

United Methodist Church of Monroe



messenger

JULY 2020

Grace and peace to my brothers and sisters of UMC Monroe. I pray this missive finds you safe and well.

While I was at my doctor's office earlier in the week, (only a routine appointment) along with the regular questions my doctor asked a new one; "how is your stress?" I initially thought this quite odd, but after some reflection I saw the wisdom, and concern of this question. And so, I ask this same question to you; how is your stress? These are crazy times indeed, times, unless you are a centurion + we have never experienced. But we will get through this! With the help of our God and each other, we will get through this. Please do not hesitate to rely on one another, pick up the phone when you are feeling stressed, anxious, or depressed. Call a friend, call me. I pray my daily devotionals bring you some respite. If you are available, please join us for our Friday noon zoom devotional. Watch for the email invite on Thursdays.

I know this has been a long and difficult (to say the least) few months but we need to hang in there, to stay the course as my father-in-law would say. Many of us are getting cabin fever, me included, but please stay the course. This pandemic is far from over. I plead with all of you to keep doing all the right things; If you're in the third season of your lives, that is over 65, or with underlying health conditions stay home as much as you can. If you do not fall into this category still be wary. This latest wave of the virus is hitting those in their 30's - 50's. Stay in when you can. If you do go out practice social distancing, wear a mask. New studies suggest that wearing a mask offers us some protection as well as others. Scientists tell us these three simple steps is our greatest defense until a vaccine is available; stay at home, practice social distancing, and wear a mask. Together we can get through this!

On another note as you read this please know that the paperwork required to re-open our church for live worship has been submitted. I thank our re-opening task force for all their hard work. Once approved we will slowly begin to open in stages, more on this as we progress. If you have any thoughts, anxieties or concerns please give me a call, I would love to hear your voice – it has been far too long.

Until we can be together again in person, be well, be safe and know that I love you very much.

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

Pastor Ed

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

Summer

When on vacation ...
be with us on Zoom ...
The rest of the summer ...
be with us on Zoom!

Dress a Girl Around the World

A message from Liz (June, 2020) ...

It is with a heavy heart I am canceling the remaining *Dress A Girl Sew-a-Thons* for 2020. I don't want to put any one at risk of this terrible virus for what I think is a wonderful cause. You have all been such generous and industrious sewers and helpers that I have plenty of inventory should I get any dress requests for missions. The reality is that most missions have been delayed until 2021. Should anyone know someone going on a mission and in need of dresses I would be happy to supply what I can, do not hesitate to contact me.

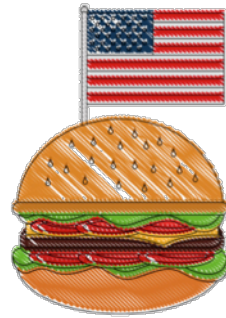
I know many of you have been sewing at home and have dresses you would like to turn in. I will be collecting dresses on September 26 from 10:00 am – noon at Monroe Congregational Church. Please let me know if you'll be dropping off dresses so I can release the space if no one has any dresses to turn in.

I will start planning our 2021 Sew-a-Thon schedule in the fall and let everyone know when that is finalized. Please stay healthy and safe in this new world we all live in.

Liz Skarzynski
Ambassador Southern CT
Dress A Girl Around The World
203.257.7174
or DressAGirlSouthernCT@yahoo.com



Let's Celebrate!



July



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



happy anniversary

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

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!

Meet our Graduates!



Patrick Chrislip - Northern Arizona University

Emily Benoit – Cheshire Academy to McGill University

Sara Rupp – Emmett O'Brien Tech to Plymouth State University

Evan Chaudhary – Newtown Middle School to Newtown High School

Dan Florin – Jockey Hollow to Masuk High School

Malenna Hornak – Jockey Hollow to Masuk High School

Ellie Lennon – Jockey Hollow STEM to Fairchild Wheeler

Aerospace Engineering High School

Henry Whalen – Jockey Hollow to Masuk High School

Maya Chaudhary – Reed Intermediate to Newtown Middle School

Aiden Wallace – Monroe Elementary to Jockey Hollow STEM

Griffin Reynolds – Entering kindergarten at Middle Gate Elementary



COMMITTEE UPDATES

Church Council Update

Church Council held two “Zoom” meetings in May and both were very well attended!

Some highlights:

1. By majority vote the Council approved the recommendation of the Finance Committee to apply for the “Paycheck Protection Plan” (PPP) in order to continue to keep our employees paid during this time of uncertainty. Paperwork was completed and submitted to Newtown Savings Bank and the loan was approved. Any questions on this matter can be directed to Finance Chair, Bill Schmalkuche.
2. The parsonage was rented in May to the Peet Family. Hopefully when we are all back together face-to-face, we can meet the family! Many thanks to Brian Sherwood, Trustees Chair, for facilitating the process!
3. The Council decided to go forward with plans to reopen the church with several members of the Council volunteering to serve on the Reopening Task Force. The task force is currently making plans to physically prepare the church for weekly worship services following the guidelines of the NYAC and the State of Connecticut; as well as coordinating how our worship services will continue to be held virtually when the church does reopen. Stay tuned for updates!

Should you need additional information or have comments/suggestions, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me.

Rose Aiello
Council Chair/Lay Leader

Worship Team Update

On behalf of the Worship Team:

In these extremely challenging times that I believe no one could have ever imaged, my heart is filled with such joy and gratefulness for the efforts that have been put forth by an amazing team of individuals to continue meaningful worship services each Sunday morning. It goes without saying that we all truly miss the fellowship of gathering with one another as a church family in person, yet the efforts that have been so lovingly, freely and generously shared by members of the worship team and Pastor Ed have enabled our church to continue to worship God with inspiring messages from Pastor Ed and for our young disciples, celebrate praises, lift our concerns, celebrate communion, and even share in “virtual” fellowship with one another. For all of these elements of worship to continue, an amazing team has gathered by Zoom every Saturday morning since mid-

March comprised of Pastor Ed, Rose Aiello, Bill Florin, RoseAnne Homola, Sheryl Rajpolt, Lynn Scully from LHUMC and myself. Behind the scenes, Patty Dayton, Amy Rajpolt and Kathy Schmalkuche have provided invaluable support in the logistics, for the technology needed to present the weekly services and to make them available on our website and through FaceBook. On behalf of our congregation, and I believe I can speak for Long Hill United Methodist Church as well, I want to say thank you, thank you, thank you!

We are truly blessed with Pastor Ed for his guidance and openness to new and different ideas as we continue to enhance the worship experience. RoseAnne has been a tremendous blessing in many ways with music accompaniments on piano and organ, organization of the services, PPT presentations, and she is constantly on the lookout for ideas and improvements to our process – always going above and beyond. Rose, as Lay Leader extraordinaire, has arranged for our weekly liturgists, altar decorations in UMCM, putting together our announcements, coordinating with other teams such as our Mission efforts over the past few months, and provides much needed guidance, support and attention to the details. Our sharing of our concerns and our joys has been graciously coordinated by Bill Florin and presented in a beautiful and meaningful way each Sunday as he gathers these from our members and the members of LHUMC throughout the week.

Beyond what words can merely express is our gratitude to Sheryl and Amy for their coordinated efforts in pulling all the elements of our worship services together each and every week since the middle of March. In a matter of a week's notice, everything changed in how our worship services would be accomplished and their efforts truly made it happen. On top of preparing the Zoom services, Sheryl has prepared enriching, enlightening and educational young disciple messages, resources and PPTs that are enjoyed not only by the youth, but adults alike. On June 22nd we celebrated Youth Sunday and Father's Day like none other! Again, Sheryl's efforts to pull together and coordinate **more than 25 participants** was beyond belief. (If you haven't had a chance to see it, please check the UMCM website – it shouldn't be missed!). The service included an outstanding duet, participation by all the confirmands and additional youth and adult liturgists, skits coordinated between 5 different families and settings, acknowledgement of the teachers, a video of the graduates of both congregations, and a touching Father's Day video including photos of dads from both congregations. Thank you, Sheryl, and every single individual who participated in what was a memorable, meaningful, and love-filled service.

