

United Methodist Church of Monroe



messenger

SEPTEMBER 2017



Imagine walking the steps that Jesus took during Lent. Not just virtually, but literally. We have an amazing opportunity to do just that this coming Lent in 2018. We are partnering with the Newtown UMC to go to the Holy Land. The trip is February 27-March 8, 2018. Touring with Educational Opportunities we will go from the shores of the Sea of Galilee to the Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem with many stops in between.

Brochures will be available soon with all the specific details as well as a place to register on-line. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to explore what many of us only get to read about. I am very excited to experience the places that have formed my faith and trust that I will be touched in new ways. Rev. Miller from Newtown has taken this trip previously and has raved about it as a life changing experience. This is our opportunity to discover why scholars call the Holy Land the "Fifth Gospel." Youth are welcome to participate as well as friends and family, no need to be a member of UMCM.

Some questions that have arisen are how safe is it to travel to Israel and Palestine given the current political climate. A brochure is available to address those specific issues. Our accommodations are first class and Education Opportunities takes care of all those pesky little details, like paying the extra fees, moving us through the airport, etc.

I invite you to take time to prayerfully consider taking this trip with me. Not only can we learn more about Jesus' life, times, land and his Hebrew faith but we can also learn more about one another and deepen our faith and commitment to discipleship together.

Questions are most welcome. I look forward to hearing from you.

Many Blessings,

Pastor Maude

THANKS!

To everyone who shared their time and musical talent and provided special music this summer: Rose Aiello, Heather Arnold, Gabrielle Barzauskas, Patti Early, Michelle Lambert, Sheryl Rajpolt, Dave Rupp, Keri Salustri, Bill Schmalkuche, Anita Stabler-Hussey and Sylvia Vargas.

Let's Celebrate!



THE BEST VITAMIN FOR A CHRISTIAN IS TO



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! Questions? Please contact Darlene Dobler-Palin.
<https://www.customink.com/g/xkk0-00b0-n39y>

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!



happy birthday

09/01	Bob Griffith
09/11	Debbie Salvas
09/13	Chad Harris
09/14	Marilyn Jones
09/15	Kathy Schmalkuche
09/27	Sera Lambert
09/29	Gary Chrislip
09/30	Michelle Lambert
09/30	Bill Smith

09/13	Brenda and Bob Pantalone
09/15	Bobbie and Roger Grant
09/20	Jennifer and Neil Chaudhary
09/24	Tammy and Mike Cahill



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!

Please join us in welcoming
RoseAnne Homola
as our new church pianist/organist!

RoseAnne began her church musician career in 1975 in her home church Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church in Greenwich. She has served at various churches all over Fairfield and New Haven County -- most recently St. Mark's Lutheran in Black Rock.

RoseAnne's choral experience includes Director of the American Union of Swedish Singers of Fairfield, Alto Voice in Dr. Joe Utterback's Palm Sunday Choir, Stratford and Carole Ann Maxwell's Fairfield University Community Choir. She continues to be a long-standing officer and active member of the American Guild of Organists (AGO). During her 6-year tenure as Dean of AGO, RoseAnne was honored to lead a very successful AGO Pipe Organ Encounter for 30 young musicians hosted at Sacred Heart University.

After 16 years homeschooling her three wonderful children in Easton, RoseAnne now enjoys living (and going to the beach) in Fairfield with Tom, her husband of 33 years. She is passionate about life-long learning, music, art and family.



This just in ...

Dotti Hossler was *caught* organizing the music files.

Paul Lesko was *caught* emptying the garbage cans.

Sheryl Rajpolt was *caught* cleaning benches prior to our outdoor worship service at Webb Mountain.

... A BIG THANKS TO THEM!!

Who will be *caught* next?



Harvest News

2017

Our Harvest Festival has turned into a Harvest Dinner to be held on Saturday, September 30! We will feature those delicious smoked pulled pork sandwiches and ribs which have become a much anticipated meal by many around town, as well as baked potatoes with assorted toppings and hot dogs (and let's not forget to mention the sides of coleslaw, baked beans and/or chips). Our "famous" apple crumb pies that have been made annually for over 40 years by members of the congregation will also be for sale. Live music will be provided to keep us in the spirit!

