



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 - November 18, 2022



"The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God." Leviticus 26: 8-10

Thanksgiving, as we know it today, originates from the declaration of Abraham Lincoln in 1863 after the dedicated badgering of Sarah Hale (look her up, she was an advocate). However, we can trace our Thanksgiving history through the centuries. For example, the English colonists in Virginia in 1619 declared the day commemorated their arrival, thanking God for safe passage across a forbidding ocean; likewise, the Spanish explorers thanked God for survival in 1565 in Florida and 1598 in modern-day Texas. On the other hand, after a 1637 massacre of Native Americans, the governor of Plymouth wrote that Thanksgiving Days would be "in honor of the bloody victory." In 1789, President George Washington declared a national Day of Thanksgiving to thank God for the birth of a new nation. Going back even further, the Israelites held the Festival of Sukkot as a way to give thanks to God for the harvest and providence. Passover was the celebration of the liberation of the Israelites from the

oppressors and a promise into the future.

What unites each of these is a thread of gratitude. Gratitude, counting blessings, and giving thanks to the Great Provider. As you prepare to gather around tables this Thanksgiving season, prepare a heart of gratitude. It is easy to get caught up in who you are eating with or not eating with, who is bringing what, and what day you are celebrating. In the first year of our marriage, Steve and I hosted our families. We had everything set up and prepared down to the number of people who were coming. As newlyweds, we used everything we had, including all of our glasses. We were flustered when an extra guest was added and did not have the requisite place setting. It took intentional remembering that gathering was more important than matching settings. When we shared a time of expressing thanks, many of the guests commented on being together. No one commented on the glassware.

This week as you gather, may your heart be fixated on gratitude. Set aside the ideal nostalgia of days gone by. As you share times of giving thanks, may you be blessed in the reflections and presence of family and friends. Count your blessings, one by one. I count you among my blessings!

In God's Love,
Pastor Monica

GATHER!



This Sunday, November 20 -

Our worship leaders are Cliff and Krista.

The choir anthems are "For the Beauty of the Earth" and "He Will Carry You Through."

The praise song is "Thank You"

The Old Testament Lesson is Deuteronomy 6:1-12

The Gospel Lesson is John 6:25-35

Pastor Monica's sermon is "Count Our Blessings: Hope" (I want my listeners to give thanks for the legacy of hope.)

Sunday is the last Sunday of the Christian year. As we look back over the last year and take stock, what blessings will we carry into the new year as Advent begins next week? What blessings can we count on in the future? Join us as we continue adding leaves of blessings to our tree and give thanks for hope.

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](#)



InGathering
November 20th

A list of needed items is
included in your bulletin

InGathering, Sunday, November 20th:

We are collecting non-perishable food items for our soup kitchen pantry in addition to napkins, plastic silverware, cases of soda (no diet), cases of water (no additives), spaghetti sauce, pasta, salad dressings, paper towels, new tea towels, dish soap and sponges.

Bring your gifts to the Communion Rail before the start of service and give to our Traditional Native American or Pilgrim. Thank you for caring for our neighbors.



News From the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference:

As the UMC's Northeastern Jurisdiction met Nov. 2-4 at the University of Maryland in College Park, Md., with the theme "One in Ministry to All the World," host Bishop LaTrelle Miller Easterling welcomed guests from 10 conferences to "the home of Methodism and the seat of justice." Indeed, the unity and disunity in Methodism's past and present, but also its persistent quest for justice and wholeness, resonated throughout the historic session.

[Read more here](#)



More NEJ News:

We celebrate Bishop John Schol has been assigned to Greater New Jersey and to provide continued coverage to EPA through 2024. We give thanks for Bishop Schol and Beverly Schol as they continue to serve faithfully with us.



Northeastern Jurisdictional delegation
Last week, you were represented at the Northeastern Jurisdiction by 11 clergy and 7 laity. We elected one new bishop, Bishop Hector Burgos-Nunez, certified and celebrated retirements along with other business.

We celebrated the retirement of our former bishop, Bishop Peggy Johnson.

