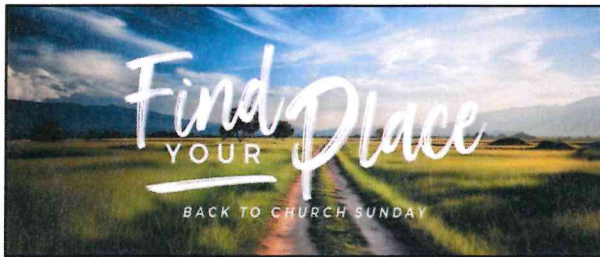


Find Your Place: Who Will You Invite for September 20?



Every single one of us has a deep, God-given longing to belong—to be fully known, truly loved, and connected to a purpose greater than ourselves. Yet, in a world that feels increasingly disconnected and fast-paced, so many of our neighbors, friends, co-workers, and family members are quietly searching for a place to call home.

On Sunday, September 20, our church family is hosting a special emphasis day titled "**Find Your Place.**" As part of the national Back-to-Church Sunday initiative, this morning is specifically designed to open wide our doors and welcome everyone—wherever they are on their spiritual journey—into a vibrant, grace-filled community.

We are praying for transformation, but fulfilling this mission starts with you. Think about your everyday circles: your **Friends, Relatives, Associates, and Neighbors (FRAN)**. Who in your life is walking through a season of transition, isolation, or seeking deeper meaning? A simple, warm, personal invitation from you can completely change the trajectory of someone's life.

Here is how you can participate:

- **Pray:** Begin asking God today to highlight two or three people in your life who need encouragement and community.
- **Invite:** Pick up physical invitation cards in the lobby or share our digital invite posts online. Extend a personal invitation to join you for worship and fellowship on 9/20.
- **Welcome:** Plan to arrive early on September 20 ready to sit with your guests, introduce them to friends, and make them feel at home.

Let's come together as a church family to ensure no one in our community has to walk alone. Let's help them find their place in God's family!



SPRC Staff Appreciation Luncheon

We are having a Staff Appreciation Luncheon **October 11th** after the 11:00 am worship service. We will be having pork, chicken, barbecue. Table service and drinks will be provided. We ask for you to bring a side dish 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 showing our staff how much they are appreciated.

From “I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS” – David Delfield (posted on Facebook)....

We all go through seasons where our faith feels small, our prayers feel weak, and our hearts grow weary. We stumble. We doubt. We struggle. Yet Scripture never tells us our hope rests in our ability to hold everything together. It rests in the faithfulness of the One who promised never to leave or forsake us.

The promise of Christ isn't that his followers will never suffer. It's that we'll never suffer alone.

- When anxiety steals our sleep, He offers a peace that surpasses understanding.
- When grief leaves an ache our words can't describe, He draws near to the brokenhearted.
- When the future feels uncertain, He remains the same yesterday, today, and forever.
- When we're too weak to carry the weight, He invites us to cast our burdens upon Him because He cares for us.

Jesus never promised an easy road, He promised His presence – strength for today, mercy for tomorrow, and grace for every step in between. The world offers escape. Christ offers Himself.

...submitted by Monica Bolton



UMW Annual Nut and Candy Sale Update



Watch for more information about the UMW Nut & Candy sale coming soon. When we get the new price list, order forms will be available. If you have any items that you

really liked or disliked, please let a member of the committee know.

- Pam, Terri, Toni, Elaine, Robyn, Debbie



The United Methodist Women will meet **Thursday, September 10th at 1:00pm** in Atchley

Hall. There will be a program by John Rice from Middletown One Way Farm.

Hostesses are Arlene Horton and Jean Jerew with devotions by Ellen Osterman. Please bring hygiene products for Abilities First (shampoo, soap, etc.) All women of the church are invited.

Building a Stronger Foundation: 'Family Strong' Series Continues



As the busy rush of back-to-school routines and autumn schedules

takes hold, keeping family life steady can often feel like a full-time job. To help households navigate these everyday challenges, Monroe United Methodist

Church is continuing its current sermon series, *Family Strong: Building a Home that Works*, throughout the month of September.

Launched last month with a foundational look at Psalm 127, the series opened with the reminder that building a steady, lasting home starts with establishing Christ at the center—rather than striving for an impossible standard of perfection. Whether a household feels steady or is currently navigating a period of disconnect, the series offers practical, biblical guidance designed to meet families right in the middle of everyday life.

The conversation continues with two focused Sunday messages this month. On September 6, the message *Respecting Differences under One Roof*, based on Romans 14, explores how grace and mutual respect can create unity within a household without requiring everyone to be the same. The following week, on September 13, *Love in Action at Home* examines Romans 12:9–21 to highlight how small, consistent actions of patience, kindness, and generosity transform the daily atmosphere of a home.

Worship services are held every Sunday at 9:30 am and 11:00 am, and everyone in the community is invited to attend. Attendees are encouraged to bring along family members, neighbors, or friends. The environment is designed to be warm and accessible to all—regardless of church background—with no insider language or prior expectations. Households are also invited to practice simple faith rhythms during the week, such as a brief daily prayer or a quick dinner check-in, to help keep families connected both at church and at home.

GriefShare Grief Support Group Forming

No matter what the circumstances, grief is a painful, confusing process.

A *GriefShare* group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of

grief. At this 13-week support group program, you'll discover what to expect in the days

ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief, in all its unpredictability—and gain solid support each step of the way.

At each weekly meeting, you will view a video featuring respected counselors, pastors, and healthcare professionals on grief-related topics, plus you'll hear relatable personal stories of grief. After that is a small-group discussion to allow people time to talk, share support, and personally apply what they learned on the video. Everyone will receive a book to take home filled with valuable exercises for navigating their personal grieving process.

Topics include how to manage grief-related emotions such as loneliness, anxiety, sadness, anger, and regret; how to cope with the changes in your life and relationships; and how to recognize what's normal in grief and what to do if you feel stuck or hopeless.

GriefShare group participants have repeatedly shared that they feel comforted and encouraged by being in a place where people truly understand what they're going through. And they feel a sense of relief when they're given guidance and tips on how to deal with the daily challenges.

Your bereavement experience may be recent or not so recent. No matter how long



it's been, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. If you have experienced the death of a family member or friend, you are invited to attend. For more details, and to register for the group on Wednesdays at 1:00 pm starting September 23, contact Edna Miller in the church office at 513.539.7290 or email MonroeOHUMC@gmail.com.

Replacing "Othering" with Neighboring: Introducing Our New Series

Look around our world today, and it is hard to escape a growing sense of weariness. We live in an increasingly divided, anxious, and reactive culture. So many of us carry a deep, quiet longing for something better—for a community, and a broader society, that is noticeably more loving, caring, and civil. We long for places where people are seen before they are sorted into categories, listened to before they are judged, and treated with genuine dignity even when they disagree.



If you have felt that ache for a gentler, more gracious way of living, you are not alone. Beginning this fall, Monroe United Methodist Church invites you to join us for a new message series titled ***Love One Another: Replacing "Othering" with Neighboring***.

Rooted in Jesus' farewell conversations with his disciples in John 13–16, this series asks a defining question: *What kind of people—and what kind of church—do we become when Jesus' love is practiced in public, ordinary, everyday ways?* Jesus did not issue his command to "love one another" in a quiet, pristine room; he spoke it on the night of his betrayal, in a space full of fear and

uncertainty. In that setting, he made active, humble love—not political alignment, agreement, or uniformity—the true mark of his followers.

Over these five weeks, we will explore practical ways to replace "othering" (reducing people to labels or political positions) with "neighboring" (seeing people as individuals created in the image of God).

Tools to Help Us Practice Love Together

We want this series to shape our daily habits, not just offer inspiration. To help our whole church family engage, we are providing two practical tools:

- **Devotional Journals:** A companion guide with daily scripture readings, brief reflections, and weekly practices to help you ground your days in Christ's love.
- **"Love One Another" Yard Signs:** To share a quiet, encouraging witness of civility and grace with our wider community, we have designed simple yard signs featuring the "Love One Another" message. Signs will be available in the lobby for a suggested donation of \$12 to help defray production costs.

Come and Bring a Friend

Whether you have attended church your whole life, have been away for years, or are simply searching for a community that practices kindness and grace, you are welcome exactly as you are. There are no spiritual performance tests or insider language here—just honest conversation about living out faith in the real world.

We encourage you to participate fully, pick up a devotional, place a sign in your yard, and invite a friend, neighbor, or coworker to join you on Sundays at 9:30am or 11:00 am. Together, let's become the kind of community our neighbors are glad exists.

