

United Methodist Church of Monroe



messenger

JUNE 2017



President Roosevelt was famous for having his fireside chats. Now it's our turn. FDR did them to allay fears of the Great Depression and to communicate with the public. The UMCM Fireside chats are going to be slightly different although they do hold some of the same basic principles.

Although not sliding into a Great Depression we do have financial concerns as we look to the future of our church. Yet, we are taught by Jesus to have faith not fear, so we hope that as we gather around the fire and chat we can come up with ideas of ways to deepen our faith. Likewise, we know that others in our community are fearful, they do not have a relationship with Christ, they are hurting, hungry, and in need. As such, we want to brainstorm ways to reach out to those in our local and surrounding communities as well as working on our own spirituality.

So how is this all going to work?

Throughout the summer we will be inviting different "focus groups" to the parsonage where we will gather on the patio around our fire pit. We will enjoy conversation, refreshments and the beautiful surroundings as we talk about your wants and needs. Once the dates are set you pick the one that works the best for you. As there are some steps and/or a little hill to access the parsonage patio there will also be a gathering at the church for those who would prefer that.

This will be a "no judgment zone" so all ideas, suggestions and voices will be heard. With God all things are possible and I trust God will be with us during these conversations. He is not done with the UMC of Monroe!

In Christ's Abundant Love,

Pastor Maude

"The believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching, to the community, to their shared meals, and to their prayers."

Acts 2:42

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Congratulations to Lee Hossler! Monroe's Outstanding Citizen 2017



Photo: Monroe Courier



Photo: EyeOnMyTown



Photo: EyeOnMyTown

Lee Hossler was recognized as Monroe's Outstanding Citizen 2017 at a reception on Monday, May 8.

Lee was celebrated for his dedication to the Town of Monroe. He's well-known around town for his work with many organizations, including:

- Connecticut Trust for Historic Barns
- Economic Development Commission
- Monroe Arts and Culture Council
- Monroe Chamber of Commerce
- Monroe Historical Society
- Save Our Stepney

Both First Selectman Steve Vavrek and state Rep. JP Sredzinski were on hand to present Lee with a proclamation and citation recognizing his dedicated service to Monroe. Steve's proclamation described Lee's "contributions which epitomize the volunteer spirit of Monroe" and "enhance the quality of life for our citizens."

Thank you and congratulations!

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! June



happy birthday



happy anniversary

06/08 Art Beardsley
06/08 Julie Chrislip
06/12 Stacey Moore
06/15 Amy Schmalkuche
06/16 David Hornak
06/17 Katie Early
06/19 Claudia Wallace
06/20 Tom Early
06/25 Annette Griffith
06/25 Marina Salvas
06/26 Jordyn Harris
06/30 Kathleen Brantley

06/01 Kathleen and Quintin Brantley
06/24 Leigh and Russ Gray
06/27 Debbie and Doug Salvas
06/29 Julie and Gary Chrislip

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!

UPCOMING EVENTS



June 4, 2017

Pentecost is one of the principal days of the Christian year and is typically celebrated on the fiftieth day after Easter. The Greek word pentecoste means "fiftieth day."

Pentecost is the day on which the Christian church commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and others assembled in Jerusalem. It marks the beginning of the Christian church and the proclamation of its message throughout the world and is often referred to as the birthday of the church. The liturgical color for **Pentecost** is **red**. The Worship Committee **invites you to wear red** in celebration of this special day in the church!



Family Game Night is Saturday, June 17 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Don't forget to bring your favorite game and snack to share. Better yet, bring a friend! See you at game night!

The Future Direction of the Harvest Festival Meeting

Please join us at 9:00 am on Saturday, June 17, to discuss the future direction of our Harvest Festival for 2017. We'll be meeting in Fellowship Hall – all are welcome!



The Social Issues Discussion Group

Join us on June 18 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



..... sunday, june 18

On Sunday, June 18 we will recognize our Sunday School teachers and students on **Youth Sunday**. We'll present bibles to our third graders, too! Join us for special music and a video presentation of our 2017 graduates as we close out another year of Sunday School!