Pictured above: (top row: Rev. Dr. Andrew Foster, episcopal candidate, Rev. Dr. Dan Lebo, Kristine Adams, Rev. Hannah Adair Bonner, Rev. Eddie Cameron, Bishop John Schol, Rev. Robin Hyncka, David Koch, Lenora Thompson, Rev. Johnson Dodla bottom row: Rev. Dr. Christopher Kurien, Judy Ehninger, Clarita Krall, Sue Grimm McCoy, Rev. Monica Guepet, Rev. Dr. Lydia Munoz, Rev. Dawn Taylor-Storm, Krystl D. Gauld
Missing from the picture: Rev. Mandy Stanley Miller, Elizabeth Fisher)

Security in Our Church Building

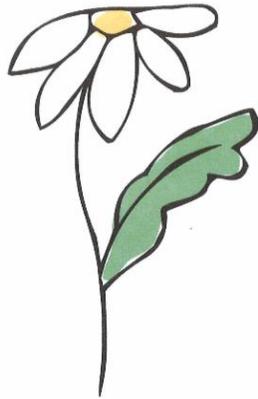
To keep our congregation and building safe, we have begun arming our building at night. If you have business that requires entering after 10:00 pm or before 7:00 am, you will need to disarm the building or the police will be called. If you have an event that falls within those hours, please make sure the office knows, so that appropriate arrangements can be

made. Please see the office for more information.



Winter is coming....

The Property & Building Committee is looking for volunteers to remove snow from our church sidewalks. Contact the office if you are willing and able to help. The grass mowing this summer was completed faithfully by church members. Thanks to those volunteers.



*"Do small things with
great love!"*

Mother Theresa

*Dear friends,
It is with deep gratitude that we,
the family of
Stuart L. Baker
reach out to you--as you have
reached out to our hearts at the
time of his passing on to
Eternal Life!*

*We appreciate
your kind thoughts, words, and
prayers,
and we treasure our friendship
with you!*

*Cynthia Rothenberger,
Debbie Kelly,
Stephen Baker
and Carolyn Baker*



(over)

NOV. 1, 2022

Dear Rev. Geoff,

I wish to thank you for your kindness in remembering me at the time of my husband's passing. Both Steve & I were very spiritually impressed with our visit a couple of times to the Stroudsburg U.M. Church while we were retired for 10 years in Henlock Farms community. We were uplifted by the congregational warmth and the spiritual fervor there... and since moving here to ^{Cornwall} ~~Marion~~ Cornwall, I have had the opportunity of meeting and getting to know Connie Galeski, whose husband was a former pastor there in Stroudsburg!



Watercolor Still-Life: Country Daisies, 2012

Steve also honored by the presence of receiving through ministerial collegiality, the lovely Circuit Rider Plogue bestowed on me by D.S. Rev. Jennifer Treymeyer at my husband's funeral here on Oct. 3rd. Shalom! Carolyn Baker



...Thinking of you...



ORDER YOUR
CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA
BY DECEMBER 6TH

ORDER FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE BACK OF THE SANCTUARY OR
PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE TO ORDER

Downtown Youth Group

Let's go bowling!

Sunday, November 20th
2-4 pm at Skylanes in
East Stroudsburg

More info:
ChristChurchStroudsburg.net
StJohn-Stroudsburg.org
Stroudsburgumc.com



Friends, Faith, Fun

NOTICE

THE CHURCH OFFICE
WILL BE CLOSED ON THE
FOLLOWING DATES:

NOVEMBER 3RD & 4TH
NOVEMBER 11TH
NOVEMBER 18TH
NOVEMBER 25TH
NOVEMBER 28TH



Special Person of the Week:

Eileen Sebring

600 Freemason Drive

Elizabethtown, PA 17022.

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



**OPERATION
CHILLOUT**
HOMELESS VETERANS
OUTREACH



ANNUAL WINTER HOMLESS OUTREACH

NEW / UNUSED CLOTHING ITEMS ONLY PLEASE

Men's Size: Large, X-Large or XX-Large

Women's Size: Large or X-Large

Wool / Nylon /Acrylic Heavy Socks

Thermal Top

Thermal Bottoms

Zipped Hooded Sweatshirt

Heavy Flannel Shirt-Jacket

Waterproof Non-Leather GoreTex® Gloves

Acrylic Knit Cap

Acrylic Scarf

Items will be collected until December 15th

Contact Heather Heeter hheeter1@verison.net for any questions.



