

The Circuit Rider

MONTVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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Summer, 2022

MONTVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

STAFF

Pastor	Donald Kirschner
Music Director (New!)	Steve Ginefra
Children/Youth Leader	Karen Ausland
Sexton (New!)	Mike Wade



Meet Our New Staff!

As of July, we have a new music director at Montville UMC! Finding the next music director God was calling to our church certainly took much longer than any of the members on our Staff Parish Relations Committee expected (nine months to be exact). Given this time frame, some joked that we “birthed” a new music director! And we are grateful for this gift of life that has been brought to us after this season of expectancy. I’d say this longer-than-expected period of waiting and transition has made us all the more grateful for the gift we now have. So, who is our new music director? His name is Steve Ginefra, and we wanted to open this newsletter by telling you a little bit more about him.

Steve has been a lover of music for decades. He began guitar lessons at age 10, having been inspired by The Beatles debut on American TV. Then, after hearing the pipe organ several years later, he decided to become an organist and church musician. He majored in Music at Rutgers University in the 70's, and has been a music director at many different churches for over 40 years. He has also taught piano and guitar for many years, thus, coming to us at Montville UMC with much talent and experience.

Aside from music, Steve’s interests include art, Gothic architecture, and nature. He has a brother, two sisters, four nieces, and two nephews. Steve has resided in Clifton, NJ for the past thirty years, and is very pleased to be serving at Montville UMC. In a conversation Pastor Donald had with Steve, Steve mentioned that small groups can accomplish huge things, speaking to how much goodness you can get out of even a few people. That being said, we hope you’ll consider being a part of our music ministry in some way in the months ahead! For, however small we may start out, great things can come.

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Every church that Steve has had the privilege of serving in has been expanded and developed further in some way through his music ministry. We are confident that he will be able to help us do the same at Montville UMC, for we believe God has called Steve here for this season and time to help us further the mission and ministry God is calling us to. We can't wait to see how God uses Steve's gifts and abilities to help lead us into a future full of potential and possibility. What are some of your hopes and visions for the music ministry? What would you like to see? We encourage you to get to know Steve and share those things with him.

Since our last newsletter, we have also added to our staff a sexton named Mike Wade. Mike, who also serves as the sexton at Boonton UMC (which makes him sexton²!), has replaced our former cleaning service we previously had. Aside from making the church look spiffy each week, Mike will also, on occasion, help with maintenance projects that might be needed around the church. If you're wondering who to thank for the clean floors and delightful scents when you walk into the church, you know who to thank! And if, by chance, you happen to encounter Mike, you just might find yourself walking away with a smile and a laugh from this humorous man of God who is, likewise, excited to be a part of our team at Montville UMC.

An Invitation to Serve: Please Pray & Consider

Although we have filled our biggest staff opening with Steve, and even brought on an additional staff role with Mike, we are looking to fill one of our biggest *volunteer* roles in the coming months: treasurer. If you are someone who is gifted in organization and administration or have the spiritual gift of helping, giving, or faith, this could be just the role for you! Or, if you're someone who is new to something like this, but are someone who is willing to learn, that is, arguably, the greatest asset of all to have: an open mind and a willing heart.

Since the volunteer role of treasurer is a big job, we are considering splitting this role into two parts for two people. We thank Debbie Stoeckel immensely for her countless years of service in this role, and Debbie looks forward to working alongside and training the person(s) who are willing to volunteer their time and gifts in this way. Should you say yes to this opportunity, know that you will be given all you need to be prepared to serve in this role. Please consider and pray on this, letting Pastor Donald know if this is a role you are willing to serve in.

We are also looking for volunteers to:

- Count the offering every week.
- Welcome people as they come into the church.
- Hand out bulletins on Sunday mornings.
- Be liturgists in worship, reading parts of our service liturgy like the call to worship and scripture reading.

We hope you'll consider!

Special Message from Our Children/Youth Leader

I hope you are enjoying your summer and getting to enjoy some sun and fun with your family.

As I prepare for our upcoming Sunday school year, I was thinking about how important the children's ministry is and how blessed I have been to be a part of it. We have a wonderful group of children who seem eager to learn about God and be a part of our church family. Please join me in keeping our children's ministry a top priority. It continues to be my pleasure to teach your children.

Our Sunday School classes will begin this year on Sunday, September 11th, 2022. As in the past, our Sunday School classes will be dismissed from church right after the children's message. If you have any questions or have anything you would like to share with me regarding our ministry, please feel free to contact me either by email karenausland@yahoo.com or by phone 201-841-9034.

Again, thank you for your support.

