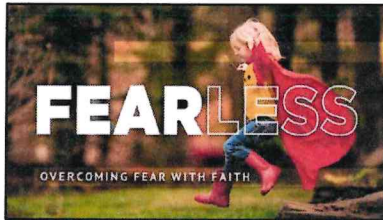


***Fearless: Don't Miss the Final Three Weeks***

Fear is one of the most powerful forces shaping our lives—and one of the most common struggles people face today. That's why our



*Fearless:*

*Overcoming Fear with Faith* series has been taking an honest look at the fears that hold us back—and pointing us toward a faith that helps us move forward with courage and hope.

As we enter the final three weeks of this journey, the focus shifts from our personal fears to the deeper questions we all carry about life, relationships, and the future. These weeks may be the most meaningful yet—and a perfect time to invite someone to join you.

**Sickness, Aging, and Death: Fearless Hope (May 3)**

At some level, we all carry questions about aging, illness, and what happens at the end of life. This week, we'll face those fears honestly—and discover the hope at the heart of the Christian faith: that even death does not have the final word. Jesus meets us in our grief and offers a promise strong enough to carry us through it.

**Love That Crosses Every Line (Mother's Day, May 10)**

Fear doesn't just affect what we feel—it shapes how we see other people. This week, we'll explore how fear of "the other" creates division, and how God calls us to a different way of living: a love that moves toward others instead of away from them. Inspired by the kind of love we celebrate on Mother's Day, we'll discover how perfect love can push fear out of our relationships.

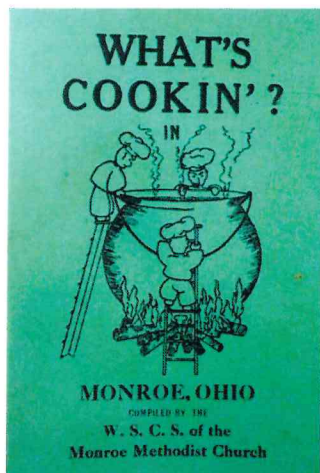
**Fear of the End: The God Who Holds History (May 17)**

From global conflict to economic uncertainty to the future of our world, it's easy to feel overwhelmed. In our final week, we'll name those big, global fears—and place them in a bigger story. Scripture reminds us that history is not out of control. God is still at work, and our future is held in hands we can trust.

This series reminds us that faith isn't about pretending fear doesn't exist—it's about choosing to trust God in the middle of it. If you or someone you know has been feeling anxious, uncertain, or overwhelmed, these next few weeks are for you.

**Join us Sundays at 9:30 or 11:00 AM, in person or online.** Let's finish this journey together—and discover what it means to live fearless.

## “What’s Cookin’ “ in Monroe?



The ladies of the Women’s Society of Christian Service (W.S.C.S) of the Monroe United Methodist Church, published a cookbook, “What’s Cookin’?” in 1948.

A copy belonging to Ruth Atchley, sister-in-law of Homer

Atchley (whom Atchley Hall is named after), has been donated back to our church! When Ruth died in 1994, the cookbook was passed to her daughter, Miriam Atchley Wookcock. After Miriam’s death in 1994 at age 97, her husband, Rolland Woodcock, sent me the cookbook for all to see here at M.U.M.C.

I am placing this green copy in our library. When you are finished with it would you kindly return it for the next person to peruse.

This book is compliments of Rolland Woodcock who will be 100 years old this May 13<sup>th</sup>. He still drives to church every Sunday where he remains very active. Birthday cards may be sent to his home at:

4189 Swift Drive, Bridgeton, MO 63044-3434

– Reed Musgrove

## United Methodist Women’s Meeting



The United Methodist Women will meet in Atchley Hall on **Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>** at 1:00pm for their first meeting of the year. There will be a short program by Rachel Sheets from Abilities First, devotions by Terry Chapman and a brief meeting with refreshments to follow.

Please bring paper towels, toys or clothes for infants to 10 years to donate to Abilities First.

All ladies of the church are invited to attend. Come and enjoy a relaxed, informative 60 or so minutes of socialization with your church lady friends. It’s a great way to meet ladies from both services. Hope to see you there!

## CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE JUNE 5<sup>th</sup> AND 6<sup>th</sup> – 8AM – 4PM



This year we will be doing things a little differently – please read the following.

