

Sunday Worship

January 18, 2026 10:00 am

*Denotes Standing, in body and/or spirit

Worship Theme: You Are Never Alone

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude "Onward, Christian Soldiers" Lani Smith

Welcome & Announcements (see insert) Juliana & Maddie Sherwood

***Call to Worship (Responsively)** *Psalm 139* Leader

Leader: Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

People: **If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.**

Leader: If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea,

People: **even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.**

Leader: If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me,"

People: **even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.**

Leader: For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

People: **I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.**

***Opening Hymn** "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" UMH #334

***Opening Prayer (Unison)** *a UMCM Angel* Leader

Dear Lord, as we begin this day, we acknowledge that You will never abandon us! Stories from Your Word show us:

You are the ram in the thicket.

You are the soft, still voice in the storm.

You are in the quiet still waters in the valley.

You are also in the mountain tops.

Help us to know this more deeply, we pray.

In Jesus name. Amen

Words of Assurance

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Come Now and Follow Me"

Nancy Price
Don Besig
Insert

A Time for Children of All Ages

WE PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson: *Isaiah 49:1-7* (ESV)

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

***Gospel Lesson:** *John 1:29-42* (ESV)

Lector: The Word of God for the People of God

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Message **"God is only as far from us as we want him to be."**

Brian Sherwood

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn of Response** "The Summons"

(v. 1,3,4,5)

TFWS #2130

We Lift Up to God Our Prayers and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

***Doxology**

The Offering of our Gifts

Offering Prayer (Unison) *a UMCM Angel*

Dear God, You have already given to us Jesus, the ultimate gift to which nothing can compare. Let these gifts we offer to You reflect our appreciation and our love. Use each gift of treasure, time, and talent for Your glory. Use each of us to show the reflection of Your love, in all we do. In Jesus name. Amen.

WE CARRY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

***Sending Hymn** "Here I Am Lord" UMH #593

***Benediction**

***Benediction Response** "Jesus, Name Above
All Names"
(sing twice) TFWS #2071

Postlude

**Join Us for Coffee Hour Hosted by the Rapolt
and Hornak Families**

Coming Up:

January 25th. - for Sunday Worship Service @10am - Join us
LIVE or ONLINE as we resume our study of God's Word in Matthew
as Jesus rounds-up his crew ([Matthew 4:12-23](#)) Follow Him!

Join us Wednesday's @ 7:30am for
Wednesday-Wakeup Devotional & Fellowship



[Zoom Link](#)
(Live Meeting)



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

Pastor: Reverend Charles J. Schif

Liturgist: Juliana & Maddie
Sherwood

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 18, 2026 10:00 am

"Growing in the Body of Christ"