

2018

December



Sunday, November 25, was an eye opener as Kathy and I got ready for church. The weather was very iffy, but the roads were still drivable. We were on our way when I received the first call from Donna Stravers, who informed me that both the Baptists and the Presbyterians had cancelled worship due to worsening road conditions. I wasn't expecting this. Being the stubborn man that I am (at least, that's what I've been told), I let her know that if the roads got any worse, we would turn around, but for now the pastor is on his way. I was thinking that I had been in a lot worse weather before and had made it to church. As long as I was careful, it should be no problem.

Fifteen minutes later, we were on Highway 163 and less than ten miles away from Monroe when the second call came in from Donna. "I'm getting a lot of calls wanting to know if we're going to have church." I could tell she was getting concerned. I told her the roads were still good. Besides, at this point, there would already be a number of folks at the church. It's still game on!

But a few minutes later, I realized first-hand what all the commotion was about. Driving into Monroe, it was as if all the wintry weather decided to focus solely on our little town. Snow was falling, streets were covered with it, and there were definitely icy conditions. We finally made it to the church's parking lot, when I got the third call from Donna, this time letting me know who all wasn't coming to church. It was clear that she needed me to make the call as to whether or not to even try to have church. The majority of folks had basically made the decision for themselves. In hindsight, I realized she needed me to make that judgment call a lot sooner. I was basing my hesitation on how conditions seemed to me, not so much on how conditions were for others. Ah, me. I guess I really am a stubborn man, if not shortsighted.

I told her to tell anyone who was still at home to just stay home and stay safe. Meanwhile, we entered to see who all had arrived. I think we counted around 36. It was a small worship, intimate and friendly. The music was uplifting, and the covered dish lunch satisfied all. We even managed to "deck the halls" for the Advent season.

So, I have to confess, I was slow on the draw this time. The chances are likely we will have another wintry mix on a Sunday morning. Someone told me it always seems to happen over the weekend. If and when it does happen again, I promise to make the call sooner than I did this time. That being said, this experience reminds me of the theme of Advent, the arrival of our Savior, and the promise of his second coming, for with it comes the unexpected. For who would have thought that God would come to us in the form of a babe, to an expecting mother in trouble, and in a world known more for darkness than for light? My prayer is that we will prepare ourselves for the unexpected, most especially, for the unexpected ways that God comes to us.

See you in church! (weather permitting)

Pastor Van

UMW Executive Meeting will be held Friday, December 7 at 1:00. This will be followed by the **General Meeting** at 1:30

Devotions will be given by Carol Ann Davis, a District Friend.

Business Meeting will have Installation of Officers.

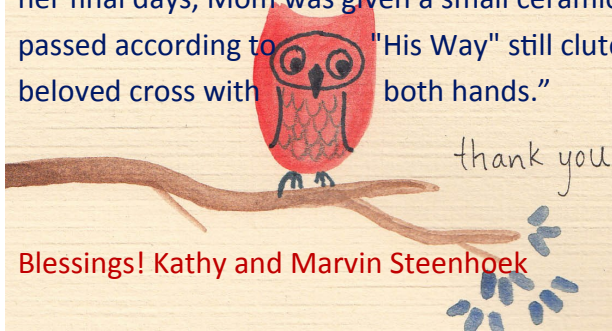
Pledge Service by Donna Van Veen

Hostesses will be Jane Berry and Donna Van Veen



December Community Table features Ham and Beans or Hearty Vegetable Soup. Community Table will be held from 5-7 on Wednesday, December 19.

"Thank you for your comforting words, Christian compassion, sympathy, and prayers that have blessed and comforted us while grieving from Mom, Kathleen Fopma's, passing! Mom's theme song, "God's Way Is The Best Way", was printed on the back of the Celebration of Life Folder. In her final days, Mom was given a small ceramic cross. Mom passed according to "His Way" still clutching that beloved cross with both hands."