Church members and or family members are welcome to come set up items for the rummage sale – these are the guidelines we will be following:

You bring your items – **all priced** – and you will be given an area for them to be displayed. **At the end of the sale on Saturday – at 4:00pm** – you are to return and pick up any of your items left over from the rummage sale.

If you know anyone who wants to set up a table in the parking lot – the one right behind the main building (lower parking lot will be for visitors to park in) to sell garage sale goods or crafts they can do that. Again, they need to set up and remove all items when the sale is over. A small donation of \$10 to the church if they do this would be appreciated.

Please let us know if you plan on bringing stuff so we can plan on the number of tables.

There will be a Bake Sale and Food available for purchase also.



## Celebrating Our Graduates – May 17



Graduation is one of those sacred milestones in life—a moment when hard work, perseverance, and growth come together and open the door to new possibilities. As a church family, we believe it's important to pause and celebrate these moments together.

On **Sunday, May 17**, we will honor and recognize all of our graduates during worship. Whether you are graduating from high school, college, or a graduate program, we want to celebrate *you*—and give thanks for the journey that has brought you to this point. If you or someone in your family is graduating this year, please help us prepare by submitting the following information to the Church Office no later than **May 10**:

- Name
- School
- Diploma or Degree Awarded
- Future Plans
- Any Comments you would like to share

This is more than a recognition—it's a moment for us, as a church, to surround our graduates with encouragement, prayer, and blessing as they step into what's next.

We look forward to celebrating this important milestone together and honoring the bright future God is unfolding in and through each of our graduates

## 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

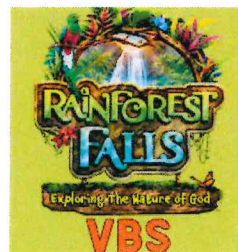
([gmatcraft@gmail.com](mailto:gmatcraft@gmail.com)/937-514-3793).



### **Summer Sundays at the Park!**

Every LAST Sunday (May through July), after Sunday school, we will walk to Monroe Community Park (412 Old St.)

Please pick your child up in front of the playground by 12:30pm.



### **Let's explore the nature of God at Vacation Bible School!**

July 12 – 16, 5:30 – 8:30pm

### **VBS Work Days at MUMC:**

May 15<sup>th</sup> & June 12<sup>th</sup>

2:00-5:00pm

**Help make decorations and prepare materials for the craft station.**

## ENCOUNTER YOUTH GROUP



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

**We meet every Wednesday  
between 6:00 & 7:30PM.  
Bring a friend!**

### **YOUTH MISSION DAYS:**

**When:** June 2<sup>nd</sup> – June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Where:** Bulls Run Arboretum, Middletown

**Project:** Christian storybook trail

**\*Fundraiser:** Silent Auction Sunday,  
May 17<sup>th</sup>

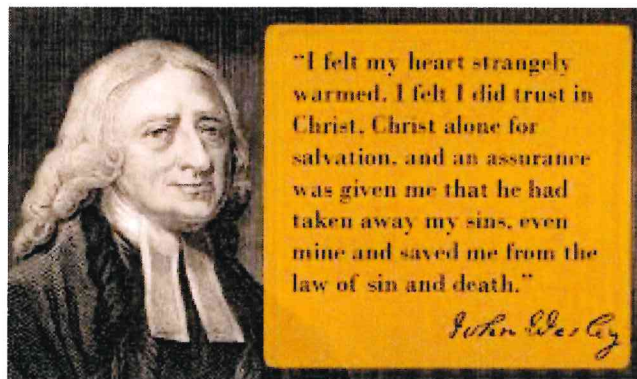
**Items to donate:** baked goods, gift baskets, memorabilia, collectibles, event tickets, etc.

\*The Youth Mission Auction will take place in the Gym on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.

It will begin after the first service and will end with a live auction after the second service.

Proceeds will help pay for a Christian Storybook trail the youth kids will make at Bull's Run.

## ***Aldersgate Day: A Heart-Warming Faith***



On May 24, United Methodists around the world remember a quiet but powerful moment that helped spark a movement of renewal in the church.

On that day in 1738, John Wesley attended a small gathering on Aldersgate Street in London. As he listened to someone read from Martin Luther's writing on the book of Romans, Wesley experienced something deeply personal. He later wrote, "***I felt my heart strangely warmed.***" In that moment, he came to trust that God's grace was not just an idea, but as a gift meant for him.

That experience didn't make Wesley perfect, but it gave him a renewed sense of assurance, purpose, and courage. It helped ignite the Methodist movement—a movement grounded in God's grace, lived out in everyday faith, and shared in love for others.

