# United Methodist Church of Monroe



**MAY 2018** 



We are finally seeing the change from winter to spring. The buds are on the trees and the daffodils around the church grounds have really lifted my spirits, especially given that it is still in the 30s when I wake up!

The beauty of Easter is that it reminds us that life comes from death and that even when we feel like all is lost it is not. No matter how tough the winter is, the flowers still emerge, life is renewed. The flowers remind us that God is always at work even when we don't see it.

The Message translation of John 1:14 says "The word became flesh and moved into the neighborhood." What if we imagine Jesus moving into Monroe? What if we knew he had moved in but weren't sure exactly what he looked like. Would we change anything? Would we change the way we treat others? Would we change the way we serve God? What if he not only moved into Great Oaks Farm but he came to church one morning. What would he find? Would he be pleased? Would we be willing to follow him if he had some different ideas?

We all know that change is scary, but we need to trust that whenever change occurs it is an opportunity for us to grow and become the beautiful flowers God has been nurturing us to be. As you continue to think about the future of the UMC of Monroe and what it means to Monroe, the greater world and especially to Jesus consider what you can do to embody a positive change. Now, don't get me wrong, we are a joyous loving welcoming family and we are doing great work. Let's continue that and let's do even more. I truly believe that God is at work here even if we don't always see or feel it. As you prepare for a transition in pastoral leadership consider what you can do to help move the UMC of Monroe forward. Consider how you can support Rev. and Mrs. Allen and how you can welcome not only them but Jesus into the neighborhood.

Harness your faith, listen to God's voice, give sacrificially, serve everyone as if they were Jesus and just watch the garden that will grow!

In Christ's Service,



## Appointment of New Pastor

On Sunday, April 8, Staff Pastor Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC) announced the appointment of our new pastor. Pastor Mark Allen will begin serving our congregation on July 1, 2018.

Mark started his career with degrees in accounting and computer systems. He was employed by several banks and mortgage companies.

Mark, like Martha, received a calling late in his career. At first in whispers, the call came loud and clear while he was visiting the Holy Land. He then enrolled in Drew Theological School and graduated in 2005 with a Masters of Divinity. He has served churches in Pawling, New York and the Catskills.

Mark is married to Janice, who also graduated from Drew with a degree in Theological Studies. They consider themselves a team. His son and family live in Maryland. He is a proud grandfather with a granddaughter in first grade. He enjoys golf, woodworking and antique cars.

Pastor Mark and Janice are excited about coming to UMC Monroe. SPPRC along with the help and prayers of this congregation will do our best to fuel that excitement!





# 2018 Waterman Scholarship

The deadline for graduating high school seniors to apply for this year's Waterman Scholarship is **Tuesday, May 15, 2018.** Please visit our website and search Waterman Scholarship for more details.

# 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 May!



05/08 Matthew Hornak

05/17 Bob Pantalone

05/19 Denise Wiley

05/24 Mike Pavia

05/26 Ethel Abraham

05/26 Aiden Wallace



happy birthday



happy anniversary

05/12 Rose and Dave Aiello

05/27 Annette and Bob Griffith

05/27 Anita Stabler-Hussey and Jim Hussey

05/27 Stacey and Steven Moore

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 on Monday, May 14 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

#### CROP Hunger Walk: Saturday, May 6

CROP is the Community Appeal of Church World Service. It fights hunger locally, nationally and internationally and emphasizes agricultural self-help. Sign up to walk and/or help contribute to the walk at https://www.crophungerwalk.org/bridgeportct/UMCofMOnroe. The walk begins at Seaside Park in Bridgeport (enter through Park Avenue entrance) at 1:30 pm and wraps up by 5:00 pm. The event is held rain or shine! Contact: Quintin Brantley





## Spring Clean Up: Saturday, May 19

Our Trustees are holding a spring clean up beginning at 9:00 am and it will last until approximately noon. It's time to prepare our buildings and grounds for the summer! Any time you can stop by is appreciated.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

## 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 May 20 at 11:30 am in Meeting Room 1. Moderator: David York.





## Memorial Day Parade: Sunday, May 27

Can you Kazoo? UMC Monroe will be participating in the 2018 Memorial Day Parade, May 27 at 1:00 pm. Consider joining our church's presence in the Memorial Day Parade. Help create community awareness and show God's love to the community

All are welcome to participate. Marching, sauntering, gasping up a hill, or hitching a ride in the truck with a kazoo is an experience you won't want to miss! It is an enjoyable time seeing parade watchers burst into song. No need to worry about being off-key ... it's a kazoo! Join us in the band, or as a bystander in the crowd. More to follow. Questions: please contact Steve Arnold.

#### Dress A Girl Around the World Sew-a-Thons 2018

May 5: St. Peter's Episcopal Church
June 9: Monroe Congregational Church
September 15: Monroe Congregational Church
October 6: United Methodist Church of Monroe
November 3: Monroe Congregational Church
UMC Monroe Contact: Ethel Abraham

Time: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm (includes lunch)

RSVP to Liz Skarzynski at 203.257.7174 or DressAGirlSouthernCT@yahoo.com



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## Health Kits

The Missions Committee is once again collecting items for *UMCOR for Health Kits* to be distributed to people who have been forced to leave their homes because of human conflict or natural disaster. We find it easiest to collect the items and then assemble the kits together. Pastor Martha and Anita Stabler-Hussey will deliver these kits to the New York Annual Conference gathering in June. Our goal this year is to complete 30 kits. In addition to the items that are needed they also request \$1.00 per kit for toothpaste and

\$1.00 for shipping. As such we are asking for \$60 to cover these costs. If you wish to contribute to that please make checks out to *UMC Monroe* with *UMCOR* in the memo line and place in the offering plate. Kits will be assembled on Monday, June 4 at 10:30 am in Meeting Room 1. All welcome to join us.

Here is a list of items needed by Sunday, June 3 (place items in bin in narthex):

- 30 hand towels
  - 15 x 25 inches to 17 x 27 inches
  - Kitchen, cleaning, and microfiber towels not acceptable
- 0 washcloths (We have enough washcloths)
- 26 combs
  - Comb needs to be sturdy and longer than 6 inches long
  - No pocket combs or picks please
  - Rattail combs and combs without handles are acceptable with a minimum of 6 inches of teeth
- 0 metal nail file or nail clippers (We have enough clippers)
- 15 bath-size soaps
  - 3 oz. and larger sizes only
  - No Ivory or Jergens soap due to moisture content
  - Do not remove from original packaging
- 26 toothbrushes
  - Adult size only
  - Do not remove from original packaging and please only single toothbrushes, not packages of multiple toothbrushes
- O adhesive bandages (We have enough bandages)
- O plastic bags (We have enough bags)
- \$1.00 per kit for toothpaste
- \$1.00 per kit for shipping



The first Generation Bridge event focused on caregiving and aging challenges was a success. Many who left stated personal satisfaction with the information and overall idea behind the event.

This success is due to many factors and people who volunteered, attended, presented information, exhibited and more (at least 67 people in total who checked in). It represents a true coming together of our church community to bring about a positive impact in our wider community. It also represented an opportunity for different generations to come together in spirit and mind and spread the message about the good work done by UMC Monroe.

We're still calculating the finances to see just how much was made through the event, but it was profitable despite year one attendance challenges. Sales to vendors and ticket sales totaled over \$3,500 but we'll still need to factor out marketing and other event-related expenses to find out how much the inaugural event made.

There will be a meeting schedule soon to discuss the future work that can be done on the generation bridge. Be on the lookout for an announcement and we welcome all who might want to help (including youth). Let's take this success and bridge all the generation gaps!

### **ICE Key**

#### We go to the hospital totally unprepared ...

We don't have our advance directives or our powers of attorney. We forget a list of our prescription drugs. Sometimes we even forget our insurance information.

#### Are you prepared for a medical emergency?

With the ICE Key, you can be. This portable, easy-to-use USB flash drive goes right on your keychain. Simply fill out the pre-loaded PDF forms to capture important medical information.

In a medical emergency, first responders are trained to look for the acronym ICE (In Case of Emergency), ensuring that doctors will have the information they need to make life-saving medical decisions.



For more information, visit www.markzinder.com/store/ice-key



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.