Handmade Fresh Wreath Fundraiser

\$17 with a bow
\$15 without a bow

All proceeds benefit the Cub Scouts of Pack 86

Wreaths will be delivered on November 30th



Volunteers are needed to help place the snowmen around Stroudsburg on the Friday after Thanksgiving, November 25th. The start time is 9am and lasts for about 2 hours or so. Pickup trucks are especially needed to move the snowmen from the storage area to the display locations. If you can help please contact Jody Singer at 570-517-5019. This will be a fun event and the snowmen attract a lot of



Every first Saturday of the month, 6-8pm. Participating galleries: Gamut Art Gallery, 109-111 N. 8th Street, Andrei Art Gallery, 18 N. 7th Street, Pocono Arts Council, 727 Main Street, The Gallery at Renegade Winery, 600 Main Street, Turrell Art Studios, 4 N. 6th Street. For more information go to - visitdowntownstroudsburg.com

attention throughout the winter.

Stroudsburg UMC sighting!

On Monday, November 14th, I was up at Pocono Plateau for the Courageous Conversations. The assisting elders were facilitating conversations around grace and sacred space to share stories. Hoping to provide a model for local churches and individuals, this framework of growing in love together and guided by the Wesleyan quadrilateral opened space to share our stories around sexuality.

As I went to make a cup of coffee, imagine my delight as I saw a familiar skyscraper. Thank you Stroudsburg for making a difference in our church, community, and camps!



Filming on December 4th -

On December 4th, we will have CGI here filming for our publicity video to be featured on the Pocono Visitor's Bureau website. The completed project will also be used for our sharing of our church. We would love to represent our church well with a full worship service at 11:00am on December 4th.



Joint Announcement from the Northeastern Jurisdictional College of Bishops and Committee on the Episcopacy Wednesday, November 16, 2022

The Council of Bishops has approved the recommendation from the Northeastern Jurisdictional College of Bishops (COB) and The Committee on the Episcopacy (COE) that Retired Bishop Peggy Johnson serve as Interim Bishop for the New England Annual Conference (NEAC) beginning January

1, 2023, through August 31, 2024.

The New England Annual Conference did not receive an assignment or coverage at the conclusion of the 21st Session of the Northeastern Jurisdictional Conference. Pursuant to Para. 407 of the 2016 Book of Discipline (BOD), the College of Bishops fills vacancies in such circumstances. After consultation with the appropriate

stakeholders, the COB and COE agreed that Bishop Johnson possessed the gifts and graces to lead the NEAC during this interim period.

In discussing this scenario with Bishop Johnson, she articulated that she feels called by God to this particular need and is willing to relocate to New England to provide residential leadership, holistic pastoral care and collaborative oversight.

After reviewing the Conference Profile and Cover Page, as well as The New England Declaration (their detailed strategic vision for inclusive mission and ministry), we met with the NEAC Committee on the Episcopacy and the cabinet. We spent considerable time listening to and discussing their needs, priorities and hopes for their next servant leader.

These conference leadership teams agreed upon NEAC's top priorities for their interim servant leader: a) pastoral care and healing; b) a willingness to embrace the vision already cast, while empowering those within the conference to champion its implementation; and c) relationship building.

Upon hearing this news we became more confident that our discernment was divinely inspired. Bishop Johnson excels in each of these areas. Therefore, we shared our recommendation and Bishop Johnson's name was received with enthusiasm and thanksgiving. These leaders also provided insights that will help position this coverage arrangement for success.

Please pray for Bishop Johnson and Rev. Mary Johnson as they live into this new opportunity. They are excited to serve and look forward to visiting New England soon. We give God thanks for their willingness to offer themselves so quickly after retirement. We thank you in advance for your support.

Oneness Embraced - Guest Speaker at ESUMC

On November 20th, 3pm at East Stroudsburg UMC, Marc Blau will give a presentation on the Holocaust and its impact on his family.

Marc Blau is a retired Social Studies teacher from Bangor High School. Marc has spoken to many civic groups throughout the Lehigh Valley.

Mr. Blau has co-authored several books including Letters From Homefront Magazine, History of the Textile Industry in the Slate Belt, A Miracle Happened Here and speaks to organizations through the Slate Belt Heritage Center. Marc's brother David wrote a book entitled, "The Blaus and the Holocaust: A Story of Courage, Struggle and Heroism" and they both speak to groups about their parents' courageous journey from Vienna, Austria to Bangor, Pa. Today Marc Blau will touch your hearts and teach the many lessons learned from the Holocaust.



