

United Methodist Church of Monroe



messenger

NOVEMBER 2016

"Don't fear, because I am with you; don't be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, I will surely help you; I will hold you with my righteous strong hand." Isaiah 41:10

Our voices do make a difference—especially when God is the one holding our hands and strengthening us. A year ago our church took a stand against retailers who were open on Thanksgiving. We encouraged people to refrain from shopping on Thanksgiving and to support those



stores who were closed. I am pleased to say that this has helped. Our displeasure with employees being unable to enjoy the holiday coupled with voices throughout the country are making a difference. More and more retailers are closing this year on Thanksgiving. I urge you to continue to support those stores who will be closed and wait to do your holiday shopping until Friday. (And don't forget to use Amazon Smile for your online shopping naming the United Methodist Church of Monroe for charitable giving. See our website to sign up and for more information: <http://umcmonroe.org/>).

It can be disheartening when we see injustices and can feel like our little voice means nothing. But remember the promise that God gives; God will strengthen our voices so that we can help others. So, let's not fear standing up for what we believe in. If a time was ever needed to hear God's words of hope and love now is the time. With the mudslinging going on in the Presidential campaign, with schools being locked down because of creepy clowns, with terror reigning overseas, our world seems to be full of fear and hate.

So, let's use our voices, which are undergirded by God's power, to profess God's love where there is hate and spread kindness where there is fear.

We can make a difference—let's do it!!

Thanksgiving Blessings,

Pastor Macdonald



Health Notes

Carin Florin, Parish Nurse

New Flu Information for 2016 - 2017

Getting an annual flu vaccine is the first and best way to protect yourself and your family from the flu. Flu vaccination can reduce flu illnesses, doctors' visits, and missed work and school due to flu, as well as prevent flu-related hospitalizations. The more people who get vaccinated, the more people will be protected from flu, including older people, very young children, pregnant women and people with certain health conditions who are more vulnerable to serious flu complications. This page summarizes information for the 2016 - 2017 flu season.

What's new this flu season?

A few things are new this season:

Only injectable flu shots are recommended for use this season. Flu vaccines have been updated to better match circulating viruses. There will be some new vaccines on the market this season. The recommendations for vaccination of people with egg allergies have changed.

What flu vaccines are recommended this season?

This season, only injectable flu vaccines (flu shots) should be used. Some flu shots protect against three flu viruses and some protect against four flu viruses.

What viruses do 2016-2017 flu vaccines protect against?

There are many flu viruses and they are constantly changing. The composition of U.S. flu vaccines is reviewed annually and updated to match circulating flu viruses. Flu vaccines protect against the three or four viruses that research suggests will be most common. For 2016-2017, three-component vaccines are recommended to contain:

A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)pdm09-like virus,
A/Hong Kong/4801/2014 (H3N2)-like virus and a
B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus (B/Victoria lineage).

Four component vaccines are recommended to include the same three viruses above, plus an additional B virus called B/Phuket/3073/2013-like virus (B/Yamagata lineage).

When and how often should I get vaccinated?

Everyone 6 months and older should get a flu vaccine every year by the end of October, if possible. However, getting vaccinated later is OK. Vaccination should continue throughout the flu season, even in January or later. Some children who have received flu vaccine previously and children who have only received one dose in their lifetime, may need two doses of flu vaccine. A health care provider can advise on how many doses a child should get.



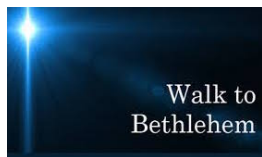
Sunday, November 6

Did someone you love pass away in the last year (11/02/15 or later)? Would you like to remember them with a special time of prayer and consideration on **All Saints' Day**? If so, please submit your loved one's name online (www.umcmonroe.org) or complete an **All Saints' Day** form from a Sunday bulletin (forms can also be found on the table in the Narthex) and drop it in the collection plate.



Wicke Luncheon **Wednesday, November 16**

Our annual **Wicke Luncheon** will be held on Wednesday, November 16 at the Bartletts'. More information regarding the get together will be available in the church bulletin. Contacts/Co-Hostesses: Laura Bartlett and Leigh Gray



Walk to Bethlehem

Join us between now and Christmas on our **Walk to Bethlehem!** Log your steps online via our website or on a tracking form weekly and help us on 5,622 mile walk! Everyone is welcome ... no one is left behind!



