

The Monroe Doctrine



March 2024

Building Genuine Connections in Our Digital Age



Even in a charming and warm community like Monroe, there's an underlying challenge that many of us face

today—building and maintaining genuine connections in an era dominated by screens and superficial interactions. As we navigate through the digital landscape, the longing for real, meaningful relationships has never been more pronounced.

The Bible, though ancient, speaks directly to this modern dilemma. Hebrews 10:24-25 encourages us, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – all the more as you see the Day approaching." This passage highlights the timeless value of community and the importance of actively seeking and nurturing relationships that uplift and inspire.

In a world where it's easier to send a text than to have a conversation, the call to not give up meeting together resonates deeply. It's a reminder that there's no digital substitute for the warmth of a shared laugh, the comfort of a shoulder to lean on, or the strength found in a group of people coming together in support of one another. These are the moments that forge lasting bonds and

create a sense of belonging.

For our neighbors who might feel disconnected, isolated, or lonely, consider this an invitation to reach out and connect in more intentional ways. Whether it's joining a local group that shares your interests, volunteering for a cause you're passionate about, or simply inviting a neighbor over for coffee, each step towards connection is a step towards fulfilling the human need for community.

At Monroe United Methodist Church, we strive to be a place where anyone can find connection and community, regardless of their background or beliefs. We believe that by following the biblical encouragement to spur one another on toward love and good deeds, we can create a network of support and friendship that transcends the superficial ties often found in our digital world.

In embracing the wisdom of Hebrews 10:24-25, we discover not just the importance of seeking out genuine connections but the joy and fulfillment that come from being part of a community. Let's lead the way in building relationships that enrich our lives and strengthen the fabric of our community.

This season leading up to Easter is a great time to get connected and build relationships. I hope you'll read on and look for information about ways you can connect with God, with each other, and with the world at Monroe UMC.

Grace and peace

Series on Peter Continues

This Lent we are focusing on the life and faith of one of Jesus' most famous disciples. Peter in the Gospels is a faithful yet flawed disciple of Jesus. In many ways, his faith journey reflects our own journeys with Jesus.

Sunday services will continue to focus on key themes in Peter's life. You're invited to join us and to invite someone to share this time with you. Contemporary worship is offered in Atchley Hall at 9:30 am every Sunday, and Traditional worship is available in the Sanctuary at 11:00 am. All our services are streamed live on our Facebook page and our YouTube channel.

During **Holy Week**, when we remember Jesus' final week, we'll observe some special services. On **Maundy Thursday, March 28**, at 7:00 pm, we'll remember Jesus' last supper with his disciples through the eyes of Peter. He will refuse to have his feet washed by Jesus, pledge his undying loyalty, and then deny Jesus. On **Good Friday, March 29**, at 7:00 pm, we'll reflect on Jesus' suffering and death on the cross, paying attention to Peter's involvement.

We'll celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus on **Easter Sunday, March 31**, with services at 9:30 am and 11:00 am. Join us as we explore the surprising news that "Jesus is alive" through the eyes of Peter with the message "And I Hope."

This series provides a great opportunity to invite someone to church with you. Wherever they are on their faith journey, they can discover God's grace in the life of Peter. Through his story, we'll all reflect on the stages of our own faith journeys and recognize who and what have shaped us along the way. May we rest in streams of mercy never ceasing.

Air Conditioning Update

As you may be aware, we are asking for special giving toward replacing two units in the Sanctuary and Narthex that no longer function and one failing unit that services the Student

wing. Our **total project cost is \$42,171**. As of February 18, 2024, ***we have received gifts totaling \$18,841.20***, which is **45% toward the goal**. Thank you for your generous response to this need that will support our worship, children, and youth ministries by providing the needed comfortable space. Please continue praying for this project, and please consider giving a special gift above your annual giving to the church operating budget. May God bless us as we care for our property and invest in our ministries.

Shine the Light on UMCOR Sunday



When a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck southern Turkey in February of 2023, UMCOR worked with a partner in Turkey to provide safe

solar lanterns to the displaced people who were relying on volatile open flames, candles, or kerosene lanterns. God's light is needed in bleak moments and UMCOR is there to provide both physical light and spiritual light by embodying God's compassion. You can be God's light with UMCOR by preparing for the UMCOR Sunday offering, this year on March 10, 2024. Thank you for giving generously.

Jesus calls us to "fish for people"

In 2023, we had 30 guests at worship who shared their contact information (that is 0.6 guests per week). Of those, twelve (12) have continued attending, or 40%, leaving plenty of room for improvement. Through 2/18/2024, we've had 14 guests who shared their contact information, but none have returned. ***Who can you invite to worship?***

NAMI Family & Friends

This program 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 www.nami-bc.org/class-registration or send questions to info@nami-bc.org.

