



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

November 2020

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

“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Enter God’s gates with thanksgiving, and God’s courts with praise. Give thanks to the LORD, bless God’s name. For the Lord is good; God’s steadfast love endures forever, and God’s faithfulness to all generations.” Psalm 100:1,4,5

At the end of September, I invited our congregation to change, or at least be willing to change. You might recall on that Sunday; I suggested a few ways in which you might change by creating tiny habits. One of those ways was to place your Bible beside your recliner in order to read the psalms, day by day. I began this practice on October 1st. Reading psalm 1 on the 1st of the month, psalm 2 on the 2nd and so on. I wonder how many of you joined me in this practice. I have enjoyed a devotional reading of the psalms in addition to my other biblical reading. For those who are studying the psalms with me on Wednesday mornings, it has been a part of my prayer practice as I hear the names of God to pray to God as the Almighty, the Shepherd, God who sees me.

I still have a number of days, until I get to Psalm 100. However, I know this psalm well. This psalm is read in celebration of Thanksgiving, and many will recite it. Looking back into my grandmother’s papers, this psalm was required recitation for confirmation. Did any of you learn it for confirmation or other purposes? The psalm reminds me of Thanksgiving, gathering of family, tables overflowing with food, and laughter. Enter God’s court with praise for God is good. Praise comes from a place of gratitude and generosity.

I invite you to join me during the month of November on a gratitude challenge. It is easy right now to think of how inconvenient, how frustrating, how upsetting the world around us is. Things are not as we would like. And in the midst of this uncertain time, we are called to be grateful. We are not asked to wait until everything sorts itself out. I invite you to join me in gratitude. You might make a note in a gratitude journal or write into your planner. If you are on social media, like Facebook, we will share the prompt each day as a reminder and an invitation to share. When we write or share our gratitude, we join the psalmists in raising our voices in praise. I also notice for myself, looking back across years, I find my gratitude grows reading the memories of what I have been grateful for in the past.

I have my notebook ready, and I am ready to post. I can’t wait to see how God moves through our gratitude.

In God’s Love,
Pastor Monica

November 2020 Gratitude challenge

| | |
|--|---|
| 11/1 - growth | 11/16 - an interruption |
| 11/2 - joy | 11/17 - laughter |
| 11/3 - right to vote | 11/18 - something shared |
| 11/4 - shelter and home | 11/19 - health |
| 11/5 - wisdom | 11/20 - friends |
| 11/6 - music | 11/21 - God’s grace |
| 11/7 - creation | 11/22 - Stroudsburg UMC |
| 11/8 - time | 11/23 - kindness |
| 11/9 - food | 11/24 - animals |
| 11/10 - yourself | 11/25 - technology |
| 11/11 - family | 11/26 - fellowship |
| 11/12 - someone you always meant to thank | 11/27 - coworkers |
| 11/13 - neighbors | 11/28 - books |
| 11/14 - God’s providence | 11/29 - Jesus is coming |
| 11/15 - enough to share | 11/30 - starting to see the world through God’s eyes |

Our
DVD Ministry
is looking for
Volunteers

The Membership & Evangelism Team is creating DVDs of our Sunday worship service to distribute to shut-ins and members who are unable to join us Sunday mornings. Some members are unable to view our online service.

We will be able to mail DVDs, but some people do not have a DVD player so we have purchased two portable DVD players and are looking for volunteers who can drop off and then pick up the player from one or two people each week.

If you can assist with this new ministry, just have questions about it, or perhaps would like to receive a DVD each week, please contact Peggy Stewart at 570-350-8589 or pegstewart59@gmail.com.

Dear Church family,

We would like to thank everyone for the cards, calls and emails for Pastor Appreciation month; our hearts were warmed by all of them.

Ted would like to thank Pastor Monica and his church family for the birthday gift, cards and wishes; he is very grateful for all of them.

Thanks again!

