

United Methodist Church of Monroe



messenger

AUGUST 2017



So let's do it -- full of belief, confident that we're presentable inside and out. Let's keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps his word. Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshipping together as some do but spurring each other on.

10:24-25a The Message

In June I previewed our upcoming "Fireside Chats." I am really looking forward to beginning these in August and they will run through September. This will be a "no judgment zone" so all ideas, suggestions and voices will be heard. Here are some questions to ponder that I might ask to get the conversation going:

- What do you like most about our church?
- What brought you to UCMC?
- What has kept you at UCMC?
- What prevents you from being fully engaged?
- What is lacking?
- Do other things interfere with Sunday morning worship?
- If we had a different worship time would that help? And if so, what day/time would be best?
- If we had a different type of worship, such as with a Praise Band, would that interest you? And if so, what day/time would be best?

Below are the dates and times for some of the "focus groups." Please come to the one that you most identify with and RSVP (umc@umcmonroe.org or 203.268.8395) by the Wednesday before just so I know how many s'mores to prepare!

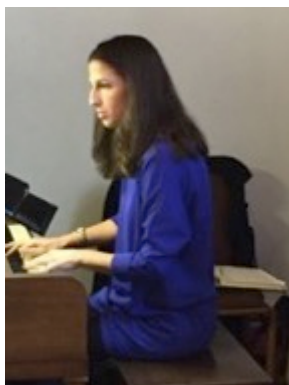
- Sunday, August 6th at 7:30 pm - "Empty Nesters"
- Thursday, August 24th at 7:30 pm - "Singles"
- Friday, September 8th at 5:30 pm - "Families with Young Children"
- Sunday, September 17th at 7:30 pm - "Families with Older Children"
- *Sunday, September 24th at 11:30 am - "Retirees"

Come to the parsonage where we will gather on the patio around our fire pit. You can either park at the church and walk down the path, park on Hannah Lane and walk over or park in the driveway. We will enjoy conversation, refreshments and the beautiful surroundings as we talk about your wants and needs. *As there are some steps and a little hill to access the parsonage patio the gathering on the 24th will be held at the church.

If you are unable to attend the date that you identify with the most or if you don't feel like you fit in any of these categories, please let me know and we will work something out. I am in the office most Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings and always available via email at PastorMartha@verizon.net. I want to hear from YOU!

In Christ's Abundant Love,

Pastor Martha



Prayers of thankfulness for Lauren Cacace

Sunday, August 6, will be Lauren's last day as our church pianist – she has been such a blessing to our congregation. Due to her full-time work schedule and her beautiful young daughter Lauren has decided to tender her resignation. The joy is that Lauren, Matthew and Hailey will continue to be a part of our church family and we look forward to having her back as a guest pianist soon!

Recycling, Receipts and the Waterman Scholarship

Bring your "returnable bottles" (for us to redeem), redemption receipts or loose change to church now thru September 10. *Proceeds will go to our Waterman Scholarship Fund.*



**ORDER
NOW!**

UMC Monroe is selling **Church T-Shirts and Sweatshirts** ... show your support and shop the following link by September 10 to get yours!
<https://www.customink.com/g/xkk0-00b0-n39y>

Let's Celebrate!



happy birthday

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

08/07 Kathy and Bill Schmalkuche
08/17 Sue and Dave York
08/18 Claudia and Steve Wallace
08/20 Edna and Bob Turner
08/25 Patti and Kevin Early
08/25 Martha and Wayne Epstein
08/26 Paula and Bill Fromm



happy
anniversary

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!





The Daniel Plan: 40 Days to a Healthier Life

Have you ever struggled to balance the demands of life with the need to maintain a healthy lifestyle? Does the planning to eat a healthy diet, get your proper rest and exercise, and build your relationship with God and others seem just too overwhelming? You are not alone!

Starting Saturday, September 9 at 9:00 am, you have the chance to start the journey to a healthier lifestyle with **The Daniel Plan**. **The Daniel Plan** is a holistic system that takes the two focuses on most health and wellness programs -- diet and exercise -- and expands it to include what the authors call the Five F's: Faith, Food, Fitness, Friendship and Focus.

