

United Methodist Church of Monroe



messenger

NOVEMBER 2017



It's that time of the year again...can you believe it? Especially hard to believe that the holidays are around the corner given the beautifully warm weather we have been experiencing.

Soon you will be receiving information about stewardship as you contemplate what gifts you will give to UMCM in order for us to continue our missions and ministries. I invite you to begin to prayerfully consider that now. Think about how God has blessed you this year. Take some time and write down, actually write down, what you are grateful for this year.

I have gone back to a practice I used to do a long time ago. As a result of the Daniel Plan I was inspired to do a Gratitude Journal each night. I write down three things I am thankful for that day. It has been a wonderful way to reflect on my day and see the way God has been at work in my life. Oftentimes it has been God at work through other people. One night I was thankful for one of the youth team members for the upcoming Emmaus Retreat and the prayer she offered. One night I was thankful for someone who gave me a book she thought would be good for me to read. One night I was thankful for someone who took me out for lunch. Last Saturday I was thankful for all the people who worked so hard to make the Sew-A-Thon such a success. Oh, and I was very thankful for the people who I have studied with in our Daniel Plan small group. They have been such a blessing!

Some of the things I experienced during my day would have just been taken for granted if I hadn't taken the time to stop and reflect. It only takes a couple of minutes each night, but boy are those precious minutes that have changed my life! As a result of fostering an attitude of gratitude it has inspired me to give back and work to make someone else's life brighter by sharing God's love.

Take some time—sit down, take out some old fashioned paper and pen -- and write down what your thankful for. Where have you been blessed by God? What have you taken for granted? Then take some time to think about ways you can pay it forward and give back so that someone else can reflect at the end of the day and be grateful.

In Christ's Love,

Pastor Maude



Our **Pampered Chef Catalog Fundraiser** raised \$210 for Hurricane Disaster Relief-Feeding America. Thanks to everyone that bought products to help others in need as they recover from these natural disasters. Well done, UMC Monroe!!

just love everyone – i'll sort 'em out later.
- god

adam & eve.

the first people to not read the apple terms and conditions.



Wicke Luncheon
Friday, December 1

Our annual **Wicke Luncheon** will be held on Friday, December 1 at the Bartlett's. More information regarding the get together will be available in the church bulletin. Contacts/Co-Hostesses: Laura Bartlett and Leigh Gray.



HO-HO-HO
HOLD THE DATE!

Breakfast with Santa is set for Saturday, December 16 at 9:00 am. Registration opens soon! Questions: Anita Stabler-Hussey.

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!

November

	11/08 Leigh Gray
	11/11 Phil Gray
	11/11 Bill Schmalkuche
	11/16 Cindy Booth
	11/18 Liam Whalen
	11/20 Max Reynolds
	11/21 Dick Bartlett
	11/24 Robin Bassett
happy birthday	
	
11/27 Patty and Dave Hornak	happy anniversary

Please submit additions and corrections to the birthday and anniversary list to the office at umc@umcmunroe.org or 203.268.8395. We don't want to miss anyone! Thanks!

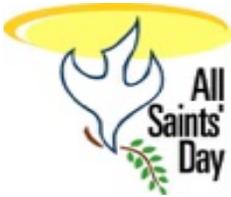


COMING IN DECEMBER!!

Advent Bible Study, Breakfast with Santa, Children's Pageant, Christmas Caroling, Christmas Eve Services, Christmas Poinsettias, Ladies' Group Christmas Luncheon, Trim-the-Tree Luncheon, Annual Charge Conference ... and more!

UPCOMING EVENTS

All Saints' Day: Sunday, November 5



Did someone you love pass away in the last year (11/06/16 or later)? Would you like to remember them with a special time of prayer and consideration on **All Saints' Day**? If so, please submit your loved one's name online (www.umcmonroe.org) or complete an **All Saints' Day** form from a Sunday bulletin (forms can also be found on the table in the Narthex) and drop it in the collection plate.

Family Game Night and Sandwich Making is Saturday, November 18, from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Bring your favorite game and a snack to share. Speaking of food ... please bring your sandwich items along ... we'll be making sandwiches for delivery to **Spooner House** in Shelton on Sunday, November 19. If you can't make it to Game Night, no worries! We'll be collecting sandwiches on Sunday morning – you can bring your donation with you to church! Our goal is to make 100 sandwiches -- they should have meat, cheese and no condiments and must be individually wrapped. A sign up sheet will be available one week prior to collection.



Spooner House also expressed a need for cleaning products -- paper towels, sponges, cleaning wipes, toilet paper, scrub brushes, cleaning brushes, etc. Just bring your cleaning product donation to Game Night or on Sunday morning along with your sandwiches! For questions please contact Ethel Abraham.

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. Meeting dates: November 19 and December 17 at 11:30 am in Meeting Room 1. Moderator: David York



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.

THE DANIEL PLAN

"It's been great!"

The Saturday morning **Daniel Plan** group has been a huge success. With 12 people participating, we have learned a lot about how God wants us to take care of our bodies to be healthy and fit so we can serve God and others. Would you like to learn how faith, food, fitness, friends and focus can change your life for the better? Here is your chance.

If you would be interested in participating in a weeknight group from early November through mid-December, please contact

Bill Florin at billflorin@yahoo.com or by phone at 203.268.8539. Together, we can stand **Daniel Strong** against the seemingly inevitable holiday bulge and have the momentum to move into the new year on a different, healthier path.

Please think about the evening that would be best for you. Pray about how God is nudging you to try it. Speak with other participants to learn about the fun we have as we build stronger friendships and support each other. God wants you to succeed in your life, and **The Daniel Plan** could help you on your path to success.

What can we ever say to such wonderful things as these? If God is on our side, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son for us but gave him up for us all, won't he also surely give us everything else? - Romans 8:31-32 (The Living Bible)



This just in ...



Matthew Cacace was caught repainting the "Church Office" sign.

Kevin from Kwik Electric in Seymour was caught repairing the light fixture outside the front door in time for our Harvest Dinner.

... A BIG THANKS TO THEM!!

Who will be *caught* next?



HARVEST DINNER

September 30, 2017

In keeping with the start of autumn and the changing of the seasons, we took our Harvest Fest and turned it into a Harvest Dinner. It was a new approach to a traditional event. And, yes, it worked! We simplified the menu but still included the delicious pulled pork, popular baked potatoes and famous “apple crumb” pie. From 4 to 8 pm, we had a steady crowd of diners and visitors joining us in our cozy sanctuary to enjoy a great meal. We also offered take out as an option.

Thank you everyone for all you did to make the dinner (and pies) a success -- making/baking pies, pulling or heating pork, shopping/prepping the rest of our menu items, decorating, moving chairs and tables, serving, last minute shopping, putting up/taking down signs, cleaning, smiling. A special shout out to Darlene Dobler-Palin, Sheryl Rajpolt and Gene Rajpolt (John’s brother who was visiting) for standing at the road edge and bringing diners in!

An extra “BIG” thanks to Kathy Schmalkuche for coming up with a new and distinctive logo; and also all her work on getting the word out to all our usual sources plus designing/printing flyers, postcards, menus and for keeping all the apple pie orders straight. Not to mention being my sounding board throughout all the planning!

I’d like to thank our musicians including That Virginia, Zach Anderson, Steph Serenita, and Randy Newbury of Forget Paris. Randy was a HUGE help in assisting me to “book” these very fine, guitar-playing singers to come out and entertain us.

Thank you to Cindy Booth for the weeding and mum planting just in time. Even our landscaper, Greg Peters of Utopian Gardens in Newtown, got the grass cut and leaves blown to make our church “home” look so nice! And, of course, thanks to Betsy Sword for all her decorating techniques which included window lights!

