

United Methodist Church of Monroe



messenger

AUGUST 2016

Jesus The Rock - by Tafadzwa Mhondiwa Mugari

*Build your house upon the Rock
And it won't move or slide...
A foundation built on sand alone
Will shift from side to side.*

*The storms of life will come,
This we know for sure,
When they do, they won't shake you
From the Rock that is secure.*

*When fear comes knocking at your door
And you start to lose your grip,
Stand upon the solid Rock
And you will never slip!*

*The Rock of our salvation
Will forever live and reign,
As King of Kings and Lord of Lords
In Heaven's vast domain!*



During the month of August our worship will focus on the promises of God, whose love and grace are enduring features in our lives. We will talk about the Solid Rock we should be building our lives on, the shelter of the Rock and how Jesus is our Rock and our Redeemer. We'll prepare ourselves for a new start in the fall by making sure we are on steady footing.

If you are unable to attend a service please remember to check our website for the sermons. I will make sure that each sermon during August is posted there.

May you continue to have a wonderful summer and don't forget to send us pictures of your adventures with Flat Jesus or post them on our Facebook page. I heard he has made quite a few appearances from Bermuda, to VBS, to Maryland ... where will He turn up next?

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Macdonald



2016 Bible Reading Marathon

August 18 – 20, 2016

The *2016 Bible Reading Marathon* will be held at the Gazebo on the Monroe Town Green Thursday, August 18 through Saturday, August 20 from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm daily.

UMC Monroe has signed up for the following dates and 2-hour sessions:

Thursday, August 18 – noon – 2:00 pm (Bible Study and All Church Family)
Friday, August 19 – 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm (Youth and All Church Family)
Saturday, August 20 – 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm (All Church Family)

We're looking for a minimum of 8 participants per session. Each person will read for 15 minutes. While UMC Monroe has signed up for the reported 2-hour blocks, you are welcome to stop by and participate at any time!

Sign up online (umcmonroe.org) or register in person on the sign up sheets on the bulletin board outside the Sanctuary.

Tips for our readers and anyone planning to stop by the Gazebo:

- Please plan to arrive at the Gazebo 10 minutes ahead of your time slot, with a prayerful attitude and expectation of what God has prepared.
- Dress casually and be comfortable - for rain or shine, day or night!
- We will be reading the New Testament. Feel free to bring your own Bible or use the one that is provided. You can read from any translation and in any language.
- Don't forget reading glasses and additional lighting/flashlights, if needed.
- Bring a journal and remember a pen! Write down anything that God highlights as His Word is being proclaimed by the other members. Yes -- we are called to Read and called to Listen!
- As part of our Faith in Action, we'd like to encourage each new team to pray for the team that proceeds them ... and then the first team can pray for the new team that's following them, before they leave.
- The only seating in the Gazebo is hard benches – bring folding chairs, if needed.
- Bottled water will be available during our sessions.

For more information on how to be part of this exciting faith event, contact Janet Morris at 571.439.6548 or via email at whimsyjanet57@gmail.com.

All are welcome ... stop by anytime!

Happy 80th + Birthday to our July Octogenarians!

On Sunday, July 10 our congregation, along with many visiting family members and friends, celebrated the birthdays of our July Octogenarians. We wished a very Happy Birthday to Ina Beardsley, Bobbie Grant, Roger Grant, Jim Hussey, Nancy Rice, Alice Salvas and Betsy Sword. Two of the ladies hitting the "Big 8-0" this year are Betsy and Bobbie – Happy Birthday, ladies!!



Our choir is taking a break for the summer!

If you would like to perform special music during summer worship, please register online at www.umcmonroe.org, sign up on the sheet posted on the Music Room door, or contact the church office. We need your talents!

The 2016 – 2017 choir season will begin on Sunday, September 11 with the first rehearsal on September 7 at 7:30 pm.



When on vacation ...

be with us in spirit.

The rest of the summer ...

be with us in person.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! The Monroe Food Pantry is in desperate need of help on Mondays 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm, Wednesdays 9:00 am – 1:00 pm, Thursdays 9:00 am – 1:00 pm and one Saturday per month. Any amount of time that you could give would be greatly appreciated! For more information, please contact Gail Mas.



