



## 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

### *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 - April 17, 2026

"On the contrary, we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will." Acts 15:11

Some years ago, in a place far away, our eldest began her pre-professional journey in the world of dance, by joining a competitive dance team. This story will be told through the lens of a daughter and dance, but it could also be told through the lens of a son and soccer, a friend and fitness, or a cousin and church. She had begun dance as a toddler, barely able to put on her own shoes and pull back her own hair. And at some point, she grew to love dance, and found herself doing it when it was class time as well as when she was moving through our home, out on the playground, and before her head hit the pillow at night. When she was invited to move from classes to competition, her energy and excitement were palpable, and the possibilities seemed limitless.



Here is where the story shifts from the aspiring dancer to the company. As her parents, we were invited to attend an orientation. An evening gathering at a local sushi restaurant was scheduled, and as parents arrived, they were escorted to the back room reserved for gatherings. Many participants called out to and greeted each other by name, offered hugs, and inquired after their loved ones. I knew one other parent, and the rest were yet unknown to me. What was advertised as an orientation included little detail for those being onboarded. When questions of "how much?" and "When?", "Where?" and "In what way?" were asked, the organization's veterans laughed among themselves, sometimes shooting knowing glances at each other, and answered, "You'll find out soon enough." The director had little to add, offering the flimsiest details and contributing to the atmosphere of exclusivism.

The worst part was that years later, I caught myself beginning to answer a new parent in a similar manner before stopping myself. The atmosphere was more than a singular person, and was formative to the process. It almost felt good to be in the know, and I almost forgot what being on the outside felt like.

The verse from Acts comes as Paul and Barnabas find themselves in Jerusalem discussing the wonderful influx of Gentile believers. New people coming to know Jesus! But the exclusive crowd wanted the same old response, requiring the new believers to have undergone what they had, which in this case was

The verse from Acts comes as Paul and Barnabas find themselves in Jerusalem discussing the wonderful influx of Gentile believers. New people coming to know Jesus! But the exclusive crowd wanted the same old response, requiring the new believers to have undergone what they had, which in this case was

circumcision. Paul and Barnabas challenge the status quo by suggesting that Jesus's grace, not ritualistic demarcation, is the focus.

How often do we do this in the church? We often feel as though we are providing vital information for new believers, first-timers, and inquirers, yet we often achieve the exact opposite of our intention. People come into the church with the zeal of fresh believers, and we begin with a litany of woes or requirements. Perhaps, Paul and Barnabas are speaking not only to the group of parents at the back of the sushi restaurant who wanted newbies to experience their troubles coming up as fresh parents of competitive dancers, and to the counsel of Jerusalem who were eager for all men to be required to uphold the law as they had, but also to us. Each time, we suggest that the way that we came to Jesus is the only or best way to do so. Every time, we impose our experience as a pattern on fresh believers, instead of seeing what God might be doing in their lives. Let us together remember the words of Paul: "We are saved through the grace of God, just as they are." Amen.

In God's Love,  
Pastor Monica

## GATHER!

Coming up this Sunday, April 19th

Our worship leaders are Peggy and Crista  
Kopec

The praise song is "For One Great Peace"

The First Lesson is 1 Peter 1:3-9

The New Testament Lesson is Acts 15:1-12

Pastor Monica's sermon is "Get Out of the Way"  
(I want my listeners to get out of the way of fresh  
believers.)

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord  
Jesus Christ!*

*By his great mercy, he has given us a new  
birth into a living hope through the  
resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead  
and into an inheritance that is imperishable,  
undefiled, and unfading,  
kept in heaven for you, who are being  
protected by the power of God  
through faith for a salvation ready to be  
revealed in the last time.*

*1 Peter 1:3-5*



This is at once a ghastly and great time for living. We know great challenges, war, disaster, heartache, and suffering. Over a century ago, Harry Emerson Fosdick, great preacher and inspirer of a generation remind us during a previous war that "The greatness of our time lies in the fact that it not only calls thus for Christianity but challenges Christianity, too ... Our problem is not to see how little we can believe but what great things we can see in the Christian message and make real to the world that desperately needs them ... This is a great time to be alive." These 50 days remind us of the urgency of Christ's message for a world that needs Jesus! In celebrating the Resurrection, there are new believers and followers of Jesus. We celebrate and remember that, sometimes, longtime believers can do things that get in the way. Join us as we look with the disciple Peter about how we can support our siblings and get out of the way!

Join us in person at 8:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m.

