

Easy Way to Start a Conversation at Church

Does talking with someone at church make you nervous?

What if they have been here a long time and I ask if they're new? What if I embarrass myself or the other person?



Here's another way to think about it: What does a guest think or feel when *no one talks to me*? How does it feel if no one talks to you?

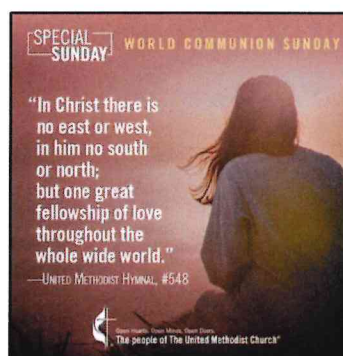
Here are some easy pointers to engage someone you may not know (or not know well) in conversation:

- Say, **"Hi, my name is _____. I don't think we've met."** It's genuine and honest and invites a response from the other person.
- Ask, **"How long have you attended?"** Whether they are a first-time guest or a long-time member, everyone can answer this question honestly. It makes no potentially embarrassing assumption whether someone is new or not.

- Ask, **"What keeps you busy during the week?"** They can choose to answer in lots of ways: job, family, hobby, volunteering, etc. It's an open-ended invitation to continue talking.

After that, listen for ways to help them connect more with you or for opportunities to introduce them to another person. *You get BONUS points if you introduce them to the pastor!*

World Communion Sunday: A Table Set for All



Each year, United Methodists come together at the Lord's Table, joining millions around the world in Holy Communion. But our unity doesn't stop there.

Through the World Communion Sunday offering, we nurture and equip students from underrepresented communities—both in the U.S. and internationally—by providing scholarships and leadership development resources.

Sunday, October 5, we will join believers from all corners of the world in the shared sacrament of Holy Communion—a reminder

that we are, indeed, one body in Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:12 tells us, "The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts... so it is with Christ." As we break bread, we remember that we are deeply connected—not only by faith, but by our shared call to raise up new leaders in the Church.

This offering helps fund:

- Scholarships for racial-ethnic students in the U.S
- Educational opportunities for international students in United Methodist traditions, thus spreading the Gospel throughout the world

Let's come together on **Sunday, October 5**, to make a lasting impact by giving a *special offering*: write "World Communion Sunday" on your check memo or envelope; give online at MonroeUMC.org/Give and choose Fund 8413-Special Sundays; or text \$amount WCS to 513.547.9908.

Thank you for your generous support.

All Saints Sunday is November 2



On **Sunday, November 2**, we will remember and give thanks for the saints of the Church, those faithful people who have died during the past 12

months. Our office has the list of members who have passed away. If you have an immediate family member who has passed and would like to have them remembered, please contact Edna Miller in the church office (MonroeUMC@cinci.rr.com; 513.539.7290). We will send invitations to immediate family members to attend this time of remembrance.

UMW Annual Nut and Candy Sale Update:

We apologize for how late we are this year, but unknown to us, Terry Lynn, the company we have used for many years, went out of business.

We have found a new company, Farmstead Nuts and Treats, who offer the same assortment of



nuts/chocolate we have sold in the past. They assure us that they use the same distributor used by Terry Lynn. There will be a slight increase in price for chocolate due to the increase in price of chocolate from the distributor.

Order forms are now available. We appreciate your past patronage and look forward to providing you the same quality nuts and candy.

Due to how late we are in the season, orders must be returned to us no later than **Sunday, October 5th**. We need to make a complete order to the company by **November 1st** to assure we can provide orders by early December.

Thank you so much for your continuing support.

UMW Nut and Candy Committee,

Pam Kilburn (513) 594.3225

Terri McGuire (513) 315.2880

Toni McDonough (513) 706.3710

Elaine Kuth (513) 535.3674



SPRC Staff Appreciation Luncheon

We will be having a Staff Appreciation Luncheon **October 19th** after the 11:00am worship service. Chicken and drinks will be provided. We ask that you bring a side dish (vegetable, salad, or dessert) to share.

To our friends who attend the 9:30am service we hope you will come back at noon and join in the fun and good food. Looking forward to seeing our whole congregation and telling our staff that we just could not do it without them.



This fall, we're inviting **all God's creatures—and their people**—to a special **Blessing of the Animals** service **Sunday, October 26 at 2:00 pm** at our **Picnic Shelter**.