Pastor Rick Warren, bestselling author of *The Purpose Driven Life*, co-created **The Daniel Plan** with Dr. Mehmet Oz, Dr. Daniel Amen, and Dr. Mark Hyman. It is a simple plan that encourages us all to make better, natural food choices that nourish and heal, build relationships to support each other, focus on Scripture and our relationship with God, attainable exercise and fitness goals, and the practice of focus, all combined to create a powerful plan to change lives.

Information: A short informational video and other material will be available in the Fellowship Hall after Sunday services starting Sunday, August 13. You can hear directly from Pastor Rick and check out the book and study guide.

Our Six-Week Journey begins Saturday, September 9 at 9:00 am. We will meet for an hour for each session on consecutive Saturdays. Each study and fellowship session will be followed by an optional group walk down the Grey Trail (starting in the church parking lot) to Great Hollow Lake and back.

Who May Join: Anyone! Church members, regular attenders, friends and visitors, even those who have never been inside our building, are all welcome.

Questions: Contact Bill Florin at billflorin@yahoo.com, by phone at 203.268.8539, or see him after church at the information sessions.

God has much for us yet to do to build God's Kingdom. Prepare yourself to do all the good you can by taking the next step to a healthier you.

Save the date: Outdoor Worship Service at Webb Mountain!



The Missions Committee invites you to join us for an outdoor worship service at *Webb Mountain* (in lieu of our regular Sunday worship service) at 10:00 am on Sunday, August 27. Stick around after worship and help us “do all the good we can” by working in 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. More details and information about carpooling to follow! Hope to see you there!!

* In the event of rain we will hold worship at the church. Notification will be made via email by 8:30 am that morning.

Adopt-a-Wagon ... Coming soon!

The Missions Committee had so much fun with our football theme food drive earlier this year that we want to give everyone a chance to be creative while helping the Monroe Food Pantry. Beginning this fall, each month, the Mini Missions wagon can be adopted by a family, church committee, group of friends, or anyone who would

like to help! For that month, you get to decide what items will be collected for the Monroe Food Pantry. You can pick a theme like an upcoming holiday or honoring a special occasion and collect non-perishable food items to go with your theme. You can even decorate the wagon to go along with it! At the end of your special month, you can help bring the collected items to the Monroe Food Pantry to see first hand the impact your efforts made.



Stay tuned for our first theme and more information on signing up!



Two Planks presents Spamalot: July 28, 29 and August 4, 5

What's the airspeed of a coconut-laden swallow??? The uproariously funny stage adaptation of Monty Python's classic *Holy Grail* ... will leave you in stitches and crying out for more!

Showtime: 8:15 pm; Location: Wolfe Park; Advance online tickets: \$20 adults/\$18 students/seniors; at door \$25 adults/\$20 students/seniors.

For more information about these performances and to order tickets, please visit the Two Planks website at twoplankstheater.org.

ACTIVITIES AND UPDATES



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 2017 – 2018 choir season will begin on Sunday, September 10 with the first rehearsal on September 6 at 7:30 pm.

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.

August Dates: August 3, 10*, 17 and 24
Time: 10:00 am

If anyone is interested in leading a study or has any suggestions for topics, please contact Pastor Martha.

* Bible Reading Marathon at the Monroe Town Gazebo



Family Game Night and Sandwich Making for Spooner House is Saturday, August 19 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Please bring your sandwich items as we'll be making sandwiches for delivery to Spooner House on August 20. The individually wrapped sandwiches should have meat, cheese and no condiments. And don't forget to bring your favorite game and snack to share. See you at game night!



Health Kit Update The New York Annual Conference collected 5,224 Health Kits in 2017 – +1,000 more than last year! Pastor Martha and Anita delivered 50 kits from UMC Monroe. Thanks again to all who donated supplies or made monetary donations and, of course, to the ladies who put them all together!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION ...



August 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!



REMINDERS

Adopt-a-Bill 2017

The *Adopt-a-Bill* campaign is still on-going ... please consider supporting your church by making a contribution towards a church bill payment. See the chart board in Fellowship Hall or contact the church office to find out what items are outstanding. Please make checks payable to UMCM and write what bill you are paying on the memo line of your check. Questions? Please see Steve or Heather Arnold. Thanks so much for your generosity!



UPDATE



In just a few weeks we will be distributing a new edition of the **Church Directory**. If you have any changes to your address, email, phone, cell phone, etc., that you want to include, please send an email to admin@umcmmonroe.org by Sunday, September 10.

NOTE: If you have a college student or an adult child living away from home and you'd like to add or update their contact info for 2017, we welcome that input, too.

Questions? Contact Kathy Schmalkuche

Calling all Youth!! We're kicking off our 2017 – 2018 Youth Group on Saturday, August 19 at *Family Game Night and Sandwich Making for Spooner House* from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. All youth who are going into 6th grade and up are welcome to join -- friends are invited, too!



Our **2017 – 2018 Sunday School** program kicks off on Sunday, September 10 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.



*When on vacation ...
be with us in spirit.
The rest of the summer ...
be with us in person.*



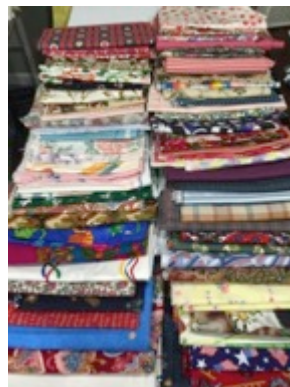
**“May your choices
reflect your hopes,
not your fears.”**

Nelson Mandela

Dress a Girl Around the World UMC Monroe donated fabric from our craft closets to the *Dress a Girl* Program -- enough fabric and trims to make an estimated 70 dresses!!

Attached are two photos of the fabric and 5 dresses that were already made from of our donations.

For more information about this program, contact Betsy Koelewyn at betsykoelewyn@icloud.com or visit the Dress a Girl website at: www.dressagirlaroundtheworld.com/



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. They will be collected during the months of June, July and August and can be placed in the box in the Narthex. **The deadline to donate is August 20.** Thank you in advance for your generosity to this cause! Contact: Ethel Abraham at 203.430.0338.



This just in ...

Bill and Emily Florin were caught organizing the sanctuary on a Saturday morning prior to Sunday worship.

... A BIG THANKS TO THEM!!

Who will be caught next?

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

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.

2017 Bible Reading Marathon



Calling all members of UMC Monroe! Please join us for the annual Bible Reading Marathon this summer!

- What:** Reading the Bible aloud in public
Bring your own bible or use the one that is provided!
- Why:** To proclaim the Word of God over the town of Monroe as a Witness to God's Unity through Community.
- Dates:** Thursday, August 10 – Saturday, August 12
8:00 am – 8:00 pm daily
- UMCM Dates/
Times:** Thursday, August 10 – noon – 2:00 pm (Bible Study and All Church Family)
Friday, August 11 – 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm (All Church Family)
Saturday, August 12 – 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm (All Church Family)
* Looking for a minimum of 8 participants a session - 15 minute each
- Where:** The Gazebo on the Monroe Town Green
Fans will be provided in the gazebo to keep you cool!

Register on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the narthex or online at www.umcmonroe.org. ALL ARE WELCOME TO STOP BY THE GAZEBO ANYTIME!

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.

Apple Crumb Pie Making Day



You're Invited

(So mark your calendars!)

Date: Saturday, September 16, 2017

Time: 8:00 am – 12:00 pm

Where: UMC Monroe Fellowship Hall

Who: All Ages

We will be making our traditional apple crumb pies to bake and freeze. Join in on the fun and fellowship! We need set up, peelers, slicers, runners, assemblers and clean up. Apples and pie crusts will need to be picked up, too! New this year - we will be making sugar-free pies to order.

The ingredient list for donations will be available at the end of July.

Questions: Rose Aiello at buildingroses@aol.com or 203.556.1513

Harvest Festival Dinner



Harvest Festival Dinner

Saturday, September 30

4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Join us for dinner featuring our famous pulled pork sandwiches, ribs, baked potatoes and apple crumb pies – they're all on the menu! Enjoy live music for the evening, too. Dine in or take out. More details to follow.

Please contact Rose (buildingroses@aol.com) if you have an interest in the planning.