Be sure to read the article in Eye on Monroe by Carol Banner, Editor. Carol has been covering our events for several years and always does a super job!

As I have emphasized every year, the success of such an event is not always in the profits, but in the fellowship and fun we have celebrating our church family. It’s getting together with our family and friends at “our place”.

Working for God,

Rose Aiello, Chairperson

2017 HARVEST DINNER





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FELLOWSHIP



MISSIONS SUNDAY





Mission Partners: thank you to our partners who joined us for Missions Sunday. (L-R) Liz Skarzynski, Southern Connecticut Ambassador of Dress a Girl Around the World, Susan Agamy, Executive Director of Spooner House, and Selena Daniels, Regional Coordinator for Fairfield County - Covenant to Care.



Missions Team (L-R) Tanya Lennon, Liz Skarzynski (Dress a Girl Around the World), Ethel Abraham, Pastor Martha Epstein, Susan Agamy (Spooner House), Selena Daniels (Covenant to Care), and Lynn Abbott. Not pictured: Quintin Brantley and Bobbie Grant.

November Adopt-a-Wagon ... Stuff a Turkey!

“Stuff the Turkey” for the Monroe Food Pantry so that those in need can take home food and prepare a Thanksgiving meal. **Imagine how many families could be blessed with a delicious dinner if everyone chipped in and bought a few items each time they went food shopping!** Take advantage of using coupons, buying store-brand items, “buy one get one free” sales and shopping at the dollar stores.

Basics: Boxed Stuffing Mix, Instant Mashed Potatoes, Jars or Packets of Turkey Gravy, Canned Yams, Cranberry Sauce, Canned Veggies (green beans, corn, peas), Cornbread Mix, Canned Pumpkin or Fruit Pie Filling, Pie Crust Mix and **TURKEYS**, of course! (The kitchen freezer is available.)

Extras: Boxed Macaroni and Cheese, Fixings for Green Bean Casserole (Cream of Mushroom Soup, Canned Green Beans, French Fried Onions), Cake/Brownie Mix w/Can of Frosting, Vegetable Oil, Powdered Drink Mixes, Coffee, Tea Bags, Dried Coffee Creamer, Bag of Sugar, Rice, Boxes of Jell-O or Pudding Mix; Graham Crackers.



**** Collection runs from November 1 - November 19 so everything gets delivered in time! ****

Are you having fun with our monthly themed collections? Do you have an idea that would make a great collection theme? Sign up for a month and help us get creative with our mini missions! Visit the church website for the link to the sign up page to select your month.

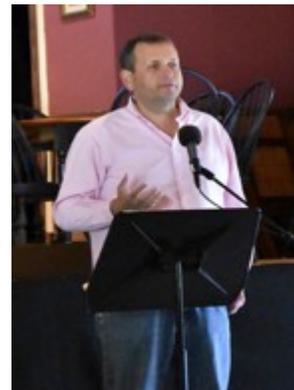
Dress a Girl Around the World Sew-A-Thon

Saturday, October 21, was a great day at UMC Monroe! We thank everyone who came out to cut, sew, stitch and iron 105 dresses for girls around the world! It was a time of fellowship for UMC Monroe, the Greater Monroe Community, Girl Scout Troop 34219, friends and family ... of all ages! A special thank you to Ethel Abraham and the Missions Team for hosting this event and to Liz Skarzynski, our Southern Connecticut Ambassador of Dress a Girl Around the World. There will be 105 girls in Uganda receiving their new dresses soon!



