

September 21, 2025

Fifteenth 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

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: Watch your step! You've just landed on holy ground.

People: Wait, really? How do we know God is here?

Leader: Listen up! The blessing is already unfolding.

People: But can we trust it? Is it real?

Leader: Drop your defenses, open your heart! God is closer than you think.

All: Then let us worship! Surely the Lord is in this place!

Opening Prayer

Mike Pfalzgraf, Deacon of the Day

***Our Church's Covenant**

inside front cover of hymnal

Children's Message

***Hymn**

O My Soul, Bless Your Creator

NCH #13

Students may go to Sunday School with their teachers; the nursery is open for the littles.

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

God of surprising presence, you once promised that through your people, the whole earth would taste blessing. Yet we admit: too often we love to receive without learning how to give. We draw lines around who belongs and who doesn't. We cling to your gifts as if they were ours to control. We manipulate, we calculate, and our lives hum on a frequency out of tune with yours.

Forgive us when we miss you, because we weren't even looking. Forgive us when we claim that if we can't see you, no one else can either. Forgive us when we try to trap your blessing inside our fences instead of letting it flow free. Wake us up, God.

Open our eyes to holy ground beneath our feet. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, your promise made flesh. 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

He Watching Over Israel

*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

Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17 pg. 22

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

Sermon

Messy Families, Faithful God

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

***Closing Hymn**

God Reigns o'er All the Earth

NCH #21

Benediction

Postlude

Surely the Presence of the Lord

Lanny Wolfe

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.

Thank you for assisting in this morning's worship!

Deacon: Mike Pfalzgraf **Usher:** Mike Pellegino **Lay Reader:** Glenn Brigham
Trustee: Caleb Nealon **Counter:** Glenn Brigham **Web Steward:** Scott Young
Sunday School Teacher: Ann-Marie Campbell
Coffee Host: Jill Sapak & Bill Brett



***The flowers this morning are given by Will Duchon
in celebration of the Choir and Bell Choir***

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>



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

Grace Hisey ⁽²¹⁾
Mary Massar ⁽²¹⁾

Daniela Combs ⁽²⁴⁾
Kristen Prall ⁽²⁴⁾

Nancy Hedine ⁽²⁶⁾



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)
Bert & Gay Muizulis ⁽²⁵⁾



A **meal train** has begun to support Linda Resnick's family while she remains in the hospital undergoing tests and treatments. Thank you in advance for your support!

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

Deliver here: 520 Barn Hill Road, Monroe CT



Pledge Envelopes: If you pledge to the church and would like to use pledge envelopes, please call 203-268-9327 or email Diane at secretary@MCC-UCC.org before the **September 30th order deadline** – thank you!

(Offering envelopes are also available in the pews.)

Fellowship



2026 MCC Women's Retreat: The Lodge at Silver Lake, Friday, April 10 – Sunday, April 12, 2026. Details to follow!

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.



Sept. 24th 7pm - Mad Honey by Jennifer Finney Boylan & Jodi Picoult
Nov. 5th 7pm - The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson



Morning Circle invites the women of the congregation to their meeting on **Wednesday, October 8th at 11am in Dineson Parlor**: Trick-or-Treat bags

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

Young at Heart will meet on September 25th at noon.
Testo's Restaurant, 505 Main Street, Monroe
Marge Fox (203)706-2132 margefox48@gmail.com



Be a 2025/2026 Prayer Partner! We're kicking off MCC's Annual Prayer Partner activity and would love for you to join in. Sign-up sheets are in Wilton Hall. Fill it in, and e-mail it to Michelle at michelle.cardentey@gmail.com, or put your completed form in the pocket on the bulletin board.

Last May's celebration was a joy! We learned who was praying for us, shared good food, and had lots of laughs. This year will be just as simple and meaningful: pray for your partner and send a note now and then to let them know you're thinking of them. I'll assign you a partner once all the forms are in (hopefully by Oct 15). One more thing: keep your identity a secret until May—it's part of the fun! Thanks for helping us cover our church family in prayer. In faith and fellowship, Michelle Cardentey

Christian Education



Love working with youth, want to spread God's love to the children of our congregation in this upcoming **25/26 school year**? **Please consider teaching Sunday School** (Pre k - 6th) **or being an adult advisor for our Jr PF youth group** (ages 11-14). You can speak to Jeanette with any questions or to express interest. Thank 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!



Outreach



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.



