

# United Methodist Church of Monroe

## Messenger

December 2015



*Join us on Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup> at  
7:00 p.m. for our Christmas Eve Service*

Have you ever read the genealogy of Jesus at the beginning of Matthew? It is quite something how everyone is “begatted.” In those 17 verses there are quite a few names I recognize, like David, Abraham and Ruth. But there are lots I don’t, like Ozias, Zorobabel and Sadoc. Among all those names are five women, including some “Bad Girls.”

Imagine, Rahab, a harlot is in there. One of Jesus’ ancestors was a prostitute? Wow! In our Thursday morning Bible Study we just finished reading *The Bad Girls of the Bible* by Liz Curtis Higgs and Rahab was one of the women we studied. She was one that Higgs referred to as being “Bad for a Season but not Forever.” (For Rahab’s story read Joshua chapters 2 and 6.)

The beauty of Rahab’s story is that even though she was leading a life that was not exactly saintly, she had faith and was redeemed--redeemed to the point of being included in the priestly line which leads to the birth of Christ.

During this season of Advent Rahab’s story is speaking to me in a new and amazing way. I must admit that I have judged someone who does things that I view as “unsavory” and probably being a harlot would be on that list. This story, in conjunction with some of the experiences I’ve had at Griffin Hospital, have caused me to really take a look at myself and how I view others. I realize how easy it is to judge someone else by their outward appearance or by their actions. What I have learned is that we do not know what is in someone else’s heart or why someone might be doing something. So, instead of judging I am trying hard to show love and care. And instead of counting someone’s mistakes or the wrongs I feel they have done to me I am trying hard to forgive. Likewise, I want to give people opportunities to live out their faith.

What an example God has given to us! God gave Rahab a chance to do the right thing when he sent “spies” who were really angels, messengers of God, to her and she helped them. God took a chance on her and she was then able to turn away from her former way of life.

I invite you to spend some time in prayer this month thinking about how God might be speaking to you. Has God taken a chance on you? Is God encouraging you to take a chance on someone else?

Blessings of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love to you during this Advent Season,

**Pastor Martha**

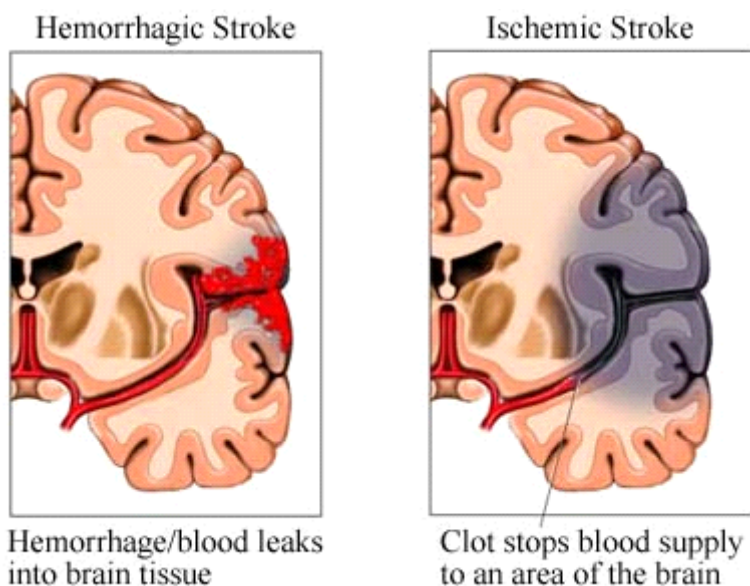
## Health Notes by Carin Florin, Parish Nurse:

What is a Stroke and What are the Signs?

There are two types of stroke: ischemic and hemorrhagic. An ischemic stroke is caused by interrupted blood flow to one or more vessels by a clot in the brain and causes tissue-death due to lack of oxygen and nutrients. A hemorrhagic stroke is caused by a ruptured vessel and causes leakage of blood into the brain tissue. The most common causes of stroke are high blood pressure, high cholesterol levels, obesity, diabetes, atrial fibrillation, peripheral artery disease, atherosclerosis, and injury.

