United Methodist Church of Monroe



JUNE 2018



"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord! That has been my mantra for these last few months as I prepare to leave Monroe and start the next phase of my ministry with the people in Clinton. Transitions are almost always wrought with mixed emotions, so let us remember that it is okay to go through the gamut of feelings that we might be feeling. No matter what type of transition you may be experiencing, we may feel nervous, excited, etc.

Reading and studying *The Land Between* by Jeff Manion has helped me to understand that God upholds us, teaches us and loves us through difficult transitions. Let us rest in the comfort and knowledge that God will make our paths straight and so let us put our trust fully in God as we look toward the future.

As I reflect on our five years together the one word that continues to come to mind is *blessed*. What a wonderful church family. You made us feel welcome from day one; how surprised was I to find pictures of us (including Chester!) up so that you could get to know us. And I still remember the "pounding" and how helpful it was to receive all those basic necessities from the start. The best gift you could give me as I leave is to welcome and love the Allen's in the same manner that you welcomed and loved me!

I have been truly blessed through all that we have shared in together – the laughter, the tears, the meetings, the missions, the births, the deaths, they have all touched me in a special way. My understanding of my call has developed as well as my understanding of who God has created me to be as a result of our interactions and your prayers.

June will be one of celebration and so I look forward to Confirmation, Children's Sunday and our final service together on June 24. Let's celebrate one another and rejoice that we serve a risen Savior who is with us through all our transitions.

You will always be in my prayers.

Trust in the Lord!

In Christ's Peace and Love,





Mother's Day: Church World Service Blankets+

Thank you to everyone that contributed to our annual *Church World Service Blankets+ Program* for Mother's Day Sunday! With your generous donations, we raised more than \$330 for the *Church World Service Blankets+ Program.* A lovely tribute to those special women that were and are a part of our lives!



Spring Cleaning ... more help needed

We thank everyone who came out on a rainy Saturday morning to clean up the church (interior) and to clear broken and hanging limbs and brush around the church property.

While progress was made, there is still more work to be done outside! If you have time, we welcome your help picking up branches or cleaning out/weeding flowerbeds.

Please see Chad Harris or Rose Aiello and they will give you a project!

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!





happy birthday

06/08 Art Beardsley

06/08 Julie Chrislip

06/12 Stacey Moore

06/15 Amy Schmalkuche

06/16 David Hornak

06/17 Katie Early

06/19 Claudia Wallace

06/20 Tom Early

06/25 Annette Griffith

06/25 Marina Salvas

06/26 Jordyn Harris

06/30 Kathleen Brantley



happy anniversary

06/01 Kathleen and Quintin Brantley

06/24 Leigh and Russ Gray

06/27 Debbie and Doug Salvas

06/29 Julie and Gary Chrislip

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!



Page 2 of 20

Meet our Graduates!



Amy Schmalkuche - University of California, Berkeley

Leah Brantley – Masuk High School to the University of New Hampshire Mitchell Hornak – Masuk High School to the University of Connecticut

Emily Florin – Jockey Hollow to Masuk High School Gavin McAlexander – Jockey Hollow STEM to Masuk High School

Evan Chaudhary - Reed Intermediate to Newtown Middle School

Maya Chaudhary – Middle Gate Elementary to Reed Intermediate Joshua Pantalone – Stepney Elementary to Jockey Hollow



UPCOMING EVENTS



We will be welcoming new members to UMC Monroe on Confirmation Sunday, June 3. Please see Pastor Martha to join!

Friendship Circle will be meeting on Monday, June 4 to assemble the Health Kits and on June 18 for a regularly scheduled meeting. Both meetings start 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





Stay tuned for instructions about how to live stream proceedings from Hofstra University. We will post the link on our website (www.umcmonroe.org) and our Facebook page (@umcmonroe) when it becomes available, about a week or so prior to the

broadcast. We look forward to receiving updates from Pastor Martha and Anita about conference activities.

Sunday, June 10 Worship Service from Hofstra

We will celebrate with the Conference and our own confirmands as we worship alongside everyone in our conference virtually. Worship will be held in Fellowship Hall with goodies available during the service. This year's Ordination service will be live streamed. There are members of our church planning to drive to Hofstra for Sunday's service -- if you are interested in attending, please see Pastor Martha.



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 June 17 at 11:30 am in Meeting Room 1. Moderator: David York.

Connecticut District Basic Lay Servant Ministry Course

Two Saturdays: June 23 and June 30



Classes begin promptly at 9:30 am, ending by 3:30 pm. Fellowship/ Registration 9:00 am – 9:30 am (Breakfast on June 23!). Cost is \$10.

