

34 Church Street
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www.mcc-ucc.org

<p>Office Hours: Mon. 9am – 5:30pm Wed. (remotely) 8am - 6pm Fri. 9am – 3:30pm</p>

Senior Pastor: Rev. Jennifer Gingras
Music Director: Will Duchon
Administrator/Bookkeeper: Diane Prall
CE Coordinator: Jeanette Cardentey-Morales
Church e-mail: secretary@mcc-ucc.org

Find us on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/monroecongregationalchurchucc>



THE MONROE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
STEEPLE

March 1, 2024



Welcome the Children! The Gospel of Mark tells the story of Jesus welcoming the children, *"He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me*

welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'" (Mark 9:35-37, NRSV) Jesus turned the societal ranking of his day upside down as he proclaims that even little children hold a special place in the kingdom of God. How can our church better live in to that inclusive promise in these days? By opening up who gets to sit at the table, of course!

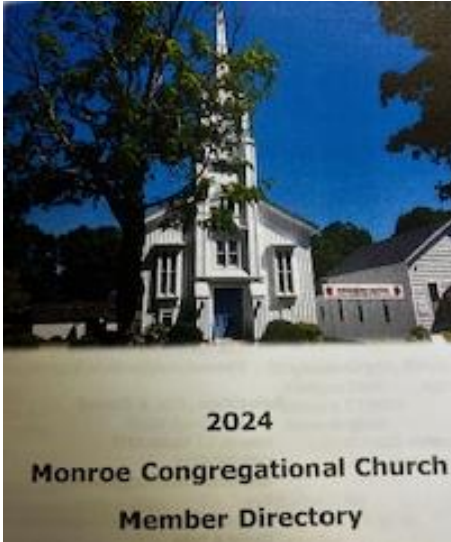
Children experience the world through their bodies and make meaning about these experiences through their senses. Children also have a strong need to belong. They grow spiritually by participating in the full life of the church. What better place for them to know they are valued in their faith community than welcoming them to that holy communion moment?

Intergenerational involvement in service, stewardship, worship, fellowship, and faith formation builds bridges where faith is passed on from older to younger generations. Younger generations have the experience of belonging to the faith community, as the older folks help pass on their wisdom and traditions. When children share in communion, they know they have a place where they can experience God's unconditional love and belonging right here at church.

On March 3rd we will be experimenting with moving communion from the end of the worship service to the beginning, so that students and teachers may take part in it before heading off to Sunday school. Rest assured; CE will continue to teach about communion as part of the Sunday School curriculum. Our hope is that through regular participation they will feel the welcome and nurture of their larger faith community as we ALL share communion with one another.

In peace, Pastor Jenn

Deacons



2024 Member Directories are available!

You may pick up a copy in the Narthex on Sunday morning or from the rack outside the office.

Large print directories are also available.

Call 203-268-9327 or email secretary@mcc-ucc.org and Diane will email a directory to you!



Holy Week at the Monroe Congregational Church

Palm Sunday, March 24th, 10 am –Join us in our historic Meetinghouse to celebrate Palm Sunday. We will begin with a festive procession around the green.

Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service, March 28th, 7:30 pm: A candlelit evening worship service remembering Jesus' mandate to love one another.

Easter Sunday, March 31st

6 am – Sunrise Service on Pierce Lawn: Dress warmly and join us outside at the fire pit to welcome the resurrection!

10 am – Easter Celebration Service: Join us at MCC for the Great Easter Celebration! We will also join in singing the Hallelujah Chorus. After worship we will share a festive Easter Coffee Hour. Christ is Risen indeed AND Everyone is Welcome.

Deacon Flocks Updated February 2024

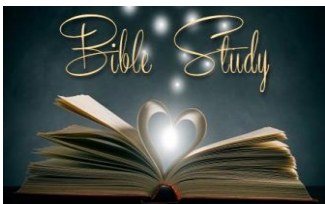
Each member of our board of Deacons is assigned a "flock", a group of people that they care for through *regular communication* and prayer. If you have requests or concerns that you would like to share, your deacon is available. Such requests or concerns might include:



- a need for prayer
- a request for help (transportation to a doctor's appointment or church function, etc.)
- a sorrow (illness, accident, death or other crisis)
- a joy (a birth, graduation, upcoming wedding, etc.)
- something that particularly pleases you, or would better meet your needs in the worship service

Naturally, if you are more comfortable with contacting one of the other deacons or your pastor, please do so. If you do not know your Deacon, ask someone to introduce you. He or she looks forward to meeting you and getting to know you better!