While we all miss our time gathering in person, there truly have been silver-linings and these services are among the blessings we can count. Sadly, we know that not everyone of our members has the ability to experience these virtual services, but we also know there have been some who in the past have not been able to attend our worship services and this has opened the possibilities for them. Stay tuned for details over the next several weeks as we strive to meet the worship needs of all.

As we continue to prepare our weekly Zoom services, we are looking for additional support with youth messages, power point deck preparation, behind the scene Zoom technical support, music offerings, etc.

If there are comments, suggestions, or efforts you would like to share regarding our worship services, please feel free to call me at (203) 261-3216 or email me at pearly3216@aol.com.

Peace & Blessings,

Patti Early

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Mother's Day – Church World Service Blankets+

Despite being in lockdown, during May we still had our annual Mother's Day Blanket Sunday! The need has been as great as ever this year, especially during the pandemic and its effects on the entire world. Our in-house donations totaled \$110. Many of you donated directly on the CWS website and we are working on getting an acknowledgement from the organization as to the total contributed online.

Father's Day – Pivot Ministries

And then during June we collected \$442 (to date) to purchase Pivot Ministries a new kitchen mixer for their residence in Bridgeport. The chef has been mashing potatoes and mixing up dough by hand for 15+ men! Any donations remaining once the mixer has been purchased will be distributed to Pivot.

Thank you to everyone that contributed to these very worthy organizations.

Worship Service Children's Message

While we can all agree that Sheryl has been doing an excellent job leading our children's message every week, wouldn't it be nice to give her a well deserved break every now and again?

With that in mind, we are looking for some folks with a love for children to fill in on a substitute basis. The children's message usually follows the scripture text, but doesn't have to. There are lots of online sources and coaching help available to assist you from Sheryl and Pastor Ed.

If you think you are being called to this ministry or even think you have a possible interest, please contact Pastor Ed.

Worship Service Production Assistance

Have you been enjoying our on-line worship services? Do you want to be part of the behind-the-scenes action? It would be great to get some additional hands to make the week-to-week tasks a little easier and maybe even give our dedicated tech team a break every now and again. Some of the tasks involved are:

- Mute and unmute (and spotlight) pastor and other speakers
- Mute those people who come off mute accidentally
- Monitor the chat session and respond as needed
- Share screen for the main worship slides as well as jump to the hymns
- Share prayers and concerns as needed

Full training will be provided.

If you think you have an interest in this please contact Pastor Ed.



Paper Shredding Fundraiser

Individuals and Businesses Welcome

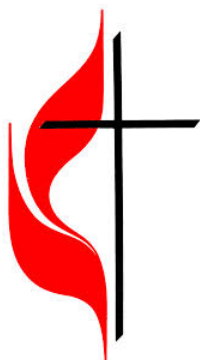
DATE: Saturday, November 7, 2020 (rain or shine)
TIME: 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
LOCATION: Village Square, 401 Monroe Turnpike/Route 111, Monroe, CT
(across from McDonald's)
COST: \$10 standard archive box (approximately 15"x12"x10")
Prices increase \$5.00 per size according to container
PAYMENT: Cash or checks (made out to: UMC Monroe)

The material placed in the **PROSHRED** bin can include:

office paper	NCR paper	invoice paper	colored paper
windowed envelopes	glossy paper	file folders	computer paper
brochures	fax paper	ledger paper	letterhead
laser printouts	product sheets	envelopes	other office paper

* No need to remove staples, paperclips, binders, etc. Shredding will be done on-site. *

Proper destruction of confidential documents is a critical step in ensuring that you and your customers don't become victims of identity fraud. Take advantage of the convenience and security of having your sensitive household and business records destroyed by the Pros.