Course Leader: Pastor Ed Dayton

For questions, please contact Mary Brevigleiri, CT Director of Lay Servant Ministries, at 860.307.4611

For a registration form, please visit our website or contact the church office. Registration due by June 20, 2018. *Page 4 of 20*

UMC Monroe Choir is announcing their final Sunday will be June 24, then we will be taking a break for the summer. Our 2018 – 2019 season will begin in September with our first rehearsal to be announced. The UMC Choir welcomes everyone of any age and musical ability to join us for our next season. Any questions, contact Michelle Lambert at voiceteacherct@gmail.com.





Summer Special Music Everyone is invited to share their talents (Don't hide that light under a basket!) during the summer - either singing or playing an instrument. If you'd like to sing but don't have music, I'll help you find something. Small groups are welcome too! If you have a musical friend that is not a church member, that you'd like to invite, this is an opportunity to invite them to experience the wonders of UMC Monroe and also give them a platform to share their talent! Please email RoseAnne Homola at Rhomola@reedexpo.com to make arrangements for any Sunday in the summer!

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

June 9: Monroe Congregational Church September 15: Monroe Congregational Church October 6: United Methodist Church of Monroe November 3: Monroe Congregational Church

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

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

UMC Monroe Contact: Ethel Abraham



Dresses made in Monroe were delivered to the girls at the Orphanage in Uganda. Do you see any dresses you made? Photo provided by Liz Skarzynski.

Congratulations to the Steese Family as we celebrate Andrew's baptism!

Sunday, May 20, 2018

"With God's help we will surround him with a community of love and forgiveness, that he may grow in his service to others. We will pray for him that he may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life."







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):

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

MAKE FATHER'S DAY (Sunday, June 17) A SPECIAL OCCASION

BY DONATING TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF TOOL KITS IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE!



We will be collecting contributions to purchase *Tool Kits* as part of the *Church World Service Blankets+ Program* (formerly *Tools of Hope*). Your donation (in any amount) will help to purchase tool kits to rebuild homes from the devastation of earthquakes, floods and other natural disasters. Your contribution will also go toward training in the various trades needed to help in rebuilding. Your donation can be designated *in honor* or *in memory* of your loved one. Be sure the church office receives your order by Wednesday, June 13, for inclusion in our June 17 bulletin. Gift cards will be available. Any questions can be directed to a Missions Team member.

Father's Day Order Form

Any size donation is welcome. Please make your check payable to UMC Monroe and in the memo line write Tools. Orders should be in by Wednesday, June 13. (Please print)
In Honor of:
In Memory of:

Given By:

Page 7 of 20



JUNE MINI-MISSIONS: CARE PACKAGES FOR OUR SOLDIERS



A Project from the Heart

We are retired police wives and other concerned Connecticut citizens who package and mail "WE CARE" boxes to our armed forces in Afghanistan. Over 12,000 packages have been sent since 2001.

Your help would be greatly appreciated in any of the following ways:



Collect supplies for our care boxes within your community, church, school, girl/boy scout troops or office. We would be happy to help you organize this effort.



Assist us with postage by sending a check to: PROJECT FROM THE HEART- HSC c/o Shirley Sambrook 314 Shoreham Village Drive Fairfield, CT 06825

Please note the SIZES specified. Large size and heavier items cannot be accepted since the increase in size and weight significantly increases the cost of postage.

Please NO GLASS items due to breakage concerns.

For more information and/or to add a name and address of a soldier to our recipient list, please contact:

Miriam Zalenski 203.261.8550 Shirley Sambrook 203.259.5903 Shirley Petrino 203.374.8617

bigred722@sbcglobal.net shirlqirl1106@optonline.net

THANK YOU!



Elsie Voros, Darlene Bagley, Donna D'Addario, Mary Lou Edwards, Betty Gunter, Shirley Petrino, Pat Richard, Shirley Sambrook, and Miriam Zalenski.

Debra Mahony, Valerie Mocarski, Lisa Potanovich, Rosemary Romano, and Norine Zalenski.



In memory of Pat Vida, Dottie Szudora, Chris Sullivan, Gene Krusinski, and Alex Fucci.



Items Needed

Food:

Beef Jerky Slim Jims **Sunflower Seeds** Tuna with Crackers Tuna in pouches Crackers, boxes of wrapped stacks Plastic jar of Peanut Butter, 8 oz. or less Plastic jar of Jelly, 22 oz. or less Oatmeal, box individual pocks Hot Chocolate, box individual pocks Cereal, individual small boxes Coffee, 12 oz. can or sealed bag Protein bar/Energy bars Cookies, small boxed

Gum/Hard Candy

Drink Mixes

Canned Vienna Sausages,* 4.6 oz. Conned beans or with franks.* 8.3 oz. Conned fruit/fruit cocktails,* 8.5 oz.

