

May 22, 2022      **The Sixth Sunday of Easter ~ 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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**Musical Call to Worship**      Bridge Over Troubled Water      *Simon/Garfunkel, 1970*

**Welcome & Announcements**

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

**Call to Worship**

Leader: God, your creation displays your wonders all around us;

*People: Help us to see you at work wherever we look.*

Leader: You call us to show forth your glory;

*People: Help us to reflect your image of peace in the world.*

Leader: Your light shines, and the darkness cannot overcome it;

*People: Make us bearers of your word, your love, your light.*

*All: Come, let us worship!*

**Opening Prayer**

Cady Gingras, Deacon of the Day

**\*Our Church's Covenant**

inside front cover of hymnal

**\*Hymn**

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

NCH #1

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

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

*You call us to share your good news, and to let you handle the rest, O God. We confess that we are prone to distraction, comparing ourselves to others. We admit that there are times we allow this spirit of comparison to steal our joy. Forgive us for taking our eyes off you. Forgive us for our simultaneous jealousy and judgment. Forgive us for hesitating to follow you because we might not be able to do it the way others do. Remind us again that it is your work in us, your love made known through us, your word spoken through our voices, that makes a difference in this world. Strengthen us so that we may serve you with joy into the future. We ask this in Christ's name, 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**

**\*Hymn**

Spirit of the Living God (sung twice)

NCH #263

## 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**

O Praise Ye the Lord

Charles Parry, 1894

*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**

Philippians 1:1-18a, pg 1068

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

**Sermon**

*I Give Thanks for YOU!*

Rev. Jennifer Gingras

**\*Hymn**

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending (verses 1 & 4)

NCH #565

**Benediction**

**Parting Music**

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve

Thomas Haweis, 1792

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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.

**COVID-19 Safety:** In order to keep our community members safe (*including children under 12, the immune-compromised and those not yet fully vaccinated*), please follow these guidelines:

- Please stay home if you feel sick or have a fever (catch us on YouTube/Facebook)
- Please wear a mask indoors (if you need one, just ask!)
- 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:** Cady Gingras
- **Usher:** Jessica Pfalzgraf
- **Trustee:** Scott Young
- **Counter:** Bill Stadler
- **Coffee Host:** Fellowship Committee
- **Web Steward:** Scott Young

**The flowers this morning are given by *June and Myron Winger* in celebration of their 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

***Please join us in celebrating June and Myron with a cake during our fellowship coffee hour following worship.***



**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. If you do not have access to a computer for online signup, call Diane in the office 203-268-9327, and she will help! 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>



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

Susan Walker <sup>(23)</sup>

Stacy Andrejczyk <sup>(25)</sup>

Murial Hastedt <sup>(28)</sup>

Bethany Dupuis <sup>(24)</sup>

Debra Hansen <sup>(26)</sup>

Rebecca Young <sup>(28)</sup>

Linda Rooney <sup>(24)</sup>

Justin Riffard <sup>(27)</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)

June & Myron Winger <sup>(24)</sup> and Nancy & Sheldon Smith <sup>(28)</sup>

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*Congratulations to our 2022 Confirmands*

*Confirmand*

*Sponsor*

*Stephen Sentementes*

*Andy Nivison*

*Joselyn Allen*

*Kelsey Kaminski*



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**Christian Education**

**Weekly Prayer & Bible Study Group!** Every Thursday from 9:30-10:30 in Dineson Parlor, everyone is cordially invited and welcome to join us. In the spring, we are studying the MCC History book, Binding Covenant, written by our own church historian, Gary Thompson.

May 26	Binding Covenant, 7-9 Last Day of Bible Study party – 220 Webb Circle
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**Sunday School**

May 22 - Partnership in the Gospel

May 29 - No Sunday School (Memorial Day Weekend)

**This Month in Jr PF:**

May 22 - Game Night

May 29 - No Jr PF (Memorial Day Weekend)

**This Month in Senior PF:**

May 22 – Classic PF

May 29 – PF at the Park, 2-4:30pm



**Spring Study: Discovering Our Roots** Three study sessions on the MCC history book **Binding Covenant** written by our own church historian, Gary Thompson will be held this spring. A second publishing run was recently completed, so if you do not already have a copy and would like to join the study, please contact Pastor Jenn:

