



## 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*

May/June 2022

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

## Gather, Grow, Make a Difference!

Our Mission: Share the love of Jesus in welcoming and compassionate ways.

*“Love binds us together in perfect harmony”* Colossians 3:14

When I was a little girl, I was at the church a lot. But there are two things I particularly remember about going to church – singing and eating. I know that we had Bible study and I know did mission work. I know there was prayer. I can tell good stories about taking offering in the white plastic church bank. But what I remember happening the most often was lots and lots of singing. We had a song for every Bible story from Zacchaeus to Moses, and dozens of them for Jesus.



We never seem to need an excuse to get together and eat. Potlucks and covered dishes, pitch-ins, and fellowship meals were a regular part of my faith formation. There was no sign up sheet to make sure there were enough side dishes or desserts, vegetables or drinks. Somehow, through the grace of God, that seemed to work out. At least, I think it did. In those days, I was not in charge of anything besides carrying my own plate to the garbage can. Macaroni and cheese could sit next to goulash and collard greens without any kind of excitement, except making sure they all had a serving utensil.

You could parents whispering to children as they walked through the line, “*You might want to try it. You never know. You might like it.*” The potluck reminded us that as we sat together sharing in each other’s cooking that as our food was different, so might our culture, our practice, and yes, even our theology. We are bound together in a common love. Our differences debated in youth group, trustee meetings or education work sessions were kept in check as we conversation continued, and we shared food around the table.

You might have heard that on May 1<sup>st</sup> the Global Methodist Church launched a new denomination separate from the United Methodist Church. You might have wondered what that was and how it affects you and me, and how it affects Stroudsburg United Methodist Church, and our denomination. The Global Methodist Church is a denomination that separated itself from the United Methodist Church with a separate book of discipline, different polity and practice for local churches, clergy, and communities. In 2020, the United Methodist Church was preparing for a General Conference to continue to address multiple movements

within the church. With the pandemic, the General Conference has not been able to meet safely with all delegates able to come to the table in fair and equitable ways. The United Methodist Church is a truly global church with delegates on 6 continents. General Conference 2020 has postponed.

You might read of some churches nearby or nationally who have decided to affiliate with the Global Methodist Church. Perhaps, they feel compelled to respond to a change to polity, a change in the book of discipline, or practices for local church, clergy, or communities. Feel free to ask me more. Some already have. I am very moved by the people of Stroudsburg and my own experiences of many potluck meals. There is always room for another crockpot or casserole. We are a community church. We serve proudly within a denomination that has made space for distinction, diversity, and difference of all sorts from the beginning. Here at Stroudsburg, we remain at the table, doing the mission of Jesus. We gather, grow, and make a difference. This summer, we have Vacation Bible School coming as well as the celebration of our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Soup Kitchen. We are looking forward to where God is moving among us. With a potluck and pitch-in meal, I give thanks that it is love that binds us together in perfect harmony.

In God's Love, Pastor Monica

#### **To Serve You in May**

##### **Head Ushers**

DeAnn Harris & C.J. Penwell

##### **Counters**

C.J. Penwell & Claribel Sebring

##### **Altar Guild**

Cathy Doane and Kathy Cook

##### **Soup Kitchen**

May 1 - Community Church-Denise Gorden

May 8 - McMichael's UMC-Pastor Ed

May 15 - Christ Hamilton Lutheran-Jane Pearson

May 22 - Reeders UMC-Jeff Weber

May 29 - Stbg. Jr. High FBLA-Kathy Sickler

#### **To Serve You in June**

##### **Head Ushers**

DeAnn Harris & C.J. Penwell

##### **Counters**

C.J. Penwell & Claribel Sebring

##### **Altar Guild**

Jenny Bogart & Marina Maroney

##### **Soup Kitchen**

June 5 - Community Church - Denise Gorden

June 12 - SUMC Youth - Pastor Monica

June 19 -

June 26 - Wooddale UMC - Carol Hutson

#### **Our Church Staff:**

Lead Pastor: The Rev. Monica B. Guepet

Pastor of Visitation: Pastor Margie Good

Pastors Emeritus: Rev. Tom Anderman,

Pastor Ted Good

Church Secretary: Jackie Herrero

Choir Director: David Lantz III

Organist: Marti Lantz

Custodian:

#### **Our Church Leaders:**

Daniel's Dream Team: Cathy Doane

Worship: Pastor Monica Guepet

Property & Building: Kay Bucci & Drenen Tucker

Staff Parish Relations: Krista Montgomery

Giving and Funding: C.J. Penwell

Missions:

Membership & Evangelism: Peggy Stewart

Lay Leader:

Family Promise has needed to be agile and shift how to serve many families during the pandemic. Stroudsburg UMC has been supportive as a host congregation for many years, and now Pastor Monica serves on their board. Are you wondering how you can continue to support Family Promise? If you can serve in any of the following ways, please let Pastor Monica know. Thanks for making a difference in our community.

