

November 2, 2025

Twenty-first 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

Down in the River to Pray

arr. Mark A. Hafso

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Silence & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: We gather today in the presence of God, the One who was, and is,
and ever shall be.

People: We come, surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses!

Leader: Saints of every time and place join us in this worship, their faith
still speaking through our praise.

*People: We remember their love, their courage, their hope. We give thanks for
their lives among us.*

Leader: So come, bring your memories, your gratitude, your longing.

*All: We come to worship God, who gathers the generations, feeds us with mercy,
and makes all things new!*

Prayer of Preparation

Rebecca Cicarelli, Deacon of the Day

***UCC Statement of Faith**

Reading #885 in hymnal

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Hymn (*seated*)

Have Mercy on Me

by Mark Patterson

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.*

Students may transition to Sunday School with their teachers.

***Hymn**

Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

NCH# 400

Students may transition to Sunday School with their teachers.

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

All-encompassing God, we come seeking peace in a world that wears us down. We try so hard, yet our efforts fall apart, and we are tired of carrying more than we can hold. Forgive us for thinking it all depends on us. Forgive us for trying to play your part instead of our own. Renew our strength with your grace, reset our spirits with your peace, and draw us out again to follow where you lead. 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

Moment for Stewardship

Offertory Will the Circle be Unbroken music: Trad. Appalachian; text: C. Winter, B. Rose, M. Taylor
*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

1 Kings 19:1-18, page 322

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

Communion Meditation

The Gentle Revolution of Grace

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

*Closing Hymn

Be Still, My Soul

NCH #488

*Benediction

Postlude

God Be With You

**Please rise, in body or in spirit*

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:** Rebecca Cicarelli
- **Usher:** Arlene Redmond
- **Lay Reader:** Vaughan Askue
- **Trustee:** Bill Brett
- **Counter:** Andrew Logan
- **Sunday School Teacher:** Halloween Special Sunday School
- **Coffee Host:** CE Halloween Special
- **Web Steward:** Scott Young

Communion Team #2

Michelle Correll, Larry Wissink,
Michelle Cardentey, Arlene Redmond,
Mike Pfalzgraf

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. 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.monroecongregationalchurchucc.org)



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

James Allen ⁽⁰³⁾

Mark Malia ⁽⁰⁷⁾

Jack Campbell ⁽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)

Gilles & Joyce Rousseau⁽²⁾ and Karen Matysczak & James Brown ⁽⁴⁾

Outreach

The **Feel The Warmth** mobile community hot supper needs 6-8 volunteers to cook a delicious and nutritious meal for 250+ hungry neighbors. Prep time in the kitchen is at nOURish's temporary kitchen at 1st Cong Church Fairfield, 148 Beach Road, Fairfield from 3 to 5:30 pm. It's then transported to the Harrison Apartments on 651 State Street, Bridgeport, and served to the displaced and homeless population from 6 to 7 pm.

Sign up in Wilton Hall for our next meal on November 20th, talk to Pastor Jenn for more info!



Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe is looking for volunteers!!! Sorting, tagging and hanging occurs every Tuesday at 1:30PM. It's easy to do and the staff will gladly show you what needs to be done. Shifts to man the counter on Fridays and Saturdays are available for volunteers who will open and close the Shoppe from 10-12 or 12-2 or 3. Please contact Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280 with any questions. She can provide you with a procedure list of things to do or just visit the Shoppe during business hours and the volunteer can show you around.



**Save the Date: Outreach Spaghetti
Dinner & Bingo Night
Saturday, November 22nd 5 pm – 8 pm**

**Thanksgiving
Baskets**



The **MCC Covenant to Care Thanksgiving Fundraiser** is on! If you would like to make a donation to supply a family in need with a Thanksgiving meal, please put a donation the offering plate, mail it into the office or 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

There is a **meal train** to support Linda Resnick's family as she continues to fight metastatic breast cancer. Thank you in advance for your support!

Signup here: <https://www.mealtrain.com/trains/qge0d8>

Deliver here: 520 Barn Hill Road, Monroe CT



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.

Nov. 5th 7pm - The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson

Morning Circle invites the women of the congregation to their next meeting on **Wednesday, November 12 at 11am in Dineson Parlor** where they will be putting together **Bean Soup Jars** for the Food Pantry.

