



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 - February 13, 2026

"And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God."
Philippian 1:9-11

Paul writes to the church in Philippi about the overflowing love of God. This weekend, we celebrate Valentine's Day and Presidents' weekend. It is not always that the February holidays align so closely. Watch out! Ash Wednesday is right around the corner. February 18th. We have services at 12:15 pm and 7:00 pm, as well as ashes to go at 7:00 am - 9:30 am in Courthouse Square and noon - 2:00 pm in the Sanctuary. But first the love of God!



Valentine's Day tends to focus on human love: the love we have with our sweetheart, the love between friends, and the love in a family. Paul's letter does not comment on that love specifically. But a larger and fuller love, *agape* in the Greek, which speaks of the love God has for us and gives to us to share with others. Paul prays that the church might experience overflowing love, along with knowledge and insight, righteousness, and the praise of God! God's love that runs before us and justifies, as well as perfecting us.

On Saturday, Stroudsburg will be hosting Winterfest. This year's theme is Love, from the Poconos. If you are not familiar, I would like to share a little bit about this annual festival. Along Main Street and throughout town, there will be ice sculptures sponsored by organizations, businesses, and agencies. Additionally, the snowmen of Stroudsburg continue to be out for this event through February 28th. In addition to the outdoor events, many churches, businesses, and organizations have warming stations. This year, warming stations are asked to have a card-making center. These cards will be shared with our elderly, homebound, and ill community members.

In our church, we have a flurry of different activities available. As you come into the sanctuary, there will be prayer available at the chancel rail. Tours of the sanctuary and information about our stained glass windows will be available. There will be free hot chocolates and open bathrooms (a perennial favorite in all seasons!). Our Scouts will be selling food items, including hot dogs, snacks, and baked goods. High school students come to help us host activities for children. This year's card-making station will offer an opportunity to share love with others in our community. We have face painting, and stories on the hour between 11:00 am, ending at 3:00 pm. Every year, we have had community

members who come to the church for the first time and then come back to worship or join us in fellowship. So, I invite you to join us on Saturday for Winterfest in any one of these capacities or just to check out the event.

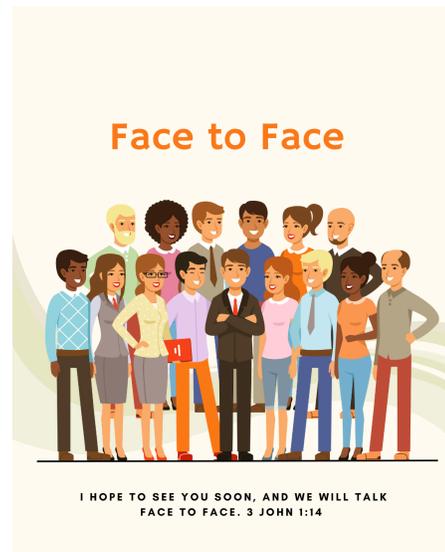
If you are not able to join us, please keep us in prayer.
Please pray for those who will come through the doors for the first time.
Please pray for those who come for prayer, healing, hope, and encouragement.
Please pray for Scouts who will prepare and sell food.
Please pray for the High School students who will offer hospitality and creativity with the children of our community.
Please pray for our volunteers who give tours, answer questions, welcome guests, and seek to share GOD's love,
Please pray for hearts to be softened and turned towards God.

May our love of God overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what really matters, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God, Amen.

In God's Love,
Pastor Monica

GATHER!

Coming up this Sunday, February 15, 2026
Our worship leaders are Cliff Rogell and Kim Kopec
The praise song is "Celebrate Love"
The New Testament Lesson is Philippians 1:1-11
The Second Lesson is 3 John 12-15
Pastor Monica's sermon is "Face to Face"
(I want my listeners to hear the call to live out our faith in community and relationship with others. Where are you being called to step out of your comfort zone to serve?)



We will conclude our survey of Presidential Faith this year with Jimmy Carter, known for his faith in and out of the Oval Office. Join us as we hear the call to live out our faith face to face.

