

October 1, 2023

**Eighteenth 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.*

+++++

**Gathering Music**

Praise the Lord!

W.A. Mozart

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Moment of Silence & Lighting of the Candles**

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Gathered as God's people, we come to worship together:

*People: Singing praises to the One who loves us, opening our hearts to the One who calls us.*

Leader: Called to be followers of Jesus, we come to share our lives together:

*People: To celebrate the joys of our hearts, to mingle our tears with God's.*

Leader: Challenged to become partners with the Spirit, we will seek peace and hope:

*People: Offering our food to our enemies, giving a drink of water to those who are thirsty.*

*All: God, help us to gather in your name.*

**\*Prayer of Preparation**

Michelle Correll, Deacon of the Day

**\*UCC Statement of Faith**

Reading #885 in hymnal

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

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

*God of Moses and Miriam, we could live at peace with others, but it's difficult sometimes. We could joyfully welcome those we do not know, and make outsiders our best friends, but it's much easier to choose the safety of a closed circle. Forgive us for our choices. Whisper your grace and hopes to us, so that we may stop cursing our enemies, and choose to bless them as we do our friends and family. Help us to set aside any stumbling blocks to discipleship we may carry, so we can better follow Jesus Christ, who leads us in your ways of love and compassion. 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.*

## Confirmation Dedication

*Confirmands: Griffin Thomas Allen, Ryan John Andreczyk, & Sophina Crucita Everett Gingras*

**Pastor:** Parents, do you promise your continued love, support, and care as your children explore what it means to be a Christian and a member of this church? Will you support them as they begin to mature in faith taking more responsibility for their own spiritual journey?

**Parents:** *I do, with the help of God*

**Deacon:** Will the congregation please rise, if comfortably able? Members and friends of Monroe Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, will you show these young people examples of Christian love? Will you support them through your prayers and interest? Will you care for them by sharing your time and experience in the faith?

**Congregation:** *I will, with the help of God.*

**Pastor:** Confirmands, today marks the beginning of a commitment to grow and learn. Soon we will explore questions about God, Jesus Christ, the Bible, the Church, and Christian faith. You have heard the promises of your parents and the congregation. With this support, do you promise to attend worship regularly (in person or online), to prepare and participate when asked, and to support each other along the way, as best you are able?

**Confirmands:** *I will, with the help of God.*

**Unison Prayer (All):** *Gracious God, Bless these confirmands on their journey. May they grow in knowledge and faith. Guide them with your spirit, and show them the love and peace of Christ, that passes all understanding. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen*

## 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

All Earth Rejoice With a Gladsome Voice  
*Our offering plate will be passed among us today.  
You may give online at [www.mcc-ucc/donate](http://www.mcc-ucc/donate).*

*A. Vivaldi, 1708*

### \*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

## Sacrament of Holy Communion

### Scripture

Exodus 3:1–15, pg 49

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

### Meditation

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

### Communion Hymn (seated)

Renew Your Church

NCH #311

### 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.*

### \*Closing Hymn

Blessed Be the Tie that Binds

NCH #393

### \*Benediction

### Parting Music

The Storm Is Passing Over

Charles Tindley, 1905

\*\*\*\*\*

*\*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.

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

- **Deacon:** Michelle Correll
- **Usher:** Rob McClenathan
- **Lay Reader:** Kristina Logan
- **Trustee:** Dave Allen
- **Counter:** Tom Briggs
- **Coffee Host:** Jenna Rice
- **Web Steward:** Scott Young

### Communion Team #2

Michelle Correll, Kristina Logan,  
Larry Wissink, Emma Campbell &  
Leanne McEvoy



**The flowers this morning are given by Jeanette & Julio Cardentey Morales in celebration of their Wedding Anniversary and by Jean Moffat and Linda Moffat Resnick in loving memory of George A Moffat**

**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>



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

Andrea Crosnier <sup>(01)</sup>  
Vinay Sampson <sup>(01)</sup>

Gayle Hammond <sup>(02)</sup>

Julie Heussner <sup>(05)</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)

Lois and David Spence <sup>(06)</sup> and Christine and Gary Hare <sup>(06)</sup>

\*\*\*\*\*

### Faith Formation



**Register Now for 2023/2024 Children & Youth Programming at MCC!**

We are planning this year's programming!  
Please sign up your child(ren) and youth for the 2023/2024 season.