Detecting signs of stroke early is crucial to effective treatment. Signs of a stroke can be tingling or numbness of the face or extremities, especially on one side of the body; confusion; trouble speaking or understanding; light-headedness; difficulty walking; loss of balance; or severe headache with no known cause. If you notice any of these symptoms in yourself or another person, do not delay. Call 9-1-1 or seek medical treatment immediately. Timing is everything!

Stroke treatment for ischemic stroke needs to be started with four hours of the onset of the first symptom. In order for treatment to begin, the person needs to undergo diagnostic testing prior to receiving medication. There can be factors in the person's medical history that may contraindicate treatment (meaning, those medications cannot be given). If it is determined the person can receive treatment and is indeed having an ischemic stroke, the physician may order the administration of TPA (tissue plasminogen activator) to help break up the clot.



Reduce the factors that can cause stroke. Start smoking cessation if you use tobacco, maintain healthy weight, engage in moderate exercise, enjoy a healthy diet, and get regular physicals to detect any health issue that can increase risk. Live happy, live well, and love God!

I am available anytime you're in need or have questions; feel free to call or email:

- Cell 203.450.7441
- Email [carinflorin@hotmail.com](mailto:carinflorin@hotmail.com)

Carin Florin, RN-BC/ Parish Nurse



## Blue Christmas Service

**Sunday, December 13, 2015 -- 3:00 p.m.**

Held by the Monroe Clergy Association at the UCMC. The holiday season is not an easy time for everyone. This gathering will give people who are grieving or sad a place to be themselves,

surrounded by a community that cares. With prayer, music, readings and thoughtful reflection we hope to bring a sense of comfort and hope to those who are struggling.

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12/1 Carter Given  
12/4 Neil Chaudhary  
12/5 Carissa Harris  
12/6 Mike Cahill  
12/14 Lynn Gregory  
12/15 David Aiello  
12/16 Kenneth Krom  
12/16 Carol Steiner  
12/18 Bill Fromm  
12/23 Carin Florin  
12/27 Edna Turner  
12/29 Quintin Brantley  
12/30 Jeanne Baklik  
12/31 Pat Smith



12/12 Mike and Amy Ramos

*Please submit additions and corrections to the birthday and anniversary list to the office at 203.268.8395 or [umc@umcmonroe.org](mailto:umc@umcmonroe.org). We don't want to miss anyone! Thanks!*



### COLLECTING LOOSE CHANGE

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



### Joy to the World!

Christmas Caroling

When: Sunday December 20, 2015 at 4:00 p.m. (please note the time change from previous years)

Where: The Grays' House

What to bring:

A wrapped \$5 grab bag gift for a kids' gift exchange, a flashlight, and a small plate of goodies to share. After caroling we'll finish the party back at the Grays' with pizza, desserts and the kids' gift exchange.



*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...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.*

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Game Night is Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 p.m. We will be playing Christmas themed games. Join us for lots of fun and fellowship. No need to bring a snack, we have plenty!

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## MISSION NEWS:

**Alternate Christmas is back!** A way to honor Christ by giving gifts to help people in need. Gifts are in the form of monetary donations given to a designated group to honor friends and relatives to whom you wish to give a gift. This year you can select from Monroe Food Pantry, Heifer International and Mozambique Scholarship. ***The Missions Team will be available at coffee hour thru 12/20 to receive your donations.*** Gift cards available to send to recipients of your donation(s) so they know you have honored them by making a gift that honors Jesus and reflects the true spirit of Christmas. This type of donation is perfect for teacher gifts!

**Mercy Learning Center:** Continued collection for the following: *New clothing needs for children incl. Toddler Snow Suits* 2T and Up; **Winter Jackets** children 12 mos.-6 yrs., Youth XS-XL; **Children's Pajamas** all sizes; **Winter hats/mittens** children; **Socks/underwear** all sizes starting at 3T; **Sweaters/Sweatshirts** all sizes; **Snow Boots** Children 7-11, Youth, and Adult sizes; **Toiletries** including toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss, body wash, diaper creams (A&D, Balmex, **Desetin**), **baby wipes**; **Gift Cards Stop & Shop, CVS, Target, Kohl's, Walgreens, Walmart.** (Box located in narthex.) The deadline to donate is Sunday, December 6.



