

United Methodist Church of Monroe



messenger

JANUARY 2020

Celebrations of the Season





Joy to the World, the Savior reigns! He rules the world with truth and grace!

Throughout Advent and at our Christmas Eve service, we were blessed by hearing the Good News of the Hopeful, Loving, Unabashed, Peaceful and ultimately the Incarnate Joy as we enhanced our worship with Marcia McFee's series "Heaven and Nature Sing: Joy to the World" in celebration of the 300th anniversary of the hymn text by Isaac Watts that began on December 1 – Pastor Ed and Patty Dayton's first week with us. The Worship Team truly appreciates Pastor Ed's graciously embracing the plans that were in motion and for providing wonderful messages.

A special thank you to Anita Stabler-Hussey for making the series possible in loving memory of James Hussey. Many thanks to Rose Aiello who coordinated the services, generously prepared the special bulletins and provided a joyful altar display that included the lovely advent wreath made by Betsy Sword. Thank you to the Rajpolts and those who assisted in setting up the tree and hanging the greens in the sanctuary. Thank you to everyone, too many to individually name, who participated as acolytes, liturgists, Powerpoint operators, choir members, ushers, etc., and to RoseAnne Homola for the special music throughout the season. Thank you to Denise for all the behind-the-scenes support as well.

Our Advent Wreath players, wonderfully coordinated and championed by Sheryl Rajpolt as the Narrator/Director, truly brought the messages of Joy to us. Thank you to Evan Chaudhary, Juliana Epstein, Emily Florin, Malenna Hornak, Ellie Lennon, Michelle Rajpolt, Aubrey Ramos, Henry and Liam Whalen for their enthusiasm and commitment each week. Thank you to Kathy Schmalkuche for making the special shirts worn by our "candle players." Lastly, special thanks to Sheryl and Amy Rajpolt for coordinating a wonderful pageant including more than fifteen of the youth and to Patty Hornak for her getting each of the pageant participants perfectly matched with their appropriate costumes – no easy feat! The pageant was a real JOY!

We are truly blessed by the generosity of time, gifts and talents in our church family. May 2020 continue to bring Joy in our church as we worship together to be equipped, encouraged, and empowered to bring Joy to the World!

Peace & blessing,

Patti Early
Worship Team Coordinator



... AND a big THANK YOU to Patti for having the vision for the worship series and dedication to pulling us all together ... including the Powerpoint presentations each week!

Thanks to our Advent Bible Study leaders, Bill Florin and Janet Morris. We were able to offer both evening and daytime sessions of *Almost Christmas: A Wesleyan Advent Experience*.



IN CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS ...

On November 15, several church members attended a **COMBINED CO-OPERATIVE PARISH MEETING** with Bishop Bickerton at Westville UMC in Hamden. The meeting consisted of the various churches in both the Greater Bridgeport Parish (of which we are part of) and the Elm City Bible Moths Parish. All in attendance were given the chance to offer input and suggestions as to what the NYAC might do to better assist our district. The session also included the Bishop reassuring all that "we are in this together" and he would be guiding us through the upcoming months.

Then on December 8, laity traveled to our **ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE** (combined with several other churches in the area) at the Westport/Weston UMC with Rev. David Piscatelli (of Nichols UMC) presiding. The pastor's salary, the proposed 2020 budget and the lay leadership report were all unanimously approved, as well as Rebecca Denike and Carin Florin being voted in as Trustees, Class of 2022. The full charge conference report is available online - just call the church office. Many thanks to those that will be serving in leadership positions, as well as all committee members.

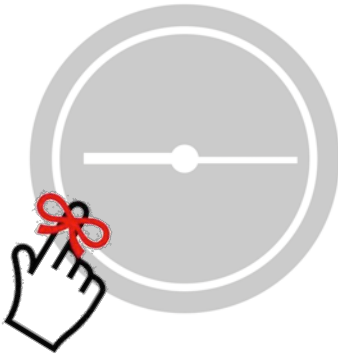
The **TASK FORCE** held their final session on December 10 under the direction of Rev. Ed Horne. Although, Pastor Ed Dayton had been appointed as our part time pastor prior to the final meeting, there was positive discussion as to where does UMCM go from here. What can we do to be a vital congregation? What needs do we need to fill? Everyone is encouraged to participate and offer their thoughts and suggestions. Reach out to a Council member or attend a Council meeting!

With the reduction to part time pastor, the **PARSONAGE IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR RENT TO THE PUBLIC**. Representing the Trustees, Brian Sherwood (a realtor with Coldwell Banker in Trumbull) has listed the property on the Multiple Listing Service for \$2,400/month. Please direct any questions or possible tenants to Brian (brian.sherwood@cbmoves.com) or 203.570.4150. All potential tenants will be required to have a credit check and will be reviewed by the Trustees.

Lastly, the **TRUSTEES** will be meeting on Monday, January 13 at 7:00 pm to further discuss the subdivision and sale of the vacant land. This matter was put on hold last summer until we were better informed of how we would be moving forward in the appointment of a new pastor.

A new year - let's keep moving forward!!

Rose Aiello,
Chair Church Council



WORSHIP TIME
9:15 AM
SUNDAY

Let's Celebrate January!

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, inform the office.

Bible Study on break for January

Thursday morning Bible Study Group will be taking a break for the month of January! Stay tuned for what's ahead.



Weekly Prayer Service



Please join us for a weekly Prayer Service each Wednesday 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



Happy
New
Year!



happy birthday

01/05	Anita Stabler-Hussey
01/06	Aidan Ramos
01/10	Juliana Epstein
01/12	Brian Sherwood
01/13	Bill Florin
01/17	Millie Derle
01/18	Lee Hossler
01/18	Katie Schmalkuche
01/21	Michelle Rajpolt
01/22	Malenna Hornak
01/25	Bethany Hagopian



01/12 Pastor Ed and Patty Dayton

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!



UPCOMING EVENTS

The Gather Together 2020 Trafficking Awareness Event

Saturday, January 11 – 8:30 am – 12:00 pm

Salem Lutheran Church, Bridgeport

The event is, firstly, a gathering of the community of faith in our area and we will be gathering to pray for our community at large. There will be presentations from local experts representing the CT Department of Children and Families, law enforcement, and a powerful testimony from a survivor leader. There will be a resource table and the event will conclude with a community service project that will benefit trafficking survivors.

For more information, please contact RoseAnne Homola or visit our website:

Legacy: Leaving An Impact on The Next Generation

Tuesday, January 14 – 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

Monroe Senior Center

Generation Bridge

Join us for this lunchtime presentation with Ryan Ventura, the Director of Community Outreach at First Light Home Care, has served as a professional life coach for over 13 years. Today his experience of helping retirees allows him to say with confidence that life is not about the younger needing the older; rather it is about how both need each other. As we age we should be enthusiastic about finding a new sense of purpose and adventure. And for many, it starts with their own family members. This is our passion we love to share.

For more information, please contact Brian Sherwood or visit our website.

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 2020 is January 19 at 10:30 am in Meeting Room 1. Moderator: David York.



Dress A Girl Around the World Sew-a-Thon

Saturday, January 25 - 9:30 – 1:00 pm

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 175 Old Tannery Road, Monroe

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

UMCM Contacts: Ethel Abraham and Tanya Lennon



CC Connecticut Chamber Choir

Michael A. Ciavaglia, DMA

Artistic Director

presents

42nd Concert Season

Magnifical and Mighty



Saturday, January 25, 2019

7:30 PM

First Church Congregational

148 Beach Road, Fairfield

Tickets will be sold at the door & credit cards accepted.

Tickets: Adult \$20; Senior \$15; Student \$5; Under 12 Free

For more information, visit www.ctchamberchoir.org

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Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, December 14



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*. Santa left with a long list of Christmas wishes to take back to his workshop – the elves were busy-busy getting ready for Christmas!!

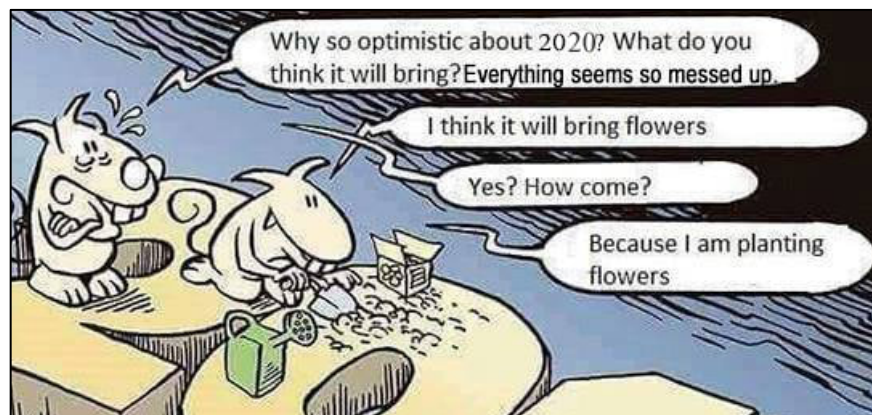
We thank our guests for joining us – we were so happy to have them visit and we've invited them to come back anytime!