HO-HO-HO **HOLD THE DATE!**

Breakfast with Santa is set for Saturday, December 17 at 9:00 am. Registration opens soon! Questions: Anita Stabler-Hussey.

Seeking Coffee Hour Hosts

It's a wonderful way to support fellowship! Sign up using our new online SignUpGenius registration process -- visit our website and click on the coffee cup and you're ready to host a coffee hour! 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!

Let's Celebrate! November



happy birthday

11/08 Leigh Gray
11/11 Phil Gray
11/11 Bill Schmalkuche
11/16 Cindy Booth
11/18 Liam Whalen
11/21 Dick Bartlett
11/24 Robin Bassett



happy anniversary

11/27 Patty and Dave Hornak

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!



COMING IN DECEMBER!!

Advent Bible Study, Blue Christmas, Breakfast with Santa, Children's Pageant, Christmas Caroling, Christmas Eve Services, Ladies' Group Christmas Luncheon, Trim-the-Tree Luncheon, Annual Charge Conference ... and more!





UMC MONROE YOUTH NEWS

Youth members wanted to help with Scholarship Bake Sale and Shredding on **Saturday, November 5th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm** and then come relax as we participate in Craft Day from **2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**.

Sunday, November 13th 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm is our Regular Youth Group meeting.

Looking for helpers on **November 19th 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm** to make sandwiches for Spooner House. After sandwiches are made we will have fun playing games.

Friends are ***always welcome*** –
no need for them to belong to our church!!



Add smile.amazon.com to your
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.



Harvest Fest '16 Recap

It's hard to believe October 1 came and went! For days leading up to the Fest, we worried about the weather reports that threatened us once again with rain, yet prayers were answered when morning only brought some light mist which cleared. We appreciate the individuals that provided us with help and talents in the days leading up to, and including, the event. Our thanks to all those that led or helped man a booth; helped to publicize our event; donated ingredients for pies and fritters; solicited donations; were involved in making our "world famous" apple pies; donated, prepared or served food in our food court; loaned tables; handled financial matters; organized and assisted in the children's area with crafts and face painting; set up; moved furniture; and cleaned up. Every year there are minor setbacks, but we are able to look back at the day and realize it really did come together. This year we added the sale of mums and took advantage of being a Pokemon stop!

As this year's Fest is wrapped up, we reflect on what we could do different or better. How do we compete with the many other activities around Monroe and the surrounding towns? We need to remember that the success of the day is not so much in the numbers that come or the dollars we make, but the fellowship of church members and welcoming our friends, family and visitors to our "home". It's in the working together to create this annual event. It's the fun, the grumbling, the laughing, the tired legs, the planning and carrying out together. It's the new members joining in and the dedicated members knowing their role. We can all share in that success!

God's blessings on each and every one of you!

Rose Aiello and Darlene Dobler-Palin, Co-chairs

2016 HARVEST FESTIVAL



FOR YOUR INFORMATION ...



Mini Missions: Thanksgiving Dinners

We will be collecting items for Thanksgiving dinners for both Covenant to Care and Monroe Food Pantry. Items can be left in the wagon in the Narthex. If you have a frozen turkey, the freezer in the kitchen will be available.

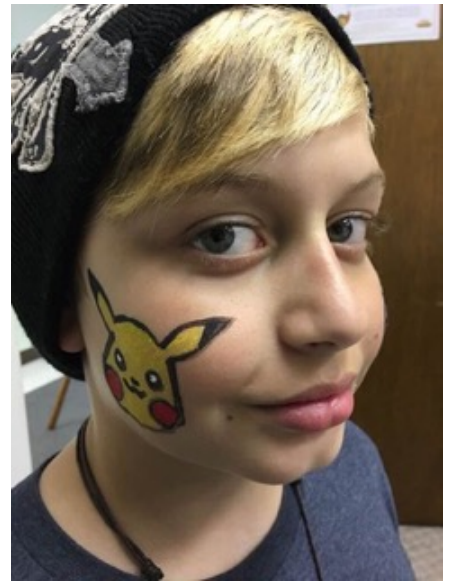
Change for Waterman Scholarship

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!





