

# The Monroe Doctrine



November 2017

## My thorn



In 2 Corinthians 12, the Apostle Paul makes reference to having a “thorn” in his side. The passage goes like this from the NIV: “*Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming*

*conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ’s sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*”

Many scholars have debated what this “thorn” was. Some suggested that it was extraordinarily poor eyesight (caused by his being blinded at conversion) and used the ending to one of Paul’s Epistles where he talks about writing with large letters as evidence. Others suggest that because of the beatings, starvation, imprisonments and such, that Paul’s health was wrecked. A few scholars (my personal favorites) suggest that the Apostle Paul, the most influential evangelist and missionary of all time, had a speech impediment, maybe a stutter (his comparisons to the good looks and smooth tongue of Apollos gives evidence).

As a life-long stutterer living out a calling in an occupation that requires much public speaking and interpersonal communication, my speech

impediment has been a “thorn” in my side. Many of my failings can be traced back to this thorn (not an excuse, but an explanation). Stutterers hate to talk on the phone, make cold calls (on the phone or in a visit) and need to carefully prepare anything said in public ahead of time to navigate the rocky shores of trigger sounds and such. I am no different. I struggle with these issues and many more.

Stuttering in public is embarrassing and is like standing in front of a crowd in one’s underwear. It makes one feel very vulnerable and a failure. I have read that the number one fear in America is public speaking. I have never had *that* fear, but I do live with the fear of public stuttering. Once, in the 8th grade, I was in a spelling bee and stood on stage in front of an auditorium full of parents and classmates stuck on saying the “u” in “corpuscle” for 8 minutes. 8 minutes! It was humiliating.

My friends, it is exactly in our weakness that God’s strength is revealed ... when we let our weakness be evident. I am working on that. I really am. I’m not there yet, but who of us is fully formed ... even when we hold Golden Buckeye Cards? But, my stuttering has been one of the things that has made me what I am and, in the end, I thank God for that.

I thank God for my many weaknesses, for as with the Apostle Paul, in my weakness, God’s strength is made evident. Hallelujah.

Grace & Peace,

## November Worship Schedule

- 5 **Stewardship Sunday**  
Pastor Ann preaching
- 12 Pastor Ann Preaching
- 19 **Thanksgiving Sunday**  
Thanking Jesus Luke 17:11-19
- 26 **Christ The King Sunday**  
Christ On The Throne Matthew 25:31-46

## Fall Youth Retreat - Nov 3-5



In his role as interim Youth Director, **Pastor Joel** will accompany our Youth (grades 7-12) to Camp Otterbein in the Hocking Hills for their Fall Retreat. In the midst of

campfires, smores, ziplining, a climbing wall, a high ropes course, hiking, and great food, we will be focusing on the theme, "Training a Dragon and Other Mystical Feats," as we look at how we can grow our own spiritual lives. We will gather on Friday at 5:00 PM for a pizza dinner and then head off to Camp Otterbein for the weekend. We'll return on Sunday afternoon tired, refreshed, and ready to change the world. The cost is \$105 for the whole weekend including food, lodging, transportation, and programming. Scholarships are available. The registration deadline is November 1.

## Focus Group suggestions

During the months of August and September we asked you to attend one of 12 Focus Groups where we attempted to answer the question, "Where do we go from here?" for our church. More than 100 of you responded.

Two new outreach programs were suggested:

Divorce Care, a divorce recovery support group, and "Just Walk Across the Room," a course which helps people talk about Jesus to others. Pastor Joel has already begun the course on Thursdays at 10:00 AM and 7:30 PM.

We need improved communications within the church and with the community. No one liked the new "green cards."

We need to identify and welcome new people. We should bring back the 10:45 Welcome Centers, put name tags on greeters, and put up "You Are Here" maps throughout the building. Visitors should be contacted on Sunday or Monday and thanked for coming. If you like to meet and get to know people, perhaps this is the ministry for you.

When a member leaves we need to find out why. A team representing the three services could check with those who've left. We also need to follow up as youth graduate from high school.

An increase in social activities including monthly family dinners, holding more meetings in homes, a single-parent (and/or grandparent) group, a seniors group, a families-with-children group, and couple mentoring were suggested. Someone suggested more men's group activities besides the monthly breakfasts. All of these require someone to lead them. Is this the ministry for you?

Suggestions for our church's operation included filling all committee positions and turning them over on schedule, adding a children's Sunday School program during the 10:45 service, and scheduling only two services at 9:00 and 11:00 AM with Sunday School in between. Some objected to communion by intinction. A children's Sunday School during the 10:45 service is being planned to start after the first of the year.

Criticisms about staff member performance are being referred to the Staff/Parish Relations Committee.

Thank you to the 12 host families and to Ad Council Chairman **Ruth McDiffett**, who attended all 12 Focus Groups to answer questions and assist the hosts.

## Good Fellowship

Good Fellowship will not meet in November. Their next potluck is scheduled for Tuesday, December 5.

## Hanging of the greens

Hanging of the greens for the holiday season will take place after church on November 26. Help with this project would be much appreciated.

## Thanksgiving Baskets



The MUMC Mission Committee is planning our annual Thanksgiving Basket Campaign again partnering with the local Monroe Kroger.

We will be preparing 65 Baskets for distribution to recipients from the Butler County Success Program, administered through the local Monroe Public Schools and the Butler County Head Start program. We also expect to have 12 to 15 “At-Large” baskets available for families from within our immediate congregation. If you are aware of a local family in need this year either from within MUMC, Hornet Haven, or a close family friend or neighbor, please contact Pastor Joel. For privacy reasons he will be maintaining that master list.

Envelopes will be available for donations beginning Sunday, October 29. We estimate the per basket cost to be between \$35 and \$40 again. Everything must be purchased by November 12, so if possible please submit your contributions before then but not later than Sunday, November 19. Write “Thanksgiving Baskets” on the memo line of your checks for proper accounting. Thank-you in advance for your continued support. MUMC has a great reputation within our community for giving generously in times of need.

## Election Day Luncheon



The United Methodist Women will be hosting their 42nd annual Election Day Luncheon on Tuesday, November 7, in Atchley Hall. Lunch will be served from 11:00 AM until 1:30 PM. Menu will include

homemade vegetable beef soup, pulled pork barbecue and hot chicken sandwiches, hot dogs, chili dogs, cole slaw, homemade pies and cakes, and drinks.

## Men’s Breakfast

The next Men’s Breakfast will be Saturday, November 4, at 9:00 AM in Atchley Hall.

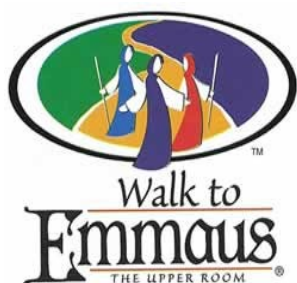
## Monrovers finishes strong

Despite a very wet, cold spring that canceled the canoe trip, Monrovers had 9 people go on the Whitewater Rafting Trip in July and 10 go on the Rock-Climbing Trip in October. Trips planned for 2018 include a winter hike at John Bryan State Park, January 20; a kayak/canoe trip on the Little Miami, April 28; a bicycling trip on Loveland bike trail, May 19; a Whitewater Rafting Trip on the New River, June 29 – 30; and a Rock-Climbing Trip to Hocking Hills, October 12 – 13. We try to keep these trips as inexpensive as possible but partial scholarships are available if needed.

## Church Conference

We are having our annual Church Conference this year with only our own congregation on Sunday, November 19, at 4:00 PM. Rev. Gary Rode from Sharonville UMC will officiate. We will have a time of worship enveloping the work we accomplished, followed by a time of fellowship and treats. Come and celebrate the good things we have done here at Monroe UMC in the last year. In a Church Conference, all who attend have Voice and all who are members of Monroe UMC have Vote.

## One to Emmaus



**Karen Walz** will be serving on team for the Northern Lights Emmaus Women's Walk at Mason First Baptist Church November 9 -12. If you'd like to go, it's not too late to sign up for either the Women's Walk or the Men's Walk, which will be at Camp Lebanon, November 2 - 5. Contact the **Laphams** or the **Lacefields** for more information.

### "Stretch & Balance" class

The Health Ministry Team will be offering a new "Stretch & Balance" class starting in January. More details to follow in next month's newsletter. If you are interested, please see **Pam Kilburn**, **Ann Copeland**, or any member of the Health Ministry committee.

