



## 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 - January 13, 2023



"God is faithful; by [God] you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord." 1 Corinthians 1:9

Dear Friends,

On Wednesday and Thursday of this week, I have been away receiving additional training entitled CAST -Coach Approach Skill Training. This is the second portion of learning about coaching, especially for groups and teams. I apply this learning to our congregation and other congregations I serve as an assisting elder. I have been reflecting on the difference between groups and teams. A group might be your neighbors at a Christmas party, whereas a team might be your bowling team with clear roles and a shared purpose. While much can be said about the difference between a group of people and a team, I have come to think about the focus on a similar purpose and goal. As followers of Christ, we are called to similar purposes and goals as we serve together. Like Paul, as he wrote the letter to Corinth, we may also call this a fellowship.

On Monday, January 16th, our nation remembers Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Junior. One of his many contributions to our national psyche is a call to beloved community. The beloved community is a place where we value humanity and seek to live out the values of the Realm of God. Together as a team, a fellowship, we seek to live out kingdom values of love, hope, and faith, as well as to recognize each of the beloved of Christ. On this team, some of us have the role of advocacy, while others have the role of support and still others have prophetic truth-telling. A team needs a coach, trainers, front-line players, and a deep bench. I pray

that you might have opportunities over the next couple of days to reflect on what your role is in the fellowship, the team, as we seek to usher in God's dream (also called the Kingdom or Realm of God). Like any effective team, we need all the parts to work together on God's vision.

Praying for our team and coming of the Realm of God,

In God's Love,  
Pastor Monica

## GATHER!

This Sunday, January 15

Our worship leaders are Jackie and Kim

The choir anthems are "I Will Rejoice" and "For You Alone are God" (Psalm 86, adapted)

The praise song is "Precious Lord, Take My Hand"

The New Testament Lesson is 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

The Gospel Lesson is John 1:29-42

Pastor Monica's sermon is "Dreaming" (I want my listeners to embrace God's dream spoken through prophets like Paul, John the Baptist, Dr. Martin Luther King Junior, and others.)

Sixty years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King Junior offered a vision of beloved community in his "I Have a Dream Speech." Generations before, Paul and John the Baptist shared God's vision for the church as beloved community. Join us on Sunday as we dream together about where we see beloved community among us and where we are still seeking the full dream.

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

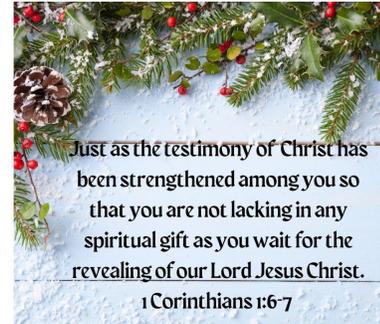
[Join us live at 8:30am](#)

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

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](#)





Thank you to our pledgers. As we close out 2022 financially and look to our 2023 year in ministry and mission, we give thanks to God for those who faithfully pledged and gave this year. It was a challenging year with increases in household costs like heating, gas, and food, to name just a few. As some families revised their giving to address unanticipated costs, our pledgers carried through giving generously. 75% of our families who pledged were able to meet or exceed their pledges. Their generosity covered the needed revisions of other givers.

In addition to supporting the church financially, pledgers find blessings in their own lives by giving purposefully and being grounded in discipleship. You will often hear pledgers say, "I am blessed in giving," and "Additional funds often show up when I need them most." Consider pledging today. Pick up a card in the rear of the sanctuary or an online [pledge card](#). Thank you for giving to God!

### Thank you from a family Pastor Monica officiated a funeral for:

To: Pastor Monica,

On behalf of my dad and my brother, I wanted to say thank you for all the support and prayers. I hope that you and your family had a blessed Christmas! And a very happy new year! thank you for being there for us! Herder family.



### January Birthdays

- 3 Dale Werkheiser
- 5 Liz Miller
- 6 Kevin Kopec
- 8 DeAnn Harris
- 9 Pastor Monica
- 25 Marina Maroney
- 25 Cathy Doane



**Plateau**  
*Free Youth Event*  
 January 15, 2023  
 for youth grades 6th-12th

Music | Games | Devotion | Sledding  
 Broomball | Hot Chocolate | Cookies

2:00 PM - 4:00 PM  
 304 Pocono Plateau Rd.  
 Cresco, PA 18326

More Info:  
[www.poconoplateau.org/events](http://www.poconoplateau.org/events)



### 'Star Words'

BY THE REV. JULIA SINGLETON

It's that time of year again to choose a new **Star Word**. What is a Star Word? It's a tradition gaining in popularity where people choose life-guiding words on Epiphany Day, Jan. 6, or on Epiphany Sunday. The word, chosen at random or better yet, through prayer, should help guide you on your spiritual journey throughout the year. [Learn more.](#)




### PATHWAYS

### Pathways

How can we look at growth and vitality? What is a part of Pastor Monica's role as an assisting elder? Sixteen EPA congregations have signed up to begin the Pathways guided discernment process with the help of assigned facilitators in February. There's room for more; but the registration deadline is Jan. 9.

