



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 - March 6, 2026

"They sent their disciples, with a few of Herod's followers mixed in, to ask, 'Teacher, we know you have integrity, teach the way of God accurately, are indifferent to popular opinion, and don't pander to your students. So tell us honestly: Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' Matthew 22:16-17, The Message paraphrase.

With the Olympics in our rearview mirror, I can tell you I did not watch as many sporting events as I had hoped. Perhaps this was because of my illness or the schedule. I did,

however, sneak in a movie inspired by the Olympics. One day, I watched some old, favorite comfort movies with the kids. I am a sucker for 1990s movies. I love *The Mighty Ducks* and *The Little Giants*, those movies of yesteryear in which a team seems to be counted out, yet their heart and commitment lead them to succeed in unconventional ways. I was reminded, while watching *The Mighty Ducks*, a story of a ragtag youth hockey team with a reluctant coach who overcomes the establishment favorite, of the value of small details.

The reluctant coach had grown up playing ice hockey and gotten away from it in the busyness of life. When he was forced into a coaching role, he also rekindled a relationship with an ice hockey shop owner, who made his living selling hockey wear and sharpening skates. It was clear that there was nothing glamorous about sharpening skates, but without it, the hockey players could not succeed. Grinding the edges provides the most effective foundation for the blade on ice for skating, even though it is not as eye-catching as hockey moves. The details and fundamentals lead to success.

The Pharisees and followers of Herod asked Jesus a question designed to trip him up. The question of taxation and how money should support the empire could have been a quagmire for Jesus. If he answered without acknowledging the government authorities, he could have been accused of treason and arrested by the Romans. If Jesus answered as a Roman functionary, there would have been nothing to separate him from others. His answer is basic and foundational, yet it reminds those present of the relationship between a disciple and culture. Give to Caesar what Caesar's.



For us, discipleship is fundamental. It is easy to get distracted by the big concerns of the day and to be stirred up by others' responses. Following Jesus is not all reaction and urgency. Much of being a disciple of Jesus is in the daily tasks of caring for others, paying your taxes, and developing your relationship with God. While there are some events that require a strong, reactive response, I invite you this Lent to continue returning to prayer and scripture reading, compassion and tithing, meditation and worship.

May this Lent sharpen your skates and strengthen your discipleship, I pray.

In God's Love,
Pastor Monica

GATHER!

Coming up this Sunday, March 8, 2026

Our worship leaders are Diane Rogell and Pastor
Margie Good

The praise song is "Step by Step"

The Psalter Lesson is Psalm 95

The Gospel Lesson is Matthew 22:15-22

Pastor Monica's sermon is "Grinding the Edges"
(I want my listeners to be open to growth.)



**The sanctuary windows teach us about the life of Jesus and our lives of faith.
Join us on Sunday as we explore the Colbert window where Christ teaches
disciples.**

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=JT6fUdF4XGg>

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

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

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:**

[SUMC 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.

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

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/ANNwEJbHyANTfGB y6>.

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: Reeders UMC
 Preaching: Rev. Samuel Ashley

OFFERINGS TAKEN FOR LOCAL AND GLOBAL MISSIONS!

Gathering after Lenten Worship Series on March 11

We will be having a gathering in the Fellowship Hall after the Lenten Services on March 11th. Refreshments will be served at this time. We are in need for finger foods at that time. Please let Roz Evans or the office know if you would be able to bring in something. Please have all items brought in before the service at 7 p.m. on March 11. We hope to see you there.

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.

Announcement: PINK!

March 15th is the 4th Sunday of Lent, Laetare Sunday. Traditionally, this Sunday is for rejoicing in the middle of the somber and austere Lent. Laetare means to

rejoice in Latin, and it begins the lectionary passage for the day: Isaiah 66:10: "Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; Rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her."

It is sometimes called Rose Sunday because of the change in the color of the vestments for clergy. Our clergy will be wearing pink vestments on Sunday, March 15th. We invite you to join us in wearing pink, rose, salmon, or a similar color as we rejoice in the middle of Lent. Even in the face of great challenges, our God is our salvation!



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](#)

The Book of John

By Pastor Margie

Ken Jennings will present his critically acclaimed presentation of the The Gospel of John. It is a one act play with one actor and it is fantastic! I had the pleasure of seeing it a few years ago when he enacted it here, in our sanctuary. I would recommend it highly. He has memorized the book and acts it out as he is reciting it. He does a very energetic presentation; he is on the stage, jumps off of the stage and is back up the steps in a flash. It is great!

He will do it on Saturday, March 28th, at 7:30 P.M., at the South Wesleyan Church at 915 North 5 th Street in Stroudsburg. He will be here, in our church, on Sunday March 29th at 1:00 P.M. He will have a second appearance, of the same show, at 4:00 P.M. at St. Luke's Church at 818 Main Street in Stroudsburg.

We would like to express our gratitude to Mr. Michael Perry who sponsored these plays. He is the owner of the Michael Perry Hair Studio, in Bethlehem, PA.



