

United Methodist Church of Monroe



# *messenger*

JANUARY 2018

## *A Prayer for a Happy New Year*

May the Lord make my New Year a happy one ...

Not by shielding me from sorrow and pain, but by strengthening me to bear it if it comes.

Not by making my path easy, but by making me sturdy enough to tread any path.

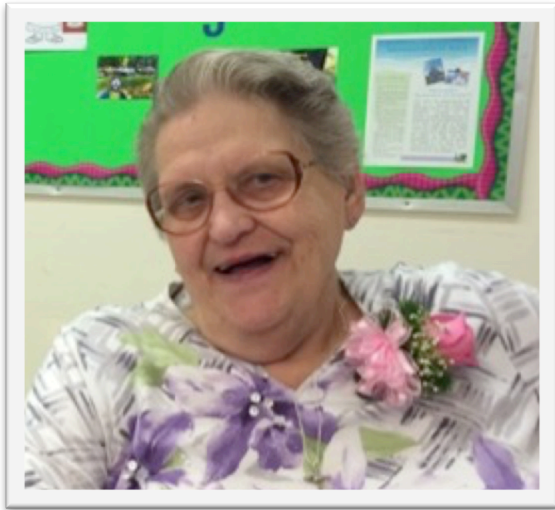
Not by taking hardship from me, but by taking all cowardice and fear from my heart as I meet hardships.

Not by granting me unbroken sunshine, but by keeping my face bright even in the shadows.

Not by making my life always pleasant, but by showing me where men and His cause need me most and by making me zealous to be there and to help ...

God, make my year a happy one.

~ *Guideposts* magazine (January 1973)



Barbara "Bobbie" Breen Grant

July 10, 1936 – December 6, 2017

"Today our United Methodist Church of Monroe family lost a loved member of our community. While the loss will be felt for a long time, the celebration of a life well-lived, one of caring and service, will go on for eternity."

# Let's Celebrate January!



Happy  
New  
Year!



happy birthday

01/05 Anita Stabler-Hussey  
01/06 Aidan Ramos  
01/10 Juliana Epstein  
01/12 Brian Sherwood  
01/13 Bill Florin  
01/18 Martha Epstein  
01/18 June Hallden  
01/18 Lee Hossler  
01/18 Katie Schmalkuche  
01/21 Michelle Rajpolt  
01/22 Malenna Hornak  
01/25 Bethany Hagopian  
01/28 Carl Sword

Please submit additions and corrections to the birthday and anniversary list to the office at [umc@umcmonroe.org](mailto:umc@umcmonroe.org) or 203.268.8395. We don't want to miss anyone! Thanks!



**DAISY QUINN SHERWOOD**  
12.28.17 • 7 POUNDS 9 OUNCES

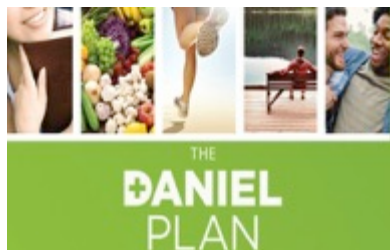
CONGRATULATIONS JULIANA, BRIAN AND MADDIE

## 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!



# UPCOMING EVENTS



On Monday, January 8 at 7:00 pm the six-week journey begins 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. Church members, regular attenders, friends and visitors, even those who have never been inside our building, are all welcome. Contact Bill Florin at billflorin@yahoo.com, by phone at 203.268.8539, or see him after church with any questions.

## Connecticut Chamber Choir presents Sacred Salzburg: Music of Mozart and Johann Michael Haydn

with Connecticut Chamber String Ensemble and Galen Tate, organ

Sunday, January 14 at 4:00 pm

St. Theresa Church, 5302 Main Street, Trumbull

For more information: contact Patti Early or visit the Connecticut Chamber Choir website [www.ctchamberchoir.org](http://www.ctchamberchoir.org).



**Family Game Night** is Saturday, January 20, 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 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. Our first meeting of 2018 is January 21 at 11:30 am in Meeting Room 1. Moderator: David York.

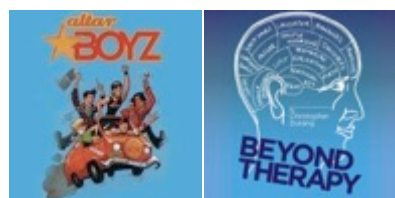


## Connecticut District Resourcing Days

Saturday, February 3 ~ Location TBD - 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Sunday, February 11 ~ Location TBD - 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Our District Resource Days will feature a wide selection of workshops with a sampling of topics -- watch for a full list of workshop topics and descriptions, along with information on locations and how to pre-register. We will offer information, inspiration, and opportunities to interact with United Methodists from around our District. Please plan to attend.



## Two Planks: 2018 Season

*Altar Boyz*

February 23, 24, 25 and March 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11

*Beyond Therapy*

May 4, 5, 6, 11, 12, 13

# MINI MISSIONS

## It's Game Time! 2nd Annual Mini-Missions Football Drive

Get ready for football "wildness" at a "Pep Rally" on January 7 during the worship service to kick-off our second annual mini-missions football drive! The food drive will run from Sunday, January 14 to Sunday, February 4, culminating with the Souper Bowl of Caring. Stay tuned to weekly announcements and emails for specifics on how you can "play" the game!"



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.



Thanks to everyone for helping us turn the holidays **Red** and **Green** for the Monroe Food Pantry! We're sure that the generosity of our congregation helped local families have a little more "fun" this Christmas thanks to your donations!

**REMINDER:** We are completing our *Mitten Tree* for the *Thomas Merton House* with our Sunday School making hats on **January 7** during the service.

Thanks again for your consideration ... the items you donate will help to keep someone a little warmer this winter!



## Wicke Luncheon

Friday, December 1





## First Sunday of Advent Trim-the-Tree Luncheon Sunday, December 4

### A Season of Hope

The first day of Advent was a busy day at UMC Monroe. We lit the first candle of our Advent Wreath as our youth taught us about the *Season of Hope*. Our youth also led our Hymn of Preparation, "The King of Glory Comes."

The message was shared by our friends from **Pivot Ministries** ... their music and witnessing were inspiring!

After worship we gathered in fellowship for our annual **Trim-the-Tree Luncheon** before kids, of all ages, decorated our tree.



Photo credit: Amy Rajpolt

**PIVOT**  
MINISTRIES  
CHOIR



**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 UMCM 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](http://www.umcmonroe.org), or (3) Check our Facebook page @umcmonroe. Be prepared!

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## Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 16



Thank you to our Head Elf, Anita Stabler-Hussey, for taking on the task of chairing the event, to all the elves that helped including: set up, clean up, publicity, check-in, decorating, picture taking, printing, assembling, food prep, bakers, grocery shoppers, runners, missions boutique, craft planning, and stuffing stockings! We all had a great time! And a special thanks to Santa and Mrs. Claus for spending time with us! We all look forward to next year.





## Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 16





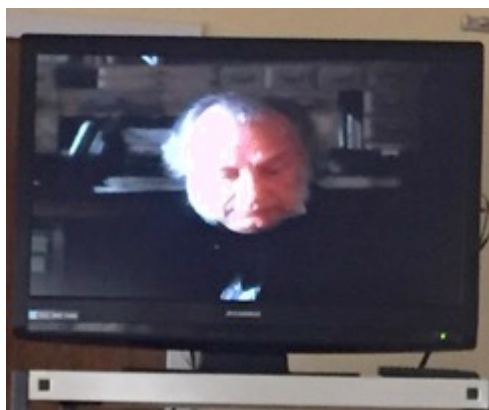
# Christmas Pageant

## Sunday, December 17





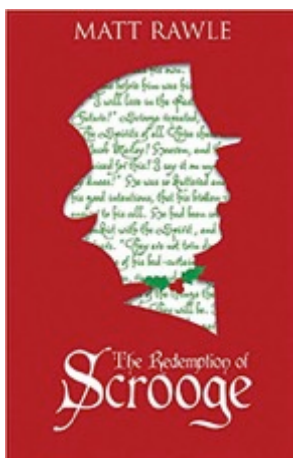
## Christmas Caroling: Sunday, December 17



## Advent Bible Study

After a great Advent Bible study, we enjoyed watching "Scrooge" with lots of yummys!

Photo credit: Pastor Martha



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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](https://smile.amazon.com). For more information, please visit our website and search AmazonSmile or contact Steve Arnold or Kathy Schmalkuche.