Mark your calendars for future meetings:

Wednesday, November 12 at 11AM in Wilton Hall - Bean Soup Jar

Wednesday, December 10 at 12PM (Location TBD) - Christmas luncheon

Please contact Shari Carrano with any questions or comments at 475-342-8145.



Young at Heart date TBD

2026 MCC Women's Retreat

The Lodge at Silver Lake

Friday, April 10 – Sunday, April 12, 2026

Details to follow.



Christian Education



Join us November 30 in Dineson Parlor at 11:15 for **Cheddar Together**: 45 minutes of faith, fellowship, and finger foods. We'll share charcuterie, open up a conversation about life and faith, and simply enjoy being together. Because everything really is better when we're Cheddar Together!



Do you enjoy spending time with teens and helping them feel connected, confident, and cared for? Our **Senior PF** youth group is looking for **adult advisors**! It's a chance to share stories, laughter, and life lessons while building lasting relationships that strengthen our church family and our wider community. If you'd like to learn more, talk with Kate Goyette or Michelle Correll, they'd love to hear from you!

Weekly Bible Study has begun ~ All Are Welcome!

We gather in Dineson Parlor, on **Thursdays** from **9:30-11 am**, to learn with and through one another. After a time of fellowship and prayer concerns, we read and discuss upcoming scripture texts or other faith-related topics. Bring your favorite Bible (whatever version you prefer) and a small notebook. Come as you are!



Trustees & Stewardship



This fall, our congregation embarks on a journey of faith and imagination with our stewardship theme: **"Dreaming God's Dream: No Gift too Small, No Dream too Big."** Together, we are called to remember that stewardship is not just about meeting a budget, it's about opening ourselves to God's vision for our community. Every pledge, every gift of time, every act of service (no matter how modest) becomes part of something far greater than we can accomplish alone. When we give with open hearts, we help build a church where hope is nourished, compassion is practiced, and God's dreams for peace and justice take root. With God's blessing, even our smallest gifts can inspire the biggest possibilities.

Your help would be greatly appreciated on

Saturday, November 15

8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Call Dave Allen with any questions:

203-767-0883 Thank you!



Don't miss the **MCC "Thank you" Pancake Breakfast** following church on
November 23rd - Commitment Sunday!



MCC's handmade jam makes a wonderful host/hostess or teacher gift for the upcoming holidays, as well as a great stocking stuffer!

Just think of the possibilities, you can put it on toast, add it to your smoothies, make a glaze for pork or chicken, add it with cream cheese and crackers to make a yummy appetizer, top it on ice cream, pancakes or waffles and even spread it between layers of cake. There are so many things you can use the jam for. Get some, share some, and enjoy!! Strawberry Jam is available for sale online at <https://monroe-strawberry-festival-since-1972.square.site/>



Sacred Pause

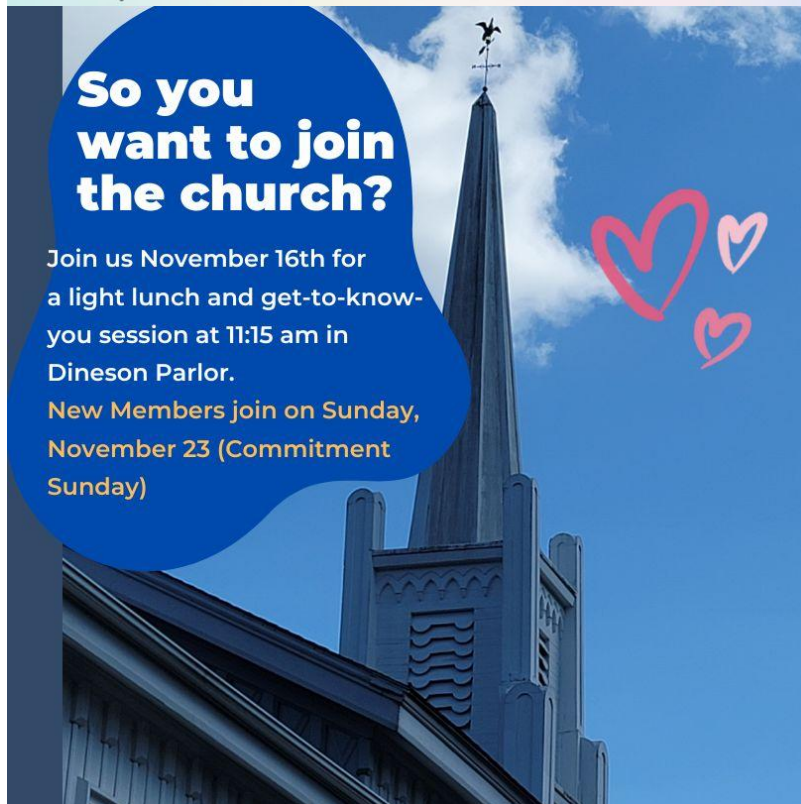
*Looking for a monthly midweek reset?
Join us on 1st Wednesdays from 7–8 pm for a
time of guided Christian meditation, prayerful
stillness and reflection. Dress comfortably,
bring a yoga mat and water bottle.
Everyone is welcome!*