A-Ber	Jim Hisey	203-913-2227	jhisey@management-insights.com
Ble-Col	Leanne McEvoy	203-520-6750	mcevoyl@hotmail.com
Col-Dut	Michelle Cardentey	203-814-6784	michelle.cardentey@gmail.com
Elm-Goy	Jessica Pfalzgraf	203-414-6874	jspfalzgraf@gmail.com
Gra-His	Owen Correll	475-231-9292	owencorrell24@yahoo.com
Hyd-Mat	Larry Wissink	203-723-1930	larrywissink@gmail.com
McC-Pea	Jennifer Wissink	203-906-0094	wissinkjennifer@yahoo.com
Pel-Roo	Michelle Correll	203-394-8415	mgcorrell@yahoo.com
Rou-Spe	Marc Cardentey	203-300-8304	marccardentey@gmail.com
Sta-War	Emma Campbell	203-400-2811	Ercampbell223@gmail.com
Wat-Zei	Rebecca Cicarelli	203-270-7655	rcicarelli5@gmail.com



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! **Mar 17 – OPEN, Apr 21 – STORE**

Outreach



It's time to gather your donations for the Annual Outreach Charity Tag Sale on March 23! To donate, please bring your items to Wilton Hall on either March 19, 20 or 21st from 9 am until 5 pm when volunteer sorters are present. All items must be clean and in good condition. **Thank you for your generous donations!**

Some items we **cannot accept** include:

- Electronics, including old computers, monitors, boom boxes or phones (of any type)
- Coffee mugs (travel and ceramic), plastic water bottles, Plastic food storage items
- Stuffed toys
- Cribs, car seats or pack and plays
- Encyclopedias, textbooks or VHS tapes
- Bicycles that are not complete and rideable
- Blankets, comforters, or linens that have holes or are not clean
- Anything that is broken or chipped
- Large furniture items like dining room sets, particle board furniture, bookcases or upholstered chairs or couches.

***Please email Julie McClenathan pictures of small furniture items before donating. juliemcclenathan@gmail.com**



**OFFERING DATE:
MARCH 10, 2024**

One Great Hour of Sharing® is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.



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.

A blue-themed graphic with wavy lines representing water. It features a peace symbol on the right side. The text "like a river, just go with the flow of the water..." is written in a white, cursive font across the top. Below this, the word "Peace" is written in a large, white, cursive font, followed by "Like a River" in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. The event details "MCC 2024 Women's Retreat", "Silver Lake Camp & Retreat Center", and "April 5-7, 2024" are listed in white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, "Sign-up in Wilton Hall * \$150/per person" is written in white, sans-serif font.

like a river, just go with
the flow of the water...

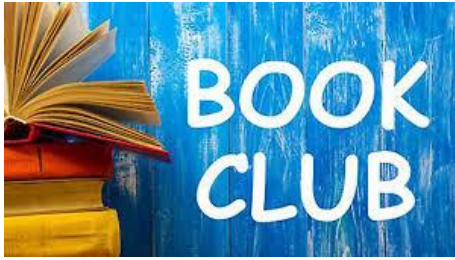
Peace Like a River

MCC 2024 Women's Retreat
Silver Lake Camp & Retreat Center
April 5-7, 2024

Sign-up in Wilton Hall * \$150/per person

Sign up in Wilton Hall or call the office 203-268-9327

A team is being organized to plan the retreat. We hope you'll join in and add your thoughts and ideas! See Pastor Jenn or e-mail her at jenn.gingras@gmail.com



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:

March 20th - 7 pm- Demon Copperhead by Barbara Kingsolver

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Young at Heart will meet Thursday, March 28th at noon

Details to be announced



Morning Circle invites the women of the congregation to our first meeting of the year on **Wednesday, March 13 at 11am** in Dineson Parlor. We will be putting together birthday bags for children who visit the Food Pantry with their parents. We are looking for donations of cake mixes, frosting, birthday candles and napkins. You can leave your donations in the bin across from the men's room. Monetary donations can be made out to MCC with Birthday Bags - Morning Circle on the item line. Mark your calendars for our April meeting on Wednesday the 10th at 11am in the parlor where we will put together Church World Service hygiene kits. Please contact Shari Carrano with any questions or comments at 203-400-3563.

Our calendar of meetings

- Wednesday, March 13** - Birthday bags for Food Pantry
- Wednesday, April 10 - Church World Service hygiene kits
- Wednesday, May 8 - Collection of Women's hygiene products
- Wednesday, June 12 - Annual June picnic - Location TBD



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 janeFallen@sbcglobal.net with any thoughts or questions. **Our next meeting will be Saturday, 3/2. Come check it out!**

MEET & GREET!



Lincoln is a gentle Labradoodle who loves meeting new friends. He is hypoallergenic and very well trained. Lincoln will be visiting coffee hour with his human parents (Ann-Marie and Brian Campbell) on March 10, April 28 and May 19. Come and say hi!

Lost & Found



Have you checked out the lost and found items that are hung up across from the men's room? Some of these were in the Narthex of the Meetinghouse. Come and take a look to see if any of these stray items belong to you. On March 8 all unclaimed clothing will be washed and brought to the Mustard Seed Thrift Shoppe. Please contact Susie Cuseo at 203-268-0280 or thecuseos@yahoo.com with any questions



**Strawberry Festival 2024
will be held on Saturday, June 15 (10am-5pm)
& Sunday, June 16 (11am-5pm).**



There's lots to do from jam making, finding coordinators for each section, revamping our games section and prepping for the big event in June to name a few. Every year our festival is a huge success because of our dedicated volunteers who offer up their time to help in all sorts of ways. Consider signing up in Wilton Hall when those sheets go up in May. We will have shortcake for communion and our kickoff for the festival on the first Sunday of June. It is an exciting event that brings



our members together where we catch up with each other when we are picking strawberries, hulling the berries, prepping the pie shells, making those delicious pies, tasty shortcake or yummy jams. We celebrate the end of our collaboration with a dinner after we've cleaned up and packed up the materials at each station. We need each and every one of you! Please contact any of our co-chairs: Susie Cuseo, Jenn/Clark Gingras, Josh Post and Frank Wittenauer with any questions, comments or concerns.



Calling all Jam Makers!!! It's time to make jam for Strawberry Festival. We have several volunteers willing to lead these sessions. All we need is a few extra people to help stir, pour and clean for approximately 2 and half hours.

Please contact Susie Cuseo at thecuseos@yahoo.com or 203-268-0280 for more information or if you have any problems accessing the link. Thank you in advance for your time in making these yummy and

delicious jars of sweet goodness in so many flavors.

Sign up using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E094CAEAA22A4FB6-48041861-jamsessions>.



Are you creative or handy with tools? The Strawberry Festival Committee is bringing back the Gaming Alley.

However, some of the original games need to be revamped and we are looking to build new ones.

If you are interested in helping out with this wonderful task, please contact Susie Cuseo at 203-268-0280 or thecuseos@yahoo.com.

ALZHEIMER'S

♥♥ Awareness

Join us at coffee hour on **March 10th** for a short presentation from Kristen Cusato from the Alzheimer's Association. She'll cover the support that is available to caregivers and take some Q&A.

ALZHEIMER'S  ASSOCIATION®
24/7 Helpline: 800.272.3900



**Daylight saving time will begin at 2:00 AM on
Sunday, March 10**



SR PF PRESENTS



CHILI

COOK-OFF

BRING THE HEAT! 6-8 PM

Saturday March

2nd

Monroe Congregational Church

Rexford House

34 Church St. Monroe, CT

**\$8/PERSON
KIDS UNDER
5 EAT FOR
FREE**



- 10+ Contestants
- Raffle baskets
- Bake Sale
- Mission trip slide show over the years

All Proceeds benefit our 2024 youth mission trip!

?s-Mccuccsrpf@gmail.com

Prayer LIST

As the new year begins, we hope that our friends and loved ones listed on our weekly prayer list have found healing of both body and soul. If you or your loved one finds you are no longer in need of our weekly prayer, please let Diane know so we may rejoice in the good news and remove the name making room for those who may need to be added. secretary@mcc-ucc.org or call the office 203-268-9327

In Our Prayers

Alison Abrams (Jessica Pfalzgraf's sister); **Allie** (Colegrove's friend); **Henry Bergeron** (on the loss of his sister); **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); **Heidi** (Diane Prall's sister); **Brad Heines** (Susie Cuseo's friend); **Bob Heffernan** (Ann Zeiner's son-in-law); **Heather Henning**; **Brian Hopkins** (Donna Konkol's cousin); **Bill Irwin** (Cheri's husband); **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**; **Ron McGlinchey** (Pastor Jenn's dad); **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**; **Tom Steen** (Jessica Pfalzgraf's dad); **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); **Ruth Wakeley**; **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)



Happy March Birthday to the following people
and to anyone we may have missed we will keep you in our prayers.

03/01	Manaia	Friend	03/21	Nicky	Sentementes
03/01	Catherine	Gingras	03/22	Michael	Pfalzgraf
03/02	Quin	Bauerle	03/23	Madeline	Colegrove
03/04	Michele	Molloy	03/25	Rachel	Colegrove
03/04	Melissa	Olson	03/25	Cliff	Cuseo
03/04	Melissa	Quinn	03/25	Susie	Cuseo
03/07	Deborah	Vargovchik	03/25	Lynn	Draus
03/13	Ryan	Andrejczyk	03/25	Jan	Pearson
03/14	Suzanne	Adams	03/06	Judy	Davis
03/16	Cheramie	DiMenna	03/26	John	Maiolo
03/16	Jamie	Dotoratos	03/28	Dana	Jesulaitis
03/17	Stephen	Sentementes	03/28	Arlene	Redmond
03/18	Mike	Rifflard	03/29	Bonnie	Schneider
03/21	John	Goyette			



Happy March Wedding Anniversary
the following couples and to anyone we may
have missed, we will keep you in our
prayers. (Number is anniversary date)

Julie & Rob McClenathan

March 2024
MCC Community Calendar

Sat. Mar 2nd

1:00 pm Sr PF Setup for Chili Cook off
5:30 pm Adult PF
6:00 - 8:00 pm SR PF Chili Cook Off

Week of Sun. Mar 3rd

Communion Sunday

10:00 am Worship
11:30 am Trustees
5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF

Mon. Mar 4th

7:00 pm Outreach

Tue. Mar 5th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thurs. Mar 7th

9:30 am Bible Study
6:00 pm Confirmation Class
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Sat. Mar 9th

10:30 am Jam Making

Week of Sun. Mar 10th

Daylight Savings Time

10:00 am Worship
11:00 am Alzheimer Awareness
2:00 pm Crop Walk Rally
5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF

Mon. Mar 11th

7:30 pm Deacons

Tue. Mar 12th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thurs. Mar 14th

9:30 am Bible Study
6:00 pm Confirmation Class
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Sat. Mar 16th

10:30 am Jam Making
1:30 pm Jam Making

Week of Sun. Mar 17th

10:00 am Worship
11:15 am Nooma
5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF

****Tag Sale Setup Mar 18th - 22nd ****

Mon. Mar 18th

7:30 pm Council

Tue. Mar 19th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Wed. Mar 20th

7:00 pm Book Club

Thurs. Mar 21st

9:30 am Bible Study
6:00 pm Confirmation Class
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Sat. Mar 23rd

7:00 am - 3:00 pm Outreach Tag Sale

Week of Sun. Mar 24th

Palm Sunday

10:00 am Worship
11:30 am Jam Making
5:00 pm Junior, Senior PF

Tue. Mar 26th

1:00 pm Mustard Seed Sort and Tag

Thurs. Mar 28th

12 pm Young @ Heart
5:30 pm Maundy Thursday Setup
6:00 pm Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir
7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service

Fri. Mar 29th

12:30 pm Jam Making

Sat. Mar 30th

10:00 am Jam Making

Week of Sun. Mar 31st

Easter Sunday

6:00 am Sunrise Service
10:00 am Worship