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!

** 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





It was a full house at Wesley Village on Sunday, December 15 as we kicked off the Christmas season with carols. A special thank you to RoseAnne for arranging this get together and for accompanying us on the piano AND to Sheryl for taking the lead to make sure we could squeeze in as many songs as possible during our visit!

Lynn Abbott welcomed our UMC carolers to her home for a few more songs and a tree lightening before serving us a delicious meal. What a special way to end the day! Thank you!



“Reporting from Bethlehem”

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 22



Cast (in alphabetical order)

Evan Chaudhary: Jim (KJOY Anchor)
Maya Chaudhary: Mary
Juliana Epstein: Star
Emily Florin: Carol (KJOY Reporter)
Malenna Hornak: Shepherd 2
Seraphine Lambert: Angel/Sheep
Ellie Lennon: Shepherd 1
Aiden Ramos: Wise Man 2
Aubrey Ramos: Wise Man 1
Griffin Reynolds: Shepherd 3
Vera Reynolds: Sheep
Max Reynolds: Wise Man 3
Andy Steese: Sheep
Aiden Wallace: Joseph
Henry Whalen: Innkeeper
Liam Whalen: donkey

Sheryl Rajpolt: Director
Amy Rajpolt: Assistant Director





UMC MONROE YOUTH NEWS

Confirmation Information Session 2020

Parents and Youth interested in the confirmation process and plans should attend an information session on Sunday, January 12 at 5:00 pm in Meeting Room 1. Pizza will be served! It's a great opportunity for input from all involved.

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

NOTE: This session was rescheduled from Sunday, January 5, 2020.

A Note From Our Sunday School Director ...

Our next semester in Sunday school will be starting next Sunday, January 12, 2020. As Sunday School director I am asking for help for our teachers. Anyone who is interested in becoming a teacher, or volunteering as a substitute, please let me know. A background check is required for this volunteer position, so please let me know if you would like to participate in this important and fulfilling position. I would like to be prepared for next September; so new teachers would be very appreciated. ~Sue Simmons

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 UCMC 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!

Youth Group takes a *Journey to Bethlehem*

Sunday, December 8

This event was a live dramatic portrayal of the journey associated with the Christmas story. We encountered Roman Soldiers, Shepherds, a Tax Collector, Wise Men and finally arrived at the manger -- there were live animals, too! We were all assigned roles and even had to pay our taxes on our way to the census where we visited the stable to meet the special baby the angels told us about on the way. It was a nice reminder of what we are celebrating this time of year!

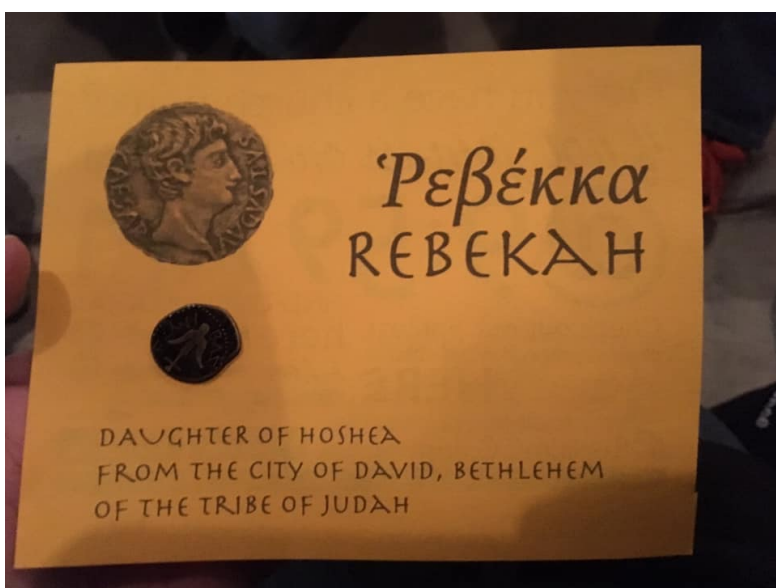


Photo credit: Tanya Lennon

Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc.



Changing Hearts

Transforming Lives

Impacting the World

Our Mission

The Mission of Kairos Prison Ministry is to share the transforming love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ to impact the hearts and lives of incarcerated men, women and youth, as well as their families, to become loving and productive citizens of their communities.

One Ministry, Three Programs

Kairos Inside



The Kairos Inside program goal is to build a continuing Christian community inside the institution through Prayer and Share accountability groups, and monthly Reunions organized by Kairos Graduates and volunteers. The initial Weekends, held in both male and female institutions, are 3 ½ days based on a series of talks, discussions, chapel meditations, and music.