Hygiene Products:

Toothbrushes, single or 2-4 pack Toothpaste, 6.4 oz. or less **Dental Floss** Chap stick Disposable razors Shaving Cream, 10 oz. or less Body Wash, 13.5 oz. or less Stick Deodorant Hand sanitizer wipes Q-Tips, 180 count or less Nail clippers Bathroom tissue Feminine Hygiene maxi pads, 26 or less Tampons, 36 count or less Hypoallergenic Baby Wipes, non-alcohol, soft pack, 80 count or less

Other:

Vitamins

Sunscreen, non-aerosol SPF 30 or 50 (May - August)

Insect Repellent, non-aerosol (May -August)

Hand/foot wormers (October - February) Writing paper/envelopes/pens Page 8 of 20 Laundry detergent - PODs

^{*} Flip top cans please

Paper Shredding Fundraiser

Spring Paper Shredding Fundraiser: Saturday, May 5

The UMCM Paper Shredding fundraiser continues to be a huge success as the popular service gives supporters the peace of mind of getting rid of sensitive documents in minutes, an attractive option to time-wasting do-it-yourself shredding. The May 5 event produced almost \$4,300 in sales as people brought quantities ranging from a single bag to 31 boxes in two vehicles. When done, we filled the ProShred truck over 80%, a victory that will keep tons of waste out of landfills.

Thank you to everyone who supported the day. Whether you came to help, used the service yourself, or helped promote it, every bit of our congregation's effort contributed to success. God continues to bless this ever-growing program and important fundraiser for our church. Thanks again!









Paper Shredding Fundraiser













Page 10 of 20

Paper Shredding Fundraiser











UMC Monroe in the Community





Photo credit: Amy Rajpolt

2018 CROP Walk: Sunday, May 6

Thanks to everyone who participated (by walking or sponsoring or sending thoughts and prayers) to support the *Bridgeport CROP Hunger Walk* on Sunday, May 5 at Seaside Park. UMC Monroe CROP Walkers/Workers included Quintin Brantley, Hailey, Lauren and Matt Cacace; Juliana and her friend, Kaisa, Pastor Martha and Wayne Epstein; Jordyn and Chad Harris; Ellie, Tanya and Joe Lennon; Amy and Sheryl Rajpolt; and Dave York. We should be proud that our UMC team was the third largest online fundraising team and Ellie Lennon and Lauren Cacace were the 2nd and 3rd top online fundraising walkers at the event. Overall, more than \$4,000 was reported on the Bridgeport CROP website with more offline donations coming in. It was great to see our church doing its part to support the *CROP Hunger Walk* and raise funds to help end hunger in the United States and around the world.





2018 National Day of Prayer



More than 20 people, representing several churches and denominations from Monroe, gathered on the town green to participate in the 2018 National Day of Prayer. The group nicely reflected this year's theme of *Unity*. We are encouraged to continue praying for *Unity* in our nation and the world throughout the year.

Page 12 of 20

Photo credit: Pastor Martha

Transi ion



Pastor Martha and Pastor Mark are longtime friends

To ensure a smooth transition with Pastor Martha's departure and Pastor Mark's arrival to UMC Monroe, we hosted a Transition Meeting on Wednesday, May 23. It was a good opportunity to meet Pastor Mark and his wife, Janice!

Both Pastor Mark and Pastor Martha were in attendance and Rev. Jim Van Schaick, an elder in the United Methodist Church, facilitated the conversation.

We discussed the grief process, protocols relating to transitions in clergy leadership, and how our leadership and conflict management styles may differ. In case you were not able to attend, copies of the grief process and protocols will be available in the narthex.

Thanks to everyone who attended and to those who provided snacks for the meeting!



Pastor Mark enjoys a good laugh!



Pastor Mark and his wife, Janice, come to UMC Monroe from Reservoir United Methodist Church and Phoenicia United Methodist Church in the Catskill Hudson District.

Transi ion



Rev. Jim Van Schaick, Pastor of Pound Ridge Community Church (NY) facilitated the discussion.







Our church secretary, Denise Wiley, is ready to help with the transition from Martha to Mark!







UMC MONROE YOUTH NEWS



Youth/Confirmation Class Activities

Sunday, June 3 (Confirmation)
Saturday, June 9 (Rise Against Hunger)
Sunday, June 10 (Confirmand Celebration)
Youth Sunday, June 17

10:00 am Worship 11:00 am – 1:00 pm 10:00 am 10:00 am

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



We will be welcoming new members to UMC Monroe on Confirmation Sunday, June 3. Please see Pastor Martha to join!





On Sunday, June 17 we will recognize our Sunday School teachers and students on Youth Sunday. We'll present bibles to our third graders, too! Join us for special music and a video presentation of our 2018 graduates as we close out another year of Sunday School!