UMW to LaComedia

The Monroe UMW will be going to LaComedia Dinner Theatre on Thursday, May 16. We will enjoy a delicious lunch followed by the all new musical comedy, The Church Basement Ladies "Plowin Thru."

If you would like to join us you can do so by making your reservation with a check payable to UMW in the amount of \$41.00. Checks due no later than April 1. Give check to Jane Majors. Any questions contact Sharon Warmoth or Jane Majors

Directory correction

Gary and Bobbie Hoff report that "Our phone numbers are wrong in the directory. Somehow the address was corrected but not the phone numbers. The 523-424-6160 is no longer in service. Gary's cell is correct at 513-649-0154. Bobbie's cell should be 513-649-1417."

Committee schedules

Trustees: Third Thursday, March 21, 7:00 pm

Finance: Fourth Tuesday, March 26, 1:00 pm

Children's ministry

Easter Praise Dance practice is from 10.00 - 11:00 am every Sunday through March 10.

See the Hip-Hop Praise Dance on March 17 (both services).

Tie-Dye Party for dancers is on Tuesday, March 5, 5 - 8 pm

Pancakes with the Easter Bunny is on Saturday, March 23, 9 - 11:30 am. Volunteers are needed.

SCUBA VBS is July 7 - 11. Let's ALL dive deep for Jesus! It's a great opportunity to minister to children. Did you know that for some kids, VBS replaces Sunday school? We need to reach out! It's not too soon to say, "Hey Gina! I can help with VBS!" You can also ask her about a VBS take-home project.

2024 Summer Camp Opportunities






West Ohio has partnered, once again, with East Ohio Camps to provide churches and families with summer camping opportunities. Local churches have been mailed 2024 East Ohio Conference summer camping brochures from West Ohio. z <https://www.eocumc.com/camps/>.

Other options are

- **United Church of Christ Camp** Bellville, Ohio
- **Michigan United Methodist Camping** across Michigan
- **First Community Church Camp** in Logan, Ohio
- **Reach Out** for grades 8-12 at Lakeside
- **Lakeside Institute** for grades 9-age 20 at Lakeside

For more information about any of the above options, please contact Director of Camps, Retreats, and Next Gen Engagement, Ann Marie Carley (amcarley@gmail.com).

