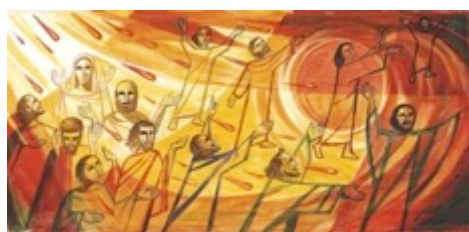


# United Methodist Church of Monroe



## *messenger*

SEPTEMBER 2018



*"... they were all together in one place."  
Acts 2:1 NRSV*

*Brothers and Sisters in Christ:*

We've had a long, hot, wet summer this year, but the weather seems to be cooling off somewhat. With the cooler weather comes a return to our regular routines with work, school, and church.

The comedian, George Carlin, used to do a routine about being a member of the audience at his performances. He said that each of them had to make some decisions; "What kind of member of the audience will I be today? Will I be an active participant, or will I just sit here? Will I laugh hard or only chuckle? Will I be a credit to my row?" He said that these are subconscious decisions every person makes. It was funny because we rarely think about it consciously.

As Christians, and members of the United Methodist Church of Monroe, we face similar decisions. "What kind of member of the congregation will I be today? Will I be an active participant, or will I stay home? Will I work hard for the kingdom of God, or will I just slide by? Will I be a credit to my pew?" These are subconscious decisions we all make, we need to bring these questions to the conscious level if we are going to answer them the way that God wants us to.

How much of a commitment are we willing to make to the God who makes a total commitment to us each and every day of our lives? How much are we willing to give back to the God who withholds nothing from us, not even his own son? These are questions that each of us needs to answer for ourselves. Rally day is a good time to reaffirm our commitment. It's a good day to get a fresh start with our spiritual lives, and lucky for all of us, our God is forgiving, and always ready to give us a fresh start.

Enjoy the last few days of summer, and then, let us all gather together once again to praise and worship our loving and forgiving God. I look forward to seeing everyone on Rally Day, September 9<sup>th</sup>.

Your Brother in Christ,

*Pastor Mark*

Pastor Mark • 203.268.8395 • [mark.allen@nyac-umc.com](mailto:mark.allen@nyac-umc.com)

# THANK YOU

... to everyone who shared their time and musical talent and provided special music this summer: Rose Aiello, Janice Allen, Heather Arnold, Patti Early, Dotti Hossler, Michelle Lambert, Janet Morris, Sheryl Rajpolt, Dave Rupp, Sue Simmons, Anita Stabler-Hussey and the UMC Monroe Choir.



## FALL PAPER SHREDDING EVENT SET FOR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3

It's never too early to start collecting your papers for our next shredding event -- see you in November!

For more information, please visit our website.

Spread the  
love of God  
in your  
life. Use  
words when  
necessary!

~ Lizzie Kate

# Let's Celebrate! September



happy birthday

09/01 Bob Griffith  
09/11 Debbie Salvas  
09/13 Chad Harris  
09/14 Marilyn Jones  
09/15 Kathy Schmalkuche  
09/27 Seraphine Lambert  
09/29 Gary Chrislip  
09/30 Michelle Lambert

09/13 Brenda and Bob Pantalone  
09/20 Jennifer and Neil Chaudhary  
09/24 Tammy and Mike Cahill



happy anniversary

Please submit additions and corrections to the birthday and anniversary list to the office at [umc@umcmonroe.org](mailto: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

Do you have a project idea that *Friendship Circle* might be able to assist with? If so, please contact Lynn Gregory. If it is do-able, we'll be happy to schedule a meeting to help you out!



## 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 September 16 at 11:30 am in Meeting Room 1. Moderator: David York.

## 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)

\*\* Please RSVP to Liz Skarzynski if you're planning to attend so she has an accurate count for lunch. Her contact info is: 203.257.7174 or DressAGirlSouthernCT@yahoo.com.

UMC Monroe Contacts: Ethel Abraham and Tanya 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.

