

United Methodist Church of Monroe



messenger

FEBRUARY 2018

"When you do something for someone else, don't call attention to yourself."

Matthew 6:2 The Message



Every year I say the same thing, yes, we just put away the Christmas decorations and now it's time to contemplate Jesus' death. He's been barely with us as a baby for a month and all of a sudden it's Lent. Yet, here we are ... Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 14th. Yes, Valentine's Day ... kind of a neat way to start, because God's love really is for us all. There is love in the ashes.

So, what can you do this Lent to strengthen your relationship with the one who died for you? It's a tradition to give something up for Lent, like chocolate, playing online games or snacking between meals. I encourage you to still do that but to also do something for someone else. If you give up chocolate, how about donating the chocolate you would have bought to our service personnel? If you give up playing online games, how about donating the time that you would have played to the Monroe Food Pantry? If you give up snacking between meals how about giving the money you would have spent on those snacks to UMCOR?

But here is the catch this year...do it in "secret." Don't make a big production of what you are doing as to bring glory to yourself. I have definitely been guilty of tooting my own horn in the past. I remember once when I was fasting on Wednesdays during Lent and I made sure everyone around me knew what I martyr I was...not exactly the purpose I don't think!

The sixth chapter of Matthew outlines what Jesus is calling for us to do: pray, give to the poor and fast, but the caveat is that we are to do it in secret. So, your mission, if you choose to accept it this Lent is to do something for someone but don't let them know you are doing it. (Of course if you volunteer somewhere the people there will know – but don't go around publicizing it to others.)

This will bring immense pleasure to God and will bring you closer to Him. Imagine how much better our little part of the world would be if we each did something each day for 40 days for someone else.

Give it a try – but don't tell me!

In Jesus' Abundant Grace and Love,

Pastor Macdonald

Thank you so much to all our church family for your generous gifts at Christmastime. The staff greatly appreciated it!

A HOPPIN' GOOD TIME!

Is God calling you? Are you good at coordinating? Can you identify tasks and work to ensure they are completed by you or your team?



Do you want to help with our outreach and help achieve our mission of making disciples? Then you should consider chairing our Easter Egg Hunt!

Historically the Easter Egg Hunt includes the egg hunt, breakfast and games/craft. You don't need to follow the old formula ... make the event yours! You will have major support by your fellow parishioners.

Possible date(s): Saturday, March 24 with rain date of Saturday, March 31.

Interested? Please contact Steve Arnold or Rose Aiello.



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!

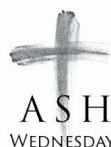
Let's Celebrate February!



happy birthday

02/01 Sue York
02/02 Tammy Cahill
02/03 Michael Aiello
02/04 Molly Smith
02/05 Sandi Hagopian
02/07 Dotti Hossler
02/10 Emily Florin
02/12 Matthew Steese
02/16 Aubrey Ramos
02/16 Billy Schmalkuche
02/22 Elizabeth Steese
02/27 Laura Bartlett
02/27 Ethan Bassett

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!



Join us for *Ash Wednesday* service on Wednesday, February 14, at 7:00 pm. All are welcome!



UPCOMING EVENTS



Connecticut District Resourcing Days

Saturday, February 3 ~ Simsbury UMC - 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Sunday, February 11 ~ Stratford UMC - 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Our District Resource Days feature a wide selection of workshops with a sampling of topics -- a full list of workshop topics and descriptions, along with information on carpooling and how to pre-register are available on our website (www.umcmonroe.org). These sessions offer information, inspiration, and opportunities to interact with United Methodists from around our District. Please plan to attend. NOTE: Pastor Martha will be attending the session at Stratford UMC on Sunday, February 11. See page 10 for more details.



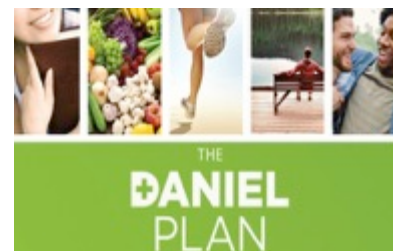
Pedals, Pipes & Pizza

Kids explore the King of Instruments – the PIPE ORGAN!