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=6Vr-7NW5hEU>

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b6On-WvCZxU>

The bulletin is available on the church website: stroudsburgumc.com

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



Wondering about winter weather and snow? How will you know if the worship service is canceled? Announcements will be posted by 7am on the Sunday morning regarding worship. You can check your emails for cancellation or the church Facebook page. Feel free to share the news with others as well. Our congregation comes from a large geographic area. The weather in town might be different from the accumulation or the road conditions in Tobyhanna, Analomink or even East Stroudsburg. Please use your best discretion for travel. If there is a service, you can worship online.

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.



CRCR Update

If you been at the church over the last week, there has been a lot of noise and change going on!

Framing for our renovated accessible women's bathroom, framing for our new men's room, framing for a shower, and a new hallway connecting the foyer to the dining room without going through the kitchen and from the scout room to the dining room are all under way!

Check out these pictures in progress. Notice the comparisons from the old kitchen to the framing for a hallway as well as the old dining room to forthcoming bathrooms!

Tune in each week as we watch our Community Resource Center be built.

Contributions welcome at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZN7G/campaign/C-1537D> as well as in the office or offering plate.

Thank you for making a difference !



Pocono Plateau

The annual Winter Blast and Winter Jamboree retreats will be held the weekend of February 27–March 1. These retreats offer meaningful opportunities for children and youth to connect with one another, with nature, and with Christ through fellowship and snowy recreation. [Winter Blast \(for youth\)](#) and [Winter Jamboree \(for children\)](#) can be experienced as a youth group retreat or as an individual or group of friends. Click above to learn more and register!



Introducing Rev. Jared Stoltzfus, incoming Director of Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center

I am pleased to share that Rev. Jared Stoltzfus has accepted the position as Director of Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center, effective July 1, 2026. Jared is a perfect fit for the team and I am confident in his ability to lead with excellence and care for the Plateau's future.

Currently, Jared serves as a senior pastor at St. Mark's UMC in Mt. Joy, PA. He also serves as Chair of the EPA Camp and Retreat Ministry Board. He has been faithfully involved in Pocono Plateau for many years and I am so excited to see how his passion and skills uplift this community!

- Rev. Carmen O'Shea, Director of Pocono Plateau

Winterfest
DOWNTOWN STROUDSBURG

Love, the Heart of the Poconos

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026
11AM - 4PM

PRESENTED BY: DOWNTOWN STROUDSBURG, GO Collaborative
SPONSORED BY: POCONO MOUNTAINS, ESSA Bank

40+ Love-Themed Ice Sculptures Around Downtown
Large Display & Live Carving in Courthouse Square

Local Businesses Offering Specials & Discounts | Warming Stations & Kids Activities at Various Locations
Winterfest Clue Quest | Visit the Eastern Monroe Public Library Bookmobile & AmeriHealth Mobile Wellness Unit

Metered Parking in Effect During This Event

Ash Wednesday SERVICE

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return"

18 FEBRUARY, 2026

7:00 -9:30 AM:
Ashes to Go
12:15 PM:
Abbreviated Service
7:00 PM:
Full Service

547 Main Street,
Stroudsburg, Pa 18360

www.stroudsburgumc.com

Pocono United Methodist Connection's
COME TO THE TABLE
LENTEN WORSHIP SERIES WEDNESDAYS OF LENT 7PM

COMMUNION AT EACH SERVICE!

Rediscovering God in gathering together!

Feb. 25th - Hospitality
Location: East Stroudsburg UMC
Preaching: Rev. Wendy Bellis

Mar. 4th - Love
Location: Faith UMC
Preaching: Rev. Monica Guepet

Mar. 11th - Peace
Location: Stroudsburg UMC
Preaching: Rev. Jeffrey Weber

Mar. 18th - Grace
Location: Cherry Lane UMC
Preaching: Rev. Jack Tironi

Mar. 25th - Joy
Location: Reeder's UMC
Preaching: Rev. Samuel Ashley

OFFERINGS TAKEN FOR LOCAL AND GLOBAL MISSIONS!

We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You, because by Your Holy Cross You have redeemed the world

HOLY WEEK

WORSHIP

Palm Sunday (March 29):
8:30 AM • 11 AM

Holy Thursday (April 2):
7 PM (Choir and Communion)

Good Friday (April 3):
11 AM (Cross Walk)
7 PM (Community Service)

Holy Saturday (April 4):
5:30 PM

Easter Sunday (April 5):
7 AM • 8:30 AM • 11 AM

Lenten Bible Study

Jesus's Vision for Your One Wild and Precious Life?