P.S. It's **Father's Day**, too!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION ...



June Mini Missions: Fruit juice

Fruit juice is perfect for the warm weather! Bring in some juice, juice boxes, and dry drink mixes and get loose!!

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!





Pastor Martha's Ordination Celebration



Ordination Service

Saturday, June 10 at 10:00 am ET
Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY

Watch Pastor Martha's ordination in person or watch it LIVE online!

We will be hosting a viewing party at the church. Please arrive by 9:30 am – the ceremony begins at 10:00 am. Coffee and refreshments will be provided.

If you're unable to come to the church, we will post the link on our website (www.umcmonroe.org) and our Facebook page (@umcmonroe) when it becomes available, about a week or so prior to the broadcast.

Interested in attending the ordination service in person? If so, please contact ordination@umcmonroe.org for carpool information.



Ordination Celebration

Sunday, June 11 - 10:00 am service -- lunch to follow
United Methodist Church of Monroe

Join us for a celebration service with lunch to follow! If you haven't responded yet, please send an email to ordination@umcmonroe.org or register online at www.umcmonroe.org.

Meet our Graduates!



Alex Arnold – University of Minnesota
Erin Brantley – Masters, Fordham University
Dan Cahill – University of Connecticut
Phil Epstein – Pace Law School
Sam Gray – Seattle University
Tori Hagopian – North Carolina State University
Amy Rajpolt – Bryant University

Michelle Rajpolt – Masuk High School to University of Maryland
Emma Rupp – Emmett O'Brien Technical School to US Army

Michael Aiello – Jockey Hollow to Masuk High School
Nolan Downey – Jockey Hollow STEM to Masuk High School
Juliana Epstein – Jockey Hollow to Masuk High School
Jordyn Harris – Jockey Hollow to Masuk High School
Emily Salvas – Newtown Middle School to Newtown High School
Marina Salvas – Jockey Hollow to Trumbull Agriscience and Biotech Center

Daniel Florin – Stepney Elementary to Jockey Hollow
Malenna Hornak – Stepney Elementary to Jockey Hollow
Ellie Lennon – Fawn Hollow to Jockey Hollow STEM
Cooper Rupp – Perry Hill to Shelton Intermediate
Henry Whalen – Fawn Hollow to Jockey Hollow



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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.

Health Kit Items Still Needed!



We are collecting supplies to make **UMCOR** (United Methodist Committee on Relief) **Health Kits** to bring to the New York Annual Conference in June. These kits will be delivered to people all over the world. We find it is easier to collect the materials and put the kits together as a group, which the Friendship Circle will do the first Monday in June. A collection box will be in the narthex for donations.

*As per UMCOR instructions, all emergency kits are carefully planned to make them usable in the greatest number of situations. Due to the fact that strict rules often govern product entry into international countries, it is important that kits contain **ONLY** the request items – **NOTHING MORE**. Thank you!*

Here is what is still needed to complete our goal of 50 kits (**quantity needed in RED**):

- **Hand towels (quantity 6)**
 - 15 x 25 inches to 17 x 27 inches
 - Kitchen, cleaning, and **** microfiber towels not acceptable ****
- **Bath-size soaps (quantity 22)**
 - **3 oz. and larger sizes only**
 - **No Ivory or Jergens soap due to moisture content**
 - Do not remove from original packaging
- **Toothbrushes (quantity 32)**
 - Adult size only; **** individual packaging (no multi-packs, please) ****
 - Do not remove from original packaging

Don't have time to shop? Donations for shipping and to purchase toothpaste and remaining items are welcome!

Your donations can be placed in the collection plate – please make checks payable to **UMCM** with **Health Kits** noted in the memo line.



Spring Paper Shredding Fundraiser: Saturday, May 6

Another successful shredding fundraiser is in the books! In spite of some very windy/cold weather and an uncharacteristically slow start to the day, the event raised over \$3,200 to benefit our church missions near and far. Even the sun came out as we were finishing up at noon! We thank our Monroe and surrounding community neighbors for supporting our efforts. Once again our youth (and supporters of youth!) sponsored a good-will donation bake sale at the event that raised +\$650 toward the Waterman Scholarship Fund, too.

Thanks to everyone who supported the event by contributing paper for shredding, your valuable time before/during/after the event and/or baked goods for our table. It's a great event for the community and a great **FUND**raiser for our church missions budget too!

2017 CROP Walk: Sunday, May 7

Our UMC Monroe CROP Walk team was proud to work toward ending hunger one step at a time by participating in this year's CROP Hunger Walk at Seaside Park in Bridgeport. It was a windy but beautiful afternoon and we were committed to *"Do all the good we can. By all the means we can. In all the ways we can. In all the places we can. At all the times we can. To all the people we can. As long as we ever can!"*

After a meaningful youth skit the Sunday before the Walk (see details below), we had many generous donations as well as much support and prayers from our church family and extended supporters on that day. We exceeded our team goal of \$1000 in online donations in just one week (in addition to several other "offline" donations.) Our CROP Walk team website is still available if anyone is still looking to support this great cause: <https://www.crophungerwalk.org/bridgeportct/Team/View/39998/UMC-Monroe>



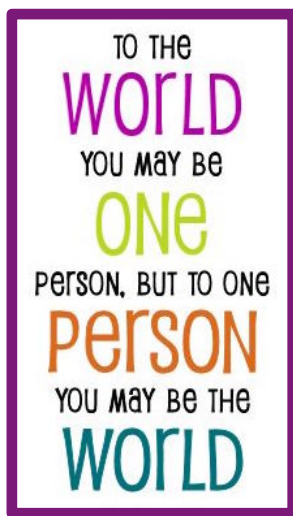
Did you know...

- \$20 can buy a year's supply of micronutrient packets to sprinkle on Indonesian children's food so they can thrive?
- \$60 can buy jerry cans for young Kenyan girls so they can carry clean drinking water from a well or pump back to their families safely and hygienically?
- \$100 can provide training to Bolivian natives on how to farm their land, land for which they now have titles thanks to the help of CROP-sponsored lawyers?
- \$223 is the average US family of four's spend on weekly groceries... meanwhile half the world's population lives on an income of less than \$18/week?

Will you consider giving the equivalent of one week of your groceries as a donation to the CROP Walk this year? Match what you spend on food in one week with a gift that will feed the world! We know from the generous donations on our site that many people in our church did take this challenge ... will you?



2017 National Day of Prayer



~ Brandi Snyder

Thank you to everyone that contributed to our annual **Church World Service Blankets+ Program for Mother's Day Sunday!** With your generous donations, we raised more than \$450 for the Church World Service Blankets+ Program! A lovely tribute to those special women that were and are a part of our lives! And thank you to Dotti Hossler for giving the Youth Message on Mother's Day!



Our choir will be taking a break for the summer beginning June 25 (last Sunday is Father's Day, June 18). Our 2017 – 2018 season will begin on Sunday, September 10 with our first rehearsal on Wednesday, September 6 at 7:30 pm. If you would like to perform special music during summer worship, please contact Michelle Lambert or let the office know. We need your talents!



This just in ...

Ethel Abraham, Marsha Cohen, Lynn Gregory, Vivian Harris and Alice Salvas were *caught* organizing the craft closet.

... A BIG THANKS TO THEM!!!

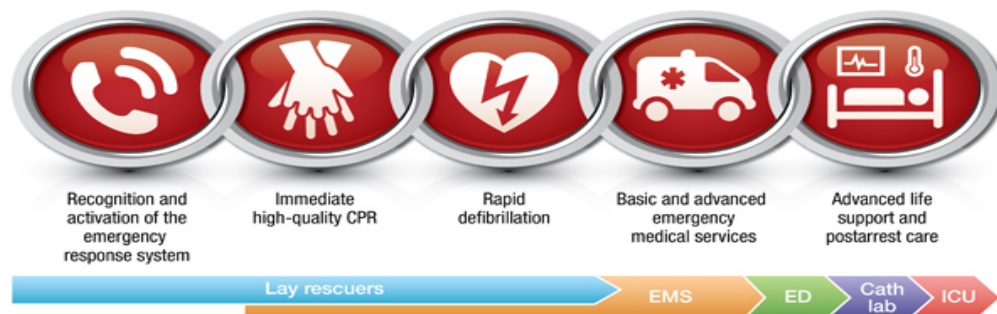
Who will be caught next?

