

Sunday Worship
April 28, 2024, 10:00 am

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

Worship Theme: Bearing Much Fruit

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude "My Redeemer" Franklin Ritter

Welcome & Announcements (see insert) John Rajpolt

***Call to Worship (Responsively)** *Psalm 128* Leader

Leader: Blessed are all who fear the Lord, who walk in obedience to him.

People: **You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours.**

Leader: Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table.

People: **Yes, this will be the blessing for the man who fears the Lord.**

Leader: May the Lord bless you from Zion; may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life.

People: **May you live to see your children's children—peace be on Israel.**

***Opening Hymn** "Gather Us In" TFWS #2236
(v.1,2,4)

***Opening Prayer (Unison)** by Michelle Rajpolt Leader
God the Creator, how wonderful are You and the earthly creations You have made. Remind us today that You are the ultimate "vine grower" and that we are "branches" on the "vine" of Christ. Help us to abide in Christ Jesus and live according to His teachings and example. Direct us towards the ways in which we can be disciples of Jesus and, like Him, "bear much fruit." In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Offering One Another the Peace of Christ

CHOIR ANTHEM "This is love" David Fettke

A Time for Children of All Ages

WE PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD

New Testament Lesson: [Acts 8:26–40](#) (NRSV)

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

***Gospel Lesson:** [John 15:1–11](#) (NRSV)

Lector: The Word of God for the People of God

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon "Staying Truly Connected" Pastor Chuck

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn of Response "Where Charity and Love Prevail" UMH #549
(v. 1,2,6)

We Lift Up to God Our Prayers and Concerns

Silent Prayer followed by the Pastoral Prayer

The Offering of our Gifts

***Doxology**

Offering Prayer (Unison)

Holy Jesus, you are *the true vine*. With your life coursing through ours, we know that everything we have, and everything we are, comes from you. Detached from you, we can offer nothing. But connected with you, we can *bear much fruit*. On this day, may this offering bear much fruit for the Kingdom of God. In the coming days, may our lives continue to bear much fruit for our Father in heaven. We pray this all in your loving name. Amen.

WE CARRY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

*Sending Hymn "They'll Know We Are Christians" TFWS #2223
(v. 1,2,4)

*Benediction

*Benediction Response "Shalom to You" UMH #666

Postlude

Join us for Coffee Hour Hosted by Dotti Hossler

Coming Up:

May 5th - Communion Sunday Worship Service @10am - "Jesus: The True Vine" Join us LIVE or ONLINE as we resume our study of God's Word to hear about what it means to be a Friend of Jesus ([John 15:12-17](#)) Start by loving one another - Easy right? 😊

Join us Wednesday's @ 7:30am for

Wednesday-Wakeup Devotional & Fellowship



[Zoom Link](#)
(Live Meeting)



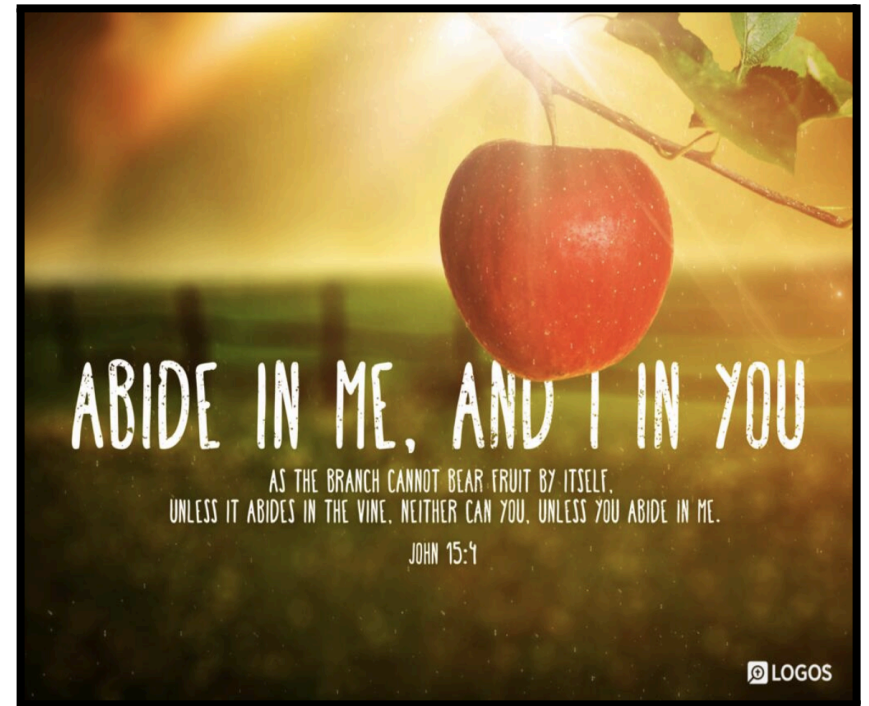
[YouTube \(https://bitly.com/WWakeup\)](https://bitly.com/WWakeup)
(Recorded Sessions)

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

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Worship Livestream Zoom link:

<https://zoom.us/j/96540669674?pwd=OEVTYXdlLzBucDR4YzBvdEwvSlkyQT09>

United Methodist Church of Monroe

A member of the Eastern Fairfield Cooperative Parish
515 Cutlers Farm Road
Monroe, CT 06468

Sunday, April 28, 2024

"Growing in the Body of Christ"