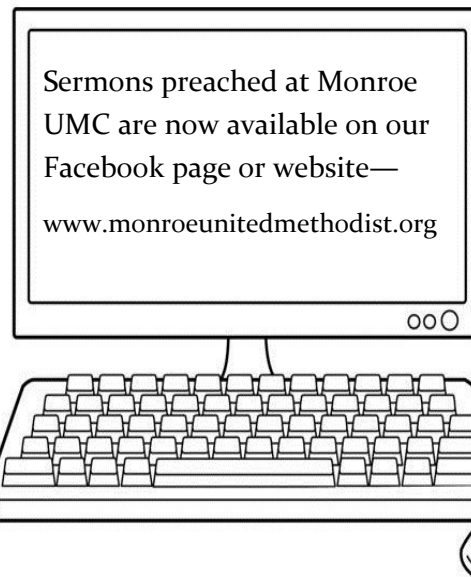
In observance of the Christmas Holiday the church office will be closed Monday December 24 & Tuesday December 25.



The office will also be closed Monday December 31 and Tuesday January 1



Join us Christmas Eve at 6:00 for our candlelight service.



The Turkey Supper Committee would like to thank this church for all the support and effort to make the supper possible and successful. We could not do it without you all!

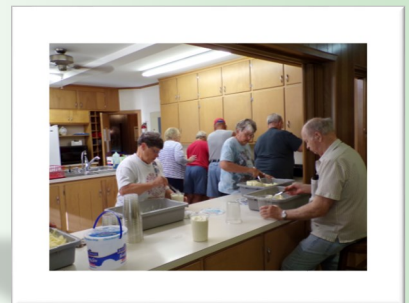
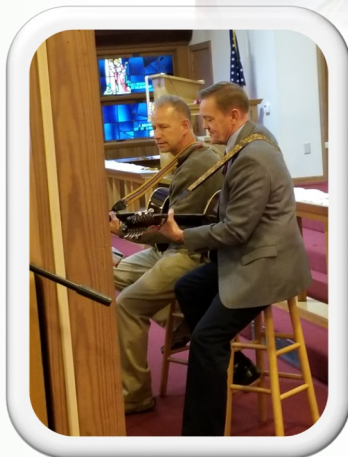
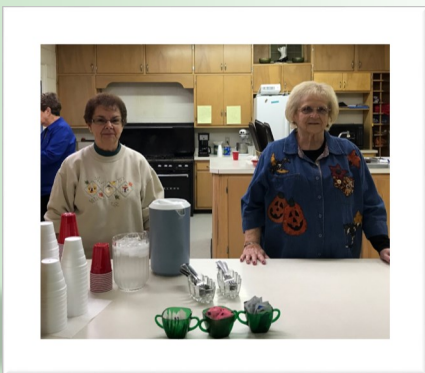
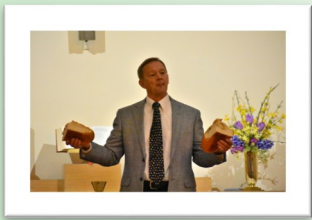
It is amazing what we can do together.

Thank you so much and bless you all.


Turkey Supper Committee



2018 Around the Church



2018

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2 First Sunday of Advent Sunday School 8:45 Coffee Time 9:00 Worship w/ Communion 9:30	3 AA 7:00	4 Bible Study 9:00	5	6	7 UMW Ex. Council mtg 1:00 UMW General mtg 1:30	8
9 Sunday School 8:45 Coffee Time 9:00 Worship 9:30	10 AA 7:00	11 Bible Study 9:00	12	13	14	15
16 Sunday School 8:45 Coffee Time 9:00 Worship 9:30	17 AA 7:00	18 Bible Study 9:00	19 Community Table 5:00-7:00	20	21 	22
23 Sunday School 8:45 Coffee Time 9:00 Worship 9:30	24 Christmas Eve Office Closed Christmas Eve Service 6:00	25 Christmas Office Closed	26	27	28	29
30 Sunday School 8:45 Coffee Time 9:00 Worship 9:30	31 New Year's Eve Office Closed					



