

The Monroe Doctrine



April 2024

Finding Balance between Church and Sports



The beginning of spring marks the opening of the spring and summer season of youth sports. Playing a sport offers many positives for kids. It

promotes exercise and health and gives them a chance to learn what it looks like to be part of a team. Athletes learn to respect and cooperate with their coach and discover that if you want to get better at something, you keep practicing. It's also an opportunity to make new friends.

As kids get older and the amount of time practicing and playing increases, family calendars fill up. Many people already feel overwhelmed by busyness, so adding another activity adds to the pressure of the constant “go-go-go.” Sometimes games or practices are scheduled on Sunday and can conflict with worship. What can Christian parents and grandparents do to maintain a healthy balance between sports and church involvement? Further, how can faith and athletics fit together so that God might be glorified?

First is a potential caution to parents. Is your child driving the athletic interest and aspiration? Or are they driven by mom and dad? As parents, we want to encourage but not push our kids into sports (or other activities, for that matter) because

it's what we want for them. Pay attention to their interests, inclinations, and abilities.

Then weigh the costs. The commitment to sports (or other activities) can carry a sizable price tag monetarily – is that the best investment for your family or child? In some situations, parents may pay the equivalent of college tuition by the time their child is 16 years old. But it also consumes much of the calendar. As the level becomes more advanced and serious, more intense practice schedules, training, and travel to distant competitions demand more time. It might even cut into family vacations.

Find ways to keep church and faith a priority. This can be challenging, but it is important to teach kids that gathering with other believers in worship is a valuable part of living your faith. Does that mean your family can't participate in sports? Not at all. Teach kids to weigh and embrace the consequences of missing practices or games. For a season, church might look different. Keep leading your family spiritually at home. Ask your church for resources to use at home. Look for opportunities to attend church at a time other than Sunday morning. When you travel, find a church to attend or watch a worship service online. When there's not a scheduling conflict, take your family to church to model the importance of worship.

View sports as a mission opportunity. Instead of scrolling on your phone at games, get to know other parents. When we get to know other people through relationships, we discover opportunities

to share the love of God and the good news of Jesus with them. Teach your kids that everywhere we go, we have a chance to show Jesus to others by the words we say and the way we act. That includes coaches, teammates, referees/umpires, other players, and all the families in attendance.

Making wise decisions about sports for your family can set the tone for future years on and off the field. Approaching involvement in a well-planned way is important as it honors your family's time and resources. And remember that every place you and your family go, it's a chance to show others God's glory.

Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith: Starts April 14

Everyone has doubts. Where is God when bad things happen? Does God hear our prayers? Is there a heaven? How can we know? Often, we treat such questions as the enemy of faith. But uncertainty doesn't mean our belief is lacking. Doubt can be a path to a deeper, richer encounter with God.

Even those first disciples of Jesus had their doubts. One of the most intriguing phrases in the Gospel of Matthew is found in Matthew 28:17. It says that after Jesus' resurrection, the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had directed them. And "When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted."

In fact, there is a sense in which doubt is an inherent part of faith. Jude tells us to "have mercy on those who doubt" (Jude 1:22). It is important that we ask the hard questions and wrestle through our doubts to make sure that what we believe is really true! So, it is possible to worship and have doubts – at the same time.

In our new sermon series, *Wrestling with Doubt, Finding Faith*, we'll explore six common sources of doubt and discover how a steady trust in God can emerge from them. Themes during the series will include:

- Is there a God?

- The Good Book? Wrestling with the Bible
- Are all non-Christians going to hell?
- Is heaven real?
- When prayers go unanswered
- Why do the innocent suffer?

This series will help longtime Christians, those new to the faith, and those still searching grow in belief and trust and discover the mystery of faith. In that way, it is a great time to invite friends and family to share worship with us. Invitation cards are available at the church to help invite others to join you.

Potluck, April 14 at Noon



You are invited to a Church Potluck dinner on Sunday, April 14, following the second worship service. Chicken and drinks are provided; please bring a side dish or dessert to share. We'll spend time together in Atchley Hall. Sponsored by the Mission Team.

Thanks Be to God for your Generosity!