### 2018 Altar flower list

The 2018 Altar flower list is now available for sign ups in the narthex near the stairs for the sanctuary and in Atchley Hall for the 9:30 service. The Atchley Hall flowers are \$15 for one vase and the sanctuary flowers are \$25 for 2 vases. Please complete an envelope with your requests and payment by the third week of the month prior to your requested date. For questions, please see **Pam Kilburn** or call 513-539-8975.

### Poinsettias

Poinsettias will again be available to decorate the sanctuary and Atchley Hall for Christmas. The cost is \$10 each. Envelopes for payment and dedication will be available at the welcome center in Atchley Hall and in the pews in the sanctuary. Orders must be received by November 26. For questions, see **Pam Kilburn**.

### Thank you

From **Helping Hands** to thank all those who donated food and worked at the Jeanne Snyder funeral luncheon held on October 18. It was

greatly appreciated.

From **Monroe High School Head Football Coach Bill Leach** for providing our team meal on September 29. "By inviting us into your church you provide an opportunity to help with that growth and it is greatly appreciated!"

From **Children's Ministry** for the candy donations and support of our Fall Festival.

### Help wanted

If you are willing to set up for Communion, please contact **Sally Jonas**.

### Casseroles-To-Go

Our next fifth Sunday Casseroles-To-Go collections will be October 29 and December 31. Please bring your freezable entrée and place it on the designated table in the narthex. These meals go to those recently bereaved and to people in need following hospitalization. This is a great way to express our concern and God's love to those in difficult circumstances.

### Caregivers Support Group

The Caregivers Support Group will meet for lunch, idea sharing, and support on Monday, November 6, in Melvin's Room. If you help care for another adult, please join us.

### Service of Remembrance

Our Service of Remembrance to honor All Soul's Day will be held Sunday, November 5, at 5:00 PM. This short worship service promotes healing and grief education. It provides bereavement care and helpful information to assist grieving families during a difficult season. Whether your loss was recent and you need help surviving the upcoming holidays, or long ago and you would like to pause and remember your loved one, this service can be very meaningful and sacred. You may bring a picture of your loved one(s) for the altar. This service is open to our community; please invite your family and friends. For additional information or promotional flyers, please see **Ann Copeland**.

## Daylight time ends



Sunday, November 5, is the morning we set our clocks back and return to Standard Time. If you happen to forget and show up for church early, it's only a problem for

our 8:30 service folks. If you're a 9:30 service person, try out the 8:30 service. And if you normally go to the 10:45 service, you'll only be 15 minutes into the praise singing and won't be a disturbance at the 9:30 service.

## Wounded Healers

*Wounded Healers are not born and they are not Made... They create themselves through conquering adversity, trial and error, and extreme pain and suffering. They conquer fear and find a way to speak their truth even when they are afraid. In doing so they shine light for others who are lost and feeling alone and in return their inner light ignites with renewed purpose. A purpose greater than they ever could have imagined.*

Have you experienced the loss of spouse or a child? The betrayal of a significant person? Are you willing to help those recently experiencing a similar situation? If you could use your wisdom and encouragement to guide others through life's challenges, please see **Ann Copeland** to help find the person for whom God is calling you to be a Wounded Healer.

## Coming soon: The Giving Tree



The holiday season is almost here. Last year our congregation purchased nearly 200 gifts for needy children. This year the need continues; we are already receiving

names of children who may not receive Christmas gifts without your help. Our Giving Tree will be

up after Thanksgiving with the requests of many needy children from our community. Please prayerfully consider taking a name tag or two and purchasing a gift to help a child have a happy holiday. If you know of a child or family in need, please see **Ann Copeland** or **Holly Stevens**.

## Shoebox Ministry

Pick up a red and green (flat) shoebox to fill for the Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Ministry and return it by Sunday, November 12.

## Advent Workshop

Save the date, Saturday, December 16, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM, for an Advent Workshop to teach the children all about Advent while they make gifts for the family. Parents are welcome to stay or go Christmas shopping. Lunch will be provided.

## Children's Ministry Outreach

MUMC is lighting the way for children-in-need at Amanda Elementary where "Slinky Tutoring" is underway. Thank you to our very supportive tutors who are meeting there on Wednesdays between 4 and 5:30. You can also help by donating your gently used kindergarten – 5th grade books to the tutoring center. They will be put to very good use. Please put them in the Slinky Book Bins in the narthex and entry ways of the church.





