



St. Paul's United Methodist Church
201 S. Monroe St., Monroe, MI 48161
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February Newsletter



In - Person Worship will resume Sunday, February 21, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.



Services will look much like they did in the summer when we worshiped together. Here are a couple reminders of what Worship will look like for now:

1. Those in person will use bulletins, but we will not have hymnals or bibles in the pews.
2. We will continue to livestream the service on Facebook and post on Youtube later.
3. We will be doing contact tracing.
4. Please clear out of the building after Worship.
5. We ask that everyone wear a face mask.
6. There will be no children's church, Sunday School, or nursery.
7. Seating in pews will be spaced as before.

We will also open the building for small group and committee meetings on the 21st. Each room will have a maximum occupancy number posted on the door.

Please reach out if you have any further questions or concerns.

Valentine Care Packages: We are sending care packages to our St. Paul's college students and members serving in the military. Donations to fill these boxes would be most appreciated! Individually wrapped items like hot chocolate mixes, teas, ramen noodles, granola bars, gum, candy, microwave popcorn, small packs of tissues, pencils, note pads, & lip balm are always a big hit (no liquids, please). **If you would like to help, have your donation to the church by February 9, 2021.** There is a tote in the fellowship hall to collect your donations. Also, be sure to verify your student's or military person's address with the church office so they can be included. Thank you for caring and sharing!

Lenten Sermon Series & Weekly Study:

This year our Lenten series are based on “Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner’s Guide to Holy Week” by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine.

Jesus’ final days were full of risk. Every move he made was filled with anticipation, danger, and the potential for great loss or great reward.

Jesus risked his reputation when he entered Jerusalem in a victory parade. He risked his life when he dared to teach in the Temple. His followers risked everything when they left behind their homes, or anointed him with costly perfume. We take risks as we read and re-read these stories, finding new meanings and new challenges.

In *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner’s Guide to Holy Week*, author, professor, and biblical scholar Amy-Jill Levine explores the biblical texts surrounding the Passion story. She shows us how the text raises ethical and spiritual questions for the reader, and how we all face risk in our Christian experience.

Amy-Jill Levine is University Professor of New Testament and Jewish Studies and Mary Jane Werthan Professor of Jewish Studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School and College of Arts and Sciences. An internationally renowned scholar and teacher, she is the author of numerous books including *The Misunderstood Jew: The Church and the Scandal of the Jewish Jesus* and *The Meaning of the*

Bible: What the Jewish Bible and the Christian Old Testament Can Teach Us. She is also the co-editor of the *Jewish Annotated New Testament*.

The book’s six chapters include:

- Jerusalem: Risking Reputation
- The Temple: Risking Righteous Anger
- Teachings: Risking Challenge
- The First Dinner: Risking Rejection
- The Last Supper: Risking the Loss of Friends
- Gethsemane: Risking Temptation

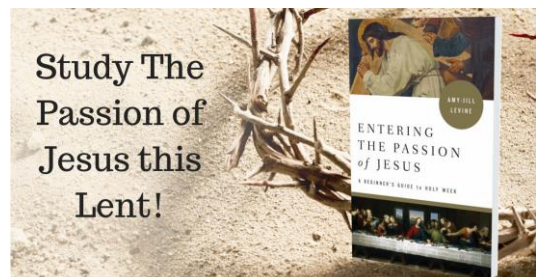
Each Sunday beginning February 17th we will base our worship on one chapter. Each Wednesday we will explore the same theme in more depth.

Our Lenten Study will be offered in two formats: Each **Wednesday evening at 6:00pm in Fellowship Hall** (Masked and with social distancing) **and again at 8:00pm via Zoom.**

Books are available for \$8.50 each in the church office. If you prefer, Amazon offers a Kindle version for \$9.39.

I am very excited about this Lenten experience! If you have questions, please contact me! 517-250-1879 or pastormelodyevano@gmail.com

Blessings, Pastor Melodye



New Email Address: Due to some issues we were having with our emails not reaching everyone on our lists, we created a new email address for the church:

monroestpaulsumc@gmail.com

Here are some things you need to know –

1. We will continue to check the old email address
2. Emails coming in to the old address are being forwarded to our new address for the next few weeks.
3. Be sure to add the new email to your address book
4. Check your spam folder to be sure we aren't in there
5. Please let us know if you continue to have any issues receiving correspondence from St. Paul's.

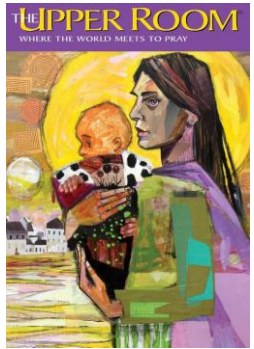
We appreciate your help with this, and we hope having the new email will solve our issues.

Drive Up Communion: Pastor Melodye will continue to offer Drive Up Communion on **the first Sunday of each month at 5:30pm**. Simply park in the church lot and Pastor will come to your car, wearing her mask and caring the blessed elements, and serve you and those in your vehicle Holy Communion. This has proven to be very successful and much appreciated by those who would rather not attend services right now, but would like to participate in Communion. Don't forget, if you would like to receive a home visit from Pastor Melodye and receive Communion there, please call the office to make those arrangements.



Office Hours: The office is open **Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:00am – 12:00 noon**. If you plan to come in, please wear a mask. Call ahead if there is something you need so we can get it ready for you! **Pastor Melodye is keeping office hours from 10am – 12pm on Wednesday mornings by appointment only**, so please call to schedule a meeting time if you'd like to talk with her. Please reach out if you have questions, concerns, or need anything during this time; 734-242-3000 or monroestpaulsumc@gmail.com.