4	Dave Mill
8	Jacque Robinson
9	Sandy Breckenridge Rod Van Genderen
11	Kenny Neff
12	Owen Huguen
13	Patty Eilander
14	Caleb Duinink Carson Duinink Jacque Phillip Keith Brumbaugh
19	Mark Hupfeld
20	John A. McConeghey
26	Rita Van Veen
28	Kynlee Van Der Hart
29	Lori Schakel Kasey Van Veen
31	Barry Romick Duane Sloan

December Greeters

December 2	Alan Jennings Deb Coulter Rod and Jeanne Van Genderen
December 9	John and Marcia McConeghey Keith and Jill Brumbaugh
December 16	John and Marcia McConeghey Keith and Jill Brumbaugh
December 23	Wayne and Donna Worth Daryl and Liz Hormann
Christmas Eve	Keith and Jill Brumbaugh
December 30	Wayne and Donna Worth Daryl and Liz Hormann

Communion

December 2	Dianna Nolin & Dawn Neff
Christmas Eve	Jan Phifer and Mary Vaske

Liturgist

December 2	Kurt Konek
December 9	Jan Phifer
December 16	Patty Eilander
December 23	Marvin Steenhoek
Christmas Eve	Lori Schakel

Monroe United Methodist Church
2018 Nomination and Leadership Development Committee Report
***New Committee Members**

2019 OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Chairperson	Donna Stravers	
Vice Chairperson	Deb Coulter	
Administration Council Secretary	Janice Cook	
Lay Member to the Annual Conference	Deb Coulter	
Church Lay Leader	Marvin Steenhoek	
Chairperson, Staff Parish Relations	Melissa Van Der Hart	
Chairperson, Board of Trustees	Jim Phillips	
Chairperson, Finance Committee	Mary Sue Duinink	
Church Secretary	Kayla Johnson	
Financial Secretary	Kelly Phillips	
Cub Scouts Representative	Jim Phillips	
Monroe Food Pantry Church Representative	Patty Duinink	
Chairperson, Evangelism & Membership	Marcy Romick	
Chairperson, Worship & Spiritual Formation	Glenda Wing	
Chairperson, Christian Education	Kayla Jones	
President, Young Adults	Mary Sue Duinink	
President, United Methodist Women	Dawn Neff	
Members-at-Large	Dennis Worth	Janice Cook
	Sharon Covey	Jim Hewitt
	Patty Eilander	Jeanne Van Genderen
	Carol Diekema	

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

NOMINATION & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Chairperson – Pastor Van Dickens

2019
Deb Coulter

2020
Janice Cook

2021
*Joyce Van Der Hart

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Mary Sue Duinink – Chairperson
Administrative Council Chair, Church Lay Leader, SPRC Chair,
Lay Member to Annual Conference, Church Treasurer, Stewardship Chair,
Board of Trustees Chair, Financial Secretary

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Jim Phillips – Chairperson

2019
Kenny Neff
Glen Duinink
Larry Diekema

2020
Jim Phillips
Liz Hormann
Larry Romick

2021
* Charles Hoeksema
* Dave Van Veen
* Rod Van Genderen

STAFF/PASTOR PARISH RELATIONS: Chairperson – Melissa Van Der Hart

2019
Sharon Covey
Marvin Steenhoek

2020
Patty Eilander
Melissa Van Der Hart

2021
* Jim Morris
* June Hjortshoj
* Logan Jones

Lay Member to Annual Conference (with vote) – Deb Coulter

PROGRAM COMMITTEES

MISSION/MEMORIAL: Chairperson – Kelly Phillips

2019
Khris Woody
Dianna Nolin

2020
Sue Gildersleeve
Kelly Phillips

2021
* Jane Berry
* Ada Beth Hume

EVANGELISM/MEMBERSHIP: Marcy Romick – Chairperson

2019
Jane Berry
Marcia McConeghey

2020
Marcy Romick
Glenda Wing

2021
* Jan Phifer
* Sandy Breckenridge

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Chairperson – Glenda Wing
Choir Director – Carol Diekema
Organists – Mary Sue Duinink, Jacque Robinson
Communion Steward Chairperson – Donna Stravers
Hospitality - Donna Van Veen
At Large - Deb Coulter
Alan Jennings
Jeanne Van Genderen
* Patty Eilander