God's Blessings,

Karen Ausland

Children/Youth Education Leader

Fundraisers Past and Fundraisers Coming

Thank you to all those who helped out with our first ever Vintage Trunk Treasures Sale in June! We raised \$477 through this church fundraiser, and we couldn't have done it without you!

That being said, we hope you'll not only join us, but help us with/volunteer for our next church fundraiser on Saturday, October 8th. We'll be having a Silent Auction and, pandemic permitting, a dinner as well!

Also, if you're available, plan to join us Saturday, September 3rd for our next Road Clean-Up! This is also something that helps to earn money for the mission and ministry of our church.

Special Giving Opportunities

Earlier this year, our Finance Team sent out a letter updating everyone on where we stand financially thus far in 2022, and requesting support to continue funding our Children/Youth Education Leader position. Although we have received some donations (thank you to all our previous donors and recent donors thus far!) we are continuing to encourage donations to help fund this important position from the fall through the spring.

On another note, if wanting to help offset some of the costs of maintenance for our church, know that you can designate additional checks to say things like the following in the memo line on your check: "Sponsor-a-Mow," "Oil," or other. We know many have been feeling the pinch lately with the rising prices of common necessities such as food and fuel. Mindful that there has been, and will likely continue to be, an increase to the cost of common necessities for the church, we hope you'll consider helping to offset some of these costs.

Also, our finance team is excited to announce that we are creating a narrative budget that we plan to have ready by the end of the year. A narrative budget is something that tells the story of our church. We have been meeting each month to take next steps in developing this, and we hope you can be a part of helping us tell the story of our church. Beyond the numbers, we want people to see and know the life, the beauty, the impact of what we do here at MUMC, and to be invited into all we do and are as we continue striving to be a loving, inclusive, integrity-filled, and supportive church that offers hope and purpose to all people. During worship on July 24th, Pastor Donald asked during our Bright Spot, "What do you love about Montville UMC?" Many congregants mentioned various things, and we hope you'll consider writing up something and offering a testimonial that we can include in our narrative budget.

Shop Rite Gift Cards Are Available

How does this fundraiser work? You simply order your Shop Rite gift cards from us at the regular price. The church purchases the cards from ShopRite at a 5% discount. Cards are available in denominations of \$25, \$50 and \$100. Checks should be made payable to Montville UMW. Cards can be used at any ShopRite. For further information, contact Linda Anderson at 973-632-5509 or ljanderson07082@aol.com.

New Partnership & Ministry Housed in Our Church

Starting in August, our church will be housing Ava's Closet in our building! Ava's Closet is a nonprofit that distributes clothing to foster children and their families. You can find out more about them and the work they do at avascloset.org. Lisa Verdon-Roche is the leader of this wonderful nonprofit, and we know this will be a great relationship that is right in line with our mission as a church. We are excited to see the ways in which this will be a blessing to our church and overall community!



Mark Your Calendars:

Church Work Day: Saturday, August 13th from 8am to 12 noon. Come for as much or as little as you can! Not available that day? See Pastor Donald or one of our Trustees to see what can be helped with.

Movie Night: Wednesday, August 24th (Time TBD) at Montville UMC (especially for kids and families!)

Skylands UMW Communion Brunch: Saturday, October 22, 9am-4pm at Montville UMC

Other Opportunities with Boonton UMC to Mark on Your Calendar

United Methodist Women's High Tea: Saturday, August 6th at 1:30pm at the High SocieTea House (20 Old Newark Pompton Turnpike, Wayne, NJ). Cost will be \$27, which includes tax and tip. Email Gail Laird at glrc@optonline.net to RSVP.

Skylands Ballpark Game: Friday, August 19th at 7:00pm, with tailgate before. The address of the stadium is 94 Championship Place, Augusta, NJ. Email Mark Arnowitz at mark.arnowitz@yahoo.com to reserve your tickets today. Tickets are \$17 each.

Get Excited for Sunday School this Fall!

A hundred years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove, but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child. - Forest Witcraft

WE MISS YOU!!



We hope you are enjoying your summer vacation.

We will start back to Sunday School on
Sunday, September 11, 2022
9:30 am

We hope to see you all there!

Children are like wet cement. But remember, we only have a short window of time until the wet cement turns to concrete. We must impress God's Word, wisdom and ways into their lives while we have the opportunity.
- Dale Hudson

And get excited about something our church is going to be getting ready for starting this fall!

Montville United Methodist Church

**Christmas Play
The Little Star: A Christmas Musical**



**Auditions will be held in September
Rehearsal Dates: TBD**

**If you are interested in being a part of the fun, email
Satterbuy29@gmail.com to be on the mailing list**

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