

May 11, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Easter ~ Communion Sunday
First Communion for 3rd Graders

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.*

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Gathering Music Bread of the World

Welcome & Announcements

Moment of Silence & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: Lord, we pray for clarity of vision, even when what we see is uncomfortable.

People: We pray that we may have clarity to hear the call to join your mission.

Leader: We pray that our hearts remain open to seeing you in those who come
from other places, that there may be one flock, one shepherd.

People: We pray that our voices may sing, proclaim truth and speak words of love.

Leader: We pray that our feet remain "eager to bring the gospel of peace."

*All: Help us, O God, to step forward in confidence, welcoming all people into your
life of shalom, peace and healing.*

Prayer of Preparation

Jim Hisey, Deacon of the Day

***UCC Statement of Faith**

Reading #885 in hymnal

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Communion Hymn (*seated*)

Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

NCH #337

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.*

Students may transition to Sunday School with their teachers.

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

*Living God, you lead us to opportunities to share your good news, to recognize your Word
lived out in real life, to connect your story and our story. You speak, and we have tried
to listen, though sometimes we do not understand. We confess that we have sometimes*

gotten in the way, insisting everyone agree to our visions and understandings, to prevent them getting it wrong. Forgive us, loving God. Make our hearts as open as yours, our love as faithful as yours, our welcome as joyful as yours, our word as gracious as yours. We ask in the name of the Living Word who is endlessly revealed in the life of the 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.*

***Hymn**

The Care the Eagle Gives Her Young

NCH #468

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

Peace in the Valley

Thomas Dorsey, 1939

*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 8:26-39, page 1000

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

Communion Meditation

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

***Closing Hymn**

In the Bulb There is a Flower

NCH #433

***Benediction**

Postlude

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

South African Melody

**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.



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!



Today our third graders take communion together in worship for the very first time. Please take a moment after worship to welcome and congratulate them on this important step in their faith formation: Daniela Combs, Kayleigh Healey, James Hisey and Thea Rice. We welcome these youth to our table and to sharing God's love with them today and always.

***The flowers this morning are given by Marge Fox
in loving memory of her mother, Edith Maclean
and by Lisa Bauerle
in honor of her mother, Carolyn Yett and all mothers at MCC***

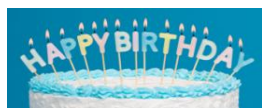


Thank you for assisting in this morning's worship!

- **Deacon:** Jim Hisey
- **Usher:** Clark Gingras
- **Lay Reader:** Heather Hisey
- **Trustee:** John O'Rourke
- **Counter:** Glenn Brigham
- **Coffee Host:** Juliana Defeo
- **Web Steward:** Scott Young

Communion Team #2

Michelle Correll, Larry Wissink,
Michelle Cardentey, Arlene Redmond,
Mike Pfalzgraf and Jocelyn Allen



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

Megan Molloy ⁽¹¹⁾

Cindy O'Rourke ⁽¹³⁾

Nicole Williams ⁽¹⁴⁾

James Hisey ⁽¹²⁾

Dave Spence ⁽¹³⁾

Mark Barnhart ⁽¹⁵⁾

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)

Kathy & John Maiolo⁽¹⁴⁾ Lorrie & Bernard Sippin⁽¹⁴⁾ Brian & Ann-Marie Campbell⁽¹⁷⁾

Faith Formation



Prayer Partners Unite!!! Our "Big Reveal" potluck luncheon **Sunday, May 18 at 11:15am in Wilton Hall.** Please bring a dish to share and find out who's been praying for whom. Please let me know by email (thecuseos@yahoo.com) or call 203-268-0280 if you plan on attending.

Outreach

Feel The Warmth with nOURish Bridgeport! Our crew felt grateful and inspired to cook and serve the Feel the Warmth community hot supper in Bridgeport last month. **Our next opportunity to serve will be on May 15th.** Please look for the signup sheet and join us to bring some hope, laughter and nourishment to neighbors dealing with food insecurity. A typical meal includes making and distributing salad (featuring greens from their hydroponic garden), dessert and a main dish for about 200 folks, serving alongside Sacred Heart students and more seasoned volunteers. Join us! 203-268-0280 with any questions.



Fellowship



Morning Circle invites the women of the congregation to join them every second Wednesday of the month (except January, February, July and August). Please contact Shari Carrano at 475-342-8145 with any questions, comments or concerns. Mark your calendars for the following:

Wed., May 14 11AM -Dineson Parlor - Women's hygiene products collection

Wed., Jun 11 12PM - June Picnic Luncheon - Location TBD

Join us for the monthly Book Club 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



May 21st The God of the Woods by Liz Moore Host: TBD

June 18th The Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters Host: TBD

July 16th Brave New World by Aldous Huxley Host: TBD



Young At Heart will meet at noon on May 22nd
Housatonic House in 337 Roosevelt Dr, Seymour
RSVP: Susie Cuseo thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280

Monroe Congregational Church

Strawberry Festival Volunteer Signup Link!



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094CAEAA22A4FB6-56666921-strawberry>

In Our Prayers

Family and friends of Dean Perosino who passed away on Friday (Gayle Hammond's brother); **Debbie Cuseo** (Cliff's sister-in-law); **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); **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); **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); **Kelti** (friend of Liska Gutierrez); **Samia Khoury** (Will Duchon's friend); **Cindy Kovacs**; **Monica Lynch** (Bethany Dupuis' friend); **Jonathan Malia; Nicole Malia; the Manuzzi Family**; **Mary** (Kate Brigg's Mother); **Betty McKeown** (Donna Konkol's mother); **Meghan** (Mary Unger's niece); **Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **Olivia Morrison** (Donna Nickdow's niece); **Pat Nugent**; **Ocampo family** (friends of Liska Gutierrez); **Nancy Olofson**; **Missy & Gail Olson**; **Donna Parratt**; **Dean Perosino** (Gayle Hammond's brother); **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**; **John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Sheldon & Nancy Smith**; **Christine Stadler**; **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Winger'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); **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), **Lance Corporal Taylor Smith** (Cheri Irwin's Nephew)

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Sun. May 11th

Mother's Day ~ 3rd Grade 1st Communion

10:00 am Worship

Mon. May 12th

7:30 pm Deacons (Zoom)

Tue. May 13th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Thurs. May 15th

9:30 am Bible Study

3:00 pm Feel the Warmth w/ nOURish Bpt.

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. May 18th

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Prayer Partner Lunch

5:00 pm Jr. & Sr. PF

Mon. May 19th

7:30 pm Council (Zoom)

Tue. May 20th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Thurs. May 22nd

9:30 am Bible Study

12:00 pm Young @ Heart

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

7:30 pm Confirmation

Week of Sun. May 26th

10:00 am Worship

1:00 pm Memorial Day Parade

5:00 pm Sr. PF

Mon. May 26th

Memorial Day – Office Closed

Tue. May 27th

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Thurs. May 29th

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

7:30 pm Confirmation

Week of Sun. June 1st

Youth Sunday

10:00 am Worship

11:30 am Trustees

5:00 pm Jr. & Sr. PF

Mon. June 2nd

7:30 pm Outreach (Zoom)

Tue. June 3rd

1:30 pm Mustard Seed Sort & Tag

Wed. June 4th

6:30 pm Confirmation Celebration

Thurs. June 5th

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir