

The Monroe Doctrine



September 2024

Finding Connection and Meaning in a Lonely World



Loneliness is a feeling many of us know all too well. No matter who you are, the sense of isolation can creep in, leaving us

yearning for connection and meaning. Recent reports, including one by the Surgeon General, have highlighted that loneliness has become an epidemic in our society, touching people of all ages. It's affecting not just our emotional well-being but our physical and spiritual health, too. This echoes what many of us have felt in our hearts: a deep desire for community and purpose.

The good news? We don't have to face this loneliness alone. As it says in Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, "Two are better than one... If either of them falls down, one can help the other up."

The Bible reminds us of the importance of companionship. Jesus, in his earthly ministry, surrounded himself with friends, with his disciples, and regularly met with people from all walks of life. It's a beautiful example of how we are created to be in relationship with one another. When we reach out, we find we can lift each other up and provide strength in times of need.

Being part of a community, like our church, can make all the difference. Picture yourself sitting

down for coffee with friends after a Sunday service, sharing stories, and laughter. Imagine being part of a small group Bible study, where you can learn more about God's Word while building meaningful relationships. Or think about serving on a ministry team together, whether it's helping in the community or organizing church events. These are just a few ways you can start to feel more connected and less alone.

For those who feel like life's meaning has become a little blurry, know that there is a place where you can belong. Being connected with others in a church setting not only helps combat loneliness but also helps us find purpose and direction. Whether you're a long-time member or someone curious about faith, our church doors are open to all seeking connection and meaning. We believe that everyone has a place here, and that together, we can create a community where no one feels alone.

New Sermon Series Addresses Epidemic of Loneliness

Observing the widespread and severe effects of social disconnection on Americans' health, Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy says that "loneliness and isolation represent profound threats to our health and well-being." This reflects what our faith already teaches us: God created us for connection and community. Drawing on the experiences of the early church in scripture, our next sermon series will help us rediscover how God leads us into lives of meaningful relationship

with God and one another.

Starting September 8, we'll explore the theme of "Created for Connection" and identify strategies to help us grow in our relationships with God and others in Christian community. The weekly themes will be complemented with daily scripture readings and opportunities to get connected with one another in small groups for discipleship.

9/8: "Connection among Christians" – *Ephesians 4:1-6*

9/15: "Connection with God" – *John 15:1-12*

9/22: "Connection with Community" – *Hebrews 10:23-25*

9/29: "Connection across Barriers" – *Ephesians 2:11-22*

10/6: "Connection with the Larger Church" (World Communion) – *1 Corinthians 10:16-17*

Don't miss this opportunity to connect (or reconnect) with God and with other Christians in community together. And invite a friend or neighbor who might be experiencing loneliness to join you.

Special Combined Worship Service, Sept. 29, 10 am

The Worship Team invites everyone to join together for a special combined worship service on Sunday, September 29, at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary. Worshipers from both the 9:30 and 11:00 am services will gather to praise God as one body in a special blended worship experience. We'll have the chance to connect with one another in fellowship before and after worship and in praise of God through worship.

(Re)Introducing Larry Daniel, new Chancel Choir Director

Larry Daniel was fortunate to receive a scholarship to The College Conservatory of Music in Cincinnati where he received his Bachelors and Master of Music. He studied Classical trumpet with Eugene Blee and Jazz

Trumpet with Frank Brown. His teacher for Instrumental Conducting was Gerhard Samuel and Choral Conducting was Earl Rivers. He has performed with local, regional, and national artists since the mid 70's as well as doing clinics at the High School and College levels. He also maintains a studio teaching private trumpet lessons. Past Church Music positions were with Lebanon Methodist, Harlan Park Church of God, Kings Point Church of God, Mariemont Community Church, and for 32 years at Monroe United Methodist. Larry has been involved with church all his life. He is excited to be back and with God's help to continue to build the music program for the 11:00 am service!

Larry has been married to Becky since 1981 and has two daughters, two sons-in-law, and two grandchildren. They have lived in Monroe since 1982.

Larry officially begins his role on September 1, and choir begins on September 22.

Join the Choir!



Larry Daniel invites all singers to be a part of the Chancel Choir at the 11:00 am Traditional service! Rehearsals begin on Sunday,

September 22 at 10:00 am, right before the 11:00 service. We have some very enjoyable music to sing! We will be singing several different styles of music, and I look forward to seeing you soon. If you have any questions, please reach out to me at 513-827-1483 or email ldaniel5876@yahoo.com. Thanks!

Andy Garitson, new Contemporary Worship Leader

Andy Garitson joined our church staff in May as Contemporary Worship Leader at our 9:30 am service. In this role, Andy will be choosing relevant music to reinforce Pastor Jeff's sermons, while also building and rehearsing the Praise

Team. In building a strong team (of both musicians and tech volunteers), Andy hopes to spread God's love to our community so that everyone knows we are here and that all are welcome, as they are!

