

April 14, 2024

**Third 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.*

+++++

**Gathering Music**

Christ Is Our Rock

Ralph Vaughan Williams

**Welcome & Announcements**

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

**Call to Worship**

Leader: Show us your ways, O Lord! Lead us in your truth and teach us.

*People: Open our eyes, minds, and hearts to know your will and to follow it.*

Leader: Reveal your vision for us and keep us focused and faithful to what you would have us do.

*People: Bring us together to worship and work for your purpose and move us forward into your future.*

*All: Let us worship with joy! Alleluia!*

**Opening Prayer**

Jessica Pfalzgraf, Deacon of the Day

**\*Our Church's Covenant**

inside front cover of hymnal

**Children's Message**

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

**\*Hymn**

I Greet You, Sure Redeemer (verses 1,2 & 5)

NCH #251

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

*Holy One, the Alleluias of Easter still ring in our ears. Help us to keep singing, but not so loudly that it drowns out the sound of our neighbors needing help, or our family members' pain, or our own need for you. You are the One who listens in the darkness for our pleas. Help us to do the same for our friends, family, and even our enemies! Resurrect your melody within us, that we might sing while we work. Through you, may the Song of Life call us together in your Holy Harmony. 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

The Garden Song  
Julie & Rob McClenathan

Dave Mallett, 1979

*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

Acts 1:1-14, pg 991

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

### Sermon

Standing in the Gap

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

### \*Closing Hymn

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us (verses 1 & 3)

NCH #252

### Benediction

### Choral Benediction

### Parting Music

Crown Him King of Kings

*J.S. Bach, 1725 more or less*

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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.

**Health & Safety:** In order to keep our community members healthy (*including children under 12, the immune-compromised and those not yet fully vaccinated*), please stay home if you feel sick or have a fever (catch us on YouTube/Facebook). We have provided hand sanitizer and tissues in the pews, please use carefully as the chemicals are corrosive on wood and other surfaces.



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:** Jessica Pfalzgraf
- **Usher:** Arlene Redmond
- **Lay Reader:** David Walker
- **Trustee:** Dave Allen
- **Counter:** Mark Barnhart
- **Coffee Host:** Michelle Cardentey, Julie & Rob McClenatan
- **Web Steward:** Scott Young



**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](http://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)

Myron Wininger <sup>(14)</sup>

David Bartlett <sup>(19)</sup>

Samantha Post <sup>(19)</sup>

Adam Bartlett <sup>(19)</sup>

Joseph Bartlett <sup>(19)</sup>

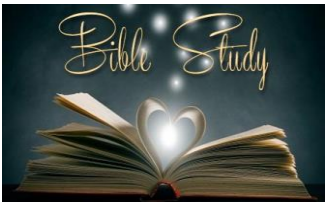


**Happy Wedding Anniversary** to the following couples and to anyone we may have missed, we will keep you in our prayers.

(Number is anniversary date)

Melissa & Brian Coleman <sup>(17)</sup>

## Deacons



**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.



**Snack & Chat with NOOMA:** 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! **Apr 21 – STORE**

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## Outreach



### **CROP Hunger Walk – Sunday, May 5th**

No one in this world should be hungry. That's why the CROP Hunger Walk is more than just a yearly gathering or event for me. It is my chance to help families who are struggling with hunger and concerned about where they'll find their next meal. The Walk is how I take action to make sure that one more person has enough to eat.

I want to help as many people as I can in my community and around the world and would love your support. Please join me in the fight against hunger by making a donation! The steps we take - and the funds we raise - support programs that provide meals and other immediate support, as well as long-lasting solutions to hunger.

This year's Bridgeport, CT Crop Hunger Walk will take place Sunday May 5, 2024. Money raised will benefit people locally and around the globe. Your tax-deductible donation helps us as individuals make a difference. You can **see me or another member of the team at coffee hour to donate. If you would like to join this year's walking team, please let me know.** - Julie McClenathan

**Follow this link to support Team MCC!**

<https://events.crophungerwalk.org/cropwalks/julie-mcclenathan?login=true>



**Morning Circle** invites the women of the congregation to their next meeting on Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 11a.m. in Dineson Parlor. Contact Shari Carrano with questions 475-342-8145.

