

United Methodist Church of Monroe



messenger

MARCH 2017

March 1st we will worship together for Ash Wednesday, marking the first day of Lent, the 40 days, excluding Sundays, that lead to Easter. According to *The United Methodist Book of Worship* we are encouraged “to observe a holy Lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s Holy Word.” So, what exactly does that mean, to “observe a holy Lent” and how might we do it this year?

The good and bad news is there is no one right way. I can’t prescribe you the proper amount of time to pray, fast and read. Instead, I encourage you to find your own way of contemplating your relationship with Christ, the places in your life where you’ve sinned and the ways you put the world before God.

So, although I don’t have a magic solution for you to use to get right with God I do have some suggestions that may work for you:

- Fasting: Be it from social media, watching the news at dinner or refraining from eating dessert: fasting should not just be about giving something up but about either using that time or money to spend refocusing away from distractions and back toward God.
- Bible reading: Pick up the most recent copy of *The Upper Room Daily Devotional Guide* at church. Set aside time each day to read this. It provides a scripture passage and thought-provoking and spirit-enriching material to read and think about. Or attend our Thursday morning Bible Study.
- Prayer: Lent is a great time to intentionally work on your prayer time. Try praying at a different time of the day, try praying while walking, take home the bulletin each Sunday and pray the prayers there as well as lift up those on our prayer list.
- Service: Lent isn’t just about sitting alone, it can also be about doing the work of Christ. Volunteer at the Monroe Food Pantry or at church, make an extra financial contribution to one of our mission projects or visit one.
- Rest: Sabbath is something we all struggle with given our busy lives. You don’t need to put aside an entire day, start by spending time during an ordinary day to be still in God’s presence. Instead of eating lunch in front of the computer, take your lunch outside and listen to the birds.
- Learning: Attend our Thursday evening Book Study or read a theological book. Listen to a podcast about Lent or about the history of Methodism.
- Worship: Decide to not only attend Ash Wednesday service but all Sundays in Lent. If you have to miss one go to our website and read the sermon as well as the weekly inserts. Invite someone to attend church with you too.

Whatever you choose to do this is your time to move along in your Christian journey. Whether you are new to the faith or a cradle Methodist use this 40-day journey as an opportunity to grow in your faith. Observe a holy Lent and open yourself up to a time of self-discovery. Bring someone along with you and behold the blessings!

In Christ’s Love,

Pastor Macode



Waterman Scholarship Fund



The Waterman Scholarship Fund (WSF), a trust fund of the United Methodist Church of Monroe, was established in 1982 by UMC Monroe member Ray Waterman in memory of his wife, Mary Waterman. As Mary was a teacher, the Watermans were very supportive of youth activities within the church and of education, in particular. Therefore, the original intent of the fund was to award post-secondary education scholarships to outstanding student members of UMCM. It was also intended by Ray that the value of the fund should increase over its lifetime. Subsequent to Ray's passing, the scholarships have been awarded in the memory of both Ray and Mary Waterman.

The office is accepting applications from those wishing to be considered as a recipient of a scholarship this year. **The deadline is May 15, 2017.** Please contact the office for an application.

NEEDED: Easter Candy

We're in need of donations of (nut-free, individually wrapped) candy for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt (see page 10 for more



details). Please place your donations in the bin in Fellowship Hall by Sunday, March 26. We're also looking for volunteers to assist with the event.

Please contact easteregghunt@umcmonroe.org to volunteer or for any questions.

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!



03/01 Steven Moore
03/02 Daniel Florin
03/02 Griffin Reynolds
03/04 Brenda Pantalone
03/10 Tori Hagopian
03/12 Patti Early
03/15 Steve Wallace
03/25 Leah Brantley
03/27 Gail Mas
03/29 Patty Hornak



happy birthday



happy anniversary

03/08 Betsy and Carl Sword
03/20 Dotti and 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!



UMC MONROE YOUTH NEWS



UMC Monroe's Youth Group will be attending the Bridgeport Sound Tiger vs. Hartford Wolf Pack game on **Sunday, March 12 at 3:00 pm**. Feel free to invite your friends! For more information, please see page 9 of this newsletter. Questions? Contact Pastor Martha.

Calling all high school youth! Emmaus Weekend XXXVII is April 28 – 30! **Nichols United Methodist Church, Trumbull**

An Emmaus weekend offers young people of high school age a short course in the Christian way of life. Those who come to an Emmaus weekend experience Christian community and a time of reflection and insight into their own lives. There is uplifting music, a chance to meet and get to know new friends, opportunity to know oneself, others, and God on a deeper level, and to share the joyful and loving relationship that is central to the Christian experience. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about Emmaus, please contact Pastor Martha, Patti, Bill or Kathy.