This third round of facilitation—similar to church leadership coaching—follows two rounds that began in September and November 2022. So far, 52 churches are receiving the help of trained EPA Pathways facilitators to discern their paths forward to achieve greater congregational health and fruitfulness. [Learn more.](#)

**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.

We need you!



The Pocono Center of the Arts proudly presents  
**Ken Jennings**  
in his critically acclaimed presentation of  
**The Gospel of John**



Sunday March 19, 2023 • 2pm and 5pm  
Stroudsburg United Methodist Church  
547 Main St. Stroudsburg, PA  
**FREE ADMISSION**  
(goodwill donations appreciated)



Ken Jennings in his critically acclaimed presentation of *The Gospel of John* on Sunday, March 19th at 2 PM & 5 PM at Stroudsburg United Methodist Church. Jennings is a veteran of time Broadway shows including four original casts. He is best known for creating the role of Tobias in the original Broadway company of Stephen Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd* opposite the legendary Angela Lansbury for which he won a Drama Desk Award and a Theatre World Award. Other Broadway credits include *Urinetown*, *Grand Hotel*, *Side Show*, *London Assurance*, *Mayor Prescott*, *Laughter*, and *All God's Children Got Kings*. His Off-Broadway one-man show *The Gospel of John* opened to critical acclaim from the New York Times, Time Out Magazine and Talkin' Broadway and earned him numerous nominations for Best Solo Performance. When asked why he created the piece, he replied "I memorized this first as a prayer, not as a play. I started memorizing 'The Gospel of John' as a spiritual practice during a difficult time in my life. I've always had an affinity for John, which has always seemed to truly be a firsthand narrative by a man who was actually there." Ken's regional credits include *Fintian's Rainbow* (Fintian), *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* (Pseudobolus), *Gates and Dolly* (Arvid), *My Fair Lady* (Doolittle) and *The Wizard of Oz* with classical credits ranging from Iago in *Othello* to Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice*.

To reserve a seat, email your name, show time, and number of seats to [tickets@poconocenterforthearts.org](mailto:tickets@poconocenterforthearts.org)

Save the date for an incredible presentation of the Gospel of John: March 19th. Here at Stroudsburg UMC, we will host the Book of John, presented live by Ken Jennings. To reserve a seat, email your name, show time and number of seats to: [tickets@poconocenterforthearts.org](mailto:tickets@poconocenterforthearts.org). Please contact the office if you need assistance with obtaining tickets. Postcards with all details are available in the back of the sanctuary.



Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center is partnering with **Family Promise of the Poconos** to provide emergency shelter for families with children in our local area. **Family Promise of the Poconos** serves families in Monroe and Pike

counties experiencing homelessness or possible eviction by providing shelter, meals, and support services.

We will utilize Spruce Lodge to provide emergency shelter for 3 to 4 families starting in this month. We are excited for the opportunity to utilize one of our unused buildings during non summer months to extend hospitality and shelter for those in need.

Special Person of the Week:

Sue Sheeley

Eastern Comfort,

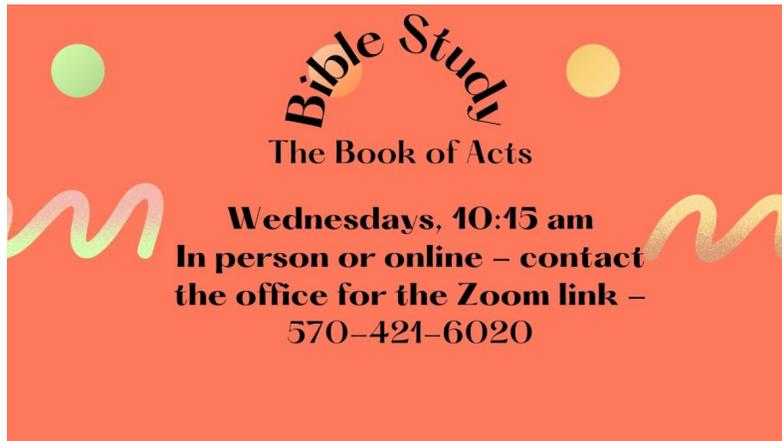
206 Diamond Street,

Slatington, PA 18080.

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

# GROW!

Bible Study returns on Wednesday, January 18th after our break. Join us at 10:15am in the Lounge or on Zoom.



Did you know that the Book of Discipline was updated since 2016 with some vital details, including elected bishops as well as decisions of the Judicial Council? You can download your copy here.

