

# The Monroe Doctrine



October 2017

## Disasters Upon Disasters



In the last month, doesn't it seem like we broke the world? Floods in Texas, Louisiana, and India; winds in Florida, Georgia and the Carolinas;

hurricanes flattening Caribbean Islands; earthquakes in Mexico; fires in Washington, Oregon, California, Montana and Colorado; record heat in Ohio; and the list goes on and on. We don't remember ever seeing so much of this kind of weather so we wonder what is going on. Is God punishing us? Is this the end of the world?

Some religious leaders claim this is God's judgment for allowing sin to proliferate. Others blame climate change. Still others deny climate change, and some deny there is a God to punish us. Life is getting scary.

My friends, I cannot speak for God. I do not get direct words from God, like Jeremiah or Isaiah or Malachi. But, I can say these things. We live in a majestically, divinely arranged planet for life as we know it. We humans have a relatively narrow tolerance for temperature, oxygen concentration, trace gas concentration, elevation, and water availability. Move out of this narrow band and we enter "Death Zones" like Mt. Everest, which is too cold and has too little oxygen for most of us; or the Empty Quarter of the Sahara Desert, which is too hot and dry; or the Antarctic Ice Shelf,

which is both too cold and too dry. Life is fragile and God has provided a wonderful environment for us and given us the responsibility as Stewards of Creation.

So, have we broken the world? I don't think so. We may have beaten it up a bit, but I also believe that God has built in ways for it to heal, if we will simply be responsible stewards. Is God punishing us? I really, really don't think so.

I'd rather think that all of these tragedies are simply ways for us to show that we really do love God and therefore our neighbor. I think these tragedies are really opportunities for us to help care for our neighbors around the world. A child dying in India is as horrible as one dying next door. A flood in Houston is as bad as a fire in Oregon or the flattening of a Caribbean Island. Devastation is our call to help our sisters and brothers around the globe. If anything, God is throwing a pop quiz our way to see how we do. Will we choose love or ... not?

To date, we have gathered some \$2,500 to \$3,000 to send to UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, and have collected some Cleaning Kits or "Flood Buckets." Later, we will go on mission trips to do Harvey and perhaps Irma relief. There are ways to get involved, but let's pass this pop quiz with flying numbers, eh? Let's show the world and show God we really do love our neighbor as we love ourselves.

Grace & Peace,

## October Worship Schedule

- 1 “Baptizo – Prayers” Psalm 16:1-11
- 8 “Baptizo – Presence” Exodus 33:7-23
- 15 Laity Sunday – Carol Crotty, Phil Lacefield, and Ruby Huston preach
- 22 “Baptizo – Gifts” 2 Corinthians 9:1-15
- 29 “Baptizo – Service” Romans 12:1-2, 9-21

## Good Fellowship

Good Fellowship will meet at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, October 3, in Atchley Hall. Please bring a hot dish, salad, or dessert to share and your own table service.

## Blessing of the Animals

Please join us on Sunday, October 8, at 2:00 PM in the pavilion out back for the Annual Blessing of the Animals. Dogs, cats, and other pets – small and large, furry and non furry – are all welcome. So are their human friends. All animals must be caged or leashed. Come on out, rain or shine.

## Casseroles To Go

Our next Casseroles To Go collection date is October 29. Our cupboard is empty! Please bring your home-made frozen entrée or soup item and place it on the designated table in the narthex. We will take this food as it is needed to those experiencing the death of a family member or recent illness.

## Back by popular demand

On October 24, from 7:00 - 8:30 PM in Melvin’s Room, Jodi Blacklidge from Wright State University will present a repeat of “Healing Oils of the Bible.” This free seminar will include the newest, most up-to-date information about how essential oils can benefit your health. Please let **Ann Copeland** know if you would like to attend.

## Service of Remembrance

Our Service of Remembrance will be held on All Saint’s Day, November 5, at 5:00 PM in the

sanctuary. This is a worship service for those who have lost a loved one, whether recently or long ago. If there is someone in your heart that you would like to pause and remember as this holiday season begins, please bring a picture for the altar and join us. We will also provide copies of “How to survive the Holidays after Losing a Loved One” for those who are facing their first holiday season following the death of a close friend or relative. This service is open to the community, so please invite friends who need God’s healing touch following the death of of a loved one.

## Survive workshop

Our Survive workshop was very successful with 126 people in attendance. Thanks to **Pastor Joel** for setting up all the chairs and **Andy Garitson** for operating our sound/audio system and his comic relief in helping our wonderful speaker. Thanks to all those who donated toilet paper and paper towel rolls; we had *tons* and have donated the extras to the Cincinnati Zoo for the animals to use for enrichment.

