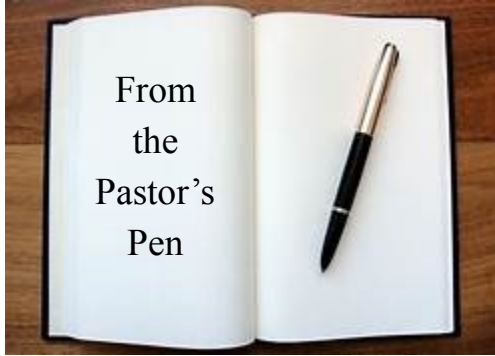


2019

Issue 1

# JANUARY



With the taking down of last year's wall calendar, it's nice to see the new one go up, a clean slate without all the X marks indicating days come and gone. Looking back, it has been a very eventful year. Each month required a host of decisions and actions. As time unfolded, it looks as though most of the decisions I made last year were good ones. A number of them were not easy to make, and required a fair amount of consultation and prayer. One involved a phone call with a district superintendent.

I wish I could say that all my decisions were good ones, but that's not true. There are a few things I said and did that I regret, mostly as a result of impatience, stubbornness, carelessness, a need to be in control too much, or just being "slow of mind" (feel free to substitute your own expression for that last one). For those who were recipients of any less-than-stellar choices, I have asked and received forgiveness. Herein lies a truth for 2019. I will continue to make a few bone-headed decisions. I pray they will be minimal and won't bring harm to anyone. We are all human, pastor included.

I also pray not to hesitate making good choices, even when they involve risk and uncertainty. I have learned to trust those sorts of decisions, when my motives are good, when I believe it is Godly, and when I've done all the homework I can on the matter. Then, if it falls flat, it falls flat. Truth is, nothing great and wonderful happens without a certain calculated risk. If Jesus lived a risk-free life, he would never have left the manger.

Some great and wonderful things are going to happen in our world this year. Some terrible things will also happen. It is inevitable. But let us not hesitate as Christians, and as a congregation, to step into the new year boldly, creatively, and with the confidence as children of God, knowing that "I can do all things through him who strengthens me."

May God smile on the choices we make.

Have a blessed New Year!!!

Pastor Van

P.S. Don't forget our 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary observance January 27 and each month of the year!

## **Reflections of 2018 with SPRC and Pastor Van**

We have had a fantastic 2018 and are excited for 2019 as we continue to live our church vision “We are a friendly, faithful, and loving family dedicated to sharing God with our neighbors.”

We are working together as a committed Christian family to define Ministry Expectations for Pastor Van, SPRC, our Leaders and Members keeping our focus with the United Methodist Congregation Mission and Our Church Vision.

### **OUR MISSION AS A UNITED METHODIST CONGREGATION:**

“To make disciples of Jesus Christ and develop leaders for the transformation of the world.”

### **OUR VISION AS MONROE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

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

Expectations and priorities for **leaders and members** of the congregation in the first year of our pastor’s ministry, based on **Our Mission**.

1. A willingness to work together, to enjoy one another’s company, and to appreciate what each person brings to the table of God.
2. To communicate to the SPRC and pastor any arising concerns in a caring and open manner.
3. A commitment to share ideas that advance the Vision of our church mission.
4. A willingness to try new things, to get involved, and to enthusiastically share with others outside the church the good news of what’s happening at Monroe UMC.
5. A resolve to better reflect our connectional nature through giving and service.

We pray you all are with us on our 2019 mission journey.

Happy New Year!

Donna Stravers  
SPRC Chair

The 2018 UMW Bazaar was a huge success this year with a profit of **\$6,034.07**. The UMW met recently and designated giving to the following missions:

BIDWELL	SHESLER HALL
BIBLES FOR MISSIONS THRIFT SHOP	SALVATION ARMY
PROGRESS INDUSTRIES	WOMEN AT THE WELL
MONROE FOOD PANTRY	TRINITY UMC
HOPE MINISTRIES	TEAM IOWA MISSIONS SEWING SCHOOL (HAITI)
CLEARVIEW RECOVERY	DAYS FOR GIRLS
CAPSTONE	COMMUNITY TABLE
FREEDOM FOR YOUTH MINISTRIES (SHALOM)	SHARING THE WEIGHT
CHILDREN & FAMILY URBAN MOVEMENT	MONROE UMC

Thank you to all who organized, helped, attended, bought, and prayed about our event to make it a success!

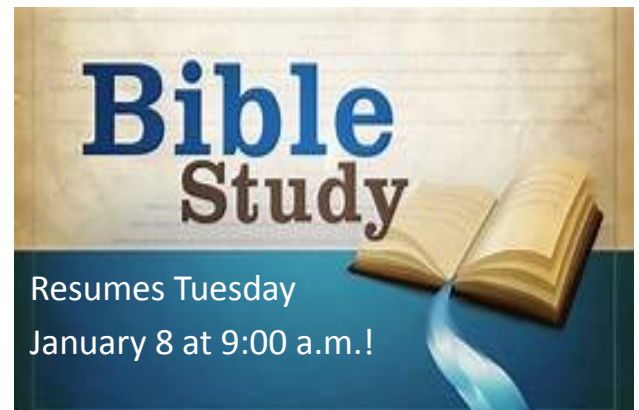
Bazaar Committee 2018

The United Methodist Women will meet Friday January 11. The General Meeting will be held at 1:00 in Fellowship Hall.