November Birthdays

- 3 Jackie Herrero
- 6 Nancy Haase
- 6 Lee Philips
- 7 C.J. Penwell
- 7 Dave Cook
- 11 Lori DeWitt
- 22 Debbie Marsh
- 27 Mike Seip
- 30 Doris Philips



As we countdown the days to Christmas, our church family will prepare together during the season of Advent.

For our third year, we invite all of our church family to pray, read, and prepare their hearts using the devotion written by our pastors as well as the Advent bag.

Help us prepare Advent bags and devotionals on Monday, November 21st at 2:00 pm in the lounge.

Many hands make light work! Please let us know in the office if you can help (and get a sneak peek!)



ADVENT WREATH

Each of the Sundays of Advent and Christmas Eve, we invite families and friends to light the Advent Wreath



ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Do you love the music of Advent and Christmas? Join us on Thursday evenings (December 1, 8, 15, and 22) from 6:30-7:30 pm for our Advent Bible Study. Our book

together at each of the services. Litany provided. Sign up in the office to participate.

is Songs for the Waiting: Devotions inspired by the Hymns of Advent. Books are available in the office, and the study will be in-person and online. Contact the office for the link.

Thank you from Pastor Margie

Dear Church Family,

I would like to thank all of you for being a part of my birthday celebration. I appreciated all of the cards, calls and emails. I am very appreciative of the selection of baked goods from our church family; they were fantastic! Thank you so much for lighting up my life in so many ways.

Love,
Pastor Margie



ALL SAINTS

On Sunday, November 6th, we honored 41 persons who died last year by reading their names, lighting candles, and sharing something of their echo in the world. Did you miss the service or want to share it with a friend or family member?

Here is the link: [All Saints' Service 11062022](#)

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.



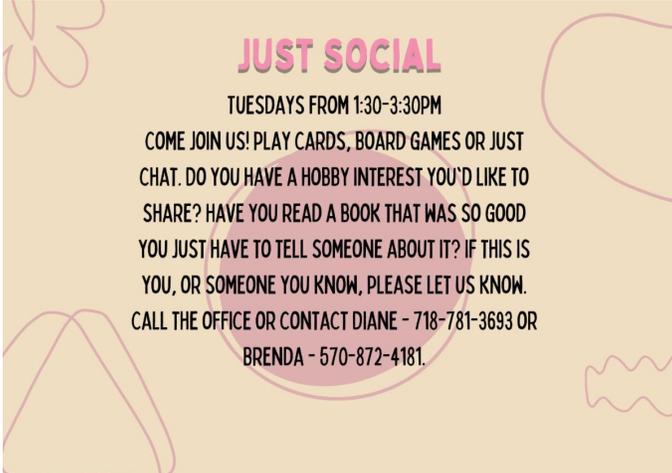
Operation Christmas Child Offering

On November 19th, we will be packing Operation Christmas Child boxes to be sent around the world. Help us defray the costs with a special offering. You can note Operation Christmas Child on your check, mark it on the envelope, and put your donation into a separate plate on Sunday that's marked Operation Christmas Child. Thank you for giving.



BIRTHDAY CARD SHOWER

Pastor Monica invites us all to participate in a card shower for Doris. Doris will celebrate her 92nd birthday on November 30th. Cards may be sent to Doris Philips, 1170 West Main Street, Room #132, Stroudsburg, PA 18360.



JUST SOCIAL

TUESDAYS FROM 1:30-3:30PM

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, PLEASE LET US KNOW. CALL THE OFFICE OR CONTACT DIANE - 718-781-3693 OR BRENDA - 570-872-4181.

A poster for an Operation Christmas Child packing party. The background is light blue with red and white striped twine, white stars, and a brown paper bag with greenery. The title is in large, bold, red, sans-serif font.

Operation Christmas Child packing party

Join us Saturday, November 19th

from 10:00 am - 11:30am

Bring items for shoeboxes
or bring yourself as we pack boxes together.

Stroudsburg UMC
547 Main Street Stroudsburg
www.stroudsaburgumc.com

A poster for a Community Thanksgiving Service. The background is light gray with a decorative border of autumn leaves and berries at the top and bottom. The title is in a large, elegant, black cursive font.

Community Thanksgiving Service

THE INTERFAITH COUNCIL OF THE
STROUDSBURGS

Join us as we worship together
in prayer and song.

Let us grow together as a community,
embracing and celebrating one another,
giving thanks and bringing hope for the future

November 20, 2022 7:00 P.M.