## World Communion Sunday and Pivot Ministries Choir



Please join us on Sunday, October 7, as we celebrate *World Communion Sunday* with a visit from the *Pivot Ministries Choir*. *World Communion Sunday* takes place each year on the first Sunday in October as Christians of all denominations around the world celebrate the sacrament of Holy Communion together. This special Sunday embraces our diversity as children of God while uniting us within our local communities and around the globe through the shared experience of Holy Communion. *World Communion Sunday* is a powerful experience that we are excited to share with friends from the *Pivot Ministries Choir* as we enjoy their meaningful music. Following the service, we will be sharing a potluck luncheon with an "international flair." In the weeks leading up to Pivot Ministries' visit we will be collecting some needed items for them as our September Mini Missions effort. A luncheon sign up sheet will be posted in the Narthex by Labor Day. More details on the collection of donations will be coming soon.

Founded in 1970, Pivot Ministries is a faith-based residential treatment program for men located in Bridgeport and Norwalk. Pivot is a non-profit agency with four decades of successful experience assisting men challenged by alcohol and substance abuse. Its mission is to treat drug and alcohol addiction as a spiritual problem and return the men to their families usefully whole. Serving approximately 250 men per year, the Ministry reaches men throughout the Northeast and beyond.



*Kingdomtide* is a liturgical season observed by Methodists stressing evangelism, charity, and assistance to the poor. *Kingdomtide* begins the Sunday on or nearest to August 31 and continues for 13 weeks ending before the first week of Advent.

To continue the tradition, Church Council adopted *Operation Kingdomtide*, 13 weeks to provide opportunities for members to invite others to important activities reflecting who we are as faith based community. Mark your calendars and invite a neighbor, friend, someone you think could enjoy the activity.

*Value Development/Education*

Sunday School begins Sunday, September 9

*Generation Bridge mini lecture series*

Four sessions approximately 2 hours in length on the following topics:

Saturday, September 29	Family Budgeting
Saturday, October 6	TBD
Saturday, October 13	Teen Finance
Saturday, October 20	Healthcare 101

*Helping the Environment*

Saturday, September 15	Pick up trash in Monroe
Saturday, November 10	

*Family*

October/November	Family Portraits/Church Directory
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If you have questions please talk to Steve Arnold, or any church council member.



## Prayer Team Ministry Starting in September

Prayer is essential to a life of Christian discipleship. All who are devoted to promoting the importance of prayer in our church are welcome to join this ministry. The congregation will become stronger in the spiritual practice of prayer and so will our community. So why a special group? Prayer is the foundation of our relationship with Jesus Christ. It is how we communicate with Him. To promote the importance of personal and corporate prayer in our church and in the lives of its members, we are establishing a *Prayer Team*. Our hope is that as our dependence on God grows, our church's foundation in Christ will be perpetually stronger. If you would like to get involved, please see Pastor Mark and let him know your availability and where you would like to join in.



It is our desire to have the following opportunities available:

*Prayer Room* – during each worship service a prayer warrior will go into a separate room and pray for our Pastor, the service, the congregation, and all those involved in the service. It is a way of asking God's blessing on the service and to request the Holy Spirit to work among us during our time of worship.

*Prayer Group* – this group will meet weekly at a time and day that works best for everyone. The group will meet in the Sanctuary for corporate prayer. You do not have to pray out loud, but you may. It will be led by a member of the congregation. We will always pray for our church, leaders, and for God's will, plus we will have a theme each week, but our prayer time is never limited to just those subjects. Each prayer gathering will last 20 - 30 minutes. It's an opportunity to join in a powerful corporate prayer in a small group environment.

*Prayer Chain* – an email will be sent out weekly to those who request to be on the prayer chain. In the interest of confidentiality, prayer requests will only be forwarded to the prayer chain with permission.

If you would like to be part of this vital ministry, please come forward! Fill out the form below and place it in the offering plate, hand it to Pastor Mark, or contact the church office at [umc@umcmonroe.org](mailto:umc@umcmonroe.org).

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to:

☐ Be A Prayer Warrior

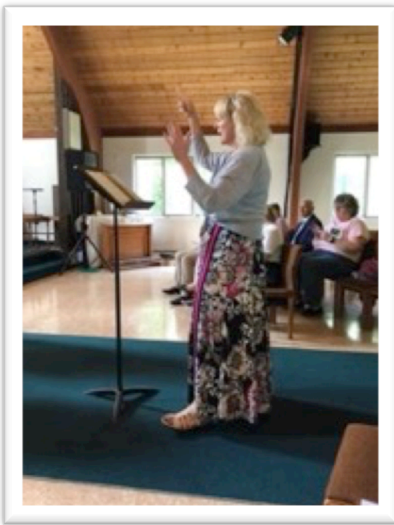
☐ Be Part of a Prayer Group. The best days and times for me to meet are:

\_\_\_\_\_

☐ Be On the Prayer Chain Directory

*"... 'My house shall be a house of prayer.'" Luke 19:46*





# Thank you!

Michelle Lambert is resigning her position as UMC Monroe Choir Director effective August 31. We thank Michelle for sharing her extraordinary musical talents with us over the past three years – she has been a blessing to our congregation and to the choir she led. We hope to have her join us with special music in the near future. Please join us when we host a coffee hour in Michelle's honor on Sunday, September 16!

## DO YOU LIKE TO CROCHET?

We are looking for crocheters to help with an upcoming project. We will be making covers for *Swiffers*. Our church would give them out for free to invite people to visit our church.

For more details and questions, please call Vivian Harris, Committee Chairperson, at 203.459.8347.



### UPDATE



- In just a few weeks we will be distributing a new edition of our *Church Directory*. If you need to make any changes to your address, email, phone, cell phone, etc., please send an email to [admin@umcmonroe.org](mailto:admin@umcmonroe.org) by Sunday, September 9.
- If you have a college student or a young adult family member living away from home and you'd like to add or update their contact information, we welcome that input, too.

And while we're at it ... would you like to share family birthdays or anniversaries that are not currently published in our monthly newsletter? If so, just send us the month and date of the special event(s) -- we don't want to miss the opportunity to celebrate your special occasions with you!

Contact: Kathy Schmalkuche at [admin@umcmonroe.org](mailto:admin@umcmonroe.org)





## Handchime Jam Session!

It's time to blow the dust off our handchimes and use them to bring God glory! This jam session will have you ringing chimes in no time! Previous experience is not necessary. Reading music is helpful, but not required. Having rhythm is a plus!!

In this workshop we'll go over the basics of ringing, holding the chime, and damping. By the end of class, you will be playing a

simple song. Be prepared to move, have fun, and explore how the chimes can enhance our worship service in interesting ways!

This workshop is for the curious and interested. Whether you would like to learn a new musical instrument or would like to apply your existing musical ability, please come. There will be short-term opportunities to ring and depending on interest level, other opportunities to work on playing full arrangements.

Join us on Saturday, September 22 from 10:00 am - 11:30 am where we will make some creative music together and have fun! Please respond to Janice Allen or contact the church office at [umc@umcmonroe.org](mailto:umc@umcmonroe.org).

## Recipe: Coconut Banana Pudding Poke Cake

Many of you commented about how much you enjoyed the *Coconut Banana Pudding Poke Cake* that Janice made for our "Thank You" Luncheon. With her assistance (and thanks to her favorite chef, Paula Deen), we share the recipe with you!

### Ingredients

- 1 (15.25-ounce) box white cake mix
- 1/2 cup mashed ripe banana
- 1/2 teaspoon coconut extract
- 1 (4.6-ounce) box vanilla cook-and-serve pudding mix
- 3 bananas, sliced
- 4 cups sweetened whipped cream
- 2/3 cup sweetened flaked coconut



Paula Deen's  
*Coconut Banana Pudding Poke Cake*

### Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350°. Spray bottom only of a 13x9-inch baking pan with baking spray with flour.
2. Prepare cake mix according to package directions for whole egg recipe. Stir in mashed banana and extract. Spread into prepared pan.
3. Bake until a wooden pick inserted in center comes out clean, 25 to 30 minutes. Let cool for 5 minutes.
4. Meanwhile, prepare pudding mix according to package directions. Using the handle of a wooden spoon, poke holes in warm cake; pour pudding onto cake. Tap pan on counter 4 or 5 times to release any air bubbles. Cover and refrigerate until cold, about 4 hours.
5. Arrange banana slices on cake; spread with whipped cream. Sprinkle with coconut. Serve immediately, or cover and refrigerate for up to 4 hours before serving.

### Notes

We used Pillsbury Moist Supreme Classic White Cake Mix.  
Paula Deen Magazine <https://www.pauladeenmagazine.com/>

# MISSIONS

## 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**.



## Covenant to Care Back-to-School Supplies Monroe Food Pantry Lunch Box Snacks

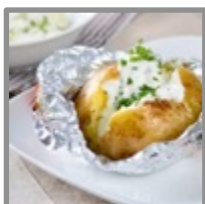
Ethel and Gail display a few of the items that were donated this year for UMC Monroe's *Covenant to Care Back-to-School Drive*. and *Lunch Box Snacks Collection* for the *Monroe Food Pantry*.

