

United Methodist Church of Monroe



messenger

FEBRUARY 2019

Dear friends:

I've just returned from the Bishop's Convocation where clergy members of the New York Annual Conference gather each year for fellowship and education. The Bishop brought in Tod Bolsinger, author of *Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory*. In the book, Bolsinger compares the expedition of Lewis and Clark to being a leader in the Christian Church today. When Lewis and Clark reached the headwaters of the Missouri River, they discovered that their expectations for the terrain were completely wrong. Instead of a navigable river flowing to the Pacific Ocean, they found the Rocky Mountains, which stood in their way and were nothing like the mountains they had previously known. They were in uncharted territory and needed to adapt their leadership and learn new skills if they were to succeed in their mission.

Like all other denominations, the United Methodist Church is now in uncharted territory. The societal landscape has changed. We need to adapt and learn new leadership skills if we are to succeed in our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ. As Bolsinger states in his book, "The world in front of you is nothing like the world behind you." Our world has changed significantly. The old ways of leadership in the Church are not working today, and we need to adapt and change. "In uncharted territory," writes Bolsinger, "adaptation is everything." We have to be able to adapt to the new environment in which we find ourselves.

I write this to you because leadership in the church involves everyone, not just the pastor. We all play a part in leading The United Methodist Church of Monroe into the future. We all remember the "good old days" when the pews were full and the budget wasn't a constant concern, but if we are constantly looking back, we will run into something. As Bolsinger writes, we need to "Focus on the mountains ahead, not the rivers behind." Let us all put our trust in God, focus on the future of our church and our denomination, and not be afraid to make the changes that are required for us to grow into our future together.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Mark

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



Let's Celebrate February!



Elvis was in the house on Sunday, January 6 to join UMC Monroe in wishing Anita a very happy birthday!

We put a quarter in the jukebox and rocked and rolled to The King while munching on Love Me (Chicken) Tenders, Hound Dogs, Carousel Cookies, Peanut Butter and Banana Sandwiches, Burning Love salsa and chips, Tutti Fruitti, Blue Suede Shoes punch, Bridge Over Troubled (hot) Water and Stay Away (cup of) Joe. Elvis stuck around for a few pictures before he left the building. What a fun day celebrating Anita's milestone (ssshhhhh ... Anita turned 75!) birthday.

A special "thank you, thank you very much" to our very own ELVIS (Paul Lesko) for making the day of his #1 fan!

Are you looking at a stack of cards on the table that you received this Christmas? Here is a suggestion ...



Trim the front from the cards and make gift tags out of them for next year's gifts. And the backs/insides? Punch a hole in the top right corner of each card ... place them on a metal ring and keep them with your daily devotional. Each day when you read your devotional you can pray for the person who sent the card on top – repeat daily! It is a nice way to remember special friends more than just at Christmas. ~ Anonymous

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!



happy birthday

02/01 Sue York
02/03 Michael Aiello
02/05 Sandi Hagopian
02/07 Dotti Hossler
02/10 Emily Florin
02/12 Matthew Steese
02/16 Aubrey Ramos
02/16 Billy Schmalkuche
02/22 Elizabeth Steese
02/27 Laura Bartlett

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!



"Thank you" to Gail Mas for donating an artificial tree to replace our old Missions "bush." We look forward to covering it with mittens, hats, gloves and scarves later this year!



UPCOMING EVENTS

Generation Bridge: Eating Well and Balancing Life

Saturday, February 9 - 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Join us for an informal event with professionals talking about the science behind a more nutritious and balanced diet as it pertains to our long term and short term health, AND strategies on how to make a more nutritious diet a part of our lives.

For more information, please contact Brian Sherwood or visit our website.



Scout Sunday



Sunday, February 10, 2019 • 10:00 am



Bells rehearsal resumes on Wednesday, February 27 at 7:15 pm!

This year we honor both the Girl Scouts and the Boy Scouts on **Scout Sunday**.

