

United Methodist Church of Monroe



messenger

FEBRUARY 2020

My brothers and sisters of United Methodist of Monroe, Grace and peace.

In this week's Gospel reading (John 1:29-42) the Apostle John tells us of the calling of Jesus' first two disciples, Simon Peter and Andrew. In this text Jesus asks Simon Peter and Andrew perhaps His first recorded question; "What are you looking for"? Blogger Debi Thomas says of this; "I believe this is a question for the ages. *What are you looking for?* In your heart, in your secret and quiet places, what are the hungers that drive you forward in your life of faith? Why do you still have skin in this game we call Christianity? As you say goodbye to an old year and welcome a new one, what are you hoping for, asking for, looking for, in your spiritual life? Do you know"?

What I believe Debi is asking here is the question that forms the foundation for understanding a calling; that is how we live our life. Please understand this calling is NOT; what you **WANT** to do? What you **WANT** to produce or achieve or prove? What **OTHERS** expect you to do? This all-important question **is** however; what are **you** looking for? What is important – **to you**? What is it that will fill **your** life with **passion**?" In other words what will give our lives, "life abundant"?

A friend and colleague promotes something he calls a PMP (Personal Ministry Plan), and everyone should have one. It is that thing you do that stirs your soul and gives you passion. It is that thing that Jesus tells us why He has come; "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the abundant" (John 10:10). For me it was finding my way into parish ministry, but abiding with Jesus can just as easily happen in the classroom or the kitchen or the boardroom or the courtroom or the laboratory or the studio - or like so many of us, in retirement. The call is not to a particular job. Rather it is to a particular **relationship** - to a particular **vision** - and to a particular answer to that all important question: "What are **YOU** looking for?"

As we start this New Year, please consider; what is your passion, what is your mission in life. What – are you looking for?

"our hearts are restless until they find rest in God."

Pastor Ed

Pastor Ed • 203.268.8395 • pastor.ed.dayton@gmail.com

IN CHURCH COUNCIL AND TRUSTEE NEWS ...

The Trustees met on Monday, January 13 with the land surveyor, Dave Bjorklund, and advised him to go forward with the surveying and test holes of the 9+/- acres of the parsonage land that we put on hold last summer in the midst of our uncertainty. We cannot market the property until the work is complete. However, preliminary maps are available should you know or hear of anyone looking for vacant land. You can contact Brian Sherwood for further information.



Brian Sherwood is now the duly elected chair of Trustees. John Rajpolt will remain as Treasurer.

The Trustees are hoping to wrap up leasing the parsonage in the next few weeks in order for a March 1 tenancy. Once the house is leased, the Town of Monroe will impose real estate tax on the house and the 9 acres. The Finance Committee took this all into consideration when planning the 2020 budget.

The next major project for the church will be the removal of the underground oil tank, soil testing and installation of a new above-ground tank. This removal is mandated by the State of Connecticut.

The next Church Council meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 19 at 7:00 pm.

Rose Aiello, Chairperson



PHISHING SCAMS TARGETING CLERGY

Many clergy and congregations - including UMC Monroe! - have fallen prey to a common (and growing) email phishing scheme among clergy. Pastors Ed, Caroly and Mark have all been targets over the last year by variations of the scams. The emails may look something like this:

- "Hi, NAME, I need you to get something done? Kindly reply once you receive my e-mail. Regards, PASTOR NAME" or
- "Good morning, NAME. Have you got a minute? I need you to complete a task for me. I'm in a meeting now and can't talk so just reply. Peace. PASTOR's NAME)" or
- "Please I need to get an iTunes gift card for a widow that I promised her as a birthday gift. Can you get it from any store around you? I'll pay you back. Thanks."

While the tone/"sound" of the emails may tip you off, the wrong email address from the sender can be a major clue – but easy to miss for the untrained eye. It appears that the scammers often just change the domain name and make it a "gmail.com" address, for instance, that closely resembles the real email address.

If you receive any emails that raise your suspicions, please notify Pastor Ed/the church office so that we can address the issue/contact local authorities, if necessary. Do not click on any links or reply to them. We might also suggest that you change your password(s) immediately ... it never hurts!

And for the record ... Pastor Ed's email is pastor.ed.dayton@gmail.com. If you receive any communication from another email address claiming to be him, beware!

Reference:

<https://www.consumeraffairs.com/news/new-phishing-scam-uses-church-pastors-names-as-bait-031919.html>



WORSHIP TIME
9:15 AM
SUNDAY

Let's Celebrate February!



Names Tags



Please remember to wear your names tags so Pastor Ed and his wife Patty and get to know your names! If you don't have one, please let Denise know so we can make you one.

Weekly Prayer Service



Please join us for a weekly Prayer Service each Monday at Long Hill UMC, 6358 Main Street Trumbull.

Service begins at 9:45 am and will be led by Pastor Dayton. All are welcome!

Questions: Pastor Ed

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 Pastor Ed Dayton
02/07 Dotti Hossler
02/10 Emily Florin
02/11 Dave Rupp
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!



A big "thank you" to everyone who had a hand in cleaning up/putting away all of our holiday decorations! We appreciate it!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dress A Girl Around the World Sew-a-Thon

Saturday, February 8 - 9:30 – 1:00 pm
Church of Christ, 2 Drew Circle, Trumbull

Registration: Contact Liz Skarzynski at 203.257.7174 or
DressAGirlSouthernCT@yahoo.com
UMCM Contacts: Ethel Abraham and Tanya Lennon



Wicke Valentine's Day Luncheon



Please join us for the Wicke Valentine's Day luncheon on Tuesday, February 11. The luncheon will be at the church and will begin at 11:00 am. There will be camaraderie, food and games. We've invited the residents of Wicke and we will be honoring our UMC Monroe seniors.

If you're available to volunteer, there are opportunities - serving, making some crafts, decorating or clean up, food donations, etc. All are welcome and any help is appreciated.

Please RSVP to Brian Sherwood (Cell/text: 203.570.4150) or Marsha Cohen by Sunday, February 9. We hope to see you there!

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 Sunday, February 18 at 10:30 am in Meeting Room 1. Moderator: David York.



Weekly Confirmation classes begin on Sunday evening, February 23 and run through Sunday, March 29. The meetings are scheduled from 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm with session details to follow. Please note that the meeting location will alternate between UMC Monroe and Long Hill UMC. Stay tuned for more details!

Confirmation

2020

** If you are interested in participating or if you have any questions, please contact Pastor Ed.



Scout Sunday



Sunday, March 8, 2020 • 9:15 am

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!

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Pizza with the Pastor



GETTING TO KNOW YOU, GETTING TO KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU

Dotti Hossler

When: Sundays - February 9, 16 and 23
Time: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Where: Fellowship Hall
RSVP REQUIRED Denise - 203.268.8395 or umc@umcmonroe.org

Pastor Ed and his wife Patty would like the opportunity to get to know our members on a personal level. They would like to share pizza with 3-4 families at a time on Sundays, February 9, 16, and 23. Pizza will be served at 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm after Pastor Ed returns from the Long Hill worship service. There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex to sign up as a family or a group of six to share in conversation and pizza. NOTE: Coffee Hour will take place after worship, as usual.

At first you may ask, "We have to come back to church?" Yes. Pastor Ed is making every effort to connect with this congregation. We need to do our part to make the connection. Please check your schedules and sign up. Check with another family and sign up together. Sign up with a friend.

In addition, on each 5th Sunday of the month (March 29, May 31, August 30, November 29), Pastor Ed will remain here after our service to engage with members during coffee hour. Long Hill will cover their service in an effort to give Pastor Ed more time with our congregation. We are all trying to make the best of the current arrangement. Especially Pastor Ed and Patty.

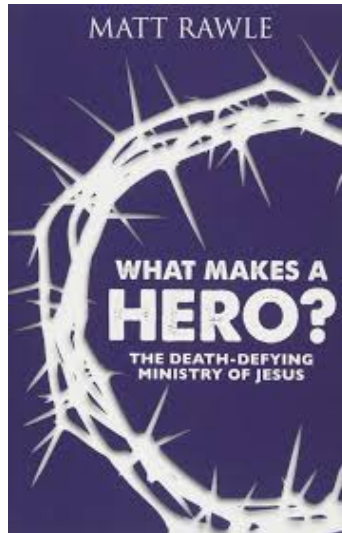


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What Makes a Hero?

Bible Study



What Makes a Hero? offers us an image of what it looks like to be victorious over trials and temptations. Looking at pop culture heroes and others through the lens of faith, Matt Rawle shows how Jesus turned the concept of hero on its head. In keeping with his theme, Pop in Culture, the book examines how good vs. evil, right vs. wrong, and overcoming adversity are fundamental to how Christians understand salvation. Heroes help us discern the good, fight for what's right, define identity, execute justice, spark revolution, and save lives.

Rawle enters the Gospel story to tell quite a different victory story – one obtained through humility, obedience to the cross, and an empty tomb. How does Jesus redefine what it means to be a hero?

Please join us in this Lenten bible study offered in six sessions. Morning sessions begin Thursday, February 27 at 10:30 am and evening sessions are TBD. Meetings will be held in Meeting Room 2.

** Please contact Pastor Ed by February 9 if you're interested in attending so he may order materials. **

Dates:

Thursday, February 27
Thursday, March 5
Thursday, March 12
Thursday, March 19
Thursday, March 26



UMC MONROE YOUTH NEWS

Are You Ready For Some Souper Bowl?

On Sunday, February 19, our Youth Group had a great time bowling together. We accepted the *Souper Bowl of Caring Challenge* and bowled our best for lots of strikes and spares to help the cause of feeding others. We are excited to announce that the grand total of all of our individual high scores for the day is ... 550!

Now it's your turn! On *Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday (February 2)*, we challenge the congregation to out bowl our high score by bringing in non-perishable food items and contributing to our soup pot monetary collection at the end of the service. Our goal is a combined total of more +550.

So who's ready for our Souper Bowl of Caring Challenge? Game on!

