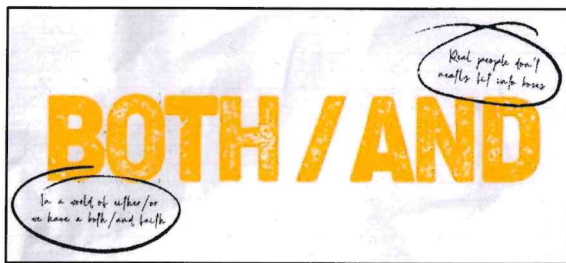


## ***When Life and People Don't Fit in a Box***



Life doesn't always fit neatly into "either/or" categories. We feel pulled between head and heart, between the sacred and the ordinary, between belonging and being left out, between being a saint and still making mistakes. Real life is full of both/and moments — and the good news is, God meets us right there. This fall, Monroe United Methodist Church will begin a new message series, *Both/And: Finding God in the Tensions*, where we'll explore how Jesus brings balance, belonging, and hope when life feels complicated.

Each week we'll tackle one of these real-life tensions:

### **When Your Heart and Head Don't Agree**

(Mark 12, Acts 8)

### **Where Is God in My Everyday Life?**

(Acts 10)

### **Longing to Belong**

(Galatians 3, Hebrews 13)

### **Is There Grace for Someone Like Me?**

(1 Timothy 1).

Whether you've been in church for decades or are just curious about faith, these messages will speak to the questions we all carry. Seniors will find encouragement as they reflect on faith through the seasons of life, while parents will hear hope for navigating the stresses of work, family, and raising kids.

Alongside worship, we'll also offer opportunities to grow in conversation and community. Small groups will dive deeper into each week's theme, and our worship team is preparing creative experiences to help us live into this "both/and" vision of faith. Our prayer is that everyone — from longtime members to neighbors just checking things out — will discover that God is bigger than the boxes we try to fit Him in.

**Join us Sundays, starting Sept. 14 at 9:30 or 11:00 a.m. for this inspiring series.**

Come and see how faith can connect with your real life, right where you are.



## ***Making Our Church a Place Where Everyone Feels Welcome***

What draws people to stay at a church? While solid preaching and good music matter, research shows that lasting friendships are what truly keep people coming back. In our fast-paced world, genuine connections are becoming rarer and more precious than ever. The good news is that friendliness doesn't happen by accident—it happens when we're *intentionally* reaching out to others.



This September let's embrace the **G.I.F.T. Plan** together! Each week, challenge yourself to do just one of these simple acts:

- **Greet** someone you've never met before and learn their name;
- **Introduce** two people who might have something in common;
- **Follow up** with someone you met recently by saying hello again and including them in conversation; or
- **Thank** a volunteer or church member for something they've done. These small gestures create ripple effects that transform our entire church culture.

Imagine if everyone tried just one **G.I.F.T.** action each Sunday—what a difference we could make! You don't need to be an extrovert or have special training. Whether you're welcoming a first-time guest, connecting our

youth with teen mentors, or simply thanking someone who helped in the kitchen, you're building the kind of loving community that reflects Christ's heart. Let's make this September a month where every person who walks through our doors experiences the warmth of Christian fellowship. **Who will you G.I.F.T. this Sunday?**

[Adapted and printed by permission from *Leading Ideas*, a free e-newsletter from the Lewis Center for Church Leadership of Wesley Theological Seminary and available at [churchleadership.com](http://churchleadership.com).]

## ***Learn to Help Disaster Survivors***

An Early Response Training is taking place on November 8 at North Broadway UMC in Columbus. This 8-hour training will teach you how to assist survivors of natural disasters in their time of need.

You will learn how



to provide a Christian presence while taking steps to prevent further damage to the family's personal property; this may include tarping, debris removal, cleaning out flooded homes, etc. FEMA recognizes this training to enter a disaster scene.

A recertification class will also be offered that day. This class is for those who have completed the basic course and are within one year of the date their badge expiration. Cost is \$40 for the basic class and \$35 for recertification. The deadline to register for either class is **Monday, November 3**. Register online at <https://www.westohioumc.org/event/early-response-team-training-recert-nbumc-1>.



