

United Methodist Church of Monroe



messenger

FEBRUARY 2017

*"A glimpse of God will save you. To gaze at Him will sanctify you."
Manley Beasley*

A few months ago I wrote in the newsletter that we would be making some changes to our Sunday morning worship. You might have noticed some small ones, like using different people to do the announcements or not always having a Call to Worship and an Opening Prayer.



The worship committee is working hard to make sure our worship time is meaningful to us all while also pleasing to God.

One change we have sought to implement is a smoother start to the service. Have you noticed the music playing when you enter the sanctuary? Lauren, our wonderful pianist, has been playing Gathering Music. We've been ringing the bell to mark the start of service. We would like to start as promptly as possible and are thrilled that you all love to fellowship before service; however, we ask that as we near 10 a.m. we begin to quiet our voices and prepare our hearts for worship. If you are still in the hallway you might hear a chime indicating that service is starting. It is our hope that this will help us all to ready ourselves for a powerful encounter with the holy.

If you have any questions or comments the Worship Committee would love to hear from you. It is our hope that through different types of music, different prayers, skits, scripture readings and messages that every heart is touched every Sunday in one way or another. Have you experienced something at another church that you wish we would do? Let us know. Unsure why we do something, ask.

Next time you enter the sanctuary carry those words from Manley Beasley in your heart. What does it mean to gaze at God? Try it and let me know how it goes. In fact, the first person who shares their story with me I will treat to a cup of coffee!

In Christ's Abundant Blessing,

Pastor Macche

Remember during the winter season ...

Register for inclement weather alerts!



Enroll for text and/or email alerts if you would like to receive notice when UMCM is closed or activities cancelled. Go to our website, click on "Resources", then "Inclement Weather", then "NBC CT Storm Alerts" in the last sentence. It will take you directly to the enrollment page. For breaking news: (1) Tune in to NBC WVIT, CBS WFSB or ABC WTNH; (2) Visit our website at www.umcmonroe.org, or (3) Check our Facebook page. Be prepared!

Save the date for

A HOPPIN' GOOD TIME!

Easter EGG HUNT 2017

Saturday, April 1... more details available SOON!

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!



happy birthday

2/01	Sue York
2/02	Tammy Cahill
2/03	Michael Aiello
2/04	Molly Smith
2/05	Sandi Hagopian
2/07	Dotti Hossler
2/10	Emily Florin
2/12	Matthew Steese
2/16	Aubrey Ramos
	Billy Schmalkuche
2/22	Elizabeth Steese
2/27	Laura Bartlett
	Ethan Bassett

Happy BELATED Birthday to...

1/18	Katie Schmalkuche
1/21	Michelle Rajpolt
1/22	Malenna Hornak
1/23	Nolan Downey
1/28	Carl Sword
1/29	Emily Benoit

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!





UMC MONROE YOUTH NEWS

Are You Ready For Some “Souper Bowl”?

Asking all Youth members to participate and help with our **“Souper Bowl” Sunday Lunch**, on Sunday, **February 5** after Worship Services in Fellowship Hall.

How does it work? Just bring 2 cans of soup (a chicken or beef based broth)...one to eat and one to donate to the Monroe Food Pantry and asking for a \$1 donation.

Help will be needed collecting donations that day as well.

Calling all youth!

LOOKING for youth members to serve on the **Youth Advisory Board**. Here's your opportunity to provide input for what activities we'll be involved with this year. Interested? Please contact Pastor Martha for more information. Our next Youth Group meeting is Sunday, February 12 at 4:00 pm.

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

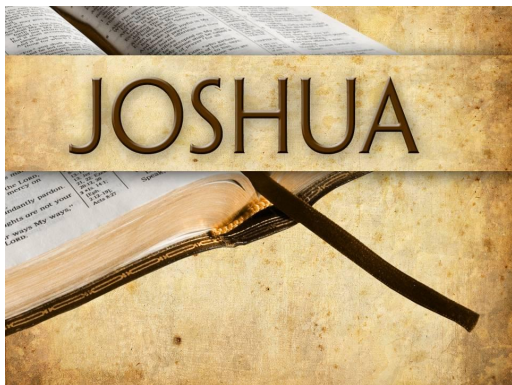


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browser's bookmarks!*

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.