Love,
Pastors Margie and Ted





To Serve You in November

Greeters 8:30

11:00

Ushers 8:30

Dick Everitt

Diane & Cliff Rogell

11:00

Buddy Rambo

BJ Bachman

Sherry Lombardi

Kelly Edinger

Counters

C.J. Penwell & Mike Weaver

Altar Guild

BJ Bachman & Kathy Burnett

Soup Kitchen

1 GUMC - Tom Odenwelder

8 Faith UMC - Kate & Elaine

16 Perkowski & friends

22 Poplar Valley UMC - Pastor Paul Crikelair



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

Hebrews 10:24-25 “And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

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

We have contracted with Select Security to upgrade and monitor our fire alarm system. It was discovered during the process that, out of the 26 sensors located throughout the building, the 10 smoke detectors needed to be replaced at an additional cost of \$918. By the time this is published, the upgrades will be complete and the kitchen fire suppression system will be connected.

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. Signs are 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 are awaiting their estimates.

Our insurance company has asked for estimates of the church contents in order to update our policy. Mr. Rob Reinhardt, Auctioneer/Appraiser is preparing an estimate of the overall building contents. In addition to that, and for a better understanding and appreciation of what Stroudsburg United Methodist Church possesses, the replacement value of our pipe organ is \$760,000 and our beautiful stained glass windows are \$1,133,400.

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. Until we can fundraise the full amount, we have contracted with RM Frantz to scrape and paint the Main St, Good Shepherd, window and front door frame next spring for \$3800.

Thank you, Catherine Doane, for crawling out the youth room window and helping paint the repaired chimney.

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

Recent Expenses

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| EXIT lights | \$484 |
| Security Cameras | \$1200 |
| Chimney repair | \$3880 |
| Fire Alarm upgrade | \$2908 |
| 10 Smoke Detector replacements | \$918 |

Outstanding Expenses

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

Future Scheduled Expenses

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Paint Front door/window | \$3800 |
|--------------------------------|---------------|

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 Kopec

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.

thank you!

Thank you for all the prayers, cards and offers of help during my chemo treatments.

- BJ Bachman



We would like to thank everyone for their love, support, prayers and cards.

- The Braman and Wert families

Please note we will **not** be hosting Family Promise families during November as indicated on the calendar included in your Courier.
Sorry for the confusion!



November Birthdays

| | |
|----|-----------------|
| 2 | Robbie Heller |
| 3 | Jackie Herrero |
| 6 | Jay Chamberlin |
| 6 | Nancy Haase |
| 6 | Lee Philips |
| 7 | Maggie Stewart |
| 7 | C.J. Penwell |
| 7 | Dave Cook |
| 11 | Lori DeWitt |
| 21 | Jennifer Harris |
| 22 | Debbie Marsh |
| 23 | Katelyn Transue |
| 27 | Michael Seip |
| 28 | Lynn Seip |
| 28 | Charlie Vail |
| 30 | Doris Philips |

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



Pocono Cheesecake Fundraiser!

We will be selling cheesecakes from Pocono Cheesecake starting November 1. Orders and payment are due by November 15 and the cheesecakes will be available for pick up on November 22 - just in time for Thanksgiving!

Cheesecakes are 6" in diameter, weigh approximately 1 pound, 2 ounces, and are available in the following delicious flavors:

Ultimate plain
Raspberry
Chocolate
Peanut Butter Cup
Pumpkin

Cakes cost just \$12.00 and we will receive between \$4.50 and \$5.00 on each cake sold.
The more we sell, the larger the profit for our church.

You will be able to pick up your cheesecake at the church on November 22.
All cakes ordered will be kept frozen here at the church.

I (Jackie) will be taking orders on Sunday, November 1, 8 and 15 in the Fellowship Room after the 8:30 service and before the 11:00 service.

You can also call me in the church office: 570-421-6020,
or email: jackieherrero@stroudsburgumc.com to order, but you must pay for your cheesecake(s) in advance of delivery on November 22.

Spread the word with your friends and neighbors - everyone loves cheesecake!

Proceeds from this fundraiser will be going toward the remaining balance on the Bell Tower repairs.