**Sign up** on our website **MCC-UCC.org** or

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C48ADAC2CA5FEC61-youth1>



Love working with youth, want to spread God's love to the children of our congregation in this upcoming **22/23 school year**? **Please consider teaching Sunday School** (Pre k - 6th) **or being an adult advisor for our Jr PF youth group** (ages 11-14). If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to Jeanette Cardentey Morales at [jeanettemcardentey@gmail.com](mailto:jeanettemcardentey@gmail.com) or 203-257-9637.

## Trustees

# 2023 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN THANK YOU!!!

Thanks to your generous gifts, work has commenced on the exterior painting of the Meetinghouse & Beardsley Hall.

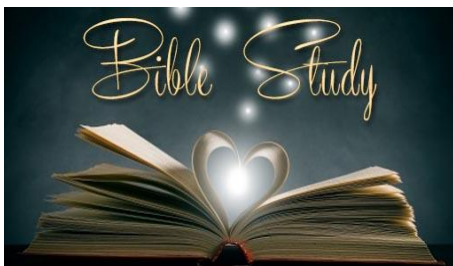
We hope that when you see it, you'll say a little prayer of thanks for all the work that has been done to get it started.



## We appreciate your support!

## Deacons

**Snack & Chat with NOOMA:** During this program year, Pastor Jenn will be offering a snack and chat group after Sunday Worship once a month. NOOMA is a series of 24 short films (less than 14 minutes each) that "blend [events of] everyday with discussion about God". Each short story covers a specific topic on a real-life situation, usually by relating the various experiences from a Christian perspective. The series features Rob Bell, the author of Love Wins. The name NOOMA comes from a phonetic spelling of the Greek word πνευμα (pneuma), meaning "wind or spirit". Join us in Dineson Parlor to enjoy some snacks, a video and light discussion – no prep necessary and all are welcome! Oct 29 – SHELLS Nov 12 – TOMATO Dec 10 – SHE



**Weekly Bible Study** We cordially invite you to join us each week as we gather together to learn with and through one another. All are welcome in Dineson Parlor, from **9:30-11 am**. 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. Let Pastor Jenn know if you have any questions!

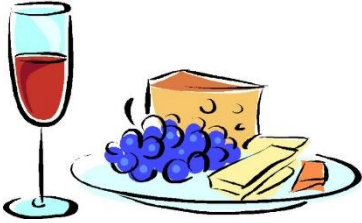
## Outreach

### St George's Supper – Monday, October 9th



We are looking for volunteers to shop or make sandwiches. Please consider a cash donation this month to help us feed our neighbors, look for the basket at coffee hour to contribute. Any amount would be gratefully received. Please memo on checks: "St George".

Please contact Stacy at 203-500-1279 with questions. Thank you!



### Outreach Wine Tasting Fundraiser for CWS Disaster Relief

*October 14th at the Fracassini's home, 55 Misty Lane, Monroe*

This year, our **Outreach Wine Tasting** will be raising funds towards Church World Service's Disaster Relief efforts. When natural disaster strikes, CWS programs help people prepare for the worst, making plans and gathering supplies. Whether in Morocco or Sudan, Maui or Mississippi, in just a few moments lives are torn apart. Whether it's a natural disaster or a humanitarian one, CWS teams up with other responders to meet immediate needs. And when the time is right, they shift focus to long-term recovery. When people are forced from their homes, CWS works hard to make sure they have safe and dignified lives. The road to recovery and safety may be a long one, but no one should walk it alone.

Please bring a wineglass and appetizer to share! Suggested donation is \$20/person.

Unable to attend in person, but want to contribute? See our basket at coffee hour. Many thanks to Roy Nealon for providing the wines for the evening, and our gracious hosts Linda and Jack Fracassini! Sign up here, or in Wilton Hall:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44A8AC22A2FB6-wine>



The **Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe** is looking for **volunteers** to help sort, tag and hang donated merchandise on Tuesdays at 1:15 PM. Sales associates are needed on Fridays for shifts from 10-12:30 and 12:30-3 and on Saturdays from 10-12 and 12-2. It's easy to do with a list of procedures that you can read over or visit a volunteer during business hours and they'd be glad to help you with any questions regarding opening or closing. Please contact Susie Cuseo with any questions at [thecuseos@yahoo.com](mailto:thecuseos@yahoo.com) or 203-268-0280.



