

May 19, 2024

Pentecost ~ Confirmation Sunday

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

Joyous Praise

Cynthia Dotson

The Bell Choir

Moment of Quiet & Lighting of the Candles

Call to Worship

Leader: Your Spirit arrives, and the world responds,

People: Wind blows, flames dance, creation moves.

Leader: Move us, too, by the power of your Spirit,

*People: Out of our hiding places, into collaboration and conversation that reveals
Your love.*

Leader: Reaching into every life, every culture, every language, every community,

All: In and through the name of Jesus, Amen.

Opening Prayer

Michelle Correll, Deacon of the Day

***Our Church's Covenant**

inside front cover of hymnal

***Hymn**

Come, O Spirit, with Your Sound

NCH #265

Students may transition to Sunday School with their teachers.

Call to Confession – Unison Prayer - Silent Prayer

*Gracious God, Jesus prayed that his disciples would be protected from deceit.
Sometimes, it's not easy to be bold in sharing how God's love has impacted our lives.
We ask forgiveness for the times we have not been strong enough in sharing our truth,
for fear of how others would respond. Help us find strength in Your promises to us, so
that we might share our joy with abundance. Amen. (silence)*

Contemplative Moment

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.*

Rite of Confirmation

Invitation & Introduction, Questions of the Candidates

Naming of Gifts & Blessing, Prayer of Confirmation

Welcome & Blessing from the Congregation

We pledge to you our concern, our help, and our prayers, that you may continue to grow in your knowledge and love of Jesus Christ. God grant that loving and being loved, blessing and being blessed, serving and being served, we may be united as the body of Christ.

Pronouncement & Hand of Fellowship

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 Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above *arr. Richard A. Williamson*

*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 2:1–4 pg.992 & 1 Corinthians 12:1–13 pg. 1046

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

Sermon *It’s All Around You* Rev. Jennifer Gingras

***Closing Hymn** Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life (verses 1 & 4) NCH #543

Benediction

Parting Music Creator Spirit, Come, We Pray *10th Century, more or less*

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.

Thank you for assisting in this morning's worship!

- **Deacon:** Michelle Correll
- **Usher:** Arlene Redmond
- **Lay Reader:** Dave Walker
- **Trustee:** John O'Rourke
- **Counter:** Tom Briggs
- **Coffee Host:** Melissa Coleman
- **Web Steward:** Scott Young
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Congratulations to our 2024 Confirmands

Confirmand

Ryan Andrejczyk

Griffin Allen

Sponsor

Frank Wittenauer

Paul Cardentey



***The flowers this morning are given by Glenn Brigham
in loving memory of his father, Bob, and sister, Vickie***

***and by Michelle Cardentey
in honor of her mother, Eleanor La Valla's birthday in heaven***



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](https://www.monroecc.org)



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

Linda Caballero ⁽²⁰⁾
Emily Coleman ⁽²²⁾

Bethany Dupuis ⁽²⁴⁾
Linda Rooney ⁽²⁴⁾

Stacy Andrejczyk ⁽²⁵⁾



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)

June & Myron Winger ⁽²⁴⁾



If you are visiting today: WELCOME! It's so good to have you with us! We hope that this time together is one that helps you feel connected to your community and faith. Our family of faith welcomes you!

We'd love to include you on our e-mail distribution list, so that you get weekly updates about what's going on at MCC along with a monthly newsletter, *The Steeple*. Please e-mail our Administrative Assistant Diane Prall at secretary@mcc-ucc.org to let us know if you'd like to be included. If you've been visiting with us for a while and you'd like to discuss making a longer-term commitment to the Monroe Congregational Church by becoming a **member**, please speak with a deacon or Pastor Jenn, who can be reached at jenn@mcc-ucc.org or her cell, 203-895-5607.



Graduate Sunday, June 16, 2024

Have you or a loved one recently completed high school, college/ university, graduate school, or another educational program?

Join us for Worship on June 16th so we can celebrate your achievement!

Contact the church office with the details, and let us know where you are headed next!

2024 CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

REPLACING THE MEETINGHOUSE ROOF



Our historic campus requires regular maintenance, inside and out. The roof of the Meeting House has been leaking due to recent wind and weather damage. The estimated cost for repairs is \$30,000, and we plan to do the work done ASAP.

Thanks for your support!

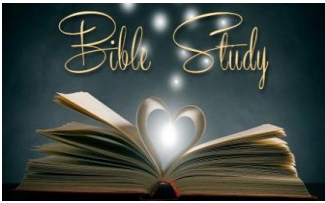
**To contribute, send a check with the memo: Capital Campaign
or donate on our website (choosing Capital Projects)
<https://www.mcc-ucc.org/donate.html>**

Deacons

2024 Summer Preaching Series: Bible Stories to Love & Remember

Sometimes when we return as older people to the Bible stories we learned as a kid, they can take on a different meaning. Beginning on May 26th and continuing through the summer, I'll be preaching a new sermon series: Bible Stories to Love & Remember.

But I'm going to need your help! What Bible stories should we focus on? What are your favorites? What are the ones that confuse you – even now? We have space to cover 12. Please let me know what you'd like to hear, so we can take a fresh look at them together. In these stories we might discover wisdom, love and grace. We'll likely see a little more clearly how God has worked in the past, and we'll discover how God connects with us today. *In Peace, Pastor Jenn*



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.