# 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 through the CWS Blankets+ 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



#### **Confirmation Class Activities**

Saturday, May 5 (Shredding\*) Sunday, May 6 (CROP Walk\*) Saturday, May 12 (Bishop's Rally) Sunday, May 20 (confirmands/mentors)

9:00 am - 12:00 pm 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm 8:15 am - 3:30 pm 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

\* We encourage our Youth Group to participate in the upcoming Shredding Event, CROP Walk and Memorial Day Parade. Stay tuned for details about our end of the year party!

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



#### **Emmaus Weekend XXXIX**

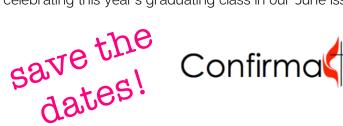
Thirty-nine team members (21 adults, 10 youth team members, 8 candidates and 2 observers) gathered together at First UMC Shelton April 20 - 22 for South Central Emmaus Weekend XXXIX. The team represented 5 denominations and 13 congregations. Our weekend scripture was "Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances." 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. Juliana Epstein, Emily Florin and Bill and Kathy Schmalkuche participated on the weekend. We want to thank our church family for their continued support of this youth ministry by praying for us, serving meals and joining us throughout the weekend. Your prayers were felt!

\*\* Emmaus Weekend XL will be this fall -- stay tuned ... more details to follow! Any high school youth or adults interested in the program, please contact Patti Early or Bill Schmalkuche.

## 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!











# May Mini Missions and Mercy Learning Center

For our May Mini Mission, in honor of Mother's Day, we will be collecting items to support *Mercy Learning Center*. *Mercy Learning Center* provides literacy training and educational programs to women. The goal is to empower women with the skills they need to make a better life for their families and to instill the importance of literacy for future generations. As their motto says, "Educate a woman... educate a family." As you may know, *Mercy Learning Center* is a cause that was near and dear to the heart of Bobbie Grant. The Missions Committee is honored to continue UMC Monroe's relationship with *Mercy Learning Center* that was started by Bobbie through her work with our committee. *Mercy Learning Center* has provided us with a "wish list" of specific items currently needed by women in their program. Items from the list can be placed in the Mini Missions wagon throughout the month of May.

Thank you for your support of this special collection to support *Mercy Learning Center*!

### Mercy Learning Center Wish List

Food Gift Cards \*

Canned tuna fish or chicken
Peanut butter
Jelly
Cereal
Rice (small bags) brown or white
Dried beans (small bags – black,
red, pinto, kidney, lentil)
Tomato Sauce

Stop & Shop Walgreens Kohl's Target CVS

**Diapers** 

Diapers - Size 6

# Mercy Learning Center of Bridgeport, Inc.

637 Park Avenue • Bridgeport, CT 06606 • 203-334-6699 • www.mercylearningcenter.org

The mission of Mercy Learning Center (MLC) is to provide basic literacy and life skills training to low-income women using a holistic approach within a compassionate, supportive environment. All women are welcome without regard for race, religion, color, creed, sexual orientation or national origin.

For further questions, please contact Nora Jinishian: nora.jinishian@mercylearningcenter.org.

<sup>\*</sup> If you wish to donate a gift card, please place it in the collection plate or leave it with Denise in the office.

# EASTER SEASON













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# EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE



### HE IS RISEN!

More than 60 of our neighbors braved the rain and cool temperatures to celebrate the resurrection at the town's Easter Sunrise Service at Great Hollow Lake. The collection of +\$400 will benefit the Monroe Food Pantry.

Clergy: Pastor Martha, Rev. Jennifer Gingras - Monroe Congregational Church, Pastor Mark Persson - Stepney Baptist Church; Other: David Beno - representative from Beacon Hill Church; Organist: Bill Schmalkuche.









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# Tea with Jeanne













Photo Credit: Brian Sherwood



# This just in ...

Our church family was caught doing their part to make our Generation Bridge community-wide event a success.

... A BIG THANKS TO EVERYONE!!

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.



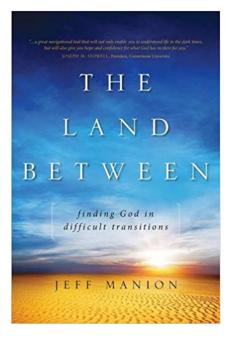
Sign up online by going to <a href="http://www.bigy.com/rs/educationexpress">http://www.bigy.com/rs/educationexpress</a> and click on "Join Education Express". Then, log in or create your own account and choose your school. You can earn points for your school when you purchase participating products. 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 <a href="www.umcmonroe.org">www.umcmonroe.org</a>, or (3) Check our Facebook page @umcmonroe. Be prepared!