- Virtually on Zoom (May 24th and June 7<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm)  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2038955607?pwd=bWxMMDRXN3d6emJNZ2JsVzlsTFp3dz09> Meeting ID: 203 895 5607 Passcode: MeetMe

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### Deacons



**Calling All Graduates:** If you are graduating this year from high school, college, a university, graduate school, or another program, we want to recognize you and celebrate your achievements at the June 12<sup>th</sup> worship service. Please let the church office ([secretary@mcc-ucc.org](mailto:secretary@mcc-ucc.org), 203-268-9327) know if you or anyone in your family is graduating, along with the details of your degree, school, etc. Thank you!



### Jim & Gretchen Davison's Memorial Service

The lives of long-term MCC members Jim and Gretchen Davison will be celebrated on Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 11 am in the Meetinghouse. A luncheon will take place immediately following in Wilton Hall, please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D44A8AC22A2FB6-davison>. Interment will be held privately. We hope that you are able to join their children Karen and Jay and their families in remembering and celebrating their cherished parents. Please see Pastor Jenn with any questions.

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### Fellowship

**Children Snacks are Needed.** Those young-at-heart love the treats they get during coffee hour. So while the adults enjoy coffee/tea and a little treat, the kids enjoy theirs. Juice bottles, juice cups and juice bags are also welcomed. Please drop off your donations on the serving counter clearly labeled "Children's Snack". Thank you in advance for your generosity and kindness.



**Wednesday, June 8th at 11:30AM we will hold our annual luncheon at June Winger's residence with a catered meal. Mark your calendar!** Check the Steeple and/or the bulletin for any date changes.  
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**Young At Heart**

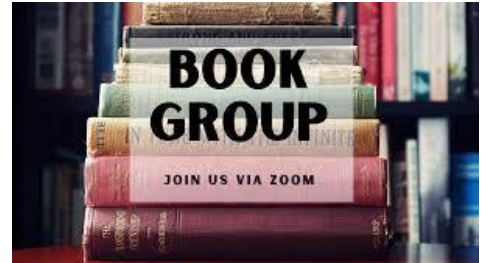
Next luncheon will be on Thursday, **May 26 at 12 pm**

**My Place Restaurant**, 8 Queen St, Newtown

**Please RSVP** to Lorrie Sippin at (203)261-0612 or [lori@sippin.com](mailto:lori@sippin.com)

**MCC Book Club is open to all church members.**

For more information, please call Paula Haggstrom 203-452-0850 email: [pjsh55@gmail.com](mailto:pjsh55@gmail.com) We will continue meet via Zoom.



June 8<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm - The Island of Sea Women by Lisa See, Host: TBD

July 13<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm - The Last Mona Lisa by Jonathan Santlofer, Host: TBD

August 10<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm - The Giver of Stars by Jojo Moyes, Host: TBD



**Prayer Partners Unite!!!** Can you believe how quickly time flies when you are keeping your partner in your thoughts and prayers? We will meet on **today, May 22nd at 11am in Wilton Hall for our "Big Reveal" potluck luncheon.** We will soon find out who's been praying for whom. Don't forget that you can still send notes or cards to them using the church's address as the return (34 Church St, Monroe, CT 06468) and sign it "Your Prayer

Partner". Here's an idea: if your Prayer Partner's birthday is after May, consider sending them a card for their half year birthday milestone. Please contact Susie Cuseo at [thecuseos@yahoo.com](mailto:thecuseos@yahoo.com) or 203-268-0280 with any questions or comments.

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**Outreach**



**Thank you to all who contributed to the 2022 CWS/CROP fund raising effort.** Team Monroe Congregational Church members were **Gayle Hammond, Cheri Irwin, Stefanie Olivares, Maria Baressi, and me.** Our church members and friends raised **\$3,404.00** and we couldn't have done it without your **generosity and participation.** We raised more than any other church in the Bridgeport area and rank 57th in the whole US. That's impressive. Think of what good that money can do in the world! I am proud to be your team captain. With gratitude, Julie McClenathan.



