

Chimes
 Prelude “Great Day” Arr. David Schelat
 Choral Introit (11:00) “Wonderful Light” Karen Crane/Arr. Stewart Harris
 Welcome Pastor Monica
 Announcements Roz Evans/Kathy Burnett
 *Hymn “We Three Kings” 254
 *Call to Worship Roz Evans/Kathy Burnett

One: A story that began in the dark of night has moved into a starlit miracle.

Many: Their story gives us hope that God still sends light for us to follow.

One: We come today knowing we too are on a journey.

Many: May we be faithful followers of the light of God so that we too can be bearers of hope and justice for a dark and lonely world.

*Unison Prayer Roz Evans/Kathy Burnett

God of love, from generation to generation, across nations, cultures and beliefs, we see evidence of you. Let your light continue to shine in our hearts and help us to make a reality Your desire for a world filled with justice and peace. May that light ever shine, and may it lead us always to You. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Special Music “As With Gladness, Men of Old” Arr. David Lantz III
 Recorded by Marti and Dave Lantz

Call to Offering Pastor Monica

Offertory “We Three Kings” Arr. Heather Sorenson

*Presentation of Gifts “Doxology” 95

*Prayer of Dedication Roz Evans/Kathy Burnett

Holy God, we present these gifts with love. We rejoice in our ability to share, but long to do more. Help us to be like the magi and carefully plan the gifts we bring you. May we not be satisfied with what is enough, but instead be inspired to do more. May these gifts be used so others may know the light that is found in you. In Christ’s name, we pray. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson Isaiah 60:1-6 Roz Evans/Kathy Burnett

*Gospel Lesson Matthew 2:1-12 Roz Evans/Kathy Burnett

Children’s Message Pastor Monica

Praise Song “Another Year Is Dawning”
 Frances R. Havergal, Samuel S. Wesley

Sermon “Darkness for Light” Pastor Monica
(I want my listeners to exchange the darkness of the world for the light of the world.)

Choir Anthem (11:00) “We Come Together Here”
 J. Paul Williams and James M. Stevens

Invitation Pastor Monica

Prayer of Confession Pastor Monica

Holy God, you set a star to guide us and a child to lead us. We confess that we let our hearts grow cold and dark to match the weather, rather than face our transgressions. In the cold, dim winter, God's light is hard to see. We long to hear God's message to unburden our hearts.

God calls us to repentance and offers us the light of Christ. We pray, Amen.

(Moment of Silence)

This Week's Schedule

Today 8:30 & 11:00am Worship/Communion
 9:45am Sunday School - Children through Adult
 10:00am Choir Rehearsal
 2:00pm Soup Kitchen

Monday 10:00am Pastors Meeting - Conference Room
 1:30pm Regional Meetings
 7:00pm Stitch & Pray Small Group

Tuesday 9:00am Stroudsburg Clergy Group
 1:30pm Downtown Clergy
 6:30pm M & E Meeting

Wednesday 10:15am Bible Study
 11:15am Worship Planning - Conference Room
 12:00pm Open Sanctuary
 12:15pm Prayer on Wednesdays - Live on Facebook and in the Sanctuary
 6:00pm Cub Scouts
 7:00pm Giving and Funding Committee

Thursday 10:00am History Committee
 7:00pm Scouts

Next Sunday 8:30 & 11:00am Worship
 9:45am Sunday School - Children through Adults
 10:00am Choir Rehearsal
 12:30pm Coffee with the Pastor
 2:00pm Soup Kitchen

Prayer List - Joys and Concerns

Our Troops Todd Martin

First Responders, EMT’s, Police Officers, Firefighters Prayer Mailboxes

Special Person of the Week: Doris Philips, 1170 West Main Street, Room #132, Stroudsburg, PA 18360. Please remember her in prayer and if possible, please send a card.

Words of Assurance Pastor Monica

The Great Thanksgiving and The Lord’s Prayer Pastor Monica

The Reception of Bread and Cup Pastor Monica

Prayer After Receiving Roz Evans/Kathy Burnett

*Hymn “There’s a Song in the Air” 249

*Benediction and Sending Pastor Monica

*Choir Benediction Response (11:00) “Peace Go With You”
 John Parker and Douglas Nolan

*Postlude “March of the Three Kings” Arr. Roger C. Wilson

*Rise in body or in spirit.

Bold Print = Say in unison.

PASTOR MONICA WILL BE ON VACATION for her birthday on January 9th. All necessary pastoral care concerns can be directed to the office. She will return to the pulpit on January 12th.