FOOD



FUN



&





FELLOWSHIP



Community Kindness Day

Ben's Bells Project

What a fun afternoon making new friends and learning about spreading kindness throughout Monroe! We participated in kindness activities -- coloring, creating a kindness chain and playing "Kindness Bingo" -- and worked on a community-based art project making "Kindness Coins." Thanks to the "kids" of all ages who joined us on Sunday, October 16 ... we think we may have discovered a new group of artists, too!

A special thank you to Tanya, Joe, Ellie and our Mission Team for bringing *Ben's Bells Project* to UMC Monroe!



UPCOMING EVENTS



Connecticut Chamber Choir opens its 39th season with *the song continues* on Thursday, November 3, 2016, 7:30 pm, at St. Theresa Church in Trumbull. CCC is joined by Trumbull High School Chamber Singers, Anne Tornillo, Director, Connecticut Chamber String Quartet, Danielle Munsell Howard, soprano, and Galen Tate, piano and organ. Questions: Patti Early or <http://www.ctchamberchoir.org/upcoming-concerts-new/>.

Receiving Guidance is Friday, November 4, from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm in Meeting Room 1. Contact: Michelle Lambert



Family Game Night and Sandwich Making is Saturday, November 19, 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, November 20. The sandwiches should have meat, cheese and no condiments and must be individually wrapped. See you at game night!



www.actspooner.org

The Social Issues Discussion Group

Join us for a forum where concerned believers discuss their views on various social issues. The discussion is truly open with no agenda or curriculum to follow. Meeting dates: November 20 and December 18 at 11:30 am in Meeting Room 1. Moderator: David York



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, November 20. 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

Mercy Learning Center needs Tutors – 637 Park Avenue, Bridgeport – to teach English Language Learners, Math & Reading – they meet twice a week for 2 hours – no prior teaching experience necessary – one day training session required– Center is open between 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. Call 203.334.6699 or email Lynn Gabriel (lynn.gabriel@mercylearningcenter.org) or Sandra Santy (Sandra.santy@mercylearningcenter.org).



Connecticut Hospice, Inc. is recruiting new volunteers for weekdays, evenings or weekends. Orientation and Training sessions to begin this Fall. Call Joan Cullen, Director of Volunteers at 203.315.7510.



Paper Shredding Fundraiser Event

Individuals and Businesses Welcome

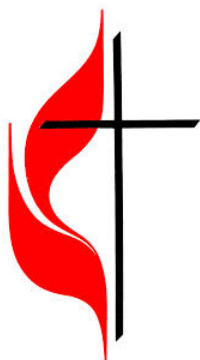
DATE: Saturday, November 5, 2016 (rain or shine)
TIME: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
LOCATION: Village Square, 401 Monroe Turnpike/Route 111, Monroe, CT
(across from McDonald's)
COST: \$10 standard archive box (approximately 15"x12"x10")
Prices increase \$5.00 per size according to container
PAYMENT: Cash, or checks over \$30.00 (made out to: UMC Monroe)

The material placed in the **PROSHRED** bin can include:

office paper	NCR paper	invoice paper	colored paper
windowed envelopes	glossy paper	file folders	computer paper
brochures	fax paper	ledger paper	letterhead
laser printouts	product sheets	envelopes	other office paper

* No need to remove staples, paperclips, binders, etc. Shredding will be done on-site. *

Proper destruction of confidential documents is a critical step in ensuring that you and your customers don't become victims of identity fraud. Take advantage of the convenience and security of having your sensitive household and business records destroyed by the Pros.



TO BENEFIT MISSIONS NEAR AND FAR OF THE
United Methodist Church of Monroe

For more information email: papershredding@umcmonroe.org
or visit our website www.umcmonroe.org

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South Central Emmaus XXXVI

Friday, November 11 - Sunday, November 13

Trinity Episcopal Church, Seymour



"¹⁷ And I pray that Christ will make his home in your hearts through faith. I pray that you may have your roots and foundation in love, ¹⁸ so that you, together with all God's people may have the power to understand how broad and long, how high and deep, is Christ's love."