If you are or were a Girl Scout or a Boy Scout, including leaders, past or present, we would love to have you participate in our church service (acolyte, greeter, usher or reader). If you are available and interested in participating in the service, please contact Rose Aiello. Please feel free to wear your uniform!

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 next meeting is on February 17 at 11:30 am in Meeting Room 1. Moderator: David York.



Volunteers are needed to help click thru the PowerPoint slides during the worship service. Please see Janice Allen if interested.



UMC Monroe Webmaster

Help is needed with ongoing website maintenance. Our website is a vital part of our outreach and the first step for people looking for a church. Without additional help, our website may need to be suspended or shut down. Please see Kathy Schmalkuche for details.

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 UMC 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, or (3) Check our Facebook page @umcmonroe. Be prepared!

MISSIONS: ACCOMPLISHED

BY THE NUMBERS

The Missions Committee is happy to report the positive impact our projects are having with our second installment of *Missions: Accomplished ... By the Numbers!*

- 70 lbs of food was donated to the *Monroe Food Pantry* for our December Mini Mission and *Breakfast with Santa* collections
- 100 cold-weather accessories collected for *Thomas Merton House* with our "Mitten Bush"
- \$915 in donations made to the organizations supported by our *Alternative Christmas* this year
- \$616 in gift items purchased at our *SERRV* sale to benefit UMCOR and artisans in developing areas around the world

Thank you to everyone who contributed to one (or more) of these projects!

Spooner House Sandwich Collection and Delivery

Our next scheduled Sandwich Making for Spooner House is February 10! 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 jelly (any flavors), pasta sauce, and canned fruit (no pineapple is needed, all other kinds are needed). We will be collecting these items in addition to the sandwiches for delivery the same day. Thank you for your consideration. Contacts: Ethel Abraham and Tanya Lennon





MISSIONS



BREAKING NEWS

All Playoff Games are going into OT!! We're putting more time on the clock to score for the Monroe Food Pantry. We'll be accepting all playoff game items until *Super Bowl Sunday*, February 3. Just leave your donations in the wagon in the Narthex and our grounds crew will clear the field!!

Playoff Game Schedule:

Game 1: Sunday, January 13 Power Packed Protein Playoff
Tackling Canned Tuna vs. Crushing Canned Chicken

Game 2: Sunday, January 20 Sandwich Scrimmage
Passing Peanut Butter vs. Scrambling Strawberry Preserves

Game 3: Sunday, January 27 Battle of the Breakfast Champions
Cold Cereal Crunchers vs. Overtime Oatmeal

THE BIG GAME: Sunday, February 3 – Souper Bowl of Caring
Lean and Mean Chicken Broths and Soups vs. Tough and Gruff Beef Broths and Soups



This just in ...

Chad and Cari Harris were *caught* donating a new computer for the church office.

... A BIG THANKS TO THEM!

Who will be *caught* next?



UMC MONROE YOUTH NEWS

Are You Ready For Some Souper Bowl?

We're asking our Youth to team up on *Super Bowl Sunday* and participate in our skit and help carry our *Souper Bowl of Caring and Sunday Luncheon* into the end zone on *Sunday, February 3* after Worship Services in Fellowship Hall!

The play we're calling: We need everyone on the field to catch monetary and soup can donations passed to us by our congregation. We've asked our church family to throw a "hail mary" and donate (at least) 2 cans of soup ... one for the *Souper Bowl of Caring* and one for our tailgate party. Our final play will be serving lunch!

We know you're up for it!

Contact: Tanya Lennon



February Youth Group Meetings

Sunday, February 3	Souper Bowl of Caring Luncheon (11:30 am)
Sunday, February 10	4:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Sunday, February 24	4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Note: The ASP Meeting and our service project originally scheduled for Sunday, January 20 will be rescheduled – stay tuned for more details!

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



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.



