

May 18, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Easter

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 Celebration by Michael R. Keller & Fughetta in C Major by G.F. Handel,
arr. David Bridget *Bell Choir*

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: Wherever we look

People: God is already at work!

Leader: The Spirit is moving

People: Even in people we never expected.

Leader: Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

All: God is calling us all together into one Body.

Opening Prayer

Michelle Cardentey, Deacon of the Day

***Our Church's Covenant**

inside front cover of hymnal

***Hymn**

It Is Well with My Soul

NCH #438

Students may transition to Sunday School with their teachers and deacons.

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

Holy One, you reach beyond the boundaries of our traditions, gathering all peoples to yourself and insisting there is no distinction between us. Your inclusive love can make us uncomfortable, sometimes. Forgive us when we want to control the terms of other people's relationship with you. Forgive us when we refuse to listen to the experiences of those who have seen you at work. You are always creating and re-creating your Body to love, serve, and care for the world. Make us willing to allow your Spirit to blow where she will, and ready to walk through the doors you open. Amen. ~silence~

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

Ride the Chariot

arr. André Thomas

*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

Acts 15:1-18, pg 1007

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

Sermon

Don't Cut Your Own Bangs

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

*Closing Hymn

I Love to Tell the Story

NCH #522

Benediction

Postlude

Rejoice with Gladness

by Susan E. Geschke

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.



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.

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!



Thank you for assisting in this morning's worship!

Deacon: Michelle Cardentey **Usher:** Mike Pellegrino **Lay Reader:** Linda Fracassini
Trustee: Jill Sapak **Counter:** Andrew Logan **Web Steward:** Scott Young
Coffee Host: Barbara Pellegrino





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

Marissa Maiolo ⁽¹⁸⁾
Linda Caballero ⁽²⁰⁾

Emily Coleman ⁽²²⁾
Bethany Dupuis ⁽²⁴⁾

Linda Rooney ⁽²⁴⁾



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)

June & Myron Winger ⁽²⁴⁾



The flowers this morning are given by Michelle Cardentey in honor of her mom, Eleanor La Valla's, heavenly birthday

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.monroecg.org)



Faith Formation

Prayer Partners Unite!!! Our "Big Reveal" potluck luncheon **TODAY at 11:15 am in Wilton Hall**. Please bring a dish to share and find out who's been praying for whom.

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.

May 21st The God of the Woods by Liz Moore Host: TBD
June 18th The Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters Host: TBD
July 16th Brave New World by Aldous Huxley Host: TBD



Young At Heart will meet at noon on May 22nd
Housatonic House 337 Roosevelt Dr, Seymour
RSVP: Susie Cuseo thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280



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.

Wed., Jun 11 12PM - June Picnic Luncheon - Location TBD

Trustees

There are four orange highway safety cones missing from the Rexford electrical room. If found/borrowed, please return them to the office or Wilton Hall - they are needed for the Strawberry Festival. Thank you!

Dave Allen, MCC Property Manager



53rd Annual Strawberry Festival 2025

will be held on Saturday, June 14 (10am-5pm) & Sunday, June 15 (noon-5pm).

The Strawberry Festival is nearly upon us! We've quickly reached our maximum capacity of 110 crafters on the Green, our entertainment is scheduled, strawberry dipping chocolate has arrived, ice cream is ordered, over 1,400 jars of jam are made, and strawberry bread was made this week!



But there is still so much to do leading up to the festival and the days of the festival! **A great festival is attributed to all our volunteers who help out!** See the signup sheets in Wilton Hall or the link below to claim your favorite spot(s) such as berry picking, sorting, dipping, shortcake making, country store help, face painting, manning the prize table, helping out with games, making smoothies, giving tours of the Meetinghouse, cleaning and everything else in between. Your time and dedication to the festival are what will make it a huge success.

Monroe Congregational Church



Our kickoff will be on Sunday, June 1 after service where we will have cake, sell jam and festival paraphernalia! Please contact Clark Gingras, Pastor Jenn, Frank Wittenauer or Susie Cuseo with any questions, comments or concerns.

Sign up for a wonderful weekend of community and camaraderie in support of MCC in our largest fundraiser of the year.

Strawberry Festival Volunteer Signup Link!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094CAEAA22A4FB6-56666921-strawberry>

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

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Sun. May 18th

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Prayer Partner Lunch

5:00 pm Jr. & Sr. PF

Mon. May 19th

7:30 pm Council (Zoom)

Tue. May 20th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. May 21st

7:00 pm Book Club Zoom

Thurs. May 22nd

9:30 am Bible Study

12:00 pm Young @ Heart

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

7:30 pm Confirmation

Sat. May 24th

9:30 am Jam Session

Week of Sun. May 25th

10:00 am Worship

1:00 pm Memorial Day Parade

5:00 pm Sr. PF

Mon. May 26th

Memorial Day – Office Closed

Tue. May 27th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Thurs. May 29th

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

7:30 pm Confirmation

Week of Sun. June 1st

Youth Sunday

10:00 am Worship

11:30 am Trustees

5:00 pm Jr. & Sr. PF

Mon. June 2nd

7:30 pm Outreach (Zoom)

Tue. June 3rd

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. June 4th

6:30 pm Confirmation Celebration

Thurs. June 5th

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Sat. June 7th

11:00 am Don Whiteley's Celebration of Life

Week of Sun. June 8th

Confirmation Sunday

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am 'Crush the 100 Ceiling'

5:00 pm Jr. & Sr. PF

Mon. June 9th

3 pm St George's Supper

7:30 pm Deacons (Zoom)