[Book of Discipline](#)



**POCONO PLATEAU**  
CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

## Pocono Plateau Winter & Spring Events:

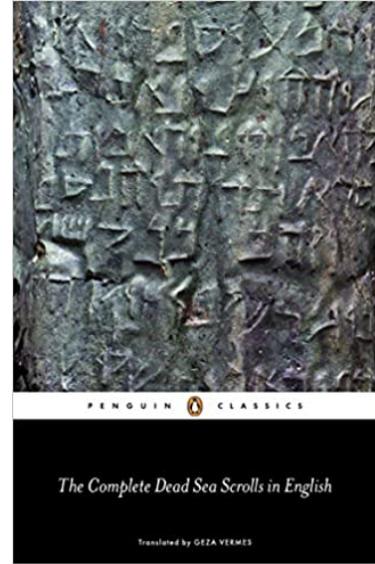
- Winter Blast & Winter Jamboree** - February 17th-February 19th
- Easter Themed Family Retreat** - March 31st-April 2nd
- Dangerous Retreat for Boys & Fathers** - April 21st - April 23rd
- "Love Your Selfie" Mother & Daughter Retreat** - April 21st - April 23rd
- Confirmation Retreat** - April 28th - April 30th
- Summer Camp Open House** - May 20th
- Plateau Puppy Party** - June 2nd - June 4th

Visit the events page for all details and to register:

[Events at Pocono Plateau](#)

**Our library is growing. We just added a new**

book to our library. Out of conversation in Bible Study and Sunday School about the origin of our scriptures, we discussed the Dead Sea Scrolls. These include some of the oldest manuscripts of our scriptures. Discovered between 1947 and the present, these scrolls give us insight into the earliest church communities. Pick up this book in the library today.



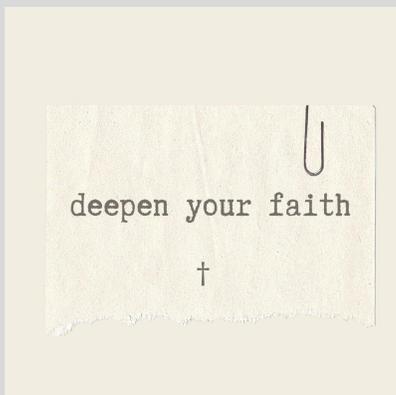
### 3 Tools for Ministry dates, sites set for March 2023

EPA has set three March dates and three locations for the 2023 Tools for Ministry church leadership education events. The half-day academies, each offering two

sessions of diverse courses, will occur onsite, rather than online, for the first time since 2020. EPA members may attend any Tools session at any location.



The South and East districts will host a session together March 4 at Palmer Theological Seminar in St. David's. The North District will host a session March 11 at Asbury UMC in Allentown. And the West District will host a session March 18 at Church of the Good Shepherd UMC in Lebanon. More information and registration to come.

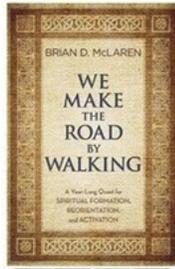


### Looking to deepen your faith in the New Year?

Try out Adult Sunday School at 9:45 am, Bible Study on Wednesday mornings at 10:15 am, or our new small group, We Make the Road by Walking on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm. Also, you're invited to read the Bible in a year – in the back of the sanctuary there are Bible plans where you can check off and keep track as you're reading. Or click the link below.

[Bible Plan](#)

A new weekly small group will meet



each Wednesday from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. We will start by studying the book: “We Make the Road by Walking” by Brian D. McLaren. Join us as we begin a year-long quest for spiritual formation with a study that gives an overview of the biblical story and a fresh introduction or re-orientation to our Christian faith. While it would be best if everyone would attend each session, each week is a separate “lesson” so group members can miss a week or join at a later date as their schedule allows. Books can be provided, free of charge if needed, as long as Peggy knows beforehand. For more information or to join this group contact Peggy Stewart at 570-350-8589 or [pegstewart59@gmail.com](mailto:pegstewart59@gmail.com)

### **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.

## **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.



The generosity of our congregation is incredible. Our congregation's tradition is to support Church Women United as they provide Christmas stockings to nursing homes and other people often forgotten at Christmas. Residents are delighted and feel loved by this community gesture. To fill our stockings, we will ask you to bring in items every month to build the stocking throughout the year. For January, we invite you to bring in pocket tissues to the Fellowship Room. Thank you for making a difference.

## 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 Meals

How can I help those in need in our community? We are preparing a meal for the Family Promise families throughout January and February. A



sign up sheet is in the Fellowship Room. Partner with a friend or another family to make a meal. Meals are to be delivered on Wednesday afternoons before 2pm. Contact Amanda Miller or the church office if you have questions.

### 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.



Want to help behind the scenes for the Soup Kitchen? We need some people to do laundry for hand towels, wash cloths and other kitchen linens. You can sign up for once a week, every other week, or once a month. Don't hesitate to contact the office if you can help in any way.

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

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