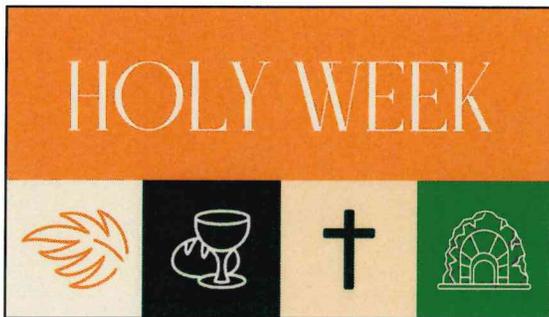


Seeking Christ during Holy Week



This Holy Week, Monroe United Methodist Church invites you to join our Lenten series, “Seeking: Honest questions for deeper faith.” Rather than providing easy answers, we invite you to lean into the vulnerability of the season.

From the jubilant streets of Jerusalem to the quiet shadows of the upper room and the desolate hill of the cross, we walk this path together, asking the questions that strip away our pretenses and lead us toward a more authentic resurrection. Invite a friend or family member to share this special time with you at Monroe UMC.

The Journey: Service by Service

Palm & Passion Sunday | March 29, 9:30 & 11:00 am

The Question: “Where are you headed?” We begin with the high energy of a parade. Palms will be provided for all as we join the procession, echoing the “Hosannas” of the crowd. However, the road quickly turns. As we transition from celebration to the Passion narrative, we must ask ourselves: *When the path becomes difficult, where are we truly headed?*

Maundy Thursday | April 2, 7:00 pm, Atchley Hall

The Question: “Will you wash my feet?” Gathering at 7:00 pm, we remember the intimacy of the Last Supper. Jesus’ act of service challenges our pride and our independence. This service focuses on the radical humility of Christ and the command to love one another.

Good Friday | April 3, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary

The Question: “Why have you forsaken me?” In the stillness of the evening, we meditate on the trial, passion, and crucifixion of Jesus. This is a space for honest lament and for sitting with the reality of suffering and death. We face the darkness together, trusting that we are never truly alone in our questioning.

Easter Sunday | April 5, 9:30 & 11:00 am

The Question: “What are you looking for?” The culmination of our journey. We celebrate the empty tomb and the transformative power of the Resurrection. Whether you are seeking hope, community, or a fresh start, you are welcome here.





**“Seeking:
honest
questions
for deeper
faith”
continues
this month**

During the Sundays in March 2026, our congregation in Monroe will journey together through the Lenten series, **“Seeking: Honest questions for deeper faith.”** This series acknowledges that faith is not a simple “either/or” state of being strong or in doubt, but rather a continuous experience of seeking God in the world and through scripture. Rather than rushing to provide easy answers, we will embrace questions as an invitation for the Spirit to move within our wonder.

Our weekly reflections will be guided by the following themes and focal scriptures:

Second Sunday in Lent (March 1): “How do we begin again?”. Reflecting on **John 3:1-17** and **Genesis 12:1-4a**, we will look at Nicodemus’s questions in the dark and Abram and Sarai’s call to leave everything behind to start over. This week invites us to consider how we might let go of old certainties to begin a new way of living out our faith.

Third Sunday in Lent (March 8): “Will you give me a drink?” Drawing from the story of the Samaritan woman at the well, we will investigate our own thirst for a deeper faith and a new beginning.

Fourth Sunday in Lent (March 15): “Who sinned?” Focusing on the healing of the man born without sight, we will challenge assumptions that lead to an “unveiling” of new perspectives and the growth of mystery.

Fifth Sunday in Lent (March 22): “Can these bones live?”. This restorative question will guide our final Sunday in March as we move toward the Passion, seeking hope and the possibility of resurrection joy even in places of desolation.

Palm/Passion Sunday (March 29): “Where are you headed?” (See related article.)

Throughout this season, we invite you to stay curious, open, and nimble as we unpack big questions about our lives and our faith in ways that are honest and faithful.

You can go deeper with each week’s theme in our Lenten Small Group study on Thursdays, 1:15-2:30 pm in the Church Library. No prior experience is needed – just a desire to grow in faith and practice together and share fellowship with others.

