

United Methodist Church of Monroe



messenger

APRIL 2017

Catch on fire
with enthusiasm
and people
will come for miles
to watch you burn



John Wesley

"Stripped to its essential purpose, United Methodist polity ensures that persons who adhere to it will not grow cold in the Christian faith; that they will never be without someone to pick them up when they fall."

John Wesley

As you may know I am due to be ordained in June and as you read this article I will be England on the Wesleyan Heritage Tour learning more about our tradition. One of the things I learned as I prepared for ordination is that our "rule book," *The Book of Discipline*, is not just a dry and boring book of laws; it is a way for us to live out our relationships with one another and with God. At the heart of polity for Wesley, the founder of Methodism, was the idea of holiness and that religion was to be a social, not an individual pursuit. Connection with one another and accountability to one another was crucial for him.

Discipline was very important to Wesley and he set up General Rules for people to follow. All followers had to be a part of a class meeting, not just to make sure that they were following the rules, but to cultivate a deeper love of God. Everyone, no matter their position or role, was to practice their faith through the elements of prayer, fasting, and scripture and they were to talk about these things and work them out together. There was no "growing cold" because these practices of holiness helped with the goal of growing ever closer to God.

I wonder how we are doing with embodying this idea of polity. As we think about our own spiritual lives and the vitalness of our church I ask you to contemplate your Christian faith. Maybe it hasn't grown cold, but has it become lukewarm? How good are you at praying, fasting and reading the Bible and are you a part of a group in which that is nurtured?

Each month I gather with a group of about eight clergy members in what is called a PEG group (Pastors of Excellency Group) where we assist and support one another. This is one of the groups that has helped me to not grow cold. It is a wonderful covenant group with a strong element of accountability. We set goals each month and report in the next month on how we have done. I have found this extremely helpful and even when I didn't meet my goal they are always there to offer a word of hope and encouragement. The plan is to start LEG groups (Laity of Excellence Groups) in our District. If you want a place to stay warm in the faith let me know so I can pass along your name.

In Christ's Abundant Love,

Pastor Macche

Waterman Scholarship Fund



Let's Celebrate!

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.

Paper Shredding set for Saturday, May 6

On Saturday, May 6, we will be holding a Paper Shredding Fundraiser Event (rain or shine) from 9:00 – noon at Village Square, 401 Monroe Turnpike/Route 111, Monroe (across from McDonald's). The event will benefit missions near and far.

Individuals and businesses are welcome. Cost: \$10 standard archive box (15"x12"x10") – prices increase \$5 according to container size.

For more information, please visit our website or email papershredding@umcmonroe.org.

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!



April

04/01 Evan Chaudhary
04/05 Dan Cahill
04/08 Wayne Epstein
04/11 Rich Steiner
04/15 Juliana Sherwood
04/16 Matthew Hagopian
04/16 Amy Rajpolt
04/18 Henry Whalen
04/19 Adam Bartlett
04/19 David Bartlett
04/19 Joe Bartlett
04/22 Doug Salvas
04/25 Tim Aiello
04/27 Dan Aiello



happy birthday



04/18 Bill and Pat Smith

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!

SUNDAY, MAY 14 IS MOTHER'S DAY!!

This Mother's Day, give more than a card! Donate to the *Church World Service* ("CWS") by purchasing a blanket! Continuing a long-standing tradition in our church, we will be collecting contributions to purchase blankets through the *CWS Blankets+ Program*. Only \$5 to supply and ship a blanket to a person in need — wherever they may be around the world!! A blanket can serve as warmth, shelter and comfort.

The *CWS Blankets+ Program* recognizes that the smallest, simplest things can make a major difference in the daily life and future of adults and children worldwide. *Blankets+* helps to provide blankets, tents, and other shelter items (as well as small tools such as seedlings, water pumps, basic farm implements, sewing machines, training, etc.). In 1946, in the aftermath of World War II, U.S. Christians joined hands and hearts in response to Jesus' call to feed the hungry,



quench the thirsty, and shelter the homeless children of God. Then and now we can do together what no one group can hope to do as well alone. Today, CWS is a cooperative ministry of 37 Protestant, Orthodox, and Anglican denominations, providing sustainable self-help and development, disaster relief, and refugee assistance in partnership worldwide. The *Blankets+ Program* is one of the many ways that CWS provides a way for congregations to join together in reaching out to neighbors in need the world over.

Each donation can be designated in honor or in memory of someone close to your heart. Please complete the Blanket Order Form and return your order to the church office by Sunday, May 7 for inclusion in our May 14 bulletin. Gift cards will be available. Any questions can be directed to Rose Aiello at buildingroses@aol.com.

Church World Service (CWS) Blanket Order Form



**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE
BLANKETS+**

Just \$5 will purchase a blanket through the Church World Service Blankets+ Program. Orders for more than one are certainly welcome! Please make your check payable to "UMCM" with "Blankets Plus" in the memo line. For bulletin inclusion, order should be in by Sunday, May 7.

In Honor of:

In Memory of:

By:

UPCOMING EVENTS



No Family Game Night in April. Next one will be May 20th!

The Social Issues Discussion Group

Join us on April 23 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



This just in ...

We caught Cindy Booth and Pastor Martha cleaning out the refrigerator in the kitchen.

... A BIG THANKS TO THEM!!!

Who will be caught next?

FOR YOUR INFORMATION ...



Mini Missions: Trail Mix and Granola

On your next hike to the grocery store don't forget to buy some trail mix, granola, and granola bars for the wagon.

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!



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

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.

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

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*.





SOUTH CENTRAL EMMAUS WEEKEND XXXVII

All high school youth welcome!

