

# United Methodist Church of Monroe



## *messenger*

DECEMBER 2018



*"The days are surely coming, says the Lord,  
when I will fulfill the promise I made to the  
house of Israel and the house of Judah."  
Jeremiah 33:14 NRSV*

Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The word "Advent" comes from the Latin root which means "coming." Since the fifth century CE., Christians have used the four weeks leading up to Christmas to not only prepare for the Christmas season, but to reflect on the meaning of the coming of Christ. Advent is a time of penitence and preparation. It is a time when we look back on how we, as Christians, have lived our lives over the past year. Have we lived in such a manner as to please God? Have we lived up to the vows made at our baptism ... at our confirmation ...when we joined the church? Advent is a time to examine our lives from a Christian perspective and to make adjustments that will enable us to answer yes to these questions. Advent is the start of a new church year. The birth of Christ signals a new beginning. I encourage you to make a new beginning in your relationship with God.

Attendance at Sunday services always swells around Christmas and Easter and then drops off after the festivities come to an end. While attending seminary, I read a book in which the author related a story where he asked the pastor why so many people only attend church around Christmas and Easter. The pastor's response, "Because those are the only stories they know." The pastor implied that people are uncomfortable being in church when they don't know the "story of the day." Well, there is only one way to get to know the stories, and that is to study the Bible.

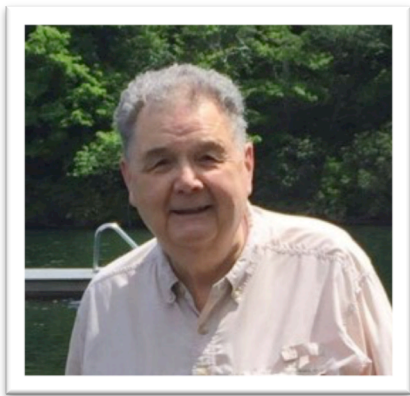
In the coming year, our church will be focusing on two areas in which all Christians need to grow: Bible study and prayer. We currently have two Bible studies. One meets on Thursday mornings at 10:00, and the other meets Saturday mornings at 9:00. Our prayer group meets on Thursday mornings at 11:30, immediately following the Bible study. I would love to get a nighttime prayer group started as well. Please let me know if you are interested. Everyone is welcome, and encouraged, to attend any of these groups. Let's all use this season of Advent to prepare for life as a follower of Christ. May you experience God's abundant peace and blessings now and throughout the coming year.

Your Brother in Christ,

*Pastor Mark*

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

*A Candlelight Service will be held on Christmas Eve,  
Monday, December 24 at 7:00 pm.  
All are welcome to these family friendly services.*



In Memory of Carl Sword

January 28, 1937 – November 18, 2018



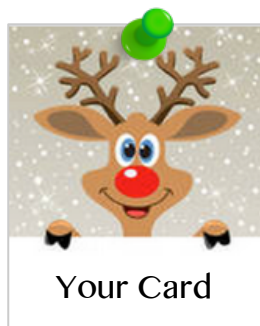
## Staff Christmas Gifts

In order for us to show our appreciation for the time and talents of our employed staff, the Staff Parish Relations Committee will be collecting for staff Christmas gifts on Sundays from December 2 to December 23. No amount is too small! Our staff includes Pastor Mark Allen, Organist/Pianist RoseAnne Homola, Church Secretary Denise Wiley and Nursery Attendant Marsha Cohen. We are blessed to have a staff that always goes above-and-beyond in support of our church family. Please feel free to give generously! Cash or checks made payable to Rose Aiello with Staff Gifts in the memo line will be accepted. It would be appreciated if all contributions are hand delivered to either Rose or Sue Simmons. Thank you for your consideration and generosity! If you have any questions, please contact Rose (buildingroses@aol.com or 203.556.1513).

## Christmas Card Bulletin Board

Wouldn't it be fun to send a Christmas card to everyone in the congregation? Well now you can – it's quick and it's easy! Here is how it works ...

You're invited to post a Christmas card on the bulletin board in the hallway outside of the Choir Room ... from your family to all of ours! Just bring the card with you to church this weekend (or any time prior to Christmas) and pin it on the board ... no stamps required!! The board will ready to accept cards by December 8.



# Let's Celebrate!



happy birthday

12/02	Janice Allen
12/03	Vera Reynolds
12/04	Neil Chaudhary
12/05	Cari Harris
12/07	Vivian Harris
12/14	Lynn Gregory
12/15	Dave Aiello
12/16	Carol Steiner
12/18	Bill Fromm
12/23	Carin Florin
12/27	Edna Turner
12/29	Quintin Brantley
12/31	Pat Smith



happy anniversary

12/12 Amy and Michael Ramos

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!





# December At-a-Glance

Saturday, December 1	Advent Bible Study	Saturday, December 15	Breakfast with Santa Cookie Walk and North Pole Depot
Sunday, December 2	First Sunday of Advent Communion Hanging of the Greens Trim-the-Tree Luncheon Decorating the tree Advent Wreath Making	Sunday, December 16	Third Sunday of Advent Christmas Pageant Christmas Caroling Youth Group Christmas Party
Thursday, December 6	Wicke Luncheon	Sunday, December 23	Fourth Sunday of Advent Youth Group Community Family Movie Night
Sunday, December 9	Second Sunday of Advent Annual Charge Conference	Monday, December 24	Christmas Candlelight Service
		Sunday, December 30	Youth Group New Year's Eve Eve Party



## Stewardship Giving

Thank you to everyone who submitted a pledge card on Stewardship Sunday. If you weren't able to join us that day, feel free to mail your card (below) to the church office. If you have questions, please contact Bill Florin, Pastor Mark, Steve Arnold or Rose Aiello. Thank you!

### TAKE ONE STEP UP ... FOR CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

In response to God's love and as a concrete expression of my faith in and commitment to Christ and his church, I plan to TAKE ONE STEP UP in my giving.

- ☐ **STEP UP BEYOND TITHING**  
My desire is to do more than God's minimum.
- ☐ **STEP UP TO TITHING**  
I will give 1/10 of m income to God's work.
- ☐ **STEP UP TOWARD TITHING**  
I am not yet a tither, but I will move toward that goal.  
MY COMMITMENT IS \$\_\_\_\_\_ per week
- ☐ This represents an increase over last year.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell/Home Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

This commitment may be revised or cancelled at any time at my request.  
Copyright © 1989 and 2002 by Herb Miller. All rights reserved.  
0-687-06406-6 Abingdon Press. Litho in U.S.A.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



Join us on Sunday December 2 to craft your own special family memories to usher in the Christmas season. Betsy Sword is introducing a new idea to bring families and generations together to assemble their very own advent wreath. Materials will be provided. The event begins at 1:30 pm at the church after the Trim-the-Tree luncheon. Please visit our website (<http://www.umcmonroe.org>) to register online. Spots will be limited.

For more information on the candles mean during advent, you can search on the UMC website ([www.umd.org](http://www.umd.org)) for "advent candles" or visit their website at:

[http://www.umd.org/what-we-believe/what-do-the-candles-in-our-advent-wreath-mean?gclid=EAAlQobChMI8peOyt6f3glVhbbACh3FRQffEAAiAAEgJG1fD\\_BwE](http://www.umd.org/what-we-believe/what-do-the-candles-in-our-advent-wreath-mean?gclid=EAAlQobChMI8peOyt6f3glVhbbACh3FRQffEAAiAAEgJG1fD_BwE)

## Trim-the-Tree Luncheon: Sunday; December 7

Please join us for our annual *Trim-the-Tree Potluck Luncheon*. The luncheon will take place right after worship and will be followed by tree decorating by the children! Please add your family name to the sign-up list in the narthex and bring your favorite dish to share (main dish, salad or dessert). Some help is needed to set-up and clean up Fellowship Hall, as well as a few adults to assist in the sanctuary during the tree trimming. Join us for food, fun and fellowship as we prepare for the birth of Jesus.



## 2018 Charge Conference: Sunday, December 9

UMC Monroe will be joining in with 8 other churches right here at our church for individual charge conferences! All churches will meet at 4:00 pm in the sanctuary for a brief introduction and then spread out among the various rooms of our church. Set up of chairs is needed directly after church on that Sunday to accommodate all. We will also be providing coffee/tea with each church being asked to bring cookies or snacks to share with all. See Pastor Mark or Rose for more info.

## The 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 final meeting of 2018 is December 16 at 11:30 am in Meeting Room 1. Moderator: David York.