Below are some important dates to post on your refrigerator or phone app to stay "in the know" about all that needs to be done!

Most importantly – spread the word to family, friends and neighbors to join us on September 30 for dinner!!

Apple Pie Donations Wednesday, September 6 deadline (This is a change from previous deadline). Items need to be in the kitchen so the "crumb" crew can perform their magic! The list is posted in the narthex. Remember, all items help to reduce our costs and therefore additional profits for our missions.

Apple Pick Up Friday, September 15. The bushels of apples need to be picked up at Beardsley's Farm on Route 110 in Shelton and delivered to the church. A larger vehicle and strong arms are recommended as those bushels are big and heavy!

Pie Making Saturday, September 16 from 8:00 am – noon"ish". Peelers, slicers, runners, assemblers and clean up all needed. All ages always welcome. Come for coffee and fellowship while you work!

Pork Pulling Friday, September 15 and Saturday, September 16 beginning at 9:00 am. Quintin will also need help in transporting meat from the smoker at his home to the church on Thursday evening September 14 and Friday evening September 15. The actual time will be determined closer to the date.

Chair Moving Sunday, September 24. Right after worship, all chairs to be moved to altar area. We are currently arranging for floor waxing while chairs are out of the way.

Sanctuary Set Up Thursday and/or Friday, September 28 or September 29. The tables, chairs and lights will need to be arranged. We'll pick the night that has more people available to help.

Harvest Dinner Saturday, September 30 from 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Featuring smoked pulled pork sandwiches and ribs, baked potatoes with toppings, hot dogs and apple pie of course! We'll offer meal take-out, sell pies and provide live music for the evening. Preparation will be ongoing throughout the day, including pie baking, potato baking, firing up the smoker and more!

Keep your eyes and ears open for additional details as we move closer to the 30th!

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!



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@umcmonroe.org by Sunday, September 10.



Also, if you have a college student or an adult child living away from home or if you're aware of changes to contact info for any of our extended church family members, we welcome that input, too!



Please join us on Sunday, September 10, at Nichols United Methodist Church (35 Shelton Road, Trumbull) for the **Celebration of Appointment of Rev. Dr. Alpher Sylvester** as District Superintendent of the Connecticut District. The service begins at 4:00 pm. If you're interested in attending and carpooling, please contact Pastor Martha.

Family Game Night is Saturday, September 16, from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. Bring your favorite game and a snack to share. Join us for lots of fun and fellowship!



The Social Issues Discussion Group

Join us on September 17 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

Recycling, Receipts and the Waterman Scholarship

Bring in your returnable bottles and cans for us to redeem (bin outside the front door); leave your own redemption receipts in the offering plate or church office; or drop your loose change in the Narthex jug. Deadline to donate bottles and receipts is September 10. It's easy! All proceeds will go to our Waterman Scholarship Fund.



ACTIVITIES

Adopt-a-Wagon ... “Stuff the Bus” with lunchbox snacks for back-to-school!

This September we're going to **“Stuff the Bus”** with lunchbox snacks for back-to-school! Our Mini-Missions wagon can be adopted by a family, church committee, group of friends, or anyone who would like to help! For each month, you 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 – we'll 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 have made. Sign-up sheet is posted ... sign up now!



Covenant to Care Back-to-School Supplies and Book Drive

Ellie and Ethel display a few of the items that were donated this year for UMC Monroe's Covenant to Care Back-to-School Drive.

Thank you to everyone who donated school supplies or a book or two to help our neighbors in need!



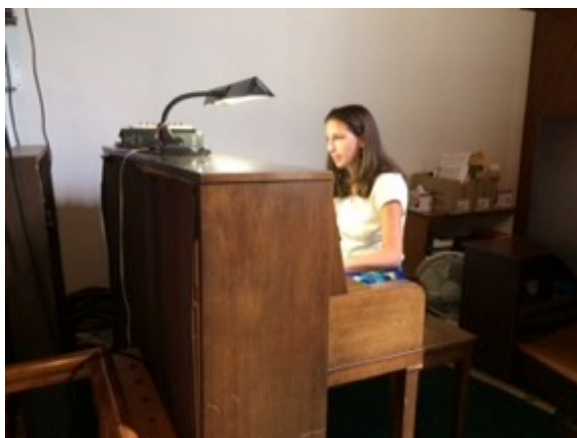
Flags and Cell Phones

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.



t h a n k y o u



Thank you for the music!