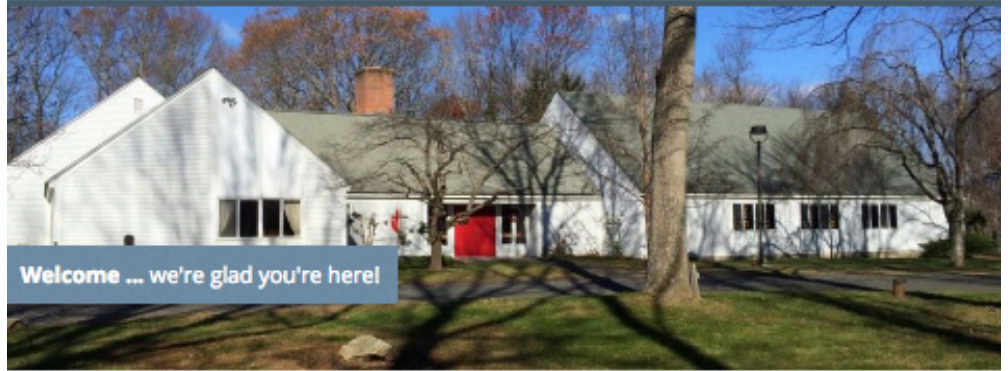


PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE MINISTRIES AND MISSIONS OF THE

United Methodist Church of Monroe

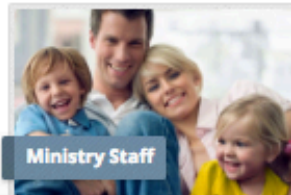
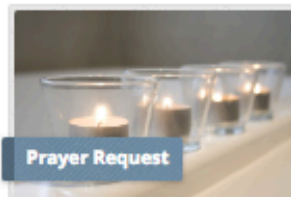
For more information email: papershredding@umcmonroe.org
or visit our website www.umcmonroe.org
or our FaceBook page (@umcmonroe)

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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.



Visit us ANYTIME at www.umcmonroe.org!

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

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.

Prayer Concerns



Mimi Dahl and Dahl/Carlock families on sudden passing of her son, Matthew (heart attack at age 42)
Bill Porter - diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and his wife Mary
Mimi Dahl - surgery for brain tumor in fall and now having problems with her spine/lower back and has trouble walking
Friend of Gail Mas, Noelle - young woman with severe stomach pain
Diane Swanson (Christina Reynolds mom) and family - pancreatic cancer
Joanne Coulton - multiple health issues
June Dayton, friend of Gail - cancer and recovery from surgery
Gail Mas' friend, Ron Bombero - virus and heart issues
Quintin Brantley - resolution to ongoing hearing problems
Fromm's friend, Radovan Frzop
Dotti Hossler's friend, Anne - cancer treatment
Jeff York
Claudia's sister's mother-in-law, Judy - cancer
Sheryl's Dad, Buck - medical issues
Several friends of Claudia Wallace with breast cancer
Claudia Wallace's mom, Marianne - leukemia
Bob Pantalone and Brenda, Josh
Neil Chaudhary's mom, Yvonne
Roger Grant
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
Vivian's brother, Wayne - Parkinson's

Dotti Hossler's sister, Loretta and brother, Roger
Delores Ovesny
Caleb
Ben Abercrombie – football player with broken neck
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 a rare form of cancer

Awareness and a stop to racism
Calmness from the violent protesting and the many affected by the destruction
Medical workers and caregivers
First responders and paramedics
Fireman and policemen
Small business owners with no business
Comfort and encouragement to residents of nursing homes with patients in hospitals with no visitation
Our Military, especially National Guard
Our Nation's leaders and world leaders
Unemployed and furloughed
Abused children
Our Bishop and all the United Methodist Churches
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; being bullied; suicides
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 natural disaster

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 2020 (Eastern Time - New York)						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat							
28 10am - LIVESTREAM	29 9:45am - Cancelled: Weekly	30		1	2	3	4						
5 10am - LIVESTREAM	6 9:45am - CANCELLED	7	8	9	10	11							
12 10am - LIVESTREAM	13 9:45am - CANCELLED	14	15	16	17	18							
19 10am - LIVESTREAM 10:15am - CANCELLED:	20 9:45am - CANCELLED	21	22	23	24	25							
26 10am - LIVESTREAM	27 9:45am - CANCELLED	28	29	30	31	1							

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