LAITY SUNDAY

A Laity Sunday service was held on October 22. Laity Sunday is a special day in the Methodist church tradition where we recognize and celebrate the work and mission of all laity (not just clergy). Our work is not only within the walls of the church, but in our everyday lives. We, the lay people, are in the front line of daily ministry at the workplace, home, school and throughout the community. The service was planned by Lay Leader, Rose Aiello, but several members of the congregation participated during the service, reading from different sections of the sanctuary. The youth message emphasized we are all members of a team that represent Christ to live our lives in a way that honors God. The choir performed a beautiful anthem "Come, Holy Spirit". Four of our older youth performed a fun skit (using the available Two Planks stage!) which led into Rose's main message of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20). We are called to be Great Commission Christians and to build a Great Commission church. Let's be the people in the parade who are bringing others to join the parade, who will bring others who will bring others -- go out to be disciples who make disciples! How "Great" is that!?





Girl Scouts Bridging



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Congratulations to Girl Scout Troop 34219!! On Sunday, October 1, Troop 34219 received their Bronze Award pins and certificates and bridged to the Cadette level of Girl Scouts. For their Bronze Award project, they repainted the safety location trail markers on the orange trail at Webb Mountain to help first responders find hikers quickly in emergencies. Congratulations, Ellie!

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Congratulations to Newtown Troop 50047!! On Sunday, October 22, Troop 50047 bridged from Brownies to Junior Girl Scouts. Congratulations, Maya!



Our youth participated in Laity Sunday service on Sunday, October 22. Photo Credit: Amy Rajpolt



UMC MONROE YOUTH NEWS

Confirmation class

We are pleased to announce that Confirmation Class will start on November 19 at 5:00 pm. Confirmation is open to all youth 8th grade and older. On the 19th we will start with an introductory session with the confirmands and their families. While we munch on pizza we will go over the schedule and the expectations.

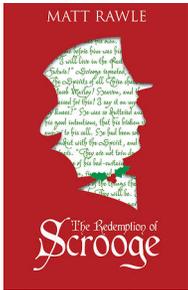


Youth Group

Youth members are also invited to participate in our youth group with Pastor Martha. It meets every 2nd and 4th Sunday from 4 to 6 p.m. (except the 4th Sunday of November as it is Thanksgiving weekend).

** If you are interested in participating in Confirmation or if you have any questions, please contact Pastor Martha. **

A LOOK AHEAD ...



Our Advent Bible Study, ***The Redemption of Scrooge***, will begin on Thursday, November 30 and run through Thursday, December 21. Stay tuned for more details!

Trim-the-Tree Luncheon

Please join us for our annual Trim-the-Tree Luncheon on December 3, 2017! Immediately after worship we'll gather in Fellowship Hall to share a potluck lunch – members of PIVOT Ministries (see below) will be joining us, too! Share your favorite dish and enjoy fellowship followed by the decorating of the sanctuary tree. A sign up sheet will be posted on the Narthex bulletin board by mid-November. Clean-up help would be welcome!

If you're interested in providing live music during lunch and/or while we're trimming the tree, please let us know!



The United Methodist Church of Monroe will be welcoming the ***PIVOT Ministries*** choir on Sunday, December 3 during our regular worship service at 10:00 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.

UMC 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.

This year we'll be collecting toiletries (toothpaste, soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, towels) and clothing (socks, T-shirts, underwear, sweatshirts/pants, flannel shirts – all items in either Large or Extra Large, please). A collection box will be in the Narthex by mid-November for your donations. Questions? Please contact the Missions Committee. To learn more about PIVOT Ministries, please visit their website at www.pivotministries.org.

2017 Christmas Poinsettias in Honor/Memory of Loved Ones

We're planning to offer Christmas Poinsettias again this year and we're currently working on the details. More information to follow!



Daylight savings time ends on Sunday, November 5 at 2:00 am ... don't forget to adjust your clocks before you "fall back" into bed!



