



Stroudsburg UMC

547 Main Street, Stroudsburg Pa

www.stroudsburgumc.com

sumc@stroudsburgumc.com

570-421-6020

Worship Sundays at 8:30 and 11:00 am

The Courier

October 2020

The Reverend Monica B. Guepet, M. Div., Lead Pastor

“You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.” Psalm 23: 5

As the glass transitions quickly from full to overflowing, orange juice spills all over the counter. If you are anything like me, your first thoughts might turn from irritation to problem solving as you sop up the mess before it becomes larger. God’s providence and abundance as captured in Psalm 23 is not likely to be on my mind. Though, I am eager to get the stickiness off the counter. However, my teaching on Psalms Bible Study is having an impact on me, and I recently paused to consider the connection. To say that my cup overflows is to say I have more than I need. What will I do with it? What will I do with my time, my abilities, my prayers, my gifts, my service, my things?

Giving is not just about what flows over. If we only give your family the time left over, we will miss out on countless connections and opportunities. If we focus on giving our employer the abilities that are left over, there may not a job for long. If one’s prayer life has only leftovers for intercession, we lose out on the power of God in transformation. If we give excess of our money to God, our discipleship still has room for growth. We have left spiritual formation on the table. Change is still coming for us!

Most of us have felt some significant change this year. Some of us have felt it in job changes, whether it is shifts in where we work or how we work, or if we have a job. Some of us have experienced changes in our health. With a global pandemic in play, our health resources are stretched thin, including personnel and supplies. This has impacted some routine healthcare as well as ancillary services. Many of us have navigated new normal in how we relate to family and friends, neighbors and colleagues with social distancing and healthy practices. Supply chains of food and other resources have been impacted causing inconvenience and sometimes life-threatening situations. With travel limited for many, families across communities have connected through virtual means. Change has been afoot.

Even in the presence of a global pandemic, God prepares for you what you need. Let me say: If you find yourself in a place, where you do not have all that you need, please contact me. Let’s work together on enough food to eat, safe place to sleep, warm clothes to wear, and work with purpose. And your cup will overflow. I am moved by the ways in which people have shown up for one another. We are preparing for DVD ministry, so that ALL of our church family can be in worship together. This would be particularly our church family who are not connected online. If you would benefit from receiving a DVD of worship, please let Pastor Margie know.

Over the course of the next month, we will be talking about discipleship of giving. One of the themes that came out of our meet and greets was a desire for increased communication about our church finances. Additional opportunities for that will be forthcoming. We are all in this together, and we will be trustworthy and transparent in our work. On November 15th, we will invite you to share with us a commitment of giving. It may be new to you to have your pastor care for giving in this way. I appreciate that. Pastors are called to be confidential and care for us in the most vulnerable moments of our life. Our financial reality reflects our life reality. When pastors see pledges change or giving change, it means that something is happening that might require pastoral care. Tracking changes in giving patterns allows for pastors to deepen their pastoral care opportunities. Thank you for trusting me as your pastor. Integrating giving information, we will be presenting a 2021 budget at the end of November for consideration of the church. God has set a table before us, even in the midst of a pandemic, anointed us for such a time as this to be the church, and our cup overflows! Join me in prayer as we prepare together for this time of ministry to a changing world.

In God’s Love, Pastor Monica

Sunday School Class: Making Sense of the Bible

Starting on October 11th, Pastor Monica will be teaching a class at the Sunday School hour.

If you have ever wondered:

Who wrote the Bible?
Why is there an Old and New Testament?
Why is the Bible so violent?
When was the Bible written?
Does the Bible really have anything applicable for me?
(and more)

Join Pastor Monica in person or on Zoom for Sunday School. Contact the office for Zoom information or to order a book.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

November 1st

8:30 and 11:00

a.m. Services



From the earliest days in the church, community has gathered to remember those who have gone onto the glory. On All Saints' Day, the church remembers those who have died in the previous year. We remember beloved members of the church, special loved ones of our families, and those for whom we have performed funeral and memorial services. Our remembrance includes pictures, the tolling of the bell, and the lighting of the candles. You may be remembering a loved one this year. We would like to give thanks to God for their life in our All Saints Day service on November 1st during both services. Please make sure that the office has the name of your loved one, a picture of your loved one, in addition to their date of birth and date of death, by October 26th. It is our privilege to remember those who moved onto the church triumphant, even as we hold the tenderness of loss.