100% of our donations will benefit **Monroe Food Pantry and Spooner House**. Please make checks payable to *UMCM* with *Souper Bowl* in the memo section.

Contact: Tanya Lennon



Photo credit: Tanya

**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!

Dress a Girl Around the World 2020 Sew-a-Thons



Imagine a world where every little girl owned at least one dress! What if that dress was

***Calling all crafters or
want-to-be crafters!***

Materials to Bring:

1. Sewing machine and/or Serger
2. Sewing kit – scissors, ripper; thread

Materials Provided:

- Patterns, cotton fabric, t-shirts, double-fold bias bias tape and most notions
- You are welcome to bring a brown bag lunch to enjoy after a morning of sewing and/or packing up dresses.

Materials Donations Needed/Accepted:

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

January 25:	St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 175 Old Tannery Road, Monroe
February 8:	Trumbull Church of Christ, 2 Drew Circle, Trumbull
March 7:	Monroe Congregational Church, 34 Church Street, Monroe
April 25:	Newtown Congregational Church, 14 West Street, Newtown
May 2:	Monroe Congregational Church, 34 Church Street, Monroe
September 12:	Monroe Congregational Church, 34 Church Street, Monroe
October 17:	UMC Monroe, 515 Cutlers Farm Road, Monroe

Time:	9:30 am – 1:00 pnm
Registration:	Contact Liz Skarzynski at 203.257.7174 or DressAGirlSouthernCT@yahoo.com
UMCM Contacts:	Ethel Abraham and Tanya Lennon



UMC Monroe • 515 Cutlers Farm Road • 203.268.8395
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Hope 4 Women International
PO Box 8061
Tempe, AZ 85281

Prayer Concerns



Betsy's grandson's fiancé - safe travelling from the Philippines
Whittaker Family - passing of 3-year old son
Patti's friend, Adeline – broken ankle
Gail's friend, MaryAnn – recovery from surgery
Rose's sister-in-law, MaryAnn – medical issues and depression
Gail's niece, Suzette - medical issues
Patty Dayton's Family on the passing of her mother, Helen
Nancy Rice
Claudia Wallace's mom, Marianne - leukemia
Claudia's sister's mother-in-law, Judy - pancreatic cancer
Bob Pantalone and Brenda, Josh
Anita's ex-husband, John - rehab for broken neck
Neil Chaudhary's mom, Yvonne
Roger Grant
Jeff York - hip replacement surgery
Brett Bailey - chemo
Noah - pancreatic cancer treatment
Evie Andrejczyk's son, Bob - bone cancer
Dotti's friend, Anne - pancreatic cancer
Rebecca's grandson, Gavin
Lynn Abbott's grandson, Tyson
Lauren and her mother, Linda
Lynn Gregory's grandson, Carson
Gail's sister, Joan - COPD
Joe Lennon's brother, Michael – cancer treatments
Sue Simmons' 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 with broken neck
Dotti Hossler's brother, Roger
Roy G - child with serious epilepsy
Friend of Billy Schmalkuche - Jill - long-term rehab
Tom Boomersshine
Robert Ellis, co-worker of Claudia Wallace - cancer
Sue Simmons' friend, Debbie - MS
York's daughter-in-law, Lori
Jodi Kles, Sheryl's cousin - living with rare form of cancer

Abused children
The United Methodist Church, Monroe and beyond
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
Unity and peace around the world
Those suffering from depression and/or loss
Mental health issues and associated stigma
“Sandwich” generation
Recovery efforts for those affected by earthquakes, fires, volcano

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!

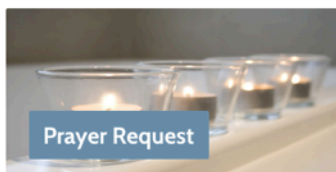
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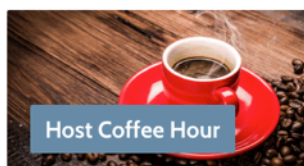
Ring in the New Year with Joy!



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



Prayer Request



Host Coffee Hour

amazon

Shop AmazonSmile

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.

United Methodist Church of Monroe

Feb 2020 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
9:15am - Worship Service 10:30am - Membership 1pm - Pizza with the Pastor	9:45am - Weekly Prayer			7pm - Worship Team		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:15am - Communion 9:15am - Souper Bowl of 9:15am - Worship Service 1pm - Pizza with the Pastor	9:45am - Weekly Prayer	11:30am - MM: Missions				9:30am - Dress a Girl
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:15am - Worship Service 1pm - Pizza with the Pastor 6pm - Sunset Recovery	9:45am - Weekly Prayer	Bishops retreat @ Monticello, NY 12701, USA 11am - Wicke Valentine's				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:15am - Worship Service 10:15am - St: Social Issues 1pm - Pizza with the Pastor	9:45am - Weekly Prayer		7pm - Church Council 7:30pm - Great Oaks Farm			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
9:15am - Worship Service 1pm - Pizza with the Pastor 5pm - Confirmation Class @	9:45am - Weekly Prayer		Ash Wednesday	10:30am - What Makes a	HOLD: Girl Scouts -	HOLD: Girl Scouts -

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