[Family Promise Volunteer Needs](#)

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**NORTH DISTRICT NIGHT AT THE  
IRON PIGS!**  
Friday, August 26, 2022

Once again, 300 tickets have been reserved for the GREAT North District to enjoy a night of cheering on the Iron Pigs! Contact the church office to let us know you are interested!



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**SUMMER CAMP AT POCONO  
PLATEAU**

Making plans for summer? Consider Pocono Plateau. With children's camps, youth camps, and a new adventure course being installed this spring, this is the place to be! Check out camping opportunities in the brochures in the back of the church. You can also check it out online: [https://www.poconoplateau.org/sites/default/files/PoconoPlateau\\_2022\\_Brochure.pdf](https://www.poconoplateau.org/sites/default/files/PoconoPlateau_2022_Brochure.pdf) Let the church office know if you want to go. We have camping scholarships to support you!



**Pocono Plateau Summer Staff  
Update**

We have 10 hired summer staffers and several more interviews pending. We need to double that number - prayers appreciated!

We are excited this year to include several international students to our summer staff team! Currently, we have three experienced programs staff from Spain and Bolivia coming on board.



# Pocono Plateau Facilities Update

We are assessing needs across our buildings to come up with a timeline for significant building improvements. Some of these items will require support and volunteers, so stay tuned! John has a great group of volunteers this year for spring clean up and camp prep - thank you to everyone coming out! And thank you to our regular volunteers that work with John to keep the Plateau up and running!

## Spring 2022

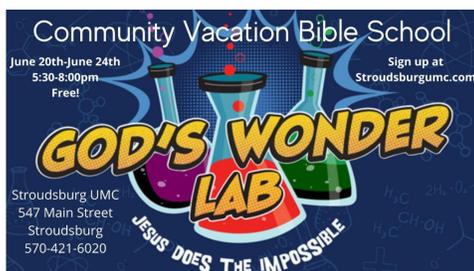
Staff Comm Floor Replacement  
Replace Cedar Roof targeting fall for completion  
Gutters & Mason work at Moore  
Joshua House Generator  
Spring Clean Up & Camp Prep

## Fall 2022

New Adventure Course  
Begin Lake Room renovations  
Birch/Fellowship Improvements  
Begin plans for new Summer staff/retreat lodge

## Father's Day Booklet

Names for the Father's Day Booklet will be taken May 29th through June 12th. Booklets will be available on June 19th. \$2.00 per name - in memory of or in honor of. You may also call the office with your requests. Please make checks payable to SUMC and note for the Father's Day booklet. [Father's Day Booklet Form](#)



Community Vacation Bible School  
June 20th-June 24th  
5:30-8:00pm  
Free!  
Sign up at  
Stroudsburgumc.com  
**GOD'S WONDER LAB**  
Stroudsburg UMC  
547 Main Street  
Stroudsburg  
570-421-6020  
JESUS DOES THE IMPOSSIBLE

Sign up to help with VBS! June 20-June 24, 5:30-8:00pm, we are working with other churches to share God's wonders. Come and join us!

Watch the trailer!  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=enD5DIJqTBI>

Register here:

Winner, Winner, Chicken Dinner II!  
Saturday, June 25, 2022  
4-6pm  
Stroudsburg United Methodist Church  
(in the Ann Street Parking Lot  
behind the church)  
570-421-6020



\$12.00 per person  
BBQ Chicken Leg Quarter  
Macaroni Salad or Potato Salad  
Cornbread/Dinner roll/Butter  
Dessert, Beverages  
Eat in or take out

## United Methodist Women is Now United Women in Faith

NEW YORK, N.Y., Mar. 2, 2022: United Methodist Women is now United Women in Faith! The move is part of a refreshing of the organization that includes a new logo and an array of new and improved programs to nurture current members and welcome new women to join to put their love in action on behalf of women, children, and youth.

The organization announced the new operating name in the March-April edition of response, its bimonthly magazine for members, and is launching the rebrand with a new website and Face Book event March 3 at 1 pm ET.

The new programs are fruits of research conducted over the past five years with more than 24,000 United Methodists and women of other Christian traditions participating in the surveys, focus groups and interviews. This input informed the prayerful discernment of staff and elected leaders.

The changes are designed to address the different needs and life stages of current members and new women and expand options for membership and engagement. The new name also aims to welcome current members whose local churches may choose to disaffiliate from The United Methodist Church as well as women of other faith traditions who want to join.

