

United Methodist Church of Monroe



messenger

AUGUST 2018



*"... For they welcomed the message very eagerly
and examined the Scriptures every day"
Acts 17:11 NRSV*

When Janice and I heard that we would be joining all of you here at the United Methodist Church of Monroe, the first thing we did was to visit the church's website. We were impressed by all the ministries and mission projects that are listed. We were excited because the church's mission is not just to the people of the church, but also to the people of the surrounding community. We are pleased to see that the church takes this responsibility seriously.

We are also pleased to see that the congregation is so welcoming. Since we arrived on July 1, we have been made to feel welcome in so many ways. The work that was done in the parsonage is incredible. We were welcomed with lunch on the day we moved it along with flowers, basic supplies and even a gift card for dinner. Many of you been praying for us and we can feel it. We feel truly blessed to be here.

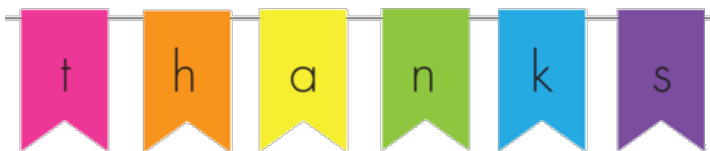
Now that Janice and I are beginning to feel somewhat settled, we are ready to turn our attention to the work at hand. I have been meeting with various committees in order to get up to speed about what has happened so far in 2018, and what remains to be done. I must say that I am encouraged; we have so many reasons to feel hope for the future.

I believe that Christian education should be from cradle to grave. We should never think that we know everything we need to know about being disciples of Jesus Christ. We always have room for growth. I also believe that everyone in a leadership position within the church should be involved in a Bible study or small group whose goal is spiritual growth. As Bishop Bickerton said at Annual Conference, "we cannot transform the world if we are not transformed ourselves." Therefore, I will be offering Bible studies throughout the coming year, and there will be many opportunities for you to participate. I look forward to working with you as we make and empower disciples for Jesus Christ together. God bless you and keep up the good work.

Your Brother in Christ,

Pastor Mark

Pastor Mark • 203.268.8395 • mark.allen@nyac-umc.com



Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you does not seem to suffice to show my appreciation for the wonderful send off service and beautiful plant. It continues to blossom here and serves to me as a reminder of our time in service together. I was very touched by all your well wishes, the children's cards and the amazing video. As Mary did after Jesus' birth, I will treasure these in my heart. Thank you also for all the prayers and support you have given to Wayne, Juliana and me. I know you will continue to keep us all in prayer and likewise, I will keep you all in prayer. God does have great plans in store for you, Pastor Mark and Janice and I can't wait to hear about it!

In Christ's peace and love,

Pastor Martha



PASTOR MARTHA EPSTEIN
10 COMMERCE STREET
CLINTON, CT 06413
PASTORMARTHA@VERIZON.NET



WHEN ON VACATION ...
BE WITH US IN SPIRIT.
THE REST OF THE SUMMER ...
BE WITH US IN PERSON.

Let's Celebrate!



happy birthday

08/03 Paula Fromm
08/06 Sheryl Rajpolt
08/07 Bob Turner
08/20 Max Gray
08/23 Joshua Pantalone
08/24 Rose Aiello
08/27 Cheryl Pavia
08/28 Priscilla Bromley
08/28 Andrew Steese

08/07 Kathy and Bill Schmalkuche
08/17 Janice and Mark Allen
08/17 Sue and Dave York
08/18 Claudia and Steve Wallace
08/20 Edna and Bob Turner
08/25 Patti and Kevin Early
08/26 Paula and Bill Fromm



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!

Seeking Coffee Hour Hosts

It's a wonderful way to support fellowship! Sign up using our new online SignUpGenius registration process -- visit our website and click on the coffee cup and you're ready to host a coffee hour! All of the basics are supplied including coffee, tea, sugar and paper goods. Coffee making instructions are in the kitchen. As host we ask that you make the coffee, heat the tea water, supply the creamer and juice and clean up. Snacks and sweets are not required unless you'd like to provide them. Please consider taking a Sunday and sign up today!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Friendship Circle is on hiatus for the summer (unless a required need to gather for a project!) and we'll be back in the fall. Watch for more details in the mid/late August timeframe. Contact: Lynn Gregory



Social Issues Discussion Group

We're on hiatus for the summer and we'll be back in the fall. Watch for more details in the mid/late August timeframe. Moderator: David York.

