

Sunday Worship

August 23, 2026 10:00 am

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

Worship Theme: One Body in Christ

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude "Arise, My Soul, Arise!" Franklin Ritter

Welcome & Announcements (see insert) Chris Shope

***Call to Worship (Responsively)** Psalm 138 Leader
Leader: I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the
gods I sing your praise;

People: **I bow down toward your holy temple and give thanks
to your name for your steadfast love and your
faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and
your word above everything.**

Leader: On the day I called, you answered me, you increased my
strength of soul.

People: **All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for
they have heard the words of your mouth.**

Leader: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me
against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your
hand, and your right hand delivers me.

People: **The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast
love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the
work of your hands.**

***Opening Hymn** "My Hope is Built" UMH #368
(v. 1-3)

***Opening Prayer (Unison)** Leader
Holy Jesus, we approach you in worship today with a desire to know
who we are in your eyes. Are we those that you would be proud to
introduce to others in your heavenly kingdom? But, perhaps the
more important question to ask is, who do we say that you are? Are
you a friend? Are you a distant God? Are you a miracle working
prophet sent by God? Or, are you as the disciples proclaimed, "*Truly
you are the Son of God!*" May we get closer to that answer today,
through the power of your Holy Spirit. In your name we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Offering the Peace of Christ

A Time for Children of All Ages

WE PROCLAIM THE WORD OF GOD

Epistle Lesson: [Romans 12:1-8](#) (NRSV) Leader

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

***Gospel Reading:** [Matthew 16:13-20](#) (NRSV)

Lector: The Word of God for the People of God

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Message But who do you say that I am? Pastor Chuck

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn of Response** "Grace Alone" TFWS #2162
(optional ending)

We Lift Up to God Our Prayers and Concerns Pastoral Prayer

***Doxology** The Offering of our Gifts

Offering Prayer (Unison) by a UMCM Angel

Thank You Jesus, My Lord. Thank You for Your incredible love. It is
Your endless love and Your endless desire to be the Lord of my life.
This truth continues to 'woo' me. Help me to fully understand that
You are The Way, The Truth, and The Life. As we present our life to
You today and as we give our monetary gifts back to You, help us to
take your truth and love out into the world. Multiply these gifts to
honor You. We ask this in Your name, Jesus the Christ. Amen.

WE CARRY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

*Sending Hymn “My Life is in You, Lord” TFWS #2032

*Benediction

*Benediction Response “Bind Us Together” TFWS #2226

Postlude

Join us for Coffee Hour hosted by Dotti Hossler

Coming Up:

August 30th. - Sunday Worship Service @10am - Join us LIVE or ONLINE as we resume our study of God's Word ([Matthew 16:21-28](#)). What does it mean to YOU to “take up your cross” and follow Jesus?

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: Chris Shope

Pianist/Organist: RoseAnne Homola

Lay Leader: Patti Early

Music Leaders: Patti Early and RoseAnne Homola

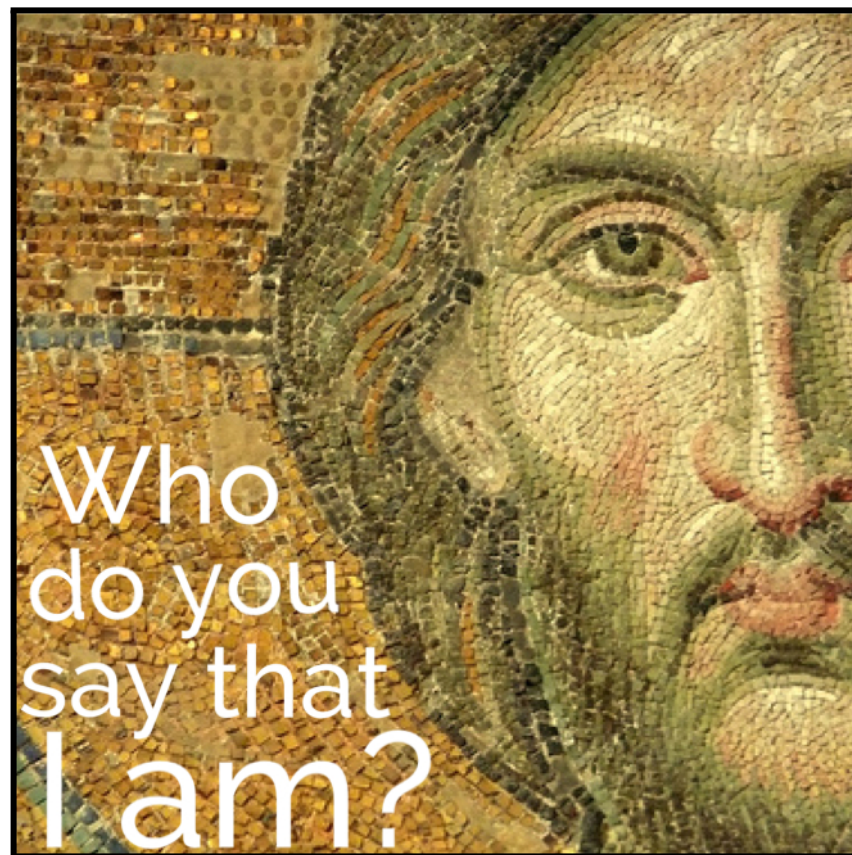
Email: umc@umcmonroe.org

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

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