NOVEMBER 2020

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 All Saints Sunday 8:30 AM Worship/Communion-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/Communion-Sanctuary 2:00 PM Soup Kitchen | 2 6:30 PM M & E Meeting | 3 7:00 PM Naranon - Dining Room or Scout Room | 4 10:00 AM Bible Study-Lounge 12:00 PM Prayer and/or Quiet Reflection-Sanctuary 6:00 PM Cub Scouts | 5 7:00 PM Scouts | 6 | 7 |
| 8 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 4:00 PM Youth Group Event | 9 | 10 6:30 PM Property & Building Team Meeting 7:00 PM Naranon - Dining Room or Scout Room | 11 10:00 AM Bible Study-Lounge 12:00 PM Prayer and/or Quiet Reflection-Sanctuary 6:00 PM Cub Scouts | 12 7:00 PM Scouts | 13 Scouts-Troop Lock-In | 14 Scouts-Troop Lock-In |
| 15 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 | 16 | 17 7:00 PM Naranon - Dining Room or Scout Room | 18 10:00 AM Bible Study-Lounge 12:00 PM Prayer and/or Quiet Reflection-Sanctuary 6:00 PM Cub Scouts | 19 7:00 PM Scouts | 20 | 21 |
| 22 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 4:00 PM Youth Group Event | 23 | 24 7:00 PM Naranon - Dining Room or Scout Room | 25 12:00 PM Prayer and/or Quiet Reflection-Sanctuary 1:00 PM Blood Drive-Dining Room | 26 Happy Thanksgiving! | 27 Church Office Closed | 28 |
| 29 First Sunday of Advent 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 | 30 | 1 7:00 PM Naranon - Dining Room or Scout Room | 2 10:00 AM Bible Study-Lounge 12:00 PM Prayer and/or Quiet Reflection-Sanctuary 6:00 PM Cub Scouts | 3 7:00 PM Scouts | 4 | 5 |

CANCELLED

The Lehigh Valley Hospice Celebration of Life Service originally scheduled to be held at SUMC on Sunday, November 22 at 2pm, has been cancelled due to COVID 19 restrictions.



Volunteers Needed

We are in need of volunteers to prepare and hand out meals to soup kitchen guests on Sunday, November 15 and Sunday, November 29.

A couple of volunteers are also needed to help contact groups that have helped in the past to see if they are available to continue to help for the year of 2021.

Please contact the church office (570-421-6020) or Al Michie (570-656-6190) if you can help out in either area, or if you would like to know more about hosting soup kitchen and what is involved.



Please disregard the notation of The Holly Day Market on the calendar in this month's Courier. The event is NOT being held on November 7, 2020. Sorry for the confusion!



Missions Updates

We are collecting toys, gift cards and food for Oasis of Love for Christmas. ***Please bring gifts to the church by Thanksgiving.*** Following is a list of suggested toys:

Suggested toys for girls: Barbie dolls & accessories, play tea sets, teddy bears, kitchen play sets.

Suggested toys for boys: Hot wheels cars, action figures, footballs, basketballs, etc.

Also suggested are puzzles, board games, play-doh sets.

Oasis of Love would like to have any grocery store gift cards donated by Thanksgiving as that would help the families make ends meet.

Also suggested in addition to toys: toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo & conditioner sets, bubble bath sets, etc.

Oasis of Love's Director, Frank Medero, asks that the gifts remain unwrapped; he is very appreciative of everything SUMC does for Oasis of Love – thank you all!

If you have any questions, please speak with a member of the Missions Team or call the church office.

Christmas Stockings for Church Women United

Please consider donating \$10 toward the purchase of items needed to fill the stockings. Please make checks payable to "SUMC Missions" and note for the Christmas Stockings in the memo portion of your check. The deadline for monetary donations is November 22.

Receiving Fraudulent Emails from Me?

Occasionally people create fraudulent email addresses in my name. These persons create fake accounts to try to convince you to send money and gift cards.

Most recently there was a fake Pastor Monica email that was circulating from a fraudulent Gmail address. This is called spoofing. It does not affect my account, but it will affect you if you reply to the hacker. While I do have a Gmail account to use for certain Google functions, please look at the actual email address.

Emails from me will either come from pastor@stroudsburgumc.com or revmonicaguepet@gmail.com. Look at the email address from which the email is coming. If someone ever asks you for money via email or asks for other kinds of help in my name, you can report it to the church and then delete the email. Thank you for caring well for one another.