During the workshop, the Gardners discussed using a kubaton (the 5-inch stick) as self defense. The Congregational Health Ministry Team will be selling these at cost (approximately \$2 each). They make great stocking stuffers. We expect to receive our order next month and will have them out in the narthex.

## Children’s Sunday School

**GO KIDS** – directly to the Sunday School wing as soon as you arrive at church at 9:30. You don’t need to stop in Atchley Hall – we have donuts and milk waiting for you.

### October lesson series:

- 1 David the Musician
- 8 David & Goliath  
**Kids Ring at 9:30 & 10:45**
- 15 David & Jonathan
- 22 David & Abigail
- 29 All Things Pumpkin Party

## Children's Bell Choir

All children are welcome to participate in the bell choir led by **Sandy Curlis**. Practice is from 9:25-9:40 AM each Sunday in Becky's Room. To ensure children receive breakfast, donuts and milk will be provided afterwards. Performances are Sunday, October 8, at 9:30 AM and again at 10:45 AM; at Mt. Pleasant's afternoon service December 10 at 3:45; and at the Historical Society Christmas Celebration on December 1.

## Children's Christmas play

"Sleepover at the Stable," a children's Christmas play, will be presented on Sunday, December 24, at 10:00 AM. Our very own MUMC children will tell the story of Christ's birth from the view of farm animals. It's extremely cute and humorous. This will be the only morning service on Christmas Eve day. There will be no Sunday school.

## Children's Ministry Outreach

MUMC is lighting the way for children in need at Amanda Elementary. Slinky Tutoring is underway at Amanda United Methodist Church. Thank you to our very supportive tutors who are meeting there on Wednesdays from 4:00 to 5:30 PM.

## Men's breakfast

The next Men's breakfast will be held on Saturday, October 7, at 9:00 AM in Atchley Hall.

## Trunk or Treat

Join us on Tuesday, October 31, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM for hot dogs, candy, inflatables, and lots of fun at our Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat. If you don't have to stay home to distribute candy to your neighborhood kids, decorate the back of your car and hand out treats here at the church. It's the perfect time to invite friends and family - children of all ages are welcome. You and your kids may dress up in non-scary costumes but no frightening decorations. Please do not give candy that contains peanut ingredients. If you can't be there, you can donate candy by October 29. Look

for baskets throughout the church or take it to the office.

## The Art of Marriage

A six-week small group study titled "The Art of Marriage," designed for married and engaged couples in all seasons, will be held Sunday evenings in Melvin's Room from 6:00 to 7:00 PM from October 1 through November 12. Anyone willing to invest time and effort in their marriage will benefit. While the material is biblically based, it's not a Bible study: no prior understanding of biblical concepts is required. The cost of the workbooks is \$24.99/set. Please see **Mike** or **Rhonda Finley** if interested. Email [rfinley@cinci.rr.com](mailto:rfinley@cinci.rr.com) or call 513-465-9144.




## Monrovers Next Adventure

Our fall Rock-Climbing Trip will meet at Monroe UMC at 5:00 PM on Friday, October 13, at 5:00 PM. We'll grab a quick bite and head for Hocking Hills. We'll spend the night in cabins at Camp Otterbein and have a campfire, prayers, songs, stories and snacks. The next morning, we'll have a hearty breakfast, pack trail lunches, and head for the rocks. We'll head home straight from the cliffs. Deadline to register is October 6.

## Pastor's Fall Study

The Pastor's Fall Study began September 28, but there is still time to catch up. We meet Thursdays at 10:00 AM and 7:30 PM in Melvin's Room to study the book *Just Walk Across the Room* by Bill Hybels, Senior Pastor of the original "mega-church" Willow Creek Community Church near Chicago. Willow Creek is renowned for the number of people who came to faith through its ministry. This is an 11-week study. We will be reading a chapter each week and discussing how it can apply to Monroe UMC. You can come to either session each week - you don't need to come to both. We can provide child care at the 7:00 PM class time. Let Pastor Joel know if you need it. The only cost is for the book. Please come and help us figure out how we can become an invitational church.

# OCTOBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Holy Communion <b>6:00 PM - 7:00 PM</b> "The Art of Marriage" Small Group/MR	<b>2</b> 12:00 PM Caregivers Support Group/MR 6:30 PM Yoga/AH	<b>3</b> 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Clergy Cluster/MR 10:00 AM Share Group/Parlor 6:00 PM Good Fellowship Dinner/AH 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Cub Scouts/Sm. FH/Rm. 6 & 7	<b>4</b> 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM Hornet Haven Grandparent's Day/AH 11:00 AM Yoga/Narthex 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Handbells/MR 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	<b>5</b> 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study/MR 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM NA/MR 6:30 PM Girl Scouts/Sm. FH 7:00 PM Rekindled/AH 7:30 PM Pastor's Bible Study/MR	<b>6</b> 11:00 AM Yoga/AH	<b>7</b>  9:00 AM Men's Breakfast/Atchley Hall
<b>8</b> Blood Pressures taken in the Narthex 9:30 AM Children's Bell Choir 10:45 AM Children's Bell Choir 2:00 PM Blessing of the Animals/Outside Pavilion 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM "The Art of Marriage" Small Group/MR	<b>9</b> 6:30 PM Yoga/AH 7:00 PM Health Committee/Parlor	<b>10</b> 10:00 AM Share Group/Parlor 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Cub Scouts/Sm. FH/Rm. 6 & 7 7:00 PM Finance Committee/MR 7:00 PM Line Dancing/AH	<b>11</b> 11:00 AM Yoga/AH 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Handbells/MR 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	<b>12</b> 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study/MR 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM NA/MR 7:00 PM Rekindled/AH 7:30 PM Pastor's Bible Study/MR	<b>13</b> 11:00 AM Yoga/AH 5:00 PM Monrovers Meet at Church to go to Hocking Hills for Rock Climbing	<b>14</b> Monrovers Return from Hocking Hills
<b>15</b> 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM "The Art of Marriage" Small Group/MR	<b>16</b> 6:30 PM Yoga/AH	<b>17</b> 10:00 AM Share Group/Parlor 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Cub Scouts/Sm. FH/Rm. 6 & 7 7:00 PM Line Dancing/AH 7:00 PM Trustees/MR	<b>18</b> 11:00 AM Yoga/AH 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Handbells/MR 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	<b>19</b> 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study/MR 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM NA/MR 6:30 PM Girl Scouts/Sm. FH 7:00 PM Rekindled/AH 7:00 PM United Methodist Women/Parlor 7:30 PM Pastor's Bible Study/MR	<b>20</b> 11:00 AM Yoga/AH	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b>  6:00 PM - 7:00 PM "The Art of Marriage" Small Group/MR	<b>23</b> 6:30 PM Yoga/AH	<b>24</b> 10:00 AM Share Group/Parlor 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Oils of the Bible/MR 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Cub Scouts/Sm. FH/Rm. 6 & 7 7:00 PM Line Dancing/AH	<b>25</b> 11:00 AM Yoga/AH 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Handbells/MR 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	<b>26</b> 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study/MR 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM NA/MR 7:00 PM Rekindled/AH 7:30 PM Pastor's Bible Study/MR	<b>27</b> 11:00 AM Yoga/AH	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Casseroles to Go Staff Appreciation after the 10:45 Service in Atchley Hall 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM "The Art of Marriage" Small Group/MR	<b>30</b> 6:30 PM Yoga/AH	<b>31</b>  10:00 AM Share Group/Parlor 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Trunk or Treat 7:00 PM Line Dancing/AH	<b>1</b> 11:00 AM Yoga/AH 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Handbells/MR 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:00 PM Chancel Choir	<b>2</b> 10:00 AM Pastor's Bible Study/MR 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM NA/MR 6:30 PM Girl Scouts/Sm. FH 7:00 PM Rekindled/AH 7:30 PM Pastor's Bible Study/MR	<b>3</b> 11:00 AM Yoga/AH	<b>4</b> 9:00 AM Men's Breakfast/Atchley Hall

# October

## Birthdays

- 1 – Bill Kinsey
- 3 – Glen Majors  
Ann Copeland
- 4 – Angie Stone
- 7 – Pamela McLaughlin
- 8 – Chase Riggs  
Jack Riggs
- 9 – Roger Kistner
- 10 – Nicholas Osterman  
Suzan Hahne  
Jim Huston  
Larry Webb
- 12 – Cindy Hollon
- 15 – Mike Finley
- 17 – Hayward Ball  
Karen Walz
- 18 – Gloria Miltenberger
- 19 - Doug Aumann
- 20 – Janet Phillips  
Caleb Ratliff
- 22 – Mike Long
- 25 – Connie Schoffner
- 26 – David Linn
- 27 – Justine Stitt  
Karen Kitchell
- 28 – Jacob Watkins
- 29 – Mary Lewis  
Sue Schoolcraft  
Don Warmoth
- 31 – Carol Crotty

## Anniversaries

- 2 - Gary & Bobbie Hoff **(52 years)**
- 9 – Justine & John Stitt
- 10 – Janet & Norman Ivins
- 12 – Sandee & Marc Thompson
- 18 – Arica & Gary Ratliff
- 22 – Karen & Greg Williams
- 25 – Lindsay & Nathan Fields

### CHURCH STATISTICS

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
Augusts 27	217	\$5,163
September 3	202	\$8,540
September 10	240	\$3,673



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**



Facebook



Twitter