

The Monroe Doctrine



April 2016

Showers and Flowers



Well, Easter is over and we are moving forward into Spring. Here in Ohio, that *usually* means the rains come daily during April. I can remember counting the dry days in April. That count has often

been in the single digits. And that consistent rain makes the grass grow like crazy. I often find that in April when I have time to mow it's raining, and when I don't it's sunny and nice. So frustrating; however, it makes the flowers blossom like nobody's business. And that's often worth the price of admission, isn't it? I think flowers are one of the proofs that God loves us and wants us to be happy.

This, of course, makes a pastor think about how we grow in our relationship with God. What is it that substitutes in our life for the rain? For the fertilizer? For the sunny day? What helps our spiritual gardens grow?

Unfortunately, my answer is that the struggles of life – the hardships, the uncomfortable times, the worries, the pain – are the very things that water and fertilize our spiritual lives. These are the things that make our roots go deep into the heart of God. These are the things that strip away all of our bravado and toughness and force us to rely

solely upon the presence, strength, and calmness of God. In our weakness, God is shown to be strong.

Friends, life is hard sometimes and for some of us often. That is the way life is, and it is exactly that way so that we can grow in our relationship with God. Life is not supposed to be easy. Life is supposed to make us squirm and sweat and hurt and ... to get stronger. That's when we grow closer to God and become more and more like God.

So, as you stand at your window drinking a cup of coffee or tea and looking out at the rain, think on what blessings your trials are. Think about what God is growing deep in your soul through these fertilizing times. Think about the things of God.

And rejoice. Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, "Rejoice!" God is sovereign, we get to have this redeeming relationship with God, and that is worth it all.

Grace & Peace,

--Pastor Joel

April Worship Schedule

- 3 Confirmation Sunday - 9:30
Carol Crotty Preaching – 8:30 and 10:45
- 10 "Walking In Solomon's Porch" John 10:22-30
- 17 Youth Sunday
- 24 "Clean or Unclean?" Acts 11:1-18

Golf Outing Fund-Raiser

Bring your golfing buddies and join us on Sunday, May 22, for the third annual "Fore Heaven's Sake – Birdies for Blaze" Golf Outing. It's being held at the challenging Wildwood Golf Club in Middletown. Registration begins at noon with a shotgun start at 1:30 PM. Net proceeds will go to support the Blaze Youth Group members and their mission work in the local communities this summer.

For foursomes, including greens fees, cart, drink tickets, and an all-you-can-eat meal after, we request a contribution of \$300. We anticipate between 100 and 144 golfers, so sign up soon to reserve your spot.

Outing Sponsorship opportunities will also be available. For details and to sign up, contact **Bob Riggs** at (513) 907-4130, **Rick Drake** at (937) 360-1924, **Brad Jonas** at (513) 755-3795, **Phil Lacefield** at (513) 423-7803, or **Dave Walz** at (513) 884-5801.

Payments are due by April 29 and should be made out to Monroe United Methodist Church. Mail payments to Bob Riggs, 133 Ewing Drive Unit B, Fairfield, Ohio 45014.

Thank you

From Helping Hands to everyone who provided a dessert for the luncheon following the service for Joel Osterman, the ladies who baked cookies for the reception following the memorial service for Verla McClure, those who sent food to the home of Gladys Crawford following Dr. Bill Crawford's passing, and everyone who helped with the luncheon for the family of Marvin Carpenter following his service.

National Organ Donors Month

April is the month to celebrate those who have received transplants, to recognize those who continue to wait, to honor donors and donor families, and to thank registered donors for giving hope.

Approximately 122,000 men, women, and children await lifesaving organ transplants. More than 1,000 of them are 10 years old or younger. Another person is added to the nation's organ transplant waiting list every ten minutes.

The average waiting time for a kidney from a deceased donor is 3 to 5 years. A kidney from a living donor offers patients an alternative to years of dialysis and time on the national transplant waiting list.

Each year, there are approximately 30,000 tissue donors and more than one million tissue transplants; the surgical need for donated tissue is steadily rising. A single tissue donor can help more than 50 people.

Sight is restored for 48,000 patients through corneal transplants each year.

More than 121 million people, approximately 51% of the U.S. adult population, are registered organ, eye and tissue donors.

Transplantation is one of the most remarkable success stories in the history of medicine. It offers patients a new chance at healthy, productive and normal lives and returns them to their families, friends, and communities. All major religions support donation as a final act of compassion and generosity. You can register to be a donor online at *DonateLife.net* or at your local license bureau.

Cuban mission at UMW

Praise band drummer **Greg Stevens** will share an inside view of a mission to a church in Cuba at the United Methodist Women's meeting, Thursday, April 21, at 7:00 PM in Fellowship Hall. Please bring non-perishable foods or household items for the Middletown Food Bank. All church women are welcome.