- Pastor Monica

A PRAYER MEDITATION FOR ALL SAINTS DAY

We give you thanks, O God, for all the saints who ever worshiped you. Whether in brush arbors or cathedrals, weathered wooden churches or crumbling cement meeting houses where your name was lifted and adored.

We give you thanks, O God, for hands lifted in praise: Manicured hands and hands stained with grease or soil, Strong hands and those gnarled with age. Holy hands used as wave offerings across the land.

We thank you, God, for hardworking saints; Whether hard-hatted or steel-booted, Head ragged or aproned, Blue-collared or three-piece-suited, they left their mark on the earth for you, for us, for our children to come.

Thank you, God, for the tremendous sacrifices made by those who have gone before us. Bless the memories of your saints, God. May we learn how to walk wisely from their examples of faith, dedication, worship, and love. We pray, Amen.

(<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/a-prayer-meditation-for-all-saints-day>)



Thanksgiving

Our Community Thanksgiving Service will be hosted virtually on Sunday, November 22nd at 7:00pm. In this challenging year, mark the time to spend with others from our community as we give thanks to God! Details for online connection will be forthcoming.



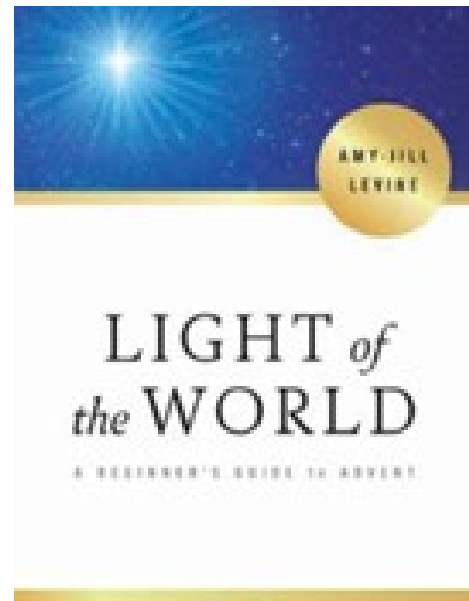
Mark your calendar: Youth group

November 8th: 3:00- 4:30 pm Youth only!
Join us in the Youth Room. Games, fun,
and snacks included.

Plenty of room to socially distance. If you
would like to join us virtually, let Pastor
Monica know.

November 22nd: 3:00 – 4:30 pm Scavenger
Hunt – bring a friend. Parents drop off in
the youth room, and we will explore from
there. Please let Pastor Monica know if you
would like to join online.

Find us on Instagram: sburgumcyouth



All Church Advent Study coming soon!

Advent, the four Sundays leading up and preparing for Christmas, is coming soon. It begins on November 29th. You will soon see evergreens spring up in the church, and nativity characters will begin their journey to the manger. You might be Christmas shopping or beginning to think about Christmas cookies. Your home might begin to transform into trees, wreaths, and decorations.

Have you ever thought about your spiritual preparation for Christmas? What does it mean to prepare your heart for Christ's birth? In this challenging year, we all need the light of the world. We will offer multiple times – day, evening, and weekend, to encourage everyone to join us as we make space for coming of the light of the world. We will have online and in person options both. The study will begin the week of November 30th.

Plan on joining us – look for more details in your e-news.



BE THE LIFELINE PATIENTS NEED.

Give blood.



Community Blood Drive Stroudsburg United Methodist Church

Social Hall Dining Room

547 Main Street - Stroudsburg

Please use Ann Street Entrance

**Wednesday, November 25, 2020
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

To Maintain Social Distancing
Scheduled Appointments Are Strongly Recommended!

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org
and enter: Stroudsburg to schedule an appointment.



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass ?