Lenten Offering

This year again the Mission Committee will be using the offering to help feed the women and children at the Hope House in Middletown.

Once a month we furnish groceries that they request and they now have a cook that comes in everyday and cooks their meals for around 30 people. Thank you in advance for your generosity for helping support this project.



Potluck Party

On **March 15th** we will have a Potluck Dinner **after the second service**. Fried chicken, drinks and tableware will be provided. We ask that you bring either a side dish or dessert to complete the meal.

Rogers Ramblings

Open My Eyes That I May See



One of Clara H. Scott's many hymns is "Open My Eyes That I May See." It is a hymn of consecration that has been sung for over 100 years. This song may have been inspired by Psalm 119 verse 18 that reads, "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law."

In 1856, Scott attended the first Music Institute held by C.M. Cady in Chicago, IL. By 1859, she was teaching music at the Ladies' Seminary, Lyons, Iowa. She married Henry Clay Scott in 1861, and published in 1882 the Royal Anthem Book, the first volume of choir anthems published by a woman.

The text of "Open My Eyes That I May See" was written in 1895 shortly before Scott's death. Each stanza reveals an increasing receptiveness to the "Spirit divine." Open eyes lead to "glimpses of truth." Open ears lead to "voices of truth." An open mouth leads to sharing the "warm truth everywhere." An open heart leads to sharing "love to thy children."

Matthew 13:15-16 tells us: "You shall hear but never understand, and you shall indeed see but never perceive. For this people's heart has grown dull, and their ears are heavy of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should perceive with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart and turn for Me to heal them. But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear."

Scott has given us not only a list of organs through which we may receive and project truth and love, but also provides the method in her refrain:

"Silently now I wait for thee,
ready my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, ears, and heart,
illumine me, Spirit divine!"

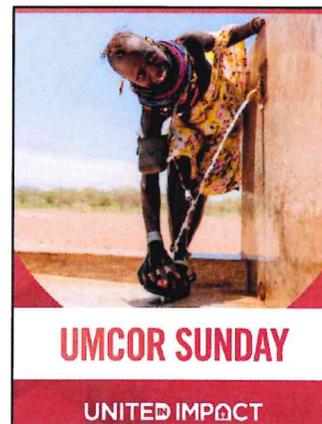
United in Impact: UMCOR Sunday 2026

On UMCOR Sunday, March 15, 2026, we join our United Methodist connection in a special offering to support the United

Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR), the humanitarian relief and development arm of the church. UMCOR comes alongside individuals, families and communities affected by natural or human-caused disasters – famine, hurricane, war, flood, fire or other events – to alleviate suffering and serve as a source of help and hope.

Your donations equip UMCOR to respond quickly when disaster strikes and to stay for the long term. From training volunteers to keeping the office lights on, the UMCOR Sunday special offering, one of six UM Special Sundays, helps cover the costs of this nonprofit UMC organization and allows for 100% of gifts given in response to disasters to assist with the disaster.

Thanks to UMCOR's reliable infrastructure, expert leadership and trained volunteers, every dollar received is leveraged to work as hard as possible, meeting the needs of people in crisis around the world. UMCOR equips and partners with churches, annual conferences and local



organizations to help communities rebuild, even when rebuilding takes years.

When you give generously to support UMCOR Sunday, you embody God’s love in action.

Giving in The United Methodist Church is more than a financial act — it’s a bold expression of faith. It fuels ministry across borders, languages, and cultures, and becomes a witness to God’s expansive love. Our generosity fuels hope, relief and ongoing recovery for communities in need—a powerful reminder that we are never alone in times of crisis. Together we are united in impact.

Contributions cover UMCOR’s operating costs, ensuring that every dollar given to disaster response goes directly to communities in need. Our generosity opens the door for more people to find help, experience relief, and discover hope through long-term recovery.