Good Fellowship

Good Fellowship will meet on Tuesday, April 5, at 6:00 PM in Atchley Hall. Please bring a hot dish, salad, or dessert to share and your own table service.

Help wanted

Greeters wanted for the 10:45 service to serve for a one-month period. See **Sally Jonas** or call her at 513-755-3795 to volunteer.

Caregivers Support Group

The next Caregivers Support Group meeting will be Monday, April 4, at noon in Melvin's room. This group provides support to those involved in the care of another adult. Please invite your friends and neighbors who are involved in care giving. Join us for lunch and fellowship.

Health Ministry Team

The Congregational Health Ministry Team will meet Monday, April 11, from 7:00 to 8:00 PM in the parlor. This ministry group focuses on the physical, emotional, and spiritual health and well-being of individuals as well as the congregation and community. We invite all those who are interested to join us; health education or training is not necessary. Please see **Ann Copeland** for more information about this exciting ministry opportunity.

Workshop on Oils and Aging

The Congregational Health Team will sponsor a free workshop on "Oils and Aging" Wednesday, April 27, from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. This class will focus on the use of essential oils such as lavender, frankincense, and myrrh that help slow the aging process. Our speaker, Jodie Blackledge, from Wright State University, will discuss oils that are helpful in preventing and restoring memory loss, in relieving arthritis-type aches and pains, in vision preservation, as well as other "aging" issues. Please join us.

Yoga classes

Yoga classes led by a certified yoga instructor will be held every Wednesday from 11:00 - 11:45 AM in the gym beginning April 6. Cost is \$3.50 per class or a 4-session package at \$12.00. You do not have to use the 4-session package consecutively. This is a relaxing way to promote fitness and

spiritual connection. Wear comfortable clothes and invite your friends and neighbors. Any questions, see **Ann Copeland**.

Walk to Emmaus

It's not too late to sign up for the Northern Lights Emmaus Women's Walk, April 14 – 17, or the Men's Walk, April 28 – May 1. Both will be at Christ United Methodist Church in Middletown. See the **Laphams** or the **Lacefields** for more information and for sponsorship.

Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Breakfast will be held Saturday April 2, at 9:00 AM in Atchley Hall.

Pastor's Bible Study

Starting on Thursday, April 7, at either 10:00 AM or 7:00 PM, join Pastor Joel for a new Bible Study, "The Gospel of John Part 2." We will pick up the Evangelist's story with Maundy Thursday and then work our way to the end of the Gospel. We expect to end the study on June 2. It's open to all, whether you came to the "Gospel of John Part 1" or not. There is no fee; just bring your Bible.

Want to join MUMC?

We will be having Monroe 101 on Sunday, April 17, at 3:00 PM *or* Thursday, April 21, at 7:00 PM in Melvin's Room. You'll hear what it means to be a United Methodist, to be a part of Monroe UMC, and how you can be involved. Those who choose to join after Monroe 101 will be invited to a reception at the Parsonage on Saturday, April 23, at 7:00 PM where they will meet their "Sponsors" who will help them get acclimated and involved in Monroe UMC. Finally, we will receive our new members at their choice of worship services on Sunday, April 24.

Spaghetti at Variety Show

On Saturday, April 9, the BLAZE Youth will serve a spaghetti dinner prior to the annual church-wide variety show. Proceeds will help finance camps and mission trips for participating youth.

