

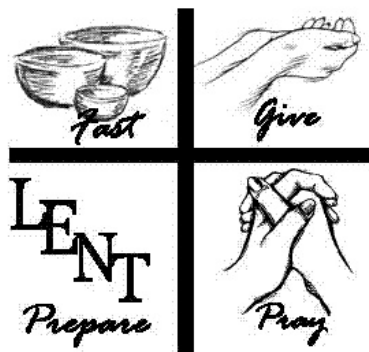
United Methodist Church of Monroe

Messenger

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



2015



"John the Baptist was in the wilderness calling for people to be baptized to show that they were changing their hearts and lives and wanted God to forgive their sins."

Mark 1:4

Here are a few suggestions that I hope you find helpful:

- Read the Upper Room devotional each day (these devotionals are available at the back of the sanctuary and by the office or you can order it on-line at <http://www.upperroom.org>)
- Read a Lenten devotional—I have many different devotionals in my office that I am happy to lend out
- Participate in the Lenten Bible Study, either on Thursday mornings or on Wednesday evenings (see more information later in the newsletter)
- Read the Bible every day
- Pray every day
- Fast once a week: fast from food, from technology, from whatever would be meaningful for you
- Donate your time and resources to the Food Pantry or another mission opportunity

Let us make a commitment to God and to one another that we will use this Lenten season as a season to grow in our faith. Pray on it and see what God is calling you to do. God created us to be in community and to share the journey together. Support one another, check in with one another, learn with one another.

I look forward to hearing how you intend to spend Lent this year.

In Christ's Abundant Peace,

Pastor Maude

As you read this, Lent has already begun—ashes marked the foreheads of many throughout the world on February 18th, indicating the beginning of this 40 day period (excluding Sundays, which are considered "little Easters") which leads to the resurrection of Christ.

Have you given thought to how you are going to spend Lent this year? Lent does not have to be only a time of penitence and a time that we abstain from something. The preparation period of Lent should be a time of spiritual growth; it should be a time of seeking God more closely, more deeply and a time to consider any changes you want to make in your relationships with God and with others.

John the Baptist was sent to prepare the way for Jesus Christ; the angel told John's father, Zechariah, "With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him...to make ready a people prepared for the Lord" (Luke 1:17). Even though we think of John the Baptist as preparing the way at Christmas, it is very apropos to consider this preparation during Lent. What or who is our modern day John the Baptist? What or who is going to help us be a people prepared for the Lord?



We collected \$545 on Souper Bowl Sunday to be split between the Monroe Food Pantry and Kings Pantry in Bridgeport... As well as an overflowing wagon full of soup to go to the Monroe Food Pantry. We more than doubled our souper bowl attainment from 2014!



We had great attendance at District Resourcing Day. Lots of information was gathered to share with us all.



We had a great turnout for Boy Scout Sunday!



We sent lots of love and prayers for Willow!



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 Spring...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.



Join us for Family Game Night on Saturday, March 21 from 6-8 p.m. Bring your favorite game and snack and prepare to have a fun evening of fellowship.

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



Covenant To Care for Children is requesting candies and small Easter toys appropriate for a young child's Easter Basket. Donation dates are between now and March 29th, the Sunday before Easter. Another item that is needed is any furniture usable for a child's bedroom. Arrangements can be made to pick up items.

Please contact Ethel Abraham or Priscilla Bromley at 203-268-4218.

GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY MARCH 8, 2015

All Girl Scouts and leaders, past and present, are asked to come to church in uniform. We look forward to celebrating with you. If you have any questions, please contact Rose Aiello at buildingroses@aol.com.



Girl Scouts



“Prickly Parables and the Kin-dom of God” Lenten Study: The Monroe Congregational Church and the United Methodist Church of Monroe will gather together from 7-8 pm on Wednesday evenings in Lent to engage in a coffeehouse-style interactive Bible study. Through video and song, conversation and prayer, we will explore community-building values in some of Jesus’ most radical teaching stories. Please note the topic and location of each study. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome, always!

February 25 – The Laborers in the Vineyard, Matt 20:1-16 – MCC (Wilton Hall, 34 Church Street)
March 4 – The Wedding Banquet, Matt 22:1-14 – UMCM (Fellowship Hall, 515 Cutler’s Farm Road)
March 11 – The Talents, Matt 25:14-30 - MCC
March 18 – The Last Judgment, Matt 25:31-46 - UMCM
March 25 – The Unforgiving Servant, Matt 18:15-35 – MCC

On April 1st all are invited to gather at UMCM for a Holy Week Service at UMCM at 7 p.m.

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.

Niria Novoa & her family-on the passing of their brother,
Luis Antonio Perez Pereyra
Bobbie's cousin's widow-Mary Johnson- second stroke.
Nick-15 yr old w/brain tumor-his grandparents, Peggy &
Jerry Price, are former members of UCMC
Esther McCoy-continues to be hospitalized
Family of Grace Slater-especially son Jim-on her passing
Willow Rupp- surgery recovery
Ginny Shaw & family-passing of son, Dick
Joan Kaesman-fractured her leg
Ethel Abraham -pneumonia
Marilyn Jones' friend-Charlotte-GERD
Donna
Family of Tom Berger-Bill Schmalkuche's childhood friend
from New Paltz, NY-Tom passed away unexpectedly
Cassandra-Lynn Gregory's friend
Rudolph family on the loss of their son
Russ/Leigh Gray family-passing of Leigh's father
Theresa-friend of Yorks-spread of cancer
Rev. Sung Moy-Pastor Martha's friend-broken leg
Suzanne-Jeanne Baklik's son's mother-in-law-in rehab
Angel- Shannon's cousin
Walt, April & their unborn baby
"Baby girl" Murphy-unborn baby w/birth defects
David- Edna Turner's grandson-heart surgery
Rosemarie Lewis-Bobbie Grant's friend-chemo for lung cancer
Helene-valve replacement surgery
Victoria-premature baby
Marilyn Jones' sister
Ernie Salvas-hospital
Carl Sword's brother-Brian-recurrence of cancer
Richard Rice-Pastor Martha's father- stage 4 kidney disease
Dave York's cousin Richard-recurrence of cancer
Karen-stopping chemotherapy
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
Lynn Abbott's great-nephew-Cooper –radiation treatments in FL
Bobbie's friend w/AS-undergoing a tough time
Shirley Cornut
Nicole Claudio-member Monroe Women's Club-continued
recovery from serious surgery
Caleb-cancer
Maureen English
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 (& Jack'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