**Heifer International** is a charity Morning Circle collects spare change for. This year we have sent \$100 in gifts to families in need around the world. Bees and goats are a couple of gifts that can help families support themselves. Offsprings of the animals are given to neighbors so that they too can sustain themselves making the community stronger and self-supporting. A collection jar is set out on the table during coffee hour. Contact Susie Cuseo at [thecuseos@yahoo.com](mailto:thecuseos@yahoo.com) or call 203-268-0280 with any questions.

Give the Gift of Sight by donating your used prescription glasses, sunglasses and cases. Throughout the month of October a basket will be available by the coffee table. Your gifts will be cleaned, measured and given to someone who will see the world clearly when reading or seeing the face of a loved one. Contact Susie Cuseo at [thecuseos@yahoo.com](mailto:thecuseos@yahoo.com) or call 203-268-0280 with any questions.



\*\*\*\*\*

### Fellowship

**Young At Heart:**  
**Thursday, October 26** at noon.  
 Details to be announced.



Have you signed up to be a Prayer Partner yet? There's only a couple of weeks left to do so. What's a Prayer Partner, you may ask? After you complete your information sheet, another will be mailed to you with the name of the person you are to pray for. Continue to keep them in your thoughts daily, maybe write them a note or card signed by "Your Prayer Partner" and use the church's address (34 Church St. Monroe, CT 06468) as the return. In May 2024 we will hold a "Big Reveal" potluck luncheon in Wilton Hall and find out who's praying for whom. It's very easy and takes the smallest amount of time to do. Contact Susie Cuseo at [thecuseos@yahoo.com](mailto:thecuseos@yahoo.com) or call 203-268-0280 with any questions.



**Morning Circle** meets the second Wednesday of the month with the exception of January and February. We work in collaboration with the Food Pantry providing bean soup jars for Thanksgiving, birthday bags for children who visit with their families, collect women's hygiene products and make trick-or-treat bags in October. We put together Church World Service hygiene kits for international families in crisis and collect spare change for Heifer International. Please contact Shari Carrano

with any questions or comments at 203-400-3563.

### **Our calendar of meetings**

Wednesday, October 11 - Trick-or-treat bags for Food Pantry

Wednesday, November 8 - Bean Soup Jars for Food Pantry - Gift tags

Wednesday, December 13 - Annual Christmas luncheon - Location TBD

Wednesday, March 13 - Birthday bags for Food Pantry

Wednesday, April 10 - Church World Service hygiene kits

Wednesday, May 8 - Collection of Women's hygiene products

Wednesday, June 12 - Annual June picnic - Location TBD



**Please join us for Adult PF the fourth Saturdays of the month in Dineson Parlor from 5:30 to 8pm!** Bring your own beverage and a snack to share. We are excited to bring Adult PF back to MCC in a new format! Each month will be led by different members of the group. It could a discussion of an article or movie, a game night or a service project for MCC or the greater community, or an outing etc. Your presence and ideas are wanted and welcome. All adults young and old are encouraged to attend. Please reach out to Janie Allen via phone/text/email at 203-522-3686 or [janeFallen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janeFallen@sbcglobal.net) with any thoughts or questions. Our **next meeting will be Saturday, 10/28**. Come check it out!



The book club selections for upcoming months:

October 18th - 7 pm - The Second Mrs Astor by Shana Abe'

November 15th - 7 pm - Come Fly the World by Julia Cooke

December 20th - 7 pm - The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd

**As always, we encourage anyone to join us on the 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 or home phone. [pjsh55@gmail.com](mailto:pjsh55@gmail.com) or 203-452-0850