Bishop Bickerton's Confirmation Rally

Saturday, May 12 Poughkeepsie United Methodist Church

Our confirmands joined youth across the NY Conference for a day of fun at the Bishop's Confirmation Rally. Each young adult preparing for their confirmation had an opportunity to sit down and chat with Bishop Bickerton. It looks like they had a good day!













Photo credit: Pastor Martha Page 16 of 20



This just in ...

Denise Wiley was caught cleaning out the garbage bins.

... A BIG THANKS TO HER!!

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.



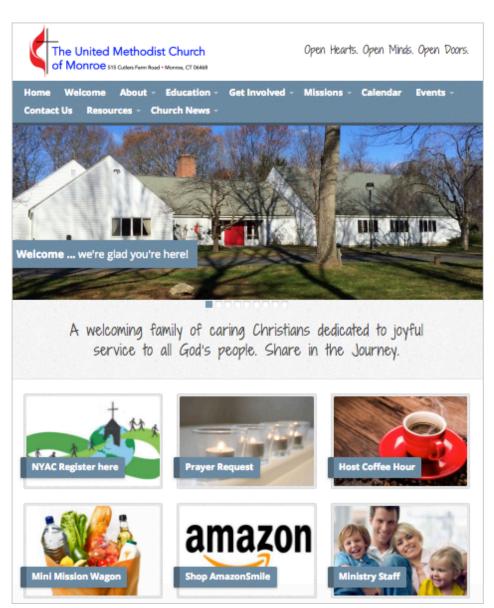
Sign up online by going to http://www.bigy.com/rs/educationexpress and click on **"Join Education Express"**. Then, log in or create your own account and choose your school. You can earn points for your school when you purchase participating products. Then, your school redeems points for needed equipment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



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.





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!

Page 18 of 20

Prayer Concerns



Adam - on prayer list since an accident in September has made progress but experiencing depression to get home

Patti Early's cousin, Jyll - battling cancer

David - battling depression

Husband of Patti's co-worker, Brett - recovery from heart

Rebecca Denike's uncle, Jose' Galura - pneumonia and experiencing brain seizures

Family of Sarah Koury on her passing - Sarah was member Friend of Billy Schmalkuche - Jill - long-term rehab of the Emmaus Community

Wallace's friend Audrey Scott and her family - Audrey has numerous medical issues and was removed from kidney Darcy and Cameron transplant list

Family and friends of Chris Flora on his sudden passing Sweetnam and Asetta families on the passing of Evelyn Sweetnam

Dotti Hossler's sister, Loretta

Pastor Martha's father. Rev. Richard Rice

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

York's neighbor, Kathy

Tom Stabler

Sue Simmon's brother, Jeff - addiction

Jeanne Baklik

Marilyn Jones

Delores Ovesny

Caleb

Tyson - Lynn Abbott's grandson

Laura Galbraith - UMC Pastor - colon cancer

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

Dexton

Leila - child with a muscular degenerative disease

Gail Mas' friend, Betty Tomackek - MS and lung cancer

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 Kathy's great-aunt, Marie Houdek - hospice

Fromm's friend, Radovan Frzop

Roy G - child with serious epilepsy

Jeff York

Tom Boomershine

Robert Ellis - co-worker of Claudia Wallace - cancer

Greg - Gail Mas' nephew - cancer

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

Those affected by the volcano eruption in Hawaii

Those who continue to be without power in Puerto Rico

People affected by storm that passed through area on May 15

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 information to submit (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 quaranteed publication Page 19 of 20 and may be deferred to the next month. Thank you!

Jun 2018 (Eastern Time) Sat	11am - Two Planks	New York Annual 10am - Dress A Girl Around 11am - CNF: Rise Against	0 7	10am - Randy Newbury	30
r.a	-	New York Annual	15	22	8am - Two Planks Summer
Thu	10am - The Land Between:	New York Annual	10am - Bible Study Group	21	8am - Two Planks Summer
Med	90	(0)	6.1	20	8am - Two Planks Summer
Tue	50	11:30am - MM: Missions	7:15pm - CC: Church	61	8am - Two Planks Summer
th of Monroe	60 61	10:30am - Friendship Circle	7pm - CROP Walk	10:30am - Friendship Circle	8am - Two Planks Summer
United Methodist Church of Monroe	10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 2pm - Memorial Day Parade	Communion Sunday Confirmation Sunday 10am - Worship Service 2pm - Two Planks Auditions	New York Annual 10am - CNF; Confirmand 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service	10am - Worship Service 10am - Youth Sunday 11:15am - SI: Social Issues	10am - Worship Service

^{**} Please visit our website for the most up-to-date information about our activities. **