- **International Disaster Response** efforts provide assistance following natural or human-caused disasters outside of the United States. Typical emergency response efforts include the distribution of food, hygiene supplies and facilities, nonfood items, psychosocial support and shelter. To learn more about the ministry visit umcmmission.org/international-disaster-response.
- **Global Migration** provides relief and recovery in the form of food aid, basic necessities, and legal and transportation services for vulnerable migrants and refugees. To learn more about the ministry visit umcmmission.org/learn-about-us/global-migration.
- **Environmental Sustainability** program seeks to enhance the use of renewable energy, particularly in disaster response and healthcare. It works directly with churches to lead local environmental projects and partners with United Methodist agencies to pursue net-zero emissions by 2050. To learn more about the ministry visit umcmmission.org/environmental-sustainability.
- **Yambasu Agriculture Initiative** honors the vision of Bishop John K. Yambasu, to empower

African churches and communities to achieve self-sustainability through agriculture. Through grants and training, this initiative mobilizes land and people to improve livelihoods, strengthen food security, and support the financial stability of annual conferences. To learn more about the ministry visit umcmmission.org/yai.

Mark your offering for “UMCOR Sunday” on the check memo line or the offering envelope and drop it in the offering at church or mail it to Monroe UMC, PO Box 310, Monroe, OH 45050. You can also give online at MonroeUMC.org/Give, choosing Fund 8413-Special Sundays, or text \$*amount* UMCOR to 513.547.9908 to donate by text.

Practical Training to “Change the World”



Ginghamsburg UMC in Tipp City will host its ***Change the World*** Conference on April 23-24, focusing on “The Future Church.” The conference will help local church leaders navigate the challenges and opportunities ahead with faith and courage.

The keynote speaker is Rev. Adam Hamilton speaking on “Leadership and the Holy Spirit.” Other featured speakers include Rev. Debi Nixon on “Inspiring Generosity: Donor Development and Giving Strategies,” Mr. Jason Moore on “Integrating AI into your Church’s Mission,” and Rev. Dennis Miller on “Leaving the Past Behind – Focusing a Congregation Forward.”

There will also be many practical workshops, “Church Hacks,” where ministry leaders share hands-on experience and ideas to equip participants to thoughtfully return to their congregations with ideas.

The congregation of Monroe UMC will be blessed by leaders who attend this powerful event. Visit <https://ginghamsburg.org/change-the-world/> for more information and registration about this exciting local opportunity.

MUMC Children & Youth Ministry



Xtreme Kids Sunday School

is for kindergarten and up every Sunday at 9:15. Dismissal is at the end of the

first service (usually between 10:30 and 10:45). Let your kids have fun while learning about Jesus! Invite friends too! Engaging activities will help your child grow socially and spiritually.

Nursery: for newborns to 4 years old. Sundays during the 9:30 and 11:00 services.



The Amanda Outreach / Slinky Tutoring Center

Tutoring is on Mondays and Wednesdays throughout the school year between 4:20 and 5:30.

Amanda Elementary children and parents appreciate your Christian love and academic encouragement.

LINK Adult Readers

As a tutor for an adult reader, you determine the schedule and meeting place (church or library).

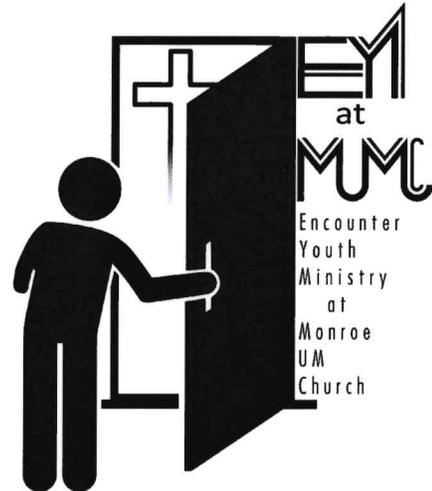
Contact Gina for more details (gmatcraft@gmail.com/937-514-3793).

Kids Easter Variety Show (March 22) - For any age.

Beginning February 15th, practice is every Sunday between 10:30 & noon. Power snacks provided.