October Birthdays

2	Carrie Zelizo
3	Janet Marsh
6	Michael Fox
8	Pastor Ted
11	Marti Lantz
20	Miava Martinez
22	Mike Hendrix
22	Matt Parton
23	Matt Transue
24	Nick Herrero
28	Pastor Margie
28	Jim Maroney

If you would like a card
on your special day, please
call the church office - 570-421-6020.



To Serve You in October

Greeters 8:30

11:00

Ushers 8:30

Mike Seip

DeAnn Harris

11:00

Mike Weaver

Vicki Weaver

Eva Knight

Sue Gouger

Counters

Boyd Butz & Cathy Doane

Altar Guild

Kathy Cook & Cathy Doane

Soup Kitchen

- 4 Scout Troop 94 - Linda Scardigno
- 11 Perkowski & Friends - Ray Perkowski
- 18 Feeding Families - Diane
- 25 Scout Troop 86 - Heather Heeter



OUR CHURCH STAFF:

Lead Pastor	The Rev. Monica B. Guepet
Pastors of Visitation	Ted & Margie Good
Pastor Emeritus	Tom Anderman
Church Secretary	Jackie Herrero
Choir Director	David Lantz
Organist	Marti Lantz
Youth Leader	
Custodian	Craig Banner

OUR CHURCH LEADERS:

Daniel's Dream Team

Chairperson, Cathy Doane

catdoane9845@gmail.com

Worship

Chairperson

Pastor Monica Guepet

Property & Building

Chairperson, Boyd Butz

boydbutz@stroudsburgumc.com

Staff Parish Relations Committee

Chairperson, Bill Weitzmann

weitzman@uplink.net

Stewardship

Chairperson, Paul Edinger

paul.edinger@stroudsburgumc.com

Missions

Chairpersons, Ruth Weber & Kathy Cook

Membership & Evangelism

Chairperson, Peggy Stewart

bpstewart59@gmail.com

Lay Leader

Audio Visual Assistant

Beth Armitage

Join us on Sunday, October 4th at 1:00pm in the courtyard for Blessing of the Animals. The animals in our lives, from the smallest fish to the largest horse, bring us great joy, comfort laughter and purpose. They are a part of our families and our hearts. God has a special blessing for them. Bring your furry, feathered, and scaly friends for prayer and blessings. Dogs must be on leashes; smaller animals need to be in crates or cages.

Horses, sheep, and goats are welcome as well, under the attentive eyes of their owners. Invite your fellow animal lovers to receive pet treats and God's blessings for their man's (and woman's!) best friends!

****We will adhere to current guidelines on health precautions for social distancing and mask wearing. If you would prefer a blessing over Zoom, please let the church office know and we will arrange that.**

Blessing of the Animals



ALL
WELCOME

Sunday, October 4th at 1:00 pm

Outside Courtyard at
Stroudsburg UMC
547 Main St, Stroudsburg

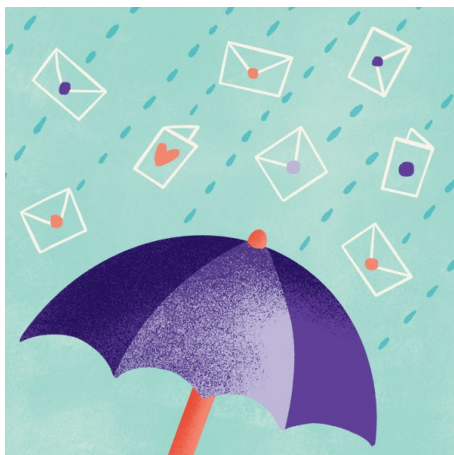
Mark your calendars! PUMA (Pocono United Methodist Academy) class is coming soon. "Jesus Brings Hope", 7-8:30pm Thursdays,

October 22, 29, November 5, 12.

Open to everyone looking for hope today! Two options to participate:

Attend in person at Faith UMC (limit 15) or join via Zoom.