The Mitten Tree is also up for hanging your donations of scarfs, gloves, mittens and socks. Items will go to Mercy Center or Bridgeport Rescue Mission.

The Covenant to Care Christmas Gift List is posted on the Missions bulletin board in the hallway. Your gifts may be the only ones these foster children will receive. Gifts can be left on shelf above coat rack as you enter from rear. Call Priscilla Bromley with any questions. The deadline to donate is Sunday, December 13.



**Monthly Mini Missions December 2015:**  
**All the fixings for a tasty Christmas meal**

ALL youth in grades 6-8 are welcomed in our Youth Group for an opportunity to spend time with old friends, meet new friends and have fun in our faith journey.

Our goal is to reach students with the love of Jesus Christ, then encourage, equip and empower them to be Christ's ambassadors to the world.



#### December Happenings:

- December 13<sup>th</sup> 4-6 p.m. meeting: We will bake holiday goodies to share with the women and children of the Mercy Learning Center, we will share in a grab bag gift exchange (maximum of \$10) and have some of our own goodies to eat. Bring a Friend.
  - Our December 27<sup>th</sup> meeting has been canceled.
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### *Prayer List*

*Additions, corrections and deletions can be sent to [prayerrequest@umcmonroe.org](mailto:prayerrequest@umcmonroe.org).*

*You may also call the church office or leave your request in the collection plate.*

*Names will remain on the prayer list for 3 weeks.*

*Requests can be extended by emailing to the above address or phoning in.*

Family-passing of Barbara  
Long Fan Cui-father of one of Cari Harris' friends, Jason  
Judy Bosco  
Amanda-peace and healing  
All the family members of Pivot Ministries residents  
Niria Novoa-looking for work  
Howard-Debbie Salvas' father-recovery from knee surgery  
Craig-cut leg  
Kevin- hospitalized w/blood clots  
Condolences to Bobbie Grant's daughter-in-law and their family on the loss of her father  
Christina Benoit and her siblings as they mourn the loss of her brother  
Family and friends of Jenny Desrosiers-friend of Amy  
Rajpolt- killed in auto accident  
Michelle Lambert's Uncle Ronald-Leukemia  
Shea-Benoit's goddaughter- ill w/host vs. donor disease  
Dotti Hossler's brother-in-law  
Delores- chemotherapy and radiation  
Mark Kigler-mini-stroke  
Dennis-Wenzl's daughter- in- law's father-ALS  
Donald Austrian-kidney cancer  
Christine Stewart - friend of Marsha Cohn-cancer  
Evelyn Sweetnam- hospice care  
Marilyn Jones' friend Charlotte-recovery from stroke  
Quinn-child in need of bone marrow transplant  
Jeff York Pat Reeves- Stage 3 colon cancer  
Michael Hossler-continued healing  
Paul Lesko's friend-Sultan-liver cancer and wife Nancy  
Dotti Hossler's brother-stroke  
Linda Summa-Turner's daughter -cancer  
Bobbie's cousin's widow-Mary Johnson

Theresa-friend of Yorks-cancer  
Rosemarie Lewis-Bobbie's friend-chemo for lung cancer  
Dave York's cousin Richard-recurrence of cancer  
Olivia-Juvenile Diabetes  
Sue Simmons' friend- Debbie- battling MS  
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 York's daughter-in-law-Lori  
Jodi Kles -Sheryl's cousin - living w/rare form of cancer  
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  
Those going through personal turmoil and facing financial concerns  
Bringing an end to the drug epidemic and death





## **Christmas Poinsettias In Honor/Memory of Loved Ones**



*If you would like to purchase a poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one, please fill out the form below (print please!), make your check out to UMCM for \$15 for each poinsettia and return to the Church Office by Sunday, December 6. Your acknowledgement(s) will be listed in the December 13 bulletin. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.*

### **Christmas Poinsettia - 2015**

*In Honor of:* \_\_\_\_\_

*In Memory of:* \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_ Poinsettia red (\$15 each)