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



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.

DID YOU KNOW?



This just in ...

We caught Betsy Sword, Lynn Gregory, Vivian Harris and Margaret Bain re-organizing Meeting Room 1.

We also caught John Rajpolt replacing light bulbs and outlet covers around the church and arranging the repair to the entrance door locks.

... A BIG THANKS TO THEM!!!

Who will be caught next?

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 UCMCM 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!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION ...



Mini Missions: Pancake mix always cheers up the kids. March right up to the wagon and donate some pancake mix ... and syrup, too!

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!



FOOD PANTRY FOOTBALL

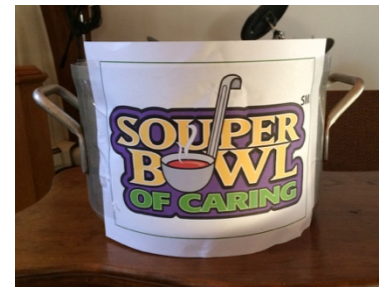
UMC Monroe scored BIG during our *Food Pantry Football* season! Thanks to everyone's hard work and outstanding play we put 3 touchdowns on the board by scoring 325 food items and +/- \$500 for the *Monroe Food Pantry*. Way to go TEAM!!!!



Thanks to our youth for hosting today's "souper" tailgate luncheon and for continuing our tradition of taking up collections for those in need ... a real celebration of our hard-fought games.

A special thanks to Tanya and our Missions Team for their uniquely fresh and creative approach to working for our neighbors. And we couldn't have done it without Coach Rose ... for keeping our eye on the ball with her weekly (and witty) pep talks — thank you!

While the whistle blew on our Food Pantry Football season today, our ministry of food donations to our neighbors never ends. Our mini-missions wagon is always available to accept your donations — each month we feature needed food.



We're only taking a brief "timeout" ... the Missions Team will be running another special drive in the spring — more details soon!!



UPCOMING EVENTS



Family Game Night is Saturday, March 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 March 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



Two Planks Theater's upcoming show ***La Cage au Folles*** will be held on Fridays (February 24, March 3 and 10) at 8:00 pm; Saturdays (February 25, March 4 and 11) at 8:00 pm and Sundays (February 26, March 5 and 12) at 5:00 pm.

Advance online tickets: \$20 adults, \$18 students/seniors OR at the door: \$25 adults, \$20 students/seniors. For more info and to purchase your tickets, please visit Two Planks' website: www.twoplankstheater.org.



Scout Sunday



Sunday, March 19, 2017 • 10:00 am Service



First United Methodist Church of Shelton (188 Rocky Rest Road, Shelton) welcomes all to their **15th Annual Lenten Fish Fry Dinners**, Friday nights, March 3 - April 7 from 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm. They're serving up their famous baked or fried fish, sweet or white baked potatoes or fries, pasta, homemade coleslaw, and dessert. No reservations needed. First come first serve, dine in or take out!

\$16 for adults, \$14 for seniors (60+) and \$6 for Children 12 and under.

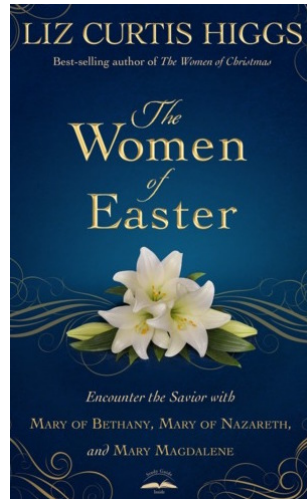
Call 203-929-3537 for more details or visit their website at www.umcshelton.org.
Proceeds will support the church's ministries and missions.

Caroline House invites you to **Starry Night Gala 2017**. *Caroline House* is honoring 100+ Women Who Care - Fairfield County, CT, Beth Kisielius & Tracy Yost for their many contributions to the *Caroline House* mission. Cocktails, Live and Silent Auctions, Dinner, Music and Dancing. .



Join us on Friday, April 21, 2017 from 6:30 PM – 11:00 pm at The Inn at Longshore (260 Compo Road, Westport). Tickets are \$175. For more information please visit www.thecarolinehouse.org or contact Christine Paine at cpaine@thecarolinehouse.org.

The Women of Easter



Thursday Morning Lenten Bible Study

Begins March 2, 2017

Time: 10:00 am - 11:30 am

You're about to meet three women named Mary, each of whom has a life-changing encounter with Jesus. Mary of Bethany prepares the way for the Lord's burial when she anoints His feet and fills the air with her perfume. His mother, Mary of Nazareth, remains by His side from His first breath to His last, her loyalty unwavering. Mary Magdalene, delivered of seven demons, bravely supports her Teacher through His darkest hours, then proclaims the glorious news of His resurrection. What a trio. What a Savior!