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

Prayer Concerns



The family of Tanner Noble on his sudden passing
 Gary Chrislip – gallstones – surgery scheduled for August
 Kevin – 32-year-old - hospitalized due to stroke and pneumonia
 Jim Eastwood - helping a friend who had family emergency
 Emma Rupp - basic training
 Sue N - Leigh Gray's co-worker - healing
 Friend of Kathy Schmalkuche - Kitty Liebeg and her family on the passing of her dad, Jim Doyle
 Dr. Bill - overseas doing missionary work
 Amy - healing from bone marrow transplant - and her brother, Patrick, who donated the marrow twice
 Cooper Abbott - Lynn's grandnephew - continues cancer battle and continued strength for family as they have not given up
 Amanda - friend of Patti Early's - ill
 Lauren - continues to battle addiction; extra prayers now as she has been arrested and in jail
 Rich Patera - back surgery
 Those mourning the loss of Lou Fagin - former member
 Patti Early's daughter-in-law, Amanda - mourning the loss of her grandmother
 Sheryl's and John's fathers - medical issues
 Family of Pastor Jason Radmacher - sudden loss of his wife, Laura
 Anita's sister-in-law, Audrey
 Margaret - Monroe Library Director - back at work but prayers for continued recovery
 Joan - loss of her mom, Pat
 Sue's stepdaughter, Carrie - dealing with divorce and her mother losing husband to cancer
 Amy Rajpolt - job search
 Amelia - lung and breast cancer
 Bob - Patti Early's cousin
 Bobbie Grant - rehab and recovery from knee surgery
 Sue Simmons' brother Jeff
 Howard Davidson - Betsy's brother - COPD
 Gail Mas' niece Suzette
 Jeanne Baklik
 Marilyn Jones
 Dotti Hossler's sister - Loretta
 Kathy's 97-year-old great-aunt - Marie Houdek - hospice
 Fromm's friend - Radovan Frzop - paralyzed with some feeling

Dexton and Caleb
 Tyson - Lynn Abbott's grandson - Benign Rolandic Epilepsy
 Janet's friend - Robert Davidson and his Mom - lymphoma
 Priscilla's son-in-law - Bill Curry
 Gail Mas' granddaughter Sara
 Amanda
 Roy G – 8-year-old with serious epilepsy
 Wallace's friend - Audrey Scott - needs kidney transplant
 Millie Derle's sister, Bev - cancer
 Friend of Billy Schmalkuche - Jill - long-term rehab
 Charlotte - Marilyn's Jones' friend
 Olivia - baby with 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
 York's daughter-in-law, Lori
 Gayle
 Jodi Kles - Sheryl's cousin - living with rare form of cancer

Military personnel
 Unemployed
 First responders, firemen, policemen
 Persons dealing with serious medical issues
 Caregivers
 Covenant to Care and all foster children
 Those who do not have anyone to pray for them
 Christians around the world persecuted for their faith
 Drug epidemic - addiction and deaths
 Refugees
 Unspoken burdens that reside upon people's hearts
 Youth - effects of social media and those being bullied
 World leaders, including our country
 Children with mental illness

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							Aug 2017 (Eastern Time)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat							
10am - Worship Service 1:12pm - Bridgeport	8:30am - Summer Cooking 10:30am - FC: Friendship	8am - Summer Cooking 11:30am - MM: Missions	8am - Summer Cooking 7pm - Praise Band Practice	8am - Summer Cooking 10am - BS: Summer Bible 12pm - Bible Reading	8am - Summer Cooking		5						
Communion Sunday 10am - Worship Service 7:30pm - Fireside Chat:		7:15pm - CC: Church	7pm - Praise Band Practice	2017 Bible Reading 10am - BS: Summer Bible 12pm - Bible Reading	2017 Bible Reading 4pm - Bible Reading	2017 Bible Reading 2pm - Bible Reading	12						
10am - Worship Service	8am - Summer Cooking 10:30am - FC: Friendship	Newsletter Deadline 8am - Summer Cooking	8am - Summer Cooking 7pm - Praise Band Practice	8am - Summer Cooking 10am - BS: Summer Bible	8am - Summer Cooking	6pm - FGN: Family Game	19						
10am - Spooner House 10am - Worship Service 11:30am - Worship		7pm - Hills of Monroe	7pm - Praise Band Practice	10am - BS: Summer Bible 7:30pm - Fireside Chat:			26						
10am - Webb Mountain	10:30am - FC: Friendship		7pm - Praise Band Practice				2						