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Discover "Love One Another" – Small Group Bible Study

Whether you are new to the Bible or a lifelong reader, everyone is warmly welcome to join our four-week adult study, "Love One Another". Together, we will explore what Jesus' Last Supper discourse tells us about how to practice Jesus' love in our daily lives.

Bring a Bible you can easily read and understand—no prior experience necessary! We'll meet in the Church Library on Thursdays, starting Oct. 1, at 1:00 pm.

Come share in honest conversation, simple reflection, and encouraging fellowship as we learn to love our neighbors well.

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

First day back – Monday, September 14th –

3:45/4:20 – 5:30pm at Amanda UMC

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).



Christmas Play (December 13th)

practice begins Sunday,

September 27th

from 10:45 - noon.

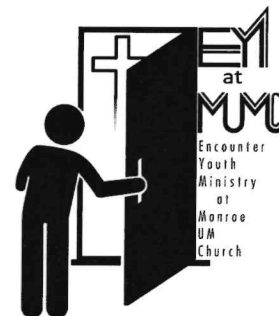
Practice is every Sunday

through December 6th

ENCOUNTER YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group Starts Back Up

September 16th



Through prayer, scripture, and service, 5th–12th graders encounter the journey that Jesus set before them.



Larry Daniel invites all singers to be a part of the Chancel Choir at the 11:00am

Traditional service! Rehearsals begin **Sunday, September 13th** at 10:00am right before the 11:00am service. We have some very enjoyable music to sing! We will be singing several different styles of music, and I look forward to seeing you soon. If you have questions, please reach out to me at 513.827.1483 or email ldaniel5867@yahoo.com.



GENTLEMEN! You are all encouraged to mark your calendars for **Saturday, September 12th** at 9:00am as we launch a **New Men's Group**! We will enjoy a small breakfast together, spend some time in God's Word, and brainstorm how we can take an active role in ministering to our community. All men are invited and consider bringing someone with you!



Being the Hands and Feet of Christ: UMCOR Responds to Recent Earthquakes and Flooding

As United Methodists, our global connection is one of our greatest strengths. When crisis hits, we do not act alone; we join a vast network of faith, love, and immediate action. In recent weeks, devastating events have impacted thousands of lives, and UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) is actively responding on multiple fronts.



Focus on Crisis: Colombia & The Midwest

- **Western Colombia:** On August 10, a powerful 7.4-magnitude earthquake struck western Colombia, claiming nearly 300 lives, injuring thousands, and damaging critical infrastructure. UMCOR issued an emergency solidarity grant directly to the *Iglesia Metodista de Colombia* to deliver essential food baskets, safe drinking water, and hygiene kits to displaced families in vulnerable communities like Cali.
- **Indiana & Ohio Flooding:** Closer to home, persistent torrential storms in mid-August triggered catastrophic flash flooding across East-Central Indiana and Southern/Eastern Ohio. UMCOR is working directly with the Indiana and West/East Ohio Annual Conferences, providing disaster grants to deploy Early Response Teams (ERTs), clear mud, and structural debris, and distribute essential flood cleanup buckets.

Continued pg. 7

Responding Across the Connection

Beyond these major crises, UMCOR has awarded emergency solidarity grants over the past two months to support neighbors facing other sudden disasters:

- **Wisconsin:** Providing flood and tornado cleanup assistance following destructive summer severe weather.
- **Washington State:** Supporting emergency relief and evacuee care for families displaced by the Upriver Fire in Spokane County.
- **Mississippi & West Virginia:** Funding ERT deployments and debris clearance following severe flash floods and tropical weather.
- **Venezuela:** Partnering with on-the-ground teams to supply temporary shelter and emergency provisions after major earthquakes.

How You Can Help

The ministry of UMCOR is unique: **100% of your designated donation goes directly to disaster response and recovery efforts.** Administrative costs are covered separately through our annual UMCOR Sunday offering. Here is how you can put your faith into action today:

1. **Pray:** Lift up the families grieving loss, those who are displaced, and the volunteers working in difficult conditions.
2. **Give:** You can donate through our local church offering (note "UMCOR" and note the Advance number below in the memo line or select fund 8411-UMCOR Disasters in our online giving portal and add the Advance number in the Notes field).
 - **U.S. Disaster Response & Recovery:** Advance #901670
 - **International Disaster Response & Recovery:** Advance #982450

Thank you for demonstrating God's grace and compassion when our neighbors need it most.