Aldersgate Day reminds us that faith is not only about what we believe in our heads, but what we experience in our hearts. It's about knowing that God's love is real, personal, and already reaching out to us.

As we mark this day, we invite you to reflect: When have you felt your heart stirred by God's presence? And where might God be inviting you to trust more deeply today?

## Mother's Day: A Methodist Beginning

Did you know that Mother's Day has deep roots in the Methodist tradition?



The holiday we celebrate each May was shaped in large part by Anna Jarvis, who wanted to honor her mother, Ann Reeves Jarvis. Ann was a devoted Methodist who organized “Mothers’ Day Work Clubs” in the mid-1800s. These groups served families in need, promoted public health, and even helped bring reconciliation between communities divided by the Civil War.

After her mother’s death, Anna worked to establish a national day to honor the love, sacrifice, and influence of mothers. The first official Mother’s Day celebration took place in 1908 at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church—a Methodist church.

Mother’s Day began not as a commercial holiday (Anna mourned that the holiday became so commercial), but as a deeply spiritual one—rooted in gratitude, compassion, and the faithful love that reflects the heart of God.

As we celebrate this meaningful day, we invite you to come and worship with us on **Sunday, May 10, Mother’s Day 2026**. Bring your mother, daughter, grandmother, aunt, niece, sister—or that special mom-figure who has shaped your life. Together, we’ll give thanks for the love that has nurtured us and celebrate the ways God’s care is reflected through the people who have walked alongside us. We’ll have a gift for every woman attending.



## Spirit Unbound: You Don't Have to Do Life Alone



Have you ever had the feeling that life is supposed to be more than this?

More connected. More meaningful. More alive.

Most of us—whether we’ve been in church for years or haven’t been in a long time—carry that quiet question somewhere in the background. We’re juggling responsibilities, navigating relationships, trying to keep up with everything life throws at us... and sometimes it feels like we’re doing it alone.

This May, Monroe United Methodist Church is inviting you into a two-week experience called **“Spirit Unbound.”**

It’s built around two ancient moments in the Bible—Pentecost and Trinity Sunday—but this isn’t about history lessons or religious jargon. It’s about something surprisingly practical and deeply personal:

**What if God is closer—and more involved in your life—than you think?  
What if you were never meant to carry everything on your own?**

On **Sunday, May 24 (Pentecost)**, we’ll explore the message: *“You Don’t Have to Carry This Alone.”*

It’s a story about how God’s Spirit was poured out—not just on a few “religious experts,” but on ordinary people. People with busy lives, real struggles, and doubts—just like us. It’s a reminder that help, strength, and purpose were never meant to be limited or earned... they’re meant to be shared.

Continued pg. 6

On **Sunday, May 31 (Trinity Sunday)**, we'll continue with: *"You Were Made for More Than This."*

This message steps back and asks a bigger question: What if your life—right here in Monroe—is part of something larger? What if you were created on purpose and sent into the world with meaning and direction?

Whether you've been part of a church your whole life or you're just curious and exploring, **this series is for you**. No pressure. No insider language. No need to have everything figured out. Just a chance to experience something real.

At Monroe UMC, we believe something simple but powerful: **God's Spirit isn't locked inside a building or reserved for a select few. It's already at work—in your life, in your family, and in this community.**

And when we begin to notice that... it can change everything.

So come as you are.

Bring your questions, your doubts, your hopes, and your everyday life.

### ***Spirit Unbound***

Sundays, May 24 & May 31

9:30 AM & 11:00 AM (in person & online)

You don't have to do life alone.

And you might discover you're part of something bigger than you ever imagined.

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### ***Giving for Peace, Working for Justice***

On **Sunday, May 31**, our congregation will observe Peace with Justice Sunday, a special opportunity to join United Methodists across



the connection in supporting ministries that work for peace, healing, and justice. This offering reminds us that following Christ means more than longing for peace; it means seeking the conditions that make peace possible.

Peace with Justice Sunday helps fund both local and churchwide ministries. Half of the offering stays in the annual conference to support local work, education, and advocacy. The other half supports broader peace and justice ministries through the General Board of Church and Society. Together, these gifts help the church respond to poverty, racism, oppression, and other injustices that wound God's people.