New and innovative programs will be rolled out throughout 2022, including:

- A new, easier to navigate website with a homepage designed to pique new women's interest in United Women in Faith and a special portal set to come online later this year where members can log in to access additional resources.
- A new "All-Access" National Membership Option enabling women to join United Women in Faith via the new website and participate online or in person at local units or larger events
- Soul Care Retreats, a pilot recruitment program for members and their nonmember friends and new women focused on nurturing women's bodies, minds, and spirits.
- Innovations to Mission u, the organization's longtime spiritual growth and transformative education program. Beginning in spring 2022, Mission u will introduce new curricula each year—one for children, one for youth and one for adults—all focused on a shared biblical theme. The new Mission u curricula will be more adaptable for use in small groups, local churches, vacation Bible schools, retreats, and other settings. Through these vibrant, relevant, justice-oriented, and biblically centered curricula, Mission u will continue its commitment to learning together for the transformation of the world and expand its impact.
- More targeted giving options and new interactive online resources for members.

"This is an exciting time for our organization!" said Harriett Jane Olson, CEO of United Women in Faith. "Looking back, we see the through lines for our organization—faith in God, love for each other and commitment to putting our faith into action supporting women, children, and youth. These commitments have been expressed in different ways at different times using different names, always calling women to



United  
Women  
in Faith

### United Methodist Women is now United Women in Faith

We've taken a new name to better reflect how we answer our calling today. It's an exhilarating time, as we commit to even greater inclusivity, action, and impact. We remain women of passion and power, united by God's love in our mission to support women, children, and youth.

world changing action. This combination of a new look, more accessible resources for members and new ways to participate, positions us for impact in our own journeys and in how we engage the world that God so loves.”

‘Ainise ‘Isama’u, United Women in Faith board president, said the changes express the organization’s core values in ways that will excite current members and invite new women to join us.

“I’m confident our members will be excited about these changes,” she said.

“Together we are creating more opportunities for engagement with more women through new programs and updates of long-standing programs that embody our core values. Things change. People change. But God remains, and that continues to be the purpose behind everything that we do in this organization.”

Visit us at <https://uwfaith.org/>

The organization remains incorporated in New York as United Methodist Women and is doing business as United Women in Faith.

United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence and impact local and global communities.

## Annual Conference News

[Annual Conference News](#)

[Annual Conference News](#)

### Church Mice



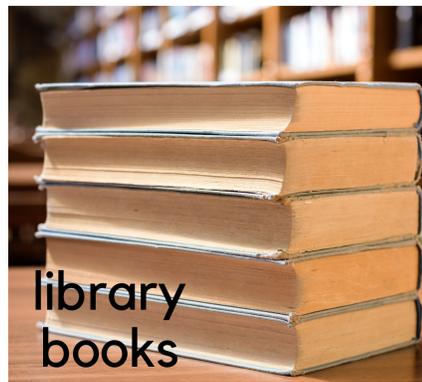
*(A feature on those people working like church mice behind the scenes. Look forward to those you might not know about. Consider submitting a story of people who you want to recognize who are working like church mice)*

During the cold and snow of winter when many of us preferred to be hunkered down in the warmth of our homes, we were blessed at the church by a few folks who were willing and able to come and shovel out the sidewalks and walkways at the church. Our church has steps and front walks, sidewalks, back walks, and entryways that require attention in addition to the plowing that occurs in our parking lot. We were blessed by C.J. Penwell, who regularly came out and made sure others could get where they were going safely. His shoveling skills receive gold stars. Additionally, Peggy Stewart, Roz Evans, and Cathy Doane all deserve high marks and gratitude for their shoveling and distribution of ice melt as well. Thank you for caring for our church and community.

### Library

*Service Tails: More Stories of Man's Best Hero*, by Ace Collins appeals to the pet lover and non pet lover alike. In *Service Tails: More Stories of Man's Best Hero*, prolific author Ace Collins introduces us to leaders whose entire lives are wrapped in the banner of service. Their stories are remarkable snapshots of the value of vision and teamwork, as well as devotion

to duty and unconditional love and acceptance—stretching the way we see both canine and human potential. Their training was intense, their loyalty unquestioned and each step of the way they constantly adapt to better serve those they lead. These unforgettable dogs are more than heroes; they are models from which we can learn how to love and serve unconditionally.



