United Methodist Church of Monroe



APRIL 2018



I love spring! Especially after this long month of March it has been so nice to see some signs that winter is finally coming to a close. I love seeing the crocuses and the daffodils appear and I love hearing the birds sing in the morning. Chester is eager for spring too, we have not been able to get in our walks with all the snow! Spring reminds me of new life, new beginnings and that God continues to create.

By now you all probably have heard the news that I am being appointed to a new church. On July 1st I will begin a new chapter as the pastor of the Clinton UMC in Clinton CT. At the time of this writing an announcement has not yet been made as to who the new pastor of Monroe will be. Although change is always hard I am praying that as we watch the flowers emerge and the trees bud we will be reminded that God is always working for good to bring about new life. Sometimes when the cold dark days of winter seek to consume us we forget that spring does come. Not only do we see the signs of spring outside but we are reminded of this in the life of our church. Sunday, April 1st is Easter Sunday, the day we are promised that Jesus has conquered death, and because he lives we do too.

With the upcoming change in appointment I have become nostalgic and have been thinking about our time over that last five years. It's not without our bumps given the financial issues we face, but we have worked together to spread God's love through our mission giving and our gracious hospitality, through our meaningful worship and Bible studies. I have grown spiritually and treasure many special memories in my heart. I would take up many pages of this newsletter if I was to write about all the special times we've shared – from visits by your bedsides and comforting you when mourning to celebrating new babies and baptisms, to your overwhelming support during the ordination process, it has truly been an amazing five years!

My prayer is that with this change in appointment UMC of Monroe will be injected with new hope and joy and you will become more vital and relevant as you make more disciples for the transformation of this hurting, fearful world.

As I said in the letter I sent out earlier, this type of change can evoke many emotions and questions. I am here for you as your pastor until June 30th, so please feel free to drop by the office, shoot me an email or call me.

The prophet Isaiah, in the 43rd chapter says: "Look! I'm doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don't you recognize it? I'm making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness." I can't wait to see what sprouts up for us all!

In Christ's Love,





Easter Sunday services will be held on Sunday, April 1, at 10:00 am. We'll be hosting an ecumenical Easter Sunrise Service earlier that morning (6:30 am) at Great Hollow Lake (accessible via 454 Purdy Hill Road). The sunrise service will be followed by refreshments at the pavilion. All are invited to bring something to share.

Waterman Scholarship Fund



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 (typically our high school seniors). The deadline is *May 15, 2018*. Please contact the office for an application.

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 April!



04/01 Evan Chaudhary

04/05 Dan Cahill

04/05 Joe Lennon

04/07 Sue Simmons

04/08 Wayne Epstein

04/11 Rich Steiner

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!



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UPCOMING EVENTS



Friendship Circle will be meeting Monday mornings, April 2, 16 and 30 at 10:30 am in Meeting Room 1. All are welcome to join us ... and don't forget to bring your lunch! Contact: Lynn Gregory

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 April 15 at 11:30 am in Meeting Room 1. Moderator: David York.





Dress a Girl Around the World Sew-a-Thon

Monroe Congregational Church (34 Church Street) Saturday, April 21, 2018 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

** Materials are also available to work on dresses at home. **

Questions: Ethel Abraham

Registration: Contact Liz Skarzynski

Phone: 203.257.7174

Email: Liz1202us@yahoo.com

Calling all Prayer Angels!

Friday, April 20 - Sunday, April 22, 2018 First United Methodist Church, Shelton

We've been preparing for South Central Emmaus Weekend XXXIX and it is only a few weeks away! UMC Monroe's Juliana Epstein and Bill and Kathy Schmalkuche 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. Include your email and we'll send you a reminder of the day(s)/time(s) you selected a few days before the weekend. Questions? Please contact Patti, Bill or Pastor Martha.



Weekend scripture

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Generation Bridge

What is it? What do you want from me?

Have you registered for our Generation Bridge event yet? Still not sure what it is or how to sign up? If you are getting older and/or are moving into a caretaking role for an elderly loved one (and trying to balance all the needs of your own extended family), then chances are that you probably "don't know what you don't know" regarding life, health, and financial challenges and tradeoffs. Our UMC-sponsored Generation Bridge event on Saturday, April 21 at Masuk High School is targeted to help you (and others in the community) to make connections and get more information to make this transition easier.



It's a full day event with lots of main tent and breakout speakers as well as plenty of information to share (again, it's likely you will find information about topics you didn't even know you should asking about). The registration cost is \$20/person (a bargain given all the information you will learn during the event), however, we are also offering the ability to designate 50% of the registration fee to go toward a church/charity so your neighbors and friends can also support an organization of their choice if desired. In addition to a great community event that you won't want to miss, it will also be a great fundraiser for our church!