One example of this impact is the support Peace with Justice grants have provided to youth peace education and community organizing efforts. In one ministry setting, grant funds helped a church and its partners create safe spaces for young people to learn conflict resolution, practice respectful dialogue, and work together across differences. What began as a small investment became a meaningful witness to peace in a neighborhood that needed hope and connection.

As we prepare for this special Sunday, may we remember that peace and justice belong together in the heart of the gospel. When we give, we are helping to build a more compassionate and faithful witness in the world. Let us give prayerfully, generously, and with hope, trusting that God can use our offerings to bring healing where there is hurt and justice where there is need.

You can give by marking your check memo line or offering envelope for "Peace with Justice." Or give online at [MonroeUMC.org/Give](https://MonroeUMC.org/Give) and choose Fund 8413-Special Sundays.

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



26

27

28

29

30

1

2

**Church Office Closed**  
6:00pm Yoga/AH  
7:00pm Scouts/AH

10:00am -12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room  
10:00am Share Group/Parlor

11:00am -12:00pm Yoga/Narthex  
6:00pm Youth Group  
7:00pm Praise Team/AH

6:30pm -8:30pm Emmaus Gathering/AH

10:00am Exercise/AH  
11:00am Yoga/AH

12:00pm Mother's Luncheon

3

Holy Communion

**Church Office Closed**  
6:00pm Yoga/AH  
7:00pm Scouts/AH

10:00am -12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room  
10:00am Share Group/Parlor

11:00am -12:00pm Yoga/Narthex  
6:00pm Youth Group  
7:00pm Praise Team/AH

1:15pm Bible Study/Library

10:00am Exercise/AH  
11:00am Yoga/AH

11:00am Funeral Service for Jeanne Berry  
12:00pm Funeral Luncheon/AH

10



**Church Office Closed**  
6:00pm Yoga/AH  
7:00pm Scouts/AH

10:00am -12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room  
10:00am Share Group/Parlor

11:00am -12:00pm Yoga/Narthex  
6:00pm Youth Group  
7:00pm Praise Team/AH

14

10:00am Exercise/AH  
11:00am Yoga/AH

10:00am -5:00pm Bridal Shower/Terrri McGuire/AH

17



10:45am -1:00pm Youth Fundraiser/AH

**Church Office Closed**  
6:00pm Yoga/AH  
7:00pm Scouts/AH

10:00am -12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room  
10:00am Share Group/Parlor  
1:00pm Finance Committee/AH

11:00am -12:00pm Yoga/Narthex  
6:00pm Youth Group  
7:00pm Praise Team/AH

1:00pm United Methodist Women/AH  
7:00pm Trustees/Library

**Church Office Closed for Memorial Day**

23

24



**Church Office Closed**

**25**

10:00am -12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room  
10:00am Share Group/Parlor

11:00am -12:00pm Yoga/Narthex  
6:00pm Youth Group  
7:00pm Praise Team/AH

28

10:00am Exercise/AH  
11:00am Yoga/AH

30

31



Graduate Recognition

**1**  
**Church Office Closed**  
6:00pm Yoga/AH  
7:00pm Scouts/AH

**2**  
10:00am -12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room  
10:00am Share Group/Parlor

**3**  
11:00am -12:00pm Yoga/Narthex  
6:00pm Youth Group  
7:00pm Praise Team/AH

4

10:00am Exercise/AH  
11:00am Yoga/AH

6



## May Birthdays

- 1 – Arlene Horton
- 2 – Sharon Warmoth  
Melanie Flower
- 10 – Peggy Hesson
- 20 – Ken Cobb  
Rob Kilburn
- 22 – Joann Kersh
- 26 – Monica Bolton
- 28 – Reed Musgrove  
Jennifer Lacefield
- 31 – Giselle Sanvee

## May Anniversaries

- 11 – Phyllis & Jerry Michael **(58 years)**
- 12 – Roger & Penny Miller  
Jane & Danny McWhorter, Jr.
- 21 – Arthur & Arlene Klemushin **(54 years)**  
Pastor Jeff & Becky Motter
- 23 – Monica & Dillis Bolton
- 24 – Anne & Jerry Lapham **(51 years)**
- 28 – Giselle & David Sanvee
- 31 – Herb & Ginny Gansheimer **(63 years)**  
Don & Linda Kobert **(57 years)**

June Newsletter  
Deadline  
**Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>**



May 25<sup>th</sup>

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

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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**



FACEBOOK: *Monroe United Methodist Church*



C/*MonroeUnitedMethodist*



TWITTER: @MonroeUMC