## MY WAY – HIS WAY

Frank Sinatra was a legend as a singer and actor. In 1998, he passed away but his songs, such as, “Fly Me to the Moon,” “Strangers in the Night,” “New York, New York” and “My Kind of Town” are still heard and enjoyed. One of his well-known songs was “My Way.”

My problem with “My Way” is that it should be His way not my way. If we consider way as the means to getting somewhere, we need to look to Jesus who provides the way – the path – for us to Him in heaven.

In the 14<sup>th</sup> chapter of John, Jesus tells us about His way:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you may also be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we don’t know where you are going, so how can we know the way.” Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really know me, you will know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.

Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians, chapter 12, verse 31 tells the church at Corinth that there still is a more excellent way.

Remember and enjoy Frank Sinatra’s song “My Way” but follow His way.

*Roger Miller*

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

## Church Cleanup



Coming this fall we need to do a **CLEANUP DAY**.

ONE – the parsonage – trimming trees and bushes and cleaning up around the property.

SECOND – we need to do a deep fall cleaning of the church – inside.

We will assign groups areas in the building to get a good cleaning and will work in about 2-hour shifts. I will have a list closer to the dates for signups to help.

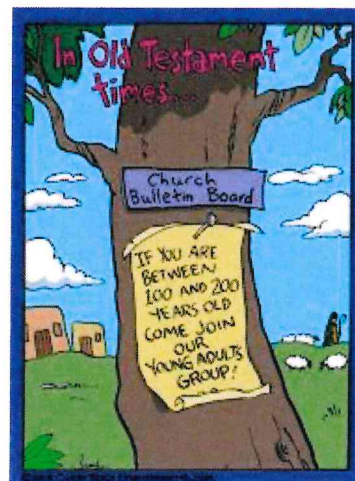
We could possibly do a little outside cleaning with just cleanup and repairing the wooden fence and maybe a tree limb to remove.

The Trustee Committee would appreciate your help.

It will be late September or early October – let me know what works best for everyone. We will have a sheet on the bulletin board to help choose the date.

Thank you in advance for helping to make our church a welcoming place for people to come.

Elaine Kuth and the Trustee Committee.





Please join us Thursday,  
September 25<sup>th</sup> at  
1:00pm in Atchley Hall.

Our guest speaker will be Tina Ernest. She will be telling us about her experiences as a Judge, working with children in the Judicial system.

Please consider bringing donations for the Food Pantry that kids would enjoy. All the women in the Church are welcome.

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## Board of Trustees

### Update from the Trustee Committee

So far this year these are the projects we have been working on and where the maintenance funds have been spent.

Two of the big projects:

- New Projector for Atchley Hall was just completed this week at a cost of approximately \$9,000.
- Last week we completed the Air Conditioner in the Sanctuary at a cost of approximately \$10,750.
- This week we had to get a lift and replace a board that had fallen from the ceiling in Atchley Hall, and we also replaced light bulbs that needed to be replaced.

Smaller projects:

- New toilet in the nursery as the other one was leaking.
- Door into the Narthex – closer was broken.
- Parsonage air conditioning needed repaired – approximately \$1,000 – also found out that the unit itself at the parsonage is a 2010 unit.

- Yearly fire inspection – we needed to replace some cords that were not being properly used and replace the timer on a lamp in the Narthex.

Fire inspection requires we have all fire extinguishers checked and up to date – so that will still be a cost coming this year and the compression hood in the kitchen must be checked twice a year – another cost we must have done. Along with those is an elevator inspection once a year and boiler inspections each year.

So, as you can see, there are always costs for maintaining the building even if it's not a huge amount. These are costs above the regular monthly bills of the church.

We ask that you not forget us when you make your offerings to the church.

Thank you and bless our church and members.

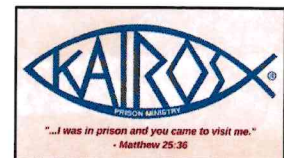
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### The Trustee Committee

### Kairos Ministry Focus of Worship

Monroe UMC supports the work of Kairos Ministry in correctional institutions around Ohio. We have baked

cookies, offered prayers, hosted team meetings, allowed



our kitchen to be used to prepare meals taken inside, and housed team members on weekends. Thank you for your support, especially for teams at Warren Correctional and Lebanon Correctional Institutes.