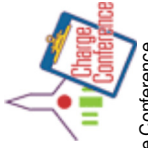



## Children's caroling & ringing

Friday, December 1, the children will be at the Monroe Historical Society's Community Tree Lighting Ceremony. On Sunday, December 10, they perform at the 9:30 and 10:45 services and at Mt. Pleasant at 3:45 PM.

## Save the jar

Recently Kroger's Free Friday was Yoplait's **Oui** French Style Yogurt in a 5 oz glass jar. The jar would be ideal for holding the candles we give to visitors to our services. If you have some, please bring the empties to church and place them in a box by the altar flower sign-up list in the narthex or give them to **Anne Lapham**.

# NOVEMBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> Casseroles to Go Staff Appreciation after the 10:45 Service in Atchley Hall <b>2:00 PM - 5:00 PM</b> Bridal Shower/Debbie Brookshire/AH <b>6:00 PM - 7:00 PM</b> "The Art of Marriage" Small Group/MR	<b>30</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Yoga/AH	<b>31</b>  <b>10:00 AM</b> Share Group/Parlor <b>5:00 PM - 8:00 PM</b> Trunk or Treat and Fall Festival <b>8:00 PM</b> Nominations Committee/MR	<b>1</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Yoga/AH <b>6:00 PM - 7:00 PM</b> Handbells/MR <b>6:30 PM</b> Youth Group <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir	<b>2</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Pastor's Bible Study/MR <b>6:00 PM - 7:00 PM</b> NA/MR <b>6:30 PM</b> Girl Scouts/Sm. FH <b>7:00 PM</b> Rekindled/AH <b>7:30 PM</b> Pastor's Bible Study/MR	<b>3</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Yoga/AH <b>5:00 PM</b> Youth Meet at church to go to Hocking Hills	<b>4</b>  Youth Retreat at Hocking Hills <b>9:00 AM</b> Men's Breakfast/Atchley Hall
<b>5</b>  Atchley Hall Reserved for Election Day Luncheon set-up Holy Communion <b>Stewardship Sunday</b> Youth return from Hocking Hills <b>5:00 PM</b> Service of Remembrance <b>6:00 PM - 7:00 PM</b> "The Art of Marriage" Small Group/MR	<b>6</b> Atchley Hall Reserved for Election Day Luncheon set- up <b>12:00 PM</b> Caregivers Support Group/MR <b>6:30 PM</b> Yoga	<b>7</b> <b>9:00 AM - 11:00 AM</b> Clergy Cluster/MR <b>11:00 AM - 1:30 PM</b> Election Day Luncheon/AH <b>6:30 PM - 7:30 PM</b> Cub Scouts/Sm. FH/Rm. 6 & 7 <b>7:00 PM</b> Line Dancing/AH	<b>8</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Yoga/AH <b>6:00 PM - 7:00 PM</b> Handbells/MR <b>6:30 PM</b> Youth Group <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir	<b>9</b> <b>6:00 PM - 7:00 PM</b> NA/MR <b>7:00 PM</b> Rekindled/AH	<b>10</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Yoga/AH	<b>11</b>  <b>VETERANS DAY</b>
<b>12</b> Blood Pressures taken in the Narthex <b>6:00 PM - 7:00 PM</b> "The Art of Marriage" Small Group/MR	<b>13</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Yoga/AH <b>7:00 PM</b> Mission/S.A.I.L. Committee/MR	<b>14</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Share Group/Parlor <b>6:30 PM - 7:30 PM</b> Cub Scouts/Sm. FH/Rm. 6 & 7 <b>7:00 PM</b> Finance Committee/MR <b>7:00 PM</b> Line Dancing/AH	<b>15</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Yoga/AH <b>6:00 PM - 7:00 PM</b> Handbells/MR <b>6:30 PM</b> Youth Group <b>7:00 PM</b> Andy Garlison/AH <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir	<b>16</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Pastor's Bible Study/MR <b>6:00 PM - 7:00 PM</b> NA/MR <b>6:30 PM</b> Girl Scouts/Sm. FH <b>7:00 PM</b> Rekindled/AH <b>7:30 PM</b> Pastor's Bible Study/MR	<b>17</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Yoga/AH	<b>18</b> <b>9:00 AM - 4:30 PM</b> Hornet Haven Meeting/AH
<b>19</b>  <b>4:00 PM</b> Charge Conference	<b>20</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Yoga/AH	<b>21</b> <b>10:00 AM - 3:00 PM</b> Hornet Haven Family Feast/AH <b>10:00 AM</b> Share Group/Parlor <b>6:30 PM - 7:30 PM</b> Cub Scouts/Sm. FH/Rm. 6 & 7 <b>7:00 PM</b> Line Dancing/AH <b>7:00 PM</b> Trustees/MR	<b>22</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Yoga/AH <b>6:30 PM - 7:00 PM</b> Youth Group <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir	<b>23</b>  Anne Lapham/AH Church Office Closed <b>6:00 PM - 7:00 PM</b> NA/MR	<b>24</b> Church Office Closed <b>11:00 AM</b> Yoga/AH	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 	<b>27</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Yoga/AH	<b>28</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Share Group/Parlor <b>6:30 PM - 7:30 PM</b> Cub Scouts/Sm. FH/Rm. 6 & 7 <b>7:00 PM</b> Line Dancing/AH <b>7:00 PM</b> Worship Committee/MR	<b>29</b> <b>11:00 AM</b> Yoga/AH <b>6:00 PM - 7:00 PM</b> Handbells/MR <b>6:30 PM</b> Youth Group <b>7:00 PM</b> Chancel Choir	<b>30</b> <b>10:00 AM</b> Pastor's Bible Study/MR <b>6:00 PM - 7:00 PM</b> NA/MR <b>7:00 PM</b> Rekindled/AH <b>7:30 PM</b> Pastor's Bible Study/MR	<b>1</b>  Children's Bell Choir at the Historical Society <b>11:00 AM</b> Yoga/AH	<b>2</b> <b>9:00 AM</b> Men's Breakfast/Atchley Hall