Ephesians. 17.18

Calling all Prayer Angels!

We've been preparing for South Central Emmaus Weekend XXXVI and it is just around the corner! The weekend will be led by UMC Monroe's very own Patti Early -- Emma Rupp and Bill and Kathy Schmalkuche are joining her "on team."

Please consider being one of our Prayer Angels! A great deal of prayer goes into each Emmaus weekend. While participants are on the retreat, our Prayer Angels lift them and the weekend itself, up in prayer. Your prayer is a wonderful gift to each person on this Emmaus weekend.

To choose a day and time, visit our website www.umcmonroe.org and click on the *Emmaus Prayer Angels* button or sign up on the registration sheets in our attendance booklets. Questions? Please contact Patti, Emma, Kathy or Bill.

UMC Monroe Vendor Party

Tuesday, November 15 – 7:00 pm

Fellowship Hall



Please join us for UMC Monroe's Vendor Party! Representatives from **Mary Kay Cosmetics**, **The Pampered Chef**, **PartyLite Candles**, **Thirty-One Gifts** and **Tupperware** will be with us. We hope you'll join us for a night of fellowship ... and a little shopping! All orders placed at the party will be filled in time for your holiday gift giving!

Invite your friends, family, neighbors, co-workers, etc. ... all are welcome. A percentage of all sales will go to the church's missions! Light refreshments will be served.

Can't join the fun? Stay tuned for more information about online ordering.

Registration: Register online at umcmonroe.org or by contacting the church office (umc@umcmonroe.org or 203.268.8395) by Sunday, November 13.

Information: Please contact Rose Aiello

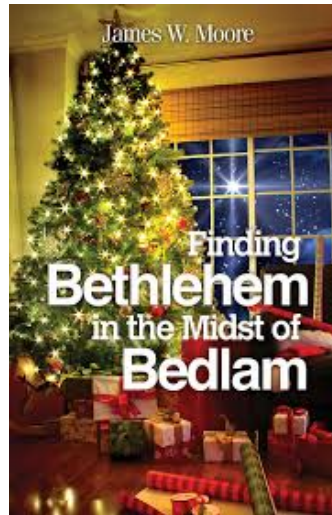


UMC Monroe • 515 Cutlers Farm Road • 203.268.8395

www.umcmonroe.org • umc@umcmonroe.org

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Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam



Thursdays*, November 17 – December 22, 2016

Times: 10:00 am - 11:30 am OR 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm ~ Location: Meeting Room 2

Christmas or confusion, Bethlehem or bedlam . . . which will you choose this year? The truth is, we don't have to choose, because Christmas always happens right in the midst of our chaos. God breaks into our noisy disorder and is made known in Jesus Christ. Christmas and confusion—weren't they intimately related at the first Christmas when Jesus was born? Sometimes we forget that. That's what this study is about—how Christ breaks into our chaos and confusion and brings Christmas—how Bethlehem always happens in the midst of bedlam.

This 5-week study will take place on Thursdays during Advent with two opportunities to participate. * Please note that there will be no class on Thanksgiving.

The participant book includes a session for each week. Each chapter includes questions for reflection and discussion, a brief prayer, a focus for the week, and six daily Bible readings for personal devotional time during the week. Purchase of the book is not necessary to participate in the study but it does enhance it. If you are interested in buying a book for \$11 please let Pastor Martha know. Please join us ... and feel free to invite a friend!

MISSIONS



The United Methodist Church of Monroe will be welcoming the ***PIVOT Ministries*** choir on Sunday, November 27 during its regular worship service at 10:00 am. Founded in 1970, Pivot Ministries is a faith-based residential treatment program for men located in Bridgeport and Norwalk. PIVOT is a non-profit agency with four decades of successful experience assisting men challenged by alcohol and substance abuse. Its mission is to treat drug and alcohol addiction as a spiritual problem and return the men to their families usefully whole. Serving approximately 250 men per year, the Ministry reaches men throughout the Northeast and beyond.

UMC Monroe is pleased to have assisted PIVOT for over 5 years with various collections for their ministry, including bedding for their facilities, clothing and gardening supplies for their community garden. To learn more about PIVOT Ministries, please visit their website at www.pivotministries.org.



