

The Monroe Doctrine



July 2024

Summer Parenting: Finding Joy in the Chaos



In the midst of summer break, many parents find themselves facing a new challenge: summer. While

this time off from school promises fun and relaxation, it can also bring a unique set of parenting hurdles. If you're wondering how to keep your kids entertained, balance work and family time, or simply maintain your sanity, you're not alone.

Here at Monroe United Methodist Church, we understand that summer parenting can feel like a rollercoaster. Our community is built on the foundation of loving God and loving our neighbors as ourselves - and that includes supporting each other through the joys and challenges of family life, especially during these action-packed summer months.

So how do we navigate the summer parenting journey? It starts with embracing the chaos. Those unstructured days that seem daunting? They're opportunities for creativity and bonding. When siblings bicker over who gets the last popsicle or complain of boredom for the umpteenth time, take a deep breath. Remember, even in these moments, you're creating memories and teaching valuable life lessons.

Loving our neighbors takes on new meaning in

the summer, too. It might mean organizing a neighborhood playdate, swapping childcare with another family, or simply sharing a smile with a frazzled parent at the pool. By supporting each other, we make the summer more enjoyable for everyone.

At Monroe UMC, we believe that faith can be a steady anchor during the unpredictable summer months. It reminds us to find joy in simple moments, to approach challenges with patience, and to remember that we're not alone in this parenting journey.

Whether you're a summer parenting pro or feeling overwhelmed at the thought of weeks without school, know that you're welcome here – whether you've ever been in a church before or not. Let's embrace the summer chaos together, supporting each other with understanding, community, and maybe a few shared tips on the best local spots for a family cool-down!

Staying Focused on our Mission



Last month, I shared a brief summary of some of the actions taken at the recent UMC General Conference in Charlotte NC. The long-awaited, postponed General Conference resulted in several decisions that will change the way the United Methodist Church accomplishes its mission, from granting deacons the right to baptize and preside at Communion to

reorganizing the denomination into regions. However, the decisions receiving the most attention are changes in church language on human sexuality, which removed bans on same-sex weddings held in UMC buildings or officiated by UMC pastors (local churches and local pastors have the choice in whether to host or not). The General Conference also eliminated the exclusion of and penalties for clergy in same-sex relationships.

Some among our congregation are grieving and fearful of these changes. Others are rejoicing and welcoming the changes, in order to create a more welcoming and inclusive body for more people to gather and find a home. Still others may not have realized what General Conference is or what was done. Whether someone feels this is a major move forward or believes it is a significant step off the right path, we need to be sensitive to those feelings and perspectives.

For me, nothing has changed at Monroe United Methodist Church. The congregation we love will continue to welcome all people, show amazing hospitality, and offer a variety of ministries – because that’s who we have been and who we still are.

Right now, what is the most important for us is to keep the main thing the main thing (from Stephen Covey, *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*). The main thing for our congregation is to “go ... and make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world” – and that includes making ourselves better disciples on our faith journey together. This is our time to commit ourselves to focusing on God’s mission for the congregation. With more than 6 in 10 of our neighbors having *no faith involvement*, to quote Jesus, “Look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest” (John 4:35).

I encourage you to remember what brought you to

Monroe UMC, why you have remained part of this Body of Christ, how God is blessing you now through this church, and how you have grown in your faith through the people of this church. These are the ties that God uses to bind us together through the Holy Spirit and by grace, even when we might disagree about all the details.

I welcome your thoughts, questions, and comments to my words here, and I would welcome a conversation with you. Feel free to contact me in one of these ways:

Pastor.MonroeUMC@hotmail.com; office: 513.539.7290; cell: 419.302.8165).

Grace and peace,



Air Conditioning & Safety System Update

We are grateful to God and to you for the abundant generosity we have seen in working with some major physical plant issues. The Trustees have learned that the additional fire safety system and installation will require about \$15,000. One AC unit for the back of the Sanctuary costs about \$11,000. (Ultimately, two are needed plus one in the Narthex and one in the Student Wing.) As of 6/23, we have \$30,480 on hand. Thank you for considering any additional gift you might give to help complete this portion of the work.

Convenient Online Giving Option Available

With many of us streaming our services or paying our bills online, we know that mailing a check is not always the most convenient way to give to Monroe UMC. We want to make sure you know we have online giving available on our website, which allows you to easily and safely give both one-time or recurring gifts of support by credit/debit card or through a bank ACH transaction.

Through our online giving form, you have the ability to easily give one time, or set up automatic recurring giving. You can access our online giving form here: MonroeUMC.org/Give. You can also give by text. Simply text the amount you wish to give (no dollar signs please) to (513) 547-9908.

Our church does pay a small transaction fee to process online payments, but we feel the fee is well worth the convenience. If you choose to, you are able to cover that fee for the church at the same time you give.

We want you to know we greatly appreciate you and your heart of generosity as you continue to support Monroe UMC and our mission of serving and growing the kingdom of God.

Children's ministry

A thank you to the congregation for VBS donations of bottle caps, egg cartons, and snack foods.

Help is needed for last minute VBS preparations. Contact Gina at 937-514-3793 OR gmatcraft@gmail.com

This year's VBS is from July 7 - 11, 6:30 - 8:45 pm. Spread the word to young families.