Covenant to Care welcomes any donations of NEW backpacks, lunch boxes, and school supplies for all ages! Monetary gifts are always welcome! Please bring whatever you can to the church (marked *Covenant to Care: attention Diane*) as soon as possible so the children can start using your generous donations -thank you!



Cleaning out your drawers for the fall? If you come across any **used prescriptions glasses, sunglasses or cases, please consider donating them** in the collection basket in Wilton Hall on the coffee table until the end of September. Your donations get cleaned, checked and given to someone who will finally see the skyline clearly, read the label on food products or enjoy the smile on a loved one's face. Give the gift of sight by donating your prescription glasses, cases or sunglasses. Please contact Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280 with any questions. Christian Education

Music Notes



Always wanted to try Handbells, but not sure if it is right for you? Now's the time! We have a great group of amazing people ringing, and are looking for more. Rehearsals are on **Thursdays 6-7 pm in the Meeting House**. We will show you all the steps of learning to read your notes and play your bells.

Sing to the Lord a new song! If you've ever considered singing in the **Choir**, now is the time to give it a try. You don't need to be a trained singer. All that's required is a love of sharing music with our congregation, music that celebrates the love of God and the beauty of a spiritual path.

Not sure? Come sit in on a rehearsal. Just observe and listen. Our Choir is not only about singing. We have a warm and genuine fellowship among the members. We even have fun at each rehearsal.

This is the best time of the year to give the Choir a try. We will soon be preparing wonderful music for Advent and Christmas. Preparing and presenting this music is a profound and meaningful experience. **Choir rehearsals are every Thursday at 7 PM.** Take a chance and give it a try!

Talk to Heather or Will today to become a part of these fun groups!

Deacons



Event Date: Sat., December 6, 2025 10 am – 3 pm

Dear Victorians of MCC:

The Chairs of the forthcoming Second Annual Victorian Christmas Fair shall require your valuable experience from the previous annum, as well as your gracious desire to partake newly in this most festive of endeavors. Pray, don your Victorian thought caps and bonnets, and lend us your

presence and ideas at a **meeting to be held TODAY, September 21st at 11:15 am in the parlor** to deliberate and plan for the approaching celebration.

Yours faithfully and most sincerely, The Victorian Chairs, Arlene, Barbara & Jessica



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, Oct 1, Dineson Parlor

Blessing of the Animals

Join us Sunday, September 28th at 10 am
as we worship in Wilton Hall and bless the animals
that bring us such joy and love!
BYOP! (Bring your own pet!) *Please keep on leash
or in a carrier, or bring a picture*****





Did you forget to buy **JAM** at the Strawberry Festival? Good news!
We have some available for sale online at <https://monroe-strawberry-festival-since-1972.square.site/>



Monroe Lions Club
Monroe, Connecticut – United States

Shred & E-Waste Fundraiser

October 4, 9 – 12 p.m.

**Corner of Rtes. 25 & 59
435 Main St., Monroe**

Document Pricing

**Paper & Publications
\$15 per box, any size**

**Donations benefit Masuk
H.S. Scholarships**



Electronics Recycling Pricing

- Cell phones – \$10
- Computers – \$20
- Hard Drives – \$10
- Laptops – \$20
- Tablets – \$10
- Other electronics
donation amount
determined by type

QUESTIONS?

Monroelionsclub8985@gmail.com

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); **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 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); **Jim Woolley** (Jen Nealon's Dad); **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), **Corporal Taylor Smith** (Cheri Irwin's Nephew)

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Sun. Sept 21st

10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Victorian Fair Meeting
5:00 pm Senior PF

Tue. Sept 23rd

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Thur. Sept 25th

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)
12:00 pm Young at Heart
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Sept 28th

Blessing of the Animals
10:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

Tue. Sept 30th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Oct 1st

7:30pm Sacred Pause (Dineson)

Thur. Oct 2nd

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Oct 5th

Communion Sunday
10:00 am Worship
11:30 am Trustees
5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

Mon. Oct 6th

7:30 pm Outreach

Tue. Oct 7th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Oct 8th

11:00 am Morning Circle

Thur. Oct 9th

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Oct 12th

10:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

Mon. Oct 13th

Indigenous People's Day – Office Closed
3:00 pm St George's Supper
7:30 pm Deacons

Tue. Oct 14th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. Oct 15th

7:00 pm Book Club

Thur. Oct 16th

9:30 am Bible Study (Dineson)
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. Oct 19th

10:00 am Worship
5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF