

United Methodist Church of Monroe

Messenger

*A welcoming family of caring Christians dedicated
to joyful service to all God's people.
Share in the journey.*

february
2015

Coming Soon: Dinner with the Epsteins!

"The believers devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers. They shared food with gladness and simplicity."

Acts 2:42, 46b



Inspired by the book, Dinner with the Smileys, and the visit to Monroe by the Smiley family in November, we have decided to start a "Dinner with the Epsteins." We don't intend to write a book about the adventure, but we do intend to celebrate with you around our dinner table. In case you are not familiar with the book it takes place in their hometown in Maine. When her husband Dustin was deployed for a year, Sarah wanted to fill his seat at dinner each week as that was when her three boys seemed to miss him the most. As such, she invited different people from Senators to teachers to elderly neighbors to come and dine with them.

This is nothing new to us as Christians though. Jesus spent a lot of his ministry around tables and eating with people. In fact, it was when Jesus was eating with his disciples at the Last Supper that he washed their feet and told them to serve others and to love one another. Then, after the resurrection and ascension of Jesus, his followers devoted themselves to being together through the sharing of meals and did so, as we are told in Acts, with "gladness and simplicity."

Don't worry, we are not planning on doing any foot washing at our dinners, but we are planning on rejoicing with you in gladness and keeping the simplicity aspect. One of the things that Sarah Smiley agreed to was that they wouldn't go crazy with an elaborate meal or with cleaning. If there was laundry in the basket in the living room, so be it. If the lasagna was a little burnt, so be it. The point was to have different people come and be in fellowship together.

Additionally, all the dinners didn't take place around their table. Sometimes they ate at the local nursing home, sometimes at a local restaurant, sometimes at the Children's Hospital. As such, in case you are allergic to dogs or have trouble navigating stairs or for whatever other reason we will have a "Dinner with the Epsteins" outside somewhere too.

We have yet to determine a schedule, but hope to be able to have as many of you join us over the course of 2015 for food, fellowship and fun.

In Christ's Abundant Love,

Pastor Martha



UMCM Youth are joining American teens across the nation in transforming Super Bowl Sunday, February 1 into the nation's largest youth-led day of giving "Souper Bowl of Caring"! Our UMC youth are striving to make a difference in the very big problem of world hunger. 17 million+ American households--including over 16 million children--are at risk of going to bed hungry. This number keeps growing in our own nation. Last year more than 260,000 youth participated in Souper Bowl of Caring, collecting more than \$9.8 million in dollars and food for local hunger-relief charities. That's a total of more than \$90 million collected since the movement began in 1990! This year's goal is to empower 275,000 young people to collect \$11 million for charities in their communities. Help us grow this movement and tackle hunger in America! 100% of all our donations will go to the Monroe Food Pantry and Kings Pantry. Our goal is \$500! More is better!

There will be lots of excitement on game day with our youth serving up a soup luncheon (see below) in place of coffee hour. We hope you can help us! Mark your calendars and bring cans of soup and your cash or check donations. Look for us outside the sanctuary and at the lunch! We'll have our soup pots ready for your donation. (Both cash and checks will be accepted - checks can be made payable to UMCM with Souper Bowl in the memo line.)

We will also be having a soup lunch after the church service. Please bring 2 cans of soup (at least one can should be clear chicken broth-based or beef broth-based). One can will be used for lunch and one donated to the Monroe Food Pantry. Join in for some wonderful fellowship and a great cause plus plenty of time to get home for the big game!

We will be celebrating Boy Scout Sunday at the UMCM on Sunday, Feb. 8th. All Boy Scouts and leaders, past and present, are asked to come to church in uniform and prepare to recite the Boy Scout pledge to God and country. We look forward to celebrating with you! If you would like to participate in the service, please contact Rose Aiello at buildingroses@aol.com.



SEEKING COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Sign up today to host a coffee hour as a way to...support fellowship...commemorate a special event...make some new friends...share your favorite cookies...celebrate Winter...All the basics (plates, cups, napkins, utensils, sugar) are supplied - including the coffee and instructions on how to make it. The host makes the coffee, heats the tea water and supplies the creamer...of course, no one will object if you want to put out juice and a few cookies. The sign-up sheet is posted outside the sanctuary or email the church office to book your date.