Paper Shredding Fundraiser

Individuals and Businesses Welcome

DATE: Saturday, November 4, 2017 (rain or shine)
TIME: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
LOCATION: Village Square, 401 Monroe Turnpike/Route 111, Monroe, CT
(across from McDonald's)
COST: \$10 standard archive box (approximately 15"x12"x10")
Prices increase \$5.00 per size according to container
PAYMENT: Cash, or checks over \$30.00 (made out to: UMC Monroe)

The material placed in the **PROSHRED** bin can include:

office paper	NCR paper	invoice paper	colored paper
windowed envelopes	glossy paper	file folders	computer paper
brochures	fax paper	ledger paper	letterhead
laser printouts	product sheets	envelopes	other office paper

* No need to remove staples, paperclips, binders, etc. Shredding will be done on-site. *

Proper destruction of confidential documents is a critical step in ensuring that you and your customers don't become victims of identity fraud. Take advantage of the convenience and security of having your sensitive household and business records destroyed by the Pros.



TO BENEFIT MISSIONS NEAR AND FAR OF THE

United Methodist Church of Monroe

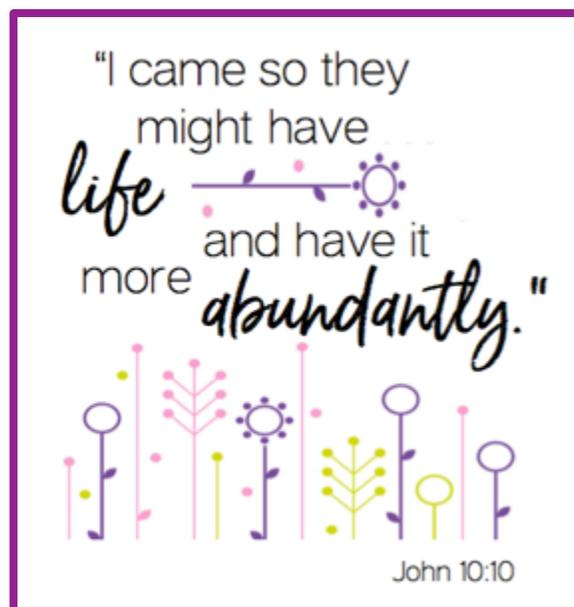
For more information email: papershredding@umcmonroe.org
or visit our website www.umcmonroe.org
or our FaceBook page (@umcmonroe)

South Central Emmaus XXXVIII

Friday, November 10 - Sunday, November 12

St. Michael's Episcopal Church, Naugatuck

Calling all Prayer Angels!



We've been preparing for South Central Emmaus Weekend XXXVIII and it is just around the corner! UMC Monroe's Patti Early and Pastor Martha are serving "on team."

Please consider being one of our Prayer Angels! A great deal of prayer goes into each Emmaus weekend. While participants are on the retreat, our Prayer Angels lift them and the weekend itself, up in prayer. Your prayer is a wonderful gift to each person on this Emmaus weekend.

To choose a day and time, visit our website www.umcmonroe.org and click on the *Emmaus Prayer Angels* button or sign up on the registration sheets in our attendance booklets. Questions? Please contact Patti or Pastor Martha.



Breakfast with **Santa**

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

9:00 am - Noon at UMC Monroe

Children (12 and under) \$5 • Adults \$8 *

Register online at www.umcmonroe.org by December 9, 2016

Crafts! • Stockings! • Pictures with Santa!

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

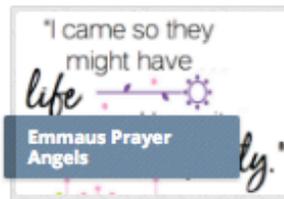
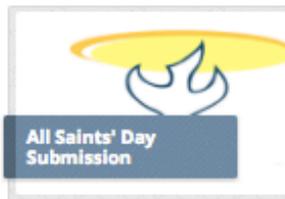
* Cash or check (made payable to "UMCM" with "Santa Breakfast" in the memo line)
Mail payment to UMC Monroe, Attn: Breakfast with Santa - pre-payment would be appreciated.
Registration is first come, first served until we reach capacity.

