

Church & Community Newsletter

MONROE, NEW HAMPSHIRE

April/May 2012

The Pastor's Corner

By Pastor Don

Right track, or wrong track? That's a question that polls of the public are asking. Are we as a country, as an economy, as a society on a right track for jobs and prosperity, or are we on a wrong track that puts our country and its people at risk? We'll be voting next fall with our answer.

But how would we answer that same question, if it was asked about our lives, our values, choices or decisions? Most of us would acknowledge that in significant ways we have been on the "wrong track": in how we buy or spend, in how we pattern our lives, in how we balance work and family and personal needs.

One of the benefits that our Monroe Community Church offers (and other churches too, of course) is space and time and opportunity to consider those issues. And in the process we invite people, both regular participants and visitors, to hit a "reset" button on their lives and values, by connecting us to the Source of life, the Creator whose providential care has made it all possible.

I sense that we miss or avoid those moments, perhaps because we are feeling too busy, or don't want to face those questions about where our lives are really headed.

Think about it. You are given 168 hours every week. Even after all the necessary and routine things we do with work and home and family, we have choices on how to spend the rest. To invest one or two to keep the rest in balance, on a "right track" by considering our lives in a new perspective could be a benefit to all of us. That (hopefully) is what happens, when we gather as the Church, as people seeking a better direction for our living.

Want to give it a try? Come share that hour with us at Monroe Community Church at 9a.m. Sunday mornings, or connect again with another faith community. It might offer a way to get your own life more "on track" and bring more satisfaction and joy to you and your family.

United Methodist Women

The Monroe Church United Methodist Women will meet at 2:00 p.m. on April 11th; Marlene Munson and Priscilla Locke are hostesses.

The May meeting at 2 p.m. on the 9th. Location to be determined. Watch the weekly announcements for details.

Special Palm Sunday

April 1st is Palm Sunday, the day which ushers us into Holy Week, and reminds us of the important and tragic events that surrounded the final week of the life of Jesus of Nazareth.

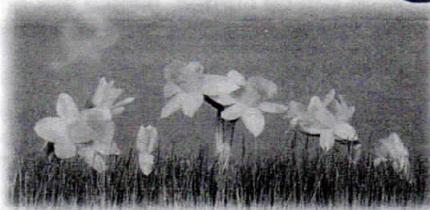
This year we are beginning our worship on that day led by the children and youth of our Confirmation Class and Sunday School. Singing and dancing will capture the joy of those first Palm Sunday participants, who welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem.

Come and join us to celebrate: 9 a.m. at our Monroe Community Church.

Easter at Monroe Church

A 7 a.m. sunrise service on the steps of the Monroe Community Church will usher in our Easter celebration, just as the sun rises over Hunt Mountain. That is followed by a breakfast in the fellowship room, and then we join in the 9 a.m. Easter Worship with special music for the day. Come join us!!

Village



Wednesday School

April 4th will be the last day for this school year. We'll look forward to a once a month Wednesday School in May and June and a week long Vacation Bible School program in July.

Our thanks to everyone who helped to make this a wonderful time for our children.

Sunday School

Sunday School will continue at 9 through May 27th at the Village Church

Confirmation

Class will meet April 1st and 15th from 1-4pm.

The Service will take place on May 27th at the Village Church.



Currently there is no coordinator for Monroe. If you are interested in this volunteer position, please contact the selectmen.

Forest Fire Warden

It is early, but fire permits are now required for all outside fires since there is no snow on the ground.

Maynard Farr, Warden	638-2612
Rick Ames, Fire Chief	747-3530
Russell Brown, Asst. Fire Chief	638-2294
Glenn Wagner, Deputy Warden	638-3007
Richard Cinnamon, Deputy Warden	638-2774

Remember that you can only burn between the hours of 5 pm and 9 am unless it is raining. Only clean wood or brush can be burned. No "trash or painted wood"! If you have any questions as to what can be burned, please ask any of the wardens.

Monroe Garden Club

The Garden Club is geared up for a busy season. They will be doing some clean-up in community gardens within the next month as well replanting a garden in the park that has recently had a tree removed from it. They will also be planting annuals later throughout the town. The plant sale will be June 2, again in conjunction with the town-wide yard sale and will be in front of the Monroe Church. If anyone has perennials that they would like to donate, it would be greatly appreciated.

They are checking into conservation camps and would like to sponsor children who are interested in going. There will be more information out soon and they hope there will some interest.

There are not many members, so if anyone is interested in joining they would be welcomed.

Town-Wide Yard Sale

This year's date is *Saturday, June 2nd*. There is no set cost for participating, but in order to pay for advertising we do ask for donations. Let the library know if you are interested in participating by calling 638-4736 or sending your name, street address and donation to PO Box 67.

Monroe School PTF

The PTF will be hosting a Cinco de Mayo Potluck & Celebration on Friday May 4th at 6:00 pm. More details coming soon!