2/1 Sue York
 2/2 Tammy Cahill
 2/3 Michael Aiello
 2/4 Molly Smith
 2/7 Dotti Hossler
 2/10 Emily Florin
 2/12 Matthew Steese
 2/16 Aubrey Ramos
 2/16 Billy Schmalkuche Jr.
 2/22 Elizabeth Steese
 2/27 Laura Bartlett
 2/27 Ethan Bassett



Join us for Family Game Night on Saturday, February 21 from 6-8 p.m. We will gather in Meeting Room 2, so please enter the church from the office entrance. Bring your favorite game and snack and prepare to have a fun evening of fellowship. (We have lots of chips, so feel free to bring a dip or something sweet.)

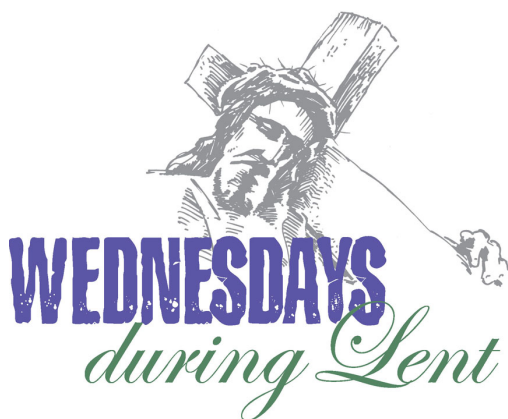
We are collecting loose change for the Waterman Scholarship Fund. Please place your loose change in the jug in the narthex.



Ash Wednesday Service
February 18, 2015
7:00 p.m.

Please join us for a worship service to enter our hearts, spirits, and minds into the season of Lent.

Join us on following Wednesday evenings during Lent. We will be joining with the Monroe Congregational Church, so please watch for future details.





Thursday Morning Lenten Scripture Study

February 19 – March 26, 2015

Time: 10:00 - 11:00 am

There are no books required for our next study! Instead, we'll be reviewing the Scripture readings for the following Sunday. You'll have a head start as you analyze and discuss the week's Scripture before it's delivered to the rest of the congregation -- you might even influence Pastor Martha's sermon! Please join us if you can ... and feel free to invite a friend!

Please
Pray
for...



If you would like to add a person to our prayer list, notify the church office or leave your request in the collection plate. Names will remain on the prayer list for 3 weeks. If you would like your name or that of a relative or friend to stay on the list longer, please contact the office.

Esther McCoy-Anita's friend

Esther's son-Leo

George Stabler-Anita's brother-serious surgery

Pam-a dedicated prayer warrior-surgeries from car accident

Family & friends of Pastor Rachel Ye Kim on her passing

Ernie Salvas-hospital

Neil Chaudhary's mother-settling in at new assisted living facility

Leigh Gray's father treatments

Suzanne- Jeanne Baklik's son's mother-in-law

Alyssa- recovering from heart surgery

Cassandra- surgery

Mary-surgery

Carl Sword's brother-Brian-recurrence of cancer

Family & friends on passing of Rev. Keith Muhleman

Kevin & those mourning the loss of Jeannie- Marilyn Jones' friend

Richard Rice-Pastor Martha's father- stage 4 kidney disease

Dave York's cousin Richard-recurrence of cancer

Karen-stopping chemotherapy

Kimberly who is experiencing family problems

Gail Northrup

Cari Harris

Bob Pantalone's mother

Robert Noll-cancer treatment

Claudia Wallace's parents

Millie Chase

Bobbie Grant's friend-Carrie-severe back pain

Al Betts-seizure

Pat McCall-battling cancer

Marge Dural-injuries from fall

Lynn Abbott's great-nephew-Cooper --radiation treatments in FL

Bobbie's friend w/AS-undergoing a tough time

Shirley Cornut

Ethel-friend Donna- a retired nurse who is depressed

Nicole Claudio-member Monroe Women's Club-continued recovery from serious surgery

Caleb-cancer

Maureen English

Theresa-friend of Yorks-recurrence of cancer, Stage 4

Linda Summa-Turner's daughter

Paul-Bill Florin's brother-in-law's father-cancer

Olivia-Juvenile Diabetes

Sue Simmons' friend- Debbie- battling MS

Richard Olsen-terminal cancer

Gail Mas' niece Suzette-healing for spine

Gail Mas – Granddaughter Darcy

Jimmy - Bobbie Grant's friend's son

Lynn Abbott's grandson- Brady

Fromm's friend-Radovan Frzop

From Lydia: Hayley Annino-friend of Kathryn-leukemia

Anna- friend of Sue Simmons-colon cancer

Dotti Hossler's brother-Rod-recovery from stroke

York's daughter-in-law-Lori-continued cancer treatment

Jodi Kles -cousin of Sheryl Rajpolt - living w/rare form of cancer

Debbie Bailey –MS –friend of Priscilla Bromley

Military personnel

Unemployed

First responders, firemen, policemen

Persons dealing w/serious medical issues, drug addiction

Caregivers

Guidance for world leaders

Covenant to Care children, foster children

Those who do not have anyone to pray for them

Those who are persecuted for their faith



MINI MISSION WAGON NEEDS

February is the month for hearts!
Get in the spirit and donate some HEARTy soups!
Give so others will feel UMC's love!