Pancakes with the Easter

Bunny – Saturday, March 29th, 9:00 – 11:30am



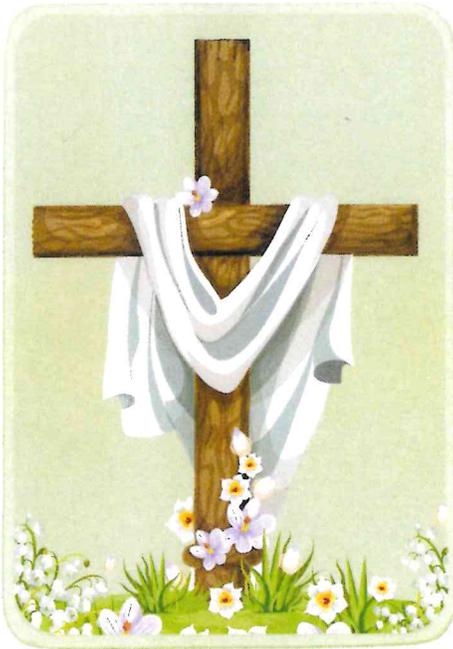
Through prayer, scripture, and service, 5th–12th graders **ENCOUNTER** the Journey that Jesus set before them.

We meet every Wednesday

between 6:00 & 7:30PM.

Bring a friend!

- 1st week: Bible Study at church
- 2nd week: Mount Pleasant
- 3rd week: Bible Study at church
- 4th week: Bulls Run Arboretum – meet at church during the winter
- 5th week: Game night at church



JESUS PRAYS FOR ALL BELIEVERS...
(THAT MEANS YOU... THAT MEANS ME!)

"MY PRAYER IS NOT FOR THEM ALONE,
I PRAY FOR THOSE WHO WILL BELIEVE
IN ME THROUGH THEIR MESSAGE, (THE
DISCIPLES) THAT ALL OF THEM MAY BE
ONE, FATHER, JUST AS YOU ARE IN ME
AND I AM IN YOU. MAY THEY ALSO
BE IN US SO THAT THE WORLD MAY
BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE SENT ME."
JOHN 17: 20-21

GETHESEMANE - VERSION
FROM GOSPEL OF MATTHEW...

"MY SOUL IS OVERWHELMED WITH
SORROW TO THE POINT OF DEATH.
STAY HERE AND KEEP WATCH WITH ME."
MATT 26:38

"MY FATHER, IF IT IS POSSIBLE, MAY THIS CUP BE
TAKEN FROM ME. YET NOT AS I WILL, BUT AS YOU WILL."
MATT 26:39

"WATCH AND PRAY SO THAT YOU WILL NOT FALL INTO
TEMPTATION. THE SPIRIT IS WILLING, BUT THE BODY
IS WEAK." MATT 26:41

"RISE, LET US GO! HERE COMES MY BETRAYER."
MATT 26:46

JESUS PRAYS ON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES
VERSION FROM GOSPEL OF LUKE...

"FATHER, IF YOU ARE WILLING, TAKE THIS CUP FROM
ME; YET NOT MY WILL, BUT YOURS BE DONE." AN ANGEL
FROM HEAVEN APPEARED TO HIM AND STRENGTHENED
HIM. AND BEING IN ANGUISH, HE PRAYED MORE EARNESTLY,
AND HIS SWEAT WAS LIKE DROPS OF BLOOD FALLING TO
THE GROUND.

LUKE 22:42-44

ALLELUIA



THE SOLDIERS MOCK JESUS...
THEY STRIPPED HIM AND PUT A
SCARLET ROBE ON HIM, AND THEN
TWISTED TOGETHER A CROWN OF
THORNS AND SET IT ON HIS HEAD.
MATT 27: 28-29

"FATHER, FORGIVE THEM, FOR THEY DO
NOT KNOW WHAT THEY ARE DOING."
LUKE 23:34

AT THE SIXTH HOUR DARKNESS CAME
OVER THE WHOLE LAND UNTIL THE NINTH
HOUR. AND AT THE NINTH HOUR JESUS
CRIED OUT IN A LOUD VOICE, "ELOI, ELOI,
LAMA SABACHTANI?" - WHICH MEANS, "MY
GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAVE YOU FORSAKEN

ME?"... THE CURTAIN OF THE TEMPLE WAS TORN IN TWO
FROM TOP TO BOTTOM. AND WHEN THE CENTURIAN, WHO STOOD
THERE IN FRONT OF JESUS, HEARD HIS CRY AND SAW
HOW HE DIED, HE SAID. "SURELY THIS MAN WAS THE
SON OF GOD!" MARK 15:33, 34, 38, 39

THE RESURRECTION...