Join us live at 8:30 a.m.:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NU44vWOHC5U>

Join us live at 11:00 a.m.:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=91JYNobpp3g>

The bulletin is available on the church website: [stroudsburgumc.com](http://stroudsburgumc.com)

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

[SUMC Calendar](#)

### Save the Date

This year, the Pocono Interfaith Council will hold its 3rd Annual Interfaith Celebration of the National Day of Prayer on Thursday, May 7, beginning at 6:00 PM. As in previous years, the event is planned to take place at Courthouse Square, and further logistical details will be finalized in the coming weeks.

**FUNDRAISER DINNER & SILENT AUCTION** **NEPA GIVES**

**COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER REVITALIZATION**

We invite our community partners - and all who share our passion for serving those in need - to join us for an evening of connection, compassion, and giving back. We are raising funds to support the finalization of renovations for the Community Resource Center at Stroudsburg United Methodist Church. This event marks the end of the 24 Hour NEPA Day of Giving, a online fundraising effort for non-profits across Northeast PA.

**When:** Friday June 5th  
**Time:** 5:00pm - 8:00pm  
**Where:** Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center | 304 Pocono Plateau Road, Cresco

The poster features a group photo of diverse people smiling and wearing colorful string lights. The background is dark with gold and white text.

We warmly invite you to attend our Fundraising Dinner and Silent Auction at Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center on Friday June 5th from 5pm - 8pm.

Tickets for the dinner are \$25 per person. If you are interested in reserving tickets for the evening or learning more, go to the following link: <https://forms.gle/ANNwEJbHyANtfGBy6>.

INTERFAITH CELEBRATION

# NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER



*Join us as voices from various faith communities come together for a special evening of prayer and reflection.*

Thursday, May 7  6.00 pm 

Stroudsburg Courthouse Square 



# FELLOWSHIP MEAL

Saturday, April 18th at 5:00 pm.

Come join your fellow church members for a time of good food and fellowship. To help us plan, please either sign up at the rear of the sanctuary or let the church office know you plan to attend. Hope to see you there! Questions? Contact Peggy Stewart (570-350-8589 or [pegstewart59@gmail.com](mailto:pegstewart59@gmail.com))



**From your Conference Trustees:  
A Call for Service**

The EPA Conference is prayerfully seeking a dedicated individual to serve on the Conference Board of Trustees.

This is a meaningful opportunity to help steward the mission, property, and resources of the church while supporting ministries that impact communities and future generations. [Learn about the role here](#) and prayerfully consider nominating yourself or another.



**EPA Education Society Scholarship - accepting applications**

The Education Society of EPA invites college-age youth to apply for our annual scholarship. This scholarship is open to those who will be undergraduate students

in 2026-2027. Applications will be accepted via email between April 1 and June 1, 2026. [Learn more](#). Questions? Contact [Jen Hopple](#) or [Frances Whittington](#).

**2026 District Conferences**

Celebrate the ministries of your district, worship together, and prepare for Annual Conference at your District Conference!

North District

## Cherry Lane UMC: Celebrating 160 Years of Community & Faith

By Leaders at Cherry Lane UMC

Cherry Lane United Methodist Church has been a beacon of warmth, service and fellowship since 1866. Our story is woven from generations of caring neighbors, joyful gatherings, and a spirit that connects us to United Methodist churches throughout the Poconos. This year, we're celebrating our story in creative ways! [Go deeper \(3 min read\)](#)



### 28 Days of Prayer: Preparing our hearts for Annual Conference 2026

As we prepare for Annual Conference 2026—centered on the theme of PRAYER—join Bishop Moore-Koikoi, laity, and clergy across EPA & GNJ for a 28-day prayer journey. We will begin on April 8 and continue through May 15. Set aside just 20 minutes each weekday morning from 7:00-7:20am to connect

with God, reflect in community, and listen for the Spirit's leading. Join as often as you're able.

We will feature the transformative book [Dynamite Prayer](#) by Rev. Dr. Rosario "Roz" Picardo and Rev. Dr. Sue Nilson Kibbey. To receive the Zoom link, [register here](#). Let us know you're ready to pray boldly, listen deeply, and move forward together in love!

Note: You may choose to purchase a copy of [Dynamite Prayer](#) (if ordering 10 or more books, use code INNOVATE50 for 50% off your order). The book is also available from other booksellers.

## Saving the Soul of Our Nation, State, and Church - Faith Forum & Historical Tour

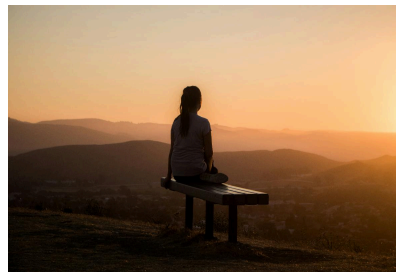
Mark your calendars! On May 12 from 1-6:30pm, attend a faith forum "Striving to End the Sin of Racism in Church and State: Contemporary and Historical Methodist Perspectives" featuring keynote speakers Bishop Cynthia Moore-Koikoi, Bishop Ernest S. Lyght, Rupert Hall, Jr., and Kevin Dusenberry. The forum will be held at Pennington UMC (60 South Main Street, Pennington, NJ).