You Can Save Lives in Our Church and Beyond ...

Sheryl Rajpolt

On Sunday, May 21, we dedicated our church's own Automated External Defibrillator (AED) so now we can save lives in our community. As many of you already know, just over 7 years ago, on March 8, 2010, Michelle Rajpolt, then 11-years-old, collapsed during her 5th grade gym class at Chalk Hill Middle School. She experienced Sudden Cardiac Arrest (SCA) ... her heart had stopped.

Michelle was just one of more than 325,000 SCA victims per year in the US alone, many of whom are youth (it is estimated that 16 people under the age of 18 experience SCA every day). SCA is one of the leading causes of death each year, exceeding the number of deaths from Alzheimer's, firearm assaults, breast, cervical, prostate, and colorectal cancers, diabetes, HIV, house fires, motor vehicle accidents and suicides combined.



The survival rate for out-of-hospital SCA patients is less than 10%, primarily because the survival rate drops by 10% for every minute that passes without action. The Cardiac Chain of Survival defines the following critical steps, the first 3 of which are often performed by lay rescuers or bystanders who must take action while waiting for EMS to arrive:

1. **Recognition** of cardiac arrest and **activation** of the emergency response system/**Call 911**
2. Early **cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)** with an emphasis on chest compressions
3. **Rapid defibrillation using an Automated External Defibrillator (AED)**
4. Basic and advanced emergency medical services
5. Advanced life support and post-cardiac arrest care

Statistics show that **bystander action can more than double the rate of survival for SCA victims**, but we **must have the training and the tools to be able to respond quickly**. Fortunately, Michelle's SCA occurred in gym class where her gym teacher immediately recognized her condition and activated the chain of survival. He called 911 and the school nurse and art teacher, they began CPR and utilized an AED located within 5 feet of her collapse in the school gym. Without the quick actions of 3 dedicated school "heroes" as well as the available AED, Michelle would not likely have beaten the SCA odds. Today, Michelle is healthy and active and has her own internal defibrillator so her heart can likely recover on its own if/when she has another SCA incident. Michelle was fortunate ... she was one of the 10% who survived and now, 7 years later, she's preparing to go off to college in the fall!



We've learned the value of the chain of survival and the need for proper readiness training and equipment to help save the next potential SCA victim. Thanks to the support of the Monroe Rotary Club (who sponsored a town AED donation program), our own parish nurse, and the generous support of our church family, **our church is now part of Monroe's HeartSafe Community with our own onsite AED and will be training even more people, so we are ready to save more lives in Monroe starting today!** Please learn about and become part of the cardiac survival chain ... **your support can save lives.**

Our UMC of Monroe AED (installed just inside the main door from the parking lot) is active and ready for use. We will soon be offering the basics of CPR and AED training, but in the meantime, if an emergency arises, don't be afraid to open the AED and use it. It will provide basic instruction and you could save a life! Any questions? Ask Carin Florin, Dave York, or any of the Rajpolt family members.

Assistance Needed in Maintaining Church Grounds



Trustees are looking for assistance in maintaining the church grounds during the upcoming months. There is a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the narthex. The grounds have been divided into nine areas and we would appreciate individuals or families taking an area of their choice and keep it weeded and picked up of trash and twigs. Remember that many hands make light work! Any questions, contact the church office. All help is greatly appreciated! Thank you!

Monroe Memorial Day Parade

It was a fun day as the UMC Monroe Kazoo Band participated in the **Monroe Memorial Day Parade** on Monday, May 29. A special thanks to all those who supported the parade in memory of our fallen heroes.

"There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends." John 15:13

Congratulations to Juliana Epstein who represented the Ladies' Auxiliary as their **Poppy Princess 2017!**



"Fun facts" about Emmaus Weekend XXXVII ...