Join us for the **BIG GAME** ... and the final game of our Food Pantry Football drive

Sunday, February 3

(Super Bowl Sunday)



We'll be "tailgating" after worship with a light **SOUPER BOWL** soup lunch

Please bring your donations of
Cans of SOUP* and **\$1 or more**
to help **TACKLE HUNGER** in our community.

(*1 can of soup to donate + 1 can to serve for lunch ... more cans are welcome!

Please bring at least one can of chicken-based or beef-based soup/broth)



Our youth will be ready with their soup pots
for your monetary gifts!

Cash (or checks payable to UCMC)



Dress a Girl Around the World

2019 Sew-a-Thons



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 to Bring:

- Bring your sewing machine and/or Serger
- Sewing kit – scissors, ripper; thread

Materials Provided:

- Patterns, cotton fabric, t-shirts, double-fold bias bias tape and most notions
- All the support you need and lunch with a \$5 donation to keep us going!

Materials Donations Needed/Accepted:

- 100% cotton fabric (but no see-through, Disney/character, cammo or animal print fabric), double-fold ½" bias tape, ½" elastic

January 26: St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 175 Old Tannery Road, Monroe

February 23: Trumbull Church of Christ, 2 Drew Circle, Trumbull

March 16: Monroe Congregational Church, 34 Church Street, Monroe

April 27: Newtown Congregational Church, 14 West Street, Newtown

May 11: Monroe Congregational Church, 34 Church Street, Monroe

June 1: Easton Congregational Church, 336 Westport Road, Easton

September 21: Monroe Congregational Church, 34 Church Street, Monroe

October 19: United Methodist Church of Monroe, 515 Cutlers Farm Road, Monroe

November 2: Monroe Congregational Church, 34 Church Street, Monroe

Time: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

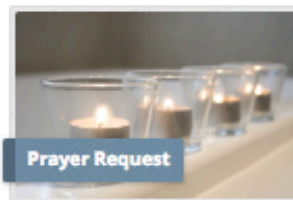
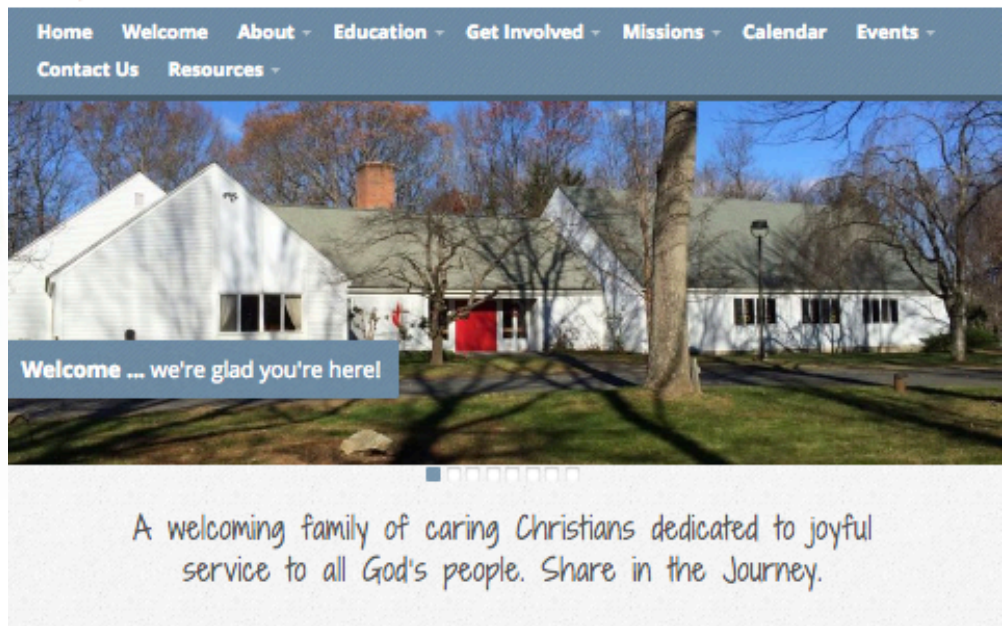
Registration: Contact Liz Skarzynski at 203.257.7174 or
DressAGirlSouthernCT@yahoo.com

