

April 21, 2024

Fourth 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.*

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Gathering Music

Crown Him King of Kings

J.S. Bach, 1730

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: Let us fill our hearts and minds with hope as we hear the Words of
Jesus Christ.

People: "Peace be with you."

Leader: When peace and justice seem uncertain, let us hear anew the Words of
Jesus Christ.

People: "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds?"

Leader: Let us be comforted by the presence of Christ, whose love, and light dwells
within us

People: Let our lives be witnesses of these things.

All: Help us to be instruments of Christ's peace to all in need of God's healing love.

Opening Prayer

James Hisey, 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**

To You, O God, All Creatures Sing (verses 1 & 4)

NCH #17

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

*Loving God, in your infinite wisdom, we are glad that you make all things new. Where
there is hate, show your love. Where there is war, bring your peace. Where there is
despair, bring your hope. Where there is fear, bring your understanding. Where there is
scarcity, bring your abundance. By your perfect grace and mercy, make us new. May it
be so, so that we may reflect your light in this world. 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

Jesus, Sun of Life My Splendor *G.F. Handel, 1715*
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

Acts 3:1-10, pg 993

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

Sermon

More Than He Asked For

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

*Closing Hymn

Let There Be Light, O God of Hosts

NCH #589

Benediction

Parting Music

Peace I Give to You

Craig Courtney, 2002 or 2003

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:** James Hisey
- **Usher:** Bill & MaryJo Brett
- **Lay Reader:** Will Duchon
- **Trustee:** Bill Brett
- **Counter:** Mike Ganino
- **Coffee Host:** Michelle Cardentey
- **Web Steward:** Scott Young

The flowers this morning are given by Myron and June Winger in honor of Jean and Lew Winger



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)

Albert Jesulaitis (21)

Juliana Jesulaitis (24)

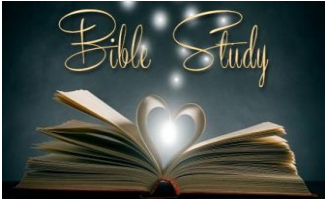
Emily Rooney (27)



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)

Joanne & Mark Malia (20)

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**

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 8th 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 or 203-268-0280, if you need more information or have questions or comments.

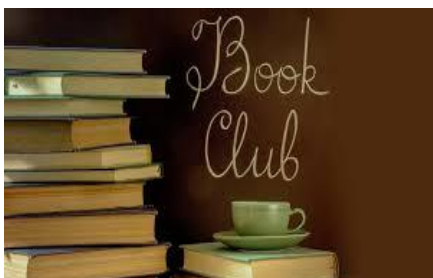
Fellowship



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 1st 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 janeAllen@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 3rd 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 or home phone or 203-452-0850

The book club selections for upcoming months:

May 15th 7 pm Master Slave Husband Wife by Ilyan Woo

Host: TBD

June 19th 7 pm Horse by Geraldine Brooks Host: TBA

**52nd 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 mailgt@yahoo.com

Trees For Free!

Several local Lions Clubs have arranged for the delivery of several hundred FREE tree saplings to be delivered to the public on **Earth Day, Saturday, April 27th.**

Location: **Newtown Middle School, Glover Ave.** opposite the Big Y Shopping Center.

Time: **10AM to 4PM**

Tree Selection:

Red Oak Size 12 to 18"
Sugar Maple Size 8 to 12"
White Oak Size 12 to 24:
Rose Splendor Crab Apple Size 18 to 24"
Black Walnut Size 12 to 18:



Planting these trees will have a lasting positive impact on the environment, the beauty of your property and a legacy for future generations.

Sincerely, Bill Brett



Saturday, April 27, 2024 —7:30 pm
Christopher James Hisey, Music Director

With The Mendelssohn Choir of Connecticut

Zadok the Priest, HWV 258—Georg Frideric Handel

Cantique de Jean Racine, Op 11—Gabriel Faure

Symphony No. 5, Op. 107—Felix Mendelssohn

Fantasia in C minor, Op. 80—Ludwig van Beethoven

With Will Duchon, Piano

Norwalk Concert Hall at Norwalk City Hall

125 East Avenue, Norwalk, CT 06851

www.americanchamberorchestra.org

The American Chamber Orchestra together with the Mendelssohn Choir of Connecticut will be performing the Beethoven Choral Fantasy featuring Will Duchon on piano and Chris Hisey, Conductor and Music Director. April 27th, 7:30pm at the Norwalk Concert Hall. 125 East Ave, Norwalk CT. Tickets are available at the door or through this link-

<https://www.tix.com/ticket-sales/americanchamberorchestra/4397/event/1340468>

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

Alison Abrams (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **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); **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); **Brad Heines** (Susie Cuseo's friend); **Bob Heffernan** (Ann Zeiner's son-in-law); **Heather Henning**; **Brian Hopkins** (Donna Konkol's cousin); **Cheri Irwin & family**; **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**; **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** (Loraine Zeiner's friend), Kuwait: **Jon Sanchez** (Don Whiteley's grandson-in-law)

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Sun. Apr 21st

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. Apr 22nd

7:30 pm Council (Zoom)

Tue. Apr 23rd

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thurs. Apr 25th

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 27th

9:00 am Jam Session

Week of Sun. Apr 28th

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Lincoln at Coffee Hour

5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF

Tue. Apr 30th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. May 1st

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

Thurs. May 2nd

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Confirmation Class

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Sat. May 4th

5:30 pm Adult PF

Week of Sun. May 5th

Communion

10:00 am Worship

11:30 am Trustees

1:30 pm Crop Walk

5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF

Mon. May 6th

7:00 pm Outreach

Tue. May 7th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. May 8th

11:00 am Morning Circle

Thurs. May 9th

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Confirmation Class

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Sat. May 11th

10:30 am Jam Session

Week of Sun. May 12th

Mother's Day

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF

Mon. May 13th

7:30 pm Deacons

Tue. May 14th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag