

UMCM Morning Worship

October 8, 2023, 10:00 am

**Denotes Standing, in body and/or spirit*

Worship Theme: Christ, the Cornerstone

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude "O Jesus, Thou Art Standing" Robert W. Thygerson

Welcome Rev. Chuck Schif

Pastor Memories Rose Aiello

***Call to Worship** *Groundbreaking Oct. 29, 1972* UMCM Pastors

People: **We give thanks to God the Father today!**

Rev. York: That a church has risen here in response to the gifts we all have received and to the love which has blessed us all.

People: **We give thanks to God the Son today!**

Rev. Denton:: That a church has risen here where God's Word and the Sacraments became ever more real in our growing fellowship.

People: **We give thanks to God the Holy Spirit today!**

Rev. Epstein: That a church has risen here where the weary and heavy-laden found that inner peace which the world could neither give nor take away.

People: **We give thanks to God's Servants today!**

Rev. Schif: That a church has risen here where all children of all ages may grow in their love of God and learn to live in peace with all men.

People: **We give thanks!**

***Opening Hymn** "Great is Thy Faithfulness" UMH #140

***Opening Prayer (Unison)** *by Rose Aiello, Lay Leader* Rev. Martha Epstein
Gracious God, as we gather here today to celebrate the merging of two churches 50 years ago, we are filled with gratitude for the years that have passed. We are humbled by the passage of time and all you have taught us and continue to teach us; lessons learned, experiences that have shaped us, memories shared, laughter and tears. May we honor those who are no longer with us by

remembering their spirit and impact on our journey. Continue to guide us and bestow upon us the wisdom to embrace the future with hope, enthusiasm, optimism, and purpose. Lord, may our time together today be of joy, celebration and reminiscing, but also a reminder of your goodness and grace. We ask for your blessings to be upon us all, guiding us in the chapters yet to unfold. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Sign of Peace

Choir Anthem "Come Now and Follow Me" Nancy Price
Don Besig

A Time for Children of All Ages Rev. Chuck Schif

UMCM History Rev. David York

WE PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD

Epistle Lesson: [Ephesians 4:1-16](#) (NRSV) Rev. Frank Denton

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

***Gospel Lesson:** [Matthew 21:33-46](#) (NRSV)

Lector: The Word of God for the People of God

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn of Response** "Here I Am, Lord" UMH #593

We Lift Up to God Our Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayer followed by the Pastoral Prayer

*Doxology & the Offering of our Gifts

Offering Prayer (Unison)

Lord, You have given us many blessings, and so we come to You now in thanksgiving. You have given us homes, clothes, food and water. You have given us eyes to see, a nose to smell, ears to hear and hands to touch the lives of many. You have given us the gift of

opportunity, of achievement, and today, a cause for celebration. For all the gifts You have showered upon us, we offer to You our simple gifts. May they multiply and be put to continued good use in our church, the community, and globally. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

WE CARRY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

*Sending Hymn "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High" TFWS #2088

*Benediction

*Benediction Response "I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me" TFWS #2153
(v. 1,2,4)

Postlude

Join Us for Lunch & Fellowship

Coming Up:

October 15th - Sunday Worship Service @10am - Join us LIVE or ONLINE as we continue to study God's Word as Paul teaches us to "Rejoice" and to "let your requests be made known to God" ([Philippians 4:1-9](#)) Have you prayed today?

Join us Wednesday's @ 7:30am for

Wednesday-Wakeup Devotional & Fellowship



[Zoom Link](#)

(Live Meeting)



[YouTube \(https://bitly.com/WWakeup\)](https://bitly.com/WWakeup)

(Recorded Sessions)

Pastor: Reverend Charles J. Schif Liturgist: Various
Pianist/Organist: RoseAnne Homola Lay Leader: Rose Aiello
Music Leaders: Patti Early and RoseAnne Homola

Email: umc@umcmonroe.org

Telephone: 203.268.8395

Web site: www.umcmonroe.org

Email: Pastor@UMCMonroe.org

Pastor's cell: 203.560.2220



Worship Livestream Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/96540669674?pwd=OEVTYXdILzBucDR4YzBvdEwvSlkyQT09>

Meeting ID: 965 4066 9674

Passcode: 2819

Dial-in: +1 929 205 6099

United Methodist Church of Monroe

A member of the Eastern Fairfield Cooperative Parish

515 Cutlers Farm Road

Monroe, CT 06468

Sunday, October 8, 2023

"Growing in the Body of Christ"