Summer Health Screenings

Carin Florin, UMC Monroe Parish Nurse, will be conducting three health screenings this summer: July 31, August 28 and September 25. The screenings will take place during fellowship time and will consist of blood pressure, heart rate and oxygen levels. Any information gathered will be held under the strictest confidentiality.

For questions about these screenings, please contact Carin at parishnurse@umcmonroe.org.

UMC Monroe Spends a Sunny Day Tidying up the Church Grounds

Members of our church gathered together on Saturday, June 25th to tackle a much needed Spring Clean up! It was a great day for cleaning and tidying up the church grounds for all to appreciate. A special thanks to the Rajpolt Family, Bill Florin, the Rupp Family, Paul Lesko and the Cahill Family for the much-needed facelift. And thank you to the Grays for donating wood chips for the garden near the Bell! If you missed this fun event, not to worry -- we plan on another get together in November!



Let's Celebrate!



happy birthday

08/03 Paula Fromm
08/06 Sheryl Rajpolt
08/07 Bob Turner
08/20 Max Gray
08/21 Gordon Palmer
08/23 Joshua Pantalone
08/24 Rose Aiello
08/27 Cheryl Pavia
08/28 Priscilla Bromley



happy anniversary

08/07 Kathy and Bill Schmalkuche
08/17 Sue and Dave York
08/20 Edna and Bob Turner
08/25 Patti and Kevin Early
08/25 Martha and Wayne Epstein
08/26 Paula and Bill Fromm

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

Seeking Coffee Hour Hosts

It's a wonderful way to support fellowship! The sign-up sheet is posted in the narthex or you can email the church office to book your date. All of the basics are supplied including coffee, tea, sugar and paper goods. Coffee making instructions are in the kitchen. As host we ask that you make the coffee, heat the tea water, supply the creamer and juice and clean up. Snacks and sweets are not required unless you'd like to provide them. Please consider taking a Sunday and sign up today!





Blessing of the Animals

We had a beautiful morning for our "furry friends" to join us for an outdoor worship service on Sunday, June 26 -- it was a real "treat" for everyone!

Speaking of treats ... thanks to your generosity we collected and delivered 24 cans and 1 bag of cat food, 13 cans and 5 bags of dog food, 2 boxes of dog biscuits as well as treats for guinea pigs, hamsters and birds to the Monroe Food Pantry!





4th Annual Monroe Summer Show

On Saturday, June 25, five local-area bands lit up the sanctuary for the *4th Annual Monroe Summer Show*. Pictured (L-R): Patrick Butler, Ed Burdick, Amy Schmalkuche and Tommy Kinard. Thanks to all who came out to support this fundraiser!





2016 Surf Shack Vacation Bible School

We "caught the wave" of God's AMAZING love at the Surf Shack! UMC Monroe was transformed into an ocean of excitement as *Surfers* and *Lifeguards* enjoyed surfer-themed music, crafts, science projects, recreation, Bible stories, *Tiki Hut* snacks and more!

Thanks to all of our "life savers" who gave of their time and talents to make VBS 2016 so AWESOME!!





Thank You!



2016 VBS Mission Project!

Throughout VBS week our "surfers" donated money to share "God's Amazing Love" with our neighbors in need. The donations will help UMCOR assemble Clean-up/Flood Buckets and calm our West Virginian neighbors' fears after the devastating floods in their neighborhoods.

Thanks to all of our "surfers" and church members who contributed to this year's project!

youth group

kick
off
event!

Calling all Youth!! We will be having a *Lock-In* on Friday, August 19th to Saturday, August 20th. We will start by gathering at the Town Hall Gazebo to participate in the **Bible Reading Marathon** and then we will come back to the church for dinner, movies, games and hopefully a little sleeping! More specific information will be coming. This is for all youth who are going into 6th grade up to 9th grade. Friends are invited!



UMC MONROE YOUTH NEWS



Our **2016 – 2017 Sunday School** program kicks off on Sunday, September 11 with a potluck luncheon to follow. All youth Pre-K through high school are welcome and nursery care is available. Feel free to invite a friend!

Registration information will be available by the end of August.

And to our adults ... if you're interested in getting involved in the Sunday School ministry, please contact Pastor Martha.

We look forward to seeing you at Sunday School!

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browser's bookmarks!