The **Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe** needs YOU! If you have a couple of hours to spare either on Tuesdays, Fridays or Saturdays, we are looking for your help. Sorting, tagging and hanging happens on Tuesdays at 1PM. Volunteers will help you with what needs to be done. Sales associates are needed for two-hour shifts starting from 10AM to 3PM on Fridays and Saturdays. A procedure list can be emailed or you can visit the Shoppe when someone is manning the counter. It's fun and quite rewarding. Please contact Susie Cuseo with any questions or comments at [thecuseos@yahoo.com](mailto:thecuseos@yahoo.com) or 203-268-0280.



**Strawberry Festival JAM Session Leaders & Volunteers Needed!**

It's time to make the JAM and we need your help! All the supplies have been purchased and the kitchen prepared. The kitchen has been reserved for the dates below. Each date needs a *Session Leader* and should have at least 4-5 more volunteers. Please sign up in Wilton Hall or call Diane in the office and she will add your name for you!

**Let's make our 50th Strawberry Festival a huge success for MCC!**

Friday, May 27<sup>th</sup> 7pm  
 Saturday, May 28<sup>th</sup> 9am-12pm & 12pm-3pm  
 Sunday, May 29<sup>th</sup> 12pm-4pm

Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> 7pm  
 Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup> 9am-12pm & 12pm-3pm  
 Sunday, June 5<sup>th</sup> 12pm-4pm



*A big "thank you" to everyone who came out to help with our Spring Cleanup last Saturday!*

Jim Brown, Scott Young, Rob McClenathan, Julie McClenathan, John O'Rourke, Maria Barresi, Bill Stadler, David Walker, Myron Winger, Jenn Gingras and Dave Allen.



## Come Sing with the Chancel Choir!

Have you ever considered joining the Chancel Choir? Or at least giving it a try? If so, now is a great time to do so. The church year is winding down, and before the choir takes its "summer recess" why not come out to a Thursday night rehearsal and see what it's all about?

Some "don'ts" to consider:

**You don't have to audition.** Formal singing training and/or experience is not a requirement!

**You don't necessarily need to know how to read music.** Formal music training is not a requirement!

**What is required?** A love of music and fellowship. A sense of humor wouldn't hurt either. The MCC Chancel Choir offers a strong sense of fellowship and the satisfaction of preparing beautiful music with which to express God's gifts and faithfulness. In the process, we have a good time, despite our (my) imperfections.

Choir rehearsals are on Thursday evenings from 7-8:30 PM. Our final one for the season is June 16<sup>th</sup> and we start up again in early September. I hope you will take a chance and "try it out". Don't take my word for it: ask a choir member!

Sincerely,  
Will Duchon

**WMNR**  
Fine Arts Radio



WMNR Fine Arts Radio is an independent public radio station in Connecticut that produces most of its own programming. Come and visit their studio at 731 Main Street, in Monroe and learn more and their **Open House on Saturday, June 12th, from 1-4 PM.** MCC's Music Director, Will Duchon, is a volunteer broadcaster at WMNR, with Friday Evening Classics from 6 - 10 PM and The Night Café, Fridays at 10 PM.



