 17th

3-5:30 pm nOURish BPT Meal Prep

6-7 pm nOURish BPT Meal Distribution

Senior PF Mission Trip July 19-27

Week of Sun. July 20th

10:00 am Worship

Pastor Jenn is on vacation July 21- 27

Mon. July 21st

Diane Vacation - Office Closed

Tue. July 22nd

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Thurs. July 24th

12:00 pm Young at Heart

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 Sort & Tag