Sunday, August 9, was Lauren's last day as our church pianist. We thank her for her gift of music and for sharing her talents with us this past year!





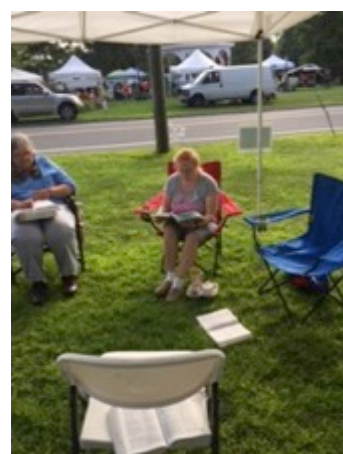
We had our first ***Fireside Chat*** on Sunday evening, August 6, and what a blessing it was. Stories about what brought us to UMC were shared; visions for the future were discussed. S'mores were enjoyed and Chester enjoyed extra attention. No need to worry about the "correct" category to attend. Just come to a chat that fits your schedule best. Truly the Holy Spirit was emanating from the fire!

Please plan to join us for one of the next focus groups in our series. For more information, visit our website at www.umcmonroe.org and search for "*Fireside Chat*"

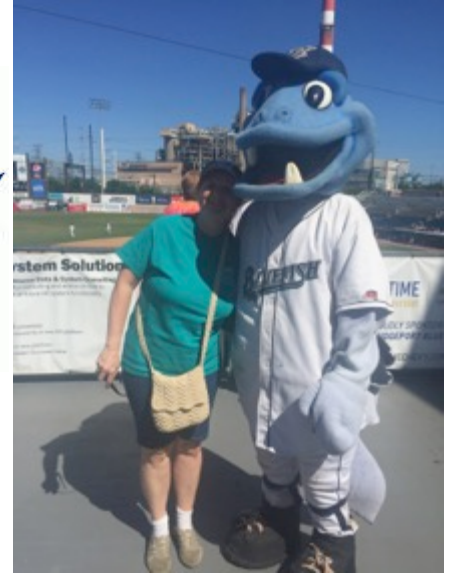




2017 Bible Reading Marathon



Take me out to the ballgame ...



Members of UMC Monroe, friends and family cheered the **Bridgeport Bluefish** on to a come-from behind victory over the Long Island Ducks, 8-7. It was a perfect afternoon for baseball. We had a great time in fellowship AND we raised money for **Raise the Roof** the Connecticut District's Mission Project in partnership with the South Congo Conference ... a real win-win-win!

Pampered Chef 2-Week Fundraiser

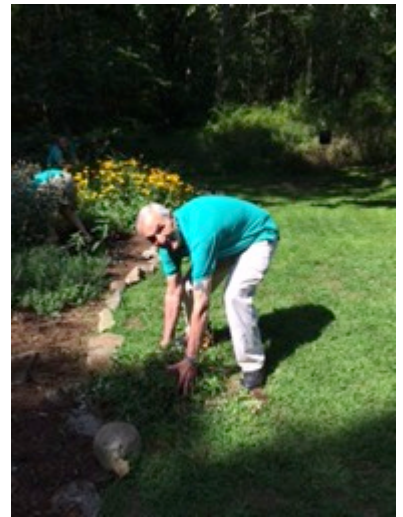
Christmas will be here before you know it ... why not start your shopping now? Our fundraiser kicks off on pie-making day, Saturday, September 16. A representative from Pampered Chef will be in Fellowship Hall with products and catalogs and to answer questions -- she'll be accepting orders through the end of the month. Do you know a family member, friend or neighbor that might want to shop at Pampered Chef? We'll take their orders, too! All orders placed over the 2-week period will benefit UMC Monroe. Questions? Please contact Rose Aiello.



Outdoor Worship at Webb Mountain Discovery Zone

It was a perfect August morning for an outdoor service at Webb Mountain! A special thank you to everyone who volunteered their time, “green thumbs” and tools to weed Susan’s Garden after worship. We appreciate you *doing all the good you could* – the garden looked beautiful!





Calling all Youth grades 6 – 12!