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support the United Methodist Church of Monroe every time you shop, at no cost to you. Visit our website for a link to AmazonSmile. Be sure to complete the one-time setup by selecting *United Methodist Church of Monroe (EIN: 06-6034463)* and the church will receive donations for qualifying purchases anytime you shop on smile.amazon.com. For more information, please visit our website and search *AmazonSmile* or contact Steve Arnold or Kathy Schmalkuche.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Celebrating Marilyn

Marilyn Jones, our beloved organist/pianist will be retiring on September 4. On September 11 we will be celebrating her retirement and 80th birthday. The choir will be presenting special music during the service followed by a potluck luncheon in Fellowship Hall. As a part of the celebration, we are asking the members of the church to share memories, letters of appreciation and pictures they have of Marilyn. Please submit them to the office by August 15. We are planning to put them into a memory book to be presented to Marilyn on September 11. We are also planning to make a slideshow that will be shown during the service. Marilyn has been an integral part of our church music program for over 18 years and will be sorely missed. Please help us to show her how much she has meant to us.



Summer Bible Study Instead of a study on a particular book, we will be meeting on a standalone topic each week — that way no one will miss anything due to vacation schedules. If anyone is interested in leading a study or has any suggestions for topics, please contact Pastor Martha.

Dates: August 4, 11, 18* (*Bible Reading Marathon - noon) and 25
Time: 10:00 am



It's Game Time!

Teams: Bridgeport Bluefish vs. Long Island Ducks
Date: Sunday, August 7
Time: 1:12 pm
Location: Ballpark at Harbor Yard ~ 500 Main Street, Bridgeport
Contact: Anita Stabler-Hussey

Covenant to Care Collections For over 20 years our church has assisted *Covenant to Care of Connecticut*, an organization that helps kids in foster care. Each year we collect various items that the State does not supply to these children between the ages of newborn to 18. Our contact, Social Worker Marie Lucien, has a caseload of about 25 children that our donations will assist. This year, we are asking for school supplies and backpacks. Collections continue during the month of August and can be placed on the shelf above the coat hangers. Thank you in advance for your generosity to this cause! Contact: Priscilla Bromley at 203.268.4218.





Family Game Night and Sandwich Making is Saturday, August 20, from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Bring your favorite game and a snack to share. Speaking of food ... please bring your sandwich items along ... we'll be making sandwiches for delivery to **Spooner House** in Shelton on Sunday, August 21. The sandwiches should have meat, cheese and no condiments and must be individually wrapped. See you at game night!



www.actspooner.org

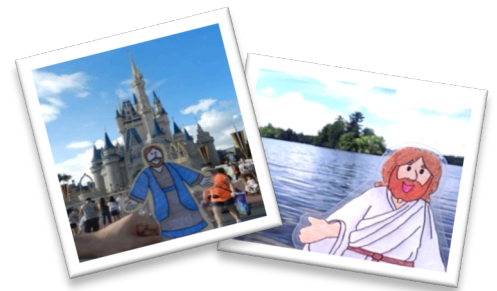


Save the date for a sing-a-long!

We're planning to visit a local assisted-living facility for a **sing-a-long** on Sunday, August 28. Please join us and feel free to invite a friend. All are welcome! Stay tuned ... more information will be available shortly.

Event Coordinator: Steve Arnold

Summer is winding down but there is still time to take your **Flat Jesus** on an adventure! Bring it with you everywhere you go and take lots of pictures and share them in a post! We'd love to see where Flat Jesus went this summer!!



Save the date for a special afternoon together at **Webb Mountain Discovery Zone!** On Saturday, September 24 at 1:00 pm (rain date Sunday, September 25 at 1:00 pm), we will be meeting at **Webb Mountain Discovery Zone** (71 Webb Circle) to assist with the community upkeep of the beautiful **Susan Kimball Memorial Butterfly Garden**. Pack a picnic for your family to join us for lunch and a short hike when our gardening work is done. Hope to see you there!

Event Coordinator: Tanya Lennon

FOR YOUR INFORMATION ...



Mini Missions: Sandwich Condiments

Summer is time for picnics. Help us with some picnic sandwiches by bringing in mayo, ketchup and sandwich condiments!

