

United Methodist Church of Monroe



messenger

MARCH 2019



Dear friends:

This has been an unusual winter, weather-wise. Until the polar vortex hit in late January, the winter seemed to be warmer than usual. We have experienced both record highs and record lows as we have had some wild temperature swings. Through January, we had very little snow, but, so far, February has not disappointed us. We have finally received enough snow to brighten an otherwise dreary landscape.

Just as our weather goes through cycles of warm and cold, our faith can too. Bad weather makes sleeping-in on Sunday morning seem more appealing, but it really just cools our faith and makes God feel more distant. But certain events help to warm us up, baptisms and confirmations. They make us think about our faith commitment and where we stand in our relationship with Almighty God. Certain seasons in the church year also warm us up. Christmas and Easter stir us and move us to participate more.

Early Christians felt that the magnitude of the Easter celebration called for special preparation. Their preparation included fasting, which was more than just abstaining from food and water. Fasting was accompanied by frequent and sustained prayer. The person who fasted did so with the intention of seeking a deeper relationship with God. Although fasting is still practiced today, many people favor a modified fast which we call, "giving up something for lent." This practice also should be done with the intention of seeking a deeper relationship with God. If we give up something, and pray each time we feel the pangs of self-denial, we can indeed draw closer to God.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday which falls on March 6th this year. We will have a worship service that evening at 7 pm. Our Holy Week services will be Maundy Thursday and Good Friday with both services starting at 7 pm.

May God help us all to fight off the cold, and to use the forty days of Lent to stoke the fires of our faith. I pray that each of you will feel the warmth of a close personal relationship with your Lord and Savior this Lenten season.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Mark

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



*I would like to thank you folks for
your cheerful notes and good wishes.
I miss seeing everyone and hope to
see you all more often.*

Margaret Bain

NEEDED: Easter Candy and plastic eggs

We are requesting candy and plastic egg donations for our 2019 Easter Egg Hunt. The hunt is scheduled for Saturday, April 6 at 9:00 am. Donations of nut-free individually wrapped candy and plastic eggs are needed by Sunday, March 24. A donation box will be placed in the Narthex by March 1.



We are also looking for volunteers to help with the craft, as well as some set up and clean up help. Please contact Rose if you're available to volunteer or email easteregg hunt@umcmonroe.org.

Let's Celebrate March!



03/01 Steven Moore
03/02 Daniel Florin
03/02 Griffin Reynolds
03/04 Brenda Pantalone
03/10 Tori Hagopian
03/12 Patti Early
03/15 Steve Wallace
03/25 Leah Brantley
03/27 Gail Mas
03/29 Patty Hornak



happy birthday



03/01 Tanya and Joe Lennon
03/20 Dotti and Lee Hossler

happy anniversary

Please submit additions and corrections to the birthday and anniversary list to the office at umc@umcmonroe.org or 203.268.8395. We don't want to miss anyone! Thanks!

Instead

of focusing on the hurdles ahead of you – **focus on Him** beside you

Instead

of depending on your plan for this week – **depend on His power** for this moment

Instead

of being tempted to give up, or give into fear – **give thanks** -- this gives Him glory

Instead

of trying to do it all – simply **let Him be your all**

Lord, cause me to live an **INSTEAD** kind of life –
because One loved me enough to **give Himself in my stead**

Ann Voskamp

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



Bells rehearsal resumes on Wednesday, March 6 after Ash Wednesday service!

Dress A Girl Around the World Sew-a-Thon

Saturday, March 16 10:00 – 3:00 pm

Monroe Congregational Church (34 Church Street)

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

UMCM Contacts: Ethel Abraham and Tanya Lennon



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 March 17 at 11:30 am in Meeting 1. Moderator: David York.

"A Spiritual Walk" presented by Janice Allen



Generation Bridge

Do you need a little time to think about your life? To contemplate why? How? Then you will appreciate this opportunity to try something new to help bring you closer to the fullness of God and knowing the Trinity.

On Saturday March 23 from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, Janice Allen will be introducing us to the concept of the "prayer labyrinth". She will transform the sanctuary into a setting to walk quietly through multiple stations, all in a process to help you navigate some of your questions in a peaceful and individual way. Come, pray, meditate and learn some new techniques that will help you get closer to God."

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



Holy Week Worship Schedule

Communion will be served on Maundy Thursday, April 18, with a special service on Good Friday, April 19 – both services begin at 7:00 pm. Easter Sunday worship will be held on Sunday, April 21, at 10:00 am.



An ecumenical Easter Sunday Sunrise Service will be held on Sunday, April 21, at Great Hollow Lake (accessible via 454 Purdy Hill Road) at 6:30 am.



This just in ...

Juliana and Brian Sherwood were *caught* donating a new computer for the sanctuary.

... A BIG THANKS TO THEM!

Who will be *caught* next?

There is Power in Prayer!

Janice Allen

PRAYER PRAYER

When we look in the Bible, we see powerful prayers from Moses, Joshua, David, Elijah, and Jesus! Prayer is powerful, and when God's people pray ... God shows up! That's what we seek to do on Thursday mornings at 11:30 am!

We pray for God's leadership and that our church would be rooted, built up, and strengthened in faith that God would guide us with our daily problems, help us to give more generously, and to love more freely. We ask God for spiritual health and devotion, for the daily needs of our members, and help in their daily struggles.

Our *Prayer Team* lifts up our nation and our community. We pray for our church, its' leaders, our ministries, and for our Pastor. Each individual listed on our weekly church prayer list that Rose puts together, is lifted up. We have also been praying our way through our church directory in alphabetical order. When we get to the very last name, we start over! In the coming weeks we will be lifting up these families:

Thursday, March 7

Dave Swanson
Betsy Sword
Edna and Bob Turner
Steve, Claudia and Aiden Wallace
Lloyd and Jane Wenzl

Thursday, March 21

Lynn Abbott
Ethel Abraham
Rose, Dave, Dan and Mike Aiello
Pastor Mark and Janice Allen
Alex Arnold

Thursday, March 14

John, Vicki, Henry and Liam Whalen
Denise, Michael, Casie, and Collin Wiley
Dave and Sue York
Carol Young
Donna Young

Thursday, March 28

Rebecca Arnold
Steve and Heather Arnold
Margaret Bain
Adam Bartlett
David Bartlett

Jesus tells us in Matthew 21:13 "It is written, 'My house shall be called a house of prayer' ..." and "where two or three are gathered ... I am there." (Matthew 18:20). Come and be present in His presence with us as we unite in Spirit! All are welcome to participate in this ministry.

Lenten Fish Fry Dinners

First United Methodist Church of Shelton (188 Rocky Rest Road, Shelton) welcomes all to their dinners on Friday nights, **March 8 – April 12 from 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm**. They're serving up their famous baked or fried cod, choice of potatoes, pasta in marinara sauce, homemade coleslaw, and dessert. No reservations needed. First come first serve, dine in or take out!



\$16 for adults, \$14 for seniors (60+) and \$6 for Children 12 and under.

Contact the church office at 203.929.3537 for more details or visit their website at www.umcshelton.org. Proceeds will support the church's ministries and missions.

MISSIONS: ACCOMPLISHED

BY THE NUMBERS

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

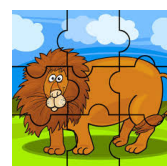
- 225 items collected for our Food Pantry Football and Souper Bowl of Caring
- Over \$400 collected for Souper Bowl of Caring to be given to Monroe Food Pantry and Spooner House
- 100 sandwiches and other items delivered to Spooner House from our last sandwich making

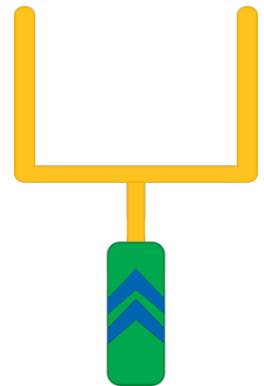
Thank you to everyone who contributed to one (or more) of these projects!