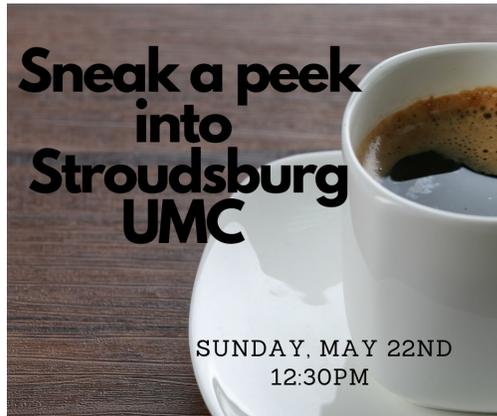
### Knitting and Crocheting Retreat at Pocono Plateau

Friday, September 23, 2022 (7 pm) -  
Sunday, September 25, 2022 (1 pm)  
A knitting and crocheting retreat for those just learning to those who are advanced. The retreat will include knitting and crocheting classes, Bible reflections, fellowship, boating, hiking and time to enjoy God's creation.

Cost: \$140 per person includes lodging (dormitory style or similar lodging with hall bathrooms), meals, snacks, other activities, and yarn. Bring your own needles and/or hooks!  
[Registration Form](#) (pdf)  
[ONLINE REGISTRATION](#)  
or contact the camp office at 570-676-3665

### Sneak a Peek into SUMC

Are you interested in learning more about the church? Do you want to join the church? Sneak a Peek at our Congregation on Sunday, May 22nd after the 11:00 service. Learn more about United Methodists in general, SUMC specifically. No obligation to join the church.



### Graduation Season is Coming!

Help us celebrate your accomplishments and those in your family. Please share the name and future steps of your graduate with the church office, so that we might



celebrate with you. Coming in June in worship.

## Soup Kitchen

Our Soup Kitchen is a vital ministry feeding our neighbors every Sunday. We started serving sit down meals inside from 2-3 pm on April 17. Volunteer opportunities are still available in the summer and fall for groups to prepare and serve meals. Contact the office to help out.



## We are hiring...

Stroudsburg UMC's custodian performs a variety of cleaning and maintenance tasks to provide a safe, attractive, comfortable, clean and efficient environment for the ministry of the congregation. We seek a dependable individual with the ability to work independently to care for our building and grounds, provide general custodial services and prepare the building and individual rooms for weekly services. This is a part-time position (25 hours per week). Salary commensurate with experience and skill set. To apply, email your resume to [sumc@stroudsburgumc.com](mailto:sumc@stroudsburgumc.com). A background check will be required before any offer of employment per our Safe Sanctuary Policy.

WE ARE  
HIRING

## United Methodists Stand with Ukraine

United Methodists across the globe are condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine. As Christians "we believe war is incompatible with the teachings and example of Christ. We therefore reject war as an instrument of national foreign policy." (2016 Book of Discipline, Social Principles ¶165.C). We also know our God stands with the oppressed and calls on us to support them. United Methodists and others wishing to provide humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people in the wake of the Russian invasion of their country may contribute to **Advance #982450**,



UMCOR International Disaster Response and Recovery. This fund will provide direct assistance to those in Ukraine as well as assistance to Ukrainians fleeing to neighboring countries. Many from our congregation have already given to UMCOR to support Ukraine. One hundred percent of all Advance contributions go to the designated cause. We give thanks to God for the generous hearts of our community of faith as well as the faithfulness of UMCOR who is already on the ground serving.



Dear Stitch & Pray Group,

Thank you so much for your beautiful donations to The Angel's Closet. We appreciate your thoughts of kindness and your gifts of knitting for our babies that we help.

Blessings and thanks,

Diane Jiorle  
The Angel's Closet

### To Pastor Monica & Margie Good and to the staff, choir & members...

who participated in my mom's celebration of life service and helped with the luncheon after I would just like to say thank you for all that you did. My mom was a big part of the church all of her life and I'm sure she was smiling that day on all of us. God bless,  
The Seip family



### Thank you from our shut ins

Our shut ins are so grateful for all of the Easter and thinking of you cards; they feel so loved to know that they are still remembered by their church family. The various mailings from the church are also appreciated so much. Thank you to all you caring people and your card ministries.

### Weis Receipts Update

Within the past two months, we have received \$373.74 from receipts submitted to Weis. Keep bringing in those receipts!

The large coffee can is located in the Fellowship Room. The church earns 1% of every receipt submitted.

Please note: the entire receipt needs to be submitted in order for us to earn the 1% of the total. Please do not cut the bottom off of the receipt; Weis needs that information in



order to process the credit. Receipts for gift cards purchased and prescription medications can be submitted, too. Any questions, please contact the office. Thank you!

### Ukrainian Relief Update -

Faithful churches of the GREAT North District,

Your extravagant generosity has impressed us once again! To date, North District churches have raised **OVER \$21,000** to support relief efforts in the Ukraine. These funds (of which some are already distributed) will be directed through the Ukrainian churches with whom our pastors have a direct connection and an already established relationship of trust.

This includes a gift that was presented at the [Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Centralia, PA](#) during a special community service on April 3rd.