## ***In Our Prayers***

**Dawn Davis** (Donna Konkol's friend); **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); **Lori Cimeno** (Peggy & Ron Villani's Daughter); **Dot Dralus; Matt Duchon; David Fischman** (Sue Granello's Friend); **Bruno Forte** (friend of Nancy Hedine); **Fran** (friend of Kate Goyette); **Marge Fox; Fern Griffith** (Ashley Levin's friend); **Karen Guinness** (Jennifer Nivison's friend); **Gina & Liz** (Wendy Colegrove's friends); **Gary & Nancy Hedine; Mary & Rachel Heerema** (Julia Gutierrez's mom & sister); **Bob Heffernan** (Ann Zeiner's son-in-law); **Brian Hopkins** (Donna Konkol's cousin); **Bill Irwin** (Cheri's husband); **Vera James** (Jenn Wissink's mother); **Kelti** (friend of Liska Gutierrez); **Walter Lane** (Marge Fox's brother-in-law); **Danny Larkin** (Donna Konkol's relative); **Mary-Margaret Logan** (Andrew's mother); **Monica Lynch** (Bethany Dupuis' friend); **Jacque MacLean** (Jennifer Nivison's friend); **Nicole Malia; Mike** (Janie Allen's son); **Mike** (Dot's friend); **Jean Moffat; Olivia Morrison** (Donna Nickdow's niece); **Joe Mumper** (Julie McClenathan's friend); **Bert Muizullis; Kathy Nivison** (Andy's mother); **Pat Nugent; Ocampo family** (friends of Liska Gutierrez); **Missy Olson; Osborne** (Colegrove's Family friend); **Dean Perosino** (Gayle Hammond's brother); **Donna Parratt; Geno Piacentini** (Karen MacDonald's husband); **P.T. Philip** (Liz Sampson's father); **Norman & Jan Ricker** (Linda & Jack Fracassini's friend); **Regina Roberts** (Kathy Maiolo's niece); **Alfredo Rodriguez** (Osirus Gutierrez's cousin); **Noah Santiago** (Shari Carrano's great-grandson); **Connor Scalia** (Jen Nivison's friend); **Carlos Serrano** (Kathy Maiolo's cousin); **Yessika Siccardi** (Sampson family friend); **Bernie Sippin; John Skarupa** (Barb Pellegrino's brother); **Christine Stadler; Christian & Dain Steiner** (Julie McClenathan's nephews); **Claire Stenzel** (June & Myron Winger's granddaughter); **Olga Terwilliger** (Nancy Hedine's sister-in-law); **Ian Thompson** (Gary's cousin); **Tom** (Wendy Colegrove's father); **Richard Turco** (Jack Fracassini's cousin); **Susan Walker; Charles L. Wynn, Sr.**, (and his mother) **Alleane** (friends 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:** New York: **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: **Jon Sanchez** (Don Whiteley's grandson-in-law)

## **MCC Community Calendar**

### **Week of May 22<sup>nd</sup>**

*Confirmation Sunday*

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Prayer Partner Luncheon

5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF's

### **Tue. May 24<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

7:00 pm Binding Covenant, Chap 4-6  
(Zoom)

### **Thur. May 26<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am Bible Study (220 Webb Circle)

11:30 am Young @ Heart

6:00 pm Chimes & Bells Rehearsal

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

### **Week of May 29<sup>th</sup>**

*Memorial Day Weekend*

10:00 am Worship

2-4:30 pm Senior PF at the Park

### **Mon. May 30<sup>th</sup>**

*Memorial Day – Office Closed*

### **Tue. May 31<sup>st</sup>**

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

### **Thur. June 2<sup>nd</sup>**

6:00 pm Chimes & Bells Rehearsal

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

### **Week of June 5<sup>th</sup>**

*Communion*

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF's

### **Mon. June 6<sup>th</sup>**

7pm Outreach (Zoom)

### **Tue. June 7<sup>th</sup>**

*100th Anniversary of MCC Incorporation*

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

### **Wed. June 8<sup>th</sup>**

11:00 Morning Circle (Wininger's)

7:00 pm Book Club (Zoom)

### **Thur. June 9<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 pm Chimes & Bells Rehearsal

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

### **Sat. June 11<sup>th</sup>**

11:00 am Davison Memorial Service

### **Week of Sun. June 12<sup>th</sup>**

*Graduate Sunday / Fire Drill*

10:00 am Worship

5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF's

### **Mon. June 13<sup>th</sup>**

3:00 pm St. George's Supper

### **Tue. June 14<sup>th</sup>**

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

### **Thur. June 16<sup>th</sup>**

6:00 pm Chimes & Bells Rehearsal

7:00 pm Chancel Choir

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

Strawberry Festival Setup

### **Sat. June 18<sup>th</sup>**

10 am – 5:00 pm Strawberry Festival

### **Week of Sun. June 19<sup>th</sup>**

*Father's Day & Strawberry Festival Sunday*

10:00 am Worship

12:00 – 5:00 pm Strawberry Festival

### **Mon. June 20<sup>th</sup>**

7:30 pm Council

### **Tue. June 21<sup>st</sup>**

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

7:00 pm Bereavement Group

### **Thurs. June 23<sup>rd</sup>**

*175 Year Anniversary of the Meetinghouse*

11:30 am Young @ Heart

6:00 pm Chimes & Bells Rehearsal

7:00 pm Chancel Choir