

Sunday Worship

August 30, 2026 10:00 am

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

Worship Theme: The Cost of Discipleship

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude "Prelude on "Germany" Tom Birchwood

Welcome & Announcements (see insert) Leader

***Call to Worship (Responsively)** Psalm 26 Leader

Leader: Vindicate me, Lord, for I have led a blameless life;

People: I have trusted in the Lord and have not faltered.

Leader: Test me, Lord, and try me, examine my heart and my mind;

People: for I have always been mindful of your unfailing love and have lived in reliance on your faithfulness.

Leader: I do not sit with the deceitful, nor do I associate with hypocrites.

People: I abhor the assembly of evildoers and refuse to sit with the wicked.

Leader: I wash my hands in innocence, and go about your altar, Lord,

People: proclaiming aloud your praise and telling of all your wonderful deeds.

Lord, I love the house where you live, the place where your glory dwells.

***Opening Hymn** "Holy Ground" (x3) TFWS #2272

***Opening Prayer (Unison)** by Solomon Bell Leader

Holy Jesus, we ask You to help us to be more like You. Please guide our hearts, help us to love and honor others. Make us joyful, patient, and faithful. Help us to bless others instead of curse them, and to live in harmony with one another. Just as You did not seek retribution when You were nailed to the cross, help us to refrain from seeking retribution to those that have wronged us, and instead to forgive them. Through your Holy Spirit, and 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 12:9–21](#) (NRSV) Leader

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

***Gospel Reading:** [Matthew 16:21–28](#) (NRSV)

Lector: The Word of God for the People of God

People: Thanks be to God!

Message Conversion & Hope Pastor Chuck

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF GOD

***Hymn of Response** "The Summons" TFWS #2130
(v. 1,3,4,5)

We Lift Up to God Our Prayers and Concerns Pastoral Prayer

***Doxology** The Offering of our Gifts

Offering Prayer (Unison) by Denise Wiley

Generous and loving God, You call us to step beyond our own selfish desires, to take up our cross, and to follow Your greater path. As we bring our offerings before You today, we surrender our fears and our reliance on worldly security. Bless these gifts and use them. Let them bring healing where there is hurt, hope where there is despair, and practical love to a demanding world. Shape our hearts through our giving, that we might truly lose our lives for Your sake and find them in Your eternal kingdom. In Jesus' holy name, we pray. Amen.

WE CARRY THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD

*Sending Hymn "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" TFWS #2129

*Benediction

*Benediction Response "Rule of Life" WS #3117

Postlude

Join us for Coffee Hour hosted by Gail Mas

Coming Up:

September 6th. - Communion Sunday Worship Service @10am -

Join us LIVE or ONLINE as we resume our study of God's Word

([Matthew 18:15-20](#)) as Jesus helps us clean up our interpersonal

skills! 😊

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: Juliana and Daisy
Sherwood

Pianist/Organist: RoseAnne Homola

Lay Leader: Patti Early

Music Leaders: Patti Early and RoseAnne Homola

Acolyte: Hailey Cacace

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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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