

United Methodist Church of Monroe

Messenger

November 2015

"And serve each other according to the gift each person has received, as good managers of God's diverse

gifts." 1 Peter 4:10



November has traditionally been the month that we talk about stewardship as we think about all the gifts that God has given us and offer back to God a portion of those gifts. Thanksgiving naturally instills that idea within us and went back to the days when we lived in an agrarian economy.

This is a wonderful time to give thanks, but at the UMC of Monroe we have decided to move our focus on Stewardship to April. Last April we had a wonderful Consecration Sunday experience and that was when we received our pledges. Unfortunately I did not communicate this well last April and as such there has been quite a bit of confusion as to what year the pledge encompassed—was it retroactive to January, was it from April to December 2015 or April 2015 to April 2016.

So, the Church Council would like to set the record straight and going forward it will be every April that we will focus on our giving. Now, that doesn't mean that we won't talk about what it means to be a good steward of all the gifts that God has given us but it does mean that this fall you will not receive a new pledge card and the pledge you made in April 2015 is good until April 2016.

God has blessed us with so many gifts so I do hope you will consider ways that you can give and serve others during this month:

- Donate food to the Monroe Food Pantry or Covenant to Care for Thanksgiving. All donations are due by November 22nd; place nonperishable food in the mini mission wagon and turkeys in the freezer in the kitchen.
- We now have a Big Brothers/Big Sisters clothing bin in the lower parking lot. Why not donate some gently used clothes to help others stay warm this winter?
- Offer the gift of prayer. Pray for those listed in the announcements each week and/or sign up to receive the Joys and Concerns lifted each Sunday. Pray for those at the South Central Emmaus Weekend XXXIV 11/6-11/8.
- Serve as an usher, greeter, acolyte or liturgist—sign up on the sheet in the narthex.
- Put your loose change in the Waterman Scholarship jug
- Invite a friend to worship on November 29th to hear the Pivot Choir

As you contemplate what Thanksgiving means to you this year think about what diverse gift God has given to you and give thanks for it. Then ask yourself, "Am I using that gift to the fullest potential?"

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Martha

Health Notes by Carin Florin, Parish Nurse:

Coming soon! Walk to Jerusalem!



What do think about taking a walk from our church to Jerusalem? That's right, all 5,646 miles from Monroe to Jerusalem! OK, not literally, but it is an imaginary walk that will encourage physical activity, spiritual growth and cultural awareness through a virtual tour to Jerusalem.

We as a church (voluntarily, not a requirement) will take this imaginary walk to Jerusalem by logging our steps on weekly basis. I will convert those steps to miles and track them on a map to show our progress. This will be posted on a bulletin board in the fellowship hall. As we pass through different areas, I will post educational information about the area.

You may have teams (family, youth groups, Sunday school, etc.) or you may participate as individuals. Everyone is welcome to take this walk...no one is left behind!

Here's the plan: The walk will begin in January and end at Easter. The official start date will be Sunday, January 3. This will be the date I will hand out walking packets and you will begin logging your steps. Included in the packet will be passports to good health and devotionals to help you through your journey and pedometers to help you log your steps (personal fitness device also may be used). We ask for a donation of \$5 per individual or \$15 per family or team to cover the cost of program material and pedometers. Any money not used for this program will go into the parish nurse account for future programs and events.

If you would like to participate put your donation in an envelope marked "Walk to Jerusalem" and place in offering plate or send to church office. There will be a sign up sheet posted in the Narthex.

I will look forward to seeing you on our walk!

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

Carin Florin, RN-BC/ Parish Nurse

Christian Education News

Confirmation is starting! All youth in 8th grade and above who are not yet confirmed are invited to come on this exciting journey. We will be having an information session for parents and confirmands November 22nd from 6:00 - 7:00 pm at the church after our Youth Group Meeting. Come for some pizza and be sure to bring your calendars and questions. For more information please contact Pastor Martha.



Please submit additions and corrections to the birthday and anniversary list to the office at 203-268-8395. We don't want to miss anyone! Thanks!



11/8	Leigh Gray
11/11	Phil Gray
	Bill Schmalkuche
11/18	Liam Whalen
11/21	Dick Bartlett
11/24	Robin Bassett
11/25	Barbara Palmer

11/27	Patty and David Hornak
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Youth and Children's Craft Day
November 7th from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Come and make some special
Thanksgiving crafts



COLLECTING LOOSE CHANGE

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

Thank you so much!!

Thanks to all who have worked on the new Youth Room, especially to Doug, Debbie and Marina Salvas and Betsy Sword

Thanks to Darlene Dobler-Palin for overseeing the purchase of our new UMCM tee-shirts



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.

Family Game Night is Saturday, November 21st from 6-8 p.m. Bring your favorite game and a snack to share. Join us for lots of fun and fellowship!