Also, our meetings are now being held on the first TUESDAY of every month at 6:30 PM in the school Library. Please feel free to join us anytime!

Church Survey Results

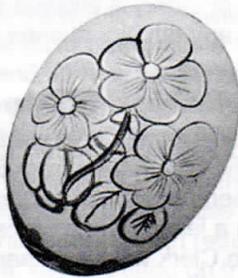
Thank you to everyone who returned their survey. We ended up with a 14% response rate, which is just about average for a mass-mailed survey. This allowed us to analyze results based on MCC members and non-members, and get some great learning. We found:

- Between 20% - 40% of the town is unaware of some of the programs the church runs or they do not know the church is involved. Biggest knowledge gaps were: Thanksgiving Food Baskets, Christmas Aid, and the newest program, the Angel Tree.
- Surprisingly, some people are also unaware of the link to the church in long-standing programs such as the Chicken BBQ or the Memory Tree.
- People are interested in both a website and news on Facebook to learn about church activities and programs. These could be good ways to get the word out about the programs the church has.
- New programs of interest included: Chore Corps, Good Morning Phone Calls, and Food Pantry or Share-A-Ride. Most encouraging, over 40% of respondents provided information about how to contact them for volunteering. Rest assured, you'll be getting a call or an e-mail soon!

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- The church is seen as "strong and vibrant" by members and non-members alike.
- Church members do wish to make some changes to attract new members (60% say so), while still preserving traditional beliefs and practices. One area that could be changed without changing what the church stands for is music. 88% of respondents were interested in one of several new styles.

The full results of the survey are available at www.monroetown.com/church.aspx, at the Village Church, or you can get a copy from Don or Mary Elise Thomas.



Easter Cakes

The North Country Chorus will once again be selling their Easter cakes. The chocolate and yellow egg shaped cakes that are frosted in yellow and lilac are just \$15. If you are interested in purchasing one, please contact Edith Ann Emery at 638-2508 by Monday April 2nd.

North Country Chorus would also like to remind you that there will be a concert in early May. Details are not set yet, so the time and place will be announced.

Unfinished Objects (U.F.O.)

Hobby Night

April 20th and May 18th at 6:30 pm at the Public Library

We always have coffee, tea and cocoa available and you are welcome to bring a snack to share. Bring whatever project you are working on and come have a good time with us.

Public Library

We will be closed on Memorial Day

Book Sale

We will hold a sale on Saturday June 2nd to coincide with the town-wide yard sale. We ask that you hold onto any donations though until mid-May so we can continue with our basement remodeling project.

Our American Girls and Their Dolls

Doll enthusiasts continue to have fun getting together with other girls and their dolls while playing games and crafting things for themselves and their dolls. If you are interested in attending, please contact the library. Right now the plan is to get together after school on Thursday, April 26th (it is an early release day) for crafts and a movie.

Monroe Men's Club

The Monroe Men's Club held its last meeting of the season on March 12th. We will continue meeting in October.

Scholarships

If you are a high school senior planning on furthering your education and have not received information on the Monroe Men's Club scholarship, please contact Maynard Farr, Secretary at 638-2612. The deadline for applications is May 4th.

Monroe Fast Squad



The Fast Squad recently purchased this 2002 Ambulance. This is a big upgrade from the previous one.

Large Trash Days

April 21
May 19
July 21
September 15

At the Municipal Building from 9 AM – 3 PM
(NO EARLY BIRDS)
The amount per household is limited to one cord, or
one vehicle, or a trailer measuring 4x4x8.

Community Church Easter Egg Hunt

Sat, April 7th at the North Monroe Church

1pm for crafts and games with the egg hunt to
follow around 2pm.

Family and Friends of Monroe are welcome

Monroe Community Church
26 Woodsville Road
P.O. Box 179
Monroe, NH 03771-0179

Community Newsletter

POSTAL PATRON
MONROE, NH 03771

From the Town Clerk...

The Town Clerk's Office will be closed
Thursday, April 5th due to training.

All town offices will be closed for Memorial
Day, Monday May 28th.

Dog Licenses

All dogs must be licensed by April 30th or risk penalties
and fines. Please remember to bring in your papers
with the dogs latest rabies shot information when you
come in. Spayed or neutered dogs are \$7.50 each. If
not spayed or neutered, the dog will cost \$10.00. Each
senior citizen (65 or older) is allowed one dog at the
rate of \$2.00 and any additional ones will be charged
the regular price.

Rabies Clinic

The Ryegate Small Animal Clinic will hold a Rabies
Clinic on Thursday, March 29th from 6pm to 7pm at the
clinic. Please remember to take your cats in a carrier
and your dogs on a leash or in a carrier.
The Monroe Town Clerk will be on hand to do any
licensing that is needed.

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