

United Methodist Church of Monroe



messenger

JANUARY 2019

Dear friends:

Last year, at the direction of Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton, the New York Annual Conference assembled a team to develop new mission and vision statements along with core values to guide us as we make disciples in our conference. They are as follows:

Mission: We strive to share God's love by creating safe places where all are accepted and welcomed, connecting the needs of people to the presence of God, and transforming the world through Christ.

Vision: We see strong leaders who develop vital congregations that eagerly make new disciples, actively nurture existing disciples, and passionately advocate for the needs and concerns of all people.

Core Values: Deep love for God and unconditional love for all people. Collaboration and partnerships that demonstrate God's love to a world that divides and alienates. Relationships that foster accountability, excellence, and an ability to engage in open, honest and respectful conversations. The hope that we have in Christ that, when discovered, brings us a unity of purpose, a joy that enlivens our spirit, and a peace that surpasses all understanding.

The Bishop feels strongly that these statements embody the spirit and attitudes that are required for us to reach out and witness to our faith, to make new disciples of Jesus Christ, and to show a hurting and divided world that God loves them. These statements will drive our efforts for many years to come.

On December 11th, Bishop Bickerton visited the Connecticut Conference to address the special General Conference to be held February 23 - 26 in St. Louis. He asked all in attendance to pray daily for the delegates to this special session of General Conference and to set their smartphone alarms to remind us to start praying each day at 2:23 pm and to end at 2:26 pm until the end of the conference on February 26th.

His handouts included this statement. "At General Conference in 2016, in the midst of growing movements around schism, the General Conference narrowly approved to enter into a season of prayer and authorized the Council of Bishops to form a 'Commission on a Way Forward' to bring specific recommendations on the matters of human sexuality, maintaining and working toward as much unity as is possible as a denomination."

The work of the commission resulted in three plans being suggested: The One Church Plan, The Connectional Conference Plan, and the Traditionalist Plan. The Council of Bishops has recommended the One Church Plan for consideration at the Special Called Session. A handout describing the three plans is included in this newsletter for your consideration. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Please pray for the United Methodist Church, our Bishops, and our delegates as they determine the future of our denomination.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Mark

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

To my church family:



Let's Celebrate January!



Happy
New
Year!

I will be serving as the newly "elected" Church Council chair as well as continuing to serve as your Lay Leader! Most of you know me already and I welcome any input you have on any matter that is important to you in the life of our church! I want to thank Steve Arnold for his Council leadership the last few years and I'm happy to report that he will remain on the Council as a Member-at-Large. We are also grateful to Heather Arnold, our Council secretary, who prepares our minutes! I also want to thank everyone that said "yes" to joining or remaining on a committee and especially to those that agreed to chair.

Chairpersons of our committees: Lynn Abbot, Missions & Social Concerns; Sheryl Rajpolt and Darlene Dobler-Palin, Membership & Evangelism; Bill Schmalkuche, Finance; Dotti Hossler, Staff Pastor Parish Relations; Sue Simmons, Christian Education; Patti Early, Worship; Chad Harris (current chair -- Board of Trustees elect a Chairperson at their first meeting of the year). Please feel free to reach out to them directly should you have a particular concern. Committee members can be found on the Nominating Report that was included in the booklet distributed at Church Conference on December 9.

Church Council meetings are open to all. Our first meeting is Tuesday, January 15 at 7:00 pm. Remaining dates will be Tuesdays -- March 12, May 14, July 9, September 10 and November 12 at 7:00 pm. Special meetings may be scheduled should the need arise.

Blessings to each of you as we begin another year here at the UMC of Monroe!

Rose Aiello
buildingroses@aol.com

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!



01/05	Anita Stabler-Hussey
01/06	Aidan Ramos
01/10	Juliana Epstein
01/13	Bill Florin
01/17	Millie Derle
01/18	June Hallden
01/18	Lee Hossler
01/18	Katie Schmalkuche
01/21	Michelle Rajpolt
01/22	Malenna Hornak
01/25	Bethany Hagopian



happy birthday

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!

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 first meeting of 2019 is January 20 at 11:30 am in Meeting Room 1. Moderator: David York.



Appalachia Service Project (ASP) Meeting

A Christian ministry that inspires hope and service through volunteer home repair and replacement in Central Appalachia. Open to anyone at least 14 years old (13 year olds may attend if they have completed 8th grade). There will be a meeting on Sunday, January 20 after worship for all those interested in finding out more about the project, as well as one of the planned trips to take place from July 13 - 20, 2019. Contact: Pastor Mark.



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.



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



Bells are taking a short break. We will resume rehearsal on Wednesday, February 26 at 7:15 pm.



Visit us ANYTIME at www.umcmonroe.org!



Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.



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!



First Sunday of Advent Hanging of the Greens Trim-the-Tree Luncheon Sunday, December 2

We celebrated the First Sunday of Advent with the *Hanging of the Greens*. It was a beautiful service that included our youth, many of our church families, our Bell Choir and the entire congregation.

We learned about The Bible, the Advent Wreath, the Lighting of the Sanctuary, the Holly and the Ivy, the Chrismon Tree, the Legend of the Poinsettia, the Bells (with the Bell Choir playing *Carol of the Bells*), the Placing of the Shepherds and the Placing of the Kings.

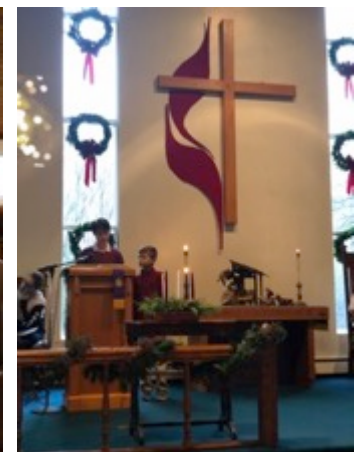
Emily and Janice performed a flute duet of *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* ... two very talented ladies ... and our choir performed "Cradle of Hope" for the anthem.

Our service was followed by our annual Trim-the-Tree Potluck Luncheon and decorating the tree.

We thank everyone who prepared for and participated in the service and activities. A special thank you to Sheryl, Janice and Rose for their leadership in pulling together a special day for our congregation and visitors!



Photo credit: Amy Rajpolt



Generation Bridge: Advent Craft Event

Sunday December 2

It was a wonderful day putting wreaths together to celebrate the beginning of Advent where old and young worked together to make memories and wreaths. We thank Betsy and Brian for starting this new tradition at UMC Monroe!





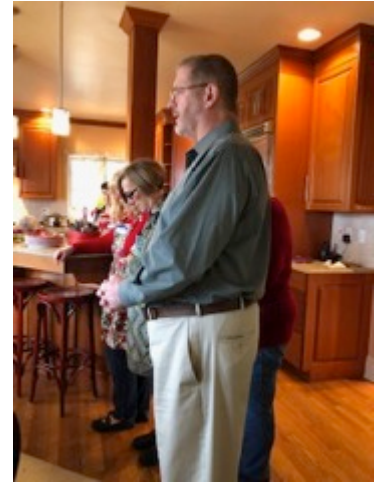
Wicke Luncheon Thursday, December 6

Another fun afternoon with our friends from *Bishop Wicke* and our UMC Monroe seniors is in the books!

We had a great time and shared many laughs – it was fun making new friends and reconnecting with old friends. We shared a delicious meal, many games of bingo – Margaret was on a winning streak – and lots of laughter!

Our guests are ready for winter thanks to a holiday favor of lip and hand moisturizers and a pack of tissues in its own pouch made/sewn by local Girl Scout Troop 34219 (the 7th grade Cadettes from Jockey Hollow and STEM). Thank you, ladies ... we loved them!

A very special thank you to Laura and Dick for opening their home for the luncheon and to Laura and Leigh for co-hosting and making it a memorable day for all of us!



NYAC Connecticut District: Greater Bridgeport Church Conference Sunday, December 9



UMC Monroe welcomed our neighboring United Methodist churches (Bridgeport: Golden Hill; Bridgeport: Summerfield; Easton: Jesse Lee, Fairfield: Grace; Milford: Mary Taylor Memorial; Trumbull: Long Hill; Trumbull: Nichols, Westport/Weston) to the 2018 Greater Bridgeport Church Conference.





This just in ...

We *caught church members* helping to set up and clean up for the Church Conference. Hosting the churches of The Greater Bridgeport Strategic Team took a great effort -- many guests commented that it looked effortless. We know better.

... A BIG THANKS TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED!

Who will be *caught* next?

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You shop. Amazon gives.

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.



Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 15



What a fun morning!! We had a full house of good girls and boys that joined us for breakfast, Christmas crafts, a picture with Santa, and a little shopping in our *North Pole Gift Depot* and *Cookie Walk*. Santa left with a long list of Christmas wishes to take back to his workshop – the elves were busy-busy getting ready for Christmas!!

We thank our guests for joining us – we were so happy to have them visit and we've invited them to come back anytime!

Thank you to all of our UMC Monroe elves who contributed in any way to another successful community outreach event! And to our Head Elf, Anita ... THANK YOU FOR ALL THAT YOU DO!

** A special thank you to our photographer, Rich – he did an amazing job (as he does every year!) capturing many special moments!

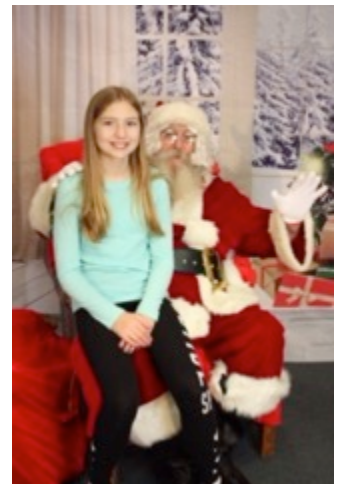


Photo credit: Rich



Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 15





Cookie Walk 2018



Cookie Walk Team:
Henry, Janice, Millie, Cari and Evan



Cookies, cookies and MORE cookies!
Our first Cookie Walk was a big success!

Many thanks to all of our bakers and to everyone who were "forced" to eat their purchases!

And a special thank you to Janice for suggesting this new addition to our Christmas festivities and for all of her hard work in coordinating the event!

Photo credit: Janice



SERRV and North Pole Depot



SERRV and North Pole Depot Team:
Tanya Lennon (SERRV) and Darlene
Dobler-Palin (North Pole)



Our *Gifts for Good Boutique* (SERRV) was open for business alongside the *North Pole Gift Shop* for some last-minute Christmas shopping! All sales benefitted UMC Monroe, SERRV, and UMCOR.

** SERRV empowers small-scale artisans and farmers to earn a fair living from their work, breaking the cycle of poverty and building stronger communities worldwide. For more information, please visit their website: <https://www.serrv.org/>.

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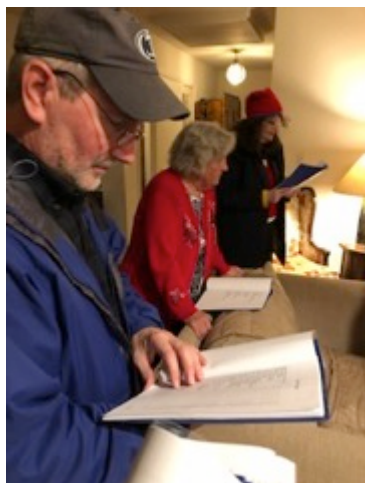
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A Beastly Christmas

Sunday, December 16





Christmas Caroling Sunday, December 16



Advent



UMC MONROE YOUTH NEWS

Youth Group Christmas Party Sunday, December 16

We had a very merry time! Here are some highlights ... reindeer games/antler ring toss, DIY light up Christmas cards, the gift padding game/gift exchange, and food! It was a super fun time

