



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 6, 2023



Dear Friends,

"Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh." Matthew 2: 11b

On this Epiphany day (January 6th), also called the Twelfth Night, we celebrate the arrival and adoration of the Magi, the wise ones, who came to see Jesus. In some traditions, you would know this as Three Kings Day, where there is a full celebration with joy, great food (King cake, anyone?), and the giving of gifts. In some traditions, you would know this as Orthodox Christmas, where there is worship and great food (have you tried fatta?), and the giving of gifts. In some traditions, you would know this as Women's Christmas or Little Christmas, where there is gathering of friends, great food (sometimes the Christmas goose!), and stepping back from the responsibilities that keep us busy and receive the gift of presence.

All of these spring from the Wise Ones, who left their studies and responsibilities traveling to offer gifts to Jesus, who they learned about through the stars. Their gifts foreshadowed his reign (gold), his priesthood (frankincense), and his death (myrrh). It is no wonder that Mary pondered all of this in her heart.

Around the world and close to home, we are invited to be generous on this day. We are invited to be generous with our worship, our food, our gifts, and our presence.

I invite you to mark this Epiphany today (which we will celebrate on Sunday,

January 8th) with devotion (if you are reading the Bible in a year, today, we read Isaiah 1-6), great food (please share with me your Epiphany foods), and the gift of presence to those who are dearest to you. May the light of Epiphany shine into the darkness and grant us wisdom.

In God's Love,
Pastor Monica

GATHER!

This Sunday, January 8 - Epiphany Sunday

Our worship leaders are Jackie and Pastor Margie

The choir anthems are "As With Gladness, Men of Old" and "Our Father God, Who Is in Heaven"

The praise song is "Come Into His Presence"

The Old Testament Lesson is Isaiah 60:1-6

The Gospel Lesson is Matthew 2:1-12

Pastor Monica's sermon is "Say Yes to Being Generous Like the Wise Ones"



What do the gifts we give say? The Magi traveled far and gave gifts that spoke into the future, specifically Jesus' future. On this Epiphany Sunday, join us as we give generously like the wise ones!

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

'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.



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 January 2023. 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:

Doris Philips

1170 West Main Street

Room #132

Stroudsburg, PA 18360

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

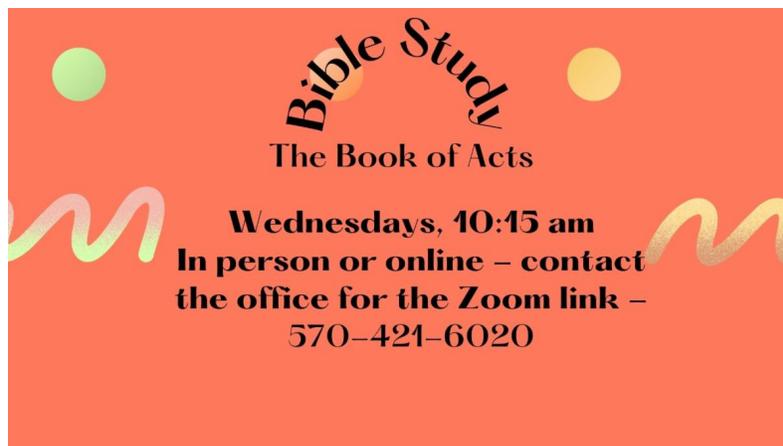
GROW!

Bible Study:

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

Sunday School:

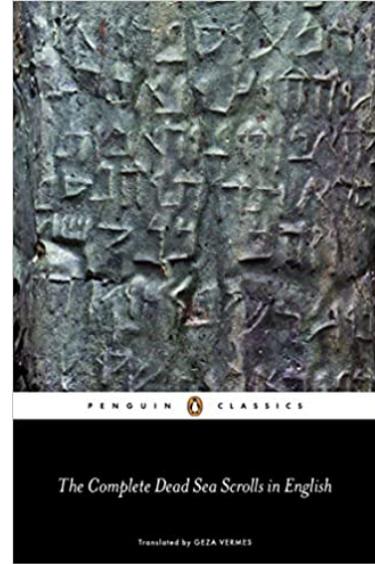
Over the holidays, Sunday School is on break. Classes resume on January 8th. See you then!



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](#)

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.



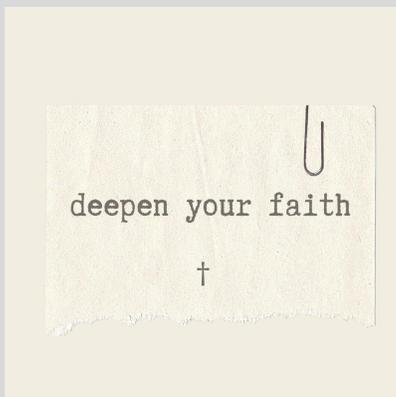
3 Tools for Ministry dates, sites set for March 2023

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.



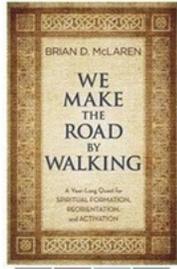
The South and East districts will host a session together March 4 at Palmer Theological Seminar in St. David's. The North District will host a session March 11 at Asbury UMC in Allentown. And the West District will host a session March 18 at Church of the Good Shepherd UMC in Lebanon. More information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

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.

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Enid Logan
Executive Director

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church
547 Main St.
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
December 13, 2022

Dear Congregants,

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, staff and families we serve I am grateful for the opportunity to thank you for adopting Family Promise's families this Christmas. The gifts, gift cards are very much appreciated and the labeling of wrapped gifts allows us to make the children's Christmas especially bright!

Family Promise has seen a marked increase in need for emergency shelter. Last year, Family Promise provided emergency shelter to 106 families, comprised of 193 adults and 173 children. The previous year, the agency sheltered 43 families.

Through the continued support of community members such you, we are able to provide the care and services needed for our families.

Again, thank you!

Sincerely,



Enid Logan
Executive Director
Family Promise of Monroe County
EIN # 30-0428877

Everyone Needs A Home



Stroudsburg UMC has received \$33.42 as a result of qualifying purchases made by customers between July 1st and September 30th. Thank you for choosing SUMC as your selected charity when you shop AmazonSmile. 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

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