We have plenty of flyers to share and our UMC website (umcmonroe.org) has a link to Generation Bridge (http://www.generation-bridge.com) to learn more about the event content -- you can also register to attend! In addition, we're available after worship to answer any questions and/or help with online or offline registrations. To be successful, we need YOU to attend (and possibly help out at the event), share with your friends and community contacts, and make connections. The more you learn about the event, the easier it will be to understand and share how it can help so many people in our community to learn more. Thanks in advance for your support.

For more information, please contact Darlene Dobler-Palin or Brian Sherwood via email at mailto:generationbridge@umcmonroe.org.





Generation Bridge Meetings

All are welcome (and needed!) to join us for bi-weekly *Life Stages Meetings* to prepare for our *Generation Bridge* event on Saturday, April 21 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm at Masuk High School. Meetings are scheduled for Thursday evenings, April 5 and 19 (and beyond) at 7:00 pm in Meeting Room 1. Contacts: Brian Sherwood and Darlene Dobler-Palin.

BLANKET THE WORLD WITH LOVE THIS MOTHER'S DAY, MAY 13

by donating to the Church World Service ("CWS") to purchase blankets! Continuing a long-standing tradition in our church, we will be collecting contributions to purchase blankets the CWS Blankets+ through Program. For \$10, a blanket can be supplied to families fleeing their homes or recovering from disaster and more. In 2017, CWS distributed thousands of blankets around the world. Our congregation can be part of an even greater response in 2018. Remember a blanket can serve as warmth, shelter and comfort!

In response to Jesus' call to feed the hungry, quench the thirsty, and shelter the homeless children of God, CWS was formed as a cooperative ministry of 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 hands and hearts together in reaching out to neighbors in need the world over. We can do together what no one group can hope to do as well alone.

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 6 for inclusion in our May 13 bulletin. Gift cards will be available. Any questions can be directed to Rose Aiello via email at buildingroses@aol.com.

Church World Service (CWS) Blanket Order Form

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE BLANKETS+

Just \$10 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 6.

In Honor of:		
In Memory of:		
,		
By:		



UMC MONROE YOUTH NEWS



April Youth Group Meetings

Sunday, April 8 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

April Confirmation Classes

Sunday, April 8 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Sunday, April 29 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

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



All high school youth welcome! First United Methodist Church, Shelton

Friday, April 20 - Sunday, April 22

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.

Youth Work Day

Sunday, April 29 is the 5th Sunday of the month ... that means that our high school youth will be cleaning up around the church! Please make sure to thank them for their hard work!

Are you a member of the Class of 2018?

Are you "moving up" to a new school next year?

If you (or someone you know from our church family) are graduating or "moving up" to a new school this fall, let us know! Please submit the student's name and the school they're graduating from and "moving up to" to Denise (umc@umcmonroe.org or 203.268.8395) by May 15 -- we'll be celebrating this year's graduating class in our June issue!



YOUTH MISSIONS



On Monday, February 26, our Youth Group took a field trip to the Monroe Food Pantry to make a special delivery. They packed up 499 pounds of food that we collected during our *Food Pantry Football* season, *Souper Bowl of Caring* and our *Everything Chocolate* February mini-missions collection. They took a tour to learn about the food pantry and helped to sort the food by checking expiration dates to make sure everything was good.

Thank you to everyone who "played the game" and helped us win BIG for our neighbors at the Monroe Food Pantry!







Photo credit: Tanya Lennon and Pastor Martha

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Photo credit: Tanya Lennon and Pastor Martha

This spring the Missions Committee invites everyone to help us "Grow a Giving Garden" with our April Mini Mission!

Our flowerbed in the narthex (aka the wagon) will bloom with flowers as we collect items for the Monroe Food Pantry. Spring is a time for freshening up, cleaning, and making things beautiful. To help our neighbors get ready for a beautiful spring season, we will be collecting spring-cleaning products (cleaners, wipes, sprays, laundry detergents, paper towels, etc.) and health/beauty items (toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoos, conditioners, lotions, soap, etc.). The more items we collect, the more flowers will grow in our *Giving Garden* this spring!



** 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. **

EASTER EGG HUNT

















Photo credit: Amy Rajpolt

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EASTER EGG HUNT



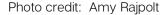














Add smile.amazon.com to your our browser's bookmarks!

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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PALM SUNDAY



Bringing in the light of Christ on Palm Sunday 2018!



















