



**Scripture**

Luke 13:1-9, 31-35

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down." '

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord." '

**Sermon**

Second Chance

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

Lift High the Cross

*Sydney Nicholson, 1916*

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**God is still speaking, welcome** to all who are worshipping with us today, in-person and online!

**Our Pandemic Commandments**

In order to keep our community members safe, please follow these gathering guidelines:

- Thou shalt stay home if you feel sick or have a fever (and catch us on YouTube/Facebook)
- Thou shalt wear a mask (if you need one, just ask!)
- Thou shalt maintain a holy distance of 6 ft from a neighbor (even when passing peace)
- Some pews are taped off, to allow space between the seating of households. Please respect the tape, enter/exit from the side of the pew that is open.
- We have provided hand sanitizer and tissues in the pews, please use carefully as the chemicals are corrosive on wood and other surfaces
- We have slightly propped open the two front windows and church doors to allow for optimum air circulation and HEPA filtering, the heat is on and lap blankets are available

## *In Our Prayers*

**Jean Moffat; Amy and family in the loss of Mark** (friends of Linda Resnick); **Jackie Ajello** (Michele Mount's mother); **Michael Barresi** (Maria's Son); **Jennifer Bittar** (Lorraine Zeiner's friend); **Jackie Bleakney; Byron Brown & Bruce Bryant** (friends of Will Duchon); **Cheryl Ciambriello** (Wendy Colegrove's friend); **Dot Dralus; Matt Duchon; Dave Fuller** (Gail Olson's brother); **Meredith Gibson** (Paul & Judy Coward's niece); **Fern Griffith** (Ashley Levin's friend); **Karen Guinness** (Jennifer Nivison's friend); **Rachel Fracassini** (Jack & Linda Fracassini's niece); **Gary & Julie Hedine** (Nancy Hedine's son & daughter-in-law); **Mary & Rachel Heerema** (Julia Gutierrez's mom and sister); **Bob Heffernan** (Ann Zeiner's son-in-law); **Brian Hopkins** (Donna Konkol's cousin); **Vera James** (Jenn Wissink's mother); **Heather Joyce** (Paul & Judy Coward's daughter); **Kelti** (friend of Liska Gutierrez); **Walter Lane** (Marge Fox's brother-in-law); **Mary-Margaret Logan** (Andrew's mother); **Beverly Lowrey** (Jackie Bleakney); **Jacque MacLean** (Jennifer Nivison's friend); **Nicole Malia; Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **Rev. Jonathan Miller** (Paul & Judy Coward's friend); **Olivia Morrison** (Donna Nickdow's niece); **Joe Mumper** (Julie McClenathan's friend); **Kathy Nivison** (Andy's mother); **Pat Nugent; Ocampo family** (friends of Liska Gutierrez); **Olson Family; Ray Osborne** (Colegrove's Family friend); **Dean Perosino** (Gayle Hammond's brother); **Geno Piacentini** (Karen MacDonald's husband); **P.T. Philip** (Liz Sampson's father); **Norman & Jan Ricker** (Linda & Jack Fracassini's friend); **Barbara Rivel** (Judy Coward's friend); **Regina Roberts** (Kathy Maiolo's niece); **Kelly Rodman** (Angela Cross' friend); **Alfredo Rodriguez** (Osirus Gutierrez's cousin); **Roshong** (Judy Coward's nephew); **Noah Santiago** (Shari Carrano's great-grandson); **Connor Scalia** (Jen Nivison's friend); **Carlos Serrano** (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); **Al Shaeffer; Yessika Siccardi** (Sampson family friend); **Bernie Sippin; John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Christine Stadler; William Stadler** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's nephew); **Tom & Jane Steen** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's father & step-mother); **Christian & Dain Steiner** (Julie McClenathan's nephews); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Winger's granddaughter); **Ellie Swindlehurst** (Joanne Malia's mother); **Olga Terwilliger** (Nancy Hedine's sister-in-law); **Ian Thompson** (Gary's cousin); **Dick Thompson** (Gary's cousin); **Meg Trogolo** (Paul & Judy Coward's niece); **Richard Turco** (Jack Fracassini's cousin); **Susan & the Walker family; Margaret Woodruff** (Mike Pfalzgraf's mother); **Charles L. Wynn, Sr.,** (and his mother) **Alleane Wynn** (friends of Will Duchon); **Allen Zeiner** (Ann Zeiner's son); **Ann Zeiner**