On Sunday, Sept. 4, our own Thadd and Brenda Patton will share about the important work of Jesus Christ that Kairos does. You'll want to be here to hear about how God is changing hearts and lives through Kairos.



## FREE Lasagna Dinner Social

**Mission Committee:** We would like to invite church members, friends and community members to our **FREE Lasagna Dinner Social** being held on **Tuesday, September 16<sup>th</sup>** in Atchley Hall from 6:00 to 7:15pm. We will be serving:

**Lasagna, Toss Salad, Garlic Bread, Dessert and Drinks**



(There will be a small amount of spaghetti and meatballs for those who do not like Lasagna)

This is a FREE dinner so bring or invite a friend or neighbor!

**We are also asking that you bring a can of fruit or vegetables to donate to the Nazarene Church Pantry here in Monroe. They are feeding about 30 families now.**

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## Something to Think About...

If absence makes the heart grow fonder, how some people must love the church!

Grace is everything given to someone who deserves nothing.

Faith is the hand of the heart that reaches out and receives God's gift.

"I see that during your church convention," said the old farmer, "they discussed how to get people to attend church. I have never heard a single address at a farmer's convention on how to get the cattle to come to the rack. We spend our time discussing the best kind of feed."

## CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY



**Xtreme Kids Sunday School** – is for kids in kindergarten and up. Every Sunday at 9:15am.

Dismissal is at the end of the first service (usually between 10:30 and 10:45am).

**Nursery:** for newborns to 4 yrs. old. Sundays during 9:30 & 11 services.












**The Amanda Outreach/Slinky Tutoring Center** – Tutoring is Mondays & Wednesdays throughout the school year between 4:20 and 5:30pm. Amanda Elementary children and parents appreciate your Christian love and academic encouragement.

**LINK Adult Readers** – Help parents and grandparents become better reading role models for their children. 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).

## ANNOUNCEMENT! NEW YOUTH PROGRAM

Calling ALL 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders...MUMC's Youth Group needs YOU! Come to the church for the BIG kick-off **Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>** at 6:00pm. Parents come at 7:15 to sign forms and hear about our exciting ideas.

For this collaborative journey, we need to make some fresh, positive changes that will level up our Christian walk and make an impact on those we serve.

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
31		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	11:30am –12:15pm Yoga/Narthex 6:00pm Youth Group	4		5	10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	6	
7	 Holy Communion	8	Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	9	10:00am –12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room 10:00am Share Group/Parlor	10	11:30am –12:15pm Yoga/Narthex 6:00pm Youth Group	11		12	10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	13	
14		15	Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	16	 10:00am –12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room 10:00am Share Group/Parlor 1:00pm Finance Committee/AH 6:00pm –7:15pm FREE Lasagna Dinner/AH	17	 Walk to Emmaus	18		19		20	
21	 Men's Emmaus Walk Ends	22	 Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	23	10:00am –12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room 10:00am Share Group/Parlor	24	11:30am –12:15pm Yoga/Narthex 6:00pm Youth Group	25	1:00pm United Methodist Women /AH	26	10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	27	
28		29	Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	30	10:00am –12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room 10:00am Share Group/Parlor	1	11:30am –12:15pm Yoga/Narthex 6:00pm Youth Group	2		3	10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	4	



# September



## September Birthdays

- 1 – Gary Hoff
- 4 – Edna Miller
- 6 – John Routson
- 8 – Jerry Michael
- 11 – Jamie Pierce
- 13 – Bobbie Hoff
- 15 – Karen Gardner
- 16 – Dave Hall
  - Ruby Huston
  - Jean Jerew
- 17 – Debbie Brookshire
- 18 – Jack Collier
- 23 – Anne Lapham
- 25 – Curt Meyer
- 26 – Sue Wilson
- 27 – Erin Dyke
- 28 – Paula Barricklow

## Anniversaries

- 8 – Shirley & Dave Hall **(69 years)**
- 22 – Jim & Ruby Huston
- 16 – Mike & Elaine Kuth



September 22<sup>nd</sup>



The Deadline  
for the October Newsletter  
is  
Wednesday, September 17<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)

**Monroe UMC Staff**

**Rev. Jeff Motter**, Senior Pastor: [revjamotter@gmail.com](mailto:revjamotter@gmail.com)

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

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

**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

