



The Monroe Doctrine

Monroe United Methodist Church

A Light on the Hill

July 2025

Our Neighborhood is our Great Commission Field

Across the United States, United Methodist congregations are rediscovering their neighborhoods as vital mission fields, echoing the call found in Kyle Ermoian's *Church Turnaround*, Chapter V: "View Your Neighborhood as a Great Commission Field." (Rev. Ermoian is one of the coaches who lead the group Pastor Jeff participates in each week.) This approach, rooted in Jesus' command to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19-20), is transforming both congregations and communities.

At the heart of this movement is the conviction that the Great Commission begins at the church's doorstep. Ermoian's chapter challenges churches to move beyond their walls and see every neighbor as someone to love, serve, and invite into the journey of faith. This philosophy is not just theoretical—it's being lived out in a variety of creative and impactful ways by United Methodist churches nationwide.

For 16 years, First UMC in Bishop, California, downslope on the eastern Sierra Nevada Mountains, has operated a thriving soup kitchen, providing hot meals to those in need three times a week. The ministry has become a lifeline for many, especially as economic challenges persist. But the impact hasn't stopped at food. The soup kitchen's success led to a composting initiative in partnership with local gardeners and the city, turning food waste into rich soil for

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

—Matthew 28:19-20

community gardens. These gardens now supply fresh produce for the soup kitchen, creating a full-circle system of care for both people and the environment. "It is nice to have a full-cycle creation care system that links church, civic, and local government to care for our earth and all who call this home," said Rev. Kate Hunter, Bishop UMC's lead pastor.

In Cincinnati Hyde Park Community UMC's "Love Thy Neighbor Project" mobilizes the congregation each Easter season to pack and distribute hundreds of food boxes to families in need. Their Over-the-Rhine campus, Grace on Race St., serves as a hub for community, creativity, and compassion, offering workshops, service opportunities, and partnerships with organizations like Found House Interfaith Housing Network to provide shelter and support for families experiencing homelessness. Their multi-generational "Super SERVE Saturday" invites people of all ages to serve together in the city, reinforcing the idea that discipleship is lived out in service to others.

These ministries reflect the biblical mandate to love our neighbors (Matthew 22:39) and serve "the least of these" (Matthew 25:40). The early church's example in Acts—meeting needs, sharing resources,

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and welcoming all—remains a blueprint for effective neighborhood ministry.

By viewing their neighborhoods as Great Commission fields, United Methodist congregations are not only (continued pg. 2) churches but also transform communities. These stories demonstrate that when churches step outside their walls, embodying Christ's love in practical ways, they fulfill both the Great Commandment and the Great Commission—right where they are. How might we engage with our neighbors?



Join the Choir!

Larry Daniel invites all singers to be a part of the Chancel Choir at the 11:00am Traditional service! Rehearsals begin on **Sunday, September 14** at 10 o'clock, 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.

Music



BLOWIN' IN THE WIND

For some time, I have been investigating the background and history of some of the songs that we sing during church services. Once in a while, I hope to share some of these stories with you in the monthly newsletter. I would

like to share why I have been researching Christian songs.

At a worship service some years ago, a woman played a guitar and sang two songs one being the gospel song "Farther Along," which I had no problem with. I did have a problem with her second song, Bob Dylan's "Blowin' in the Wind."



It is a song that 60 years ago was popular, being part of what I call folk music. I really enjoyed Peter, Paul and Mary's version of the song. There is some question as to how it came about with some people thinking it was an adaptation of the Negro spiritual "No More Auction Block" that was sung by slaves that escaped and made it to Canada where they were free. But it has been called a protest song and does bring up questions about peace, war and freedom.

At first, I thought of Jesus and his many teachings. Often, he used allegories to make his point. In an allegory one word is used to represent another and many people of Jesus' day would have understood what Jesus was saying. This song certainly. Has meaning for us today.

I do not know where Dylan got the idea for this song, but believe that it may have come from verse 2 of the 12th chapter of the book of Ezekiel that reads:

"Son of man, you are living among a rebellious people. They have eyes to see but do not see and ears to hear but do not hear, for they are rebellious people" (NIV)

If you pay attention to the words, this song can have a place in a worship service. Investigating the background of this song has made me want to learn the background of other songs.

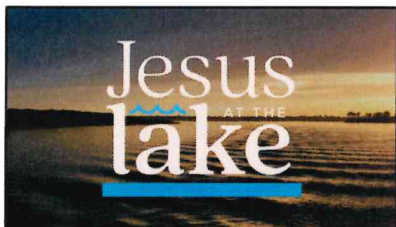
Roger Miller

Come to the Water: A New Summer Series at Monroe UMC

“Jesus at the Lake” –

Starting July 6, 9:30 & 11:00 am

Summer is a season when many of us look for rest, renewal, and a change of pace. Whether it's time spent at a lake, in the garden, or simply a quiet moment with family, something about summer invites us to breathe deeply and reconnect.



At Monroe UMC, we believe God offers that same kind of renewal—right when we need it most. That's why we're inviting you to join us for a new three-week series beginning this month: **Jesus at the Lake**.

This inspiring series explores three powerful stories from the Gospels; all set near the Sea of Galilee:

- When Jesus called his first disciples from their fishing boats
- When he walked on water in the middle of a storm
- And when he brought healing and peace to a man in deep distress

Each week, we'll reflect on what these lakeside encounters reveal about Jesus—and what they mean for our lives today. Whether you're feeling tired, uncertain, or simply in need of something more, these stories offer a message of hope, courage, and fresh purpose.

We hope you'll join us—bring a friend, a neighbor, or a family member who might need encouragement. Come as you are. There's a place for you by the water. Let's discover what can happen when Jesus meets us at the lake.

Rise Up, Beloved – Report from West Ohio Annual Conference 2025

“Love is contagious! Joy is contagious,” declared Bishop Hee-Soo Jung as he presided over the 56th



session of the West Ohio Annual Conference. And indeed, both love and joy deepened throughout the gathering.

Held May 28–31, 2025, on the campus of Capital University in Bexley, Ohio, this year's conference centered on the theme “Rise Up, Beloved,” inspired by *Mark 5:35–43*.

The Holy Spirit moved as 1,100 people stood side by side, forming a circle around the perimeter of the conference space, transforming the university fieldhouse into holy ground. The gathering featured powerful preaching, stirring music, and sacred moments of remembrance, confession, repentance, forgiveness, healing, hope, and a shared vision for the future.

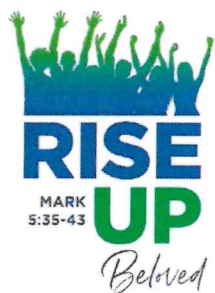
Preachers for the event included Bishop Hee-Soo Jung; retired Bishops Linda Lee and Bruce Ough; the Rev. Dee Stickley-Miner, executive director of mission engagement with Global Ministries; and the Rev. Linda Middelberg, assistant to Bishop Jung — all of whom have direct ties to West Ohio.

Bishop Hee-Soo Jung gave his first State of the Church Address as leader of the newly formed Ohio Episcopal Area, which now includes both East and West Ohio conferences.

He emphasized unity in diversity and called for mutual support and Spirit-led collaboration. “There is still great need in the world. The needs continue to call us to serve, to love, and to give,” he said.

Bishop Jung affirmed the innovative circuit model, in which regional churches

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partner to strengthen discipleship and expand mission impact.

He also introduced the Ohio Episcopal Area Task Team, composed of clergy and laity from both conferences, to explore a vision for a shared future.

“This is not about efficiency,” he said. “It’s about discipleship. It’s about putting our energy into what matters most.”

The Task Team will continue listening, learning, and sharing updates. The decision to form a unified Ohio Conference would come through votes by both East and West Ohio Annual conferences, with a recommendation expected in 2027.

“We are stronger together,” Bishop Jung concluded. “Let us rise up, beloved, and trust in God’s promises.”

Dr. Ahyun Lee, associate professor of pastoral theology, care, and psychotherapy at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, led two Bible study sessions. She emphasized the value of courageous honesty when facing grief and challenges while also making space for healing — as individuals and as the Church.

Among the seven recommendations considered by Conference members were:

- **Budget – ADOPTED:** The 2026 budget includes apportionment decrease of 3% to \$11.7 million, based on 600 churches.
- **Commission on Equitable Compensation – ADOPTED:** Minimum salaries will increase by 3% in 2026.
- **Building a More Sustainable Future – ADOPTED:** Every local church is urged to take steps to make their buildings more energy efficient. Examples include

installing LED light bulbs, smart thermostats, weatherization such as caulking and air sealing, and more energy-efficient HVAC systems.

In collaboration with annual conferences worldwide, members voted on four constitutional amendments adopted at the 2024 General Conference.

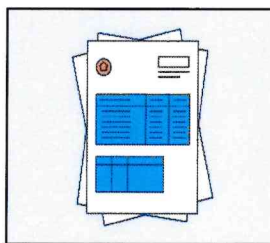
Worship leader Mark Miller and his band, *Subject to Change*, provided music throughout the conference. One original composition captured the theme and spirit of the gathering with these words:

*“Rise up, Beloved, love grows strong when we all belong.
Rise up, Beloved, rise up.
Rise up, Beloved, God isn’t finished with us yet.
Rise up, Beloved, rise up.”*

This refrain reinforced the conference’s message of belonging, renewal, and ongoing mission. It served as a clear reminder that the Church’s work continues, and we are called to rise and respond.