More details coming soon.



Pastor Margie invites us all to participate in a card shower for Trevor Corey. Trevor recently moved into a home for the brain injured. A card shower is a wonderful way to let Trevor know that we, as his church family, are thinking of him and supporting him throughout this transition. Please send cards to:

Trevor Corey
31 West Mill Road
Flourtown, PA 19031



Pastor Monica's new Sermon Series, *"The Story of Us"* starts October 11 and continues through November 15

We all have a story of money, whether we recognize it or not. Our church does as well. Some of us have stories of fear and shame. Others have stories of scarcity and concern. Our stories sometimes include a narrative that our actions will not make an impact or that we are not enough. God is speaking into our stories and filing them out beyond the limited narratives we have held onto. Let us together transform our stewardship practices into full expressions of who we are and what we believe.

Sunday, October 11, 2020

Exodus 16:1-8, Philippians 4:1-6 "Recognition"

Looking back, I see God's hands holding me up at some of the most challenging moments in my life. Where can you recognize God's presence? Join us as we give glory to God for God's steadfast love and care.

Sunday, October 18, 2020

Deuteronomy 15:1-11, CEB, Matthew 19:16-22 "Release"

Running with a backpack is difficult. Ask kids getting off the bus. Living with guilt is crippling. Maybe you have lived it. The Year of Jubilee is a release from all that holds you back. Join us as we release to God that which holds us.

Sunday, October 25, 2020

Leviticus 25:8-12, Mark 12:38-44 "Reimagine"

This world is not fully God's way. God sends prophets to reimagine how our world, our economic and social systems do not hold people down but provide for and benefit all. Let us reimagine how to love our neighbors.

Sermon Series: "The Story of Us" (continued)

Sunday, November 1, 2020

Revelation 7:9-17, 1 John 3:1-3 "Remember"

We remember all those who have gone before us in the faith and shown us the way. Join us as we recall their lives and God's promises of forever.

Sunday, November 8, 2020

Genesis 33:1-17, John 21:1-7 "Restore"

When the stain glass window was broken in the sanctuary, there was much to be restored: the glass, the painting, trust, and hope for the future. Restoration is a response of grace, when our instincts would tell us to respond otherwise. Good stewardship practices restore healthy relationships between people, the earth, and God. Join us as we step toward restoration.

Sunday, November 15, 2020

Psalms 90:1-8, 12, Matthew 25:14-30 "Redeem"

The story of us looks forward to the future with hope! As God redeems our world, God uses us. Join us as we offer our giving commitments for the coming year and ask God's blessings on our offering of our time, talents, gifts, service, and witness.

Save the Date!

Our Mission Link has a history of together packing meals for those in need. We are looking into the best ways to continue that tradition right now. Here is a message from Pat Braun at East Stroudsburg UMC, who is taking the lead on this mission:

*Thank you for your interest in this year's **Meal Pack for Haiti**. At this point we do not have firm plans except for the dates - **Friday, November 6 and Saturday, November 7**. The ministry we are working with, **Lifeline Christian Mission**, has restarted their meal packs, so they have experience doing it safely. We will follow all coronavirus safety precautions that are in place in Monroe County at that time.*

We understand the constraints that are on us this year, but food insecurity in Haiti has become worse and we feel that God wants us to move forward with this year's meal pack. Because of these constraints, we will accept any funds and people that are willing to come help trusting that God will provide.

The meals cost 25 cents each, and it is estimated that each participant packs 150 meals, yielding an actual cost of \$37.50/packer.

The members of ESUMC have been challenged to set aside 25 cents every time they eat a meal from now until November 6 and donate that amount to the pack, even if they are unable to participate (It should add up to \$30-\$40). Perhaps your members will be willing to do the same.

Our Mission Team meets next week and we will further discuss logistics, so expect to hear from me again. I am happy to answer any questions that you may have and look forward to meeting those newly assigned to the area.

Look for more details to come! Pray about how God might be calling you to give of your financial gifts, your time and/or your prayers.