Some of you may not know that Andy grew up in our church. He remembers riding back from Ichthus in Pastor Stan Smith's truck, experiencing the Billy Graham crusade with Pastor Brad Olson, helping lead worship with Pastor Tim Waugh, and ultimately rededicating his life to Christ with the help of Pastor Joel Harbarger – he is VERY happy to be back home in this music-based position. Over these recent years, Andy had been asked to help with other churches' music teams as well as many Chrysalis Flights and Emmaus Walks (vocals and keyboards), but he's also an accomplished trombone player (pre-oxygen machine) having played with the Southwestern Ohio Symphonic Band, a few jazz ensembles around the area as well as many pit orchestras for musical theatre productions around the greater Cincinnati area.

He's not without his "battle scars," however. There've been some dark and difficult times where Andy made a few bad choices and turned away from his faith. But with spiritual and motivational help from family and friends, he knows that our God is a God of second chances; if you're ready to turn away from addictions and any weight of guilt or suffering or pain, God's loving arms are wide open and his never-ending love for you is a free gift if you accept Jesus as your number one guy.

Jonah was eaten by a large fish for not obeying God and going the opposite direction. He wanted nothing to do with the call God had given him, so Jonah went the other way. It's in the second chapter that Andy found his life verse (verses 7-9): "As my life was slipping away, I remembered the Lord. And my earnest prayer went out to you in your holy Temple. Those who worship false gods turn their backs on all God's mercies. But I will offer sacrifices to you with songs of praise, and I will fulfill all my vows. For my salvation

comes from the lord alone."

Andy's excited to be back home at Monroe UMC. With his and Pastor Jeff's leadership, the prayer is that God will continue to send the Holy Spirit to work through us and encourage us to be His hands and feet while joyfully singing songs of praise to the God of second chances.

UMW nut & candy sale.

The Monroe United Methodist Women are taking orders for their annual nut and candy sale. To place an order complete the order form included in this newsletter, the weekly bulletin, or in the information racks at church. Please include a check payable to UMW with your order. Orders are due by October 6. We have added several new items this year. Mail order to church at 206 East Ave, Monroe, OH 45050 or give to any of the following committee members. Pam Kilburn 513-594-3225, Terri McGuire 513-315-2880, Elaine Kuth 513-535-3674, Toni McDonough 513-398-6311, Jane Majors 513-539-7109, or Helen Ihle 513-539-7640. If you have questions, contact any committee member. Shipment is expected the first week in November in time for your holiday baking. Thanks for supporting our UMW.

Church Finances - how we're doing the first seven months

Year	All Giving	General Fund	Dedicated
2023	211,645	202,503	9,143
2024	234,950	167,552	67,398

The good news is we have responded to the ongoing maintenance needs; but the General Fund is too low. We need \$ 28,060 per month to meet budget needs. $\$28,060 \times 7 = \$196,420 - 167,552 = \$28,868$ deficit. We have spent ~\$30K on maintenance already, with more to come. We are behind in apportionments and owe the IRS for accounting errors prior to Pastor Jeff's arrival.

We want to keep you informed of our needs and pray that we can get back on track. --Jerry Michael, Finance Chairman.

UMW- September meeting

Please join us at 1 pm Thursday, September 19, in Atchley Hall. Our guest speaker will be Shelly Abrams, who does adult education programs at Mt Pleasant thru Miami University. She will also talk about the proposed exhibition of the USS Cincinnati at the VOA park. All members of the church are welcome. Please consider bringing a donation of boxed food or canned fruit or veggies for the Monroe Food Bank.

Thanksgiving Baskets

Donations for Thanksgiving baskets are needed by November 3. Please note "Thanksgiving Basket" on your check or envelope. We estimate baskets will cost around \$50 for a family, but we will accept any donation amount. We will use the money collected to support families in our church, the SLINKY program, and Church of the Nazarene Food Pantry families.

Monroe Social Dinner

Please join us for a FREE summer dinner. Open to church members, friends, and community members. Bring a friend or a neighbor with you Thursday September 19, in Atchley Hall from 6:00 pm to 7:15 pm.

Menu: Brat, Mett or Hot Dog, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Cole Slaw, and Chips. Cake and Drinks.

Also, please bring a donation for the food pantry.

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 fire safety system upgrades are estimated to cost about \$15,000. (That work is now underway.) One AC unit for the back of the Sanctuary costs about \$11,000. (Two are needed plus one in the Narthex and one in the Student Wing.) As of the end of July, we have \$30,955.79 on hand. Thank you for considering any additional gift beyond

your regular offering or tithes you might give to help complete this portion of the work.

Where am I going?

When Billy Graham was 92 years old, he was struggling with Parkinson's disease. A month before his 93rd birthday, leaders in Charlotte, North Carolina, invited him to a luncheon in his honor.



After wonderful things were said about him, Dr. Graham stepped to the podium, looked at the crowd, and said "I am reminded today of Albert Einstein, the great physicist who was once traveling from Princeton on a train, when the conductor came down the aisle, punching the tickets of every passenger. When he came to Einstein, Einstein reached into his vest pocket. He couldn't find his ticket, so he reached in his trouser pockets. It wasn't there, he looked in his briefcase, but couldn't find it. Then he looked in the seat behind him. He still couldn't find it.

