



United Methodist Church of Monroe

messenger

JANUARY 2017



*Another year is dawning:
Dear Father, let it be,
In working or in waiting,
Another year with Thee;
Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.
Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace;
Another year of gladness
In the shining of Thy face;
Another year of learning
Upon Thy loving breast;
Another year of trusting,
Of quiet, happy rest.*

Frances Ridley Havergal

This is the time of New Year's Resolutions. Unfortunately, many of them never come to fruition. So this year, instead of making New Year's resolutions that might end up causing us disappointment when we don't keep them, let's focus on the joy that we have experienced through the Christmas season. We have been blessed with another year. Another year that is full of mercy and grace as the angels foretold. Another year to praise and rejoice as with the shepherds. Another year to trust in God as Mary and Joseph did.

I think one of things that strikes me in this poem is the second line, "let it be." That is sometimes so hard, to just say to God, o.k. "let it be." We want to control things, we want to secure outcomes, we want to steer things in our direction, but it is not always so. This year let us try to practice "letting things be." Let's trust in God to lead us in the right direction as he did with the Magi. Let us take time to bask in God's goodness and take comfort in leaning on Him.

Wishing you a New Year full of God's Blessings,

Pastor Maude

seeks volunteer tutors! They meet twice weekly for two hours each session. The Center is open Monday-Friday between 8am-5pm.

If interested...Training Sessions will be on Friday, January 6 and Friday, January 27, 2017 from 9am-3pm. Lunch will be provided.

For more information, contact Lynn Gabriel or Sandra Santy at 203-334-6699 or email lynn.gabriel@mercylearningcenter.org or Sandra.santy@mercylearningcenter.org

The Connecticut Hospice is sponsoring volunteer training and orientation in their Shelton Home Care Office. As a volunteer you can fill your hours by in-home companionship, provide spiritual care or bereavement services, help in the arts, Reiki, Pet Therapy or meet transportation needs. For more information, please contact Joan Cullen at 203-315-7510 or email her at jcullen@hospice.com

*Let's Celebrate
January!*



Happy
New
Year!



happy birthday

01/05 Anita Stabler-Hussey

01/06 Aidan Ramos

01/10 Juliana Epstein

01/12 Brian Sherwood

01/13 Bill Florin

01/18 Martha Epstein

01/18 June Hallden

01/18 Lee Hossler

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! 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!





BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

We will be celebrating Boy Scout Sunday on February 12, 2017. If you are or were a Boy Scout, including leaders, past or present, we would love to have you participate in our church service on that Sunday. 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 email at buildingroses@aol.com.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017 Guest Speaker Mary Ellen Midgley, spouse of Rev. James Midgley from UMC Ansonia will be here to talk about their upcoming Spring trip to Ireland on May 29—June 7, 2017. We look forward to welcoming her!



This just in ...

Betsy was caught de-cluttering around the church.

... thank you!

Who will be caught next?

FOR YOUR INFORMATION ...



Mini Missions: Chips, pretzels and fruit snacks

We will be collecting school snacks such as chips, pretzels, and fruit snacks. Items can be left in the wagon in the Narthex. Thank you for your support!

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!





2017 Schedule

Friendship Circle meets from 10:30 am – 1:00 pm – bring your lunch!
My Fair Ladies meets from 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm
Both groups meet in Meeting Room 1

* My Fair Ladies Meetings are TBD as of 01/01/17.

Monday, January 16
Monday, January 30
Monday, February 13
Monday, February 27
Monday, March 13
Monday, March 27
Monday, April 10
Monday, April 24
Monday, May 8
Monday, May 22
Monday, June 5
Monday, June 19
Monday, July 3

Monday, July 17
Monday, July 31
Monday, August 14
Monday, August 28
Monday, September 11
Monday, September 18
Monday, September 25
Monday, October 2
Monday, October 9 (Friendship Circle Only)
Monday, October 23
Monday, November 6
Monday, November 20
Monday, December 4 – Christmas Party

UPCOMING EVENTS

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. Our first meeting of 2017 is January 15 at 11:30 am in Meeting Room 1. Moderator: David York



All United Methodists in the Connecticut District are invited to our 2017 District Resourcing Days!