This just in ...

So many people were *caught*
- preparing, working and
cleaning up for the Harvest
Festival!

... A BIG THANKS TO ALL!!!

Who will be caught next?

Prayer Concerns



Cooper, age 8 - Lynn Abbott's grandnephew - diagnosed with another tumor; and parents Ann and Alex as they are also expecting another child
 Dotti Hossler's sister - continues to deal with brain injury
 Gizmo - Claudia Wallace's sister's dog - may require surgery
 Family and friends of Mary Allraum - as they mourn her passing
 The navy fleet in the Red Sea
 Family and friends of Ana Rombilus Griffin on her passing from brain cancer
 Bobbie Grant
 Max Gray - recovery back surgery
 Ann Dalton - breast cancer treatment
 Pricilla Bromley's son-in-law - Bill Curry - infected foot and partial amputation; Bill's sister - Helen - mitral valve surgery and Priscilla's daughter caring for them all
 Anita's family - George Stabler, Jay Stabler and Danielle Stabler
 Tom and Amanda Early - transition back to the US from England
 Family and friends of John Sabo - Shelton High School student
 Juliana Sherwood's aunt and uncle - health issues
 Infant James - lung collapse and in need of heart transplant
 Gail Mas' granddaughter - Sara
 Jessica Iannacone - Wallace's niece - answers as to why masses on lungs even while working with several doctors and tests
 Quintin Brantley - continued recovery
 Bobbie Grant's friend - Carrie
 Amanda
 Anita Stabler-Hussey's niece - Marsha
 Russ (Fudd) Gaffney - continued recovery
 Friend of Kathy Schmalkuche - Deni - medical tests
 Roy G - 8-year old with serious epilepsy
 Gail Mas' niece Suzette
 Friend of Wallace's - Audrey Scott - on dialysis and in need of a kidney transplant

Ronald - Ethel Abraham's brother - leukemia
 Millie Derle's sister - Bev - cancer
 Friend of Billy Schmalkuche - Jill - strength for long-term rehab from surgery for spinal injuries
 Charlotte - Marilyn's Jones' friend
 Marilyn Jones' niece - Kathryn - ALS
 Dexon and Caleb
 Olivia - baby with Tuberous Sclerosis causing seizures
 Marilyn Jones' nieces: Vicky with tongue cancer and Amy experiencing paralysis
 Dolores Ovesny
 Jeff York
 Tom Boomersshine
 Darcy and Cameron
 Robert Ellis - co-worker of Claudia Wallace - cancer
 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
 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.



REMINDER: The deadline to submit information to Denise (umc@umcmornoe.org) for our monthly newsletter is the 15th of each month. When making your submission, please include all content and provide a contact name. Any submission received after the deadline is not guaranteed publication and may be deferred to the next month. Thank you!

United Methodist Church of Monroe							Nov 2016 (Eastern Time)				
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat					
8:30am - CP: Choir Practice 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - YWD: Youth 4pm - YG: Youth Group 5pm - Two Planks: Blithe	31	11:30am - MM: Missions	2	7:30pm - Connecticut	7pm - Receiving Guidance	9am - Paper Shredding 2pm - YC: Youth Craft	4	5			
All Saints' Day Communion Sunday 8:30am - CP: Choir Practice 10am - Worship Service	7	7:15pm - CC: Church	6:30pm - Girl Scouts @	10		10am - Two Planks @ Choir	11	12			
8:30am - CP: Choir Practice 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 4pm - Boy Scout Troop 163 4pm - YG: Youth Group	14	Newsletter Deadline 7pm - Condo Meeting (Hills) 7pm - Vendor Party @	11:30am - Wicke Luncheon 7:30pm - Great Oak Farm @ 7:30pm - Two Planks @	17		10am - Advent Bible Study: 7pm - Advent Bible Study:	18	19			
Sandwich Collection 8:30am - CP: Choir Practice 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:30am - Social Issues 2pm - HOLD: Sing-A-Long	21			24		10am - Two Planks @ Choir	25	26			
First Sunday of Advent 8:30am - CP: Choir Practice 10am - Pivot Ministries 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service	28			1		2pm - YC: Youth Craft	2	3			