Fourth Sunday of Advent  
and Christmas Eve Service



Candlelight Service  
Sunday, December 24





# UMC MONROE YOUTH NEWS



January Youth Group Meetings

Time: 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Sunday, January 14

Sunday, January 28

Classes Begin Sunday, January 28

Time: 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Mentors are invited to attend!

Confirmation  
2018

Youth Group Christmas Party and Cookie Baking

Sunday, December 10



Photo credit: Pastor Martha

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

# Youth Group Cookie Drop



Photo credit: Pastor Martha



*This just in ...*

Our **UMCM Elves** were *caught* doing so much during Advent and Christmas.

**... A BIG THANKS TO THEM!!**

Who will be *caught* next?

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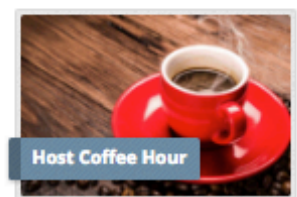
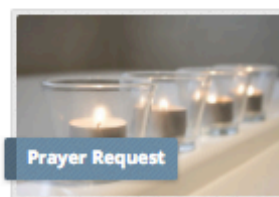


Home Welcome About ▾ Education ▾ Get Involved ▾ Missions ▾ Calendar Events ▾  
Contact Us Resources ▾ Church News ▾



Please join us for worship ... Sundays at 10:00 am

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](http://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



Gail Mas' friend, Betty Tomackek – she has MS and recently diagnosed with lung cancer  
Ken Schif - member of Emmaus - recovery from extensive injuries sustained in skiing accident  
Bill Fromm - recovery  
Adam Godlewski, age 27 - continued healing from traumatic brain injury from 9/10/17 accident  
Michelle Lambert's father, Rudolph Abraham - surgery  
Roger Cedergren - health issues  
Family of Jamie Monsanto on his passing  
Lynn Abbott's sister, Cheryl - recovery from emergency surgery  
Comfort to Wallace family - passing of pet guinea pig  
Family and friends of Sal Vadala on his passing - FL neighbor of Kathy Schmalkuche's parents  
Family and friends of Bobbie Grant on her passing  
Cousin of Rose's, Jim - on oxygen at all times  
Rob Lambert's sister Debra - health issues due to scoliosis as a child  
Dexton  
Suzette - Gail Mas' niece  
David Marks - pancreatic cancer  
Ben Abercrombie – football player with broken neck  
Pastor Martha's sister Elin Dowd  
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  
Jeanne Baklik

Dotti Hossler's sister Loretta - severe concussion  
Kathy's great-aunt Marie Houdek - hospice  
Fromm's friend - Radovan Frzop  
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 Boomershire  
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 around the world  
Those recovering from natural disasters

*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](mailto: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](mailto:umc@umcmornoe.org)) for our monthly newsletter is the 15<sup>th</sup> 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							Jan 2018 (Eastern Time)		
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
31	1	2	3	4	5	6			
10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service	11:30am - CANCELLED: 7:30pm - Two Planks		6pm - Kindergarten GS 7:30pm - Two Planks	7:30pm - Two Planks					
7	8	9	10	11	12	13			
Communion Sunday 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service	6pm - Cub Scouts Meeting 7pm - The Daniel Plan: 40 7:30pm - Two Planks	11:30am - Missions 7:30pm - Two Planks	7:30pm - Two Planks	7pm - Life Stages Meeting 7:30pm - Two Planks					
14	15	16	17	18	19	20			
10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 4pm - CCC: Sacred	7pm - The Daniel Plan: 40 7:30pm - Two Planks	7:15pm - Church Council 7:30pm - Two Planks	6:30pm - Girl Scouts @ 7:30pm - Two Planks	7:30pm - Two Planks		6pm - FGN: Family Game			
21	22	23	24	25	26	27			
10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - St: Social Issues	6pm - Cub Scouts Meeting 7pm - The Daniel Plan: 40 7:30pm - Two Planks	7pm - Hills of Monroe 7:30pm - Two Planks	7:30pm - Two Planks	7pm - Life Stages Meeting 7:30pm - Two Planks					
28	29	30	31	1	2	3			
10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service	7pm - The Daniel Plan: 40 7:30pm - Two Planks	7pm - Meeting with David 7:30pm - Two Planks	7:30pm - Two Planks	7:30pm - Two Planks		9am - SAVE THE DATE: CT			