Sunday, January 19 ~ Prospect UMC, 99 Summer Street, Prospect ~ 2:00 pm – 4:45 pm

Saturday, February 4 ~ Golden Hill UMC, 210 Elm Street, Bridgeport ~ 9:00 am – 11:45 am

Our District Resource 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. Watch for a full list of workshop topics and descriptions, along with information on how to pre-register. We will offer information, inspiration, and opportunities to interact with United Methodists from around our District. Please plan to attend.



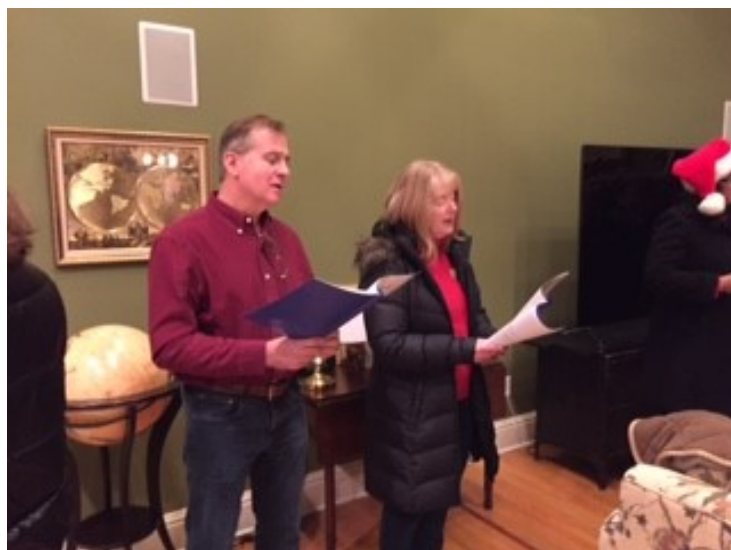
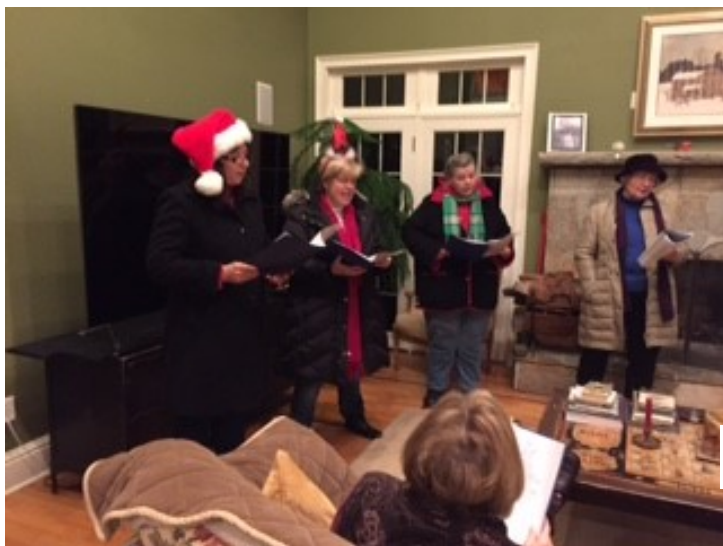
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PHOTO OPS

Christmas Caroling 2016



Christmas Cantata 2016



Christmas Pageant 2016



UMC MONROE MISSIONS

2017 FOOD PANTRY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

* For GAME DAY details, please reference our PLAYBOOK published in the weekly bulletin, reminders and on our website (www.umcmonroe.org).

Sunday, January 8 **Scramble with the Sandwich Spreads**
Blitzin' Jams, Jellies and Peanut Butter vs. Unstoppable Burger Toppers

Sunday, January 15 **Blocking by the Breakfast Champions**
Cereal Crunchers vs. Pancake Flatteners

Sunday, January 22 **Sacking the Starches**
Rushing Rices vs. Passing Pastas



Sunday, January 29 **Tackle of Tin Cans in the Red Zone**
First String Fruits vs. Varsity Vegetables

Sunday, February 5 **The BIG GAME**
Lean and Mean Chicken Broths and Soups vs. Tough and Gruff
Beef Broths and Soups

Join a "Mission team" and help us score a TOUCHDOWN for our neighbors in need at the Monroe Food Pantry! Let's KICK OFF 2017 by collecting 100 food items in time for the BIG GAME on Souper Bowl Sunday and take it into the END ZONE! Just TOSS your donation(s) into one of the collection boxes and check out the SCOREBOARD after each GAME to track the weekly winners and YARDS GAINED! Let's make this season a BLOWOUT and "win this one for the Food Pantry!!"