SOUP KITCHEN Pitch in with your family or a few friends to serve our neighbors. Sign up to prepare and/or serve a meal for our neighbors with the soup kitchen. **We are filling in the 2025 calendar. Please contact Jackie in the office with your interest and availability to serve.**

PAINT THE TOWN RED For the Holiday season again this year, we are collaborating with Christ Episcopal Church and St. John’s Lutheran to paint the town with holiday bows. You can help end food insecurity and brighten up the town by purchasing one. \$25 for a bow. Consider giving in honor or in memory of someone for \$35; your name or honor will be added. See the office for more information. Funds will benefit CEC Food Pantry, SUMC Soup Kitchen, St. John’s Food Pantry, Roots Ministry and Street2Feet Outreach Ministry.

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES are available in the Fellowship Room. Please pick up your box after worship today.

END OF YEAR STATEMENTS will be mailed this week.

COFFEE WITH THE PASTOR Sunday, January 12th after the 11 o’clock worship service. Bring questions and curiosities. Come if you are interested in joining the church or if you would like more information.

Connection Card

Welcome Members & Visitors!

Please let us know how we can help each other this week:

Name _____

Address _____

Email/Phone _____

Prayer requests, needs, comments:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Good morning! Check in on Facebook! [Facebook.com/StroudsburgUMC](https://www.facebook.com/StroudsburgUMC)
Whether you are visiting with us or you are a member, WELCOME! Please fill out the "Connection Card" in your bulletin today and place it in the offering plate. Help yourself to a copy of our weekly eNews in the back of the sanctuary. We are glad that you are here today!

SERVING YOU TODAY:

Head Ushers: DeAnn Harris, C.J. Penwell, Soundboard: Jackie Herrero, Alisabeth Guepet; Camera: Alex Herrero, Felicity Guepet; Streaming: Kevin Kopec, Adelle/Bella Kopec

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS ARE Roz Evans and Kathy Burnett

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are presented in honor of Pastor Monica's birthday. Happy birthday!

THE WHITE BANNER hangs in memory of William Dildine, given by the Dildine family.

WINTER WEATHER Wondering about winter weather and snow? How will you know if the worship service is canceled? Announcements will be posted by 7am on the Sunday morning regarding worship. You can check your emails for cancellation or the church Facebook page. Feel free to share the news with others as well. Our congregation comes from a large geographic area. The weather in town might be different from the accumulation or the road conditions in Tobyhanna, Analomink or even East Stroudsburg. Please use your best discretion for travel. If there is a service, you can worship online.

We cordially welcome each visitor, member and friend to our Stroudsburg United Methodist Church. We pray that God will touch your life through the worship and fellowship we share. If you would like to make Stroudsburg United Methodist YOUR church, please mention your interest to the Pastor at the end of the service.

Stroudsburg United Methodist Church
547 Main Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
570-421-6020

CHURCH STAFF:

Lead Pastor	The Rev. Monica B. Guepet, M. Div.
Pastor of Visitation	Pastor Margie Good, M. Ed.
Church Secretary	Jackie Herrero
Choir Director	Aram Tchobanian
Organist	Marti Lantz
Youth Leader	Downtown Youth Initiative
Custodian	Gina Cristi

CHURCH LEADERS:

Daniel's Dream Team	Chairperson, Jenny Bogart
Worship	Chairperson, Pastor Monica Guepet
Giving and Funding Committee	Chairperson, C. J. Penwell
Property & Building	Chairperson, Kay Bucci
Staff Parish Relations Committee	Chairperson, Buddy Rambo
Missions	Chairperson, Amanda Miller
Membership & Evangelism	Chairperson, Peggy Stewart
Co-Lay Leaders	Jeanette Kuhns, Jeremy Miller

*Church Office Hours - Monday-Thursday 9:00am-4:30pm;
Friday 9:00am-3:00pm*

Facebook.com/Stroudsburg UMC

Instagram: stroudsburgumc

Giving is easier than ever. Use this QR code to give to the general fund or special ministry. Contact the office for more information.



*Stroudsburg United Methodist Church
Stroudsburg, PA
The Worship of God
January 5, 2025*



Gather! Grow! Make a Difference - Together!

www.stroudsburgumc.com
sumc@stroudsburgumc.com

Our Mission
Share the love of Jesus in
welcoming & compassionate ways.

Would you like to receive our weekly eNews?

Email address _____

How did you learn about our church?

Friend/Family Internet/Website

Other

What I/we look for in a church _____

Please circle your age group: 18-23 24-35 36-49 50-64 65+