### **Our calendar of meetings**

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

**Wednesday, June 12** - Annual June picnic - Location TBD



Help Needed for the **Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe!** Do you have spare time on Tuesdays at 1pm? Volunteers come to the back entrance of the Shoppe to help sort, hang and tag merchandise that have been donated. It's easy to do and any of the ladies can help you figure it out. Donations of gently-used clothing, toys, shoes, book and small household products can be left in the collection box just outside the Shoppe, brought in on Tuesdays while the ladies are sorting or during business hours: Fridays 10-3 or Saturdays 10-2. Sales associates are also needed during two-hour shifts when the Shoppe is open. You can either open or close and it's easy to do. Come visit the volunteer and she'll gladly show you what needs to be done. A procedure list can be sent to you via email by contacting Susie Cuseo at [thecuseos@yahoo.com](mailto:thecuseos@yahoo.com) or 203-268-0280, if you need more information or have questions or comments.

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### Fellowship

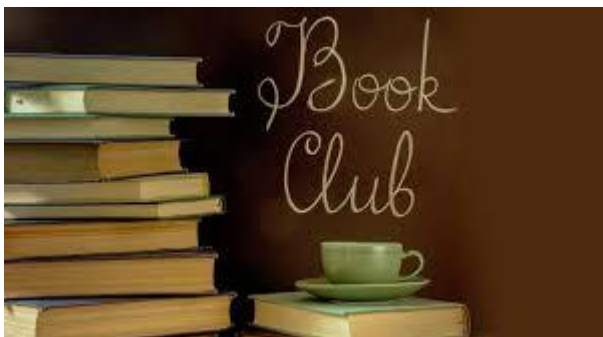


**Young at Heart will meet Thursday, April 25** at noon  
Country Pizza, 418 Main Street, Monroe

**RSVP** to Linda Fracassini at coffee hour or call 203-261-5484



**Please join us for Adult PF the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month** in Dineson Parlor from **5:30 to 8pm!** **(No meeting in April)** 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 be 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 [janeEallen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janeEallen@sbcglobal.net) with any thoughts or questions. **Our next meeting will be Saturday, 5/2. Come check it out!**



**We encourage anyone to join us 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

The book club selections for upcoming months:

- April 17<sup>th</sup>** 7 pm The Queens Fortune by Allison Pataki Host: TBD
- May 15<sup>th</sup>** 7 pm Master Slave Husband Wife by Ilyan Woo Host: TBD
- June 19<sup>th</sup>** 7 pm Horse by Geraldine Brooks Host: TBA

**52<sup>nd</sup> Strawberry Festival 2024  
will be held on Saturday, June 15 (10am-5pm)  
& Sunday, June 16 (11am-5pm).**



Have you marked your calendars? It's been said that our event is a highlight for many people, including those who come to taste the shortcake, as well as the connoisseurs of strawberry pie and jam. Our crafters note that we are very friendly and that there are numerous volunteers who help out that weekend. That's the success of the festival: our volunteers. They are the heart and soul; a family who comes together



to serve the community and reconnect with each other while doing so. There's so many ways to help out: berry picking, jam making, face painting, being a runner for orders, sorting, hulling, dipping those beautiful berries, and then there's making pies, shortcake or smoothies. You can also help out by baking some yummy goodies that will be sold at the Country Store: breads, cookies, etc. Please consider that it will be hot under the tent, so please do not send donations that may melt with the heat. co-chair, Susie Cuseo



**Jam sessions are in full swing.** You can volunteer for any area in May when signup sheets go up in Wilton Hall. Our kickoff day is Sunday, June 2 where we will have communion with the biscuits used for the shortcake. Let's make this another successful event!!! Please contact our co-chairs (Susie Cuseo, Clark/Jenn Gingras, Josh Post or Frank Wittenauer) with any questions, comments or concerns.

You can sign up using this link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094CAEAA22A4FB6-48041861-jamsessions>.



**Historian's Notebook:**

On May 16th, from noon to 1:00 p.m. the Southern New England Conference UCC (SNECUCC) will hold a zoom presentation on "Archiving Your Church Records". If anyone is interested in joining me for this informative presentation, please contact me for the network link that will allow you to register.

Gary Thompson, Church Historian [mailglt@yahoo.com](mailto:mailglt@yahoo.com)

you are invited to

# RESTORING HOPE

A Moderated Conversation with  
Award Winning Artist & Philanthropist

*Amy Grant*

FUNDRAISER DINNER

Scan me

Help transform the lives of our community by offering safe housing, addiction recovery, food for struggling families, healthcare services and other wrap around services.