# The Land Between: Finding God in Difficult Transitions



Thursdays, May 3 – May 31, 2017

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

Author Jeff Manion uses the biblical story of the Israelite's journey through the Sinai desert as a metaphor for being in an undesired time of transition. After enduring generations of slavery in Egypt, the descendants of Jacob travel through the desert (the land between) toward their new home in Canaan. They crave the food of their former home in Egypt and despise their present environment. They are unable to go back and incapable of moving forward. Their reactions provide insight and guidance on how to respond to God during our own seasons of difficult transition. It also provides fresh biblical insight for people traveling through undesired transitions—foreclosure, unemployment, parents in declining health, post-graduate uncertainty, business failure—who are looking for hope, guidance, and encouragement. While it is possible to move through transitions and learn little, they provide our greatest opportunity for spiritual growth. God desires to meet us in our chaos and emotional upheaval, and he intends for us to encounter his goodness and provision during these upsetting seasons.

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 Monday, April 30. The book is \$10.

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# 2018 National Day of Prayer



Thursday, May 3, 2018 12:00 noon

Join us at the Gazebo on the Town Green as we pray for

**Our Community** 

**Our Nation** 

Our World

"Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace."

Ephesians 4:3

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# Paper Shredding Fundraiser

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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<sup>\*</sup> No need to remove staples, paperclips, binders, etc. Shredding will be done on-site. \*

# Walk With Us ... It's our 44<sup>th</sup>! CROP Walk 2018



Sunday, May 6, 2018

1:30 pm ~ 4:00 pm (rain or shine) Seaside Park - Bridgeport Please enter the park through the Park Avenue entrance

CROP Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service and organized by religious groups, businesses, schools and others to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world. This year's CROP Walk will benefit 10 Local Food Programs with 25% of monies raised going to hunger-related programs in the Bridgeport Area.

Everyone is welcome to participate - sign up to walk and/or help contribute to the walk.

Contact: Quintin Brantley



UMC Monroe • 515 Cutlers Farm Road • 203.268.8395

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# 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**



Reverend Richard Rice

Patti's co-worker Anna's family - Anna's 9 year-old granddaughter's father killed in accident

York's neighbor, Kathy

Cari and Chad Harris - awaiting MRI results

Tom Stabler - upcoming heart surgery

Michelle Lambert's dad - congestive heart failure

Roger Cedergren – hospitalized

Sue Simmon's brother, Jeff - continued prayers for battling addiction

Wes's (Emmaus visitor) work friend, Chris – battling addiction

Millie Derle's boss, Paul - liver transplant

Jeanne Baklik

Marilyn Jones

**Delores Ovesny** 

Caleb

Tyson - Lynn Abbott's grandson

Laura Galbraith - UMC Pastor - chemo for colon cancer

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 cancer

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

Debby Couture - pancreatic cancer

Gail Mas' granddaughters, Sara and Amanda

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 to submit information to Denise (umc@umcmonroe.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!

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May 2018 (Eastern Time) Sat	edding Girl Arou	8:15am - CNF: Bishop	9am - Spring Clean Up Day	56	Q
Fri		=	- 18	58	-
Thu	Betwee Day of	10am - The Land Between:	10am - The Land Between:	10am - The Land Between:	10am - The Land Between:
Wed	SS usa	on little and the second secon	97	6:30pm - Girl Scouts @	30
Tue	sino is sino i	7:15pm - CC: Church	15	7pm - Hills of Monroe	53
th of Monroe	ship Circ	6pm - Cub Scouts Meeting	10:30am - Friendship Circle	6 pm - Cub Scouts Meeting	28
United Methodist Church of Monroe	ay Schoo Service Work Da	Communion Sunday 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:30am - SPRC Meeting 1pm - CNF: CROP Walk @ 1:30pm - CROP Walk @ 2pm - Connecticut District	10am - SS: Sunday School	10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - SI: Social Issues 11:30am - CNF:	10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 2pm - Memorial Day Parade