Christian Education

Junior PF Schedule through the end of the program year:

May 19th - 5 pm, Crafts with Leanne & Larry

May 26th – Memorial Day Parade, find the Big Red MCC Truck in the parade lineup on Elm Street by 12:15 (when they shut down Rt 111), bring Sunscreen, a water bottle, dress in Strawberry Festival shirts & Red, White & Blue

June 2nd – 11 am, Jr PF Graduation Party

June 9th – Jr PF sees M&M's show (Jeanette's Birthday!)

June 15/16 – Jr PF helps with Country Store & Children's Games

Fellowship

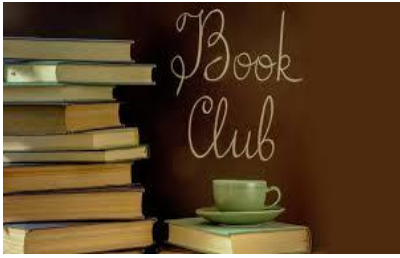


Please join us for Adult PF the 1st Saturday of the month in Dineson Parlor from **5:30 to 8pm!** Bring your own beverage and a snack to share. We are excited to bring Adult PF back to MCC in a new format! Each month will be led by different members of the group. It could be a discussion of an article 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 with any thoughts or questions. **Our next meeting will be Saturday, 6/1.**



Young at Heart will meet THIS Thursday, May 23 at noon
Chili's, 828 Bridgeport Ave., Shelton

Please RSVP to Kathy Allen, ka17rn@gmail.com or 203-767-5581



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:

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

JOIN US FOR THE BIG REVEAL!

Prayer Partner Potluck Luncheon

May 19th at 11:15 am
in Wilton Hall

We will soon find out who's been praying for whom!

A photograph of a potluck luncheon table with various dishes including a bowl of green salad with red grapes, a plate of falafel, a bowl of yellow beans, and a plate of bread with blue cheese dressing. A person's hand is visible holding the green salad bowl.



Outreach

Morning Circle Annual Picnic Wednesday, June 12 - Location TBD!
Please contact Shari Carrano with any questions 475-342-8145

52nd Strawberry Festival 2024

will be held on Saturday, June 15 (10am-5pm)
& Sunday, June 16 (11am-5 pm)



The Strawberry Festival is fast approaching. This weekend signup sheets will be posted in Wilton Hall. The festival is a huge success because of you. Volunteers come together to help out in so many different areas: shortcake prep, dipping strawberries, hulling with friends, selling/making smoothies, manning the order line or smiling at shoppers when they peruse all the items at the Country Store. There is also a link to Sign Up Genius where you can go online and volunteer: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094CAEAA22A4FB6-49507863-strawberry>

Please sign up.



Remember that the **Country Store will need baked goods to sell**. So please bake up your delicious goodies! Please do not send in things that will melt.

Monroe Congregational Church

Strawberry
Festival
Kick Off

Our kickoff will be on Sunday, June 2 when communion will be served with biscuit and festival wear will be sold during coffee hour. Please contact co-chairs with any questions, comments or concerns: Susie Cuseo, Clark/Jenn Gingras, Josh Post and Frank Wittenauer. They'll be the ones wearing their Festival shirts for the occasion.

In Our Prayers

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); **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); **Vera James** (Jenn Wissink's mother); **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); **Joe Mumper** (Julie McClenathan's friend); **Pat Nugent; Drake Oatis; Ocampo family** (friends of Liska Gutierrez); **Nancy Olofson; Missy & Gail Olson; Dean Perosino** (Gayle Hammond's brother); **Josh Post; 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); **Sheldon Smith; 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); **June Wilkes, 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** 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:

Stateside: **Justin Riffard**, Pensacola Naval Air Station, **Zachary Gingras**, 395th Combat Sustainability Support, **Joel Smith**, 250th Engineering Company **Chris Meneses** (Lorraine Zeiner's friend)

Germany: **Rachel Hoffman** (Vaughan Askue's daughter), Kuwait: **Jon Sanchez** (Don Whiteley's grandson-in-law)

MCC Community Calendar

Week of Sun. May 19th

Confirmation ~ Pentecost Sunday

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Prayer Partner's Potluck

5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF

Mon. May 20th

7:30 pm Council

Tue. May 21st

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thurs. May 23rd

9:30 am Bible Study

12:00 pm Young at Heart

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. May 26th

Memorial Day Weekend

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Lincoln at Coffee Hour

12:15 am Parade Lineup (Elm Street)

5:00 pm Senior PF

Mon. May 27th

Memorial Day – Office Closed

Tue. May 28th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thurs. May 30th

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Sat. June 1st

5:30 pm Adult PF

Week of Sun. June 2nd

*Communion, Teacher Appreciation,
SF Launch*

10:00 am Worship

11:30 am Trustees

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

Mon. June 3rd

7:00 pm Outreach

Tue. June 4th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thurs. June 6th

9:30 am Bible Study

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Week of Sun. June 9th

Youth Sunday, MSS 50th Anniversary

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Junior & Senior PF

Mon. June 10th

7:30 pm Deacons

Tue. June 11th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. June 12th

11:00 am Morning Circle Picnic

Thurs. June 20th

6:00 pm Bell Choir

7:00 pm Chancel Choir



June 15th & 16th



52nd Annual Strawberry Festival