Thank you for helping start the school year off right for the kids in our community!

## Spooner House Donations



Thank you to everyone who made sandwiches or donated paper products and canned foods to *Spooner House*. Quintin and Pastor Mark made the delivery on Sunday afternoon, August 19. They also made a "bonus" delivery of leftovers from our *Thank You Luncheon*. Our baked potatoes, salad and desserts were shared with members of the Shelton community. We appreciate your support of this mission and thank you for your generous donations and gifts of nourishment! So happy to "pass it on!"





# 2018 Bible Reading Marathon

*1 Timothy 4:13 "Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture..."*

Blessings and thanks to all who came out to participate in the *2018 Bible Reading Marathon* on the Monroe Green. I could hear in the way you read your chapters, God's Word means so much to you. Over the three days, we were able to read through the New Testament, and then read from parts of the Old Testament. Keep Paul's letter to Timothy in mind, and think about joining us next year.

~ Janet Morris









We're getting together to say **THANK YOU**  
 for all of your help, support and prayers  
 you're invited to attend a  
*thank you lunch*  
 hosted by pastor mark and janice  
 sunday, august 19 • 11:30 am  
 please RSVP by wednesday, august 15 • 203.268.8395 • [umc@umcmontroe.org](mailto:umc@umcmontroe.org)





# 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!

Please make sure to return all signed registration and photo release forms to the church office by our kickoff.

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

Contacts: Sue Simmons (Sunday School); Rose Aiello (Luncheon)

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](https://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](https://smile.amazon.com). For more information, please visit our website and search *AmazonSmile* or contact Steve Arnold or Kathy Schmalkuche.





# UMC MONROE YOUTH NEWS

## 2018 – 2019 Sunday School Welcome Packets are in the mail!

All families with youth should have received the 2018 – 2019 Sunday School welcome letter and Registration and Photo Release Forms in the mail. (If you haven't, please let Denise know!)

We ask that you review the materials and return the completed forms to the church office as soon as possible and no later than the start of Sunday School on Sunday, September 9. Questions: please contact Sue Simmons

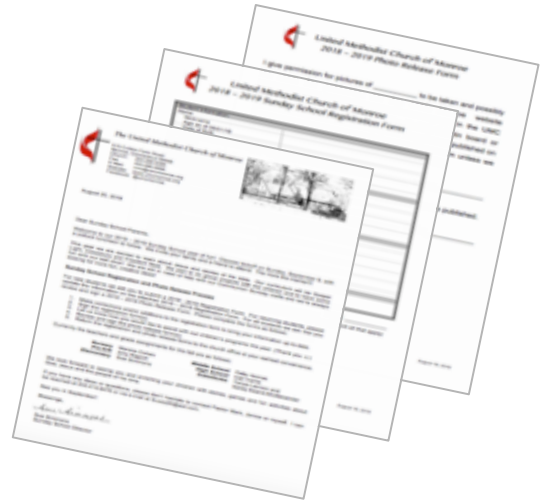


Photo credit: Alan Dempsey

## Janet Morris ... UMC Monroe's “Bluegrass Cinderella”

August 17<sup>th</sup> marked this very special moment on Janet's self-described “Faith, Not Fear” tour. She had the opportunity to make her live radio singing debut with Phil Rosenthal and his longtime friend, and singing partner, Dave Kiphuth. She later joined them for an appearance in Hamden and, also, the next day, at the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Bluegrass Festival in North Guilford, CT.

Janet's music journey is one based on making decisions from a place of Faith, and not Fear. And, lots of practice and rehearsal, of course. Janet sings and plays ukulele with the *Guilford Ramblers*, and also a small group in Guilford, *Joe's Ramblers*. She also writes a segment called “The Music Tradition Moment” for Phil's monthly radio show on iCRVradio.com called *The Monthly Scene with Phil Rosenthal*. A rookie songwriter, her first song was a grateful thank you to Phil and his wife Beth, for their encouragement, called “Wheeler Path.” More recently she wrote “Shopping Carts of Forgiveness” which was included on a CD produced as a remembrance of music from pastoral visits with Pastor Martha. That CD, “First Fruits,” is available for a donation to UMC Monroe. Interested? Please contact Janet.