Help is needed for VBS Field Day on July 11 between 7 and 9 pm.

PAWS is the VBS Charity this year. We are collecting dog and cat food, plus any item on their donation list at pawsadoptioncenter.org

VBS Sunday is July 14.

Sunday School at the park dates are July 21 and August 11.

Back to School Sunday/Bibles for 3rd Graders: August 11.

BLAZE Youth Group

Thank you, congregation, for your generous support of Mission Week. The kids learned about teamwork and how to serve God's people.

No youth group meetings this month.

Potluck Party

The Potluck Party will be on Tuesday, July 16, at 6:00 pm in Atchley Hall. The date has changed from what was on the monthly calendar in June. The Mission Committee will provide the fried chicken and drinks, and everyone is asked to bring either a side dish or a dessert. This will be a social time to gather and there will not be a program. As before, when we met once a month, we are asked to bring our own table setting (plate and silverware). This will require less clean up after our dinner.









Idols part 2 - What are my idols?

Last month's question was, "Do you have any idols in your life?" I'll start with mine. Food and laziness. These are the ones God helped me work on over the past year. He enabled me to do my part so he could (would) deliver me from my depression. I knew that behavior had a lot to do with my depression. I tried to change many times, with success for a while, but then I would always fail and fall back into my old behaviors. Each time I was successful, it was because I surrendered my idols to God. But then I would believe the devil's lies and jerk my idols back from him. Down the devil's dark path I followed.

Fast forward to March 2023. It didn't all happen right away. That was just the beginning of the process. This time was different. I feel it was the power of prayer from family and friends for many years. A miracle. This time God let me surrender myself completely to him, without jerking my idols back. God can deliver *anyone* from anything. And he longs to do so. He just wants us to know, "I have the power. But you have to do something too. I am not a magician who is going to wave my magic wand and suddenly everything will be wonderful and perfect. You have to do YOUR part."

"Do not turn to idols or make metal gods for yourselves. I am the Lord your God."

Leviticus 19:4 – Monica Bolton

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
30		1	Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	2	10:00am Share Group/Parlor	3	11:00am –12:00pm Yoga/AH 12:00pm –1:00pm Yoga/Narthex	4	 Independence Day Church Office Closed	5	Church Office Closed 10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	6	
7	 Holy Communion 6:00pm –8:45pm Vacation Bible School Begins	8	 Church Office Closed 6:30pm –8:45pm Vacation Bible School	9	 10:00am Share Group/Parlor 6:30pm –8:45pm Vacation Bible School	10	 11:00am –12:00pm Yoga/AH 12:00pm –1:00pm Yoga/Narthex 6:30pm –8:45pm Vacation Bible School	11	 6:30pm –8:45pm Vacation Bible School	12	10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	13	
14	9:30am –10:30am VBS Sunday/AH	15	Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	16	 10:00am Share Group/Parlor 1:00pm –2:00pm Finance Committee/Library 6:00pm Potluck Party/AH	17	11:00am –12:00pm Yoga/AH 12:00pm –1:00pm Yoga/Narthex	18		19	10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	20	
21	 10:45am –12:00pm Sunday at the Park/Monroe Community Park	22	<i>classroom Antics™</i> Church Office Closed 7:00am –4:30pm Classroom Antics/AH/Small FH/Room 6	23	<i>classroom Antics™</i> 7:00am –4:30pm Classroom Antics/AH/Small FH/Room 6 10:00am Share Group/Parlor	24	<i>classroom Antics™</i> 7:00am –4:30pm Classroom Antics/AH/Small FH/Room 6	25	<i>classroom Antics™</i> 7:00am –4:30pm Classroom Antics/AH/Small FH/Room 6	26	<i>classroom Antics™</i> 7:00am –4:30pm Classroom Antics/AH/Small FH/Room 6	27	
28		29	<i>ZiCode</i> Church Office Closed 8:30am –4:00pm ICode Mason 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	30	<i>ZiCode</i> 8:30am –4:00pm ICode Mason 10:00am Share Group/Parlor	31	<i>ZiCode</i> 8:30am –4:30pm ICode Mason	1	<i>ZiCode</i> 8:30am –9:30am ICode Mason	2	<i>ZiCode</i> Wesley Foundation/AH 8:30am –4:00pm ICode Mason 10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	3	Wesley Foundation/AH



July Birthdays

- 1 – Dillis Bolton
 - 8 – Pastor Jeff Motter
 - 9 – Ginny Gansheimer
 - 12 – Arlene Klemushin
 - 18 – Dale Short
 - 27 – Elaine Garver
- Josh Trueman-Motter

July Anniversaries

- 7 – Dale & Eleanore Short **(62 years)**
Brian & Sheilia Holbrock
- 12 – John & Tula Hamilton **(55 years)**
- 15 – Ken & Lori Cobb **(54 years)**
Mike & Connie Grooms **(57 years)**
- 18 – Alan & Denise Dyke



July 7th - 11th
6:30-8:45pm

August
Newsletter Deadline

July 21st

Monthly Statistics...

	Offering
May 26	\$2,303
June 2	\$3,092
June 16	\$1,485



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: revjiamotter@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, Treasurer

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)



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