The *Greater Bridgeport Chapter of the American Guild of Organists* invites young people interested in learning to a fun day of exploring the “King of Instruments,” the pipe organ, on Saturday, February 3 from 11:00 am – 2:00 pm at St. Mary’s Church in Milford. The day will also include a free pizza lunch! **There is no cost to attend, but students need to register (required) by January 31!**

For more information, please visit our website and search “Pedals” or contact RoseAnne Homola.

Our six-week journey continues 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. Remaining dates are February 5, 12 and 19 at 7:00 pm. 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.



Scout Sunday



Sunday, February 11, 2018 • 10:00 am

This year we honor both the Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts on **Scout Sunday**.

If you are or were a Girl Scout or a Boy Scout, including leaders, past or present, we would love to have you participate in our church service (acolyte, greeter, user or reader). If you are available and interested in participating in the service, please contact Rose Aiello. Please feel free to wear your uniform!



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 next meeting is February 18 at 11:30 am in Meeting Room 1. Moderator: David York.

Please join us on Sunday, February 25 after worship for a meeting to discuss our Sunday School Program. Our (current) teachers as well as anyone interested in getting involved in the Sunday School ministry are encouraged to attend. All are welcome!



A small group of individuals from our congregation have been working diligently on planning a community-wide, non-denominational series of events that helps to address the unique life, financial, and health challenges we face at different stages of our lives. At the first event on Saturday, April 21 at Masuk High School 10:00 am - 4:00 pm, we are tackling some concerns of the "sandwich generation" -



those in their 40's - 60's who may be starting to transition into care-taking roles; preparing for life without kids in the home; health concerns and more. Visit www.generation-bridge.com to see what is being planned and where you might be able to help. Spread the word, too! More info will be forthcoming as plans continue to evolve. Questions? Contact Brian Sherwood (bsher12@yahoo.com).

Big Y Education Express is Here and EVERYONE can participate!

Do you have children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews or even neighbors? You can support their school by signing up for Education Express.

Education Express is a Family Program to help local schools get FREE, much needed supplies and equipment! If you are a **Big Y** shopper, remember to sign up for the **Education Express** program where you can earn points for your favorite school.



Sign up online by going to <http://www.bigy.com/rs/educationexpress> and click on "Join Education Express". Then, log in or create your own account and choose your school. You can earn points for your school when you purchase participating products. Then, your school redeems points for needed equipment and supplies!



This just in ...

The **Rajpolt Family** was *caught* taking down the Christmas tree and holiday decorations.

... A BIG THANKS TO THEM!!

Who will be *caught* next?



MISSIONS



Our special Monroe Pantry Food Drive culminates with the *Souper Bowl of Caring* on Sunday, February 4. In addition to going for touchdowns with all of our food items, our youth will be tackling hunger from monetary donations, too. They will be outside the sanctuary and at luncheon with their soup pots ready (Cash or checks made payable to *UMCM* with *Souper Bowl* in the memo line).

Join us for our tailgating "souper" luncheon on February 4 after worship. Please bring at least 2 cans of soup (at least one can should be clear chicken broth-based or beef broth-based). One can will be used for lunch and one donated to the final game of the food drive! Join in for fun, fellowship and a great cause with plenty of time to get home for Super Bowl LII to see the Philadelphia Eagles take on the New England Patriots!

Week 1 Results: Blocking by the Beverages

First String Fruit Juices vs. Must Win Mug Drinks

SCORE: 16 - 15 (total 31 ... 69 more to go!)



Photo credit: Tanya Lennon

Week 2 Results: Tackle of the Tin Cans

Potato Punters vs. Tomato Touchbacks

SCORE: 13 - 20 (the ball is on the 64 yard line with 36 yards to go for the first score!)

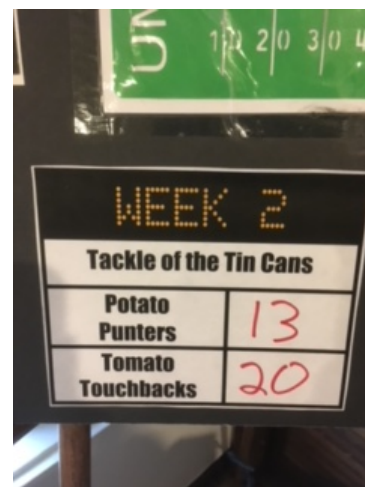


Photo credit: Tanya Lennon

It's all About the Chocolate!!

In celebration of *Valentine's Day* and *National Chocolate Lovers' Month*, UMC Monroe will be collecting anything with chocolate in it (i.e. pudding, mixes, syrup, cereal).

Help "sweeten" the shelves at the Monroe Food Pantry!



*** Are you having fun with our monthly mini-missions 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. ***

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You shop. Amazon gives.

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.

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UMC MONROE YOUTH NEWS

Are You Ready For Some “Souper Bowl”?

Asking all Youth members to participate and help with our **“Souper Bowl” Sunday Lunch**, on **Sunday, February 4** after Worship Services in Fellowship Hall.

How does it work? Just bring 2 cans of soup (a chicken or beef based broth), one to eat and one to donate to the Monroe Food Pantry and asking for a \$1 donation.

Help will be needed collecting donations that day as well.



February Youth Group Meetings

Sunday, February 18	Bridgeport Sound Tigers Game (3:00 pm)
Sunday, February 25	4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

February Confirmation Meetings

Sunday, February 4	11:30 am - 12:30 pm
Sunday, February 11	11:30 am - 12:30 pm
Sunday, February 18	11:30 am - 12:30 pm
Saturday, February 24	2:00 pm - Simchat Yisrael Messianic Synagogue
Sunday, February 25	3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

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

volunteers don't
necessarily have
the time

they just
have the
HEART



You have
two hands.

One to help your self,
the second
to help others.

~ Audrey Hepburn

tweet others
the way you
want to be
tweeted





Photo credit: Tanya Lennon

Our *Mitten Tree* was decorated with beautiful mittens and scarves again this year!

All of the items were donated to the *Thomas Merton House* to keep someone a little warmer this winter. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this mission project!

A special thank you to Tanya, Brenda and our "crafty" youth for wrapping the tree with really soft, handmade fleece scarves!





1-2-3 ... say "cheese!"



A special visit ...

It was so nice to have Priscilla and her daughter, Helmi, join us for worship and fellowship on Sunday, January 21 -- we hope they come back again soon!



A special thank you to Anita for stepping in for a vacationing Pastor Martha and sharing her message *What Would You Do?* on Sunday, January 21.

John 13: 34-35 (ESV)

³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. ³⁵ By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

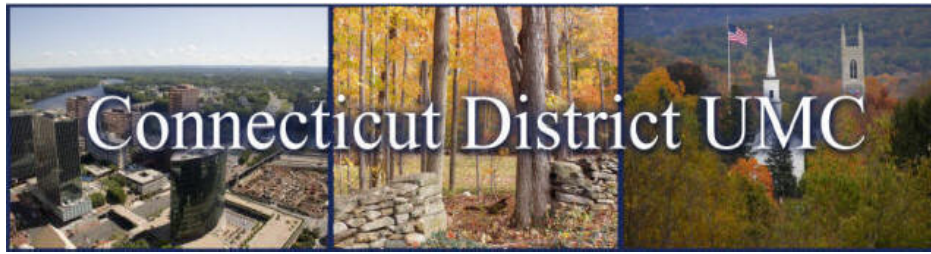


Remember during the winter season ... Register for inclement weather alerts!



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 @umcmonroe. Be prepared!

District Resource Days



*Saturday, February 3, 2018 from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
at Simsbury United Methodist Church, 799 Hopmeadow Street, Simsbury
and*

*Sunday, February 11, 2018 from 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm
at Stratford United Methodist Church, 2300 Main Street, Stratford*

*** NOTE: Pastor Martha will be attending sessions at Stratford UMC ***

Please join us for a time of information, inspiration, and opportunities to interact with United Methodists from around our district. An almost-complete list of workshops includes:

Workshops Offered in Simsbury and Stratford

- *SPR 101* – CT District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Alpher Sylvester
- *The Changing Face of Youth and Student Ministries* - Peter Preiser, Assistant Pastor and Director of Youth & Student Ministries, Simsbury UMC, and Herron Gaston, Pastor, Summerfield UMC
- *Parish Development* - Rev. David Mantz, CT District Chairperson and past Chair of the Conference Committee
- *Six Thinking Hats* - Ms. Deb Clifford, Simsbury UMC
- *Life-Changing Mission Trips* - Rev. David Mantz, Watertown UMC
- *Sanctuary Church* – Rev. Paul Fleck, Hamden Plains UMC
- *What's New and What's Next at the Intersection of Faith and Culture* – Peter Preiser, Assistant Pastor and Director of Youth & Student Ministries, Simsbury UMC, and Pastor, West Granby UMC
- *Stewardship – What It Is and What It Is Not* – Mr. Joe Andreana, Deputy Executive Director, *Frontier Foundation*

Workshops Offered Only in Simsbury

- *Does Anyone Really Want to Buy a Church?* - Rev. Dr. Bill Shillady, Executive Director, *United Methodist City Society*

Workshop Offered Only in Stratford

- *Re-Purposing Church Property* - Dr. Stephen Bauman and Ms. Holly Fogle, Leadership Council Chair, Christ Church, NYC
- *Church Finances* – Ms. Diana Moore, NYAC Conference Controller

Pre-registration will be available soon through the conference website. Pre-registered participants will enjoy a better opportunity to attend the workshops of their choice and an expedited registration process.

Questions? Contact Maggie Carr, Chair, District Council on Ministries at jcarr01@snet.net; phone: 203.284.8278

40 Days with Jesus



Thursdays, February 15 – March 22, 2018

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

Each week there will be an insert in the bulletin with the scripture passages for the following week and questions to ponder for those not able to attend Bible Study. No book required!

February 15	Greatness in Humanity
February 22	Overcoming Temptations
March 1	Making Friends
March 8	Prayer That Does What Prayer is Supposed to Do
March 15	Experiencing Miracles
March 22	Going Through Suffering
<i>Easter Sunday</i>	<i>Seeing for Yourself</i>

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

It's game time!



VS.



Sunday, February 18, 2018 – 3:00 pm

Webster Bank Arena • \$16 • Center Ice Section 114

Join us for fellowship and fun with our neighbors at *Monroe Day* 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 Pastor Martha by Sunday, February 4. Please make checks payable to *UMC Monroe* with *Sound Tigers* in the memo line.

Family, friends and neighbors are welcome!

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

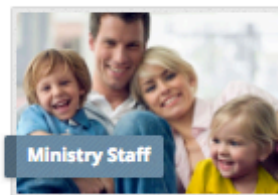
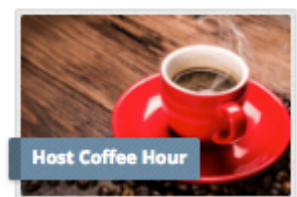
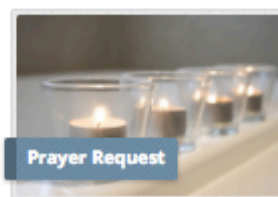


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Pray

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!



