

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.*



"If I, your Lord and teacher, have washed your feet, you too must wash each other's feet. I have given you an example: Just as I have done, you also must do. I assure you, servants aren't greater than their master, nor are those who are sent greater than the one who set them...I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other."

John 13:14-16, 34-35



May is Missions Month!

When we gathered on Maundy Thursday we heard the story of Jesus washing his disciples' feet and giving them the commandments to love and serve others. This commandment was not just for them, but is for us today.

We are still in the season of Eastertide, so now is the perfect time to implement these commandments. We have a lot of exciting mission opportunities occurring during the month of May, so hop on board and join us! (See inside the newsletter for more specific details)

- May 3rd is Missions Sunday—we will celebrate all the missions we are currently involved in during worship and hear about new ways to show love to our neighbors
- May 3rd is also the CROP Walk. Walk with us or sponsor a walker (the author of this article and her daughter are walking, hint hint)
- May 7th is National Day of Prayer. Join with others from Monroe at the Town Hall Gazebo at noon as we pray for our community, our nation and our world
- May 10th is Mother's Day—Purchase a blanket in honor or memory of a special woman and another woman somewhere in the world will be given warmth, shelter and comfort
- May 23rd Come out and Cruise for a Cause. There will be lots of cool classic cars to enjoy and the funds raised go to our brothers and sisters in Mozambique



We are also collecting supplies to make UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) Birthing Kits during the month of May, which I will bring to the New York Annual Conference in June, which will be delivered to people all over the world. Last year our conference collected over 3,300 health, birthing and school kits.

Every 90 seconds a woman somewhere in the world dies from complications during pregnancy or childbirth. 356,000 women die every year, most of the deaths occurring in the developing world. Annually 4 million infants die within a month of being born. When a mother dies, it dramatically increases the risk of death for her baby. Birthing kits provide the essential items to promote a safe, clean delivery and to encourage good after care. Using a birthing kit can double a woman's chance of surviving the birth.

We find it is easier to collect the materials and put the kits together as a group, which My Fair Ladies and Friendship Circle will do the first week in June. A collection box will be in the narthex for donations.

Items needed:

- Small bars of soap (1-2 oz. size, in original packaging; small bars such as those found in hotels are acceptable)
- Thin gloves (surgical, latex, or thin rubber gloves)
- Clear plastic sheeting, 4 mil thick (1 square yard is needed for each kit)
- Cotton string
- Single-edge razor blades (covered in paper or cardboard to keep it from causing injury; regular shaving razors are not acceptable)
- Receiving blankets (sizes may range from 28 x 28 inches to 32 x 32 inches—you can donate a large piece and we will cut it down to size, no thermal or fleece please)
- Gallon-size plastic sealable bags
- We also need to enclose \$1 for each kit we provide so monetary donations are also welcome, please indicate Birthing Kit on your check made out to United Methodist Church of Monroe.

Thank you for your support as we seek to bring Christ's love to those near and far.

In Christ's Service,

Rosie Marzke

SUNDAY, MAY 10 IS MOTHER'S DAY!!!

THIS MOTHER'S DAY, give more than a card! Donate to the Church World Service ("CWS") by purchasing a blanket! Continuing a long-standing tradition in our church, we will be collecting contributions to purchase blankets through the Church World Service ("CWS") Blankets+ Program. Only \$5 to supply and ship a blanket to a person in need—where ever they may be around the world!! A blanket can serve as warmth, shelter and comfort. At the end of 2014, 8,000 congregations (including UMCM) participated in CWS Blankets+. The Blankets+ program also includes hygiene kits, school kits, baby care kits and emergency clean-up buckets to both domestic and international locations.



Each donation can be designated in honor or in memory of someone close to your heart. Please use the form below and be sure the church office receives your order by Sunday, May 3 for inclusion in our May 10 bulletin. Gift cards will be available. Any questions can be directed to Rose Aiello at 261-5528 or buildingroses@aol.com.

BLANKET ORDER FORM

Just \$5 will purchase a blanket through the Church World Service Blankets+ Program. Orders for more than one are certainly welcome! Please make your check payable to UMCM and in the memo line write "Blankets Plus". For bulletin inclusion, order should be in by Sunday, May 3. (Please print.)