STEWARDSHIP AND DISCIPLESHIP

2019
Sue Gildersleeve
Joyce Van Der Hart

2020
Marvin Steenhoek

2021
* Kelly Phillips
* Rod VanGenderen

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Chairperson – Kayla Jones

Sunday School Teachers – Pastor Dickens, Donna Stravers, Patty Eilander, Cindy Van Haaften

Sunday School Treasurer – Patty Duinink

COMMUNITY TABLE COMMITTEE

Dawn Hoeksema – Co-Chairperson

Patty Eilander—Co-Chairperson

Sue Gildersleeve

Joyce Van Der Hart

Kay Lubberden

Jane Berry

175th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Patty Eilander – Chairperson

Mary Sue Duinink

Melissa Van Der Hart

Glenda Wing

Dianna Nolin

Monroe United Methodist Church Financial Statement Analysis General Bank Account Expenses

Category	Jan-Oct 2018	Jan-Oct 2017	Variance	%	Comments
Contributions	101,864.75	72,451.51	29,413.24	40.60%	The church received stock proceeds in the amount of \$21,596 in October. After the removal of the stock proceeds, total contributions would be \$80,269 which is a 10% increase from 2017.
Salaries	59,322.54	52,273.31	7,049.23	13.49%	Admin assistant salary increased in 2018 along with an increase in the pastor's salary in July due to the Cash Housing Allowance.
EE Benefits	14,605.03	14,403.79	201.24	1.40%	Employee benefits (travel, health insurance, pension & professional expense). Employee benefits increased \$98/mo in 2018. The remaining Pension and Health insurance for 2018 has been paid to the conference due to the stock proceeds.
Bldg Op Costs	8,399.38	6,663.47	1,735.91	26.05%	Church property insurance higher in 2018 compared to 2017. Have paid 11 months of premium in 2018 compared to 2017. Copier costs higher in 2018 compared to 2017 since bill includes monthly copies instead of paying for quarterly copies in 2017. Snow removal higher in 2018 compared to 2017.
Utilities	7,426.74	6,496.31	930.43	14.32%	Utilities slightly higher in 2018 compared to 2017. Winter lasted longer in 2018. This is the first year for additional air-conditioner in Fellowship Hall and Narthex and would expect increase over last year.
Apportionments	6,591.00	-	6,591.00	#DIV/0!	2018 General Church Apportionments of \$4,130 have been paid in full for 2018. Have also paid 2016 & 2017 General Church Apportionments that were unpaid \$2,461.
Ice Cream Social	2,679.00	2,638.00	41.00	1.55%	
Old Settlers	1,472.00	1,277.00	195.00	15.27%	
Turkey Supper	-	-	-	#DIV/0!	
Community Table	39.00	69.00			This is the amount of \$ available to pay for any Community Table expenses.
Ending Cash Balance	16,223.44	2,042.11	14,181.33	694.44%	

2018 Apportionments remaining to pay:

\$20,517.00 Total Apportionments

(4,130.00) Less: General Church Apportionments

\$16,387.00 Total Apportionments

Breakdown of Cash Balance

5,388.45 General Account

1,973.33 Parsonage rental income

8,861.66 Remaining Stock proceeds

16,223.44

- Variance

Monroe United Methodist Church

Sunday School 8:45-9:15

Coffee Time 9:00

Worship Service 9:30

Rev. Van Dickens

(512) 574-7706

“We are a friendly, faithful, and loving family dedicated to sharing God with our neighbors.” MUMC Vision Statement



**Monroe United
Methodist Church**

407 N Monroe St, PO Box 628
Monroe, IA 50170



Church Phone/Fax

(641) 259-280

Office Hours Monday—Thursday

8:30-12:30

email:

monroeum@iowatelecom.net

www.monroeunitedmethodist.org