The United Methodist Church of Monroe

Feb 2015 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10am - Sunday 10am - Sunday 11:15am - UMC101 1pm - Two Planks 2pm - Girl Scouts @	2 10:30am - Friendshi 7pm - Two Planks 7:30pm - My Fair	3 7pm - Two Planks	4 7pm - Two Planks	5 4pm - Two Planks @ 7pm - Two Planks	6	7 2pm - Children's
8 10am - Sunday 10am - Sunday 11:15am - UMC101 1pm - Two Planks 2pm - Girl Scouts @	9 10:30am - FC Work 7pm - Two Planks	10 7pm - Two Planks	11 7pm - Two Planks	12 4pm - Two Planks @	13	14
15 10am - Sunday 10am - Sunday 11:15am - UMC 101 2pm - Girl Scouts @	16 10:30am - Friendshi 7:30pm - My Fair	17	18 7pm - Ash	19 10am - Bible Study 4pm - Two Planks @	20 Altar Boyz	21 Altar Boyz 6pm - Family Game
22 10am - Sunday 10am - Sunday 2pm - Girl Scouts @ 5pm - Altar Boyz	23 10:30am - FC Work	24	25	26 10am - Bible Study 4pm - Two Planks @ 7pm - Trustees	27 Altar Boyz	28 Altar Boyz

We are doing an inventory of all church keys. Please let the office know if you have a church key and the code on it.

Pastor Martha is generally in the office Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday mornings. Please check the updated calendar on the website for changes to the schedule. For a visit or pastoral care emergency, please call or email Pastor Martha.

PastorMartha@verizon.net
Parsonage (203-880-9227)

**Check us out on FaceBook...United Methodist church of Monroe is on FaceBook!
Visit our Page and 'Like' us today!**

REVISION NOTICE:

My Fair Ladies and the Friendship Circle has a revised schedule. Please see the attachment to this email for details.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every person who attended, helped, and supported our first "BREAKFAST WITH SANTA." I cannot believe what a tremendous success it was thanks to so many elves. There would be no way to mention each and every person as someone would definitely be overlooked. (Take a look at the big photo to see how many elves actually had a part in this successful event. And not all are even in that photo.) I was so grateful to our Santa for all of his great efforts to make this a success and especially for his participating in our church service the next day. I will, however, thank our photographers, Kathy Schmalkuche and Rich Reynolds for all of their extra time and efforts to get the photo process worked out and running smoothly. I think everyone enjoyed themselves and we all felt it was a really fun event.

Santa has written a letter that is attached for all to see.

Thank you all again for such a wonderful Church Family,
Anita



Below is an email from Mozambican Assistant to the Bishop Rev. Jacob Jenhuro about the Confirmation and Baptismal certificates to which many of our church members contributed.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.
Annette

Dear brothers and sisters,

I'm Rev Jacob Jenhuro. I come on behalf of our churches around Sofala, Manica, Tete, Zambezia South, Zambezia North, Nampula, Niassa and Cabot Delgado with great joy on receiving baptismal certificates our people whom was baptized during Christmas were able to get the certificate due to our partnership with New York Conference especially your church at Connecticut. Brothers and sisters the gift from you is making a big difference in our church in Mozambique north which is your church too. In Jesus we have no border. Also is not necessary to have a visa. Together we make a difference in the World. Please Annette can you transmit our gratitude and express what we have in our heart.

Rev Jenhuro

Some of our December activities...



Christmas Caroling



Breakfast with Santa



Choir Cantata



Stepney Tree Lighting



Decorating the Christmas Tree



Children's Christmas Pageant

United Methodist Church of Monroe

Messenger

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Church Phone: (203) 268-8395

E-Mail: umc@umcmonroe.org

Web Site: www.umcmonroe.org

Worship & Sunday School: Sunday, 10 a.m.



2015