## Inviting All to a Caroling Party ... The More the Merrier!!

HOLD THE DATE: We're going Christmas caroling to our homebound friends on Sunday, December 16 at 4:00 pm. We're planning a get together after we're done ... more details to follow. Please let us know if you can join us – all are welcome! Contact: Steve Arnold.





## Veterans Day 2018


On Sunday, November 11 we honored all veterans, but especially the ones that were able to join us for worship! The choir sang a beautiful rendition of *America* and Rose Aiello led a special litany during the service. Our thanks to James Hussey, Paul Lesko and Dave Rupp and their families for their service. (And to those veterans that were not able to be with us that morning.) Also, special thanks to Marsha Cohen and Vivian Harris for the special coffee hour (and those patriotic marshmallow treats!)

Photo credits: Rose Aiello and Sheryl Rajpolt



On Sunday, November 4, Janice Allen became a member of UMC Monroe. Welcome, Janice!





*This just in ...*

**Sheryl and John Rajpolt** were *caught* being extremely generous by paying to repair the outside water damage.

**... A BIG THANKS TO THEM!**

Who will be *caught* next?

# MISSIONS

## MISSIONS: ACCOMPLISHED

In an effort for everyone to see the positive impact our projects are having, the Missions Committee will be sharing more follow up information going forward including specific results. This is our first installment of Missions Accomplished... By the Numbers:

- Our recent collection for UMCOR to help with hurricane relief raised \$500 to assist people impacted by natural disasters around the country.
- Our fall quarterly collection for Spooner House totaled 140 sandwiches that were delivered for the residents to enjoy for lunch.

Our November Stuff the Turkey Mini Mission collected 125.5 pounds of food plus \$50 in gift cards for our Thanksgiving collection. Thank you!



Photo credit: Tanya Lennon



## All Saints' Day

On Sunday, November 4, we remembered the lives of those that had passed away in the last year. Selected members of the bell choir played during the reading of names by Janice Allen and Brian Sherwood. Candles on the altar represented those lives and the many others that have gone on before us. If you were not able to be present that Sunday and would like a copy of the submissions, please contact the church office. *"Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates"*. (Revelation 22:14 NRSV)

## Missions Sunday

The Missions Committee was pleased to welcome several speakers to join our service for our annual *Missions Sunday* on October 28. As the speakers shared about their organizations, we all learned new things about the causes our congregation supports. Susan Agamy from Spooner House explained how their facility is unique as one of the few in the area able to accommodate veterans with families to stay together. Selina Daniels from Covenant to Care told us of additional ways we can support the foster parents and children with whom she works including their ongoing need for diapers. Liz Skarzynski from Dress a Girl Around the World shared the exciting news that her group has surpassed the 2000 dresses made mark this year and Christina Gunther from Sacred Heart University gave us a new perspective on the project by telling us about her experiences delivering the dresses to girls in various countries. Our UMC Monroe's very own, Paul Lesko, detailed opportunities available to volunteer at the Monroe Food Pantry and told us about his efforts to help there. The Missions Sunday service was a wonderful reminder of the many ways there are for us to share God's love by serving others in need.

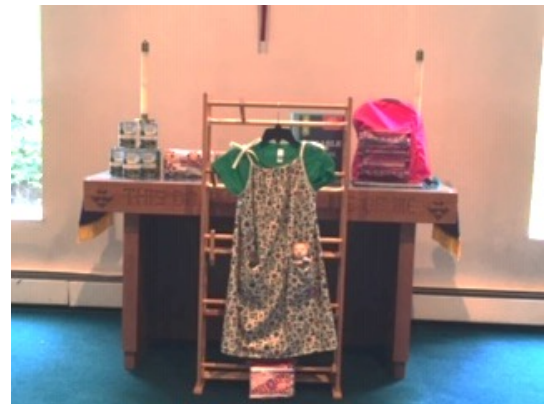


Photo credit: Tanya Lennon

## Bridgeport Rescue Mission *Great Thanks Giving Project*

This year our congregation was invited to participate in the Bridgeport Rescue Mission's Great Thanks Giving Project event. The six-day event is held each November in the week leading up to Thanksgiving at Webster Bank Arena in Bridgeport. It is the Rescue Mission's largest event each year serving approximately 3,200 families who receive coats and/or a frozen turkey with other food items for their Thanksgiving meal. Our church participated in the coat drive collecting 113 pounds of coats, hats, scarves, gloves, socks, and other cold weather clothing items. During the event, the concourse of the arena is filled with racks of approximately 15,000 coats in various sizes for men, women, and children. As families arrive, they are paired with a "personal shopper" volunteer to assist them in finding up to 10 coats to meet their family's needs for the winter season. After selecting their coats, the families have an opportunity to share a moment of prayer with volunteers from area churches. UMC of Monroe had several volunteers participate this year as part of the Prayer Team offering blessings for the families. It was a special and meaningful experience to be part of the event. Thank you to all who donated coats and other items to keep our neighbors warm this winter season.



Photo credits: Tanya Lennon



# Laity Sunday

On November 18 we celebrated Laity and Stewardship Sunday with a spirited service led by Lay Leader, Rose Aiello. Starting with a energetic introit by the choir (with the congregation joining in) followed by liturgists Amy Rajpolt and Dave Rupp. The newly formed handbell choir, led by Janice Allen, made their debut with *Praise and Thanks to God* and it was A-MAZ-ING! Tanya Lennon prepared the youth moment, handing out coin folders to the youth to begin collecting quarters during Advent to participate in our Stewardship giving. Rose, Janet Morris and Bill Florin gave witness to the blessings they have received through church and our church family, followed with the *Dedication of our Pledges* for 2019. The choir performed a *Thanksgiving Medley* with some of our favorite Thanksgiving hymns, with the benediction reminding us to be good stewards of the talents God has given to us.





# UMC Monroe Gifts for Good Alternative Christmas Giving



Are you having a hard time finding the perfect gift for someone special on your Christmas list? Or wondering what to get for someone who already has everything they need? Try Gifts for Good Alternative Christmas giving this year! Alternative Christmas gifts are always the perfect fit and a great gift that gives back!

What is an Alternative Christmas gift? Alternative Christmas gifts are representational gifts that are donations to organizations making an impact at the local, national and international levels by helping others. The gifts are given in honor of someone special on your gift list and you can give them a card to let them know an important gift to help someone else was given in their honor.

How does it work? Simply select Alternative Christmas gifts from the list below for the special people on your gift list this year and complete the order form. Return the order form with your payment check made payable to UMC Monroe by Sunday, December 23. UMC Monroe will then make the donations to the organizations for your gifts. Gift cards will be available to let your family and friends know about the gifts given in their honor.

Looking for a special gift item instead? Be sure to visit our Gifts for Good Holiday Boutique featuring beautiful fair trade items hand crafted by artisans in developing areas around the world. The boutique will be open on select Sundays in December at coffee hour. New this year, shop online at [www.serrv.org/?a=UMCMONROE](http://www.serrv.org/?a=UMCMONROE) for an expanded selection with direct shipping. All boutique sales benefit UMC of Monroe, SERRV, and UMCOR.

## Gifts for Good Alternative Christmas Gift Order Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed for gifts selected below (please make checks payable to UMC of Monroe): \_\_\_\_\_

Number of gift cards requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Item	Suggested Amount	Quantity	Total
Give the gift of community	\$5 to sponsor a senior for a drop in activity class at the Monroe Senior Center		
Give the gift of faith	\$10 to provide a pew Bible or hymnal for a newly formed church in the US through the World Service Fund's Path 1 congregational development effort		
Give the gift of health	\$15 to provide 10 jerry cans used to transport water without risk of contamination in communities without running water through Church World Service		
Give the gift of warmth	\$20 to provide 10 gallons of heating oil to a neighbor in need in Monroe through Project Warmth		
Give the gift of hope	\$25 to provide needed gloves and dust masks to clean up after a natural disaster through UMCOR		
Give the gift of knowledge	\$30 to sponsor a student at a university supported by the United Methodist Church with a scholarship contribution through the Black College Fund		
Give the gift of nutrition	\$50 to sponsor a child for a month at the Carolyn Belshe Orphanage in Mozambique with support for their Nutrition Through Agricultural training program		

# December Mini Mission ... Happy Birthday, Baby Jesus!

Our December Mini Mission is a birthday party for Baby Jesus! Help us celebrate the Savior's birth with items needed for birthday bags at the Monroe Food Pantry: Cake mixes, frosting, baking supplies (flour, sugar, oil, etc.), sprinkles, cupcake liners, even birthday candles and party paper goods. The Food Pantry offers these items to families to celebrate birthdays together. A great way to wish a Happy Birthday to Baby Jesus by helping a family in need celebrate their special days too!



