

Sunday Worship

January 4, 2026 10:00 am

*Denotes Standing, in body and/or spirit

Worship Theme: Light in the Darkness

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude "Bright Resounding Trumpet" Franklin Ritter

Welcome & Announcements (see insert) Anita Stabler-Hussey

*Call to Worship (Responsively) *Psalm 119* Leader

Leader: Your statutes are wonderful; therefore I obey them.

People: **The unfolding of your words gives light; it gives understanding to the simple.**

Leader: Turn to me and have mercy on me, as you always do to those who love your name.

People: **Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me.**

Leader: Redeem me from human oppression, that I may obey your precepts.

People: **Make your face shine on your servant and teach me your decrees.**

*Opening Hymn "Star Child" TFWS #2095
(v. 1,2,3,5)

*Opening Prayer (Unison) Leader
Heavenly Father, as Jesus prayed, "*Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth,*" may we hear that truth today. As the book of Sirach will teach us, Your very truth and wisdom "*sought a resting place*" apart from the heavens, and decided to dwell amongst us. When the Gospel of John proclaims that "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God,*" he is describing Jesus, your very wisdom and truth that chose to live amongst us. We are in the presence of your truth. We are in the presence of You. And yet, we don't deserve to be. Forgive us for how we've sinned against You, and "*sanctify us in the truth,*" we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

CHOIR ANTHEM "Just One Star" Brad Dixon

A Time for Children of All Ages

WE PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson: [Sirach 24:1-12](#) (RSV) Leader

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

*Gospel Lesson: [John 1:1-13](#) (NRSV)

Lector: The Word of God for the People of God

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Message "Wisdom & Light" Pastor Chuck

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

We Lift Up to God Our Prayers and Concerns Pastoral Prayer

*Doxology The Offering of our Gifts

Offering Prayer (Unison)

Holy Jesus, you are the Light of the World. The gifts that we bring you today come with a desire that your light shine brighter, and into more dark corners of our community through the giving of these gifts. Multiply them, and use us to "*testify to the light*" so that more may *receive you, believe in your name, and be granted your power to become children of God!* May your will be done. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Giving of the Bread and Cup Prayer of Thanksgiving

WE CARRY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

***Sending Hymn** “Love Came Down at Christmas” UMH #242

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response** "Go Tell It on the Mountain" UMH #251
(refrain only)

Postlude

Join Us for Coffee Hour

Coming Up:

Jan.11th - Regular Service @10am - Baptism of the Lord

Join us **LIVE** or **ONLINE** as we resume our study of God's Word on the Baptism of Jesus ([Matthew 3:13–17](#)) Ready to take a dip?

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: Anita Stabler- Hussey
Pianist/Organist: RoseAnne Homola Lay Leader: Patti Early
Music Leaders: Patti Early and RoseAnne Homola

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Worship Livestream Zoom link:



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

January 4, 2026 10:00 am
“Growing in the Body of Christ”