Photo credit: *Sugarplum Sweet Buns and Puddin Jazzy Pants* (aka Tanya and Janice)



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

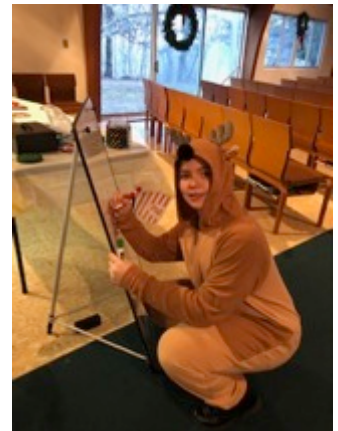


Youth Group

Family Movie Night

Sunday, December 23

It was a fun night to curl up in your PJs with a bag of popcorn to watch *The Star*!



We thank everyone who contributed to the fundraiser and everyone who joined us for the movie!

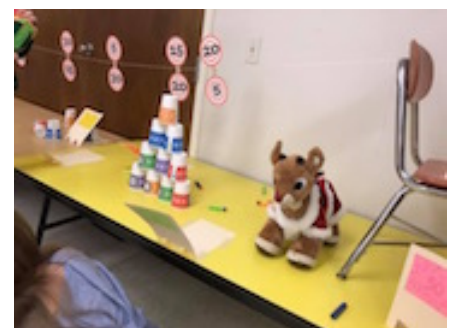
Please watch for more info about youth group fundraisers in 2019!

Photo credit: Tanya



Youth Group New Year's Eve Party

Sunday, December 30



Happy New Year from the UMC Youth Group! What a blast! Here's some highlights from our party ... nerf games, dodge ball, minute-to-win-it, scavenger hunt, Big Y pizza, music, and tweeters and blowers! Photo credit: Tanya and Janice

Prayer Concerns



Lynn Gregory's grandson, Carson
Dotti Hossler – foot injury
Janice's friend, Bonnie Loney, on the passing of her husband,
Clint
Family and friends of Sandy Albin on his passing
Margaret Bain
Maria - respiratory issues
Gail Mas
Rich Tomack - pulmonary issues
Jim Eastwood
Comfort for Cahill Family on passing of Mike's brother, Jim, on
Christmas morning
Amy Ramos' sister Cookie's husband, Corey Trump – in
hospital in Portland OR; needs heart surgery but infection
must clear first
Patti's friend, Adeline - pain from unknown source
Family and friends of Josh Spector (24-year old) on his passing
from heart issues
Roseanne Homola - hairline fracture in hand
Gail Mas' nephew, Greg - cancer surgery
Family of Edward (Ted) Malloy from Derby who died of multiple
myeloma, age 57
Samuel (2-year old) - having lung surgery
Brian Sherwood's family on the passing of his father, Steven
Kevin Freeman - Jeanne Baklik's brother-in-law - stroke and
Parkinsons
Sue Simmons' Aunt Hazel – passed away after stroke
Tyson (7-year old) - central sleep apnea and seizures
Brian and Kelley - stress
Rose's cousins, the Fadden family, as they mourn the passing
of Jim, Jr.
Darlene Dobler-Palin and Family on the passing of her brother,
Frank
Vivian's brother, Wayne
Tom Dolan - chemo
Karen - tremors
Dave York - healing
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 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
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							Jan 2019 (Eastern Time - New York)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat							
30 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 4pm - Youth Group: New	31	1	2	3 11:30am - Prayer Team @	4	5							
6 10am - Communion Sunday 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service	7	8 11:30am - MM: Missions	9 6pm - Girl Scout Meeting @	10	11	12							
13 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service	14	15 7pm - Church Council	16	17	18	19							
20 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - St: Social Issues 11:30am - ASP Service 4pm - Youth Group Meeting	21 9am - HOLD: Girl Scout	22	23 6:30pm - Girl Scouts 5th	24	25	26							
27 10am - SS: Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 4pm - Youth Group Meeting	28	29	30	31	1 Luncheon Set Up @	2 Luncheon Set Up @							

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