Then, on May 13, plan to attend the "Historical Tour: Saving the Soul of Our Nation and State" featuring keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Kevin Newburg and visiting such sights as Washington's Crossing State Park, Princeton Battlefield, Historic Tenant Church and more. Buses leave from the Courtyard by Marriott Ewing Princeton at 8:30am.

These events are open to all and form part of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Commission on Archives and History (NEJCAH) Annual Meeting and Program. Get all the details [here](#). Register online [here](#) or print out a paper registration form [here](#). Need accommodations? [Register](#) for the conference hotel, Courtyard Marriott Ewing Princeton.

# Living a Contemplative Life in a World That Isn't

By Sarah Borgstrom Lee



In April 2026, a dream seven years in the making will come to life. A five-day Academy for Spiritual Formation, titled “Living a Contemplative Life in a World That Isn't,” will be held in the Northeastern Jurisdiction. This experience is designed to help participants deepen their faith and become rooted and grounded in the love of God—a love that never lets them go. **Go deeper (2 min read)**

COMING SUMMER 2026  
**V.B.S.**  
Analomink UMC, Christ Episcopal Stroudsburg,  
Stroudsburg UMC, Wooddale UMC  
June 22, 2026 - June 26, 2026  
Evening Session: 5:30pm-8:00pm  
More details will follow - for now - Save the dates!

Save the dates for 2026 VBS here at  
SUMC!  
June 22nd through June 26th  
5:30pm-8:00pm

COMING SUMMER 2026  
**V.B.S.**  
Zion UCC - Stroudsburg  
July 27, 2026 - July 31, 2026  
Morning Session - Time: TBD  
More details will follow - for now - Save the dates!

Save the dates for 2026 VBS at Zion UCC  
July 27th through July 31st  
Morning session time TBD

Happy  
**BIRTHDAY  
WISHES**

**April Birthdays**  
1 Tim Harris  
4 David Montgomery  
5 Dominik Emerson  
7 Felicity Guepet

## JUST SOCIAL

2ND AND 4TH TUESDAYS FROM 1:30-3:00PM  
COME JOIN US! PLAY CARDS, BOARD GAMES OR JUST  
CHAT. DO YOU HAVE A HOBBY INTEREST YOU'D LIKE  
TO SHARE? HAVE YOU READ A BOOK THAT WAS SO  
GOOD YOU JUST HAVE TO TELL SOMEONE ABOUT IT? IF  
THIS IS YOU, OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW, WE WOULD  
LOVE FOR YOU TO JOIN US!  
USE THE ANN STREET ENTRANCE



### The 2026 Altar Flower chart is up in the Fellowship Room

Please consider putting flowers on the  
altar in memory of or in honor of a  
special person or event. Two vases cost  
\$37.50

### Special Person of the Week

Eva Haddon  
c/o The Vero at Bethlehem  
4700 Bath Pike  
Bethlehem, PA 18017

Please remember her in prayer  
and if possible, please send a card.

# JOIN US LIVE

SUNDAYS AT 8:30 AND 11:00 AM

**LIVE STREAM**



STROUDSBURGUMC.COM

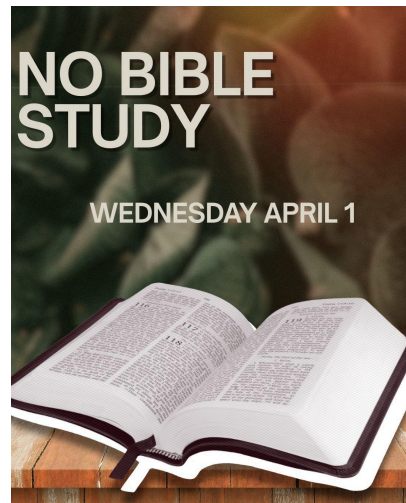
YouTube: @stroudsburgumc3087

## GROW!

### Bible Study

In this busy season, our Bible Study will resume meeting with the ebook of Judges and the story of Gideon, who had lots of questions. Join us online or in person on Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the lounge. No preparation required.