## ***In Our Prayers***

**Joey** (Calvert Locks); **Alison Abrams** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Griffin Allen**; **Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Jennifer Bittar** (Loraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney**; **Byron Brown & Bruce Bryant** (friends of Will Duchon); **Lori Cimeno** (Peggy & Ron Villani's Daughter); **Kevin Daly** (Gary Thompson's friend); **Dawn** (Donna Konkol's Friend); **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); **Clark Gingras**; **Mary & Rachel Heerema** (Julia Gutierrez's mom & sister); **Heidi** (Diane Prall's sister); **Bob Heffernan** (Ann Zeiner's son-in-law); **Brian Hopkins** (Donna Konkol's cousin); **Vera James** (Jenn Wissink's mother); **Jonathan** (Matt Colegrove's brother); **Kelti** (friend of Liska Gutierrez); **Walter Lane** (Marge Fox's brother-in-law); **Monica Lynch** (Bethany Dupuis' friend); **Nicole Malia**; **Ron McGlinchey** (Pastor Jenn's dad); **Betty McKeown** (Donna Konkol's mother); **Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **Jean Moffat**; **Olivia Morrison** (Donna Nickdow's niece); **Bert Muizulis**; **Joe Mumper** (Julie McClenathan's friend); **Albert Nimons** (Gary Thompson's cousin); **Pat Nugent**; **Ocampo family** (friends of Liska Gutierrez); **Nancy Olofson**; **Missy Olson**; **Osborne** (Colegrove's Family friend); **Dean Perosino** (Gayle Hammond's brother); **Geno Piacentini** (Karen MacDonald's husband); **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); **Bernie Sippin**; **Gary Sippin** (Lori Sippin's son); **John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Christine Stadler**; **Tom Steen** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's dad); **Rev. Dr. Sheldon Smith**; **Christian & Dain Steiner** (Julie McClenathan's nephews); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Wininger's granddaughter); **Olga Terwilliger** (Nancy Hedine's sister-in-law); **Richard Turco** (Jack Fracassini's cousin); **Ruth Wakeley**; **Charles L. Wynn, Sr.**, (and his mother) **Alleane** (friend of Will Duchon); **Allen Zeiner** (Ann Zeiner's son); **Ann Zeiner**

**The concerns of our world:** The people of **Ukraine**; **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**; Our friends living on the **Cheyenne River Sioux Reservation** and in **Oaxaca, Mexico**

**Those serving in the military, veterans & their families:** Germany: **Rachel Hoffman** (Vaughan Askue's daughter), Virginia: **Chris Meneses** (Loraine Zeiner's friend), Georgia: **Zachary Peters** (Jacob Parker-Burgard's cousin), Kuwait: **Jon Sanchez** (Don Whiteley's grandson-in-law) Stateside: **CPL Zachary Gingras**, 395th Combat Sustainability Support, Middletown. **Joel Smith** (250th Engineering Company)

## MCC Community Calendar

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

*Communion*

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Junior PF (Plasko's Corn Maze)

5:00 pm Senior PF

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

7 pm Outreach (Zoom)

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

1:15 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

### **Thurs. Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Confirmation Class

6:00 pm Chime Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

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

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Junior PF

5:00 pm Senior PF

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

*Indigenous Peoples Day - Office Closed*

3:30 pm St George's Supper

7:30 pm Deacons (Zoom)

### **Tue. Oct 10<sup>th</sup>**

1:15 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

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

11:00 am Morning Circle

### **Thurs. Oct 12<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Confirmation Class

6:00 pm Chime Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

### **Fri. Oct 13<sup>th</sup>**

Jr PF Legends of Fear

### **Sat. Oct 14<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 pm Outreach Wine Tasting -  
Fracassini's Home

### **Week of Sun. Oct 15<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Mon. Oct 16<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 pm Council (Zoom)

### **Tue. Oct 17<sup>th</sup>**

1:15 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

### **Wed. Oct 18<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 pm Book Club

### **Thurs. Oct 19<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Confirmation Class

6:00 pm Chime Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

### **Week of Sun. Oct 22<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Junior PF

5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Tue. Oct 24<sup>th</sup>**

1:15 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

### **Thurs. Oct 26<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study

12 pm Young @ Heart

6:00 pm Confirmation Class

6:00 pm Chime Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

### **Sat. Oct 28<sup>th</sup>**

5:30 pm Adult PF

### **Week of Sun. Oct 29<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Worship

11:15 am Snack & Chat NOOMA

5:00 pm Junior PF

5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Tue. Oct 31<sup>st</sup>**

1:15 am Mustard Seed Sort and Tag