HANDING OFF TO THE MONROE FOOD PANTRY

Prayer Concerns



Cooper Abbott-Lynn's 8 yr old grandnephew-back in the hospital

Lynn Abbott's Uncle Eddie-also in the hospital

Pam Florin-leg pain

Neil Chaudhary employee's husband-Curt & Joyce-brain surgery for aneurism

Eartha Hodges-Quintin Brantley's mother-fall from light stroke

Emily Fromm's friend-Julie-displaced due to a fire

Infant James-strength for family on his passing

Rev. Karen Burger (former UMCM pastor) & family-comfort on the passing of her father, Jack Engleman

Infant Brody w/serious medical issue-healing for him & strength for his family

Carol Banner- editor of Eye on Monroe, big supporter & friend of UMCM-double knee replacement surgery

Family of York's friend- Theresa-on her passing

Michelle Lambert's brother- Michael

Tyson- Lynn Abbott's grandson-Benign Rolandic Epilepsy

Lauren-Patti Early's friend's daughter- recovery from addiction

Janet's friend-Libby-husband has cancer

Aidan-Michelle Lambert's cousin's son-treatment in mental health facility

Dotty and Roger Cedegren-health issues

Janet Morris' friend-Robert Davidson in VA & his Mom, Georgia in PA w/lymphoma

Priscilla's son-in-law-Bill Curry

Bobbie Grant-knee

Anita's granddaughter-Danielle

Dexton & Caleb

Dotti Hossler's sister-brain injury

Ann Dalton- breast cancer treatment

Juliana Sherwood's aunt & uncle-health issues

Gail Mas' granddaughter- Sara

Jessica Iannacone-Wallace's niece Amanda

Roy G-8 yr old w/serious epilepsy

Gail Mas' niece Suzette

Ronald-Ethel Abraham's brother-leukemia

Wallace's friend-Audrey Scott-needs kidney transplant cancer; Amy experiencing paralysis

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 w/ALS; Vicky w/tongue

Olivia-baby w/Tuberous Sclerosis causing seizures

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

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 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

Christians around the world persecuted for their faith

Bringing an end to the drug epidemic & deaths

30 million refugees without basic necessities of life

Unspoken burdens that reside upon people's hearts

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,

Jan 2017 (Eastern Time)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>Comunion Sunday</div> <div>10am - Worship Service</div>	<div>11:30am - MM: Missions</div> <div>8:30pm - Girl Scouts</div>					<div>8am - Word and Image: Martin</div>
<div>Week 1: Football Food</div> <div>10am - SS: Sunday School</div> <div>10am - Worship Service</div> <div>11:30am - SPPAC Meeting</div>						
<div>Newsletter Deadline</div> <div>Week 2: Football Food</div> <div>10am - SS: Sunday School</div> <div>10am - Worship Service</div> <div>11:15am - Social Issues</div> <div>4pm - Connecticut</div>	<div>10:30am - Friendship Circle</div>		<div>8:30pm - Girl Scouts</div>	<div>10am - The Book of Joshua</div>		<div>6pm - FGN: Family Game</div>
<div>Week 3: Football Food</div> <div>10am - SS: Sunday School</div> <div>10am - Worship Service</div> <div>11:30am - Worship</div>				<div>10am - The Book of Joshua</div>		
<div>Week 4: Football Food</div> <div>10am - SS: Sunday School</div> <div>10am - Worship Service</div> <div>10:15am - YWD: Youth</div> <div>2pm - District Resourcing</div>	<div>10:30am - Friendship Circle</div>			<div>10am - The Book of Joshua</div>		<div>9am - District Resourcing</div>