



Stroudsburg UMC

547 Main Street, Stroudsburg Pa

www.stroudsburgumc.com

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570-421-6020

Worship Sundays at 8:30 and 11:00 am

Weekly eNews

*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.

A note from the Pastor - December 2, 2022



"The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus" Isaiah 35:1

This week, my Christmas cactus in my office offered a single floral bloom. The cactus is getting a head start on getting ready for Christmas. That is what we have been planning to do all Advent. Now that we are into Advent, how are we at getting prepared?



Getting ready and saying yes means not waiting until it is here. We do not know the hour or the day; we are reminded. However, the prophet Isaiah reminds us that the coming of the Lord will cause creation and nature to rejoice!

Do you remember your parents calling you and asking if you were ready for school or church? Or maybe you called your siblings or your children. You would hear up the stairs or from the other side of the wall, "RED-DEY??"

More than once, in my family, people would be running at the last moment and getting prepared until the car was almost leaving without them. Or perhaps, they had been distracted by something else, and getting ready had yet to happen because of something else that caught their attention.

As we get ready for Christmas, the coming of Jesus, let us prepare now. The Advent practices of our Say Yes devotional and other spiritual practices seek to get us in the habit of living ready. Do not wait for the voice to cry out, "RED-DEY??" Start today preparing for Christ's coming. Like the blooming of my Christmas cactus, you will know you are on the way when you break out in rejoicing.

Joining you in preparation this Advent season by saying YES to hope, kindness, bravery, daring, love, joy, curiosity, and generosity.

In God's Love,
Pastor Monica

GATHER!

This Sunday, December 4 -
The Second Sunday of Advent
It's Communion Sunday
Our worship leaders are Cathy and Crista.
The choir anthem is "Given for You"
The praise song is "I've Got Peace Like a River"
The New Testament Lesson is Romans 1:1-7
The Gospel Lesson is Matthew 1:18-25
Pastor Monica's sermon is "Say Yes to Kindness Like Joseph" (I want my listeners to say yes to kindness like Joseph did even when the alternative is cultural nicety.)



When your friend tells you that you can just drop them off at the top of the neighborhood and they will walk home - what do you do? When your children ask you for a new pair of socks to replace the holey ones - what do you do? When your neighbor asks you to shovel just their front walk - what do you do?

In each of these, the nice response is to do what is socially expected, follow your friend's directions, buy a pair of socks for your children, and shovel the walk. To be kind is to see beyond expectations to offer care and respect.

Join us on Sunday as we explore how Joseph went beyond societal expectations at the time to be truly kind and assist in preparations for the

birth of Christ.

Join us in person at 8:30 or 11:00 am OR:

[Join us live at 8:30](#)

[Join us live at 11:00](#)

The bulletin is available on the [Church Website](#)

Stay up to date on church events - click the link below for our Google calendar:

[SUMC Calendar](#)

Merry Christmas



Christmas Fellowship

- Stay after the 8:30 am worship service, or come early for 11:00 am service.
- Enjoy a time of fellowship with other members of our church family that you may not see very often.
- Christmas cookies, coffee cake, holiday treats, fresh fruit, coffee, assorted teas, juice and punch.
- Bring a friend!
- To help us plan, let us know if you would like to bring a food item to share: Call/text/email Peggy: 570-350-8589 or pegstewart59@gmail.com

What to find out more about the regionalization and alignment of the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference and Greater New Jersey Conference? Check out more information here:

- Wednesday, Dec. 7, 9:30 AM to 10:15 AM
- Thursday, Dec. 8, 3:00 PM to 3:45 PM
- Thursday, Dec. 8, 7:00 PM to 7:45 PM

The following link will be used for each session: <https://gnjumc.zoom.us/j/81569870494>.