# \_\_\_\_\_ Poinsettia white (\$15 each)

*Total Amount Due:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Family name:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Please make your check payable to "UMCM" with poinsettia" in the memo line. This form must be returned to the church office by Sunday, December 6.*

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## **BREAKFAST WITH SANTA - RESERVATION FORM**

**Location:** United Methodist Church of Monroe  
515 Cutlers Farm Road, Monroe CT 06468  
Phone: 203.268.8395  
Website: [www.umcmonroe.org](http://www.umcmonroe.org)  
Email: [breakfastwithsanta@umcmonroe.org](mailto:breakfastwithsanta@umcmonroe.org)



**Date/Time:** Saturday, December 19, 2015 from 9 AM to 12 NOON

Please make your reservations below and send to the church office along with your check made payable to "UMC Monroe" and note "Santa Breakfast" in the memo line.

### **Number Amount**

Children 12 years of age and under @ \$5 each \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Adults and Children over the age of 12 @ \$8 each \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL DUE \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Pre-payment would be appreciated. The deadline to register is Friday, December 11, 2015 and is first come, first serve until we reach capacity.



The Youth Group took a trip to sing to the residents of Atria, including our own Jeanne! Special thanks to Bill Schmalkuche and Sheryl Rajpolt for leading in the singing and the “older” youth members who helped!! Fun was had by all!



Lots of fun was again had at the Annual Wicke Luncheon. Many thanks to our hosts Leigh Gray and Laura Bartlett. And don't worry, no money was exchanged during BINGO and everyone was given a prize! Thanks also to Debbie Salvas and the middle/high school Sunday School classes who made the wonderful centerpieces which were given away to all attendees.



*Thank you to everyone who donated food to the Monroe Food Pantry and who helped to make sandwiches for Kings Pantry. You helped to brighten someone's Thanksgiving.*

United Methodist Church of Monroe

Dec 2015 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>29</div> <div>First Sunday of</div> <div>Pivot Ministries</div> <div>10am - Sunday</div> <div>10am - Sunday</div>	<div>30</div>	<div>1</div> <div>11:30am - Missions</div>	<div>2</div> <div>7:15pm - Choir</div>	<div>3</div> <div>10am - Bible Study:</div> <div>6:30pm - Cub Scout</div>	<div>4</div>	<div>5</div> <div>2pm - Youth Craft</div>
<div>6</div> <div>Communion Sunday</div> <div>Second Sunday of</div> <div>10am - Sunday</div> <div>10am - Sunday</div> <div>11:15am - Trim-the-</div> <div>1:30pm - Memorial</div>	<div>7</div> <div>11:30am - Christmas</div> <div>7:30pm - Christmas</div>	<div>8</div> <div>7pm - Annual</div>	<div>9</div> <div>6:30pm - Girl Scout -</div> <div>7:15pm - Choir</div>	<div>10</div> <div>10am - Bible Study:</div>	<div>11</div>	<div>12</div>
<div>13</div> <div>Children's Christmas</div> <div>Third Sunday of</div> <div>10am - Sunday</div> <div>10am - Sunday</div> <div>3pm - Blue</div> <div>4pm - Youth Group</div>	<div>14</div> <div>Newsletter Deadline</div>	<div>15</div>	<div>16</div> <div>7:15pm - Choir</div>	<div>17</div> <div>10am - Bible Study:</div>	<div>18</div>	<div>19</div> <div>9am - Breakfast</div> <div>6pm - Family Game</div>
<div>20</div> <div>Fourth Sunday of</div> <div>10am - Sunday</div> <div>10am - Sunday</div> <div>4pm - Annual</div>	<div>21</div>	<div>22</div>	<div>23</div> <div>7:15pm - Choir</div>	<div>24</div> <div>7pm - Christmas Eve</div>	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div>
<div>27</div> <div>10am - Sunday</div> <div>10am - Sunday</div> <div>4pm - CANCELLED:</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div>	<div>30</div> <div>7:15pm - Choir</div>	<div>31</div>	<div>1</div>	<div>2</div> <div>2pm - Youth Craft</div>