Are you having fun with our monthly themed collections? Do you have an idea that would make a great collection theme? Sign up for a month and help us get creative with our mini missions! Visit the church website for the link to the sign up page to select your month.

## Covenant to Care Christmas Wishlist

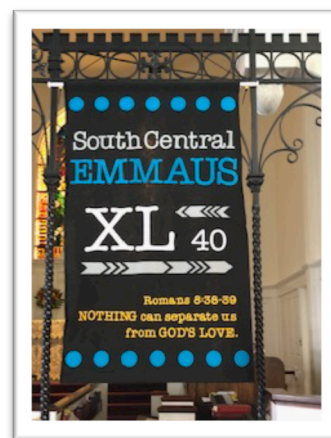
The *Covenant to Care Christmas List* will be posted on the Missions bulletin board in the hallway. Please write your name next to the child's name that you will be buying for. Wrap the gift and clearly label it with the child's name. Gifts can be left on the shelf above the coat rack outside of the choir room and are due by Sunday, December 16 so delivery can be made by Christmas! Questions? Contact Ethel Abraham.

## The Mitten Tree

*The Mitten Tree* will be up in early December and will be ready to be trimmed with NEW hats, scarves, gloves and mittens! All donated items will be distributed locally to families in need at the *Thomas Merton House* in Bridgeport.

Thanks for your consideration ... the items you donate will help to keep someone a little warmer this winter!

Deadline to donate: Sunday, January 6, 2019



Forty-two team members (24 adults, 8 youth team members, 8 candidates and 2 observers) gathered together at Trinity Episcopal Church in Seymour November 9 - 11 for **South Central Emmaus Weekend XL**. The team represented 7 denominations, 18 congregations and came from 19 towns across Connecticut. Cooper Rupp, Juliana Epstein, Emily Florin, Patti Early 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 (Rose, Janet and Paul) and joining us throughout the weekend. Your prayers were felt!

\*\* Emmaus Weekend XLI will be next spring when we do it all again! Stay tuned ... more details to follow! Any high school youth or adults interested in the program, please contact Patti or Bill.



# UMC MONROE YOUTH NEWS

**Youth Group Christmas Party: Sunday, December 16**

**Time: 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

Join us for our *Youth Group Christmas Party!* Please bring a \$10 wrapped gift (gender neutral). Wear something red or green while we play Reindeer Games, Christmas Feud, create an ugly sweater, and exchange gifts.



**Youth Group Community Family Movie Night Fundraiser**

**Sunday, December 23**

**Time: 4:30 pm – 6:15 pm**



All are invited to join us for our Christmas Family Movie Night and Youth Group Fundraiser! We will be watching *The Star!* Admission is FREE. Our youth will be selling popcorn and candy to help offset some costs for activities they have planned for next year. Please come on out and support them! Wear your comfy clothes, or your PJs/robe and slippers. We will have a giant screen setup in the sanctuary.

*The Star* is about a small, but brave donkey named Bo who yearns for a life beyond his daily grind at the village mill. One day he finds the courage to break free, and finally goes on the adventure of his dreams. On his journey, he teams up with Ruth, a loveable sheep who has lost her flock and Dave, a dove with lofty aspirations. Along with three wisecracking camels and some eccentric stable animals, Bo and his new friends follow the Star and become unlikely heroes in the greatest story ever told – the first Christmas.

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

**Remember during the winter season ... Register for inclement weather alerts!**



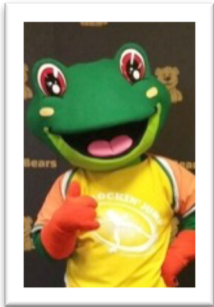
Enroll for text and/or email alerts if you would like to receive notice when UMCM is closed or activities cancelled. Go to our website, click on "Resources", then "Inclement Weather", then "NBC CT Storm Alerts" in the last sentence. It will take you directly to the enrollment page. For breaking news: (1) Tune in to NBC WVIT, CBS WFSB or ABC WTNH; (2) Visit our website at [www.umcmonroe.org](http://www.umcmonroe.org), or (3) Check our Facebook page @umcmonroe. Be prepared!



