

Sunday Worship
February 22, 2026 10:00 am

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

Worship Theme: First Sunday of Lent

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude "Meditation on "Italian Hymn" Lani Smith

Welcome & Announcements (see insert) Michelle Rajpolt

***Call to Worship (Responsively)** Psalm 32 Leader

Leader: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

People: **Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

Leader: While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

People: **For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

Leader: Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;

People: **I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

Leader: You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;

People: **you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.**

***Opening Hymn** "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days" (v. 1,2,4,5) UMH #269

***Opening Prayer (Unison)** by a UMCM Angel Leader
Merciful Jesus, we come before you today humbled and seeking Your Divine assistance. We are acutely aware of our weaknesses and all the many temptations that constantly come at us. As we reflect on Your temptation in the wilderness, grant us the courage to stand firm against the lures of sin and evil. Help us to remember that with You, all things are possible and that we are never alone in our struggles. Help us to turn to You in our moments of weakness and may we let You be our strength. Your Word Lord is truth. May Your

truth reign in our hearts in every circumstance of our life. In Jesus' mighty Name we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Offering the Peace of Christ

CHOIR ANTHEM

"Doxology of Praise"

Tom Fettke

A Time for Children of All Ages

WE PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD

Old Testament Lesson: [Genesis 2:15–17: 3:1-7](#) (NRSV) Leader

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

***Gospel Lesson:** [Matthew 4:1–11](#) (NRSV)

Lector: The Word of God for the People of God

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Message

Pastor Chuck

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn of Response**

"Because He Lives"

UMH #364

We Lift Up to God Our Prayers and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer

***Doxology**

The Offering of our Gifts

Offering Prayer (Unison)

Holy Father, you give and you give. Even when we betray you, you clothe us with your protection and grace. When we walk away, you still keep your eye on the horizon for our return. When we turn to you, we feel your embrace. We don't deserve that amount of love, and yet you still provide. Lord, let us see the world through your eyes. Let us provide when it's undeserved, love the unlovable, and forgive when it seems impossible. May our lives, and these gifts, be a reflection of your love and provision in this world. We pray this all in Jesus' name. Amen.

WE CARRY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

*Sending Hymn “Jesus Walked This TFWS #2112
 Lonesome Valley”

*Benediction

*Benediction Response “Lord, I Lift Your TFWS #2088
 Name on High”
(sing once through)

Postlude

Join Us for Coffee Hour hosted by Rose Aiello

Coming Up:

March 1st. - for Communion Sunday Worship Service @10am -
Join us LIVE or ONLINE as we resume our study of God’s Word, this time in John as we see one of the quiet heroes of the faith that dared to defy the “norm” to seek out Jesus ([John 3:1–17](#)). Are you so bold?

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: Michelle Rajpolt
Pianist/Organist: RoseAnne Homola Lay Leader: Patti Early
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:](#)



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

February 22, 2026 10:00 am
“Growing in the Body of Christ”