St. John's Evangelical
Lutheran Church
9 N 9th Street
Stroudsburg, PA

Also Live on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/128537913891319/live/>

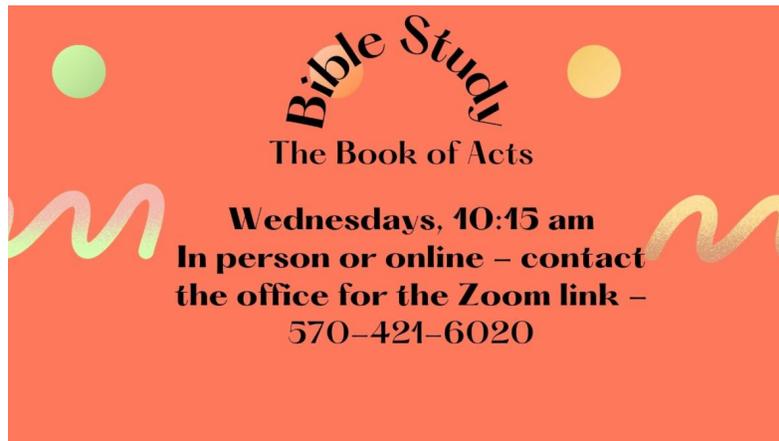
Community Resources

We have various agencies in our community that provide a variety of services to help our local people. You can dial 2-1-1 for many of them, 855-587-8049 or 570-517-3954. Agencies include The United Way of Monroe County, Pocono Info, Pocono Alliance and the Family Service Associate of NEPA. Following is a list of some of the services they offer to all of us. These agencies want to help us get the services we need when

we need them. Please feel comfortable reaching out for others to assist you.

- Shelter/housing
- Food/clothing
- Rent/utility help
- Transportation
- Opioid Abuse info
- Early intervention services
- Mental health services
- Development
- Legal/consumer
- Credit counseling
- Public assistance programs
- Where to donate food, clothing, etc.
- Aging parent assistance
- Support groups and more

GROW!



2023 Commitment Cards

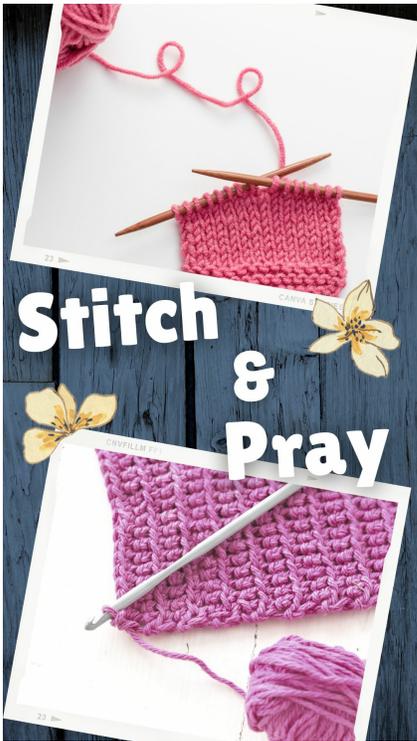
On October 30th, we offered our commitments for 2023 in worship. Perhaps you did not get an opportunity to offer yours. There are extra commitment cards and service commitment sheets in the sanctuary as well as on the [Church Website](#)

Please dedicate your gift in the next few weeks as we plan for 2023 in our discipleship with the church's resources.

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.



Stitch and Pray Small Group

If you love to knit or crochet and would like to use your skills to help others, please join us for our Stitch & Pray small group meeting in the lounge at 7:00 pm on the first Monday of each month. If you'd like to learn to crochet, you are welcome as well! For additional information, please call Brenda Rambo at 570.872.4181.

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.



Missions Meeting - 11/22/2022, 6:30pm

Our next meeting is Tuesday, November 22nd at 6:30pm in the Lounge.

If you're interested in making a difference through the missions of the church, please join us.

You make a difference!

In the 2nd and 3rd quarters of 2022, Stroudsburg UMC received \$68.02 as a result of qualifying purchases made by you and other customers who have selected our church when making purchases at Amazon. Over time, Amazon has given \$469.81 to Stroudsburg UMC. How can you sign up? Go to AmazonSmile and select Stroudsburg UMC as your charity. If you need help with figuring out how this works, please call or stop by the office. Thank you for making a difference!



