

# The Monroe Doctrine



August 2024

## “Back to School” time is here



Many different thoughts and feelings arise when people hear the phrase “back to school” – excitement, nervousness, anticipation, anxiety. Many things will be familiar for families, teachers, and students, but there will also be much that is unknown. So, how can we prepare ourselves to go back to school and to be successful when we do?

Kids and adults will have lots of questions, feelings, and worries as they transition to a new school year. Parents and teachers should plan on spending time with each child, giving them many opportunities to express their feelings and thoughts. You might offer God’s Word to them as they share as a way to develop resilience and courage in difficulty. We can never spend too much time listening to those we love. Further, we can teach and model for our kids how to go to God in prayer and trust God with all our concerns.

Parents can also prepare their children for school by reintroducing bedtime and morning routines in the weeks before school starts. Give them opportunities to listen, be respectful, and be responsible at home. If parents send kids to school well-rested and practiced at listening and completing tasks at home, they will be ready to tackle academics and other changes they face in this school year. Our August message series, “Do Unto Others,” will also help prepare our students

to live Jesus’ Golden Rule, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you,” in relationships at school.

Finally, teachers and parents have the opportunity to work on communication and dialogue honestly about our thoughts and feelings. As we teach our kids to turn to God in all things, we will want to practice this habit as well.

1 John 4:16 reminds us, “We know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.” Let’s share the love of Jesus Christ with our students, teachers, administrators, bus drivers, staff, and other families as we begin this new school year together!

**We will celebrate “Blessing of the Backpacks and Students” on August 11 - join us!**

## The Golden Rule in Real Life focus of next series

Kindness, respect, compassion, love. How do you want to be treated?

There’s a phrase often referred to as the *Golden Rule* that simply states, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” It’s a call to treat others with the same kindness we would want to receive in return.

Yet, during election season, it seems division and polarization are common headlines.

And as our kids and students can tell us, going back to school means experiencing bullying, name-calling, and exclusion.

In times like these, filled with negativity, we have a choice to make. Choosing kindness isn't about avoiding our differences but navigating them with respect and compassion. Kindness has the power to influence even more than an election. It strengthens relationships, neighborhoods, and communities. It helps us find common ground instead of taking sides. It allows us to disagree and remain friends. It builds bridges instead of walls. Let's vote for kindness, one small act at a time.

During August, we will focus on a message series that promotes kindness, respect, compassion, and love called ***Do Unto Others***. We want to get the word out and make a public witness about how we as disciples of Jesus Christ will strive to behave as we put Jesus' Golden Rule into action.

We will offer yard signs in three colorful designs to encourage the community to "do unto others." Signs will be available at the church for free (though a suggested donation of \$20 in the offering will help defray the cost to print and ship each sign).

- 8/4: *Do Unto Others* (Holy Communion)
- 8/11: *The Power of Kindness* (Back to School)
- 8/18: *Finding Common Ground*
- 8/25: *Malice toward None, Charity for All*
- 9/1: *Jesus, Politics, and Religion* (Holy Communion)

## **"Monroe 101: Introduction to Monroe UMC" offered**



***Monroe 101*** is our class to welcome and orient newer people to life among the congregation here at Monroe UMC. During the class, participants get acquainted with one another, learn about

the church's mission and values, hear an invitation to faith in Jesus Christ and to life through Monroe UMC, and find out about possible next steps. Depending on each participant's situation, next steps might include receiving Baptism (if never baptized before), professing faith in Christ, reaffirming Baptism (if previously baptized), transferring membership from another congregation to MUMC, becoming a member of this congregation, or choosing to remain an active nonmember in the church.

The next date for the class will be August 25, 12:15 to 2:00 pm. A light lunch will be provided for free! Please register so we may have lunch and materials for you by contacting Edna Miller, Office Manager, at 513.539.7290 or [monroehumc@gmail.com](mailto:monroehumc@gmail.com).

## **"Family-to-Family" Class**



Monroe UMC will host the next **"Family-to-Family"** class sponsored by the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) starting August 28 at 6:30 pm. **Family-to-**

**Family** is an 8-week, evidenced-based education program providing support and education to family members and friends of individuals who are living with mental illness. Classes are taught by trained family members and graduates of the program. In addition to learning about treatment strategies and how to more effectively communicate with loved ones, many participants also find the emotional support they receive crucial during their loved ones' times of illness and stress. Topics include:

- Explanation of major brain disorders
- The latest information about medications (including side effects and strategies for promoting medication adherence)

- Information about the most effective treatments available
- What to do in a crisis
- Handling your loved one's hospitalization and relapse
- Problem solving and communication skills
- Advocating for your loved ones; how to work with professionals
- Taking care of yourself

By the end of the 8-week session, participants will have a packet of materials to keep for ongoing reference. This class has proven to make a positive impact on family members and their loved ones due to increased understanding of the illness, improved skills, and support from other group participants.

Participation is free, but advanced registration is required for NAMI Family-to-Family to ensure we have enough materials prepared for all participants and to ensure we don't exceed class capacity. Register at [nami-bc.org](http://nami-bc.org) or email [bmurray@nami-bc.org](mailto:bmurray@nami-bc.org).