Message from Bishop Schol:



New Appointment Announcement and EPA/GNJ Affiliation Update

See, I am doing a new thing, can't you see it. -Isaiah prophesied

Dear United Methodists of EPA and GNJ,

We are living in a challenging season as we emerge from the pandemic, disaffiliation and the continuing movement of secular culture away from religion and the church. But every time, in the midst of challenge, God has been ready to do a new thing. For a tormented people enslaved in Egypt, or a wandering people on a dusty trail in the wilderness, or three young people in a fiery furnace standing up to a king, or a huddled group of disciples in an upper room, God was working a new thing.

Can't you see it? God's new thing is springing up all around us even today. (Isaiah 43:19 and 65:16-17).

At the most recent Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference (NEJ) where we elect new bishops, the conference could have elected four bishops but chose to elect only one, in part because of membership and financial realities. It is becoming clearer that alignments and affiliations between conferences will be the future model within the NEJ, and that EPA and GNJ will be working together into the future.

[Read more](#)



Advent Lessons & Carols

**5PM SATURDAY
17 DECEMBER 2022
CHRIST CHURCH
205 N 7TH ST.**

**Join us for this
beautiful service as
we recount the hope
of the season in
scripture and music.**

FOR INFO: CHRISTCHURCHSBURG@GMAIL.COM

Caring Well for Each Other...

When flowers are given to the glory of God and placed on our altar in memory or in honor of someone, donors choose whether they will take them home with them or they will be given at the discretion of the church. On November 6th, our All Saints Sunday, the flowers given were at the discretion of the church. One of the vases was delivered to a shut-in by Pastor Margie. The other vase was offered at the grave of one of the persons we remembered that morning. Pastor Monica officiated the service of Eleanor Metzgar, who had outlived her family and friends. In caring well for each other, those flowers were a visible reminder that the church remembered her.



Thank you for offering flowers on the altar and helping us care well for our community.



ORDER YOUR
CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA
BY DECEMBER 6TH

ORDER FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY OR
PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE TO ORDER



*Staff Christmas
Gift*

We give thanks for our pastors and staff all year around. 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 18th. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.



OPERATION CHILLOUT HOMELESS VETERANS OUTREACH



ANNUAL WINTER HOMELESS OUTREACH

NEW / UNUSED CLOTHING ITEMS ONLY PLEASE

Men's Size: Large, X-Large or XX-Large

Women's Size: Large or X-Large

Wool / Nylon /Acrylic Heavy Socks

Thermal Top

Thermal Bottoms

Zipped Hooded Sweatshirt

Heavy Flannel Shirt-Jacket

Waterproof Non-Leather GoreTex® Gloves

Acrylic Knit Cap

Acrylic Scarf

Items will be collected until December 15th

Contact Heather Heeter hheeter1@verison.net for any questions.

Filming on December 4th -

On December 4th, we will have CGI here filming for our publicity video to be featured on the Pocono Visitor's Bureau website. the completed project will also be used for our sharing of our church. We would love to represent our church well with a full worship service at 11:00am on December 4th.

A note of thanks from a family member whose mom we honored on All Saints' Sunday...

Dear Pastor Monica,

Thank you for your thoughts and prayers throughout the year. Although our time together was brief, I feel the genuine warmth and comfort in your messages.

I loved your card on All Saints' Day. That happens



to be my birthday! It brought such joy thinking of Betty and Debbie among the saints on such a special day for me.

I've enclosed a small donation to the church. I really appreciate your continued support. Hopefully some day I can take a ride out to visit.

Grace and blessings,
Annie



December Birthdays

- 5 Carol Romansky
- 12 Debra Kirkland
- 18 Alex Herrero
- 20 Scott Sebring
- 28 Peter Guepet
- 31 Crista Kopec



Advent Bags

Say Yes to being hope-filled, kind, brave, daring, loving, and curious this Advent and Christmas! Walk with us during this Advent and Christmastide by picking up an Advent bag in the Fellowship Room. We have also dropped off and mailed to shut-ins. Please let us know if you need one yet. May our faith grow this Advent season.



ADVENT WREATH

Each of the Sundays of Advent and Christmas Eve, we invite families and friends to light the Advent Wreath together at each of the services. Litany provided. Sign up in the office to participate.



ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Do you love the music of Advent and Christmas? Join us on Thursday evenings (December 1, 8, 15, and 22) from 6:30-7:30 pm for our Advent Bible Study. Our book is Songs for the Waiting: Devotions inspired by the Hymns of Advent. Books are available in the office, and the study will be in-person and online. Contact the office for the link.

As we anticipate winter, we are looking for people who can help us remove snow from our sidewalks, stairs, and stoop. Let us know in the office if you are willing to be added to the list to help.



Did you notice the snowmen of Stroudsburg are back? Go Collaborative, which coordinates the effort, added 10 new snowmen this year. For this month, we are fishing for people. Jesus did say, I will make you fishers of people if you follow me!



Decommissioned Bibles

Wonder about the decommissioned Bibles? We held a service on October 16th to decommission Bibles from our church and church family. The service included readings, prayer, and the burial of a representative Bible. You can find the spot on the Ann Street side in the memorial garden. The plaque marking the location reads:



Seeds of God's word are planted in our hearts.

The decommissioned Bibles that rest here remind us of our commitment to spreading the Word.

We give thanks to God for the gift of the scripture.

GROW!

A red graphic with white and yellow text. At the top, the words "Bible Study" are written in a white, cursive font, with a yellow arc above them. Below this, "The Book of Acts" is written in a white, sans-serif font. Further down, "Wednesdays, 10:15 am" is written in a white, sans-serif font. Below that, "In person or online - contact the office for the Zoom link -" is written in a white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, "570-421-6020" is written in a white, sans-serif font. The graphic also features two yellow circles and two wavy lines, one green and one yellow, on the left and right sides respectively.

2023 Commitment Cards

On October 30th, we offered our commitments for 2023 in worship. Perhaps you did not get an opportunity to offer yours. There are extra commitment cards and service commitment sheets in the sanctuary as well as on the [Church Website](#)

Please dedicate your gift in the next few weeks as we plan for 2023 in our discipleship with the church's resources.

Disciple 1 Bible Study

Have you considered reading through the Bible? Want to join a small group on Zoom? Disciple 1 Bible Study is being held Wednesdays at 6:45pm on Zoom. We are partnering with other United Methodist churches. Come grow in your faith, meet new people and learn about the Bible. Please let the office know if you are interested.



Stitch and Pray Small Group

If you love to knit or crochet and would like to use your skills to help others, please join us for our Stitch & Pray small group meeting in the lounge at 7:00 pm on the first Monday of each month. If you'd like to learn to crochet, you are welcome as well! For additional information, please call Brenda Rambo at 570.872.4181.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Give to a Mission

A variety of missions are supported by our church. You can make a difference both locally and around the world by giving to these missions. If there is a particular mission that interests you, please provide the information to the office. Thank you for your continued support! If you have questions, please contact the office.



Did you catch us in the news? In the last two weeks, we have been in the news twice! We are sharing the good news of how we are making a difference in our community. Take a look at the two videos above!

American Red Cross Thank you!



Hi Jackie,

I hope your Turkey day was a delight! Our drive this past Wednesday had fantastic results, every year this drive keeps collecting more and more donations. It is such a difficult time for us to collect blood so it makes a huge impact! Below I listed our collections since I started in 2018, and also our collections for 2022. I can't thank you enough for continuing to partner with us, and always having everything perfect for the team when they arrive. Wednesday we had 43 donors signed up, 31 showed up, 1 first time donor, 1 unable to donate, and 3 on the power red machine for our total of 33 donations collected helping up to 99 patients!

2018 21
2019 22
2020 20
2021 26
2022 33

April 30
Nov 33
63 donations helping up to 189!!

Thank you again for all your support throughout the year! It is very much appreciated 😊

I hope you have a wonderful holiday season and everything in between, we will talk again on the spring side of our seasons!

Jaime

Jaime Brazenec
Account Manager II | Donor Recruitment
Monroe, Pike, Northampton, and Carbon Counties
American Red Cross
570-706-0954



DID YOU KNOW?

The IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) allows you, once you have reached the age of 70½, to donate up to \$100,000 within each tax year directly from your IRA without treating the distribution as taxable income. The contribution can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year.

Give to the church and care for your
financial health.



Operation Christmas Child Update

Last Saturday, we had our Operation Christmas Child packing party. Thank you to all who gave and packed boxes for Operation Christmas Child.

We packed 43 boxes over 4 times as many as the ten last year! We had 19 people helping us, including Stroudsburg High School's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) students. Thank you for making a difference in our world.



You make a difference!

In the 2nd and 3rd quarters of 2022, Stroudsburg UMC received \$68.02 as a result of qualifying purchases made by you and other customers who have selected our church when making purchases at Amazon. Over time, Amazon has given \$469.81 to Stroudsburg UMC. How can you sign up? Go to AmazonSmile and select Stroudsburg UMC as your charity. If you need help with figuring out how this works, please call or stop by the office. Thank you for making a difference!



Update: Haiti Meal Pack - Thank you to all those who gave and/or came out to pack

meals for Haiti. As you can see from the picture, all had a great time. During our session, the other groups, along with ours, packed 8,000 meals. Over the course of the weekend, they were on target to pack 50,000 meals. These meals benefit children and families. We were shown a video of the mud cookies that families eat when no food is available. It was heartbreaking. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our siblings in Christ.



We already contributed all of the donations that you offered. There was no requirement to pay for all of the meals you packed; as a result, East Stroudsburg UMC, who hosted us, has not yet made up the difference in the cost. They are down \$5000. If you can offer additional funds for the purpose, please put them in the offering marked Meal Pack for Haiti. Thank you!



Angel Tree

Our Angel Tree is back! Select an ornament off the tree in the Fellowship Room to give to a child in our community in need. We are partnering with Family Promise this year. Please bring back your wrapped gifts by December 11th so that families can receive them ahead of the holidays.

Stroudsburg Junior High National Honor Society Thanksgiving Food Drive

We love partnering with other organizations! Thank you to the Stroudsburg Junior High School National Honor Society for their Thanksgiving food drive. Their generosity will feed many families. We both fill our food pantry and collaborate with other local food pantries to make sure our community has what they need. Thank you for making a difference!



Paint and Tea

Sunday December 4th 2022

4:00pm to 6:00pm

\$35.00 a person

Stroudsburg UMC

547 Main St. Stroudsburg

Use Entrance located behind the building on Ann Street

Tea and Desserts included

Proceeds Benefit Missions Projects

Call for tickets 570-855-5756



Weis Receipts

Please save your Weis grocery receipts and bring them to the church. There is a large coffee can in the Fellowship Room where you can place your receipts. The church earns 1% of the total amount on each receipt. 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!



Family Promise
Dinners
Sign up to Feed our
Neighbors

Family Promise Meals

How can I help those in need in our community? We are preparing a meal for the Family Promise families on December 28th. Partner with another family or friend to make a meal. Meals are to be delivered by 2:00 pm on Wednesday afternoons for distribution. Sign up in the office for more information.



Soup Kitchen
Sit down meals
being served
Sunday afternoons
2-3 pm
Ann Street Entrance

Soup Kitchen

Our Soup Kitchen is a vital ministry feeding our neighbors every Sunday. We continue to serve take-out meals as well as offer our guests the option to sit down in the dining room and eat. Food stability remains a vital part of our community. Meals are served every Sunday from 2-3pm. We are always looking for additional volunteers to prepare and serve the meals. **Many dates in 2023 need to be filled.** Please contact the church office if you are interested - 570-421-6020.

Are you looking for how you can help the Soup Kitchen if you are unable to prepare and serve meals? When you are shopping, we need the following: Cases of water, soda (not diet), styrofoam take out containers. Bring them into the office anytime. Thanks for serving those in our community

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church | 547 Main St, Stroudsburg, PA 18360

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