The conductor said, "Dr. Einstein, I know who you are. We all know who you are. I'm sure you bought a ticket. Don't worry about it." The conductor continued down the aisle punching tickets. As he was ready to move to the next car, he turned around and saw the great physicist down on his hands and knees, looking under the seat for his ticket.

The conductor rushed back and said, "Dr. Einstein, Dr. Einstein, don't worry, I know who you are; no problem. You don't need a ticket. I'm sure you bought one." Einstein looked at him and said, "Young man, I too know who I am. What I don't know is where I'm going."

Billy Graham continued, "See the suit I'm wearing? It's a brand new suit. I bought a new suit for this luncheon and one more occasion. You know what that occasion is? This is the suit in which I'll be buried. But when you hear I'm dead, I don't want you to remember the suit I am wearing. I want you to remember this: I not only know who I am, I also know where I'm going.

---contributed by Monica Bolton

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
1	Holy Communion 2:00pm –4:00pm Bridal Shower/Tessa Sinclair/AH	2	Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	3	10:00am Share Group/Parlor	4	11:00am –12:00pm Yoga/AH 12:00pm –1:00pm Yoga/Narthex 7:00pm Praise Team/AH	5		6	10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	7	
8	4:30pm –8:30pm Emmaus Gathering	9	Church Office Closed 3:45pm –5:30pm Slinky Starts/Amanda UMC 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	10	10:00am Share Group/Parlor	11	11:00am –12:00pm Yoga/AH 12:00pm –1:00pm Yoga/Narthex 7:00pm Praise Team/AH	12		13	10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	14	8:00am –2:00pm Emmaus Team Meeting/AH
15		16	Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	17	10:00am Share Group/Parlor 1:00pm –2:00pm Finance Committee/AH	18	11:00am –12:00pm Yoga/AH 12:00pm –1:00pm Yoga/Narthex 7:00pm Praise Team/AH	19	 12:00pm –3:30pm UMW/AH 6:00pm Missions Cookout/Outside	20	10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	21	
22		23	Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	24	10:00am Share Group/Parlor	25	11:00am –12:00pm Yoga/AH 12:00pm –1:00pm Yoga/Narthex 7:00pm Praise Team/AH	26		27	10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	28	
29	10:00am Combined Worship Services/Sanctuary	30	Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	1	10:00am Share Group/Parlor	2	11:00am –12:00pm Yoga/AH 12:00pm –1:00pm Yoga/Narthex 7:00pm Praise Team/AH	3		4	10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	5	

September

September Birthdays

1 – Gary Hoff
4 – Edna Miller
6 – John Routson
8 – Jerry Michael
11 – Jamie Pierce
13 – Bobbie Hoff
15 – Karen Gardner
16 – Dave Hall
 Ruby Huston
 Jean Jerew
17 – Debbie Brookshire
23 – Anne Lapham
26 – Sue Wilson
28 – Paula Barricklow

Anniversaries

8 – Shirley & Dave Hall **(69 years)**
22 – Jim & Ruby Huston
16 – Mike & Elaine Kuth

Statistics:

	<u>Offering</u>
July 21	\$2,649
July 28	\$1,625
August 4	\$3,065
August 11	\$4,517
August 18	\$1,505



The Deadline
for the October Newsletter
is
Sunday, September 22nd

**2024 Monroe United Methodist Women's
Annual Nut & Candy Sale**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Bridge Mix Milk Chocolate	\$10.00	_____
Cranberries Dark Chocolate	\$10.00	_____
Milk Chocolate Coated Peanuts	\$9.00	_____
Milk Chocolate Coated Cashews	\$12.00	_____
Milk Chocolate Coated Pecans	\$12.00	_____
Milk Chocolate Coated Raisins	\$9.00	_____
Giant Whole Cashews	\$12.00	_____
Almonds Whole Roasted	\$10.00	_____
Pecans Halves	\$14.00	_____
Pecan Pieces	\$13.00	_____
Walnuts Halves	\$12.00	_____
Praline Pecans	\$14.00	_____
Trail Mix	\$10.00	_____
Nut & Fruit Mix	\$11.00	_____
Granola Almond Cranberry	\$9.00	_____
Deluxe Mix	\$12.00	_____
Total	\$ _____	_____

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone # _____ Email: _____
 Amount Paid \$ _____ Cash Check # _____
 Seller: _____ Phone # _____

**Mail or drop off order form to seller or the church
 206 East Ave. Monroe, OH 45040 Phone: 513-539-7290
 Please include payment with your order form. Make check
 payable to UMW. Your patronage is greatly appreciated.
 THANK YOU For Your Support!
 All bags are 16 ounces - Orders are due by Oct. 6, 2024**

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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

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E-mail: monroeumc@cinci.rr.com

Website: www.monroeumc.org

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Larry Daniel, Choir Director

Melanie Flower, Organist

Linda Larkin, Nursery Attendant

Jerry & Anne Lapham, Financial Sec'y

Jerry Lapham, Newsletter Editor

Arlene Horton, Treasurer

MINISTERS: CONGREGATION

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

FACEBOOK: *Monroe United Methodist Church*



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