APRIL 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Easter Sunday Newsletter Deadline 7:00 AM Sunrise Service 7:30 AM Easter Breakfast 9:30 AM Easter Music Worship 10:45 AM Easter Worship 7:00 PM Young Adult Basketball/AH	28	29 10:00 AM Share Group/Parlor 5:30 PM Grace Walkers 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Cub Scouts/#6 & 7 7:00 PM Line Dancing/AH	30 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Handbells/MR 6:45 PM - 8:15 PM BLAZE Youth 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	31 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study/MR 7:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study/MR 7:00 PM Rekindled/AH	1	2 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast/Atchley Hall 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Wes Souders/MR
3 Confirmation Sunday Holy Communion 7:00 PM Young Adult Basketball/AH	4 12:00 PM Caregivers Support Group/MR	5 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Clergy Cluster Mtg/MR 10:00 AM Share Group/Parlor 2:00 PM Loss Recovery Group/MR 5:30 PM Grace Walkers 6:00 PM Good Fellowship Dinner/AH 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Cub Scouts/#6 & 7	6 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Yoga 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Handbells/MR 6:45 PM - 8:15 PM BLAZE Youth 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	7 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study/MR 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Girl Scouts/Small Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study/MR 7:00 PM Rekindled/AH	8 6:00 PM Set-up Atchley Hall	9 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Wes Souders/MR 5:30 PM Variety Show/AH
10 Blood Pressure Screenings/Narthex 7:00 PM Young Adult Basketball/AH	11 7:00 PM Health Ministry Team/Parlor	12 10:00 AM Share Group/Parlor 5:30 PM Grace Walkers 7:00 PM Finance Committee/MR 7:00 PM Line Dancing/AH	13 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Yoga 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Handbells/MR 6:45 PM - 8:15 PM BLAZE Youth 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	14 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study/MR 7:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study/MR 7:00 PM Rekindled/AH	15	16 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Wes Souders/MR
17 3:00 PM Monroe 101/MR 7:00 PM Young Adult Basketball/AH	18	19 10:00 AM Share Group/Parlor 2:00 PM Loss Recovery Group/MR 5:30 PM Grace Walkers 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Cub Scouts/#6 & 7 7:00 PM Line Dancing/AH 7:00 PM Trustees/MR	20 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Yoga 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Handbells/MR 6:45 PM - 8:15 PM BLAZE Youth 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	21 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Girl Scouts/Small Fellowship Hall 7:00 PM Monroe 101/MR 7:00 PM Rekindled/AH 7:00 PM United Methodist Women	22	23 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Wes Souders/MR 7:00 PM New Member Reception at the Parsonage
24 Newsletter Deadline Receive New Members Youth Sunday 7:00 PM Young Adult Basketball/AH	25	26 10:00 AM Share Group/Parlor 5:30 PM Grace Walkers 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Cub Scouts/#6 & 7 7:00 PM Administrative Council/MR 7:00 PM Line Dancing/AH	27 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM Yoga 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Handbells/MR 6:45 PM - 8:15 PM BLAZE Youth 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	28 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study/MR 7:00 PM Pastor's Bible Study/MR 7:00 PM Rekindled/AH	29	30 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Wes Souders/MR



Happy Anniversary

- 4 – Rhonda & Mike Finley
Bobbie & Eric Thompson
- 5 – Michelle & Jason Fults
- 6 – Sharon & Jack Collier **(54 years)**
- 9 – Diane & David Linn
- 11 – Connie & Doug Schoffner
- 12 – Deloris & Ted Rarig **(58 years)**
- 13 – Julie & Andrew Dunavent
- 17 - Phil & Sandy Curlis
- 20 – Louise & Larry Stoner
- 24 – Jane & Glen Majors **(63 years)**
- 25 – Joan & Jerry Craft **(58 years)**
- 28 – Doreen & Pat Harrington
JoAnn & Larry Webb **(54 years)**

Happy Birthday

- 1 – Ella Hatcher
Bob Kniffen
- 2 – Margaret Musgrove
Diane Linn
- 3 – Corbett Cox
- 4 – Mauro Losz
Michele Guido
- 6 – Steve Comer
Zachary Lind
- 9 – Dana Batchelder
Betty Beatty
Jenna Waugh
Elise Stitt
- 10 – Jeffrey Brookshire
Tina Abner
Michelle Comer
Nicholas Schlamb
- 11 – Nathan Fields
- 12 – Bill Halsey
Nancy Rolich
- 13 – Jacob Barrett

- 14 – Ron Conley
Joey Waugh
Jodie Williams
- 16 – James Hickman
Jonathon Hickman
- 18 – Marian Dillon
- 19 – Mabel Laird **(97 years)**
Lou Cole
- 20 – Ellie Fink
Mike Grooms
- 22 – John Flower
Jessica Finley
- 23 – Jan Bresnahan
Brennen Evans
Cade Evans
Kellan Evans
- 24 – Carol Follmer
Skip Weaver
- 26 – Nancy Bolton
- 27 – Larry Stoner
- 28 – Sean Lind
- 29 – Charlianne Majors
- 30 – Mary Jane Conrad
Ellen Osterman
Louise Stoner
Ethan Stoner

March 25, Good Friday

Church Office closed
7:00 pm Good Friday Worship Service

March 27, Easter Sunday

7:00 am, Sunrise Service
7:30 am, Easter Breakfast/Atchley Hall
9:30 am, Easter Music Worship/Atchley Hall
10:45 am, Worship Service

Statistics

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
February 14	240	3,724
February 21	262	4,796
February 28	282	4,908
March 6	262	9,368
March 13	231	9,840

MONROE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
206 East Avenue, P.O. Box 310
Monroe, OH 45050-0310

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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Jerry Lapham, Newsletter Editor
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Treasurer, Connie Wesner
Fin. Secretary, Lindsay Fields

MINISTERS: CONGREGATION



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