**The concerns of our world:** *Those who serve or live in war or conflict zones; 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:** South Korea: **Zachary Gingras**, Washington: **Rachel Hoffman** (Vaughan Askue's daughter), Virginia: **Chris Meneses** (Lorraine Zeiner's friend), Georgia: **Zachary Peters** (Jacob Parker-Burgard's cousin), Kuwait: **Steven Roshong** (the Coward's nephew), South Carolina: **Bob Peters** (Don Parker-Burgard's brother-in-law), Afghanistan: **Samuel Siciliano**, North Carolina: **Jake Terifay**

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 offer a virtual zoom coffee hour at 11:30:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81347810863?pwd=SERMb1ILNUZLdHVNc3VMcmswcEthUT09>

✦ 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.

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

- **Deacon:** Joanne Malia
- **Usher:** Clark Gingras
- **Trustee:** Kate Briggs
- **Counter:** Bill Stadler



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

Maggie Fraser <sup>(28)</sup>

Pam Kelly <sup>(02)</sup>

Michele Molloy <sup>(04)</sup>

Lucy Kaminski <sup>(28)</sup>

Michael Mount <sup>(02)</sup>

Melissa Olson <sup>(04)</sup>

Manaia Friend <sup>(01)</sup>

Mike McEvoy <sup>(03)</sup>

Eric Gerhard <sup>(06)</sup>

Catherine Gingras <sup>(01)</sup>

**Happy Anniversary** to the following people and to anyone we may have missed, we will keep you in our prayers. (Number in parenthesis is anniversary date):

Paul & Marc Cardentey <sup>(28)</sup>

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### 49th Strawberry Festival News!

Many of you have been asking if it is possible to have a Strawberry Festival this year. We believe the answer is YES (with some added precautions), so we are forging ahead for June 19th and 20th! We'll need to gather our community's creativity, ingenuity and patience, but with a good team effort we're eager to start planning for another great event, as we responsibly follow protocols from our Monroe Board of Health, the state of Connecticut and the CDC. More information will be coming out soon on the various ways you can help. For now, here's what we need to begin:

- Join Clark & Jenn on a '**Kick-Off Cleaning & Organizing Dream Team**' on Wednesday, March 3rd, beginning at 9 am until the work is done
- Join Johnny & Clark on a **49th Strawberry Festival Summit** Sunday, March 14th at 4 pm. If you are willing to lend your help and expertise, or are looking for ways to serve, please join us. We need you! ZOOM Meeting ID: 852 9415 8663, Passcode: 401434

## Deacons

### Lenten Opportunities:

#### **Lenten Zoom Study – “Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi” by Amy Jill Levine. Tuesday nights, 7:30-8:30 pm**

Levine reveals the parables' connections to first-century economic and agricultural life, social customs and morality, Jewish scriptures, and Roman culture. With this revitalized understanding, she interprets these moving stories for a contemporary listener, showing how the parables are not just about Jesus, but are also about us - and when understood rightly, still challenge and provoke us 2,000 years later. *Dr. Amy-Jill Levine is University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies and Mary Jane Werthan Professor of Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School* This will be led by Pastor Jenn with a distanced learning format. You may choose to purchase the book from any preferred seller and read along, or just come as you are.

Zoom Meeting ID: 896 6457 2134      Passcode: 815586

- February 23 - The Lost Sheep, Lost Coin, Lost Son
- March 2 - The Good Samaritan
- March 9 - The Pearl of Great Price
- March 16 - The Mustard Seed
- March 23 - The Laborers in the Vineyard
- March 30 - The Widow and the Judge

#### **Where Your Heart Is: An Illustrated Ministry Family Prayer Devotional.**

An all-ages curriculum resource in which you can work at your own pace. Each week features a short passage of scripture, reflection, coloring pages, and an activity to do with others. You may choose to work on it with the people in your household, extended family that lives far away, or other friends. E-mail Pastor Jenn ([jenn@mcc-ucc.org](mailto:jenn@mcc-ucc.org)) to get a PDF sent to you or arrange to pick up a printout.