Nichols United Methodist Church, Trumbull

Friday, April 28 – Sunday, April 30

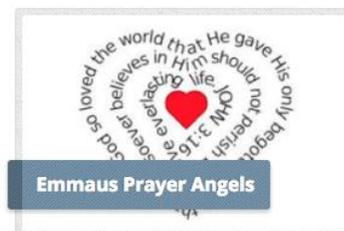
An Emmaus weekend offers young people of high school age a short course in the Christian way of life. Those who come to an Emmaus weekend experience Christian community and a time of reflection and insight into their own lives. There is uplifting music, a chance to meet and get to know new friends, opportunity 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.



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 — pray for an hour or as many times as you'd like

To choose a day and time, please 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.

Thank you and God bless you for your support of the Walk to Emmaus!





Paper Shredding Fundraiser Event

Individuals and Businesses Welcome

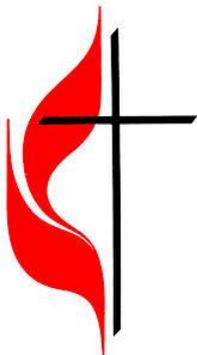
DATE: Saturday, May 6, 2017 (rain or shine)
TIME: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
LOCATION: Village Square, 401 Monroe Turnpike/Route 111, Monroe, CT
(across from McDonald's)
COST: \$10 standard archive box (approximately 15"x12"x10")
Prices increase \$5.00 per size according to container
PAYMENT: Cash, or checks 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

Prayer Concerns



Family of Mary Kay Ratigan on her passing
Jen and Heidi
Jeffery – Michelle Lambert's nephew-college process
Michelle Lambert
Anita Stabler-Hussey's boss's brothers
Emma-young woman who had massive stroke
Gail Mas' niece-Suzette-testing for severe pain
Lee Hossler-carpal tunnel surgery
Jim Eastwood-recovery from back surgery
Cooper Abbott-Lynn's grandnephew-completed another
round of chemo but needs further treatment
Jen Abbott & children she has fostered
Margaret Bain
Amber-reconstructive surgery
Isaac-infant w/Wolf Parkinson's
Jeanne Baklik-rehab from fall
Alivia-recovery from surgery to remove tumor
Marilyn Jones
Claudia Wallace's sister's dog-Gizmo-surgery
Steve-cardiac surgery
Roger Sprung-hospitalized
Ruth-good friend of the Florin's-cancer
Brenda Pantalone's grandmother
Shannon Rupp's grandfather-hospitalized w/pneumonia
& her mother who is caring for him
Norma-Cari Harris' grandmother-broken hip from fall
Sue Simmons brother-Jeffrey-alcoholism
Lauren-Patti Early's friend's daughter-addiction
Dotti Hossler's sister-Loretta
Kathy Schmalkuche's 96 yr old great-aunt-Marie
Houdek-hospice
Fromm's friend-Radovan Frzop-paralyzed but has been
able to move his toes & feeling in stomach
Dexton & Caleb
Tyson- Lynn Abbott's grandson-Benign Rolandic Epilepsy
Janet Morris' friend-Robert Davidson & his Mom
w/lymphoma
Priscilla's son-in-law-Bill Curry

Bobbie Grant-knee
Ann Dalton-cancer treatment
Gail Mas' granddaughter- Sara
Amanda
Roy G-8 yr old w/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
Olivia-baby w/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
Jodi Kles –Sheryl's cousin - living w/rare form of cancer
Military personnel
Unemployed
First responders, firemen, policemen
Persons dealing w/serious medical issues
Caregivers
Covenant to Care & all foster children
Those who do not have anyone to pray for them
Christians around the world persecuted for their faith
Drug epidemic-addiction & deaths
Refugees
Unspoken burdens that reside upon people's hearts
Youth-effects of social media & those being bullied
World leaders, including our country
Children w/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.



**** Please visit**

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

Apr 2017 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service	27 10:30am - FC: Friendship	28	29	30 10am - BS: The Women of 7pm - BS: CANCELLED:	31 5:30pm - Lenten Fish Fry 6pm - Girl Scouts Cooking	1 9am - Annual Easter Egg 10am - Monroe Rotary Club 2pm - Girl Scouts Cooking
2 Communion Sunday 10am - Worship Service 2pm - CROP Hunger Walk	3 11:30am - MM: Missions	4 6:30pm - Girl Scouts	5	6 10am - BS: The Women of 7pm - BS: Gifts of the Dark 7pm - Monroe EMT	7 5:30pm - Lenten Fish Fry	8
9 Palm Sunday 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service	10 10:30am - FC: Friendship 7pm - Holy Week Service	11 7pm - Holy Week Service	12 7pm - Holy Week Service	13 7pm - Holy Week Service	14 7pm - Good Friday Service	15 Newsletter Deadline 6pm - FGN: CANCELLED:
16 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service	17 7pm - Hills of Monroe 7:15pm - CC: Church	18	19	20 6pm - Girl Scouts Cooking 7pm - Monroe EMT Training	21 6pm - Girl Scouts Cooking 7pm - Monroe EMT Training	22 8am - Monroe EMT Training 2pm - Girl Scouts Cooking
23 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - SI: Social Issues	24 10:30am - FC: Friendship	25	26	27	28 South Central Emmaus 7pm - Monroe EMT Training	29 South Central Emmaus 8am - Monroe EMT Training
30 South Central Emmaus 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 10:15am - YWD: Youth	1 11:30am - MM: Missions	2	3	4	5 8pm - Two Planks: The Odd	6 9am - Paper Shredding 8pm - Two Planks: The Odd