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

By _____

Check here if you would like a gift card(s). _____



Join us for Family Game Night on Saturday, May 16 from 6-8 p.m. Bring your favorite game and snack and prepare to have a fun evening of fellowship.

TWO PLANKS THEATER COMPANY

Two Planks Theater Company will be presenting the Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize winning musical, "Next to Normal", here at the UMCM on May 22-24 and May 29-31. This musical is about how one mother's mental health issues affect her entire family. Two Planks will host a community forum on the subject of mental health following its show on May 24. For more information or to purchase tickets, go to twoplankstheater.org.



Souper Bowl Sunday was a huge success. \$250 was delivered to the Monroe Food Pantry along with 75 cans of food.

Left to right: Barbara Yeager (Director, Monroe Senior Center), Mike Aiello, Gabi Nartowicz, Marina Salvias, Juliana Epstein and Pastor Martha Epstein.

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



--WATERMAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND--

The Waterman Scholarship Fund (WSF), a trust fund of the United Methodist Church of Monroe, was established in 1982 by UMC Monroe member Ray Waterman in memory of his wife, Mary Waterman. As Mary was a teacher, the Watermans were very supportive of youth activities within the church and of education in particular. Therefore, the original intent of the fund was to award post-secondary education scholarships to outstanding student members of UMCM. It was also intended by Ray that the value of the fund should increase over its lifetime. Subsequent to Ray's passing, the scholarships have been awarded in the memory of both Ray and Mary Waterman.

The office is accepting applications from those wishing to be considered as a recipient of a scholarship this year. The deadline is May 15, 2015. For an application, please contact the church office.



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.

The Schmalkuche's friend Dick Hormel--on passing of his mom,
 Marilyn
 Kristen Griest as she begins 9 wks of Army Rangers school. Kristen is among the first group of women to be admitted to this training & her family is asking for prayers for her strength, endurance & health (friends of Russ and Leigh Gray)
 Carl Sword's-successful cataract surgery
 Gail Mas' niece-Cindy-battling cancer
 Bobbie Grant's friend-Donald-stage 4 kidney cancer
 Bobbie Grant's son's father-in-law-Donald-ill
 Bill Florin's friend Bill-hospitalized w/heart trouble
 Jeanne Baklik-continued recovery
 Comfort for those mourning loss of Rev. Les McGonagle-retired UMC pastor& friend of Rev. Rice
 Comfort to family & friends on passing of Gary Benway
 Dan Cimmino-Lynn Abbott's brother-in-law-herniated disc surgery
 Margaret Pantalone-upcoming colostomy reversal
 Willie Wiley
 Bobbie Grant's friend-Carrie-needs gallbladder surgery
 Cody-young man facing surgery
 Vannah Griffin's son Tom-injury
 Charles Davidson's wife
 Katya Downey's neighbor- Richard-kidney disease
 Paul Lesko's friend-Sultan-liver cancer & wife Nancy as she cares for him
 Dotti Hossler's brother-stroke From Priscilla-Heidi Curry-abdominal surgery
 Cari Harris-continued healing from back surgery
 Carl Sword's sister-in-law Phyllis- in John Hopkins
 Michael Hossler
 Dave Rennie-recovery from kidney transplant David Rice- Edna Turner's grandson-brain surgery
 Linda Summa-Turner's daughter -cancer
 Bobbie's cousin's widow-Mary Johnson
 Nick-15 yr old w/brain tumor-grandparents, Peggy & Jerry Price former members of UMCM

Esther McCoy
 Theresa-friend of Yorks-cancer
 Walt, April & their unborn baby "Baby girl" Murphy-unborn baby w/birth defects Rosemarie Lewis-Bobbie's friend-chemo for lung cancer
 Ernie Salvas-hospital
 Carl Sword's brother-Brian
 Richard Rice-stage 4 kidney disease
 Dave York's cousin Richard-recurrence of cancer
 Gail Northrup
 Robert Noll-cancer treatment
 Claudia Wallace's parents
 Millie Chase
 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 –Sheryl's cousin - 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
 Christians in harm's way

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.