# Youth Group New Year's Eve Eve Party: Sunday, December 30

## Time: 4:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Join us for our *Youth Group New Years Eve Eve Party*! There will be pizza, a church Scavenger hunt, and lots of fun games like, pie face, ping pong, minute-to-win-it, cornhole, nurf games, and more! Noisemakers and party hats, too! Youth should bring a bottle of soda to share.



## YOUTH GROUP ROCKIN' JUMP

The Youth Group visited the recently renovated *Rockin' Jump* in Trumbull for a fun afternoon together. The kids enjoyed checking out the new attractions like the aerial silks, swings, and trapeze as well as their old favorites like battling on the x-beam. We all had a blast bouncing off the walls -- literally!

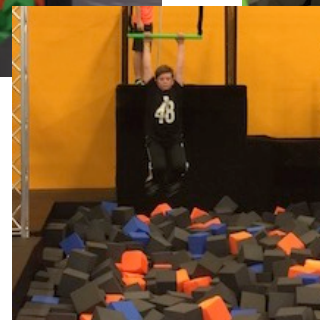
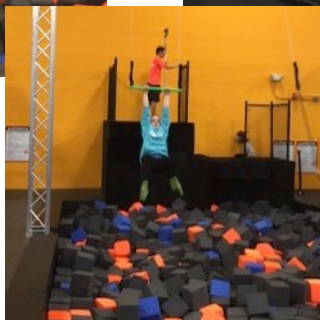


Photo credit: Tanya Lennon



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.



# YOUTH GROUP MALL SCAVENGER HUNT



Our youth group had A LOT of fun at our *Mall Scavenger Hunt*. We split into two teams and each team had to do as many things on the list as they could, including photographing their team with a mannequin, trying on a pair of high heel shoes, getting their picture taken with a store employee to collecting items such as chopsticks, a French fry (they could not buy it), to a perfume sample. Here are some highlights from our outing!



**Westfield®**  
Trumbull



Photo credits: Tanya Lennon and Janice Allen



# Paper Shredding Fundraiser

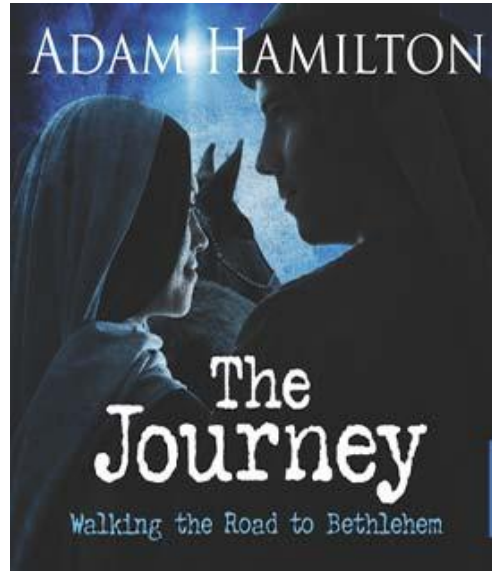


Our UMC Monroe Family braved a chilly, windy and sometimes rainy Saturday morning (November 3) to host our semi-annual Paper Shredding Fundraiser. Our Monroe neighbors came out in force to support our fundraiser ... and for that we thank them! We look forward to our next shredding event in the spring of 2019!



# *The Journey*

## *Advent Bible Study*



Thursdays, November 15 – December 20, 2018

(no meeting on Thanksgiving, November 22)

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

Saturdays, November 24 – December 22, 2018

Time: 9:00 am - 10:30 am ~ Location: Meeting Room 2

We invite you to journey with Adam Hamilton as he travels from Nazareth to Bethlehem in this fascinating look at the birth of Jesus Christ. As he did with Jesus' crucifixion in *24 Hours That Changed the World*, Hamilton once again approaches a world-changing event with thoughtfulness. Using historical information, archaeological data, and a personal look at some of the stories surrounding the birth, the most amazing moment in history will become more real and heart-felt as you walk along this road.

Please join us ... and feel free to invite a friend! For questions and to order your book(s), please contact Pastor Mark or the church office by November 4. Pricing: Book \$7.99; Large Print \$13.49; Devotional Guide \$8.99.