## New Bishop for Ohio Area



Bishop Hee-Soo Jung has been assigned to The Ohio Episcopal Area which includes the East and West Ohio Conferences. His assignment will begin September 1, 2024. The

announcement was made at the North Central Jurisdictional Conference on July 13.

Bishop Jung is currently the resident bishop of the Wisconsin Annual Conference and has served in this role since September 2012. He played a key role in Wisconsin's Imagine No Malaria Campaign, which raised more than \$1 million.

Before leading the Wisconsin Conference UMC,

Bishop Jung served eight years as bishop of the Northern Illinois Conference (Chicago area). He was instrumental in inspiring the Harvest 2020 movement in Northern Illinois, which resulted in many new faith communities.

Previously, Bishop Jung served as an elder in the Wisconsin Conference, where he was a pastor and a district superintendent. Bishop Jung taught and chaired the Department of Religion and Philosophy at Kangnam University in South Korea. He also served as pastor of congregations in California, Texas, and South Korea.

He is currently the president of the General Board of Global Ministries, chair of the UM Korean National Plan, and a member of the Board of Directors for Bread for the World. Bishop Jung serves as a member of the Ecumenical Forum for Korea in Geneva, Switzerland, and is actively involved in Korean peace and reconciliation. He has served as faculty for the Two-Year Academy for Spiritual Formation since 2005 and has taught in various Five-Day Academy sessions in the US and abroad. Previously, Bishop Jung served as president of the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), and as a member of the Board of Directors for the General Board of Discipleship, the UM National Hispanic Plan, the General Commission on Christian Unity and Inter-religious Concerns, and the General Commission on United Methodist Men.

Bishop Jung earned a PhD. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He also holds an MA. from the Institute of Buddhist Studies, affiliated with the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA; an MA. from the Dongguk University Graduate School in Seoul, South Korea; and a B.Th. from the Methodist Theological Seminary in Seoul, South Korea.

Im-Hyon, Bishop Jung's wife, is an elder in the Wisconsin Conference and currently serves as the director of International Relations, Asia & Global Programs, for the Upper Room/Discipleship Ministries. The Jung's are the parents of two adult sons, Jae-Hugh and Jae-Joon (wife, Brittany), and one granddaughter, Sydney Grace.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Financial Summary**

**Notes:** Giving for Operations is significantly below expected, while expenses are slightly below expected, resulting in an operating deficit for the quarter.

1. Year-to-date income is \$21,000 less than anticipated, while expenses are \$10,000 lower than budgeted, resulting in an \$11,000 decrease in cash for operations.
2. Switching to the new Breeze Church Management software is expected to save us \$1,100 per year; the transition has gone well.
3. In addition, we have about \$42,000 in Dedicated accounts, the largest for Capital Improvement at \$30,656.

Questions? Talk to Jerry Michael, Finance Chair; Arlene Horton, Treasurer; or Stan Seagle, Asst. Treasurer.

## **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 cost about \$11,000. (Ultimately, two are needed plus one in the Narthex and one in the Student Wing.) As of 6/30, we have \$30,656 on hand. Thank you for considering any additional gift you might give to help complete this portion of the work.

## **Potluck Party**

The next Potluck Party will be Tuesday, August 13, at 6:00 pm. The mission committee will provide fried chicken and drinks. Everyone is asked to bring either a side dish or a dessert.

This will be a social time to gather and there will be no program. As before when we met once a month, we were asked to bring our own table

setting (plate and silverware). This will require less clean up after our dinner.

If you would like to bring a donation for the Food Pantry that night, they need peanut butter, jelly, boxed potatoes, mayo, catsup, mustard, chicken noodle soup, and vegetable soup. But any type of food donation would be appreciated.

## **Children's Ministry**

**Sunday at the Park** is August 11. The Sunday school class will walk to Monroe Community Park after first service (around 10:45 am).

**Back to School Bash** is also on August 11 and Third Graders will each get their very own Bible.

## **Youth**

1st Wednesday – Bible Study at church

2nd Wednesday – Bull's Run Arboretum in Middletown

3rd Wednesday -- Hope House (shelter TBD) in Middletown

4th Wednesday – Monroe Lending Library on East Ave.

5th Wednesday – Game Night at church

## **Help wanted**

For the past 20 years our church has helped Family Promise (formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network) care for the homeless. Since their resources are limited, they thoroughly vet the families and only accept those that have a good chance to become successful. They have a great track record.

We are one of several churches that partner with Our Lady of Sorrows Church four weeks per year. On Wednesdays we provide dinner, play with the kids, and stay overnight in case of an emergency. We also provide breakfast for the week. We do this 4 Wednesdays a year. Before COVID, all this took place at the Catholic church. During COVID the food was picked up from the Catholic church and taken to a motel rented by Family Promise in

Lebanon where the homeless were housed. Family Promise bought an old motel and they and the community and many churches worked several years to rehab and furnish it. It is now housing the families and we need to take the food to the motel instead of the church. We need one volunteer to stay during dinner and one to play with the kids, and one to stay overnight at the motel in Lebanon. I will continue to organize the food and help as the second volunteer in all three of the positions. If you can help, please call Anne Lapham at 513-539-8095.

### **Idols part 3 - What is our part?**

Last month ended with God telling us we have to do our part if we want him to deliver us.....







So... "What IS my part?" By the time we get to this question, we usually know what the answer is. But the **real** question is, "How do I keep **doing** my part?" Lord....I've tried so many times before and it always ended in failure. I just can't do it. It's too hard. It's **impossible**...

(God) "No...the devil will always be on your back. He will always be enticing you to go back. He tells you, 'You failed **again**. You are a failure and can **not** succeed. Come back to me where you belong.' His lies drown out the gentle whispers of my truths. So you turn from me and run back into his arms. You strain to hear my voice. When you really listen, you will be surprised to hear the **real** truths".....

"If you can?" Jesus said. "Everything is possible for him who believes." **Mark 9:23**

Jesus looked at them and said, "With man, this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." **Mark 10:27**

--Monica Bolton

		Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
28	3:30pm Summer Book Club Discussion/AH	29	 <b>Church Office Closed</b> 8:30am –4:00pm ICode Mason/Classrooms 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	30	 8:30am –4:00pm ICode Mason/Classrooms 10:00am Share Group/Parlor	31	 8:30am –4:30pm ICode Mason/Classrooms 7:00pm Praise Team/AH	1	 8:30am –9:30am ICode Mason/Classrooms	2	 Wesley Foundation/AH 8:30am –4:00pm ICode Mason/Classrooms 10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	3	Wesley Foundation/AH		
4	Holy Communion 3:30pm Summer Book Club Discussion/AH	5	<b>Church Office Closed</b> 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	6	10:00am Share Group/Parlor	7	11:00am –12:00pm Yoga/AH 12:00pm –1:00pm Yoga/Narthex 7:00pm Praise Team/AH	8		9	10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	10			
11	Last Summer Camp Sunday 10:45am –12:00pm Sunday at the Park/Monroe Community Park 5:00pm –9:00pm Emmaus Gathering/AH	12	<b>Church Office Closed</b> 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	13	10:00am Share Group/Parlor	14	11:00am –12:00pm Yoga/AH 12:00pm –1:00pm Yoga/Narthex 7:00pm Praise Team/AH	15	7:00pm Trustees/Library	16	10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	17			
18	12:00pm –3:00pm Birthday Party/AH	19	<b>Church Office Closed</b> 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	20	10:00am Share Group/Parlor 1:00pm –2:00pm Finance Committee/AH	21	11:00am –12:00pm Yoga/AH 12:00pm –1:00pm Yoga/Narthex 7:00pm Praise Team/AH	22		23	10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	24			
25		26	<b>Church Office Closed</b> 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	27	10:00am Share Group/Parlor	28	11:00am –12:00pm Yoga/AH 12:00pm –1:00pm Yoga/Narthex 7:00pm Praise Team/AH	29		30	10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	31	8:00am –2:00pm Emmaus Team Meeting/AH		



# AUGUST



## Birthdays

- 3 – Rick Gardner  
Dan Tracy
- 13 – Ron Johnson
- 18 – Helen Ihle
- 21 – Ruth McDiffett
- 26 – Jerry Lapham
- 27 – Shirley Hall
- 28 – Amy Philpot

## Anniversaries

- 4 – **Lynne & Don Alleman (68 years)**
- 11 – **Elaine & Donald Garver (57 years)**
- 12 – **Barbara & Ron Conley (68 years)**
- 23 – Lyndi & Jeremy Uitto
- 26 – **Judy & Ron Johnson (52 years)**

### Statistically Speaking

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
6/30	\$1,864
7/7	\$7,690
7/14	\$6,530

The deadline  
for the September Newsletter is  
Sunday, August 25<sup>th</sup>



## 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.



## THANK YOU

On Sunday July 7, 2024, I was surprised during church service when my name was called out and I was presented the patriotic quilt by the "Sewing Beas." I wish to thank them and the church for thanking of me but I feel very certain that other members of church deserve this honor more than I do.

I did spend almost five years in the Air Force but I got to work on airplanes, which is what I wanted to do. I got to see some vastly different parts of the world but was never in any place of concern or special danger.

"Sewing Beas" and others of this church, Thank You.

Roger Miller

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](mailto:monroeumc@cinci.rr.com)

Website: [www.monroeumc.org](http://www.monroeumc.org)

**Monroe UMC Staff**

Rev. Jeff Motter, Senior Pastor: [revjammotter@gmail.com](mailto:revjammotter@gmail.com)

Edna Miller, Office Manager: [monroeumc@cinci.rr.com](mailto:monroeumc@cinci.rr.com)

Gina Craft, Children's Ministries: [gmatcraft@gmail.com](mailto:gmatcraft@gmail.com)

Rev. Timothy Draxler, Choirmaster: [timdraxler@aol.com](mailto: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



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