So far this year we have celebrated two UM Special Sundays and received offerings. You have given \$130 for Human Relations Day in January and \$240 for UMCOR Sunday (through 3/10).

Each week, you generously bring in nonperishable food items for both the Blessing Box outside our church and the Food Pantry at the Monroe Church of the Nazarene. You have shared gifts of money and Easter egg candy for our *Pancakes with the Easter Bunny*.

In addition, you have responded to our request for support to replace failed and failing air conditioning units by giving \$20,590 of \$42,171 needed (49% of goal, as of 3/10/2024). Your gifts are still needed to make our goal and provide a comfortable place for worship and ministry to occur year round.

Thank you for your faithful giving. You can

continue to give to any of these special offerings at any time by simply marking it (payable to Monroe UMC) with the name of the offering.

Native American Ministries Sunday

Serving in a rural town of 9,000, Clinton Indian Church and Community Center is a hub for tribal life and a place of refuge for young people. Besides being a place of worship, the Clinton church offers tutoring classes, free haircuts for students, and the community a place for Cheyenne and Arapaho health fairs and other events. The program serves 38 children in kindergarten through high school.

The program includes Bible lessons, arts and crafts, and learning tribal hymns in Cheyenne and Arapaho. It offers children and youth the ability to embrace tribal culture, traditions, and ceremonies. Everything taught and shared with the children and youth about Jesus is relatable in everyday living. Traditional ways are reflected in the lessons about Jesus and his ministry. The kids feel so comfortable at the church that they often fall asleep in the pews. This is their refuge. This is their place of safety and peace.

Native American Ministries Sunday – this year, April 14 – is one of six United Methodist Special Sundays that invest in transforming communities, empowering leaders, and building up ministries of peace with justice. Concentrating our resources to support shared ministries equips us to step into a grace-filled new beginning with faithful determination.

To give an offering supporting Native American Ministries, write a check to Monroe UMC with “NAMS” in the memo line, or mark your envelope “NAMS.” When giving online at <https://www.MonroeUMC.org>, click Give, select Other, and type “NAMS” in the Note field.

Thank you for generously making a difference in the lives of many people in the name of the Risen Christ.

Help for Families affected by Mental Illness











"NAMI Family & Friends" is coming to Monroe UMC on Tuesday, April 9, 6-8 pm. "Family & Friends" is a FREE seminar that informs and supports people who have loved ones with a mental health condition, or anyone interested in learning more about mental health disorders. Participants learn about diagnoses, treatment, recovering, communication strategies, crisis preparation, and NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) resources. Seminar leaders have personal experience with mental health conditions in their families, which provides participants with the opportunity to learn about mental health directly from the families of people with mental health conditions. Sign up at nami-bc.org/class-registration or questions to info@nami-bc.org.

SCUBA VBS is July 7-11

Let's ALL dive deep for Jesus! It's a great opportunity to minister to children! Please donate old plastic storage bowls (the larger, the better). We also need LOTS of bottle caps and jar lids of all sizes (pop, water, applesauce, juice, etc.) to make coral decorations. Need a VBS take-home project? Contact Gina Craft.

A devotional by Monica Bolton

How many times do we do something wrong and instead of getting the results we expect (reaping what we sow), God blesses us instead (to our surprise), with good results. Though we don't deserve them, he gives them to us anyway. The perfect example of this is Easter. Jesus suffered and died the most cruel, agonizing, and humiliating death on the cross and rose again so that we could have eternal life. We could never do enough, or anything at all, on our own to earn this salvation for ourselves. God loved us so much, that he sent Jesus as the ultimate sacrifice in our place. No, we didn't deserve it, but he did it anyway. What kind of love is that?

		Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
31	 <p>9:30am Contemporary Worship/AH 11:00am Traditional Worship/Sanctuary</p>	1	<p>Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 6:30pm Bible Study/Small FH 7:00pm Scouts/AH</p>	2	<p>10:00am Share Group/Parlor</p>	3	<p>11:00am Yoga/AH 12:00pm Yoga/Narthex 6:00pm – 7:30pm Youth Group</p>	4	<p>1:00pm Bible Study/AH</p>	5	<p>10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH</p>	6	<p>8:00am – 2:00pm Emmaus Men's Meeting/AH</p>		
7	<p>Holy Communion</p>	8	<p>Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 6:30pm Bible Study/Small FH 7:00pm Scouts/AH</p>	9	<p>10:00am Share Group/Parlor 6:00pm – 8:00pm NAMI Meeting/AH</p>	10	<p>11:00am Yoga/AH 12:00pm Yoga/Narthex 6:00pm – 7:30pm Youth Group</p>	11	<p>1:00pm Bible Study/AH</p>	12	<p>10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH 5:00pm – 10:00pm Kairos Meeting/AH</p>	13	<p>3:00pm – 7:00pm Laphams/AH</p>		
14	<p>12:00pm Church Dinner/AH 4:00pm – 8:00pm Emmaus Gathering/AH</p>	15	<p>Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH</p>	16	<p>10:00am Share Group/Parlor 1:00pm – 2:00pm Finance Committee/Library</p>	17	<p>11:00am Yoga/AH 12:00pm Yoga/Narthex 6:00pm – 7:30pm Youth Group</p>	18	<p>1:00pm UMW/AH</p>	19	<p>10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH</p>	20	<p>8:00am – 2:00pm Emmaus Men's Meeting/AH</p>		
21		22	<p>Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH</p>	23	<p>10:00am Share Group/Parlor</p>	24	<p>11:00am Yoga/AH 12:00pm Yoga/Narthex 6:00pm – 7:30pm Youth Group</p>	25		26		27			
28	<p>1:00pm – 6:00pm Eagle Scout Ceremony/AH</p>	29	<p>Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH</p>	30	<p>10:00am Share Group/Parlor</p>	1	<p>12:00pm Yoga/Narthex 5:00pm – 10:00pm Emmaus Dinner & Set-up For Walk 6:00pm – 7:30pm Youth Group</p>	2		3		4			



April Birthdays

14 – Ron Conley
 18 – Marion Dillon
 20 – Mike Grooms
 21 – Roger Miller
 22 – John Flower
 Jessica Finley
 23 – Jan Bresnahan
 24 – Carol Follmer
 26 – Nancy Bolton **(94 years)**
 27 – Larry Stoner
 30 – Ellen Osterman
 Louise Stoner

April Anniversaries

4 – Mike & Rhonda Finley
 6 – Jack & Sharon Collier **(62 years)**
 Howard & Sue Wilson **(62 years)**
 20 – Larry & Louise Stoner **(56 years)**
 24 – Glen & Jane Majors **(71 years)**
 28 – Larry & JoAn Webb **(62 years)**
 29 – Dan & Jennifer Moak

Recent Statistics

February 25	\$1,547
March 3	\$10,310
March 10	\$1,498
March 17	\$2,950



History Corner

Reed Musgrove provided these photographs which were taken in the early spring of 1940 or 41. They were taken in front of the old church. The house across the street is still there at 211 East Avenue, on the corner of Church Street. During World War II, the iron fence was removed and scraped.



Pictured, front row, from the left: 1. Unknown 2. Jane Garver (Majors) 3. Russell Mikesell 4. Reed Musgrove 5. Clifford "Shorty" Morningstar. Back Row: 1. Unknown 2. Charles Doebler 3. Unknown 4. Unknown 5. Unknown



In the back is the children's teacher, Miriam Atchley (Woodcock). Miriam was born in 1926 and according to Reed was 15 years old when this photograph was made. Her parents were Elmer Ellsworth and Ruth Thompson Atchley.

MONROE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
206 East Avenue, PO Box 310
Monroe, OH 45050

REQUESTED RETURN SERVICE

Mission Statement:

*Shining the light on the hill by connecting with Jesus Christ,
connecting with each other and connecting with the world.*



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Jerry Lapham, Newsletter Editor

Linda Larkin, Nursery Attendant

Arlene Horton, Treasurer

Jerry & Anne Lapham, Financial Sec'y

MINISTERS: CONGREGATION

OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAY-FRIDAY 9:00AM-4:30PM



FACEBOOK: *Monroe United Methodist Church*



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TWITTER: @MonroeUMC