Update: Haiti Meal Pack - Thank you to all those who gave and/or came out to pack meals for Haiti. As you can see from the picture, all had a great time. During our session, the other groups, along with ours, packed 8,000 meals. Over the course of the weekend, they were on target to pack 50,000 meals. These meals benefit children and families. We were shown a video of the mud cookies that families eat when no food is available. It was heartbreaking. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our siblings in Christ.



We already contributed all of the donations that you offered. There was no requirement to pay for all of the meals you packed; as a result, East Stroudsburg UMC, who hosted us, has not yet made up the difference in the cost. They are down \$5000. If you can offer additional funds for the purpose, please put them in the offering marked Meal Pack for Haiti. Thank you!

Operation Christmas Child

The Samaritan's Purse Program Operation Christmas Child collects shoebox gifts that are filled with fun toys, school supplies and hygiene items. They take them to needy children, around the world to show God's love. We are participating in it again this year. We are so fortunate to have students helping us with it. They are required to do so many hours of community service to fulfill their graduation requirements. They have been here to assist with Vacation Bible School, the soup kitchen and other areas. We are hoping to have enough items for them to have something to do while they are here; therefore we are asking that you bring your items in loose. We are looking forward to having them be here for other future projects, too. There is a large bin, in the Fellowship Room, where you can bring your gifts if you are not going to be here on Saturday, November 19th. We are working from 10:00am. until 11:30am; we will have cookies, water, tea, apple cider, coffee and hot chocolate. The website is <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>. You can see videos and hear testimonies of people who

were helped by this endeavor when they were children. It is very interesting and we are pleased to be associated with it. If you are interested in purchasing items for it; here are some ideas for you. The presents could include these ideas: small toys, (no war items), wind-up or solar flashlight, solar calculator, adhesive bandages(children enjoy bright ones), puzzles, yo-yos, crayons, coloring tablets, blank tablets, chalk and a chalk board, washable menstrual products, T-shirt, washable markers, blank index cards, magnets, dress up items like costume jewelry or a paper crown, non-liquid lip balm and let your imagination guide you with it, too.

Thank you for your participation in helping to put smiles on children's faces and celebrate the spirit of Christmas.



Angel Tree

Our Angel Tree is back! Select an ornament off the tree in the Fellowship Room to give to a child in our community in need. We are partnering with Family Promise this year. Please bring back your wrapped gifts by December 11th so that families can receive them ahead of the holidays.

A poster for a "Paint and Tea" event. The background is light blue with white snowflakes and a large, smiling snowman on the right side. The text is in bold black font.

Paint and Tea
Sunday December 4th 2022
4:00pm to 6:00pm
\$35.00 a person
Stroudsburg UMC
547 Main St. Stroudsburg
Use Entrance located behind the building on Ann Street
Tea and Desserts included
Proceeds Benefit Missions Projects
Call for tickets 570-855-5756

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 on December 28th. Partner with another family or friend to make a meal. Meals are to be delivered by 2:00 pm on Wednesday afternoons for distribution. Sign up in the office for more information.



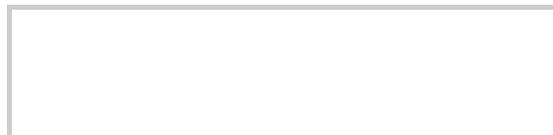
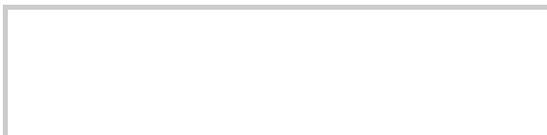
Community Blood Drive

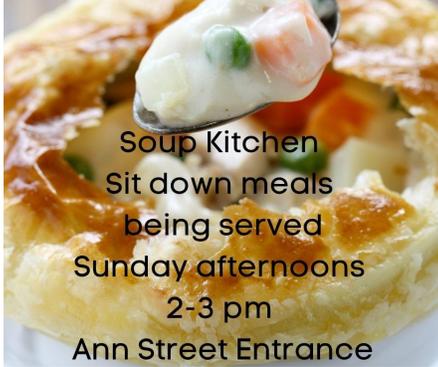
Stroudsburg United Methodist Church

Social Hall
547 Main Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360

Wednesday, November 23, 2022
1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please use the Ann Street entrance.





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

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



UMCOR School Kits

Thank you for giving generously to UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) with 50 school kits. Thank you for making a difference in the life of children, here and around the world.



Try email marketing for free today!