World Communion Sunday, October 5, 2015



Thanks to everyone who helped to make our Paper Shredding fundraiser a success! Here is just a few of those who helped on the day. Check out our Facebook page for more pictures. We couldn't do it without you all!

Keep on collecting your papers—our next event will be in the spring after Tax Day!



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.

November Happenings:

- Bake Sale for donations on November 8th during Coffee Hour.
 - November 8th 6-8 p.m. meeting
 - November 22nd 6-8 p.m. meeting
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Mission News:



The United Methodist Church of Monroe will be welcoming the PIVOT Ministries choir on Sunday, November 29 during its regular worship service at 10 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.

Helping men with alcohol and substance addictions requires a combination of services. Pivot addresses both immediate physical needs (such as shelter, food) and long-term stability (through counseling, healthcare assistance and job skills training). Pivot is known as a safe place, a sanctuary for men in trouble. Through acceptance, discipline and structure, men gain the emotional and spiritual confidence to meet the challenges of life without depending on drugs and/or alcohol. Pivot runs a very structured program whereby each participant is expected to follow a rigorous schedule of daily activities, which includes: personal counseling, a bible-based curriculum of study, life skills training, educational tutoring, AA meetings and chore duties.

The UMC of 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, you can go to their website at www.pivotministries.org.

Monthly Mini Missions
November 2015:
All the fixings for a tasty Thanksgiving meal



Prayer Concerns

Marilyn Jones' relative-healing from brain bleed
Christine Benoit-continued healing
Jacob-Dotti Hossler's grandson-healing from concussion
Anita Stabler-Hussey's granddaughter-Danielle-recovering from gastric bypass surgery & experiencing high blood sugar levels
Dotti Hossler's brother-in-law
Cari Harris-continued healing from hernia surgery
Gail Mas - healing
Donald-Bobbie Grant's son's father-in-law-struggling with health issues
Kelly- Marilyn Jones' granddaughter-collapsed lung
Prayers for the Harris family as they mourn the loss of Gail Northrop
The Daviau family
Family & friends of Tom Morris-on his passing
Albert- mini-stroke
Delores- chemotherapy & radiation
Ken Mennerich- ill
Carl Sword's niece-Kirsten- surgery to remove a benign brain tumor
Mark Kigler-mini-stroke
Marilyn Jones' niece- Amy-paralysis after a fall
Dennis-Wenzl's daughter- in- law's father-ALS
Suzette's-Gail Mas' niece-tumor is non-cancerous
Donald Austrian-kidney cancer
Kevin-recovery from stroke
Chris Reardon- friend of Yorks-awaiting a liver & kidney transplant in Yale New Haven Hospital
Christine Stewart - friend of Marsha Cohn-cancer
Greg Cable-Gail Mas' nephew-E Coli
Evelyn Sweetnam- hospice care
Marilyn Jones' friend Charlotte-recovery from stroke
Rosemary- battling cancer
Craig-recovery from injuries from tree accident
Quinn-child in need of bone marrow transplant

Jeff York
Marge Derle & daughter Millie as she cares for Marge
Pat Reeves- Stage 3 colon cancer
Barbara Palmer-medical issues
Michael Hossler-continued healing
Paul Lesko's friend-Sultan-liver cancer & 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 & facing financial concerns

Additions, corrections and deletions can be sent to 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. You can also request the list of the Joys and Concerns lifted up each Sunday. Pastor Martha send them out each Monday. Email her at PastorMartha@verizon.net to get a copy.

We've had another wonderful year at our Annual Harvest Fest. Thanks to all who helped in one way or another. Here are just a few moments that were captured. Special thanks to Anita Stabler-Hussey and Rose Aiello for all their hard work and dedication!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints Day 10am - Sunday 10am - Sunday 11:30am - Harvest 5pm - Two Planks:	2	3 11:30am - Missions	4 7:15pm - Choir	5 10am - Bad Girls of 6:30pm - Cub Scout	6 South Central Emmaus Weekend XXXIV @	7 2pm - Children's
8 South Central Laity Sunday 10am - Sunday 10am - Sunday 11:15am - Youth 4pm - Youth Group	9 10:30am - Friendshi 7:30pm - My Fair	10 7:15pm - Church	11 7:15pm - Choir	12 10am - Bad Girls of 6:30pm - Cub Scout	13	14 8am - Fall Clean Up
15 10am - Sunday 10am - Sunday 11:15am - SPPRC	16 Newsletter Deadline	17	18 11am - Wicke 6:30pm - Girl Scout- 7:15pm - Choir	19 7pm - Trustee	20	21 6pm - Family Game
22 Thanksgiving 10am - Sunday 10am - Sunday 4pm - Youth Group 6pm - Confirmation	23 10:30am - Friendshi 7:30pm - My Fair	24	25 7:15pm - Choir	26	27	28
29 Pivot Ministries 10am - Sunday 10am - Sunday	30	1	2 7:15pm - Choir	3 6:30pm - Cub Scout	4	5 2pm - Children's