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A special thank you to Rose for her amazing and thoughtfully designed altar arrangements ... especially her Palm Sunday display. Beautiful!

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This just in ...

Henry and John Whalen and Evan and Jen Chaudhary were caught cleaning up sticks around the church.



... A BIG THANKS TO THEM!!

Who will be caught next?

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!

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, or (3) Check our Facebook page @umcmonroe. Be prepared!

Are You Prepared for an Emergency?

Get Trained and Join Monroe CERT



Free Training - Spring 2018

Two Friday evenings and two Saturdays April 27 & 28 and May 4 & 5

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

Spring 2018 Training Dates

Friday, April 27 from 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Saturday, April 28 from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm Friday, May 4 from 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm Saturday, May 5 from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

All sessions will be held at The Center, 235 Cutlers Farm Road.

Orientation: Thursday, April 19 – 7:30 pm The Center – 235 Cutlers Farm Road Graduation: Thursday, May 24 - 7:00 pm

The 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*.

da 1823 CONNECTICUS

Monroe CERT - David York • Monroe Town Hall • 7 Fan Hill Road • Monroe, CT 06468



Paper Shredding Fundraiser Event

Individuals and Businesses Welcome

DATE: Saturday, May 5, 2018 (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

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 FB page @umcmonroe

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



















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!



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Prayer Concerns



Dotty & Roger Cedergren and family on the passing of Debby Couture - pancreatic cancer their son Bill

The family of David Marks on his passing

Anita's friend Esther – recovering from pneumonia Millie Derle's boss Paul - undergoing a liver

transplant - and his wife Patricia

Marilyn Jones

Jeanne Baklik

Rick Matson and Family on the passing of Rosemaryformer members of UMCM

Friends of the Aiello's - Mesaros and Hurvul Families on the passing Jim Mesaros

Delores Ovesny

Caleb - undergoing additional radiation

Wright and Martin families - grieving the loss of loved

Alisha - grieving the loss of her grandfather

Our Bishop and cabinet as they make appointments for upcoming year

Tyson - Lynn Abbott's grandson

Adam Bartlett - struggling

Laura Galbraith - UMC Pastor - chemo for colon

York's twin granddaughters Alexa and Patience continued recovery from injuries

Dexton

Leila – 2-year old with a muscular degenerative disease

Gail Mas' friend Betty Tomackek - MS and lung

Adam Godlewski, age 27 - continued healing

Suzette - Gail Mas' niece

Ben Abercrombie - football player with broken neck

Audrey Stabler - kidney disease Dotti Hossler's brother Roger

Joe Lennon's brother Michael - colon cancer

Lauren - addiction battle Shaun - battling addiction

Pastor Martha's friend Cassandra's husband, Wayne

Stage 3 throat cancer

Gail Mas' granddaughters: Sara and Amanda

Sue Simmons' brother Jeff

Dotti Hossler's sister Loretta - severe concussion

Kathy's great-aunt Marie Houdek - hospice

Fromm's friend - Radovan Frzop

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

York's daughter-in-law Lori

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

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 submit information Denise to (umc@umcmonroe.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! Page 17 of 18

Church	United Methodist Church of Monroe	Tue	Med	Thu		Apr 2018 (Eastern Time)
	2	6	4	6	9	7
10:30am - F	10:30am - Friendship Circle 6pm - Cub Scouts Meeting	11:30am - MM: Missions 7:15pm - CC: Church	5pm - Organ Rehearsal 6pm - Kindergarten GS	7pm - Generation Bridge	5pm - Winter Cooking Class	9:30am - Organ Rehearsal 2pm - Winter Cooking Class
7:30pm - Girl Scout	10 Scout					Spm - Two Planks Caberet
	6	10	=	12	13	14
			5pm - Organ Rehearsal			9:30am - Organ Rehearsal 4:30pm - Liz Skarzynski &
	16	11	18	19	20	21
0:30am	10:30am - Friendship Circle		5pm - Organ Rehearsal	7pm - Generation Bridge	Emmaus XXXIX Weekend @	Emmaus XXXIX Weekend @
pm - Cul	6pm - Cub Scouts Meeting					9:30am - Organ Rehearsal
						10am - Confirmation:
						10am - Generation Bridge
	23	24	25	56	72	28
		7 pm - Hills of Monroe	5pm - Organ Rehearsal			9:30am - Organ Rehearsal
			6:30pm - Girl Scouts @			
	30	-	2	8	4	S
10:30am	10:30am - Friendship Circle	11:30am - MM: Missions	6pm - Kindergarten GS			9am - Paper Shredding