Bring your beloved pets—whether they bark, purr, chirp, or slither—for a joyful outdoor worship experience. Together we'll give thanks for the animals who share our homes and hearts, hear a brief message of God's care for creation, and offer a prayer of blessing over each animal and their human companions.

Please be sure your pets are **appropriately leashed, caged, or otherwise under control** for everyone's safety and comfort. If your pet is uncomfortable around others or doesn't like to travel, then come with a photo of your beloved friend. Kids can bring their favorite stuffed animal.

Invite your friends, neighbors, and their furry (or feathered) family members to join us. Let's celebrate the gift of creation and the unconditional love our pets so often show us!



Coming Soon: "Counterculture" – A Stewardship Series on Faithful Living and Generous Giving

Our world is full of messages about success, security, and status. We're told to hold tightly, accumulate more, and measure our value by comparison. But what if the way of Christ leads us in a completely different direction?

This fall, we will launch a five-week series called **Counterculture** — a call to live generously, love deeply, and root our identity not in the world's expectations, but in God's transforming grace.

Rooted in the Wesleyan and United Methodist tradition, this series will challenge us to resist the pressures of consumerism and scarcity-thinking. Instead, we'll explore what it means to be people of compassion, humility, action, and generosity. Each week, we'll look at scripture that highlights how followers of Jesus are invited to live by a different standard — one shaped by God's love, not by cultural norms.

Series Highlights:

- **Oct. 26: Who Are You?: Transformed, Not Conformed** – How God reshapes us from the inside out (Romans 12:1-2)
- **Nov. 2: What Are You Wearing?: Clothed in Christ** – Living with compassion, humility, and love (Colossians 3:12-17)
- **Nov. 9: Love in Action** – Generosity that's visible and concrete (1 John 3:16-18)
- **Nov. 16: Living Generously, Living Authentically** – Giving flows from knowing who we are (Matthew 22 & Genesis 1)

(continued pg. 4)

- **Nov 23: The Grateful Life** –
Gratitude transforms stress
(Psalm 100; Luke 17:11-19)

On Nov. 16, you'll be invited to respond by turning in an Estimate of Giving Card for 2026, as an act of prayerful commitment to live more generously in the year ahead.

We know that giving is about forming our faith and not just about funding a ministry. And we're already seeing powerful ways that our congregation is choosing to live counterculturally every day. Here are some examples:

- Dozens of servants investing their time teaching kids about Jesus at VBS
- Gifts to help unhoused women and children through Hope House
- Generously sharing with our neighbors through the Nazarene Food Pantry
- Youth did local mission work
- Tutors and mentors sharing their time and care with elementary students through SLINKY and with adults through LINK with Amanda UMC
- Church family caring for those in grief or illness with prayers, visits, cards, or food
- Members who increased their giving even during uncertain times, trusting God's provision

As we prepare our hearts for this important season, take a moment to reflect: ***Where is God calling you to live differently? Where might generosity be your own countercultural act of faith?***

We look forward to walking this journey together — in worship, in community, and in bold, Spirit-led generosity.

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 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/937-514-3793).

Community Fall Celebration/Trunk or Treat is Sunday, October 19th from 2:00-4:00pm. We need your decorated car trunks and **LOTS** of Christian outreach! Candy donations can be dropped off at church anytime.

The Breakfast Club Christmas Show (December 14th at 9:30am). Practice on Sundays, beginning October 26th until noon.

Pancakes with Santa
Saturday, December 6th 9:-11:30am



ANNOUNCEMENT!
**NEW
YOUTH
PROGRAM**

Calling ALL 5th – 12th graders...MUMC's Youth Group needs YOU!

We are well on our way to make some fresh, positive changes that will level up our Christian walk and make an impact on those we serve.

1st & 3rd Wednesdays: Bible Study at the church in rooms 6 & 8

2nd Wednesday: Service work at Bulls Run Arboretum

4th Wednesday: Service work at Ohio Living Mt. Pleasant

5th Wednesday: Game Night...church family and friends are welcome!

**Church Wide Campfire on Wednesday,
October 29th, 6:00 - 7:30pm**



Rambles of Roger

Amazing Grace

This is not a song of theology – it is John Newton's own heartfelt expression of gratitude to god, who helped him turn from his profane and wicked life and eventually fight against the ills he once practiced. "Amazing Grace" is Christian hymn published in 1779, with words written in 1772.