2021 Calendars: Stop by the church office to pick up a 2021 calendar! Once again Bacarella Funeral Home has donated lovely calendars to us.



Upper Room Donations: If you enjoy the Upper Room devotional, please consider making a donation to help cover the cost of purchasing it. The UMW makes a yearly donation to help cover the It is about \$15 per person per year, but any donation you can make is appreciated.

Thank you for your support!

Offering Envelopes: 2021 Offering Envelopes are available in the church office. Please give us a call so we can grab them and set them on the counter for you. If you haven't used envelopes in the past but think you might like to, just let us know and we'll get you a set. Once again, don't forget you can give using direct debit from your checking or savings account and it can come out monthly or twice monthly.

2020 Giving Statements: If you have not picked up your 2020 giving statement, you may do so any time. They are available in the church office. If you prefer to have it mailed to you, just let us know. Thank you for your continued financial support of St. Paul's and our ministries.

Youtube: Did you know that St. Paul's has a youtube channel? We post our worship videos there each week so you can easily access them any time you wish. This is a nice option for people who don't use Facebook. You can find us by searching for "St. Paul's United Methodist Church Monroe Michigan" on the main Youtube.com site, or you can follow this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcXSCU1geH7Ay1WDubdfIEA>

February Liturgists:

February 7 th	Duane Bair	If you would be interested in serving as liturgist, please contact Judie Wiseman or the church office.
February 14 th	John VanOudheusden	
February 21 st	Cathy Tyner	
February 28 th	Mary Kay Hamilton	



American Red Cross Blood Drive: St.

Paul's is hosting a blood drive

Thursday, March 4th from 11:30am – 5:00pm.

To schedule an appointment, please call 1-800-RED-CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter sponsor code: STPAULMONROE. **Walk ins are not allowed at most locations at this time.** There will be no volunteers from St. Paul's needed for this blood drive. All workers will be trained Red Cross members who will follow CDC guidelines on sterilization and social distancing.

God Works! Volunteers Needed: Most of you know that St. Paul's hosts the God Works meal each Tuesday night to help feed the hungry in Monroe. But, you may not know that **every third Tuesday of the month St. Paul's is responsible for finding the volunteers** to purchase, prepare, and serve the meal. There aren't many groups signed up for 2021. Please consider taking a week to provide hot meals for those in need. We are still serving meals in carry-out fashion, so the process is pretty quick. If you have questions, or would like to sign up, please call the church office. You can also get in touch with Jeff Weaver if you have questions about the God Works! Program.

Ways to Give: We are thankful for technology that allows us to continue to give even though we are not meeting together right now. You can give your tithe and offering in many different ways:

- **Mail a check** to 201 S. Monroe St., Monroe, MI 48161.
- **Use the ACH form** to have funds electronically transferred once or twice a month directly from your checking or savings account.
- **Drop donations at the church** during the office hours listed above.
- We have established a **PayPal account** through the Michigan UMC Conference. There is a link on the St. Paul's website, or **scan the QR Code with your smart phone camera (just like you are going to take a picture of it) and an option to go to the PayPal site should pop right up.**



February Birthdays:

3 – Harriet Welch
4 – Kelly Smith
5 – Jennifer Benavente,
Kelly Robert Leask
6 – Heaven Lambert
7 – Julie Pillarelli
9 – Emma Lee,
Cynthia Cichy
12 – Brandon Dutton
13 – Karen Zeestraten
14 – Alice Hoffman
15 – Paul Stanifer,
Mary Vergowven
19 – Franklin Hudkins
20 – Sally Jaynes,
Stephanie Metzger
22 – Samuel Low
23 – Rhonda Schmidt
24 – Adel Ivey,

Velma Mumby
26 – Pascale Clevinger,
Barbara Pierce
27 – John Cichy
28 – Colleen Baker

March Birthdays:

2 – Dorothy Mortiboy
5 – Josephine Mehki
7 – Kyle Leask
8 – Audrey Cooley
10 – Dennis Vergowven
11 – Cathy Brodie,
Blaine Zimmerman
12 – Christopher Butson
14 – Griffin Linn
16 – Lynne Allen
17 – Jaxon Kittle,
Chloe Pabin

18 – Kelsey Pabin
22 – Jordyn Helser-Young,
Cathy Spalding
23 – John Salisbury
26 – Kaylee Allen,
Charlotte Dinwoody,
Lauren McCain,
Taylor Thompson
27 – Susan Helser,
Fritz Shull
28 – Amy Smith
29 – Gabriella LaRoy
30 – Michelle Davis



Did we miss someone? Please let us know!

Remember in your prayers: St. Paul's has been praying for the following members over the past few months for various reasons. Please continue to pray for them, that the Lord will give them what they need most right now...

Maxine Clute, Chet and Judy Bodenmiller, Rosemary Sutton,
Stephanie Minor (a friend of the Ivey family),

Jack and Fran Rayce and their family in the passing of Jack's mother Alberta,
those waiting to receive their first or second dose of the COVID vaccine,
those who are hurting and lonely.

Do you have a prayer request you'd like your church family to know about? Contact the church office so we can alert the prayer chain. If you'd like to be part of the prayer chain, let us know. Please note: due to the confident nature of some prayer requests, we always seek the permission of those the prayer request involves before we send it out in the prayer chain. Thank you for your understanding.