Change for Waterman Scholarship

We are collecting loose change for the Waterman Scholarship Fund. There is a jug in the narthex for you to deposit loose change. All coins accepted! Keep an eye on the thermometer and watch it rise with your help!



UMC Monroe Seeking



Organist/Pianist

The United Methodist Church of Monroe is seeking an organist/pianist to provide music for weekly and special worship services, and accompany congregational hymn singing, weekly choir rehearsals, choir anthems, special music, children's choir, weddings and funerals, etc.

If you, or someone you know, might be interested in this position, please visit our website at <http://umcmonroe.org/job-post-organistpianist/> for more information.

Questions: Contact our Staff Parish/Pastor Relations Committee at spprc@umcmonroe.org.



UMC Monroe • 515 Cutlers Farm Road • 203.268.8395
www.umcmonroe.org • spprc@umcmonroe.org • umc@umcmonroe.org

Get Ready for Harvest Fest 2016!



All the information you need ...

Event Date: Saturday, October 1 (10:00 am – 3:00 pm)
Pie Making: Saturday, September 17 (8:00 am – 12:00 pm)
Set-up/Chair Moving: Sunday, September 25 (after worship)
Pie Baking: Friday, September 30 (8:00 am)

Pies: Ingredient list for donations will be available first week in August.

Vendors: Forms are available for craft vendors on our website. As you visit craft fairs during the summer and see something you think would go well with our Fest, please get their info and pass on to Rose. Indoor tables are \$40 and limited; outdoor tables are \$30.

Publicity: Flyers and postcards will be available in July for distribution to friends and family. Help spread the word.

Other suggestions welcome -- just let us know!

Co-Coordinator: Darlene Dobler-Palin (darlene.dobler-palin@ge.com) and Rose Aiello (buildingroses@aol.com)

Prayer Concerns

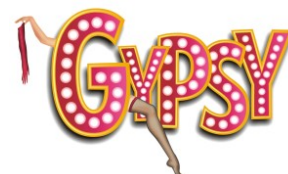


Family of Justin Fullerton - 27 year old son of Claudia Wallace's coworker - on his passing
Michelle - Wife of Claudia's co-worker - hysterectomy for uterine cancer
Family and friends of Fran Menillo on her passing
Sue Simmons and family - loss of her brother Michael
Sheryl Rajpolt's cousin's family - loss of their son
Bobbie's cousin Bill and wife Delores with few months to live
Sarah
Anita Stabler-Hussey - cataract surgery
City of Dallas, Police and Police Chief Brown
All law enforcement personnel, including Priscilla Bromley's granddaughter's husband
Friend of Wallace's - Audrey Scott - on dialysis and need of a kidney transplant
Wallace's niece - Jessica Iannacone - complications following surgery for removal of a lung mass
Ronald - leukemia
Linda - surgery for ovarian cancer
Aidan Rice - 8 year old in hospital
Michael from Emmaus - cancer
Frances - lung cancer
Anita - granddaughter Danielle - continued recovery from brain surgery
Anita's brothers - George and Jay Stabler
Patrice - healing from cancer
Melissa - cancer
Friends and family of Mary Dutton on her passing
Leigh Gray's co-worker - Nancy - healing from brain tumors
Patti Early's co-worker - Anna - cancer treatments
Millie Derle's sister - Bev - diagnosed with cancer
Larry and Pat McCall - cancer
BJ - Cari Harris' cousin - brain tumor
Lynn Rouleau - pancreatic cancer
Jessica - lung cancer
Friend of Billy Schmalkuche - Jill - strength for long-term rehab from surgery for spinal injuries
Anita's friend Esther
Charlotte - Marilyn's friend
Marilyn Jones' niece - Kathryn - ALS
Dexton
Pat - congestive heart failure
Olivia - baby with Tuberous Sclerosis causing seizures
Marilyn Jones' nieces: Vicky with tongue cancer and Amy experiencing paralysis
Michelle Lambert's friend Melissa - brain tumor
Dolores Ovesny
Jeff York
Tom Boomershine
Anita's niece - Marsha
Darcy and Cameron
Suzette - Gail Mas' niece
Edna Turner - healing
Robert Ellis - co-worker of Claudia Wallace - cancer
Amanda - peace and healing
Greg - Gail Mas' nephew - cancer
Evelyn Sweetnam - hospice care
Linda Summa - Turner's daughter - cancer
Theresa - friend of Yorks - cancer
Olivia - Juvenile Diabetes
Sue Simmons' friend - Debbie - MS
Jimmy - Bobbie Grant's friend's son
Fromm's friend - Radovan Frzop
York's daughter-in-law - Lori
Jodi Kles - Sheryl's cousin - living with rare form of cancer
Military personnel
Unemployed
First responders, firemen, policemen
Persons dealing with 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
Christians around the world persecuted for their faith
For all families who are involved in drugs and addiction
Bringing an end to the drug epidemic and deaths
30 million refugees without basic necessities of life