Kairos Outside



The purpose of Kairos Outside is to demonstrate God's grace and love through Christian support for women who have relatives/friends who are or have been incarcerated. The goal is to provide a safe place to encourage the sharing of one's life journey, to create an opportunity for a relationship with God, and to promote participation in Support Groups.

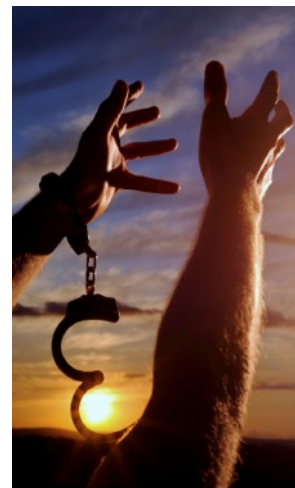
Kairos Torch



Kairos Torch is a mentoring program for incarcerated offenders, ages 25 and under. The Weekend introduces incarcerated youth to Christian concepts as a means of making better choices for their lives. The Weekend is then followed with an established six-month one-to-one weekly mentoring program that encourages the youth to remove their masks and see themselves as God sees them.

How Can I Help?

1. **Be a Team Member** – Volunteers share a desire to follow Christ's admonition of Matthew 25:36, "I was in prison and you visited me."
2. **Be a Prayer Partner** – All Kairos Ministry activities are covered with prayer. You can volunteer to be a part of that effort. Visit our Prayer page for more information.
3. **Be a Ministry Financial Donor** – All Kairos activities are funded by donations. To make a donation today, visit www.kairosprisonministry.org, select **Donate Now** and select **Connecticut** in the *Gift Detail* section or send your check to *Kairos Prison Ministry International*, 100 DeBary Plantation Boulevard, DeBary, FL 32713 and designate *Connecticut* in the memo line.
4. **Be a Support Volunteer** – Each Weekend has opportunities for outside support, such as baking cookies, creating artwork (agape), or preparing meals.



Kairos Connecticut is currently 7 programs, soon to be 8.

The growth limiting resource is volunteers.

Be a part of prison reform and God's work in Connecticut.

Connecticut Kairos: www.kairosct.org or karpow@gmail.com

Prayer Concerns



The Wiley Family on the passing of Denise's father,
Herb Walsh
Patti's friend, Adeline – broken ankle
Gail's friend, MaryAnn – recovery from surgery
Rose's sister-in-law, MaryAnn – medical issues and
depression
People of Australia impacted by fires
Gail's niece, Suzette - medical issues
Patty Dayton's Family on the passing of her mother,
Helen
Family and friends of Kathy's great-aunt, Marie
Houdek on her passing
Christina Reynolds – continued healing from broken
arm and surgery
Family of Lynn Abbott's Uncle Ed Nordby on his
passing
Nancy Rice
Claudia Wallace's mom, Marianne - leukemia
The Schmalkuche Family on the passing of Bill's
father
Claudia's sister's mother-in-law, Judy - pancreatic
cancer
Bob Pantalone, Brenda and Josh
Anita's ex-husband, John - rehab for broken neck
Neil Chaudhary's mom, Yvonne
Paula Fromm's sister, Betty - vision problems
Diane's cousin, Darlene - recovery from cancer
surgery
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 Boomershine
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

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!

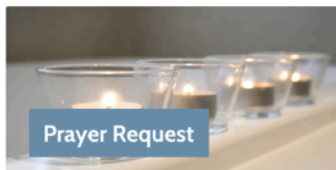
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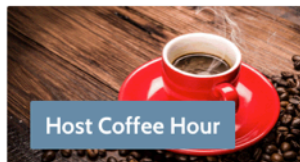
Ring in the New Year with Joy!



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

Jan 2020 (Eastern Time - New York)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 9:15am - Worship Service	30	31	1	2	3	4 2pm - Kairos Fest 2020 @
5 9:15am - Communion 9:15am - Worship Service	6	7 11:30am - MM: Missions	8 9:45am - Weekly Prayer	9	10	11 8:30am - The Gather
12 9:15am - Worship Service 5pm - Confirmation 6pm - Sunset Recovery	13 7pm - Brian Sherwood @ 7pm - Trustee Meeting @	14 12:30pm - GB Legacy:	15 9:45am - Weekly Prayer	16	17	18
19 9:15am - Worship Service 10:30am - SI: Social Issues	20	21	22 9:45am - Weekly Prayer	23	24	25 9:30am - Dress a Girl 7:30pm - Connecticut
26 9:15am - Worship Service 10:30am - Membership	27	28	29 9:45am - Weekly Prayer	30	31	1

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