January is a Call to Prayer and Self Denial

The Program will be by Patty Duinink

Hostesses are Marcy Romick and Donna Van Veen



**Community Table will be held Wednesday January 16 from 5-7. Free meal, Free music and Fun fellowship! Everyone is welcome!**



The next Church Council meeting is Wednesday, January 9 at 7:00. If you have agenda items, please let Donna Stravers know!

# 2019



## 175 Years of Faith

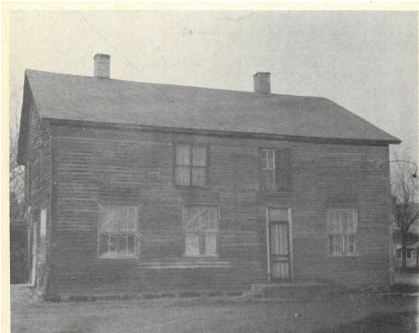
As many of you know, 2019 will be 175 years for Tool's Chapel and the Monroe United Methodist Church. A committee has been formed and we are planning 12 months of celebration for all of us to join!

There will be potlucks, picnics, and special services.

January will start us off with the history of our community and the founding of our church.

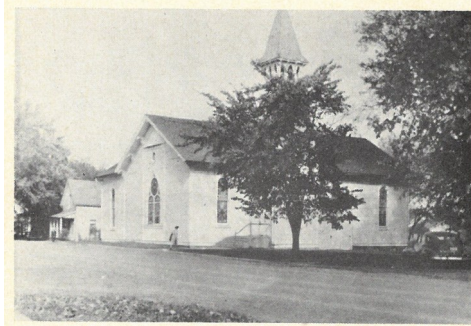
February will be "Share a Memory, Warm the Heart" month.

March will be dedicated to the United Methodist Women.



First Church Built in Jasper County

So as you can see we have a wonderful year to look forward to. Stay tuned for more things to come!



Built 1874 — Burned 1953



The Methodist Church of Monroe, Iowa



3	RaeAnn Duinink
4	Kacie Schakel
5	Cathy Holdsworth
6	Jim Phillips
7	Claude & Melba Brummett
9	Glenda Wing Marty Lewis
10	Stacy Hupfeld Don Keuning
11	Carl Steenhoek
15	Brenda Woody Shelby Palm
16	Taryn Lemke
21	Breyten Beckjordan
24	Melissa Van Der Hart
25	Shirley Baker Alison Marcum
28	Ashlyn Breckenridge
29	Alisa Romick Roget & Bonnie Nolin
30	Jeanne Van Genderen

## January Ushers and Greeters

January 6	Glen Duinink, Greg Duinink, Donna Stravers, Brenda Timmins
January 13	Glen Duinink, Greg Duinink, Donna Stravers, Brenda Timmins
January 20	Dave & Phyllis Miller, Donna Stravers, Brenda Timmins
January 27	Dave & Phyllis Miller, Donna Stravers, Brenda Timmins

## January Liturgist

January 6	Dianna Nolin
January 13	Melissa Van Der Hart
January 20	Jeanne Van Genderen
January 27	Founder's Day

## January Communion

January 6	Jan Phifer & Mary Vaske
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## Dodransbicentennial Fun Facts (175 year celebration)

January 1, 1844 the 1st edition of the New Rotterdam Daily was published

January 15, 1844 University of Notre Dame receives its charter in Indiana

# 2019 January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Office Closed	2 MOMs 9:00	3	4	5
						
6 Coffee Time 9:00 Sunday School 8:45 Worship with Communion 9:30	7 AA 7:00	8 Bible Study 9:00	9	10 Church Council 7:00	11	12
13 Coffee Time 9:00 Sunday School 8:45 Worship 9:30	14 AA 7:00	15 Bible Study 9:00	16 MOMs 9:00	17 Community Table 5-7	18	19
20 Coffee Time 9:00 Sunday School 8:45 Worship 9:30	21 AA 7:00	22 Bible Study 9:00	23	24	25	26
27 Founder's Day Coffee Time 9:00 Sunday School 8:45 Worship w/ Hospitality 9:30	28 AA 7:00	29 Bible Study 9:00	30	31		



# **Monroe United Methodist Church**

**Rev. Van Dickens, Pastor**

**(512) 574-7706**

**"We are a friendly, faithful, and loving family dedicated to sharing God with our neighbors."**

**MUMC Vision Statement**

**Sunday School 8:45-9:15**

**Coffee Time 9:00**

**Worship Service 9:30**



**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](mailto:monroeum@iowatelecom.net)

[www.monroeunitedmethodist.org](http://www.monroeunitedmethodist.org)