# *Dress a Girl Around the World*

## *Sew-a-Thon*



*Imagine a world where every little girl owned at least one dress!*

*What if that dress was made by you?*

*Calling all crafters or  
want-to-be crafters!*

### *Materials List:*

- Bring your sewing machine and a sewing kit

### *Extra Materials Needed:*

- Irons, ironing boards and cutting boards

### *Materials Provided:*

- Patterns, scissors and power cords
- Cotton fabric, double-wide ½” bias tape, ½” elastic
- All the support you need and lunch with a \$5

## Join us for a Sew-a-Thon to support Dress a Girl Around the World

UMC Monroe Fellowship Hall

Saturday, September 29, 2018

10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Questions:

Ethel Abraham and Tanya Lennon

Registration:

contact [umc@umcmonroe.org](mailto:umc@umcmonroe.org) or 203.268.8395



Hope 4 Women International

PO Box 8061

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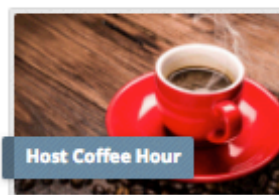
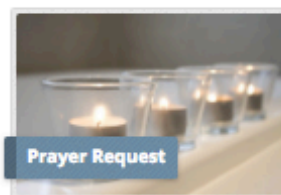


Home Welcome About ▾ Education ▾ Get Involved ▾ Missions ▾ Calendar Events ▾  
Contact Us Resources ▾



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](http://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



The Yorks' son, Dan - colon cancer surgery  
Sister Frances Smalkowski, friend of the Yorks and  
Bobbie Grant – back surgery  
John Radley - recovery from surgery  
Terry - cancer  
Healing for nephew and family of Bill Schmalkuche's  
friend, Kathy; her nephew, Michael (age 36), has  
Stage 4 cancer and is starting chemo  
Pastor Youcef - in Iranian prison  
Rev. Lori Miller (Newtown UMC), husband John  
(Halbrook) and family on the loss of their son,  
Greg (Age 22)  
Bob Williams and family - Bob has hospice and is  
"transitioning"  
The Durkin Family on loss of their 3-year old son,  
Andrew  
Anita's nephew, Tom Stabler - recovery from heart  
surgery  
Joe Lennon's brother, Michael - colon and prostate  
cancer  
Carl Sword  
Barbara Cedergren - daughter of Roger and Dotty  
Collin  
Claudia Wallace's co-worker Jennifer's husband  
Adam  
Patti Early's cousin, Jyll - battling cancer  
David - battling depression  
Dotti Hossler's sister, Loretta  
Pastor Martha's father, Rev. Richard Rice  
Sue Simmon's brother, Jeff – addiction  
Jeanne Baklik  
Marilyn Jones  
Delores Ovesny  
Caleb  
Tyson - Lynn Abbott's grandson  
Dexton  
Leila - child with a muscular degenerative disease  
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 Boomershire  
Darcy and Cameron  
Robert Ellis - co-worker of Claudia Wallace -  
cancer  
Gail Mas' nephew, Greg - cancer  
Linda Summa - Turner's daughter - cancer  
Olivia - Juvenile Diabetes  
Sue Simmon's 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](mailto: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](mailto:umc@umcmornoe.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!



United Methodist Church of Monroe							Sep 2018 (Eastern Time - New York)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat							
26 10am - Webb Mountain	27	28 7pm - Hills of Monroe 7:15pm - Worship	29	30	31	1							
2 10am - Communion Sunday 10am - Worship Service	3	4 11:30am - MM: Missions	5	6	7	8							
9 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:30am - SS: Sunday	10	11 7:15pm - CC: Church	12	13	14	15							
16 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - SI: Social Issues 11:30am - Coffee Hour for	17	18	19	20	21	22							
23 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service	24	25 7pm - Hills of Monroe @	26	27	28	29							
30 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service	1	2 11:30am - MM: Missions	3	4	5	6							

Operation Kingdomtide:  
10am - Dress A Girl Around

10am - Handchime Jam

Operation Kingdomtide:  
8:30am - Connecticut  
10am - Dress A Girl Around

Operation Kingdomtide: