



United Methodist Church of Monroe

messenger

DECEMBER 2019

Jeremiah 29:11-13

For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.



December 1st begins the season of Advent. God's season of Joy and Hope. The season of expectation leading to the Birth of our Savior. The time of hope and promise for the future. My prayer is that this Advent season brings more Joy to our worship, more awareness of the Love of our Savior and deeper meaning to the Peace that Christ brings as we celebrate Christmas.

December 1st also brings a new season of hope to UMC Monroe. The Annual Conference has appointed Pastor Edward Dayton to be our new pastor. Pastor Ed will be serving on a part time basis as he also serves

as part time pastor for the Long Hill UMC in Trumbull. He has a passion for serving. He is excited about his new charge and has already been engaged with various committees.

We will be welcoming Pastor Ed on the December 1st service at 10:00am
. Please make an extra effort to join us for the Communion and Advent service.

With change comes challenges. In order to accommodate two Sunday morning services, beginning with the December 8th service, our services will begin at 9:15. This will allow time for Pastor Ed to travel to Trumbull for their 10:45 service. This adjustment will take a few weeks but we will make it work. God has this. We must trust and run the faithful race.

You may think this is the worst time for this transition, but what better time? This season with its mystery, its majesty, its beauty and promise of something eternal, the perfect time to bring the glory of our God and the Love of Christ to our congregation and to the world.

Blessings,
Dotti Hossler
SPPRC Chair

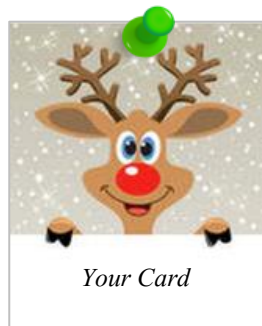


Staff Christmas Gifts

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 1 to December 22. No amount is too small! Our staff includes 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 Dotti Hossler. 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 1.

Let's Celebrate!



happy birthday

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 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 through our website and click on the coffee cup and you're ready to host a coffee hour! 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!





Stewardship Giving

Thank you to everyone who submitted a pledge card on Stewardship Sunday. If you were not 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 or Rose Aiello. Thank you!

ESTIMATE OF GIVING

My GIVING PLAN for 2020 is \$ _____ per: week month year

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Cell/Home Phone: _____
(____) _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

This estimate may be modified or cancelled at any time and will be kept confidential.

TRUSTEE



Thanks to the "leaf" crew that came out in the chilly temps on Sat., November 9 to pick up branches and twigs and blow the leaves at both the church and the parsonage. Every year we think there are more leaves than the year before!

And many thanks to Dotti Hossler for all her work in doing some major cleaning in the kitchen! You know, there is no reason to wait for a Trustee invite to do a project at the church. If you see something that needs to be addressed and want to help, contact the church office and Denise can pass along to the right people. They say it takes a village, right? Well, it sure does!



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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.

UPCOMING EVENTS



During our worship services beginning on the first Sunday of Advent (December 1) and throughout Advent, we will be celebrating the 300th Anniversary of the Isaac Watts' hymn "Joy to the World" as we prepare for the birth of our Savior on Christmas. Please join us as we celebrate in worship Hopeful, Loving, Unabashed and Peaceful Joy. By experiencing the Advent wreath in a new and very different way and inspired by the music, scripture and messages, we will be better prepared to go out and bring "Joy to the World!"

This year we've changed things up and our annual Potluck Luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 22 right after the worship service (which will include our Christmas pageant). The sign-up list will be posted on the narthex bulletin board. All you need to do is add your family name and tell us what you're bringing to share (main dish, salad or dessert). Some help is needed in setting and cleaning up the fellowship hall. Join us for food, fun & fellowship as we prepare for the birth of Jesus. Questions? See Rose



2019 Charge Conference: Sunday, December 8

This year our Charge Conference will be held from 2-4pm at the United Methodist Church of Westport and Weston, located at 49 Weston Road, Westport, CT 06880. All are welcome to attend!

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 2019 is December 15 after worship service in Meeting Room 1. Moderator: David York.



Inviting All to a Sing-a-Long... The More the Merrier!!

HOLD THE DATE: We're organizing a Christmas Sing-A-Long to be held on Sunday, December 15th at 2:30 pm at Wesley Assisted Living. ...More details to follow. Please let us know if you can join us – all are welcome! Contact: RoseAnne Homola.

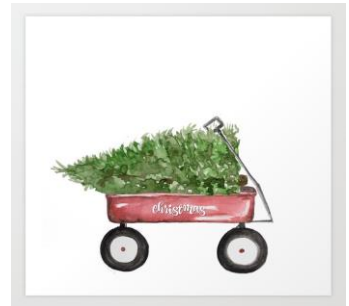
MISSIONS

In the Spirit of Giving...



Mitten Tree -- Help keep our neighbors in need warm this winter as we decorate our annual Mitten Tree! Donations of NEW hats, scarves, gloves, and other warm items **can be left on the tree in the narthex. All items will be donated to Thomas Merton House in Bridgeport.** Due date is Sunday, January 5.

December Mini Mission -- Let's "Spruce Up for the Holidays" by helping the Monroe Food Pantry for our December Mini Mission. We will be collecting personal hygiene products (bar soap, face wash, deodorant, tooth paste, toothbrushes, shampoo, conditioner) and household cleaning products (dish washing liquid, laundry detergent, bathroom cleaners). Items can be left in our Mini Missions wagon and will be delivered to the Monroe Food Pantry following the holidays. Due date is December 29.



SERRV & Earn Online Sale -- Looking for a unique gift item for someone special? Check out the full selection of handcrafted items offered by SERRV. This year our SERRV sale will be offered online with direct shipping to customers. By using our SERRV & Earn link to shop, you can support both the artisans of SERRV and UMC of Monroe too with 20% of all purchases donated back to our congregation. To shop please visit: www.serrv.org?a=UMCMONROE

Emmaus Weekend 2019

Thirty-two team members gathered together at Trinity Episcopal Church in Seymour November 8 - 10 for South Central Emmaus Weekend XLII. Participants were from 14 churches and 6 denominations across 16 Connecticut towns. Juliana Epstein, Emily Florin, 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 (soup and salad warmed us on a cold Saturday!) and for joining us throughout the weekend. Your prayers were felt!

** Emmaus Weekend XLIII will take place 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.



VETERAN'S DAY: On Sunday, November 10 we honored all veterans, but especially our very own Marine, Paul Lesko! Especially with it being the United States Marine Corps Birthday! Our grateful thanks to all those that have served. (see photo)

ALL SAINTS DAY – on Sunday, November 3, we remembered the lives of those that had passed away in the last year. Sheryl Rajpolt rang the bell after each name was read by Rose Aiello and Heather Arnold. 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)*



UMC MONROE YOUTH NEWS



UMCM Christmas Pageant - Sunday, December 22nd.

All are invited to join us at Worship Service to enjoy this year's Christmas Pageant! Come cheer them on!

Spooner House – November 2019



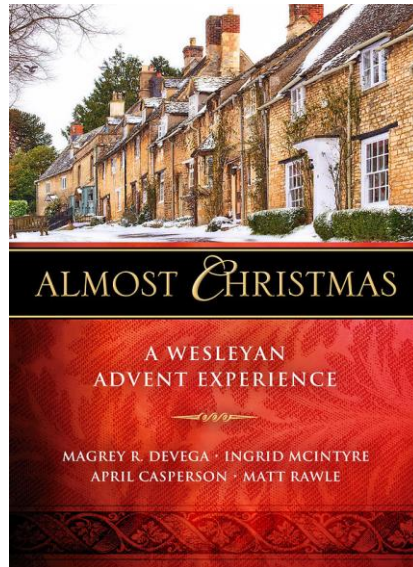
*Friends are **always welcome to our youth events** – no need for them to belong to our church!!*

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

Advent Bible Study



Tuesday, November 26th – 7-8:30pm

Wednesdays - December 4, 11, 18, 2019 from 7-8:30pm

Thursdays – December 5, 12 & 19 – 10am-11:30

Location: Meeting Room 2

Please join us ... and feel free to invite a friend!

For questions and to order your book, please contact the church office.

UMC Monroe • 515 Cutlers Farm Road • 203.268.8395

www.umcmonroe.org • umc@umcmonroe.org



Breakfast with Santa

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2019

8:30 am – 11:30 am at UMC Monroe

Children (12 and under) \$8 • Adults \$10

Register online at www.umcmonroe.org by Friday, December 6

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*! 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 • www.umcmonroe.org • 203.268.8395

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



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.

Prayer Concerns



Neil Chaudhary's mom, Yvonne
Paula Fromm's sister, Betty-vision problems
Darlene-cancer surgery
Roger Grant
Jeff York-4th hip replacement surgery
Claudia Wallace's mom, Marianne- medical testing
Steve Arnold's brother's best friend, Ron-lung transplant
Anita-eye surgery recovery
Brett Bailey-chemo
Claudia's sister's mother-in-law, Judy-pancreatic cancer
Family & friends of Bill Schmalkuche's uncle, Jim Perkins,
 on his passing
Lynn Abbott's sister, Cheryl-surgery
Noah-pancreatic cancer treatment
Evie Andrejczyk's son, Bob-bone cancer
Dotti's friend, Anne-pancreatic cancer
Rebecca's grandson, Gavin
Anita's grandson-2 broken legs suffered at basic training
Rich Cornell, back surgery
Gail Mas
Lynn Abbott's grandson Tyson
Lauren & her mother, Linda
Lynn Gregory's grandson, Carson
Ken
Bill Schmalkuche's Dad-health issues
Bob Pantalone-treatments
Lynn Abbott's Uncle Eddie-medical issues
Vivian's cousin, William Marshall-hospice care; his wife Sue & family
Gail's sister, Joan-COPD
Joe Lennon's brother, Michael-cancer treatments
Sue Simmon's brother, Jeff-alcohol addiction
RoseAnne's dad, Ken
Marilyn Jones
Sheryl's mom-seizures
Dexton

Pastor Martha's father-Rev. Richard Rice
Fromm's friend-Radovan Frzop
Vivian's brother Wayne-Parkinson's
Dotti Hossler's sister, Loretta
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
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 United Methodist Church, Monroe & beyond
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
Mental health issues & associated stigma
"Sandwich" generation

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@umcmmonroe.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					Dec 2019 (Eastern Time - New York)				
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat			
1 10am - Communion Sunday 10am - Worship Service	2	3 11:30am - MM: Missions 7pm - Church Council	4 7pm - Almost Christmas: A	5 8:30am - Monroe Women's 10am - Almost Christmas:	6	7			
8 10am - Worship Service 2pm - Charge Conference 6pm - Sunset Recovery	9 ALL ROOMS RESERVED: 7pm - Task Force Study	10 ALL ROOMS RESERVED:	11 6pm - Liz Pippa Girl Scout 7pm - Almost Christmas: A	12 ALL ROOMS RESERVED: 10am - Almost Christmas:	13 ALL ROOMS RESERVED:	14 8:30am - HO-HO-HO Hold			
15 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - St: Social Issues	16	17	18 7pm - Almost Christmas: A	19 10am - Almost Christmas:	20 3pm - Girl Scout Troop	21			
22 10am - Worship Service 10am - Youth Christmas 11:15am - Christmas	23	24	25	26	27	28			
29 10am - Worship Service	30	31	1	2	3	4			