"WHY DO YOU LOOK FOR THE LIVING AMONG THE
DEAD? HE IS NOT HERE; HE HAS RISEN!"
LUKE 24:5-6

"WOMAN," (JESUS) SAID, "WHY ARE YOU CRYING? WHO IS
IT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR?" THINKING HE WAS THE
GARDNER, SHE SAID, "SIR, IF YOU HAVE CARRIED HIM
AWAY, TELL ME WHERE YOU HAVE PUT HIM AND I
WILL GET HIM." JESUS SAID TO HER, "MARY." SHE
TURNED TOWARD HIM AND CRIED OUT IN ARAMAIC,
"RABBONI!" (WHICH MEANS TEACHER). JESUS SAID, "DO
NOT HOLD ON TO ME, FOR I HAVE NOT YET RETURNED
TO THE FATHER. GO INSTEAD TO MY BROTHERS AND
TELL THEM, 'I AM RETURNING TO MY FATHER AND
YOUR FATHER, TO MY GOD AND YOUR GOD.'" MARY MAGDALENE
WENT TO THE DISCIPLES WITH THE NEWS, "I HAVE
SEEN THE LORD!" JOHN 20:15-18

March

March Birthdays

- 7 – Lori Cobb
- 10 – Susan Childers
- 12 – Jo Ann Kuhlman
- 14 – Jennifer Moak
- 15 – Tom Leeds
- 17 – Connie Wesner
- 22 – Ellen Kinsey
- 29 – Don Garver
- 31 – Lowell Barrett
- Judy Johnson
- Norma Reed

**April Newsletter
Deadline
Wednesday, March 18th**



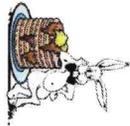
Sunday
March 8th



**Pancakes with the
Easter Bunny
March 28th**



March 29th

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	 Second Sunday IN LENT Holy Communion	2 Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 6:30pm -7:45pm Seeking Small Group/Library 7:00pm Scouts/AH	3 10:00am -12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room 10:00am Share Group/Parlor	4 11:00am -12:00pm Yoga/Narthex 6:00pm Youth Group 7:00pm Praise Team/AH	5 1:15pm -2:30pm Seeking Small Group/Library	6 10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	7
8	 Third Sunday IN LENT 	9 Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 6:30pm -7:45pm Seeking Small Group/Library 7:00pm Scouts/AH	10 10:00am -12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room 10:00am Share Group/Parlor	11 11:00am -12:00pm Yoga/Narthex 6:00pm Youth Group 7:00pm Praise Team/AH	12 1:15pm -2:30pm Seeking Small Group/Library	13 10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	14
15	 Fourth Sunday IN LENT 12:15pm Potluck Dinner/AH	16 Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 6:30pm -7:45pm Seeking Small Group/Library 7:00pm Scouts/AH	17 10:00am -12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room 10:00am Share Group/Parlor 1:00pm Finance Committee/AH	18  11:00am -12:00pm Yoga/Narthex 6:00pm Youth Group 7:00pm Praise Team/AH	19 1:15pm -2:30pm Seeking Small Group/Library 7:00pm Trustees/Library	20  10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	21 10:00am -12:00pm Variety Show Dress Rehearsal/AH
22	 Fifth Sunday IN LENT 9:30am Children's Easter Variety Show/AH	23 Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 6:30pm -7:45pm Seeking Small Group/Library 7:00pm Scouts/AH	24 10:00am -12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room 10:00am Share Group/Parlor	25 11:00am -12:00pm Yoga/Narthex 6:00pm Youth Group 7:00pm Praise Team/AH	26 1:15pm -2:30pm Seeking Small Group/Library	27 10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	28  9:00am -11:30am Pancakes with the Easter Bunny/AH
29	 Palm Sunday	30 Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 6:30pm -7:45pm Seeking Small Group/Library 7:00pm Scouts/AH	31 10:00am -12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room 10:00am Share Group/Parlor	1 11:00am -12:00pm Yoga/Narthex 6:00pm Youth Group 7:00pm Praise Team/AH	2  7:00pm Worship Service/AH	3  7:00pm Worship Service/Sanctuary	4

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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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



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