UMC Monroe • 515 Cutlers Farm Road • 203.268.8395

[www.umcmonroe.org](http://www.umcmonroe.org) • [umc@umcmonroe.org](mailto:umc@umcmonroe.org)

Page 15 of 21



# Breakfast *with* Santa

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2018

9:00 am – Noon at UMC Monroe

Children (12 and under) \$5 • Adults \$8

Register online at [www.umcmonroe.org](http://www.umcmonroe.org) by Friday, December 7

Registration is first come, first served until we reach capacity. Follow signs for Breakfast entrance!

Crafts! • Stockings! • Pictures with Santa!

Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Monroe Food Pantry  
and join in our ongoing efforts to help our neighbors!

## COOKIE WALK AND NORTH POLE GIFT DEPOT

Come shop with us for the holidays! We will have gift ideas for everyone on your list! Select from cute, unique items at affordable prices at our *North Pole Gift Depot*! Choose your own custom by-the-pound assortment of cookies (traditional favorites and fancy chef masterpieces) at our *Cookie Walk*! There is no admission charge or pre-registration required for *Cookie Walk/North Pole* shopping. Follow signs for shopping entrance!



United Methodist Church of Monroe • 515 Cutlers Farm Road  
[breakfastwithsanta@umcmonroe.org](mailto:breakfastwithsanta@umcmonroe.org) • [www.umcmonroe.org](http://www.umcmonroe.org) • 203.268.8395

Page 16 of 21



# Cookie Walk & North Pole Gift Depot



**Saturday, December 15, 2018**  
**9:00 am to Noon** *(or til sold out)*

**United Methodist Church of Monroe**  
515 Cutlers Farm Road, Monroe, CT 06468

Come shop with us for the holidays!  
We will have gift ideas for everyone on your list!

## **North Pole Gift Depot**

Select from cute, unique items at affordable prices!

## **Cookie Walk**

Choose your own custom by-the-pound assortment!  
Traditional favorites & fancy chef masterpieces!

How it works: we will provide you with a cookie container. Walk around the tables and choose from a wide assortment of delicious, home-baked cookies.

## **Breakfast with Santa**

Our Breakfast with Santa is also being held from 9am – Noon (separate entrance, look for signs).

Advanced registration is required at [www.umcmonroe.org](http://www.umcmonroe.org). First come, first served.

Cost is \$8. Children 12 and Under: \$5. Includes breakfast, craft, and picture with Santa!

Note: No admission charge or pre-registration required for Cookie Walk/North Pole shopping.

# COOKIE MAKERS NEEDED

Home bakers are needed to prepare, and share treats from their kitchens for the Cookie Walk! The more you make, the more our church makes!

## What we're looking for:

- \* At least 6 dozen of your very best, fanciest, most Martha-esqe Christmas cookie (which is about two batches of cookies)
- \* Old fashioned favorites – cutouts, chocolate crinkles, peanut butter blossoms spritz, molasses ...
- \* Your most requested recipe, perhaps? Thumbprints, pecan tassies, coconut macaroons ...
- \* Sophisticated or Whimsical
- \* Traditional, Ethnic, or Hard-to-Find – russian tea cakes, rugelach, baklava, linzer cookies ...
- \* Candy and Fudge



Please keep in mind that pretty holiday cookies sell the best and will be in greater demand on the day of the sale.

Cookies may be dropped off on Friday, December 14 from 1:00 – 3:00 pm. If you cannot come at this time, please call Janice Allen to make other arrangements at 914.804.9798 or email [janice@bestweb.net](mailto:janice@bestweb.net)

Please bring your cookies in a disposable container and make sure they are well protected. Also, enclose a piece of paper with the name of the cookie(s) and if it has nuts, is gluten free, or wheat free.

---

## I'll Make Cookies (*The more you make the more our Church makes!*)

\_\_\_ 6 dozen    \_\_\_ 12 dozen    \_\_\_ 18 dozen    \_\_\_ Other

Name \_\_\_\_\_

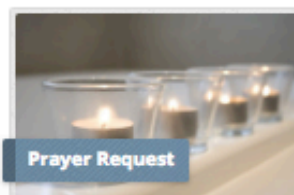
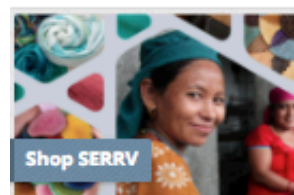
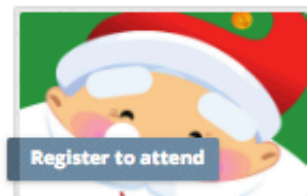
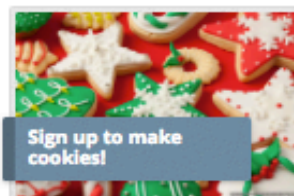
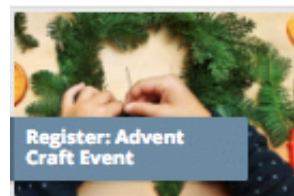
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_



Please sign up in the Narthex or return this form to Janice Allen by **November 25th**.