We are so excited to begin another year of Youth Group! We will be meeting the 2nd and 4th Sundays from 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm, starting on Sunday, September 24. Youth Group is open for all youth who are going into 6th grade up through 12th grade. All are welcome ... invite your friends!



UMC MONROE YOUTH NEWS



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!

Please see the sign up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board or contact Rose Aiello.

And to our adults ... if you're interested in getting involved in the Sunday School ministry, please contact Pastor Martha.

We look forward to seeing you at Sunday School!



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: 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.

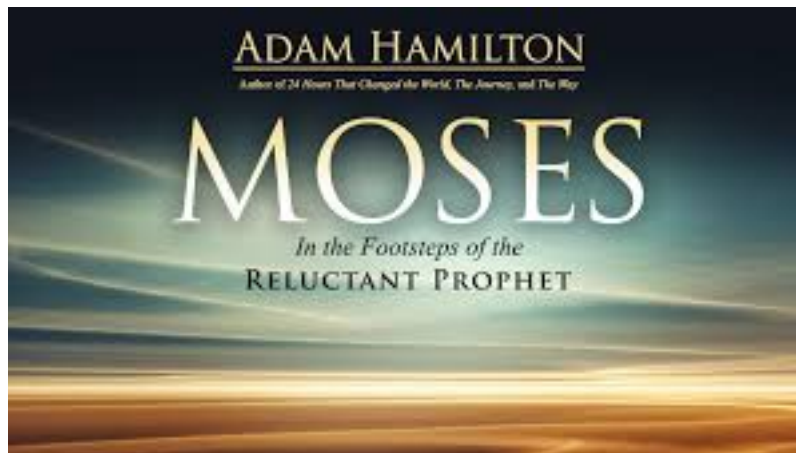
Who May Join: Anyone! Church members, regular attenders, friends and visitors, even those who have never been inside our building, are all welcome.

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.

Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet

Bible Study



Thursdays, September 14 – October 19, 2017

Time: 10:00 am - 11:30 am ~ Location: Meeting Room 2

Retrace the life of Moses from his modest birth and rescue as a baby to the courts of Pharaoh, from herding flocks in Midian to leading his people out of Egypt.

We'll be guided in the footsteps of this reluctant prophet who grew in his relationship with God and by the end of life had successfully fulfilled the role he was given.

Please join us ... and feel free to invite a friend! For questions, please contact Pastor Martha.

** If you would like Pastor Martha to purchase the book for you, please let her know by Wednesday, September 6. The book is \$14.

Blessing of the Animals



Sunday, September 17, 2017
10:00 am Church Service

Bring your dog, cat, hamster, goldfish, or any other beloved pet to an outdoor service especially for pets and people who love them. You can also bring a picture of your pet if you prefer. There will be a blessing of the pets during the service.

As a gentle reminder, please have your pet in a cage or on a leash.

** Today is the day to focus on our pets ... let's help our neighbors who have pets, too, by bringing a bag of dog or cat food for the Monroe Food Pantry! **

UMC Monroe • 515 Cutlers Farm Road • 203.268.8395

www.umcmonroe.org • umc@umcmonroe.org

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Dress a Girl Around the World

Sew-a-Thon



Imagine a world where every little girl owned at least one dress!

What if that dress was made by you?

*Calling all crafters or
want-to-be crafters!*

Materials List:

- Bring your sewing machine and a sewing kit

Extra Materials Needed:

- Irons, ironing boards and cutting boards

Materials Provided:

- Patterns, scissors and power cords
- Cotton fabric, double-wide ½” bias tape, ½” elastic
- All the support you need and lunch with a \$5

Join us for a Sew-a-Thon to support Dress a Girl Around the World

UMC Monroe Fellowship Hall

Saturday, October 21, 2017

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Questions:

Ethel Abraham

Registration:

contact umc@umcmonroe.org or 203.268.8395



Hope 4 Women International
PO Box 8061

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

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Friendship Circle met on Monday, August 28 for a sewing lesson in preparation for our **Dress a Girl Sew-a-Thon**. The event will take place at UMC Monroe on Saturday, October 21 from 10:00 am - 3:00 pm.

For more information about the *Sew-a-Thon*, please contact Ethel Abraham or visit our website

Looking good, ladies!