This study will run from March 2 – April 6 from 10:00 am – 11:30 am in Meeting Room 2. If you want to order *The Women of Easter*, please contact Pastor Martha -- the book sells for \$11.

Please join us if you can ... and feel free to invite a friend!

UMC Monroe • 515 Cutlers Farm Road • 203.268.8395

www.umcmonroe.org • umc@umcmonroe.org

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Gifts of the Dark Wood



Lenten Book Study

Thursdays ~ March 2 – April 6, 2017

Time: 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm

To accompany our Lenten worship series, ***Gifts of the Dark Wood***, we're offering a discussion-based small group study on the book of the same name.

Each week's session will follow the readings and themes for the next Sunday giving participants an opportunity to explore and reflect in advance of our worship service.

If you want to order ***Gifts of the Dark Wood***, please contact Pastor Martha -- the book sells for \$14. NOTE: There is also a companion 40-day Lenten Meditation manual available for \$10 -- this book is optional.

"Though commonly understood as a place to be feared and avoided, the Dark Wood is the surest place to meet God. It is a place where you may feel uncertain, empty, lost, tempted, and alone. Yet these feelings -- these gifts of the Dark Wood -- can be your greatest assets on your journey because they invite you to probe, question, and discover. According to the ancients, you don't need to be a saint or spiritual master to experience profound awakening. You don't even have to be 'above average'. All you really need to be is struggling." (Eric Elmes)

It's game time!



VS.



Sunday, March 12, 2017 – 3:00 pm

Webster Bank Arena • Center Ice Seats \$25 *

Join us for fellowship and fun while helping a great cause when the *Bridgeport Sound Tigers* face off against the *Hartford Wolf Pack*! Register online or complete a registration form at coffee hour.

Please place your payment in the collection plate or give it to Marsha Cohen by Sunday, February 26. Please make checks payable to *UMC Monroe* with *Sound Tigers* in the memo line.

Family, friends and neighbors are welcome!

Questions? Please contact Marsha. More information about carpooling will be available soon!

* A portion of each ticket will go to the NYAC's Disaster Response efforts. For more information about the game and these efforts, please visit our website.

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www.umcmonroe.org • umc@umcmonroe.org

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Egg
Hunt
Basket

EGG

saturday

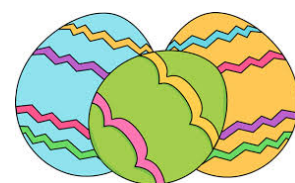
APRIL 1, 2017

START TIME: 9:00 AM

Rain or shine

HUNT

Bring your Easter Basket
fun for the family
breakfast &
craft



Pre-registration is required and is first come, first served until we reach capacity

Register online or email by 03/24/17

Include: Family name, # attending, ages of children and your phone/email

- \$4 per child (grade 5 and under)
- \$6 per adult • Max \$20 per family

Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Monroe Food Pantry and join in our ongoing efforts to help our neighbors!



United Methodist Church of Monroe

515 Cutlers Farm Road • 203.268.8395

register online at www.umcmonroe.org
email: easteregg hunt@umcmonroe.org

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Are You Prepared for an Emergency?

Get Trained and Join Monroe CERT



Free Training – Spring 2017

Two Friday evenings and two Saturdays in April
April 21 & 22 and April 28 & 29

Class starts soon – register now!

- Learn how to prepare and what to do in an emergency: Disaster Psychology, Fire Control, Rescue, Sheltering, First Aid, CPR, more ...
- Help your family, friends, neighbors and community
- Assist Monroe's emergency services
- Be part of a team of friends and neighbors

Orientation: Thursday, April 6 – 7:00 pm
Monroe Senior Center – 235 Cutlers Farm Road

Spring 2017 Training Dates

Friday, April 21 from 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Saturday, April 22 from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Friday, April 28 from 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Saturday, April 29 from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Most sessions will be held at the Monroe Senior Center (235 Cutlers Farm Road); other locations will be announced.

Graduation: Thursday, May 25 – 7:00 pm
Monroe Senior Center – 235 Cutlers Farm Road

For more information and/or a registration form, please contact Dave York, Monroe's Emergency Management Director, at dyork@monroect.org or visit the Town of Monroe website at www.monroect.org and look for *Emergency Services* and then *Community Emergency Response Team*.