If you would like to add a person to our prayer list, or to receive a weekly copy of the joys and concerns email prayerrequest@umcmornoe.org, call the 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.

Two Planks summer Main Stage musical production of **Gypsy**

Dates: July 29, 30 and August 5, 6
Time: Curtain call for all shows is 8:00 pm
Location: Wolfe Park, 285 Cutlers Farm Road
Tickets: Advance online: \$20 adults, \$18 students and seniors
At gate: \$25 adults, \$20 students and seniors
All tickets general admission lawn seating
More info: <http://twoplankstheater.org/>



Check us out on Social Media!



An easy way to let others know about the good things going on at *UMC Monroe* is to LIKE us on Facebook.

Go to www.facebook.com/umcmonroe/ and click on the "Like" button on the top of the page. Then, in the box that appears, click on "All Notifications." This will ensure that you see updates and photos posted to our page!



Visit our website for a repository of information about our church and activities! Are you looking for a copy of a current or old newsletter? Do you want to enroll for one of our events? Are you curious when the next Game Night is? Were you out of town last Sunday and want to check out

Pastor Martha's sermon? Are you wondering if an event has been cancelled due to inclement weather? Do you need a copy of an event flyer to print, email or share to Facebook to let your friends know what we're doing at UMC Monroe?

If you answer **YES** to any of these questions, please visit our website for this type information and much, much more – the site is fully searchable, too!! **Visit our website TODAY at www.umcmonroe.org!**

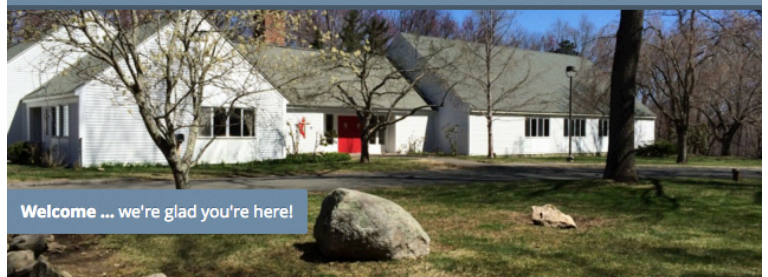


The United Methodist Church
of Monroe

515 Cutlers Farm Road • Monroe, CT 06468

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A Safe Sanctuary for Children

Reverend Martha Epstein
Rose Aiello, Lay Leader
Marilyn Jones, Organist/Pianist
Michelle Lambert, Choir Director
Denise Wiley, Church Secretary

United Methodist Church of Monroe

Aug 2016 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - July Health	1 10:30am - FC: Friendship 7:30pm - MFL: My Fair	2 11:30am - MM: Missions	3	4 10am - BS: Bible Study @	5	6 2pm - YC: Youth Craft
7 Communion Sunday 10am - Worship Service 1:10pm - Bridgeport	8	9 7:15pm - CC: Church	10	11 10am - BS: Bible Study @	12	13
14 10am - Worship Service	15 Newsletter Deadline 10:30am - FC: Friendship 7:30pm - MFL: My Fair	16 7pm - Condo Meeting (Hills)	17	18 12pm - Bible Reading	19 8pm - YG: HOLD for 2016 - 2017 Youth Group Kick-Off 6pm - Bible Reading 6pm - FGN: Family Game	20
21 10am - Spooner House 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Worship meeting	22	23	24	25 10am - BS: Bible Study @	26	27
28 HOLD: Sing-a-Long with 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - August Health	29 10:30am - FC: Friendship 7:30pm - MFL: My Fair	30	31	1	2 2pm - YC: Youth Craft	3