Mercy Learning Center Seeks Volunteer Tutors!

“Educate a Woman ... Educate a Family”

Since 1987, Mercy Learning Center has provided basic literacy and life skills training to low-income women in the Greater Bridgeport area. MLC is open Monday – Friday between 8:00 am and 5:00 pm. The Center is seeking volunteers to teach English Language Learners as well as basic adult reading and math in its one-on-one or small-group tutoring program. The commitment is twice per week for two hours. No experience necessary. Training and materials are provided.

New Tutor Training Dates

Monday, August 28

Friday, September 8

Friday, September 29

9:00 am – 3:00 pm (lunch provided)

Please contact Lynn Gabriel or Erica Hoffmann
to register for a training session

203.334.6699

lynn.gabriel@mercylearningcenter.org

erica.hoffman@mercylearningcenter.org

Prayer Concerns



Rajpolt family on the passing of John's Dad
 Sheryl Rajpolt's Dad - Buck - medical issues
 Those affected by Texas flooding and strength for responders
 Kenny Schwab, Betsy Dutton's son
 Family and friends of Cary Lander Shaw - friend of Kathy Schmalkuche - passed away from cancer
 Roger Cedergren - recovering from heart attack
 Prayers for Shaun who is battling addiction
 Pastor Martha's friend Cassandra's husband - Wayne - Stage 3 throat cancer
 Blakeman family - on the passing of Beverly - former organist for Stepney Methodist
 Debby Couture - pancreatic cancer and husband Jim as he cares for her
 Rob Lambert's family on passing of his Uncle Alfred
 Bobbie Grant - recovery from knee surgery
 Rob McDermott - Lynn Gregory's son-in-law - recuperating from severed artery after serious accident and wife Jess who is 6 months pregnant and mother to two
 Gail Mas' granddaughters: Sara and Amanda
 Audrey Stabler - battling kidney disease
 Gary Chrislip as he recovers from gallbladder surgery
 Dr. Bill - overseas missionary work
 Cooper Abbott - Lynn's grandnephew
 Lauren - continued addiction battle
 Sue Simmons' brother Jeff
 Howard Davidson - Betsy's brother - COPD
 Gail Mas' niece - Suzette
 Jeanne Baklik
 Marilyn Jones
 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
 Dexon 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
 Olivia - child 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
 Wisdom for world leaders
 Children with mental illnesses
 Unity and peace in our nation and around the world

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
27 10am - Webb Mountain	28 10:30am - FC: Friendship	29 7pm - Organist Rehearsal	30 7pm - Praise Band Practice	31	1	2
3 Communion Sunday 10am - Worship Service 2pm - Two Planks	4 7pm - Two Planks	5 11:30am - MM: Missions 7pm - Two Planks	6 7pm - Two Planks 7:30pm - Choir Practice	7 7pm - Two Planks	8 5:30pm - Fireside Chat:	9 9am - The Daniel Plan: 40
10 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Sunday School 2pm - Two Planks 4pm - Welcome Service for	11 10:30am - FC: Friendship 7pm - Two Planks	12 7pm - Two Planks 7:15pm - CC: Church	13 7pm - Two Planks	14 10am - BS: Moses: In the 7pm - Two Planks	15 Newsletter Deadline 9am - Pork Pulling	16 8am - Apple Crumb Pie 9am - The Daniel Plan: 40 6pm - FGN: Family Game
17 10am - Blessing of the 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - St: Social Issues 2pm - Two Planks 7:30pm - Fireside Chat:	18 4:30pm - Meeting with 7pm - Two Planks	19 7pm - Two Planks	20 7pm - Two Planks	21 10am - BS: Moses: In the 7pm - Two Planks	22 Wisdom House Fall Retreat	23 Wisdom House Fall Retreat 9am - The Daniel Plan: 40
24 Wisdom House Fall Retreat 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:30am - Fireside Chat: 2pm - Two Planks 4pm - Youth Group @	25 10:30am - FC: Friendship 7pm - Two Planks	26 7pm - Hills of Monroe 7pm - Two Planks	27 7pm - Two Planks	28 10am - BS: Moses: In the 7pm - Two Planks	29	30 9am - The Daniel Plan: 40 4pm - Harvest Festival