Hands-On Hope: Assemble UMCOR Flood Cleanup Buckets



When floodwaters recede, the daunting work of clearing mud, mold, and damage begins. One of the most immediate ways we can support disaster survivors across our region and country is by providing official UMCOR Cleaning Kits (Flood Buckets). These supplies empower families to begin the overwhelming job of reclaiming their homes.

We are calling on our entire church family to act! Assembling a bucket is a wonderful hands-on mission project for individuals, families, youth groups, Sunday school classes, and small groups alike. You might partner up—one person grabs the bucket and soap; another brings the work gloves and dust masks—and build a bucket together.

Please purchase the exact items listed below to ensure consistency and safety for disaster logistics. Once assembled, bring your completed buckets to the church entryway by **September 27**. We will arrange for them to be delivered to the regional United Methodist relief supply warehouse for distribution to communities in need.

Together, our practical generosity delivers real, tangible grace to neighbors working to rebuild their lives.

Official UMCOR Cleaning Bucket Materials Checklist

Container & Liquids:

- 1 five-gallon bucket with resealable lid (14.35" h x 12.19" w x 12.19" d; free of residual product)
- 1 bottle liquid laundry detergent (32–64 oz.)
- 1 bottle liquid concentrate household cleaner (16–40 oz.; *no spray cleaners*)
- 1 bottle liquid dish soap (16–34 oz.)
- 1 pump spray air freshener (4–8 oz.; must have protective cover)
- 1 pump spray insect repellent (6–14 oz.; or pack of 10–20 wipes)

Tools & Supplies:

- 1 scrub brush (with or without handle)
- 18 reusable cleaning wipes (remove from packaging; *no paper towels, microfiber, or terrycloth*)
- 5 scouring pads (remove from packaging; *no stainless steel or soap-filled pads*)
- 36–50 clothespins
- 1 clothesline (50–100 ft., cotton, or plastic)
- 24 heavy-duty trash bags (33–45-gallon sizes; remove from packaging)
- 5 N95 particulate respirator dust masks (1–3 mm thickness; *no surgical masks*)
- 2 pairs kitchen gloves (durable, reusable; remove from packaging)
- 1 pair work gloves (leather palm or all-leather)

Assembly & Guidelines:

1. Place all liquid items in the bottom of the bucket first.

2. Fit all remaining items tightly around and between the liquid bottles.
3. Secure the lid tightly on the filled bucket.
- 4.

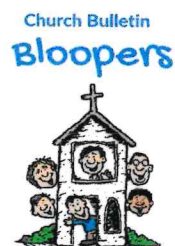
Important Note: All items must be **brand new**. Do not include personal notes, money, sponges, or extra items inside the buckets.

Watch the video at <https://www.umc.org/en/content/offer-support-after-storms-create-cleaning-buckets> to see how to assemble a bucket.

For other types of kits needed, visit <https://umcmmission.org/work/humanitarian-relief/relief-supplies>.

There has never been a better time to invite your fiends to church.

Great news! Doctors have performed a CAT scan on Pastor McLaren's head and report that they have found nothing!



The 'Over 60's Choir' will be disbanded for the summer with the thanks of the entire church.

When parking on the north side of the church, please remember to park on an angel.

It's Drug Awareness Week: Get involved in drugs before your children do.

Illiterate? Write to the church office for help.

Thank you, Steve, who once again has worked hard to clean the pastor off the basement floor.

The sermon this morning: 'Contemporary Issues #3 – Euthanasia.' The closing song: 'Take My Life.'



September



Birthdays

1 – Gary Hoff
4 – Edna Miller
6 – John Routson
8 – Jerry Michael
11 – Jamie Pierce
13 – Bobbie Hoff
15 – Karen Gardner
16 – 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

22 – Jim & Ruby Huston
16 – Mike & Elaine Kuth



September 13th



The Deadline
for the October Newsletter
is
Wednesday, September 16th

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
	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 7:00pm Praise Team/AH		10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Holy Communion	Church Office Closed 	10:00am -12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room 10:00am Share Group/Parlor 6:30pm -9:00pm Music Team/AH 7:00pm Emmaus Board Mtg./Library	11:00am -12:00pm Yoga/Narthex 7:00pm Praise Team/AH	1:00pm UMW/AH	10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	 9:00am Men's Group/AH
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	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	 10:30am Worship Committee/Library		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	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		10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	8:00am -4:00pm Kairos Meeting/AH
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
	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			

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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Andy Garitson, Contemporary Worship Director: andy.garitson@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