Newton wrote the words from personal experience. He grew up without any religious conviction, but his life's path was formed by a variety of twists and coincidences that were often put into motion by others' reactions to what they took as his insubordination. He was conscripted into service in the Royal Navy. After leaving the service, he became involved in the Atlantic slave trade. In 1748, off the coast of Ireland, a violent storm battered his vessel so severely that he called out to God for mercy. This moment marked his spiritual conversion but he continued slave trading until ending his seafaring altogether. Newton began studying Christian theology and later became an abolitionist.

Ordained in the Church of England in 1764, Newton became a minister. He began to write hymns. "Amazing Grace" was written to illustrate a sermon on New Year's Day of 1773. It is unknown if there was any music accompanying the verses. It may have been chanted. In the United States, "Amazing Grace" became a popular song used by Baptist and Methodist preachers as part of their evangelizing, especially in the South, during the Second Great Awakening of the early 19th century.

Only God's amazing grace could and would take a rude, profane, slave-trading sailor and transform him into a child of God. Newton never ceased to stand in awe of God's work in his life.

Roger Miller



October



Birthdays

3 – Glen Majors **(92 years)**
9 – Roger Kistner
10 – Jim Huston
Larry Webb
15 – Mike Finley
17 – Hayward Ball **(93 years)**
20 – Hannah Motter
22 – Mike Long
25 – Connie Schoffner
26 – David Linn
27 – Karen Kitchell
29 – Don Warmoth

Anniversaries






2 – Gary & Bobbie Hoff **(60 years)**
5 – Chuck Puchta & Michelle Wysong



The deadline for the
November Newsletter
is
Wednesday, October 22nd



Sunday, October 19th
from 2:00 - 4:00pm
in the Church Parking Lot
(Atchley Hall if it rains)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
	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		10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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		10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	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/Library	11:00am -12:00pm Yoga/Narthex 6:00pm Youth Group	Salad Luncheon 7:00pm 12:00pm UMW Salad Luncheon/AH 7:00pm Trustees/Library	10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	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		10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	8:00am -8:00pm Kairos Team Meeting/AH
						
12:00pm Staff Appreciation Luncheon 2:00pm -4:00pm Trunk or Treat/AH						
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
4:00pm Emmaus Gathering/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	11:00am -12:00pm Yoga/Narthex 6:00pm Youth Group			

2025 Monroe United Methodist Women's Annual Nut & Candy Sale

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Quantity</u>
Pecan Halves	\$14.00	_____
Pecan Pieces	\$13.00	_____
Almonds Sliced	\$11.00	_____
Cashews Jumbo (roated & salted)	\$13.00	_____
Walnuts Halves & Pieces	\$12.00	_____
Deluxe Mixed Nutes (R&S)	\$13.00	_____
Cranberry Nut Mix	\$11.00	_____
Premium Trail Mix	\$11.00	_____
Tropical Mix	\$10.00	_____
Milk Chocolate Bridge Mix	\$13.00	_____
Milk Chocolate Cashews	\$14.00	_____
Milk Chocolate Peanuts	\$11.00	_____
Milk Chocolate Pecans	\$14.00	_____
Praline Pecans	\$14.00	_____
Milk Chocolate Raisins	\$11.00	_____
Milk Chocolate Turtles	\$15.00	_____
Total	\$ _____	_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone # _____ Email: _____

Amount Paid \$ _____ ☐ Cash ☐ Check # _____

Seller: _____ Phone # _____

Mail or drop off order form to seller or the church

206 East Ave. Monroe, OH 45050 Phone: 513-539-7290

Please include payment with your order form. Make check payable to UMW. Your patronage is greatly appreciated.

THANK YOU For Your Support!

All bags are 16 ounces - Orders are due by Oct. 5, 2025

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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

Phone: 513.539.7290

E-mail: monroeumc@cinci.rr.com

Website: www.monroeumc.org

Monroe UMC Staff

Rev. Jeff Motter, Senior Pastor: revjamotter@gmail.com

Edna Miller, Office Manager: monroeumc@cinci.rr.com

Gina Craft, Children's Ministries: gmatcraft@gmail.com

Larry Daniel, Choir Director

Melanie Flower, Organist

Linda Larkin, Nursery Attendant

Jerry & Anne Lapham, Financial Sec'y

Jerry Lapham, Newsletter Editor

Arlene Horton, Treasurer

MINISTERS: CONGREGATION

OFFICE HOURS: TUESDAY-FRIDAY 9:00AM-4:30PM



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TWITTER: [@MonroeUMC](#)