Celebrating Black History Month: Courageous Love In The Public Square

Rev. Dr. Liberato (Levi) Bautista, Church and Society's Assistant General Secretary for United

Nations and International Affairs, offers his reflection on 2026 Black History Month and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr 's Holiday. Continue reading here: <https://www.umcjustice.org/latest/celebrating-black-history-month-courageous-love-in-the-public-square-8623>



Called Forward by Black History Month

By Gabe Lopez

As we have observed Black History Month, we give thanks for the profound faith, resilience, leadership, and witness of

Black communities— within our church and throughout our nation's history. Black history is not a side note to the story of the Christian Church or our country; it is central to it. Black history is living history— still unfolding, still shaping us, still calling us forward. [Go deeper \(1 min read\)](#)

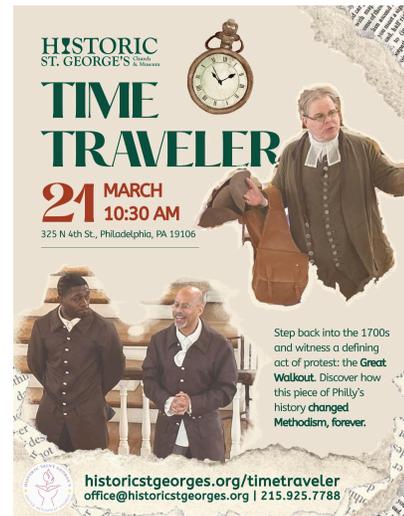
Historic Walk-Out Re-enactment

On Mar. 21, Historic St. George's will host their annual Time Traveler event, reenacting the Great Walkout of the late 1700s—one of the earliest civil rights protests in America—which led to the creation of Mother Bethel AME and St. Thomas African Episcopal Church.

Doors open at 10AM.

Event starts at 10:30AM. [Learn more.](#)

Email: office@historicstgeorge.org



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.

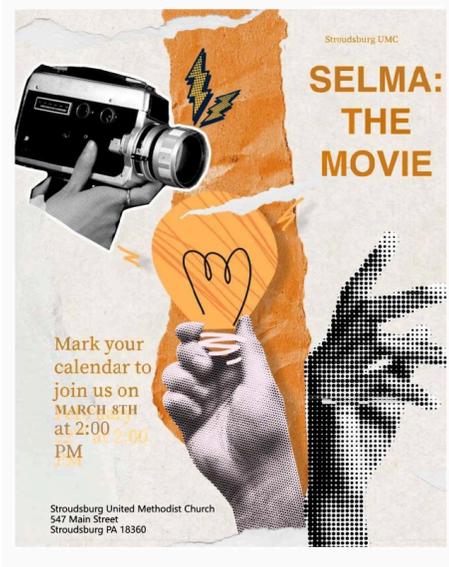
Living a Contemplative Life in a World That Isn't

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 Sunday March 8th 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:
Sue Sheeley
Eastern Comfort,
206 Diamond Street,
Slatington, PA 18080.

Please remember her 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

March Birthdays



Happy
**BIRTHDAY
WISHES**

1 Marge Chamberlin
5 David Lantz III
4 Richard Everitt
20 Kirsten Lee
28 Ronald Bogart, Jr.

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



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

JOIN US LIVE

SUNDAYS AT 8:30 AND 11:00 AM

LIVE STREAM



STROUDSBURGUMC.COM

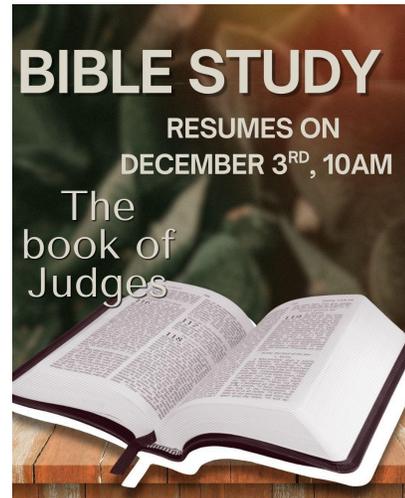
YouTube: @stroudsburgumc3087

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



Church Women United Stocking Donations 2026

March: Small bottles of shampoo

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

Looking for Easter candy? Help out the missions of the church and fill your Easter basket at the same time. Order form is in the Fellowship room. Orders are due by March 15th. Candy will be available for pick up on March 22nd. Please provide payment when submitting the order.

Easter Candy Fundraiser!



EASTER LILIES

Order forms for Easter lilies will be available soon. Help our Worship Committee create the Easter lily display by ordering one or more plants at \$12.00 per plant. Your order will help us bring beauty to our Easter worship and celebration of the Resurrection. All orders must be received by March 15th. Contact the office for more information.



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.



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.

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.

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



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

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 - March 2026

As of March 1 we have served over 5,600 meals. If you have questions, please contact the office.

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

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