- Our weekend team consisted of 46 team members ... 22 adults, 12 youth team members, 11 candidates and 1 observer
- The team represented 7 denominations and 15 congregations
- Our weekend scripture was *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* John 3:16
- UMC Team Members: Pastor Martha, Patti Early, Bill and Kathy Schmalkuche
- Many UMC Prayer Angels
- Emmaus Weekend XXXVIII will be this fall -- stay tuned ... more details to follow!
- Any high school youth or adults interested in the program, please contact Patti or Bill.

Thank you for your support and prayers!

Prayer Concerns



Bobbie Grant - recovery from knee surgery
 Sue Simmons step-daughter Carrie and brother Jeff
 Michelle Lambert - systemic candida
 Those grieving loss of Bobbie's friend Charlotte
 Those transitioning from college and those persons moving to other places
 Emma Rupp - begins process of entering the Army
 Mother of a family friend of the Hagopians - brain surgery to biopsy a suspected malignant tumor
 Simmons family - mourning losses of Jason's mother and Sue's nephew's daughter lost her mother
 Child at the Fraser Woods School with encephalitis doing better
 Cari Harris
 Friend of Kathy and Sheryl - Gretchen - breast cancer
 Cooper Abbott - Lynn's grandnephew
 Ruth - family friend of Bill Florin - undergoing chemo
 Joy Tate's grandsons - Braiden and Connor
 Paula Fromm - recovering from knee surgery
 Ed Combonie - cancer
 Howard Davidson - Betsy's brother - COPD
 Gail Mas' niece - Suzette
 Amber - reconstructive surgery
 Jeanne Baklik
 Marilyn Jones
 Lauren - Patti Early's friend's daughter - addiction
 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 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
 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 illnesses

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!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>28</div> <div>10am - SS: Sunday School</div> <div>10am - Worship Service</div> <div>2pm - Monroe Memorial</div>	<div>29</div>	<div>30</div>	<div>31</div>	<div>1</div> <div>10am - BS: Bible Study:</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div>
<div>4</div> <div>Communion Sunday</div> <div>10am - Pentecost Sunday</div> <div>10am - Worship Service</div> <div>11:30am - SPPRC Meeting</div>	<div>5</div> <div>10:30am - FC: Friendship</div> <div>7pm - Two Planks:</div>	<div>6</div> <div>11:30am - MM: Missions</div> <div>7pm - Two Planks:</div>	<div>7</div> <div>2017 Annual Conference @</div> <div>9:30am - Parent Support</div>	<div>8</div> <div>2017 Annual Conference @</div> <div>7pm - SETUP: Ordination</div>	<div>9</div> <div>2017 Annual Conference @</div> <div>8am - SETUP: Ordination</div>	<div>10</div> <div>2017 Annual Conference @</div> <div>8am - SETUP: Ordination</div> <div>10am - Pastor Martha's</div>
<div>11</div> <div>10am - Pastor Martha's</div> <div>10am - SS: Sunday School</div> <div>11:30am - Pastor Martha's</div>	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div> <div>7:15pm - CC: Church</div>	<div>14</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Newsletter Deadline</div>	<div>16</div>	<div>17</div> <div>9am - Future Direction of</div> <div>6pm - FGN: Family Game</div>
<div>18</div> <div>10am - SS: Sunday School</div> <div>10am - Worship Service</div> <div>11:15am - SI: Social Issues</div>	<div>19</div> <div>10:30am - FC: Friendship</div>	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div>	<div>22</div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div> <div>3pm - Sanctuary: Private</div>
<div>25</div> <div>10am - SS: Sunday School</div> <div>10am - Worship Service</div>	<div>26</div> <div>8:30am - Two Planks</div> <div>12pm - Two Planks Summer</div>	<div>27</div> <div>8:30am - Two Planks</div> <div>12pm - Two Planks Summer</div> <div>7pm - Hills of Monroe</div>	<div>28</div> <div>8:30am - Two Planks</div> <div>12pm - Two Planks Summer</div>	<div>29</div> <div>8:30am - Two Planks</div> <div>12pm - Two Planks Summer</div>	<div>30</div> <div>8:30am - Two Planks</div> <div>12pm - Two Planks Summer</div>	<div>1</div>