



United Methodist Church of Monroe

messenger

JULY 2019

Dear Friends:

Yesterday, June 16th we celebrated Youth Sunday. We had 16 youth present and all took part in the service. It was the best Youth Sunday I have ever attended. What a blessing! The youth each received a certificate or a book mark to remind them of what they studied this year. Each Sunday school class gave a presentation. They recited the Apostles' Creed and the Lord's Prayer. And of course, they led us in singing *Jesus Loves Me*. We also recognized the efforts of our teachers and youth group leaders who work with our youth from the nursery all the way through high school, and helped to put together this wonderful celebration. They do a phenomenal job each week. Be sure to thank them for their efforts.

One of the parts that I found particularly meaningful, was the presentation by Juliana Epstein and Cooper Rupp. Cooper portrayed God and Juliana a young woman who was praying the Lord's Prayer. As Juliana was praying, "God" kept interrupting, first by acknowledging that He was there, but then by encouraging her to think about the words she was saying. "God" guided her to find peace with a problem she was having and helped her to understand the importance of prayer in her life. Not just doing it, but meaning what she was saying and listening to what God was saying to her.

Prayer is one of the most important things that we can do as a Christian. God wants a personal relationship with each one of us, but a relationship is not possible if we never talk to each other. The Gospels tell us that, before every major event in his life, Jesus prayed. The Church was founded on prayer. The first Disciples adopted Jesus' habit of praying, not only before every major event, but daily, and most likely, many times each day. When the Holy Spirit came upon them at Pentecost, they were gathered together in one place. When they gathered together, they prayed together, just like we do in worship each Sunday. But most of their prayers must have been lifted up when they were alone. That is the time most of us are open to hearing God's response to us. We were created with a need to know and communicate with our God. Prayer is the medium for that communication. We all need to talk to God often, and always take the time to listen for His response. This year more than ever, we need to keep our denomination, our church, and each other in our prayers.

Many thanks to our teachers and assistants who made this all possible. It was a great celebration and one of the best messages was delivered by two of our young adults. It was Isaiah who said, "...And a little child shall lead them." And they did.

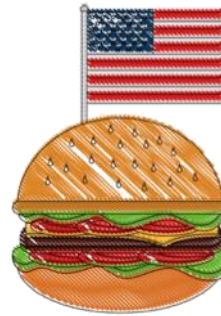
Peace and blessings this summer.

Pastor Mark

Summer

When on vacation ...
be with us in spirit.
The rest of the summer ...
be with us in person.

Let's Celebrate!



July



We owe a "round of applause" to Wayne Epstein for installing the proper hardware in order for us to have Wifi capability throughout the church building.

THANK YOU WAYNE!!



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
AND PLAN ON JOINING US
FOR AN OUTDOOR
WORSHIP SERVICE ON
SUNDAY, AUGUST 25, 2019 - 10 AM**

An outdoor worship service will be held at the Butterfly Garden at Webb Mountain Discovery Zone (71 Webb Circle, Monroe). Following the worship service there will be light refreshments, followed by some weeding of the area. Dress appropriately! More info will be in the August newsletter.



happy birthday

07/01 John Rajpolt
07/07 Sam Gray
07/09 Ina Beardsley
07/09 Betsy Sword
07/14 Roger Grant
07/15 Hana Rupp
07/17 Mitchell Hornak
07/19 Lauren Cacace
07/23 Willow Rupp
07/28 Jennifer Chaudhary
07/31 Ellie Lennon

07/01 Carol and Rich Steiner
07/14 Carin and Bill Florin
07/16 Lauren and Matthew
Cacace



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!

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!



Summer Hiatus



Social Issues Discussion Group

We're on hiatus for the summer and we'll be back in the fall. Watch for more details in the mid/late August timeframe.
Moderator: David York.

UMC Monroe Choir is taking a break for the summer. Our 2019 – 2020 season will begin on September 15th with our first rehearsal to be announced. The UMC Choir welcomes everyone of any age and musical ability to join us for our next season. Any questions, contact RoseAnne Homola at roseanneh123@gmail.com.



Summer Special Music Everyone is invited to share their talents (Don't hide that light under a basket!) during the summer - either singing or playing an instrument. If you'd like to sing but don't have music, I'll help you find something. Small groups are welcome too! If you have a musical friend that is not a church member, that you'd like to invite, this is an opportunity to invite them to experience the wonders of UMC Monroe and also give them a platform to share their talent! Please email RoseAnne Homola at roseanneh123@gmail.com to make arrangements for any Sunday in the summer!

MISSIONS



July Mini-Missions - While we all look forward to taking a break with vacation plans during the summer, the Monroe Food Pantry (and the need for food in our community) never takes a break. When you are out doing your regular grocery shopping, take advantage of sales and Buy One/Get One ("BOGO") specials and purchase an item or two for the mini-mission wagon. Just drop the non-perishable food in the wagon located in the narthex and the Missions Team will get it delivered in a timely manner for you!

Church World Service ("CWS")

Our thanks to all who donated to the Father's Day Tools drive that helps support the Church World Service organization!

"That one is like a man building a house, who dug deeply and laid the foundation on rock; when a flood arose, the river burst against that house but could not shake it, because it had been well built."

(Luke 6:48 NRSV)

For our Mother's Day Blankets Program in My, we raised and donated \$465! Outstanding! Thank you to everyone that donated and helped to *"Blanket the World with Love!"*



LOOKING AHEAD: As we look toward the month of August, sandwiches for Spooner House in Derby will be needed for August 18; and our annual Backpack & School Supplies collection will take place. Stay tuned for more info.

Dress A Girl Around the World Sew-a-Thons 2019

September 21: Monroe Congregational Church

October 19: United Methodist Church of Monroe

November 2: Monroe Congregational Church



Time: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm (includes lunch)

RSVP to Liz Skarzynski at 203.257.7174 or DressAGirlSouthernCT@yahoo.com

NYAC Conference



Health Kits



UMCOR Hygiene (“Health”) Kits- Pastor Mark delivered 85 Hygiene Kits and \$170 (to cover toothpaste and shipping) to the NY Annual Conference. Our kits will be added to hundreds of other kits donated by the many churches that make up our conference. High fives all around for everyone that contributed or assembled (and delivered) the kits! These kits will be distributed by UMCOR after a natural disaster anywhere in the United States.

This year, our Conference received 4,542 hygiene kits and more than 200 clean-up buckets were collected and delivered to Mission Central following this year’s Annual Conference. As an aside, people will sometimes ask, Do these things really get to where they are intended? In response, the answer is, Yes!

AND speaking of UMCOR, our congregation raised \$400 to help our neighbors in Mozambique recovering from the spring cyclones.





UMC MONROE YOUTH NEWS



Dear Church Family:

You are all incredible! Our ASP fundraising efforts are complete, and our team raised \$4,804.81!!! The words that come to mind are Praise God ... and WOW ... nothing is impossible for God and the UMCM! We appreciate everything you have done to support us and we are looking forward to all the good we will do the week of July 13th – 20th in Craigsville, WV.

Monday, June 10th began 7 weeks of home repair in Appalachia. There will be 13,000 volunteers serving over 350 families in five states. Our team will be working Week 6.

PLEASE PRAY FOR US! It is our final request. It is going to be hot and sweaty. It may rain (hopefully not). It will be challenging at times – physically, emotionally, and mentally. Some will shed tears of joy; some will shed tears of frustration. It's going to be hard work. It is by no means a vacation. Knowing you have our backs in prayer will keep us strong and spiritually healthy, and joyful in ALL circumstances!

On Sunday, July 21st we will share our faith stories with you (and our ASP music!). Please plan to attend the service and hear why it's so necessary that we needed you to support us on this incredible mission.

Thank you once again. We could not have done it without you. We promise to make UMCM proud!

We look forward to seeing you on July 21st!!!

Sunday Celebrations

FATHER' S DAY AND YOUTH SUNDAY CELEBRATION!!

A special worship service was held on Sunday, June 16 celebrating both Father's Day and recognizing our Sunday School Youth, teachers, leaders, ASP participants and Youth Group. The service, led by our youth, included singing of "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" accompanied by Dave & Cooper Rupp and Sheryl Rajpolt on guitars; "Jesus Loves Me" sung by the children with lots of solos; and at the conclusion of the service, a rousing group performance by our youth and the adult choir of "This Little Light of Mine". Evan Chaudhary performed a prelude solo on bass guitar and Emily Florin performed a flute duet with Janice Allen for the offertory. Each class presented something they had learned during the year and Will Steese received his Bible from Pastor Mark as we continue our church tradition of distributing bibles to our children that are entering fourth grade. Kathy Schmalkuche prepared a nostalgic video congratulating all children graduating or moving up, including a 10-year look back of several of our former graduates and the paths they have chosen. The service was followed up with ice cream sundaes for "coffee hour". A BIG thank you to everyone that assisted throughout the year!



Look who was spotted attending church for the first time! Welcome Dylan Cacace (with mom, Lauren).



Summer Bible Study begins Thursday, July 25th. The guided study is entitled, "Simon Peter", by Adam Hamilton. All are welcome to join us on Thursday mornings at 10 a.m.



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.





The United Methodist Church
of Monroe

515 Outlets Farm Road • Monroe, CT 06468

Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.

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



Welcome ... we're glad you're here!

A welcoming family of caring Christians dedicated to joyful service to all God's people. Share in the Journey.



NYAC Register here



Prayer Request



Host Coffee Hour



Mini Mission Wagon



Shop AmazonSmile



Ministry Staff

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



Deb Duchess & family-passing of her father
Sue Simmons' Aunt Carmela passed away
Tom & Amanda Early-job transitions
Steve & Annie
Dave York & family on the passing of his mother, Grace
Tom/Nancy Higgins & family-daughter, Emily (28), died
from a long battle w/cancer
Kathy's friend, Dick Hormel-treatment for melanoma
Anita's cousin, Brett Bailey-cancer
Jim Eastwood
Lynn's friend, Mary-Stage 3 cancer
Mary Ellen-more surgery
Diane Greco-friend of Allen's-cancer has spread
Dexton
Pastor Martha's father-Rev. Richard Rice
Priscilla & Family
Josh, London & Jessica
Lynn Abbott's grandson Tyson- rare genetic disease
(Coffin Siris)
Bill & Marie Schmalkuche, Bill's parents
Patti's cousin, Emilia-lung cancer
Matt Crosby-liver transplant
Lauren in rehab & her mother, Linda
Fromm's friend-Radovan Frzop
Lynn Gregory's grandson Carson
Juliana Sherwood's mom Melinda
Mason & his mother Amanda
Vivian's brother Wayne-Parkinson's
Roger Grant
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
Dotti Hossler's sister Loretta
Sue Simmon's brother Jeff-addiction
Marilyn Jones
Delores Ovesny
Caleb

Ben Abercrombie -football player w/broken neck
Dotti Hossler's brother Roger
Kathy's great-aunt Marie Houdek-hospice
Roy G-child w/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 w/rare form of cancer

Abused children
The People of Sri Lanka
The United Methodist Church
Military personnel
Unemployed
First responders, firemen, policemen
Persons dealing w/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 & deaths
Refugees
Unspoken burdens that reside upon people's hearts
Youth-effects of social media & those being bullied &
increasing suicides
Wisdom for world leaders
Unity and peace around the world
Those suffering from depression and/or loss
Brothers & sisters in Mozambique
Mental health issues & associated stigma
Conditions at the US southern border
Graduates from College that are moving on to
Next phase of their lives
The families & friends of 7 bikers killed in motorcycle
Accident in New Hampshire

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

Jul 2019 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 10am - Worship Service	1 8:45am - Two Planks 12pm - Two Planks Summer	2 8:45am - Two Planks 12pm - Two Planks Summer	3 8:45am - Two Planks 12pm - Two Planks Summer	4 12pm - Two Planks Summer	5 8:45am - Two Planks 12pm - Two Planks Summer	6
7 10am - Communion Sunday 10am - Worship Service	8 8:45am - Two Planks 12pm - Two Planks Summer	9 8:45am - Two Planks 11:30am - MM: Missions 12pm - Two Planks Summer 7pm - Church Council	10 8:45am - Two Planks 12pm - Two Planks Summer	11 8:45am - Two Planks 12pm - Two Planks Summer	12 8:45am - Two Planks 12pm - Two Planks Summer	13 Appalachia Service Project
14 Appalachia Service Project 10am - Worship Service	15 Appalachia Service Project 8:45am - Two Planks 12pm - Two Planks Summer	16 Appalachia Service Project 8:45am - Two Planks 12pm - Two Planks Summer	17 Appalachia Service Project 8:45am - Two Planks 12pm - Two Planks Summer 7pm - Two Planks - Open	18 Appalachia Service Project 8:45am - Two Planks 12pm - Two Planks Summer	19 Appalachia Service Project 8:45am - Two Planks 12pm - Two Planks Summer	20 Appalachia Service Project
21 ASP Team Day 10am - Worship Service	22 8:45am - Two Planks 12pm - Two Planks Summer	23 8:45am - Two Planks 12pm - Two Planks Summer	24 8:45am - Two Planks 12pm - Two Planks Summer 7pm - Two Planks Parent	25 8:45am - Two Planks 12pm - Two Planks Summer 7pm - Two Planks Parent	26 8:45am - Two Planks 12pm - Two Planks Summer	27 6pm - Two Planks Theater:
28 10am - Worship Service 6pm - RAIN DATE: Two	29 12pm - Two Planks Summer	30 12pm - Two Planks Summer	31 12pm - Two Planks Summer	1 8am - Bible Reading 12pm - Two Planks Summer 6pm - Two Planks Theater:	2 8am - Bible Reading 12pm - Two Planks Summer	3 8am - Bible Reading