UMC Monroe Choir is 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

September 15: Monroe Congregational Church
September 29: 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 Contacts: Ethel Abraham and Tayna Lennon



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.

MISSIONS

“Stuff the Bus” is back for our August Mini Mission!



As the summer winds down and the kids get ready to return to school, help us "stuff the bus" with much needed supplies and food to make it a successful year for area students! We will be collecting backpacks and school supplies to be delivered to *Covenant to Care*. Our goal is to provide 15-20 backpacks and basic school supplies (notebooks, pencils, crayons, markers, etc.) for children currently in foster care. The due date for backpacks and school supplies is Sunday, August 19 to deliver the items to the kids in time for the first day of school. We will also be collecting lunch box snacks (single serve crackers, cookies, puddings, apple sauce, etc.) for the *Monroe Food Pantry* through the end of the month. All items can be left in our school bus (a.k.a. our wagon) in the narthex. Thank you for helping start the school year off right for the kids in our community! Questions: Tanya Lennon and Ethel Abraham

Water Bottles for Waterman

Lots of redeemable water bottles piling up from your summer picnics? We'll gladly take them off your hands for our Water *Bottles for Waterman* collection! Bring in your (clean) returnable bottles and cans for us to redeem (bin outside the front door); leave your own redemption receipts in the offering plate or church office; or drop your loose change from returning your redeemables in the Narthex jug. Deadline to donate bottles and receipts is September 9. It's easy! All proceeds will go to our *Waterman Scholarship Fund*.



Spooner House Sandwich Collection and Delivery



Our next scheduled Sandwich Making for Spooner House is August 19! Sandwiches can be dropped off in the kitchen before worship. The individually wrapped sandwiches should have 1 slice of meat (thick sliced, any kind) and 1 slice of cheese (thick sliced, any kind) -- no condiments, please. Our goal is to make 100 sandwiches.

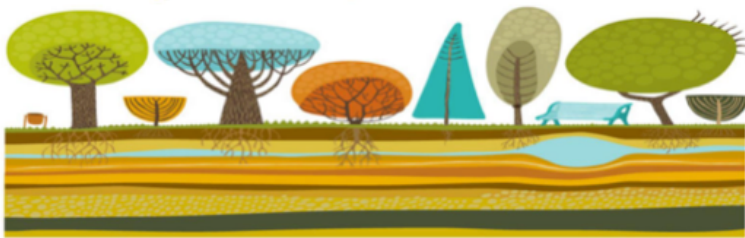
** Spooner House also has a need for paper products such as napkins, toilet paper and paper towels. We will be collecting those items in addition to the sandwiches and they'll be delivered the same day. **



Thank you for your consideration. Contacts: Ethel Abraham and Tanya Lennon

Save the date: Outdoor Worship Service at Webb Mountain!

worship at webb mountain



sunday | august 26, 2018

10:00 am

work in the Susan Kimball Butterfly Garden after worship

The Worship and Missions Committees invite you to join us for an outdoor worship service at Webb Mountain (in lieu of our regular Sunday worship service) at 10:00 am on Sunday, August 26. Stick around after worship and help us “do all the good we can” by working in the beautiful *Susan Kimball Memorial Butterfly Garden*. Pack a picnic for your family to join us for lunch when our gardening work is done. More details and information about carpooling to follow! Hope to see you there!!

* In the event of rain we will hold worship at the church. Notification will be made via email by 8:30 am that morning.



Operation Kingdomtide plans and strategy have begun! To be part of this community outreach program to do all the good that we can in our community, contact Steve Arnold (Steve.Arnold@omnicomgroup.com).

In just a few weeks we will be distributing a new edition of the *Church Directory*. If you have any changes to your address, email, phone, cell phone, etc., that you want to include, please send an email to admin@umcmmonroe.org by Sunday, September 9.

NOTE: If you have a college student or an adult child living away from home and you'd like to add or update their contact info for 2018, we welcome that input, too.