## *Birthdays*

1 – Mary Johnson  
 3 - John Stitt  
 5 - Alex Stevens  
 6 – Mark Osterman  
 11 – Dan Moak  
     JoAn Webb  
 12 - Greg Eldridge  
 15 - Gail Heizer  
     Dawn Hamilton  
 16 – Donna Whitenack  
     Mary Jo Bauer  
 17 – Connie Grooms  
 20 – Jane Majors  
     Tanner Yalich  
     Taylor Yalich  
 22 – Ralph Carpenter  
     Pam Kilburn  
 23 – Debbie Garitson  
     Eleanore Short  
 26 – JoAnne Foreman  
     John Hamilton  
 27 – Phil Davis  
 28 – Anna Brophy  
     Herb Gansheimer  
 29 – Joyce Schraffenberger

## *Anniversaries*

10 – Mark & Cheryl Withrow  
 13 – **Bob & Gail Heizer (63 years)**

### **Church Statistics...**

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
September 17	191	\$3,632
September 24	197	\$4,163
October 1	222	\$11,181
October 8	245	\$5,753
October 15	190	\$3,972



Daylight Savings  
 Time Ends  
 Sunday,  
 November 5th  
 Don't forget to set  
 your clocks back 1 hour!

### **NOVEMBER SPECIAL EVENTS**

**Nov. 7**  
 11:00 am - 1:30 pm  
 Election Day Luncheon

**Nov. 23**  
 Thanksgiving



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**

**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. Joel Harbarger**, Senior Pastor and Interim Youth Director:  
[pastorjoel@swohio.twcbc.com](mailto:pastorjoel@swohio.twcbc.com)

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

**Stephanie Fleming**, Worship Leader: [stephanie1steps@gmail.com](mailto:stephanie1steps@gmail.com)

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

**Rev. Ann Copeland**, Pastoral Care/Outreach Coordinator: [annxhpm@yahoo.com](mailto:annxhpm@yahoo.com)

**Rachel Watkins**, Hornet Haven Director: [HornetHavenMumc@cinci.rr.com](mailto:HornetHavenMumc@cinci.rr.com)

**Larry Daniel**, Director of Music

**Linda Larkin**, Nursery Attendant

**Jerry Lapham**, Newsletter Editor

**Jeremy Uitto**, Website Developer

**Melanie Flower**, Organist

**Steve Rizkallah**, Custodian

**Treasurer**, Connie Wesner

**Fin. Secretary**, Lindsay Fields

**MINISTERS: CONGREGATION**



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