Join us as we explore Jesus's seven invitations this Lent, focusing on what is most important to Jesus.

SCHEDULE:

February 17th: Week 1: 1. "Follow Me"
(Studying under Jesus) Pastor Monica

February 24th: Week 2: 2. "Good News to the Poor"
(Justice for the Most Vulnerable) Pastor Bob

March 3rd: Week 3: 3. "Blessed are the..."
(What the Good Life Really Looks Like) Roz Evans

March 10th: Week 4: 4. "You Give Them Something to Eat"
(Feeding the Hungry) Peggy Stewart

March 17th: Week 5: 5. "Your Faith Has Made You Well"
(When People Are Made Whole) Pastor Bob

March 24th: Week 6: 6. "The Kingdom of God is like"
(When God is in Charge) Pastor Margie

March 31st: Week 7: 7. "Love of God and Neighbor"
(The Most Important Word) Pastor Monica

Every Tuesday on Zoom at 6:00 PM

Please contact the office for the Zoom link or you can find it on the calendar on our website.



2026 Tools for Ministry

Join us for the 2026 North District Tools for Ministry!

Saturday, March 14 (snow/ice date: Saturday, March 21)
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Asbury UMC (1533 Springhouse Road, Allentown)
\$15 per person (includes lunch)

Speaking, caring, leading, praying, studying, and reaching out – these faithful acts form the very core of our life and witness as disciples of Jesus Christ! This year, our Tools for Ministry program will focus on these foundational basics of living out our faith. These workshops have been designed to equip people in the pews – whether you're new to church ministry, are growing in leadership in your local congregation, or have responded to the call to serve as a lay pastor. In addition, we've included opportunities to learn more about special ministry programs like Pathways: Bridges and United Women of Faith, and a special conversation on the future of small church ministry. We hope you'll join us!

And pastors: don't just send your laity to Tools – join them! This year, we've created two workshops designed with the needs of seasoned clergy in mind, too. Join us for opportunities to grow closer to one another (ReCONNECT) and closer to Christ (ReNEW).

Visit our [online registration](#) to view a [list of workshops](#), and to register. (Please note: All workshops will be offered during both sessions unless otherwise noted.)

Register today! Online registration closes on March 7. Walk-ins are welcome, but registrations are strongly recommended.

For more information, please contact Candy LaBar (Chair, North District Resource Team), revclabar@gmail.com.

[Register Here](#)

Join in faithful resistance: a public witness for immigration justice

Join us in Washington, DC, on February 25th for a [meaningful ecumenical and interfaith gathering](#) to stand in solidarity with our neighbors and advocate for immigrant justice. The day will begin with worship, followed by a prayerful march to the U.S. Capitol. This is an opportunity to show solidarity for immigrants and call upon Christians everywhere to live out Christ's call to "welcome the stranger."

The Foundation for Evangelism Opportunities

Nominations open for Laity Award

The Foundation for Evangelism Laity Award honors laity with exceptional evangelistic ministries. Recipients will be considered for a national grant of \$1,000 toward their evangelism ministry. The nominee selected for the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference will receive a certificate and an award of \$500 for their church ministry at the Conference Awards ceremony. The nomination deadline is March 20. Learn more [here](#).



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).

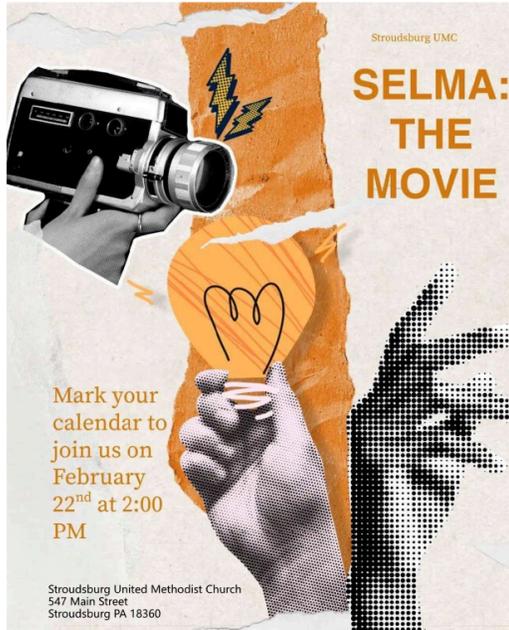
Then, on May 13, plan to attend the "Historical Tour: Saving the Soul of Our Nation and State" featuring keynote speaker Rev. Dr. Kevin Newburg and visiting such sights as Washington's Crossing State Park, Princeton Battlefield, Historic Tenant Church and more. Buses leave from the Courtyard by Marriott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