Contact: Kathy Schmalkuche

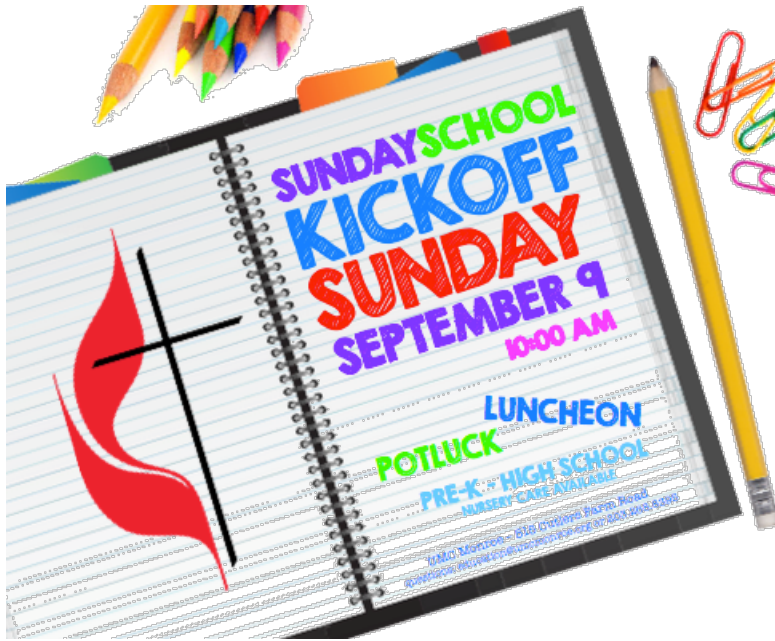


The Bible says in 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, “Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” (NIV)

Be kind and kindness will be showered upon you, show respect so it may be returned to you, forgive generously so that your shortcomings may be forgiven. Do not sow anger for it too shall be reaped in abundance. Give of yourself in love, for you have already reaped the greatest generous gift God has given. His son, Jesus. We are blessed, let us bless others.



UMC MONROE YOUTH NEWS



Our *2018 – 2019 Sunday School* program kicks off on Sunday, September 9 with a potluck luncheon to follow. All youth Pre-K through high school are welcome and nursery care is available. Feel free to invite a friend!

And to our adults ... if you're interested in getting involved in the Sunday School ministry, please contact Pastor Mark.

Registration information will be available by the end of August. We look forward to seeing you at Sunday School!

Luncheon contact: Rose Aiello

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

We're looking for a volunteer to coordinate crafts for Grades 5 and under on the first Sunday of the month (Communion Sundays) from October through June. We thank Brenda Pantalone for coordinating the last several years! If you have an interest, please speak to Sue Simmons (suszq55@aol.com).



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.

Pastor Mark's Welcome Service

It was a blessing to welcome Pastor Mark and Janice Allen to UMC Monroe on July 1. Pastor Mark's first service included scripture readings from 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 and Mark 5:21-43 with his sermon titled *Changing Times*. We all joined together in taking communion, the choir performed *This is America* in celebration of Independence Day and we got to know the Allens during a special coffee hour in their honor. An added bonus was meeting Janice's Mom, Jeanette!



Sunday, July 1





FUN FACTS

did you know

- **Pastor Mark and Janice** have a son, Josh, a daughter-in-law, Jessica and a granddaughter, London. They live in Maryland.
- **Pastor Mark and Janice** have a 17-pound black and white tabby cat, Cody.
- **Pastor Mark** grew up in New Jersey and **Janice** grew up in Michigan.
- **Pastor Mark** met Janice at Drew Divinity School – they’ve been married for 16 years.
- **Pastor Mark** loved to play baseball with his dad when he was growing up. He and Janice are big NY Mets fans and they like the NY Jets, too!
- **Pastor Mark** was an accountant and worked with computers before he received God’s call to become a minister.
- **Janice** is a real estate agent in White Plains, New York.
- **Pastor Mark** enjoys spending time with his family, woodworking, playing golf, telling jokes, mentoring youth, going on mission trips, and helping families in need.
- **Janice** has a passion for mission and likes to play golf and tennis.
- **Pastor Mark** likes country, jazz and classical music.
- **Janice** loves music – she played in the *Ding Dong Ringers Bell Choir* and the *Saved by Grace* praise band -- she might take up chimes again!
- **Pastor Mark** really likes ice cream and prime rib is his favorite food. He’s allergic to eggs.
- **Pastor Mark’s** favorite TV show is *The Big Bang Theory*.
- **Pastor Mark** loves movies ... his favorites are based on true stories.
- **Pastor Mark** and Pastor Martha are friends – they met a long time ago when they were both local pastors in the Poughkeepsie area.

what else can YOU discover?