United Methodist Church of Monroe • 515 Cutlers Farm Road
breakfastwithsanta@umcmonroe.org • 203.268.8395



Welcome ... we're glad you're here!

A welcoming family of caring Christians dedicated to joyful service to all God's people. Share in the Journey.



VISIT US ANYTIME AT WWW.UMCMONROE.ORG!



Flags and Cell Phones

If you have an old, worn flag that you need to dispose of properly, you can do so right at the church. Just place it in the collection box located in the narthex. The Marine Corp League and VFW in Stratford continuously provide this service to the public.

Used cell phones can also be recycled for our service men and women and left in the same box.

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!



Prayer Concerns



The Salvas and Collis families on the passing of Deb Salvas's father, Howard Collis
Cooper Abbott - Lynn's grandnephew - very ill
Adam Fromm's father-in-law - Pat Boyl - healing from heart surgery
Emily Fromm's friend - Reverend Becca Kello - healing and strength from abdominal surgery
Dotti's niece, Patti - recovery from surgery
Edna Turner - recovery from gallbladder surgery
David Marks - pancreatic cancer
Ben Abercrombie – Harvard football player with broken neck
Pastor Martha's sister, Elin Dowd - treatment for liver disease
Bobbie Grant
Audrey Stabler - kidney disease
Marilyn Jones
Dotti Hossler's brother, Roger
Joe Lennon's brother, Michael - colon cancer
Lauren - continued addiction battle
Shaun - battling addiction
Pastor Martha's friend Cassandra's husband, Wayne – Stage 3 throat cancer
Debby Couture - pancreatic cancer
Gail Mas' granddaughters, Sara and Amanda
Dr. Bill - overseas missionary work
Sue Simmons' brother, Jeff
Howard Davidson, Betsy's brother - COPD
Gail Mas' niece, Suzette
Jeanne Baklik
Dotti Hossler's sister, Loretta - severe concussion
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

Roy G - child with serious epilepsy
Wallace's friend, Audrey Scott - needs kidney transplant
Friend of Billy Schmalkuche, Jill - long-term rehab
Jeff York
Tom Boomershine
Darcy and Cameron
Robert Ellis, co-worker of Claudia Wallace - cancer
Greg, Gail Mas' nephew - cancer
Evelyn Sweetnam – in 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
Wisdom for world leaders
Children with mental illnesses
Unity and peace in our nation and around the world

Those affected by the wild fires in California; tragedy in Las Vegas; recovery from Hurricane Harvey, Irma, Jose and Maria and earthquake in Mexico

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@umcmorroe.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@umcmorroe.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
29 10 am - SS: Sunday School 10 am - Worship Service 10:15am - YWD: Youth 11:30am - SPPRC Meeting 4pm - Youth Group 5pm - Two Planks Theater:	30 6pm - Cub Scouts Meeting	31 11:30am - MM: Missions	1 5pm - Organist Rehearsal 7:30pm - Choir Practice	2	3	4 9am - Paper Shredding
5 All Saints' Day Communion Sunday 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service	6 10:30am - FC: Friendship	7	8 5pm - Organist Rehearsal 7:30pm - Choir Practice	9	10 South Central Emmaus	11 South Central Emmaus
12 South Central Emmaus 10 am - SS: Sunday School 10 am - Worship Service 4pm - Youth Group @	13 6pm - Cub Scouts Meeting	14 7:15pm - CC: Church	15 Newsletter Deadline 5pm - Organist Rehearsal 6:30pm - Girl Scouts @ 7:30pm - Choir Practice	16	17	18 6pm - FGN: Family Game
19 10am - Spooner House 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - SI: Social Issues	20 10:30am - FC: Friendship	21	22 5pm - Organist Rehearsal 7:30pm - Choir Practice	23	24	25
26 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service	27 6pm - Cub Scouts Meeting	28 7pm - Hills of Monroe	29 5pm - Organist Rehearsal 7:30pm - Choir Practice	30	1	2