**Daily Meditations or Devotionals via E-mail or App.** Sign-up for a daily devotion sent to your e-mail. Use on your own or you might want to find a friend to partner with for discussion.

Recommendations:

- 1) The United Church of Christ offers a daily devotion written by the Still Speaking writers group <https://www.ucc.org/daily-devotional/>
- 2) Franciscan Friar Richard Rohr and friends provide a short, thought-provoking text each day from the Center for Action and Contemplation [www.cac.org](http://www.cac.org)
- 3) d365.org is a daily devotional technically designed for youth, but it is great for all ages. Access via their website OR you can download a free app on your tablet or phone [www.d365.org](http://www.d365.org) .

**Lenten Photo-A-Day Challenge (with thanks to the UMC)** For visual learners and creative types who like to share posts on social media. Take a photo every day in Lent, with a daily prompt according to the list below. Share with the community how you perceive each word of the day by posting that photo on Facebook and Instagram, tag The Monroe Congregational Church, include #MCCUCC and #LentenPhotoADay and #DigDeep



## Christian Education



**Adult PF meets via Zoom the first and third Sundays of the month.** For information about Adult PF please contact Don Parker-Burgard.  
[dpburgard@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dpburgard@sbcglobal.net)



**MCC Book Club** Questions -contact Mary Unger (203) 268-5754  
**March 10<sup>th</sup>** The Gown: A Novel of the Royal Wedding by Jennifer Robson.  
Host: Trees Whitbeck  
**April 14<sup>th</sup>** The Children Act by Ian McEwan.  
Host: Arlene Redmond



We invite all the women of the congregation to attend our **first meeting of 2021 on Wednesday, March 10** at 11AM in Wilton Hall. We will be gathering donations for birthday bags for the Food Pantry. Items include cake mix, frosting, birthday napkins and birthday candles. The children who visit the Pantry with their parents truly love receiving these items and appreciate our efforts for making it a special time for them. Thank you for your generosity and kindness. A catered luncheon is scheduled to be provided during our short business meeting. More information will be forthcoming.

### MCC Community Calendar

#### Week of Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>

10:00 am Worship  
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour  
5-6:30 pm Senior PF (Wilton)

#### **Tues. Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup>**

7:30 pm Lenten Zoom Study

#### **Wed. Mar. 3<sup>rd</sup>**

9:00 am SF Kick-off Cleaning Dream Team (kitchen)  
6:30 pm Confirmation Class

#### **Thurs. Mar. 4<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study

#### Week of Mar. 7<sup>th</sup>

10:00 am Worship - Communion  
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour  
4:00 pm Adult PF  
5-7:30 pm Senior PF (Wilton)

#### **Tues. Mar 9<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 pm Lenten Zoom Study

#### **Wed. Mar. 10<sup>th</sup>**

11:00 Morning Circle  
6:30 pm Confirmation Class

#### **Thurs. Mar. 11<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study

#### Week of Mar. 14<sup>th</sup>

#### **Day LIGHT SAVINGS**

10:00 am Worship  
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour  
4:00 pm 49th SF Summit,  
ZOOM Meeting ID: 852 9415 8663,  
Passcode: 401434  
5-7:30 pm Senior PF (Wilton)

#### **Tues. Mar 16<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 pm Lenten Zoom Study

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

6:30 pm Confirmation Class

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

9:30 am Bible Study  
7:00 pm CE

#### Week of Mar. 21<sup>st</sup>

10:00 am Worship  
11:15 am Trustees (zoom)  
11:30 am Zoom Coffee Hour  
5:00 pm Adult PF  
5-6:30 pm Senior PF (Wilton)

#### **Tues. Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup>**

7:30 pm Lenten Zoom Study

#### **Wed. Mar. 24<sup>th</sup>**

6:30 pm Confirmation Class

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

9:30 am Bible Study