Mark your calendars to join us on Sunday, February 22nd at 2 PM for the movie "Selma". This historic drama is based on the 1965 voting rights marches including the 1965 Selma to Montgomery march. Free popcorn and bottled water will also be included in your FREE admission!

Special Person of the Week
Ron Van Why

2203 West Main Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18301

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



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



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



- 1
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 27

February Birthdays

- Bud Heckman
- Diane Rogell
- Troy Miller
- Cliff Rogell
- Steve Guepet

JUST SOCIAL

2ND AND 4TH TUESDAYS FROM 1:30-3:00PM

THE NEXT MEETING IS OCTOBER 14TH.

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



JOIN US
LIVE

SUNDAYS AT 8:30 AND 11:00 AM

LIVE STREAM



STROUDSBURGUMC.COM

YouTube: @stroudsburgumc3087

GROW!

Bible Study

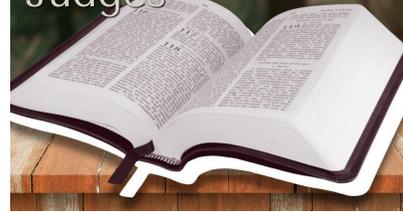
In this busy season, our Bible Study will resume meeting with the ebook of Judges and the story of Gideon, who had lots of questions. Join us online or in person on Wednesday at 10 a.m. in the lounge. No preparation required.

Judges Spiral

BIBLE STUDY

RESUMES ON
DECEMBER 3RD, 10AM

The
book of
Judges



Church Women United Stocking Donations 2026

January Word Search books
February Socks Men and Women

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.



2026 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the Fellowship Room. Please pick up your box after worship today.

END OF YEAR STATEMENTS have been mailed. Please contact the office by February 10th if you have not received them.

Coffee with the Pastor



Sunday, February 15th, after
the 11:00 service

Stroudsburg UMC

SELMA: THE MOVIE

Mark your
calendar to
join us on
February
22nd at 2:00
PM

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church
547 Main Street
Stroudsburg PA 18360

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.

Prayer at Wednesdays

12:15 pm

Stop in the Sanctuary
or live on Facebook



Stroudsburg UMC
547 Main Street,
Stroudsburg, Pa



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.

Learn more about the 2026 Wesleyan Pilgrimage to England with Bishop Moore-Koikoi

The pilgrimage will take place from April 8-16, 2026 departing from Newark or Philadelphia. Pilgrims will see Coventry Cathedral, Epworth, Memorial Church, St. Andrews Church, Cotswolds, Stratford, Oxford, Bristol, Bath, City Road Chapel, Aldersgate Street, Buckingham Palace, and much more! Educational Opportunities will lead a Zoom information session on Oct. 21 at 6:30pm. Join [here](#) or with Meeting ID: 843 3773 4363
Password: 314210

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.



CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

Presented to

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church

With gratitude for hosting a 2025 Holiday Gift Drive
and Pet Food Drive for our clients


Date




Alyssa Koeck
Executive Director



Community Resource Center Revitalization Celebration

Mark your calendars for May 30th as we raise final funds for the Community Resource Center Revitalization. Are you interested in helping coordinate the event, raise donations, or be part of the planning? Join us on January 16th at 6:00 pm on Zoom. Let the office know if you are interested.



save the date!

STROUDSBURG COMMUNITY
RESOURCE CENTER
FUNDRAISER DINNER & TRICKY TRAY

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.



When: Saturday May 30th
Time: 4:00pm - 7:00pm
Where: Pocono Plateau Camp & Retreat Center (Cresco)

Stay tuned for more details!

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. 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!

The most recent check we received was in the amount of \$183!



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 - February 2026

As of February 1 we have served over 5,200 meals. We have started to fill in the calendar for 2026. If you're interested in serving on a particular Sunday, please let the office know. If you have questions, please contact the office.

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

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