

SUM eNews  
Stroudsburg United Methodist Church  
December 10, 2020

## **Gather**

### **Sunday, December 13, 2020**

This Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent. The scripture readings are Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 and Luke 1:5-25. Pastor Monica's sermon is entitled "Those Who Dream Bring Justice."

'The birth of John the Baptist signaled a preparation of the coming Messiah who brings justice. The beauty of Christmas is not just in the decorations, but the changes of justice it brings. Join us as we hear God's call for justice.'

Join us live at 8:30am: <https://youtu.be/iSzEPLwQtzY>

Join us live at 11:00am: <https://youtu.be/4VEODzErJhY>

### **Subscribe to the SUMC YouTube Channel**

Don't forget to subscribe to the SUMC YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMwaoyy6Ox2d8cGlrQes0Qw> so you don't miss a thing! Contact the church office if you need assistance.

### **Advent Bags**

Advent bags are available in the Lounge. Feel free to stop by the church to pick up. If you would like to share the Advent experience with a friend or neighbor, please feel free to take an extra bag.

### **COVID19 Update**

On Sunday, November 22nd, 2020, Daniel's Dream Team, our leadership team met and considered the directives of the Pennsylvania Health Department, County health officials, the pastoral epistle of Bishop Peggy Johnson, and rising numbers of COVID19 in Monroe County.

We discerned the following precautions to keep our congregation and community safe and healthy: All indoor activities at the church require masks (covering mouth and nose), including worship. Our worship will not include congregational singing in person, instead, we will have hymns read in musical intonation. We will continue social distancing for those who gather in person, as well as have individually wrapped communion sets. Worship using virtual means by connecting with YouTube, through our website, or Facebook, are also excellent methods to healthfully be in worship.

We pray for the day when a vaccine is efficacious, the pandemic is history, and act today as our efforts help to make it so. Thank you for your careful attention and continuing prayer as we care well for one another.

In God's Love,

Pastor Monica on behalf of Daniel's Dream Team

### **Disinfecting Fogger**

God calls us to care well for one another. As we seek to be healthy and safe in these times, the church has purchased a fogger for disinfecting. In our sanctuary and common areas, we are disinfecting to keep one another healthy. Our thanks to our building and property team as they lead us in efforts to care well for both our congregation and community as well as our grounds and facility.

Additional information available upon request.

### **Blue Christmas Worship Service**

Mark your calendars to join us for our Blue Christmas service on December 21 at 7:00pm.

This Christmas season has been like no other in the remember able past. Many of us are spending time alone. There are more empty chairs in our homes than jolly Christmas parties in order to keep everyone healthy and safe.

Your Pocono United Methodist pastors know that takes an emotional and spiritual toll. This year's Blue Christmas service is for all of us with empty chairs.

Our service will be completely virtual. We will premiere the service on our YouTube channel as well as our Facebook page. Our cluster pastors are busy recording and preparing the service for you. Look for the link in the eNews next week, featured on our Facebook page, and on our website. "See" you on December 21 at 7:00pm.

### **RSVP For Christmas Eve**

To keep us safe and healthy, we ask you to RSVP for Christmas Eve worship this year. There will be three worship services in person: 2:30pm, 7:30pm and 11:00pm. All services are available online through YouTube with links on our website. Thank you for caring for one another. Please sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E4AAFA62CA7FD0-christmas1> If you need assistance, please call the office.

### **Christmas Gifts**

We give thanks for our pastors and staff all year round. At Christmas, we bless them with a love offering. In the rear of the sanctuary, you will find a gift wrapped box for your gift. In order for us to share those gifts by Christmas, please offer your gift by December 22. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

### **Youth Group**

## **Celebration of Retirement**

Pastor Ted is retiring! On December 20, we will be celebrating Pastor Ted's retirement. He has been serving among us, and we have been blessed by his ministry. At the 11:00 worship service, we will celebrate his ministry and give thanks to God for him. If you would like to give a love offering in his honor, please make a note on your offering with the designation, "Pastor Ted." Please offer your gift by December 18.

## **Children's Bulletins Available**

There are children's bulletins available each Sunday at the back of the sanctuary.

## **Weekly Offering**

You can send your weekly offering to the church electronically using PayPal or a credit/debit card. Visit the church website at [stroudsburgumc.com](http://stroudsburgumc.com) and click on "Donate." You can also mail your offering to the church – SUMC, 547 Main Street, Stroudsburg, PA 18360, or you can have the church set up as a vendor through your bank account and have your offering check sent directly to the church. Any questions, please contact the church office. Thank you!

## **Weekly Bulletin**

The weekly bulletin is available on the church website: <https://www.stroudsburgumc.com/>

## **Weekly sermons at SUMC**

Do you enjoy listening to the weekly sermons here at SUMC? Would you like to listen to them even when you are on vacation or out of town? Well, we do have all the sermons available for you to listen to and they are typically posted to our church website each Sunday.

## **Our Special Person of the Week:**

Betty Schuler, 561 Roosevelt Street, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301. Please remember her in prayer and if possible, please send a card.

## **Sanctuary Open for Prayer**

The church sanctuary is open to the public for prayer and/or quiet reflection on Wednesdays from noon to 1 pm. You are invited to take advantage of this time if you are in town during the week, and please let your friends know also. Years ago churches were open during the week for anyone to wander in to pray, however now, because of safety concerns, most churches stay locked. We would like the community to know we are an active and "alive"

church and offer this opportunity to anyone who needs a quiet space, even if it is only for one hour a week. Please share with your friends and family.

**Pastor Monica is offering verbal prayer on Wednesday's from 12:15 – 12:30pm. Stop in the sanctuary or Facebook live each week.**

### **Prayer Chain Email and Phone List**

If you would like to be part of either the email or phone prayer chain list, please contact me in the church office. Jackie

### **All Church Advent Study**

Tuesday mornings at 10:00 am, Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm, Saturday mornings at 9:30 am. Join us in person or on Zoom for all four weeks.

Zoom information for Saturday morning at 9:30am:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89531743585?pwd=NzhXNXZzNG5NNINoL2J1S0lRUIZxQT09>

Zoom information for Tuesday morning at 10:00am:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84467352340?pwd=RE9rUVhKUk5XMjN1YmpjNC84N2YzUT09>

Zoom information for Wednesday evening at 7:00pm:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84648001246>

### **Grow!**

#### **Small Groups**

Do you belong to a Small Group? If not, you really should seriously consider doing so. There are a variety of opportunities available which you can see on our website. You will be able to see a brief description of each Small Group, view when and where they meet, and see if there are openings to join the groups. Check out our active Small Groups and consider joining one of them. Alternatively, do you have a passion or interest? Then maybe you can start a brand new Small Group. Contact Pastor Monica if interested.

#### **Bible Study**

Where in the Bible can you find sadness and joy, anger and weariness? The Book of Psalms! Wednesday mornings at 10:00am, join Pastor Monica in person or on Zoom for Bible Study in the Lounge. We will continue our study of the psalms. Here is the Zoom information for next week:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81249690531?pwd=Nzd5QW4xc1FpRnhZRIRPOVBZSUVrdz09>

Meeting ID: 812 4969 0531

Passcode: 834644

### **2021 Altar Flower Chart and Church Calendar**

The 2021 calendars are up in the Fellowship Room and outside the Conference Room. Please consider putting flowers on the altar in memory of or in honor of someone special or a special event. Please note your meeting dates and times on the calendar outside the Conference Room. Thank you!

### **Make a Difference!**

#### **Give to a Mission**

A variety of missions are supported in our church. You can make a difference both locally and around the world by giving to these missions. A list of missions we support is posted in the Fellowship Room. You can also suggest a new mission that interests you by providing the name and address of the mission, as well as some details about what this particular mission does. Thank you for your continued support! If you have any questions, please see a member of the Missions Team or call the church office.

#### **Family Promise Meals**

Stroudsburg UMC is providing meals to families in the Family Promise program. SUMC will provide a dinner meal on Mondays only. The meal should be provided in a non-returnable container and dropped off at the Family Promise Day Center, 905 Main Street, Stroudsburg - the old Everybody's Café, next to Little Angel's Café) at 4pm and handed to Family Promise staff. The families are able to use a microwave to heat meals and have dishware and utensils. Sign ups to provide a meal will be done via Sign Up Genius. Kathy Cook will send you an invitation to this website and you can choose your date for meal preparation. This is an ongoing outreach, and meals will be needed every Monday. Please consider helping on an individual basis or working with another person or family to cover the meal. Contact Kathy Cook - 570-476-6261 or email: [kathykitty50@gmail.com](mailto:kathykitty50@gmail.com).

#### **Oasis of Love**

Because things are still unsettled due to the pandemic, our Missions Team has had to make some changes in the way we offer assistance to the various community agencies we normally support. For now, we are going to be accepting food donations for our local food pantry, Oasis of Love. Please bring non-perishable items to the church. There is a box in the

sanctuary for donations or you can leave items in the kitchen downstairs. Just be sure they are clearly marked for Oasis of Love.

***Thank you from Oasis of Love...***

During this Season in which we traditionally celebrate "Thanksgiving," The Oasis of Love Inc. is thankful for the support it has received from the Stroudsburg United Methodist Church-Main St. through the years and most recently.

We are grateful to partner with you during this Holiday Season and throughout the year to mitigate the food-insecurity of many individuals in the local community; especially during the unexpected pandemic this year. Together we make a difference in the lives of many one person or family at a time and in so doing, continue to be a beacon of light and hope in the midst of chaos and confusion.

Thank you for all your referrals of individuals in need that we have continued to support, as well as your donations of food, toys, turkeys, winter clothing, and gift cards that have been provided to individuals and families in need, and that will continue to be distributed as available during the remaining of this Holiday Season.

The Oasis of Love Inc. wishes all of you a healthy and safe Thanksgiving and Holiday Season as we also pray for health and safety during these challenging times.

Sincerely,  
Sonia and Frank Medero *for*  
**The Oasis of Love Inc.**

**Soup Kitchen 2021**

We are currently scheduling groups to host our Sunday Soup Kitchen in 2021. At this time, we are still doing take out meals every Sunday from 2-4pm. If you and a few friends are interested in hosting one or more dates, please contact Al Michie (570-656-6190) or Jackie in the church office (570-421-6020). If you need more information on what is involved in hosting Soup Kitchen, please give Al or Jackie a call.

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church  
[www.stroudsburgumc.com](http://www.stroudsburgumc.com)  
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