Oasis of Love Food Pantry

During September, Pastor Monica met with Frank Medero, director of Oasis of Love, to be brought up to speed on current operations during the pandemic. Thanks to the generosity of Stroudsburg UMC, Second Harvest, and other donors, they are able to serve local families with both perishable and non-perishable food and personal care items. Additionally, a quarterly financial gift from the Pastor's Discretionary Fund supports rent and other needs. Thank you for giving generously to feed our neighbors.

Opportunity List

Our opportunity list gives you a chance to give beyond your regular tithe. Consider how you might impact our congregation and community. We will be including on this list items that you have an opportunity to help fund. If you feel led to do so, make a note on your check or transfer of your intention. Thank you for your generosity!

Item	Quantity	Approximate Cost
Exit lights	2	\$240 each
Security Cameras	3	\$300 each
Digital Mixer	1	\$4000

Clergy Appreciation

Stroudsburg UMC has a culture of call. God has raised up multiple leaders in faith here. As you remember Pastor Monica, Pastor Ted, Pastor Margie, and Pastor Tom, don't forget to give thanks to God for Pastor Jeff Weber as he serves Readers UMC and Mary Jane Kirby as she serves Union and Hope UMCs in Havertown. As you give thanks to God for them, send them a note of appreciation and encouragement.

Pastor Monica Guepet
c/o Stroudsburg UMC
547 Main Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Pastor Jeff Weber
c/o Readers UMC
111 Church Road
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Pastors Ted & Margie Good
c/o Stroudsburg UMC
547 Main Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Pastor Mary Jane Kirby
c/o Union UMC
200 Brookline Blvd.
Havertown, PA 19083

Pastor Tom Anderman
Simpson House
2101 Belmont Avenue
Apt. 3200
Philadelphia, PA 19131

*Clergy
Appreciation*

“A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. ² They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. ³ Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. ⁴ Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. ⁵ When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” **Mark 2:1-12**

Your Property & Building Team have several projects planned to ensure our members and visitors are safe in addition to securing and preserving our building.

By the time you read this we will have installed two Emergency EXIT lights within the sanctuary by Hartmann Electrical Contractors.

The repair of our cracked chimney is complete and some youth room exterior brick grout was patched by Stonecraft LLC.

We have contracted with Select Security to upgrade and monitor our fire alarm system.

When SuperHeat comes for the yearly boiler maintenance, they are going to try to address the steam leaks from the 2 horizontally placed radiators located in the kitchen ceiling. Hopefully, this will reduce some of the issues discovered in the kitchen.

We will be addressing other areas throughout the church to aid in accessibility. Just to name a few, we have two newly painted Handicap parking spaces in our parking lot. One is Van Accessible. New signage will be installed at the front of the building directing Handicap Access is available at the rear.

An area of concern for a long time has been our restrooms. We have consulted with several contractors to create ADA Accessible restrooms by remodeling some of our existing facilities.

We will be forming some work party days in the future to refresh the other men and ladies rooms, replace the courtyard porch roof, paint the repaired chimney, etc. Please contact any P&B member if you can assist with this endeavor.

The two appraisals for our stained glass windows to scrape and paint the sanctuary stained glass window frames, soffits and doors are \$18,000 and \$10,100. Any suggestions for fundraising to pay for this much needed project will be greatly appreciated.

Recent Expenses

EXIT lights	\$484
Security Cameras	\$1200
Chimney repair	\$3880
Fire Alarm upgrade	\$2908

Outstanding Expenses

Elevator	\$172,319
Bell Tower Repair	\$137,984
Parish Hall Roof	

As you can see, all these projects cost money.

If you are able, please choose one of the projects and designate an extra donation on your envelope or online giving.

Any amount would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Your Property and Building committee

Chairman: Boyd Butz

Secretary: Mike Seip

Finance: Kevin Kopeck

Committee Members:

John Burrus

Dick Everitt

Jeremy Miller

Dale Werkheiser

Your Property & Building team is working hard for SUMC, but we need your talents, time and money to start and complete the above projects.

OCTOBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 10:00 AM Adult Sunday School in Person and via Zoom - Lounge 11:00 AM Worship-Sanctuary 12:30 PM Charge Conference 2:00 PM Soup Kitchen	28	29 7:00 PM Naranon - Dining Room or Scout Room	30 10:00 AM Bible Study-Lounge 12:00 PM Prayer and/or Quiet Reflection-Sanctuary 6:00 PM Cub Scouts	1 7:00 PM Scouts	2	3
4 World Communion Sunday 8:30 AM Worship/Communion-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Sunday School for Children 10:00 AM Adult Sunday School in Person and via Zoom - Lounge 11:00 AM Worship/Communion-Sanctuary 1:00 PM Blessing of the Animals - Courtyard 2:00 PM Soup Kitchen	5	6 6:30 PM M & E Meeting 7:00 PM Naranon - Dining Room or Scout Room 7:00 PM Property & Building Team Meeting	7 10:00 AM Bible Study-Lounge 12:00 PM Prayer and/or Quiet Reflection-Sanctuary 6:00 PM Cub Scouts	8 7:00 PM Scouts	9	10
11 Clergy Appreciation Sunday 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Pastor Monica's Sunday School Class-In Person, Dining Room Downstairs and via Zoom 9:45 AM Sunday School for Children 10:00 AM Adult Sunday School in Person and via Zoom - Lounge 11:00 AM Worship-Sanctuary 2:00 PM Soup Kitchen	12	13 9:00 AM Eastern PA Annual Conference-Clergy Session Virtual 1:00 PM Annual Conference-Virtual 7:00 PM Naranon - Dining Room or Scout Room	14 10:00 AM Annual Conference-Memorial Service-Location TBD 12:00 PM Prayer and/or Quiet Reflection-Sanctuary 2:00 PM Annual Conference-Ordination Service-Location TBD 6:00 PM Cub Scouts	15 7:00 PM Scouts	16	17
18 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Pastor Monica's Sunday School Class-In Person, Dining Room Downstairs and via Zoom 9:45 AM Sunday School for Children 10:00 AM Adult Sunday School in Person and via Zoom - Lounge 11:00 AM Worship-Sanctuary 12:30 PM Daniel's Dream Team Meeting-Lounge 2:00 PM Soup Kitchen	19	20 7:00 PM Naranon - Dining Room or Scout Room	21 10:00 AM Bible Study-Lounge 12:00 PM Prayer and/or Quiet Reflection-Sanctuary 6:00 PM Cub Scouts	22 7:00 PM Scouts	23	24
25 8:30 AM Worship-Sanctuary 9:45 AM Pastor Monica's Sunday School Class-In Person, Dining Room Downstairs and via Zoom 9:45 AM Sunday School for Children 10:00 AM Adult Sunday School in Person and via Zoom - Lounge 11:00 AM Worship-Sanctuary 2:00 PM Soup Kitchen	26	27 7:00 PM Naranon - Dining Room or Scout Room	28 10:00 AM Bible Study-Lounge 12:00 PM Prayer and/or Quiet Reflection-Sanctuary 6:00 PM Cub Scouts	29 7:00 PM Scouts	30	31

Tech Team

Thank you! Thank you to those persons who have stepped up to share their knowledge and willingness to serve on our technology team. This team is working on our technology in worship, both in the sanctuary and online. They are also researching the best way forward with our internet and phones. If you have tried to call the church recently and not gotten through, thank you for your patience. We are working on a solution. We give thanks to God for those who serve with their gifts.

World Communion Sunday, October 4th

Since 1933, when Rev. Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh originated World Communion Sunday, churches have set aside the first Sunday in October to celebrate the interconnectedness of the church across denomination and the Communion Table. On October 4th, we will celebrate the 87th birthday of this celebration. Some of us will worship in sanctuaries, others at kitchen tables on devices, and still others will be outdoors. All of us will be connected through the power of the Holy Spirit. This year join us as we make the table larger. Please stop into the church in the days before to pick up elements in the Fellowship Hall.



by

Youth Group

Are you in grades 7th – 12th? Do you know someone who is? Pastor Monica is planning an event to restart our Youth Group for the end of October. She wants to make sure you are invited. If you are comfortable meeting in person, we have an opportunity for you. If you are comfortable meeting online, we have an opportunity for you. Please make sure Pastor Monica has your contact information. Look for information by October 5th!

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