2018 Bible Reading Marathon



Calling all members of UMC Monroe! Please join us for the annual Bible Reading Marathon this summer!

- What:** Reading the Bible aloud in public
Bring your own bible or use the one that is provided!
- Why:** To proclaim the Word of God over the town of Monroe as a Witness to God's Unity through Community.
- Dates:** Thursday, August 2 – Saturday, August 4
8:00 am – 8:00 pm daily
- UMCM Dates/
Times:** Thursday, August 2 – noon – 2:00 pm
Friday, August 3 – 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm (please bring a chair as we will be temporarily relocated across the street during the Farmers' Market)
Saturday, August 4 -- No assigned time
* Looking for a minimum of 8 participants a session - 15 minute each
- Where:** The Gazebo on the Monroe Town Green
Fans will be provided in the gazebo to keep you cool!
- Registration:** Sign up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board outside of the sanctuary

For more information on how to be part of this exciting faith event, contact Janet Morris at 571.439.6548 or via email at whimsyjanet57@gmail.com.

All are welcome! Stop by anytime!

Covenant to Care for Children



Backpacks and Back-to-School Supplies

Covenant to Care for Children of Greater Bridgeport will be collecting school supplies and backpacks for the school season throughout July and August. You can leave any donated items on the shelf in the Narthex hallway. The deadline to donate is Sunday, August 19.

Your help would be greatly appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact Ethel Abraham at 203.430.0338.

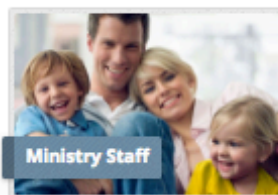
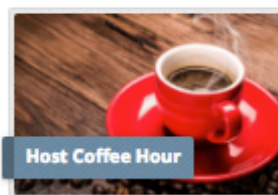
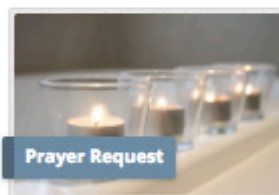


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Welcome ... we're glad you're here!

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



Bob Williams and family – Bob has hospice and is “transitioning”
The Durkin Family on the loss of their 3-year old son, Andrew
Anita’s nephew, Tom Stabler
Joe Lennon’s brother, Michael - colon and prostate cancer
Judy Ferris Bosco’s sister, Kathy Griffin
Carl Sword
Barbara Cedergren - daughter of Roger and Dotty
Family of Roberta Blakeman Kaempfer on her passing
Collin
Claudia Wallace’s co-worker Jennifer’s husband
Dr. Bill - following God's call to do mission work in CA
Adam
Patti Early's cousin, Jyll - battling cancer
David - battling depression
Dotti Hossler’s sister, Loretta
Pastor Martha’s father, Rev. Richard Rice
Sue Simmons’ brother, Jeff – addiction
Jeanne Baklik
Marilyn Jones
Delores Ovesny
Caleb
Tyson - Lynn Abbott's grandson
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
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
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
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 who continue to be without power in Puerto Rico

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				Aug 2018 (Eastern Time - New York)			
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
29 10am - Worship Service 11:30am - Worship Team	30 8am - Cooking Camp 7:15pm - SPPRC Meeting @	31 8am - Cooking Camp	1 8am - Cooking Camp	2 8am - Bible Reading 8am - Cooking Camp	3 8am - Bible Reading 8am - Cooking Camp	4 8am - Bible Reading 10:30am - Memorial	
5 Communion Sunday 10am - Worship Service	6 8am - Cooking Camp	7 8am - Cooking Camp 11:30am - MM: Missions	8 8am - Cooking Camp	9 8am - Cooking Camp	10 8am - Cooking Camp	11	
12 10am - Worship Service	13	14 7:15pm - CC: Church	15	16	17	18	
19 10am - Spooner House 10am - Worship Service	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26 10am - Webb Mountain	27	28 7pm - Hills of Monroe	29	30	31	1	