March Mini Missions: Buckets of Fun for Covenant to Care

Help us give the kids at *Covenant to Care* a playful spring and summer by filling up our **Buckets of Fun!**

For our March Mini Mission we will be collecting spring and summer treats like bubbles, sidewalk chalk, kites, frisbees, small play balls, small games and puzzles, small craft kits, inexpensive kids' movies, spring/summer snacks, etc. We will package up the donations into colorful sand buckets as a fun way for the kids to welcome spring and summer!







UMC MONROE YOUTH NEWS

Youth Work Day

Sunday, March 31 is the 5th Sunday of the month ... that means that our high school youth will be cleaning up around the church! Please make sure to thank them for their hard work!

Adult volunteers are welcome to assist. Please contact Chad Harris for more information.



All high school youth welcome!

First United Methodist Church, Shelton

Friday, April 26 – Sunday, April 28

An Emmaus weekend offers young people of high school age a short course in the Christian way of life. Those who come to an Emmaus weekend experience Christian community and a time of reflection and insight into their own lives. There is uplifting music, a chance to meet and get to know new friends, opportunity to know oneself, others, and God on a deeper level, and to share the joyful and loving relationship that is central to the Christian experience. If you or someone you know is interested in learning more about Emmaus, please contact Patti or Bill.

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.

UMC of Monroe Youth Group

Spring 2019 Calendar of Events

(Meeting times are Sunday afternoon from 4:00 – 6:00 pm unless otherwise noted, Some dates are tentative, More details will be sent prior to each scheduled meeting/event as the group selects activities for particular dates)

March 2019

- 03/03 No Meeting
- 03/10 No Meeting
- 03/17 Meeting (Monster Mini Golf and Laser Tag)
- 03/24 Meeting (Easter Egg Stuffing Party for Annual Egg Hunt)
- 03/31 Meeting (CROP Walk Kick Off Rally at Trumbull Congregational Church, Rally starts at 2:00 pm)

April 2019

- 04/06 (Saturday, 8:00 - 11:00 am) Easter Egg Hunt (Youth invited to help with egg hiding and other activities at the event)
- 04/07 Meeting (Passover Seder Dinner)
- 04/14 No Meeting (Spring Break)
- 04/21 No Meeting (Easter)
- 04/28 No Meeting (Leaders Out of Town)



YOUTH GROUP

May 2019

- 05/04 (Saturday, Time TBD) Earth Day Clean Up Event (Youth are invited to help with the event and picnic lunch served at our church following the clean up)
- 05/05 Meeting (CROP Walk at Seaside Park in Bridgeport, Walk starts at 1:30 pm)
- 05/11 (Saturday, 9:00 am -12:00 pm) Shredding Fundraiser/Youth Group Baked Goods Donation table for Waterman Scholarship Fund (Youth are invited to help with the event)
- 05/12 No Meeting (Mother's Day)
- 05/19 Meeting (Sandwich making delivery service project for Spooner House, Time TBD)
- 05/26 Monroe Memorial Day Parade (Youth Group invited to participate with our church group, no afternoon meeting)

June 2019

- 06/02 End of Year Celebration at IT Adventure Ropes Course in New Haven (Time TBD)



Scout Sunday



On Sunday, February 10 we celebrated Scout Sunday with Girl Scout Troop 34219 and Boy Scout Pack 162. Many thanks to all of our scouts, past and present, who participated in this year's service!

Photo credit: Tanya Lennon



ASP Youth Mission Project

Making homes warmer, safer, and drier



ASP stands for Appalachia Service Project. It is a Christian based ministry founded by a United Methodist Pastor! This year, the non-profit organization celebrates its 50th year. Since it began, ASP has helped 18,247 families!

We are excited to share with you that UMCM will be sending a mission team of youth and adult volunteers to ASP this summer from July 13th – July 20th! The group will spend every day (Monday through Friday) completing emergency repairs on homes of people caught in economic despair.

Open to anyone 14 years old and up (13 year olds may attend if they have completed 8th grade), ASP builds relationships, faith, and servant hood, while repairing homes for low-income families and individuals in North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, West Virginia, and Virginia. Last year over 16,231 volunteers served with ASP, providing critical repairs for 493 families and constructing over 60 new homes!

What is truly amazing about this ministry, is our youth get tangible ways to be Christ's hands, doing Christ's work, by being in service to people who really need their help. It's a wonderful opportunity for putting faith into action by loving others in the way Jesus taught us to love.

In the coming months, the ASP team will be fundraising as the cost per person is \$800. If you would like to make a donation, please make checks payable to PUMC Seeds of ASP.

Stay tuned ...

Janice Allen



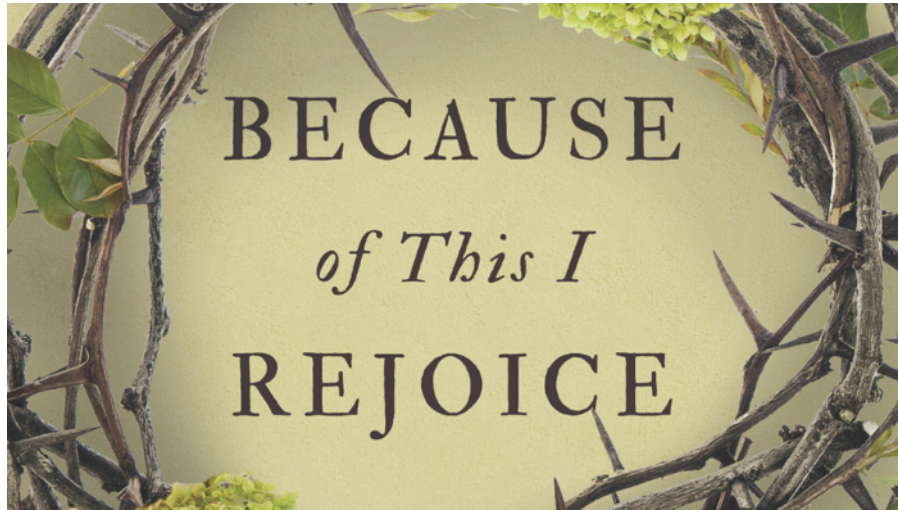
Volunteers are needed to help click thru the PowerPoint slides during the worship service. Please see Janice Allen if interested.



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.

Thursday Morning B.I.B.L.E. Study

Rejoice in the Lord always ... even during Lent



Thursdays, March 7 – April 11, 2019

Time: 10:00 ~ Location: Meeting Room 2

Please join us on Thursday mornings for a 6-week study of Philippians. From the book, *Because of This, I Rejoice* by Max O. Vincent, we will explore how to develop spiritual disciplines in a joyful manner to help us focus less on ourselves and more on God.

Many Christians think of Lent as a season of self-sacrifice and spiritual chores. But this year, what if Lent was different? What if we approached Lent with the spirit of joy?

Anyone is welcome to attend who has a desire to study God's Word together.

UMC Monroe • 515 Cutlers Farm Road • 203.268.8395

www.umcmonroe.org • umc@umcmonroe.org • Facebook @umcmonroe

E
A
S
T
E
R

EGG

saturday

APRIL 6, 2019

START TIME: 9:00 AM

Rain or shine

HUNT

Bring your Easter Basket
fun for the family

Coffee, juice, donuts & muffins

- Admission: \$3 per person
- Admission also includes craft and egg hunt for children grade 5 and under



Pre-registration is required and is first come, first served until we reach capacity

Register online or email by 04/01/19

Include: Family name, # attending, ages of children and your phone/email

All proceeds will go toward our High School Youth participation in an Appalachia Service Project in July 2019.

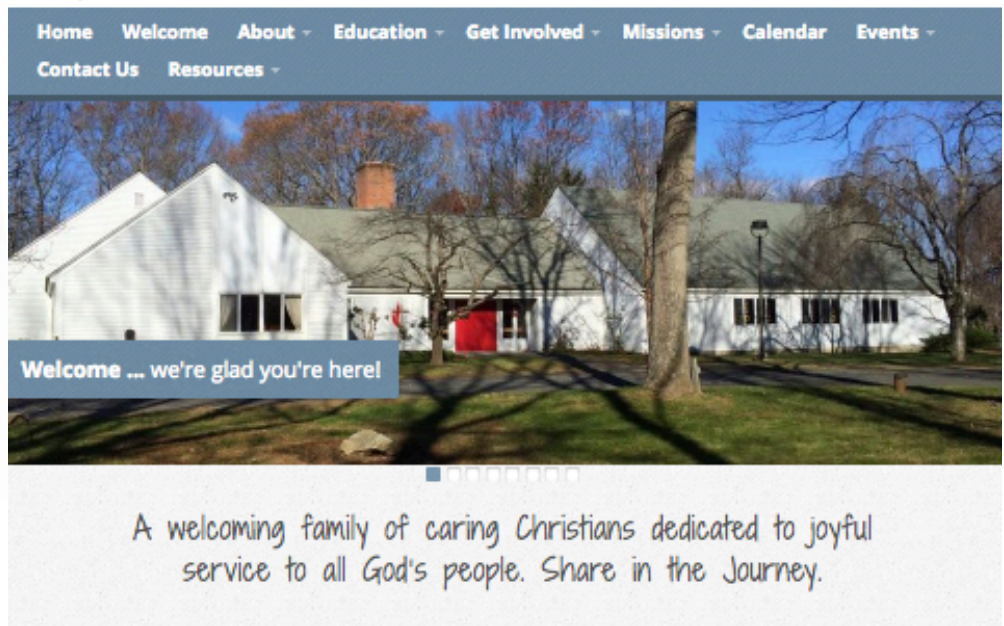
Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Monroe Food Pantry and join in our ongoing efforts to help our neighbors!



United Methodist Church of Monroe

515 Cutlers Farm Road • 203.268.8395

register online at www.umcmonroe.org
email: easteregg hunt@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



Meaghan Hite
Reagan Deaso
Mason and his mother, Amanda
Family of Jack Jirik on his passing (Kathy Schmalkuche's family)
Yen and new baby
Anita's niece's mother-in-law - suicide
John Parker - cancer
Patti's co-worker, Charlene - passing of husband
Grace York - adjustment to assisted living
Gladys - brain tumor
Cari's nephew - diagnosed with autism
Wayne's friend, Mike - medical tests
Vivian's brother, Wayne R. Pierri - Parkinson's
Claudia's Wallace father, Lou - eye surgery recovery
Roger Grant
Lauren and her mother
Cindy Cedergren Nigro - fractured fingers from work accident
Gail Mas' nephews, Lonnie and Greg
Lynn Gregory's grandson, Carson
Sue York - brother in hospice
Tyson (child) - central sleep apnea and seizures
John Whalen's mom, Dorothy - melanoma
Michelle Lambert's friend, Kristyanne - ovarian cancer
Sheryl's Aunt Marge, hospice care
Joe Lennon's brother, Michael - cancer
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

Ben Abercrombie – football player with broken neck
Audrey Stabler, kidney disease
Dotti Hossler's brother, Roger
Kathy's great-aunt, Marie Houdek
Fromm's friend, Radovan Frzop
Roy G - child with serious epilepsy
Friend of Billy Schmalkuche, Jill - long-term rehab
Jeff York
Tom Boomershine
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 and increasing suicides
Wisdom for world leaders
Children with mental illnesses
Unity and peace around the world

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

Mar 2019 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>24</div> <div>10 am - SS: Sunday School</div> <div>10 am - Worship Service</div> <div>11 am - Free Blood Pressure</div> <div>4 pm - Youth Group Meeting</div>	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div> <div>10 am - Bible Study @</div> <div>11:30 am - Prayer Team @</div>	<div>1</div> <div>5 pm - Liz's Cooking Class @</div>	<div>2</div> <div>2 pm - Liz's Cooking Class @</div>
<div>3</div> <div>10 am - Communion Sunday</div> <div>10 am - SS: Sunday School</div> <div>10 am - Worship Service</div>	<div>4</div> <div>11:30 am - MM: Missions</div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div> <div>6 pm - Girl Scout Meeting @</div> <div>7 pm - Ash Wednesday</div> <div>7:30 pm - Bell Choir (after</div>	<div>7</div> <div>10 am - Lenten Bible Study:</div> <div>11:30 am - Prayer Team @</div>	<div>8</div> <div>5 pm - Liz's Cooking Class @</div> <div>5:30 pm - Lenten Fish Fry</div>	<div>9</div> <div>2 pm - Liz's Cooking Class @</div>
<div>10</div> <div>10 am - SS: Sunday School</div> <div>10 am - Worship Service</div>	<div>11</div> <div>7 pm - Church Council</div>	<div>12</div>	<div>13</div> <div>7:15 pm - Bell Choir @ Choir</div>	<div>14</div> <div>10 am - Lenten Bible Study:</div> <div>11:30 am - Prayer Team @</div>	<div>15</div> <div>5 pm - Liz's Cooking Class @</div> <div>5:30 pm - Lenten Fish Fry</div>	<div>16</div> <div>10 am - Dress a Girl Around</div> <div>2 pm - Liz's Cooking Class @</div>
<div>17</div> <div>10 am - SS: Sunday School</div> <div>10 am - Worship Service</div> <div>11:15 am - SI: Social Issues</div> <div>4 pm - Youth Group Meeting</div>	<div>18</div> <div>12 pm - Pastor District</div>	<div>19</div>	<div>20</div> <div>6:30 pm - Girl Scouts 5th</div> <div>7:15 pm - Bell Choir @ Choir</div>	<div>21</div> <div>9 am - Spiritual Walk SET-</div> <div>10 am - Lenten Bible Study:</div> <div>11:30 am - Prayer Team @</div>	<div>22</div> <div>9 am - Spiritual Walk SET-</div> <div>5 pm - Liz's Cooking Class @</div> <div>5:30 pm - Lenten Fish Fry</div>	<div>23</div> <div>10 am - Spiritual Walk</div> <div>2 pm - Liz's Cooking Class @</div>
<div>24</div> <div>10 am - SS: Sunday School</div> <div>10 am - Worship Service</div>	<div>25</div>	<div>26</div>	<div>27</div> <div>7:15 pm - Bell Choir @ Choir</div>	<div>28</div> <div>10 am - Lenten Bible Study:</div> <div>11:30 am - Prayer Team @</div>	<div>29</div> <div>5:30 pm - Lenten Fish Fry</div>	<div>30</div>
<div>31</div> <div>10 am - SS: Sunday School</div> <div>10 am - Worship Service</div> <div>10:15 am - Youth Work Day</div> <div>2 pm - CROP Walk Rally @</div> <div>2 pm - Youth Group: CROP</div>	<div>1</div> <div>11:30 am - MM: Missions</div>	<div>2</div>	<div>3</div> <div>9:30 am - Clergy Prayer @</div> <div>6 pm - Girl Scout Meeting @</div> <div>7:15 pm - Bell Choir @ Choir</div>	<div>4</div> <div>Easter Egg Hunt Set Up @</div> <div>10 am - Lenten Bible Study:</div> <div>11:30 am - Prayer Team @</div>	<div>5</div> <div>Easter Egg Hunt Set Up @</div> <div>5:30 pm - Lenten Fish Fry</div>	<div>6</div> <div>9 am - All Hands Day @</div> <div>9 am - Annual Easter Egg</div>

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