DID YOU KNOW?

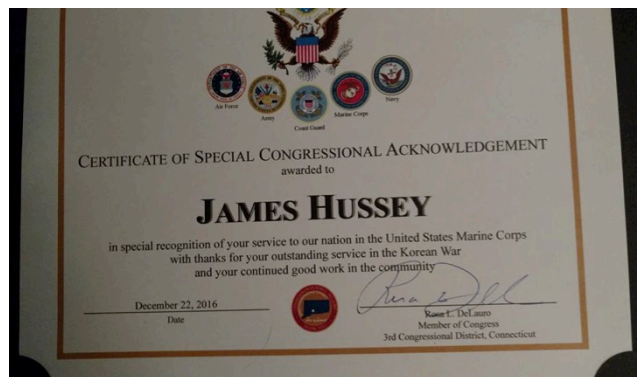
Winter Bible Study – The Book of Joshua



Bible study continues on Thursdays at 10:00 am to February 23. The Book of Joshua--the story of how Israel entered and conquered the land God had promised them after Moses led them through the wilderness. Join us Thursday mornings as we contemplate the promises God has made to us in this New Year. All sessions will be held in Meeting Room 2. All are welcome and feel free to invite a friend! For questions, please contact Pastor Martha.

Congratulations, Jim!

On December 22, 2016, Jim Hussey was awarded the **Certificate of Special Congressional Acknowledgement** for his service to our nation in the US Marine Corps. Jim served in the Korean War and continues his good work in the community. Congratulations and thank you!



FOR YOUR INFORMATION ...



Mini Missions: February is the month for hearts! Get in the spirit and donate some HEARTY soups!

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!



UPCOMING EVENTS

2017 CT District Resourcing Days will feature a wide selection of workshops with a sampling of topics including church finance, prayer, small group leadership, conversations with our Muslim neighbors, SPR 101, mass incarceration, and much more. Saturday, February 4 from 9:00 am – 11:45 am at Golden Hill UMC, 210 Elm Street, Bridgeport. There will be carpooling from our church. Please contact the church office to pre-register.



Family Game Night is Saturday, February 18, from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Bring your favorite game and a snack to share. See you at game night!

The Social Issues Discussion Group

Join us on February 19 at 11:30 am in Meeting Room 1 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. Moderator: David York



Boy Scout Sunday



We will be celebrating **Boy Scout Sunday on February 12 during our 10:00 am service**. If you are or were a Boy Scout, including leaders, past or present, we would love to have you participate in our church service today. Please wear your uniform, too! If you would be able to help as an acolyte, greeter, usher or reader during the service, please contact Rose Aiello at 203.261.5528 or buildingroses@aol.com.

Girl Scout Sunday
Sunday, March 19, 2017
10:00 am Service



save the date!



MISSIONS



Our special Monroe Pantry Food Drive will also culminate with the Souper Bowl of Caring on Sunday, February 5. In addition to going for touchdowns with all our food items, the UMCM Youth will be tackling hunger from monetary donations, too. They will be outside the sanctuary and at the lunch (see below) with their soup pots ready (Cash or checks made payable to *UMCM* with *Souper Bowl* in the memo line).

We will be having a tailgating “souper” lunch after the church service on February 5. Please bring at least 2 cans of soup (at least one can should be clear chicken broth-based or beef broth-based). One can will be used for lunch and one donated to the final game of the food drive! Join in for some wonderful fellowship and a great cause with plenty of time to get home for the big game.



This just in ...

Thanks to Our Audio/Visual Team
Darlene Dobler-Palin and Wayne
Epstein who help to make our
Worship Services so special!

... A BIG THANKS TO THEM!!!

Who will be caught next?