**Come to give Nov 25-28 for a long-sleeved Red Cross T-shirt,
courtesy of Suburban Propane! Ltd qty.**



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

Give Something that Means Something® | RedCrossBlood.org | 1-800-RED CROSS

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church

Church Leaders 2020

Daniel's Dream Team

Cathy Doane, 2021a - Team Leader
 Paul Edinger, 2021a
 Jackie Herrero, 2020b
 Alisabeth Guepet, 2022a
 Peggy Stewart 2021b
 Rick Felch, 2021
 Bill Weitzmann, 2021a
 Rev. Monica Guepet, Pastor

Servant Resource Team

Bill Weitzmann, 2021a - Team Leader
 Jenny Bogart, 2021b
 Bob Dellicker, 2020b
 Rick Felch, 2020a
 Beryl Hellgren, 2022a
 Kim Kopec, 2020a
 Sue Scarborough, 2021a
 Rev. Monica Guepet, Pastor

Building & Property Team

Boyd Butz - Chairperson
 John Burrus, 2021b
 Boyd Butz, 2020b
 Dick Everitt, 2021a
 Jeremy Miller, 2021a
 Mike Seip, 2020b
 Dale Werkheiser 2020b
 Kevin Kopec, 2021a

Membership and Evangelism

Peggy Stewart & Beryl Hellgren, Team leaders
 Jami Lipe Rick Felch
 Buddy and Brenda Rambo Eva Knight
 Diane Rogell Sherry Lombardi
 Joni Singer Rev. Monica Guepet

Stewardship Team

Paul Edinger, Team Leader/Treasurer
 Boyd Butz
 Dan Butz
 Sue Scarborough
 Kirsten Lee
 CJ Penwell
 Ann Edinger, Financial Secretary
 Rev. Monica Guepet
Lay Leader - OPEN

Missions

Kathy Cook & Ruth Weber – Team Leaders
 Beryl Hellgren Jackie Herrero
 Amanda Miller Lois Shaffer
 Rev. Monica Guepet, ex-officio

Worship Team

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Dave Lantz | Choir Director |
| Marti Lantz | Organist/Pianist |
| Alan & Patsy Shaffer | Communion |
| Jack & Barb Hineline | Communion (8:30) |
| Paul & Kelly Edinger | Communion (11:00) |
| DeAnn Harris | Usher Coordinator (8:30) |
| CJ Penwell | Usher Coordinator (11:00) |
| Diane Rogell | Greeters (8:30) |
| Joanne Reed | Greeters (11:00) |
| Joni Singer | Altar Guild |
| Rev. Monica Guepet | Pastor |

Education

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Open | Superintendent |
| Peggy Stewart & Beth Armitage | Children |
| Kathy Burnett | Adults |
| Rev. Monica Guepet | Adults |

Altar Guild

Joni Singer, Team Leader
 BJ Bachman
 Jenny Bogart
 Kathy Cook
 Cathy Doane
 Kathy Burnett
 Debbie Hardy
 Jackie Herrero
 Ann Litchman
 Marina Maroney
 Brenda Rambo
 Sue Weitzmann

Church History

Dave Cook, Team Leader
 Peggy Stewart
 BJ Bachman

Safety & Security

Brad Hildabrandt, Team Leader
Sue Scarborough

Certified Lay Minister

Jeff Weber

Christ Servant Ministers

Cathy Doane
Peggy Stewart
Jackie Herrero

Lay Delegate

Paul Edinger

Equalizing Delegates

Jeff & Audrey Weber

Technology Team

Kevin Kopec
Buddy Rambo
Paul Edinger
Jackie Herrero
Alex Herrero
Alisabeth Guepet
Rev. Monica Guepet
Bill Weitzmann



MAKE A DIFFERENCE

NOVEMBER 6-8

Lifeline Meal Pack for Haiti

Hosted by East Stroudsburg United Methodist

Church 83 S. Courtland St. E. Stroudsburg

All COVID safety protocols will be carefully
followed during the meal pack.

Sign up with Pastor Monica
(revmonicaguepet@gmail.com),
Call the Church Office (570-421-6020), or
in the Fellowship Room



Pocono United Methodist
Mission Link



Scouting FOR FOOD

Fill a bag ... feed the hungry!

**Saturday
November 14th**

**Help the Scouts fight
hunger in our area.**

**Neighborhood food drive supports
local food banks.**



AND



With everything that's transpired this year due to the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic, now is the perfect time to give if you can and help your neighbors in need.

There's an increasing need for food in our community because of the pandemic. This is an opportunity for the community to rally together and meet a very important need. All non-perishable food that is collected will be donated to the Salvation Army.

Drop off locations will be collecting food until Friday, November 13th.

The Scouting for Food drop off locations for the Stroudsburg area include:

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church

Ann Street Entrance
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Gateway Abstract

33 Nth 7th Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

CHC Motors

1048 Foxtown Hill Road (Route 611)
Stroudsburg, PA 18630

Professional Building

134 Broad Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Thank you
FOR YOUR SUPPORT



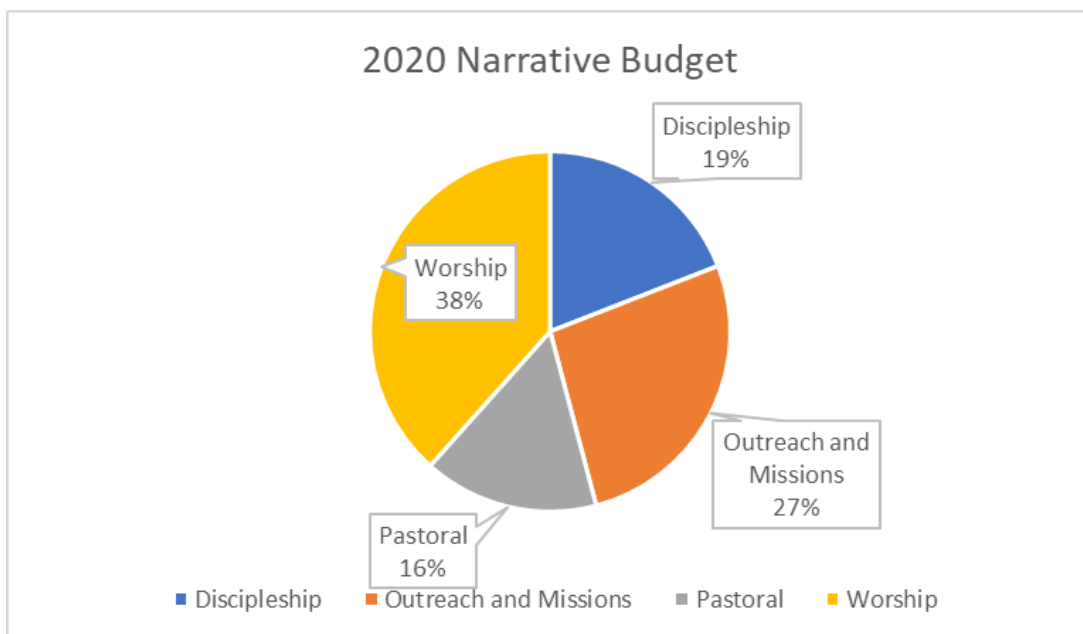
The Story of Us has been our theme in worship as we seek to follow after the example of Jesus in discipleship. We will offer the opportunity for commitment Sunday on **November 15th**. We invite all of our members and friends who commit to giving in 2021 to offer their cards for consecration, asking God to assist them in their commitments as well as bless their gifts. Our Stewardship team will be developing our 2021 at the end of November, based on the commitments of the congregation.

Part of the story of us is telling the story of money openly. Our 2020 budget has been \$285,235. With your generosity, we have served God in incredible ways. During this year of pastoral transition, we have blessed Pastor Bob, and greeted Pastor Monica and her

family. We have pivoted to offering online worship and continue to perfect our audio and visual experiences both for those in the sanctuary and worshipping remotely. We held our first local mission trip and continue to respond to the needs of community through our Soup Kitchen, support of Oasis of Love, and Family Promise. We offer Bible Study and small groups, as well as care for those in our church and our community. This is a quick snapshot. Our expenditures have decreased approximately 11% in the pandemic as we have adapted our ministries. Thank you

for your generosity that is rebounding to respond to our needs in our community. With the economic uncertainty and loss of jobs, giving was down 18% going into the summer. At the end of September, comparing September 2019 to September 2020 is only down 8%. I pray this also means many have found stabilization. Your giving changes you and the lives of

others. Look for your letter in the mail, and let the office know if you need one. Blessings as we recognize, release, reimagine, remember, restore, and redeem the story of us!



STROUDSBURG UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
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STROUDSBURG PA 18360
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