7 pm Wed, Nov 5, Rexford House

So you want to join the church?

Join us November 16th for
a light lunch and get-to-know-
you session at 11:15 am in
Dineson Parlor.

New Members join on Sunday,
November 23 (Commitment
Sunday)



In Our Prayers

The people of **Jamaica**, rebuilding from the storm

Alison Abrams (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Jennifer Bittar** (Loraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney**; **Shari Carrano**; **Lisa Cody & Dave Barton** (friends of Julie and Rob McClenathan); **Bonnie** (Gayle Hammond's cousin); **Cathy** (Julie McClenathan's Friend); **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); **Josh** (Mary Erdmann's 2nd cousin); **Kelti** (friend of Liska Gutierrez), **Samia Khoury** (Will Duchon's friend); **Cindy Kovacs**; **Monica Lynch** (Bethany Dupuis' friend); **Nicole Malia**; **the Manuzzi Family**; **Mary** (Kate Brigg's Mother); **Mary Massar**; **Betty McKeown** (Donna Konkol's mother); **Meghan** (Mary Unger's niece); **Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **Olivia Morrison** (Donna Nickdow's niece); **Nancy Olofson**; **Missy & Gail Olson**; **Donna Parratt**; **Diane Prall**; **Amy Reber** (Pfalzgraf family friend); **Linda Resnick**; **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**; **Cliff Smith**; **Sheldon & Nancy Smith**; **Christine Stadler**; **Chuck Stearns** (Cheri Irwin's cousin); **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); **Jim Woolley** (Jen Nealon's Dad); **Allen & Ann Zeiner**

The concerns of our world: **Humanitarian** efforts and sustained peace; **LGBTQ+ children and their families** facing discrimination; **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 **unhoused, 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), **Corporal Taylor Smith** (Cheri Irwin's Nephew)

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Sun. Nov 2nd

*Communion Sunday, Daylight Savings
Ends (fall back!)*

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

Mon. Nov 3rd

7:30 pm Outreach (Zoom)

Tue. Nov 4th

Election Day

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Nov 5th

7:00 pm Sacred Pause (Dineson)

Thur. Nov 6th

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Nov 9th

10:00 am Worship

11:30 Trustees (Conference Room)

5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF

Mon. Nov. 10th

7:30 Deacons (Zoom)

Tue. Nov 11th

Veteran's Day

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Nov 12th

11:00 am Morning Circle (Dineson)

Thur. Nov 13th

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Sat. Nov 15th

8:30 – 12:30 Trustees Fall Church Work Day

Week of Sun. Nov 16th

10:00 am Worship

11:15 New Member Informational (Dineson)

5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF

Tue. Nov 18th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Nov 19th

7:00 pm Book Club Zoom

Thur. Nov 20th

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)

3:00 pm Feel the Warmth

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Sat. Nov 22nd

5:00 pm Spaghetti & BINGO

Week of Sun. Nov 23rd

New Member Sunday

10:00 am Worship

11:00 Pancake Breakfast

5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF

Tue. Nov 25th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag



Monroe Congregational Church

34 Church Street

10 – 3 Saturday, December 6