

July 29, 2025

Third 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.*

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Gathering Music

Morning Has Broken

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: Sing Praises to God, all you faithful ones

People: God hears us in our fear and our sorrow

Leader: Where there was no way

People: God leads us in a new way

Leader: Where there was no mercy

People: God surprises us with fresh mercy

Leader: Where there was weeping

All: God invites us to step into a new dance.

Opening Prayer

Michelle Correll, Deacon of the Day

***Our Church's Covenant**

inside front cover of hymnal

Children's Message

***Hymn**

Praise to the Living God

NCH #8

*Students may remain with their families, there is no Sunday School today
(the nursery is open for the littles)*

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

*God calls us in our lives to take a risk,
to be like the woman in the gospel
who reaches out to Jesus for healing for herself;
or the father who risks the scorn of others to bring Jesus to his dying daughter.
Let us ponder for a moment the places of our lives where we may resist taking risks
and turning to God for healing and change. ~Silent Prayer~*

Words of Assurance

***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

*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

Galatians 5:1,13-25, pg 1062

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

Sermon

Freedom in the Spirit

Rev. Ed Rawls

*Closing Hymn

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

NCH #292

Benediction

Postlude

Fugue in D

J.S. Bach

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

Deacons

Welcome Summer Guest Preacher Rev. Ed Rawls – Jun 29, Jul 27, Aug 10 & 24



Rev. Ed Rawls is a retired UCC Pastor who lives in Milford, CT with his wife, Sandy, and his stepson, Lyle. He served over 40 years as a UCC Pastor. His first call was to start a theologically progressive church in Cary, North Carolina. He then went on to serve as the pastor of First Congregational Church in Stratford (our mother church) for over 20 years. He has two daughters and two step-sons. One of his greatest joys in retirement is helping to care for his step-son, Lyle.

The above pic is from Halloween in Milford. Ed is the cowboy, and his stepson Lyle is Maverick from Top Gun.

Thank you for assisting in this morning's worship!

Deacon: Michelle Correll **Usher:** Melissa Quinn **Lay Reader:** Ed Burke
Trustee: Michelle Cardentey **Counter:** Mark Barnhart **Web Steward:** Scott Young
Coffee Host: Jen Wissink & Arlene Redmond



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

Sara Post ⁽²⁹⁾

David Walker ⁽³⁰⁾

Griffin Allen ⁽⁰³⁾

Dan Sullivan ⁽²⁹⁾

Sheldon Smith ⁽⁰¹⁾

Amy Matejek ⁽⁰⁴⁾

Jenn Gingras ⁽³⁰⁾

Betsy Gilberti ⁽⁰²⁾

Julia Telep ⁽⁰⁴⁾



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)

Stacy & Mark Andrejczyk ⁽²⁹⁾ and Mary Jo and Bill Brett ⁽⁰¹⁾



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.monroecucc.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 Host: TBD



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



Mustard Seed Summer Sorting and Tagging 9:30 am.

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.

In Our Prayers

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); **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); **Pat Nugent**; **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 Wininger'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** (Loraine Zeiner's friend), **Lance Corporal Taylor Smith** (Cheri Irwin's Nephew)

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Sun. June 29th

Rev. Ed Rawls, Guest Preacher

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. June 30th

Diane is working from home

Tue. July 1st

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. July 2nd

Diane in the office

Fri. July 4th

Independence Day -office closed

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 Distribution of Meals

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 22nd

9:30 am Mustard Seed Sort & Tag