In addition, any summer campers from Monroe UMC may be eligible for scholarship assistance to attend camp. Contact Pastor Jeff with your interest.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div>25</div> <div><p>Second Sunday in Lent</p></div> <div></div>	<div>26</div> <div><p>Church Office Closed</p><p>6:00pm Yoga/AH</p><p>7:00pm Scouts/AH</p></div> <div></div>	<div>27</div> <div><p>10:00am Share Group/Parlor</p></div> <div></div>	<div>28</div> <div><p>11:00am Yoga/AH</p><p>12:00pm Yoga/Narthex</p><p>6:00pm –7:30pm Youth Group</p></div> <div></div>	<div>29</div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>1</div> <div><p>10:00am Exercise/AH</p><p>11:00am Yoga/AH</p></div> <div></div>	<div>2</div> <div></div> <div></div>
<div>3</div> <div><p>Third Sunday in Lent</p><p>Holy Communion</p></div> <div></div>	<div>4</div> <div><p>Church Office Closed</p><p>6:00pm Yoga/AH</p><p>7:00pm Scouts/AH</p></div> <div></div>	<div>5</div> <div><p>10:00am Share Group/Parlor</p></div> <div></div>	<div>6</div> <div><p>11:00am Yoga/AH</p><p>12:00pm Yoga/Narthex</p><p>6:00pm –7:30pm Youth Group</p></div> <div></div>	<div>7</div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>8</div> <div><p>10:00am Exercise/AH</p><p>11:00am Yoga/AH</p></div> <div></div>	<div>9</div> <div><p>8:00am –2:00pm Emmaus Men's Meeting/AH</p></div> <div></div>
<div>10</div> <div><p>Fourth Sunday in Lent</p><p>Spring Forward</p></div> <div></div>	<div>11</div> <div><p>Church Office Closed</p><p>6:00pm Yoga/AH</p><p>7:00pm Scouts/AH</p></div> <div></div>	<div>12</div> <div><p>10:00am Share Group/Parlor</p></div> <div></div>	<div>13</div> <div><p>11:00am Yoga/AH</p><p>12:00pm Yoga/Narthex</p><p>6:00pm –7:30pm Youth Group</p></div> <div></div>	<div>14</div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>15</div> <div><p>10:00am Exercise/AH</p><p>11:00am Yoga/AH</p></div> <div></div>	<div>16</div> <div><p>10:00am –12:00pm Dance Rehearsal/AH</p><p>3:00pm Denise Obermeyer's 50th BD Party/AH</p></div> <div></div>
<div>17</div> <div><p>Fifth Sunday in Lent</p><p>Praise Dance</p><p>Easter Praise Dance Both Services</p></div> <div></div>	<div>18</div> <div><p>Church Office Closed</p><p>6:00pm Yoga/AH</p><p>7:00pm Scouts/AH</p></div> <div></div>	<div>19</div> <div><p>10:00am Share Group/Parlor</p></div> <div></div>	<div>20</div> <div><p>11:00am Yoga/AH</p><p>12:00pm Yoga/Narthex</p><p>6:00pm –7:30pm Youth Group</p></div> <div></div>	<div>21</div> <div><p>7:00pm Trustees/Library</p></div> <div></div>	<div>22</div> <div><p>10:00am Exercise/AH</p><p>11:00am Yoga/AH</p></div> <div></div>	<div>23</div> <div><p>8:00am –2:00pm Emmaus Men's Meeting/AH</p><p>9:00am –11:30am Pancakes with the Easter Bunny/Small FH & S.S. Wing</p></div> <div></div>
<div>24</div> <div><p>PALM SUNDAY</p></div> <div></div>	<div>25</div> <div><p>Church Office Closed</p><p>6:00pm Yoga/AH</p><p>7:00pm Scouts/AH</p></div> <div></div>	<div>26</div> <div><p>10:00am Share Group/Parlor</p><p>1:00pm Finance Committee</p></div> <div></div>	<div>27</div> <div><p>11:00am Yoga/AH</p><p>12:00pm Yoga/Narthex</p><p>6:00pm –7:30pm Youth Group</p></div> <div></div>	<div>28</div> <div><p>7:00pm Worship Service</p></div> <div></div>	<div>29</div> <div><p>Church Office Closed</p><p>10:00am Exercise/AH</p><p>11:00am Yoga/AH</p><p>7:00pm Worship Service</p></div> <div></div>	<div>30</div> <div></div> <div></div>
<div>31</div> <div><p>9:30am Contemporary Worship/AH</p><p>11:00am Traditional Worship/Sanctuary</p></div> <div></div>	<div>1</div> <div><p>Church Office Closed</p><p>6:00pm Yoga/AH</p><p>7:00pm Scouts/AH</p></div> <div></div>	<div>2</div> <div><p>10:00am Share Group/Parlor</p></div> <div></div>	<div>3</div> <div><p>11:00am Yoga/AH</p><p>12:00pm Yoga/Narthex</p><p>6:00pm –7:30pm Youth Group</p></div> <div></div>	<div>4</div> <div></div> <div></div>	<div>5</div> <div><p>10:00am Exercise/AH</p><p>11:00am Yoga/AH</p></div> <div></div>	<div>6</div> <div></div> <div></div>



March Birthdays

7 – Lori Cobb
 10 – Susan Childers
 12 – Jo Ann Kuhlman
 14 – Jennifer Moak
 15 – Tom Leeds
 17 – Connie Wesner
 22 – Ellen Kinsey
 29 – Don Garver
 Heather Brophy
 31 – Lowell Barrett
 Judy Johnson
 Norma Reed

April Newsletter
 Deadline
Sunday, March 24th

Recent Statistics

January 21	\$1,277
January 28	\$7,485
February 4	\$8,872
February 11	\$2,305
February 18	\$2,502



March 17th



Sunday
March
10th

WANTED!

Your old photographs.

Especially wanted are ones
of former Ministers.

Get out your old photo albums
and see what you might have. All
will be copied and returned.

Roger Miller

rmiller149@cinci.rr.com

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.*



MONROE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Phone: 513.539.7290

E-mail: monroeumc@cinci.rr.com

Website: www.monroeumc.org

Monroe UMC Staff

Rev. Jeff Motter, Senior Pastor: revjammotter@gmail.com

Edna Miller, Office Manager: monroeumc@cinci.rr.com

Gina Craft, Children's Ministries: gmatcraft@gmail.com

Rev. Timothy Draxler, Choirmaster: timdraxler@aol.com

Melanie Flower, Organist

Jerry Lapham, Newsletter Editor

Linda Larkin, Nursery Attendant

Arlene Horton, Treasure

Jerry & Anne Lapham, Financial Sec'y

MINISTERS: CONGREGATION

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



FACEBOOK: [Monroe United Methodist Church](https://www.facebook.com/MonroeUnitedMethodistChurch)



C/[MonroeUnitedMethodist](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMonroeUnitedMethodist)



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