Pancake mix always cheers up the kids. March right up to the wagon and donate some pancake mix and syrup too!



Dates to look forward to: March 30--April 3 Holy Week Services
April 5 Easter Sunday

The United Methodist Church of Monroe

Mar 2015 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10am - Sunday 10am - Sunday 11:30am - SPRC 2pm - Girl Scouts @	2 10:30am - Friendshi 7:30pm - My Fair	3	4 7pm - Lenten Study	5 10am - Bible Study 4pm - Two Planks @	6	7 2pm - Children's
8 Girl Scout Sunday 10am - Sunday 10am - Sunday 3pm - Boy Scout	9 10:30am - Work Day	10 7:15pm - Church	11 7pm - Lenten Study	12 10am - Bible Study 4pm - Two Planks @	13	14 Two Planks @
15 10am - Sunday 10am - Sunday 11:30am - Worship	16 10:30am - Friendshi 7:30pm - My Fair	17	18 7pm - Lenten Study	19 10am - Bible Study 4pm - Two Planks @	20	21 6pm - Family Game
22 10am - Sunday 10am - Sunday	23 10:30am - Work Day	24	25 7pm - Lenten Study	26 10am - Bible Study 4pm - Two Planks @	27 Two Planks	28 Two Planks
29 Two Planks 10am - Sunday 10am - Sunday	30 10:30am - Friendshi 7pm - Holy Week 7pm - Two Planks 7:30pm - My Fair	31 7pm - Holy Week 7pm - Two Planks	1	2	3	4

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!



Health & Wellness

Healing was a ministry of the early church. Christ's ministry was all about healing, feeding the minds of his followers, supporting the healthy life styles, praying for the health and welfare of his people and getting guidance and support from God through his own prayers.

Our UMC of Monroe Evangelism team is looking for your feedback and support for a proposed "Health & Wellness" series that we would look to sponsor for both our church family and the broader Monroe community. Our current thinking is to offer a monthly health & wellness topic of interest. We would be targeting people within our church family to participate as well as sessions that might reach others in the community. We are looking for potential topics as well as people with the appropriate skills within our church family who might be able to lead these topics (and/or help us find resources to help us at no charge.) We are preparing a survey to get your specific feedback, but in the meantime, here are a few of our potential topics of interest... fitness classes, nutrition topics, group walks, skin care, CPR training, et al. Please contact any of the Evangelism team members with your feedback and/or willingness to help us with this new outreach ministry. Thanks.

The UMCM Evangelism Team:

Wayne Epstein, Annette Griffith, Darlene Dobler-Palin, Sheryl Rajpolt, Vicki Whalen



Easter Flowers

If you would like to order flowers for the altar for Easter Sunday, April 5, please fill in the order form below and return to the church office. All orders must be received by Wednesday, March 25.

_____ # of Lilies at \$15.00 each _____ # of Tulips YELLOW at \$15.00 each

_____ # of Tulips RED at \$15.00 each _____ # of Hyacinths PINK at \$15.00 each

_____ # of Hyacinths PURPLE at \$15.00 each

Total Order: \$ _____ Please make checks payable to: UMC Monroe

PLEASE PRINT:

Given By: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

Check here _____ if you would like to have your flowers donated to a local shut-in.



3/1	Steven Moore		
3/1	Stephen Wallace		
3/2	Daniel Florin	3/8	Carl & Betsy Sword
3/4	Brenda Pantalone	3/20	Lee & Dotti Hossler
3/12	Patti Early		
3/23	Cindy Krom		
3/25	Leah Brantley		
3/29	Patricia Hornak		

*Dear UMC Church Family,
Thank you so much for all of the love and care
you've extended to our family these past few
weeks--the prayers, the cards, the calls have all
meant so much to us. We give thanks to God
for this wonderful church family that we are
blessed to be a part of.
With Love,
The Gray's*

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!



Join us for a Hoppin' Good Time!
Saturday, April 4, 9 am, Rain or Shine
Easter Egg Hunt, Breakfast, Craft

\$3.00 per person, paid at the door
Bring your own Easter basket
Egg Hunt limited to children 10 and under
RSVP to the church office by 3/29/15

We encourage you to invite your friends, neighbors, family and classmates. We are also looking for donations of individually wrapped nut-free candy and mini-toys by March 22 so that our Ladies groups can stuff all the eggs. There will be a marked box in the narthex for your donations. Adult and older youth volunteers are needed, contact Sue Simmons (suzq@aol.com) to volunteer.

United Methodist Church of Monroe

Messenger

515 Cutler's Farm Road
Monroe, CT 06468-1202

Church Phone: (203) 268-8395

E-Mail: umc@umcmonroe.org

Web Site: www.umcmonroe.org

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