### Judges Spiral



Monroe County Area Agency on Aging  
&  
Eastern Monroe Public Library  
*present*

# Monroe County's Senior Spelling BEE



Wednesday, April 22, 2026  
1pm to 3pm

at the Hughes Library  
(1002 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Street in Stroudsburg)

We are seeking adults who are 55 and older to participate.  
First prize winner will receive \$100, and runner-up will receive \$50.  
Please contact the Monroe County Area Agency on Aging  
at (570) 420-3735, or email [ddunkelberger@monroecountypa.gov](mailto:ddunkelberger@monroecountypa.gov).

**Registration deadline is April 20th!**



## Church Women United Stocking Donations 2026

April: Small Note pads

Please put all donations in the bin in the Fellowship Room. All donations needs to be received by November 1.

**COUNTERS NEEDED** Our church is in need of additional counters of Sunday collections. If you have a couple of hours free on Monday mornings, please let the office know or call C.J. Penwell at 570-656-3993. You will work with a head counter who will train you on the procedures used. It is not difficult and is a casual atmosphere. Counters are scheduled for each Monday for a month and then rotate to another month throughout the year. Please consider volunteering to help the church in this way.



Prayer at Wednesdays  
12:15 pm

Stop in the Sanctuary  
or live on Facebook



Stroudsburg UMC  
547 Main Street,  
Stroudsburg, Pa

**OPEN SANCTUARY** Every Wednesday, our church is open from noon to 1pm for prayer. We have a devotion and live prayer at 12:15. You can join us live in person, online or view it later on Facebook. You do not need a Facebook account to participate. Join us for Open Sanctuary.



## **COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER REVITALIZATION PROJECT**

Did you know that our church is a resource for our community? In addition to our weekly Soup Kitchen, Boy Scout Troop and Cub Pack, we partner with community organizations like Red Cross blood drives and emergency shelter, and others to make a difference in our community. Our building and property team has been working on revitalization plans for our downstairs to reflect our needs and growth.

Updates and alignments to the kitchen, improvements, and accessibility to the bathrooms and refreshing to the dining room are included. Plans will be available for viewing after each service in the Fellowship Room. Ask our building and property team for more information.

**UPDATE:** As we are pondering donations to the Community Resource Center Revitalization Project keep this in your thoughts: Donations of \$10,000 or more will be recognized on a bronze plaque which will be unveiled at a dedication ceremony. Families might consider joining together to memorialize or honor a loved one.

## **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 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.**

As a result of your generosity, we are originating a grant for families seeking basic necessities at the Re-Store. We have established a partnership with Habitat for Humanity, Family Promise, and Safe Monroe, so that all families under case management seeking necessities (beds, tables, chairs) will receive them free of cost. The purchase will be funded from the Housing Families Grant. We are working with other faith organizations to support this effort. Thank you for caring for others. If at any point you would like to contribute to this grant, please mark your donation, Housing Families Grant, and we will be sure to administer the funds.



Giving is easier than ever. Use this QR code to give to the general fund or special ministry. Contact the office for more information.



### **Pastor's Discretionary Fund**

Thanks to your generosity, we have already assisted dozens of families with rental assistance, utilities, food, and other essential needs. With changes to federal, state, and county funding, we are seeing an increase in the number of those coming for assistance. While we work with other agencies, the impact of funding shortages is affecting a lot of organizations. If you are able to contribute to our pastor's discretionary fund at any point and any amount, please place your contribution in the offering plate with the designation. You can also give on our website [stroudsburgumc.com/donate](http://stroudsburgumc.com/donate)  
Thank you for helping us care for others.



**We are still collecting Weis receipts. Weis Markets gives back 1% of the total of each receipt submitted. It all adds up! Please continue to bring your Weis receipts to church and place them in the large canister in the Fellowship Room.**

**Please note: the entire receipt needs to be submitted. Please do not cut the bottom of the receipt off. If the bottom portion of the receipt is cut off, we cannot submit it to Weis.**

**Receipts for prescriptions and gift cards can also be submitted.**

**Thank you for helping to make a difference!**

**Thank you to everyone who faithfully contributes their Weis Markets receipts into the can in the Fellowship Room. Because of your receipts, we have received \$150.84 from Weis's receipt program.**

These funds are contributed to our General Fund and allow us to continue the ministries of our church. Please continue to bring in your receipts!



## SUMC's Amazon Wish Lists

### Soup Kitchen Needs

[Amazon Wish List - Soup Kitchen](#)

### Building Our Library

[Amazon Wish List - Building Our Library](#)

### 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.

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 and Styrofoam take out containers. Check out our Amazon Wish List for Soup Kitchen and have items sent directly to the church! [Amazon Wish List - Soup Kitchen](#)  
Thanks for serving our neighbors.



### SOUP KITCHEN UPDATE - April 2026

**As of April 12 we have served over 6,000 meals. If you have questions, please contact the office.**

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

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