[Adapted from <https://www.westohioumc.org/annual-conference/annual-conference-2025-rise-beloved>]

Giving Statements Coming in July



The Finance Team will send out individual giving statements to everyone who has given or has filed an estimate of giving for 2025 with the church. You will receive it via email if the church office has an email on file for you. This statement is an effort to keep you informed and to give you the opportunity to check and correct any errors on our part. Please review these carefully when you receive them.



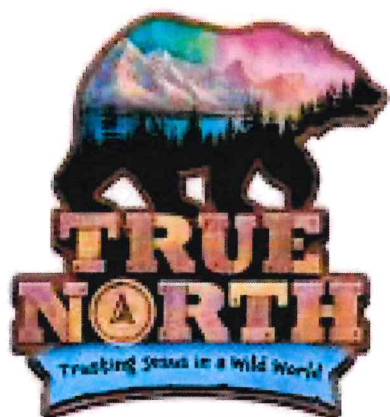
July Birthdays

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

July Anniversaries

- 7 – Dale & Eleanore Short **(63 years)**
Brian & Sheila Holbrock
- 12 – John & Tula Hamilton **(56 years)**
- 15 – Ken & Lori Cobb
- 18 – Alan & Denise Dyke

August
Newsletter Deadline
July 23rd



July 6th – 10th
6:00-8:45pm



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>29</p> <p>4:30pm - 8:30pm Emmaus Gathering/AH</p>	<p>30</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> <p>6:00pm Yoga/AH</p> <p>7:00pm Scouts/AH</p>	<p>1</p> <p>10:00am -12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room</p> <p>10:00am Share Group/Parlor</p>	<p>2</p> <p>11:30am -12:15pm Yoga/Nartheex</p> <p>1:15pm Bible Study/Library</p> <p>6:00pm Youth Group</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p>	<p>5</p>
<p>6</p> <p>Holy Communion</p> <p>6:00pm -8:45pm True North VBS</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> <p>6:00pm -8:45pm True North VBS</p> <p>6:00pm Yoga/AH</p> <p>7:00pm Scouts/AH</p> 	<p>8</p> <p>10:00am -12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room</p> <p>10:00am Share Group/Parlor</p> <p>6:00pm -8:45pm True North VBS</p> 	<p>9</p> <p>11:30am -12:15pm Yoga/Nartheex</p> <p>6:00pm -8:45pm True North VBS</p> <p>6:00pm Youth Group</p> 	<p>10</p> <p>6:00pm -8:45pm True North VBS</p> 	<p>11</p> <p>10:00am Exercise/AH</p> <p>11:00am Yoga/AH</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00am -5:00pm Paula Pierce/Baby Shower/AH</p>
<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> <p>6:00pm Yoga/AH</p> <p>7:00pm Scouts/AH</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00am -12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room</p> <p>10:00am Share Group/Parlor</p> <p>1:00pm Finance Committee/AH</p>	<p>16</p> <p>11:30am -12:15pm Yoga/Nartheex</p> <p>6:00pm Youth Group</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p>10:00am Exercise/AH</p> <p>11:00am Yoga/AH</p>	<p>19</p>
<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>classroom Antics</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> <p>6:00pm Yoga/AH</p> <p>7:00pm Scouts/AH</p>	<p>22</p> <p>classroom Antics</p> <p>10:00am -12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room</p> <p>10:00am Share Group/Parlor</p>	<p>23</p> <p>classroom Antics</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>11:30am -12:15pm Yoga/Nartheex</p> <p>6:00pm Youth Group</p>	<p>24</p> <p>classroom Antics</p>	<p>25</p> <p>classroom Antics</p>	<p>26</p> <p>ANNIVERSARY 50th</p> <p>4:00pm -9:00pm Lapham's 50th Anniversary Celebration</p>
<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> <p>6:00pm Yoga/AH</p> <p>7:00pm Scouts/AH</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:00am -12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room</p> <p>10:00am Share Group/Parlor</p>	<p>30</p> <p>11:30am -12:15pm Yoga/Nartheex</p> <p>6:00pm Youth Group</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>1</p> <p>10:00am Exercise/AH</p> <p>11:00am Yoga/AH</p>	<p>2</p>

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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Monroe UMC Staff

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

Larry Daniel, Choir Director

Melanie Flower, Organist

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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