Prayer Concerns



Jim Eastwood - back trouble
Audrey Stabler - Anita's sister-in-law - in hospital
Juliana Epstein
Sue Simmons brother - Jeffrey - alcoholism
Rob Lambert and family - anniversary of his mother's passing
Remy and Riso families - mourn the loss of Arthur
Heather Arnold's family - loss of aunt and mother's cousin
All children with mental illnesses including Molly, Aidan and Randy's son
Bishop Bickerton and the Cabinet - making appointments for next year
Family and friends of Robert James Dorsey on his passing (husband of Pastor Dorsey, a colleague of Pastor Martha)
Cooper Abbott - Lynn's 8-year-old grandnephew
Family of Merry Jane Brainard Boland - Gail Mas' niece - on her passing
Bill Schmalkuche's father - pancreatitis
Kathy Schmalkuche's mother - Pat Vlaha - recovery from mini-stroke
Gail Mas' niece Suzette
Lauren - Patti Early's friend's daughter - addiction
Dotti Hossler's sister - Loretta
Kathy Schmalkuche's 96-year-old great-aunt - Marie Houdek - hospice
Fromm's friend - Radovan Frzop - paralyzed but has been able to move his toes and feeling in stomach
Dexton and Caleb
Tyson - Lynn Abbott's grandson - Benign Rolandic Epilepsy
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
Ann Dalton - cancer treatment
Gail Mas' granddaughter - Sara
Amanda

Roy G - 8-year-old with serious epilepsy
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 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
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

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

Mar 2017 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>26</div> <div>10 am - SS: Sunday School</div> <div>10 am - Worship Service</div> <div>5 pm - Two Planks: La Cage</div>	<div>27</div> <div>10:30am - FS: Friendship</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>1</div> <div>7 pm - Ash Wednesday</div>	<div>2</div> <div>10 am - BS: The Women of</div> <div>7 pm - BS: Gifts of the Dark</div>	<div>3</div> <div>5:30pm - Lenten Fish Fry</div> <div>8 pm - Two Planks: La Cage</div>	<div>4</div> <div>8 pm - Two Planks: La Cage</div>
<div>5</div> <div>Communion Sunday</div> <div>10 am - Worship Service</div> <div>5 pm - Two Planks: La Cage</div>	<div>6</div> <div>6 pm - Two Planks Auditions</div>	<div>7</div> <div>11:30am - MM: Missions</div> <div>6 pm - Two Planks Auditions</div>	<div>8</div> <div>6:30pm - Girl Scouts</div>	<div>9</div> <div>10 am - BS: The Women of</div> <div>6 pm - Two Planks Auditions</div> <div>7 pm - BS: Gifts of the Dark</div>	<div>10</div> <div>5:30pm - Lenten Fish Fry</div> <div>8 pm - Two Planks: La Cage</div>	<div>11</div> <div>8 pm - Two Planks: La Cage</div>
<div>12</div> <div>10 am - SS: Sunday School</div> <div>10 am - Worship Service</div> <div>3 pm - Bridgeport Sound</div> <div>5 pm - Two Planks: La Cage</div>	<div>13</div> <div>10:30am - FS: Friendship</div>	<div>14</div> <div>7:15pm - CC: Church</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Newsletter Deadline</div>	<div>16</div> <div>10 am - BS: The Women of</div> <div>7 pm - BS: Gifts of the Dark</div>	<div>17</div> <div>5:30pm - Lenten Fish Fry</div> <div>6 pm - Girl Scouts Cooking</div>	<div>18</div> <div>6 pm - FGN: Family Game</div>
<div>19</div> <div>Boy Scout Sunday</div> <div>Girl Scout Sunday</div> <div>10 am - SS: Sunday School</div> <div>10 am - Worship Service</div> <div>11:15am - St: Social Issues</div>	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div> <div>7 pm - Hills of Monroe</div>	<div>22</div>	<div>23</div> <div>10 am - BS: The Women of</div> <div>7 pm - BS: Gifts of the Dark</div>	<div>24</div> <div>5:30pm - Lenten Fish Fry</div> <div>6 pm - Girl Scout Cooking @</div>	<div>25</div> <div>2 pm - Girl Scout Cooking @</div>
<div>26</div> <div>10 am - SS: Sunday School</div> <div>10 am - Worship Service</div>	<div>27</div> <div>10:30am - FS: Friendship</div>	<div>28</div>	<div>29</div>	<div>30</div> <div>10 am - BS: The Women of</div> <div>7 pm - BS: Gifts of the Dark</div>	<div>31</div> <div>5:30pm - Lenten Fish Fry</div> <div>6 pm - Girl Scouts Cooking</div>	<div>1</div> <div>Annual Easter Egg Hunt</div> <div>2 pm - Girl Scouts Cooking</div>