UMCM Contacts: Ethel Abraham and Tanya Lennon



Hope 4 Women International
PO Box 8061

UMC Monroe • 515 Cutlers Farm Road • 203.268.8395
www.umcmonroe.org • umc@umcmonroe.org



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



Roger Grant as he recovers from mini-stroke
Laura
Cindy Cedergren Nigro - fractured fingers from work accident
Gail Mas' nephew, Lonnie - surgery
Family and friends of McCaskey Family on sudden passing of Mark from heart attack
Lynn Gregory's grandson, Carson - started therapy
Sue York's brother - in hospice
Seraphine Lambert - mono
Maggie - Ethel's friend's granddaughter - sick
Betsy Sword and Family - passing of her brother, Charles
Dotti Hossler – foot injury
Janice's friend, Bonnie Loney - passing of her husband, Clint
Margaret Bain
Maria - respiratory issues
Rich Tomack - pulmonary issues
Amy Ramos' sister Cookie's husband, Corey Trump
Patti's friend, Adeline - pain from unknown source
Greg - Gail Mas' nephew
Tyson (7 year old) - central sleep apnea and seizures
Vivian's brother, Wayne
Tom Dolan - chemo
Karen - tremors
John Whalen's mom, Dorothy - stage 4 Melanoma, receiving pain management only
Michelle Lambert's friend, Kristyanne - ovarian cancer
Sheryl's Aunt Marge - hospice care
Joe Lennon's brother, Michael - 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 Simmon's 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
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
Linda Summa - Turner's daughter - cancer
Olivia - Juvenile Diabetes
Sue Simmons' friend, Debbie - MS
York's daughter-in-law, Lori
Jodi Kles –Sheryl's cousin - living with rare form of cancer

Military personnel
Unemployed
First responders, firemen, policemen
Persons dealing with serious medical issues
Caregivers
Those who do not have anyone to pray for them
Christians around the world persecuted for their faith
Drug epidemic - addiction and deaths
Refugees
Unspoken burdens that reside upon people's hearts
Youth - effects of social media and those being bullied
Wisdom for world leaders
Children with mental illnesses
Unity and peace around the world
Those suffering from depression and/or loss

If you would like to add a person to our prayer list, or to receive a weekly copy of the joys and concerns email prayerrequest@umcmornoe.org, call the office or leave your request in the collection plate. Names will remain on the prayer list for 3 weeks. If you would like your name or that of a relative or friend to stay on the list longer, please contact the office.



REMINDER:

The deadline to submit information to Denise (umc@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							Feb 2019 (Eastern Time - New York)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat							
27 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Week 3: Football 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - St: Social Issues 2pm - CT District Resource 4pm - Youth Group Meeting	28	29	30	31	1 Luncheon Set Up @	2 Luncheon Set Up @							
3 Souper Bowl of Carling 10am - Communion Sunday 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Week 4: Football 10am - Worship Service 10am - Youth Group: 11am - Souper Bowl of	4	5 11:30am - MM: Missions	6 6pm - Girl Scout Meeting @ 7pm - Church Council	7	8	9 9am - Generation Bridge @							
10 10am - Scout Sunday 10am - Spooner House 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 1pm - Private Party 4pm - Youth Group Meeting	11	12 10:30am - Mark Meeting	13	14	15	16							
17 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - St: Social Issues	18	19	20 6:30pm - Girl Scouts 5th	21	22	23 10am - Dress a Girl Around							
24 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 4pm - Youth Group Meeting	25	26	27 7:15pm - Bell Choir @ Choir	28	1 5pm - Liz's Cooking Class @	2 2pm - Liz's Cooking Class @							

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