MINI MISSION WAGON NEEDS

Noodles for the needy!
Use your noodle and donate to the food pantry!



Dates to look forward to:
July 13-17 VBS

The United Methodist Church of Monroe

May 2015 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	1	2 9am - Paper 2pm - Children's
3 10am - Sunday 1:30pm - CROP Walk	4 7pm - Two Planks	5 12pm - Missions 7pm - Two Planks	6 7pm - Two Planks	7 10am - Bible Study 4pm - Two Planks @	8	9
10 10am - Sunday 10am - Sunday	11	12 7pm - Church	13	14 10am - Bible Study 4pm - Two Planks @	15	16 6pm - Family Game
17 10am - Sunday 10am - Sunday 11:30am - Harvest 11:30am - Worship	18 Newsletter Deadline	19	20 7pm - Tastefully	21 10am - Bible Study 4pm - Two Planks @	22 8pm - Next to	23 10am - Mozambique 8pm - Next to
24 Pentecost Sunday-- 10am - Sunday 10am - Sunday 5pm - Next to	25	26	27	28 4pm - Two Planks @	29 8pm - Next to	30 10am - Mozambique 8pm - Next to
31 10am - Sunday 10am - Sunday 11:30am - VBS 5pm - Next to	1	2	3	4	5	6

**For more information on calendar events,
see the calendar on our website.**

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!**



PAPER SHREDDING EVENT

Saturday, May 2, 2015 (Rain or Shine)

9 a.m. to Noon

Village Square Shopping Center

401 Route 111, Monroe

\$10 per standard archive box (approx. 15"x12"x10")

CROP HUNGER WALK

Sunday, May 3, 2015 1:30 to 5 PM (Rain or Shine)

Start and Finish: United Congregational Church

Corner of State St. and Park Ave., Bridgeport

CROP is the Community Appeal of Church World Service. It fights hunger locally, nationally and internationally and emphasizes agricultural self help.

Everyone is welcome to walk. Sign up to walk and/or help contribute to the walk. Please contact Quintin Brantley for more information.



Bible Study **The Gospels 101** Mark John Matthew 4 Luke

Thursday Morning Bible Study

April 23 – May 21, 2015

Time: 10:00 - 11:00 am

Our next Bible Study is "The Gospels 101" in which we will delve into the 4 Gospels. We will see what the scholars say about when they were written, who the audience was and we will compare stories that appear in more than one Gospel. Please join us if you can ... and feel free to invite a friend!

Images from Holy Week and Easter





- 5/1 Aiden Wallace
- 5/8 Abigail Cornut
- 5/8 Matthew Hornak
- 5/17 Bob Pantalone
- 5/24 Mike Pavia



Many thanks to:

Betsy Sword for sorting music.

For all those who donated to the P.E.T. fund. We raised \$270, enough for one unit!

Tammy Cahill for hard work with the Easter Egg breakfast and Easter coffee hour.

The youth for cleaning up the inside and outside of the church.

The ladies groups for cleaning the paper shredding signs and many other items.

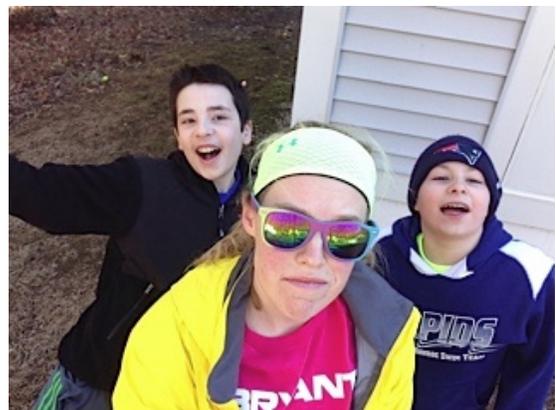


- 5/12 Rose & David Aiello
- 5/27 Annette & Bob Griffith
- 5/27 Anita Stabler-Hussey & Jim Hussey
- 5/27 Stacey & Steven Moore

The Easter Egg Hunt was a huge success!



168 people attended the Easter Egg Hunt! 75 of them were children. What a wonderful turnout. Many thanks to all who helped with this event. It took a lot of work and we appreciate you all!



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.