Thanks!

United Methodist Church of Monroe • 515 Cutlers Farm Road  
[umc@umcmonroe.org](mailto:umc@umcmonroe.org) • [www.umcmonroe.org](http://www.umcmonroe.org) • 203.268.8395



**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 Sword Family on Carl's passing  
Family of Aunt Phyllis on her passing  
Roger Cedergren - pacemaker  
Lynn Abbott's daughter-in-law's father, Clay Stevens - serious illness in hospital  
Lynn Gregory's friend, Mary Ellen - healing  
Gary Held - stroke recovery  
Michelle Lambert's friend, Kristyanne - ovarian cancer  
Gary and Marjorie Thoma - health issues; daughter Heidi as their caregiver  
Jennifer Chaudhary's friend - young father with esophageal cancer  
Christina Bach's family and young children; Christina was murdered  
Diana Greco - chemo for cancer  
Bob  
Neil Chaudhary's Uncle Eustace in Australia - in hospital  
Susan  
Bill G - cancer and his son in bad accident  
Meghan Hite - healing  
Sheryl's Aunt Marge - in hospice care  
Joe Lennon's brother, Michael - colon and prostate cancer  
Barbara Cedergren - daughter of Roger and Dotty Collin  
Patti Early's cousin, Jyll - battling cancer  
Dotti Hossler's sister, Loretta  
Pastor Martha's father, Rev. Richard Rice  
Sue Simmons' brother, Jeff - addiction  
Marilyn Jones  
Delores Ovesny  
Caleb  
Dexton  
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  
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, especially local resident Scott Kraskow and family - 3 tours in the Middle East  
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

California wildfires - those affected and the responders  
Continued recovery from flooding in the south

*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							Dec 2018 (Eastern Time - New York)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service	26	27 7pm - Hills of Monroe	28 6:30pm - Girl Scouts 5th 7:15pm - Bell Choir @ Choir	29 10am - Advent Bible Study: 11:30am - Prayer Team @	30 Luncheon Set Up @	1 Luncheon Set Up @ 9am - Advent Bible Study:	2 First Sunday of Advent @ 10am - Communion Sunday 10am - SS: Sunday School 11:15am - Trim-the-Tree 1:30pm - Generation	3	4 11:30am - MM: Missions	5 7:15pm - Bell Choir @ Choir	6 HOLD: Wicke Luncheon 10am - Advent Bible Study: 11:30am - Prayer Team @	7	8 9am - Advent Bible Study:
9 Second Sunday of Advent 10am - SS: Sunday School 4pm - Church Conference @	10	11 7:15pm - CC: Church	12 7:15pm - Bell Choir @ Choir	13 10am - Advent Bible Study: 11:30am - Prayer Team @	14 Breakfast Set Up @	15 9am - Advent Bible Study: 9am - Breakfast With Santa 9am - Youth Group:	16 Third Sunday of Advent @ 10am - Christmas Pageant 11:15am - St: Social Issues 4pm - Youth Group:	17	18 7pm - Hills of Monroe	19 6:30pm - Girl Scouts 5th 7:15pm - Bell Choir @ Choir	20 10am - Advent Bible Study: 11:30am - Prayer Team @	21	22 9am - Advent Bible Study:
23 Fourth Sunday of Advent @ Youth Group: Community 10am - SS: Sunday School	24 7pm - Christmas Eve	25	26	27	28	29	23 Fourth Sunday of Advent @ Youth Group: Community 10am - SS: Sunday School	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 Youth Group: New Year's 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service	31	1	2	3 11:30am - Prayer Team @	4	5	30 Youth Group: New Year's 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service	31	1	2	3 11:30am - Prayer Team @	4	5

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