

November 17, 2024

**Twenty-sixth 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**

Gather Us In

Marty Haugen

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles**

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Bring us into your realm today, O God,

*People: Into your holy presence,*

Leader: Where we can hear your heart

*People: And sense your movement.*

Leader: Make us ready to receive,

*People: And ready to share,*

*All: whatever your Word may be.*

**Opening Prayer**

Jessica Pfalzgraf, Deacon of the Day

**\*Our Church's Covenant**

inside front cover of hymnal

**Stewardship Moment "Better Together"**

Chris Hisey

**Children's Message**

*Students may transition to Sunday School with their teachers.*

**\*Hymn**

God of Grace and God of Glory

NCH #436

**Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer**

*Holy One, we dare to come before you, aware that there is nothing we can say.  
Our hands are so full of things that are empty, our hearts are distracted, our minds and  
mouths bearing words that reveal our brokenness. What can we say, in the face of your  
holiness? What can we say, in the presence of your goodness? Cleanse us, O God. Heal  
us. Forgive us. In your gracious love, receive our silence as prayer and bring us ever  
closer to you, until we hear your whisper cutting through the noise. Make us holy, Lord.  
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

Autumn Carol

Russell Schulz-Widmar

*Our offering plate will be passed among us today.  
You may give online at [www.mcc-ucc/donate](http://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

Isaiah 6:1–24, pg. 622

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

### Sermon

*Dave Stuart, Raymond Fellow Guest Preacher*

### \*Closing Hymn

Born of God, Eternal Savior

NCH #542

### Benediction

### Postlude

Peace I Leave With You

George Weigle

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**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!

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### Thank you for assisting in this morning's worship!

**Deacon:** Jessica Pfalzgraf   **Usher:** Susie Cuseo   **Trustee:** Andrew Logan  
**Counter:** Mike Ganino   **Web Steward:** Scott Young  
**Coffee Host:** Michelle Cardentey



**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.monroecconline.org)



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

Kathy Allen <sup>(17)</sup>

Paula Haggstrom <sup>(19)</sup>

Tess Bauer <sup>(21)</sup>

Jonathan Malia <sup>(18)</sup>

Thea Rice <sup>(19)</sup>

Bob Hammond <sup>(21)</sup>

Caleb Nealon <sup>(18)</sup>

Madison Caballero <sup>(20)</sup>

Joel Smith <sup>(21)</sup>



**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)

Debra Hansen & Alan Vaglivelo <sup>(21)</sup>



## Trustees

Don't miss the **MCC "Thank you" Pancake Breakfast**  
following church on  
**November 24<sup>th</sup> - Commitment Sunday!**

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## Deacons



**Are you interested in becoming a Deacon?** We would love to have you!  
Give it some thought and then contact Leanne McEvoy with any questions, concerns, or  
to sign up! (203)520-6750 mcevoyl@hotmail.com

## Nov 17- Welcome Raymond Fellow Guest Preacher!

**Dave Stuart** recently retired as a partner at the New York City law firm Cravath, Swaine & Moore, where he spent most of his 28-year legal career. Upon his retirement from Cravath, he began serving as Special Pro Bono Counsel at the firm overseeing the Incarcerated Survivors' Initiative – an award-winning program he founded to represent incarcerated survivors of domestic and/or sexual violence, including while imprisoned in matters that include resentencing, parole applications and civil rights violations. He earned his undergraduate degree from Wesleyan University, where he met his wife (Peggy). He earned his law degree from New York University School of Law. Dave and Peggy have two adult children and live with their dog, Obi, in Fairfield. **Welcome Dave!**



**Dave Stuart**  
M.Div, Third Year  
Yale Divinity School 2025



## Outreach



Join us from 5-8 pm on Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> for a **Spaghetti Dinner & Bingo Night** to benefit **Church World Service Hurricane Relief & Project Warmth**. Please sign up today in Wilton Hall!

**This is the last Sunday to contribute to the MCC Covenant to Care Thanksgiving Fundraiser!** (Social worker pickup is this week.) If you would like to make a donation to supply a family in need with a Thanksgiving meal please see the poster and donation basket at coffee hour. You can also donate from our website -**please memo Covenant to Care!** <https://mcc-ucc.org/donate.html>

Thank you for your past and present support!  
Diane Prall, Covenant to Care Liaison



**Heifer International** is an organization that supports worldwide families by using your spare change to provide a sustainable living through livestock and plants. Families share with neighbors thereby making the community stronger and self-sufficient. Please consider dropping your spare change into the collection bottle that is on the serving table during

coffee hour. Contact Susie Cuseo with any questions at [thecuseos@yahoo.com](mailto:thecuseos@yahoo.com) or 203-268-0280



**Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe needs VOLUNTEERS!** Do you have a couple of hours to spare on Tuesdays, Fridays or Saturdays? We sort, tag and hang donated merchandise in the Shoppe on Tuesdays at 1:30PM while on Fridays we are open from 10-3 and Saturdays from 10-2. It's easy to do. Just pop on over during any of those timeframes and the volunteers(s) would gladly show you the ropes. For opening or closing the Shoppe, a list of responsibilities can be emailed to you for your perusal. You can always shadow a volunteer for a couple of shifts until you get the hang of it and then when you're ready, you will be put on the schedule. Monies collected from shoppers' purchases go to mission trips, outreach programs and many more. Please contact Susie Cuseo at [thecuseos@yahoo.com](mailto:thecuseos@yahoo.com) or 203-268-0280 with any questions.

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## Christian Education



**Registration Season** has begun! If you haven't already registered your child for Sunday School or for Junior PF, please let Pastor Jenn know at [Jenn@mcc-ucc.org](mailto:Jenn@mcc-ucc.org) so she can send you the form.





## Junior PF November Schedule

We had a wonderful start to the program year! Remember that friends are always welcome, regardless of church membership. Here is a recent pic of some of us from our Halloween party. We are a fun group of middle schoolers who enjoy playing games, serving others and building friendships!

11/17 – Friendsgiving, bring your favorite dish to share

11/24 – No Junior PF, Happy Thanksgiving!



Love working with youth, want to spread God's love to the children of our congregation in the **24/25 school year**? **Please consider teaching Sunday School** (Pre k - 6th) Speak with Jeanette to sign up and Thank you!

**Thursday Morning Bible Study** - Join us in Dineson Parlor at 9:30 am every Thursday\* for prayer, conversation and discovery. As we approach Advent, we will begin reading together On the Way to Bethlehem by Rob Fuquay, available on Amazon (paperback or kindle).

11/21	Jerusalem, A Place of Waiting
11/28	No Bible Study – Thanksgiving Break

*\*except when it's a holiday or school is delayed or closed for weather*

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## Fellowship



**Young at Heart** will meet Thurs., **November 21 at Noon**

Testo's Restaurant, 505 Main Street, Monroe

**RSVP: Kathy Allen, 203-757-5581 or [ka17rn@gmail.com](mailto:ka17rn@gmail.com)**



**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. Mark your calendars for the following:

Wednesday, Dec 11, 12PM - Christmas Luncheon - Location TBD

Wednesday, Mar 12, 11AM Dineson Parlor - Birthday bags

Wednesday, Apr 9, 11AM Dineson Parlor - CWS hygiene kits

Wednesday, May 14 11AM Dineson Parlor - Women's hygiene products collection

Wednesday, Jun 11 12PM - June Picnic Luncheon - Location TBD



Join us for the monthly Book Club on the **3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month**. 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](mailto:pjsh55@gmail.com) or home phone or 203-452-0850.

**November 20<sup>th</sup>** The Briar Club by Kate Quinn  
**December 18<sup>th</sup>** The Women by Kristin Hannah  
**January 15<sup>th</sup>** The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride  
**February 19<sup>th</sup>** The Keeper of Hidden Books by Madeline Martin

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### Attention MCC Leadership!



### Annual Reports are due Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

Please submit your annual report to the church office by Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>

Please call the church office with any questions: 203-268-9327 or email [secretary@MCC-UCC.org](mailto:secretary@MCC-UCC.org)

**Help US,  
Help the COMMUNITY!**



Monroe



Congregational Church's  
Senior PF is hosting a

**COAT DRIVE**

**All donations will go towards Bridgeport Rescue Mission**  
**(725 Park Avenue, Bridgeport CT)**

#### **Donation Locations:**

**-Masuk High School - 1014 Monroe Turnpike, CT**  
**-MCCUCC Wilton Hall - 34 Church Street, Monroe CT**

Collecting winter coats, gloves, hats, scarves,  
and snow boots.



THE MONROE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
34 CHURCH STREET \* MONROE

# Victorian Christmas Fair

Sunday, December 1, 2024



- 10 AM VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS WORSHIP  
1-5 PM LOCAL CRAFTERS & SOUP/BAKED GOODS/WREATH SALES,  
WILTON HALL  
HISTORICAL CHURCH TOURS, MEETINGHOUSE  
CAROLING BY JUST VOICES  
5 PM COMMUNITY TREE LIGHTING ON THE CENTRE GREEN

BONUS "TIME TRAVEL" PASSPORT... (\$5 PER PERSON)  
VICTORIAN MODEL RAILROAD DISPLAY (DINESON PARLOR)  
CHILDREN'S CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES (REXFORD HOUSE)  
VISIT WITH VICTORIAN FATHER CHRISTMAS! (BEARDSLEY HOUSE)  
AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!

DONATIONS OF UNWRAPPED TOYS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED FOR  
COVENANT TO CARE

*Please see the signup sheet in Wilton Hall to be a part of this exciting  
new MCC event!*



## **In Our Prayers**

**Alison Abrams** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Jennifer Bittar** (Loraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney**; **Kevin Daly** (Gary Thompson's friend); **Laura** (Nicole Blaiotta's mom); **Dawn** (Donna Konkol's Friend); **Dealmira** (Jonathan Ganino's grandmother); **John Dominic** (Pfalzgraf's neighbor); **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); **Lehre Fuller** (Gail Olson's sister-in-law); **Holly Hallgren**; **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); **Jonathan** (Matt Colegrove's brother); **Kelti** (friend of Liska Gutierrez); **Samia Khoury** (Will Duchon's friend); **Monica Lynch** (Bethany Dupuis' friend); **Nicole Malia**; Mary (Kate Brigg's Mother); **Betty McKeown** (Donna Konkol's mother); **Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **Jean Moffat**; **Olivia Morrison** (Donna Nickdow's niece); **Joe Mumper** (Julie McClenathan's friend); **Pat Nugent**; **Ocampo family** (friends of Liska Gutierrez); **Nancy Olofson**; **Missy & Gail Olson**; **Dean Perosino** (Gayle Hammond's brother); **P.T. Philip** (Liz Sampson's father); **Regina Roberts** (Kathy Maiolo's niece); **Alfredo Rodriguez** (Osirus Gutierrez's cousin); **Noah Santiago** (Shari Carrano's great-grandson); **Carlos Serrano** (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); **Yessika Siccardi** (Sampson family friend); **Ed Simonovich** (Nancy Hedine's friend); **Bernie Sippin**; **Gary Sippin** (Lori Sippin's son); **John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Sheldon & Nancy Smith**; **Christine Stadler**; **Christian & Dain Steiner** (Julie McClenathan's nephews); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Wininger's granddaughter); **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); **Don Whiteley**; **Allen Zeiner** (Ann Zeiner's son); **Ann Zeiner**

**The concerns of our world:** The people of **Gaza**; **Israeli hostages** and their families, the people of **Ukraine, Sudan, Haiti** 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:** Stateside: **Lt. Col. Rachel Hoffman**, Tacoma, Washington (Vaughan Askue's daughter), **Justin Riffard**, Pensacola Naval Air Station, **Zachary Gingras**, 395th Combat Sustainability Support, **Joel Smith**, 250th Engineering Company, **Chris Meneses** (Loraine Zeiner's friend)

## **MCC Community Calendar**

### **Week of Sun. Nov 17<sup>th</sup>**

*WELCOME Raymond Fellow Guest  
Preacher Dave Stuart*

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

### **Mon. Nov 18<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 pm Council (zoom)

### **Tue. Nov 19<sup>th</sup>**

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Wed. Nov 20<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 pm Book Club (Zoom)

### **Thur. Nov 21<sup>st</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

7:30 pm Confirmation Class

### **Sat. Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>**

8-9 pm Spaghetti – Bingo Night

### **Week of Sun. Nov 24<sup>th</sup>**

*Stewardship Sunday*

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Pancake Breakfast

5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Tue. Nov 26<sup>th</sup>**

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Thur. Nov 28<sup>th</sup>**

*Thanksgiving - Office Closed*

### **Fri. Nov 29<sup>th</sup>**

*Thanksgiving Friday-Office Closed*

### **Week of Sun. Dec 1<sup>st</sup>**

*Advent 1*

10:00 am Victorian Christmas Worship

1:00 pm Victorian Christmas Fair

5:00 pm Tree Lighting

5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Mon. Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>**

7:30 pm Outreach (zoom)

### **Tue. Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>**

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

### **Thur. Dec 5<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

7:30 pm Confirmation Class

### **Fri. Dec 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup>**

Senior PF Retreat, Camp Hazen

### **Week of Sun. Dec 8<sup>th</sup>**

*Advent 2*

10:00 am Worship

11:30 am Trustees

5:00 pm Junior PF

### **Mon. Dec 9<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 pm Deacons (zoom)

### **Wed. Dec 11<sup>th</sup>**

11:00 am Morning Circle