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



York's twin 13-year-old granddaughters - Serious injuries from car accident in Vermont. Also to the family of the driver of car who was a friend and died from her injuries.
 Andrea - ICU following surgery
 Dexton
 Family of Carlos Pizarro on his passing
 Family of Mrs. Elaine Wunder on her passing
 Betsy Dutton's son, Kenny Schwab - tumor removal
 Family of Brian Moran on his passing - friend of Lynn Abbott - especially wife Cindy
 Sue Simmons' friend's dad
 Gail Mas' friend Arnie
 Bonnie and her children (Liz and Will) - Bonnie's husband has Parkinson's Disease
 Leila - 2-year old with a muscular degenerative disease
 Bill Florin's friend Steve
 Jonathon Glassman - viral infection
 Alex and Ann - adjusting to life without Cooper
 Gail Mas' friend Betty Tomackek - MS and lung cancer
 Ken Schif - member of Emmaus - recovery from extensive injuries sustained in skiing accident
 Adam Godlewski, Age 27 - continued healing from traumatic brain injury
 Rob Lambert's sister Debra - health issues due to scoliosis as a child
 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
 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 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 around the world
 Those suffering from depression and/or loss

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

Feb 2018 (Eastern Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>28</div> <div> <div>Week 3: Football Food</div> <div>10am - SS: Sunday School</div> <div>10am - Worship Service</div> <div>3pm - Confirmation Class</div> <div>3pm - Sing-a-Long at Atria</div> <div>4pm - YG: Youth Group</div> </div>	<div>29</div> <div> <div>7pm - The Daniel Plan: 40</div> </div>	<div>30</div> <div> <div>7pm - POSTPONED -</div> </div>	<div>31</div>	<div>1</div> <div> <div>10am - BS: Bible Study @</div> </div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div> <div> <div>9am - CT District Resource</div> <div>11am - Pedals, Pipes &</div> </div>
<div>4</div> <div> <div>Communion Sunday</div> <div>Souper Bowl Sunday</div> <div>Week 4: Football Food</div> <div>10am - SS: Sunday School</div> <div>10am - Worship Service</div> <div>11:30am - Confirmation</div> <div>11:30am - Souper Bowl of</div> </div>	<div>5</div> <div> <div>6pm - Cub Scouts Meeting</div> <div>7pm - The Daniel Plan: 40</div> </div>	<div>6</div> <div> <div>11:30am - MM: Missions</div> </div>	<div>7</div> <div> <div>6pm - Kindergarten GS</div> </div>	<div>8</div> <div> <div>10am - BS: Bible Study @</div> <div>7pm - Life Stages Meeting</div> </div>	<div>9</div>	<div>10</div>
<div>11</div> <div> <div>10am - Scout Sunday</div> <div>10am - SS: Sunday School</div> <div>10am - Worship Service</div> <div>11:30am - Confirmation</div> <div>2pm - CT District Resource</div> </div>	<div>12</div> <div> <div>7pm - The Daniel Plan: 40</div> </div>	<div>13</div> <div> <div>7:15pm - CC: Church</div> </div>	<div>14</div> <div> <div>7pm - Ash Wednesday</div> </div>	<div>15</div> <div> <div>10am - BS: Lenten Study</div> </div>	<div>16</div>	<div>17</div>
<div>18</div> <div> <div>10am - SS: Sunday School</div> <div>10am - Worship Service</div> <div>11:15am - SI: Social Issues</div> <div>11:30am - Confirmation</div> <div>3pm - Bridgeport Sound</div> <div>3pm - YG: Youth Group</div> </div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div> <div> <div>6:30pm - Girl Scouts @</div> </div>	<div>22</div> <div> <div>10am - BS: Lenten Study</div> <div>7pm - Life Stages Meeting</div> </div>	<div>23</div>	<div>24</div> <div> <div>2pm - Confirmation Class:</div> </div>
<div>25</div> <div> <div>10am - SS: Sunday School</div> <div>10am - Worship Service</div> <div>11:15am - Sunday School</div> <div>3pm - Confirmation Class</div> <div>4pm - YG: Youth Group</div> </div>	<div>26</div> <div> <div>6pm - Cub Scouts Meeting</div> </div>	<div>27</div> <div> <div>7pm - Hills of Monroe</div> </div>	<div>28</div>	<div>1</div> <div> <div>10am - BS: Lenten Study</div> <div>7:30pm - Two Planks</div> </div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div> <div> <div>3pm - Michelle Lambert -</div> </div>