Prayer Concerns



Dave Rupp and family - sudden loss of Dave's father
Kathy Schmalkuche's great-aunt – Marie Houdek - hospice care
Fromm's friend - Radovan Frzop - paralyzed but has been able to move his toes and feeling in stomach
Dexton - clear MRI marking 3 years with no cancer
Caleb - awaiting his MRI
Adam and Molly Fromm - expecting a child
Jim Eastwood - back problems
Janet's bandmate - Libby and her family - in the loss of her husband
Family and friends of Ciara O'Driscoll - 6th grader at Jockey Hollow - passed away due to complication from seizure
Richard Rice - cancerous melanoma removed
Michelle Lambert's friend - Felix - bursitis
Those grieving loss of Diane, died from stroke
Cooper Abbott - Lynn's 8-year-old grandnephew – aggressive cancer treatment
Lynn Abbott's Uncle Eddie - in hospital
Neil Chaudhary employee's husband - Curt and Joyce – brain surgery for aneurism
Infant Brody with serious medical issue - healing for him and strength for his family
Michelle Lambert's brother - Michael
Tyson - Lynn Abbott's grandson - Benign Rolandic Epilepsy
Lauren - Patti Early's friend's daughter - recovery from addiction
Aidan - Michelle Lambert's cousin's son - treatment in mental health facility
Dotty and Roger Cedergren - health issues
Janet Morris' friend - Robert Davidson in VA and his Mom, Georgia in PA with lymphoma
Priscilla's son-in-law - Bill Curry
Bobbie Grant - knee
Anita's granddaughter - Danielle
Dexton and Caleb
Dotti Hossler's sister - brain injury
Ann Dalton - breast cancer treatment
Gail Mas' granddaughter - Sara
Amanda
Roy G – 8-year-old with serious epilepsy

Gail Mas' niece Suzette
Ronald - Ethel Abraham's brother - leukemia
Wallace's friend - Audrey Scott - needs kidney transplant
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' nieces - Kathryn with ALS; Vicky with tongue cancer; Amy experiencing paralysis
Olivia - baby with Tuberous Sclerosis causing seizures
Dolores Ovesny
Jeff York
Tom Boomershine
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
Olivia - Juvenile Diabetes
Sue Simmons' friend - Debbie - MS
Jimmy - Bobbie Grant's friend's son
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
Unspoken burdens that reside upon people's hearts
Youth - effects of social media and those being bullied

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							Feb 2017 (Eastern Time)				
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat					
<div>29</div> <div>Week 4: Football Food</div> <div>10am - Worship Service</div> <div>10:15am - YWD: Youth</div> <div>2pm - District Resourcing</div>	<div>30</div> <div>10:30am - Friendship Circle</div>	<div>31</div>		<div>1</div> <div>10am - BS: The Book of</div> <div>7pm - Trustees Meeting</div>	<div>2</div> <div>6pm - Girl Scouts Cooking</div>	<div>3</div> <div>9am - District Resourcing</div> <div>2pm - Girl Scouts Cooking</div>					
<div>5</div> <div>Communion Sunday</div> <div>Souper Bowl Sunday</div> <div>Week 5: Football Food</div> <div>10am - Worship Service</div> <div>11am - Souper Bowl of</div>	<div>6</div>	<div>7</div> <div>11:30am - MM: Missions</div> <div>7:15pm - CC: Church</div>		<div>8</div> <div>10am - BS: The Book of</div>	<div>9</div>	<div>10</div> <div>7pm - Concert @ Fellowship</div>	<div>11</div>				
<div>12</div> <div>Boy Scout Sunday</div> <div>10am - SS: Sunday School</div> <div>10am - Worship Service</div>	<div>13</div> <div>10:30am - Friendship Circle</div>	<div>14</div> <div>10am - Hoffmiller Service</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Newsletter Deadline</div> <div>6:30pm - Girl Scouts</div>	<div>16</div> <div>10am - BS: The Book of</div>		<div>17</div>	<div>18</div> <div>6pm - FGN: Family Game</div>				
<div>19</div> <div>10am - SS: Sunday School</div> <div>10am - Worship Service</div> <div>11:15am - SI: Social Issues</div>	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div> <div>7pm - Hills of Monroe</div>	<div>22</div>	<div>23</div> <div>10am - BS: The Book of</div>	<div>24</div> <div>8pm - Two Planks: La Cage</div>	<div>25</div> <div>8pm - Two Planks: La Cage</div>					
<div>26</div> <div>10am - SS: Sunday School</div> <div>10am - Worship Service</div> <div>5pm - Two Planks: La Cage</div>	<div>27</div> <div>10:30am - Friendship Circle</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>1</div> <div>7pm - Ash Wednesday</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div> <div>8pm - Two Planks: La Cage</div>	<div>4</div> <div>8pm - Two Planks: La Cage</div>					