**Thursday, May 2nd**  
RECEPTION 6PM - 7PM  
DINNER & PROGRAM 7PM - 10PM

**STAMFORD MARRIOTT HOTEL**  
243 Tresser Blvd,  
Stamford, CT 06901

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Expanding Hope. Rebuilding Lives.

[www.BridgeportRescueMission.org](http://www.BridgeportRescueMission.org)



The need is constant.  
The gratification is instant.  
Give blood.



**American  
Red Cross**



## **Monroe Lions Club's Spring Blood Drive**

Monroe Congregational Church, 34 Church St. – Monroe, CT

**Wednesday, May 1**

**8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

How to donate? <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>

**redcrossblood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS**



## In Our Prayers

**Cheri Irwin, and family, in the passing of her husband, Bill; Alison Abrams** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Jennifer Bittar** (Lorraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney; Byron Brown & Bruce Bryant** (friends of Will Duchon); **Lori Cimeno** (Peggy & Ron Villani's Daughter); **Dave Coffey; 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); **Lehre Fuller** (Gail Olson's sister-in-law); **Clark Gingras; Peter Hallgren; Mary & Rachel Heerema** (Julia Gutierrez's mom & sister); **Heidi** (Diane Prall's sister); **Brad Heines** (Susie Cuseo's friend); **Bob Heffernan** (Ann Zeiner's son-in-law); **Heather Henning; Brian Hopkins** (Donna Konkol's cousin); **Bill Irwin** (Cheri's husband); **Vera James** (Jenn Wissink's mother); **Joey** (Calvert Locks); **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; 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); **Pat Nugent; Ocampo family** (friends of Liska Gutierrez); **Nancy Olofson; Missy & Gail Olson; 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); **Ed Simonovich** (Nancy Hedine's friend); **Bernie Sippin; Gary Sippin** (Lori Sippin's son); **John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Christine Stadler; Tom Steen** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's dad); **Christian & Dain Steiner** (Julie McClenathan's nephews); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Winger's granddaughter); **Wayne Thompson** (Gary Thompson's brother); **Richard Turco** (Jack Fracassini's cousin); **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:** Stateside: **Justin Riffard,** Pensacola Naval Air Station, **Zachary Gingras,** 395th Combat Sustainability Support, **Joel Smith,** 250th Engineering Company Germany: **Rachel Hoffman** (Vaughan Askue's daughter), Chicago: **Chris Meneses** (Lorraine Zeiner's friend), Kuwait: **Jon Sanchez** (Don Whiteley's grandson-in-law)

## **MCC Community Calendar**

### **Week of Sun. Apr 14<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Worship  
11:30 am Trustees  
1:00 pm Junior PF at the movies  
5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Tue. Apr 16<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

### **Wed. Apr 17<sup>th</sup>**

7:00 pm Book Club

### **Thurs. Apr 18<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 pm Bell Choir  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

### **Fri. Apr 19<sup>th</sup>**

11:30 am Jam Session

### **Sat. Apr 20<sup>th</sup>**

*Junior PF Lock-in*

### **Week of Sun. Apr 21<sup>st</sup>**

10:00 am Worship  
5:00 pm Senior PF

### **Mon. Apr 22<sup>nd</sup>**

7:30 pm Council (Zoom)

### **Tue. Apr 23<sup>rd</sup>**

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

### **Thurs. Apr 25<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study  
12:00 pm YAH (Country Pizza)  
6:00 pm Confirmation Class  
6:00 pm Bell Choir  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

### **Sat. Apr 27<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am Jam Session

### **Week of Sun. Apr 28<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Worship  
11:00 am Lincoln at Coffee Hour  
5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF

### **Tue. Apr 30<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

### **Wed. May 1<sup>st</sup>**

7:30-2:30 Monroe Line's Club Blood Drive

### **Thurs. May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study  
6:00 pm Confirmation Class  
6:00 pm Bell Choir  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

### **Sat. May 4<sup>th</sup>**

5:30 pm Adult PF

### **Week of Sun. May 5<sup>th</sup>**

*Communion*  
10:00 am Worship  
11:30 am Trustees  
1:30 pm Crop Walk  
5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF