



The Monroe Doctrine

Monroe United Methodist Church

A Light on the Hill

October 2026

Replacing "Othering" with Neighboring: "Love One Another"

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. Our sermon series, ***Love One Another: Replacing "Othering" with Neighboring***, is now underway and will continue throughout most of October!

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 the coming weeks in October, we will continue exploring 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 have practical resources available:

* "Love One Another" Yard Signs: Help us share a quiet, encouraging witness of civility and grace with our wider community! Simple yard signs featuring the "Love One Another" message are available in the lobby. Pick one up on Sunday for a suggested donation of \$10 to help defray production costs.

Important Schedule Update: Small Group Bible Study

Please note that due to a scheduling conflict, the previously announced midweek "Love One Another" Small Group Bible Study will not be taking place during this series. We encourage everyone to engage deeply with the sermon messages on Sunday mornings.

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

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spiritual performance tests or insider language here—just honest conversation about living out faith in the real world.

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

World Communion Sunday: One Table, One Church, One World

On **Sunday, October 4**, we join United Methodists and Christians around the globe in celebrating World

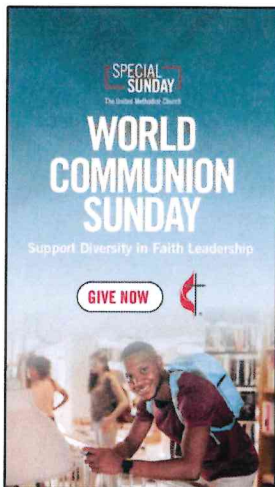
Communion Sunday, a day set aside each year to remember that the table of the Lord

has no borders. Whether we gather in Monroe, Ohio or in a small chapel in Manila, Nairobi, or São Paulo, we share the same bread, the

same cup, and the same Christ. It's a powerful, humbling reminder that the church is far bigger than our sanctuary walls.

World Communion Sunday began in 1936 as a way to express the unity and interconnectedness of the worldwide Christian family, and The United Methodist Church has embraced it as one of six churchwide Special Sundays. Beyond the beauty of the shared sacrament, this day carries a practical purpose: the offering we collect goes directly toward raising up the next generation of diverse church leaders.

Half of every gift funds World Communion Scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students pursuing ordained ministry, both in the U.S. and internationally. The remaining



funds support Ethnic In-Service Training and leadership development for partner churches and communities in Africa, Asia/Pacific, Latin America, Eastern Europe, and communities of color here at home. Put simply: your gift helps train pastors, teachers, and leaders who will shape the church for decades to come.

Last year alone, United Methodists gave over \$360,000 through this offering, investments that have changed real lives. As one scholarship recipient from the Democratic Republic of Congo shared, the gift gave her "an opportunity to reach the level of life where I can be helpful to my local community and bring real change."

We invite you to join us on **October 4** as we come to the table together and to give generously, knowing your offering helps someone, somewhere, answer God's call to serve. You can give by marking your envelope or check memo for "World Communion." When giving online at MonroeUMC.org/Give, choose Fund 8408-World Communion; if texting to give at (513)547-9908, text \$amount WCS.



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.

UMW HOSTING A SALAD LUNCHEON



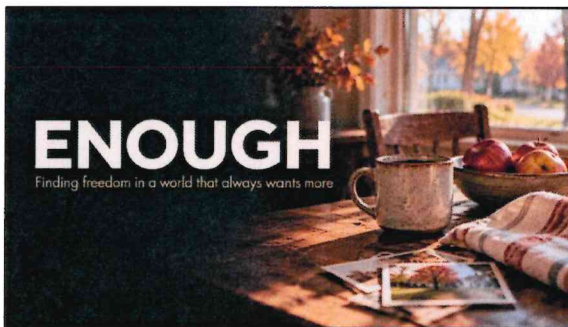
All ladies of the church are invited to the United Methodist Women's salad luncheon on **Thursday, October 25, at 12:00pm** in Atchley hall. Please bring a salad to share. Chicken and ham salads, pimento cheese and desserts will be provided. Hostesses are Pam Kilburn & Sharon Warmoth



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

Traditional service! Rehearsals are 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.

Finding Freedom in a World That Wants More: Join Us for "Enough"



We live in a culture that constantly asks for more: more time, more money, more achievement, and more stuff. It is easy to end up exhausted, wondering: *Do I have enough? Am I enough?*

Beginning **Sunday, October 25**, Monroe United Methodist Church invites you to an honest, 5-week conversation called **"Enough: Finding Freedom in a World That Always Wants More."**

This is a series offering practical help for real life. Between rising grocery bills, housing costs, and busy schedules, many of us feel squeezed. Together, we will look at how to ease that pressure, create room to breathe, and rediscover what truly matters.

Over five weeks, we will explore:

- **Oct. 25 – The Gifts We Overlook:** Moving from self-sufficiency to genuine gratitude.
- **Nov. 1 – What We Carry Forward:** An All Saints Day focus on the non-financial legacies, wisdom, and habits we inherit and pass along.
- **Nov. 8 – Room to Breathe:** Practical wisdom for navigating financial stress and building margin.
- **Nov. 15 – You Are Already Enough:** Separating your personal worth from your productivity.
- **Nov. 22 – What We Have Can Make Possible:** How sharing our resources creates real, positive impact in our community.

Whether you have been part of a church for decades or have never walked through our doors, your life experience and questions are welcome here. Come explore how letting go of "more" can make space for peace, purpose, and hope.

**Join us Sundays at Monroe UMC,
October 25 – November 22**

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).



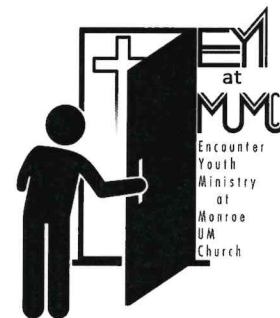
MUMC TRUNK or TREAT
(south parking lot)

Sunday, October 18th
2:00-4:00 PM



Christmas Play (December 13th)
Practice is every Sunday
from 10:45 – noon.
through December 6th

ENCOUNTER YOUTH GROUP



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

Wednesdays during school year
from 6:00-7:30pm

- 1st Wed. – Bible Study at MUMC
- 2nd Wed. – Visit members at Mt. Pleasant
in Monroe & McDonalds
- 3rd Wed. – Bible Study at MUMC
- 4th Wed. – Bull's Run Arboretum in
Middletown w/picnic
(weather permitting)
- 5th Wed. – TBD (campfire, game(s), guest
speaker, movie, etc.)

ABOUT SUFFERING IN OUR LIVES....

This came from Facebook from Joni Eareckson Tada. She is the founder of Joni and Friends. For those unfamiliar with her story, she became a quadriplegic at the age of 17 from a diving accident where she broke her neck. She is one of the most amazing people I have learned of. Her faith is unwavering and she has led and continues to lead many to Christ through her uncontainable joy even through her suffering. (You also may be familiar with her because she does amazing and beautiful paintings by holding a paintbrush in her teeth.)

(From Joni)...

- * There is a weariness that comes from suffering in a body that never seems to give you a break.
- * For some believers, sickness is not a season. It is waking up in pain again. It is exhaustion that sleep does not fix. It is a disease, limitations, medications, appointments, and learning to live with a body that simply does not work the way it should.
- * Sometimes you are just tired of enduring it.
- * The Bible does not order us to pretend otherwise.
- * Paul said, "Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day" (2 Corinthians 4:16).
- * Scripture is painfully honest about what the fall has done to this world and to our bodies. Romans 8 says that even believers "groan inwardly" as we wait for "the redemption of our bodies."
- * One of the hardest parts of chronic illness is wondering what happens if it gets worse.
- * If I am still here, how will I bear this five years from now?
- * But sometimes we try to carry tomorrow with strength God has only given us for today.
- * Jesus said, "Sufficient for the day is its own trouble" (Matthew 6:34).
- * There will be grace for tomorrow when tomorrow comes.

- * And when God does not remove the suffering, His answer is not that the suffering is bearable. Christ told Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).
- * His grace is sufficient precisely because your strength is not.
- * You can weep and groan and ask God how much longer.
- * But you can also say with the psalmist, "My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever" (Psalm 73:26).
- * Our forever hope is Christ.
- * And for everyone who belongs to Him, there is coming a morning when you will wake up, and nothing will hurt.
- * Until then, He does not promise that you will never be brought to the end of your strength here.
- * He promises something better.
- * When you reach the end of your strength, you have not reached the end of His.

Submitted by Monica Bolton...



Discover Monroe UMC at Monroe 101

Whether you have been visiting Monroe UMC for a few weeks, attending for several months, or simply looking to take the next step toward a deeper connection, you are invited to join us for **Monroe 101** on **Sunday, October 25 at 12:15 pm.**

We will begin right after worship with a free lunch, providing a warm, relaxed environment to meet our ministry leaders, ask questions, and get to know others who are exploring life at Monroe UMC.



What Does Church Membership Mean?

In the United Methodist Church, membership is much more than joining a local organization. It is entering into a sacred covenant with God and one another. When we become members, we vow to support Christ's church through our **prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.**

Joining a faith community offers powerful spiritual benefits:

- **Spiritual Home & Community:** A supportive family to walk alongside you through life's joys and challenges.
- **Shared Mission:** Opportunity to pool our gifts to serve our local community and make a meaningful impact.
- **Personal Growth:** A structured pathway to discover your spiritual gifts and put them to use in ministry.

Sacraments & Pathways to Involvement

During our time together, we will discuss the foundational sacraments of the church:

- **Baptism:** The outward sign of God's initiating grace and our entry into the universal Church.
- **Holy Communion:** The open table where Christ meets us, nourishes our faith, and renews our spirits.

We will also share practical ways to get involved, from small group studies to outreach and volunteer teams, helping you find where your unique gifts fit best.

RSVP Information

Childcare is available upon request during the class. To help us prepare enough food and arrange childcare, please RSVP to Pastor Jeff or Edna in the church office:

- **Phone:** 513.539.7290
- **Email:** MonroeOHUMC@gmail.com

Find News, Devotions, Events on our Website, MonroeUMC.org

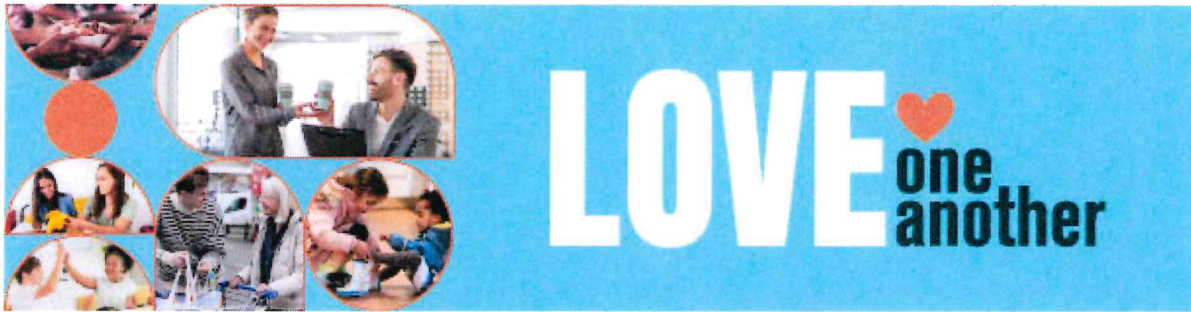
Our updated church website, **MonroeUMC.org**, is the place to check on what's happening in the life of Monroe UMC. There you can find up-to-date information on:



- Upcoming **Events** for the church family and community
- The latest **News**, including announcements and informative articles
- Recent **Sermons** as video and transcripts you can read or pass on to others
- Devotions on our **Blog**

You can also learn about our worship services, ministries for all ages, church history, and United Methodist beliefs. And you can **Give** online one time or set up your recurring tithe or offering to God through our church using your bank account or a debit/credit card, making giving more convenient for you.

Our website has become even more important as Facebook has recently restricted links from posts there to outside websites unless we pay \$40 per month. So, bookmark MonroeUMC.org in your browser on your computer, tablet, or phone for easy and regular access.



Putting "Love One Another" Into Action: Dinner Is On Us!

As part of our ongoing "**Love One Another**" series, our congregation is stepping up to serve local students and families in a very direct, tangible way.

We are partnering with **Neighborhood Bridges: Monroe** to support local school Success Liaisons. Often, families in our school district face short-term gaps—needing meals for just a day or two while waiting on a paycheck or for a local food pantry to open. Our goal is to help fill that gap by assembling complete meal kits (baskets, bags, or boxes) containing all the shelf-stable ingredients required to prepare a full dinner.

How You Can Help

1. **Assemble a Meal Kit:** Pick a complete meal concept and gather all necessary non-perishable ingredients. Feel free to include a printed copy of the recipe!
2. **Get Creative:** You are welcome to come up with your own favorite family-friendly meal idea or choose from the suggested meal kits below.
3. **Drop Off:** Return your completed meal baskets, bags, or boxes to the church **anytime through October 18.**

Meal Basket Ideas & Inspiration

- **Classic Spaghetti Night:** Spaghetti, pasta sauce, parmesan cheese, and a bottle of juice.
- **Pancake Breakfast for Dinner:** Pancake mix, syrup, jelly, and a bottle of juice.
- **Chicken Alfredo:** Box of penne pasta, jar of Alfredo sauce, and 2 cans of chicken breast.
- **Tuna Mac & Cheese:** 2 boxes of mac and cheese, 2 cans of tuna, 1 can of peas, and shelf-stable milk.
- **Fiesta Taco Bowl:** 2 cans black or pinto beans, 1 can corn, 2 cans diced tomatoes with green chilies, 1 packet taco seasoning, and 1 can chicken.
- **Southwestern Rice & Beans:** Instant rice, diced tomatoes, Rotel, black beans, taco seasoning, and garlic powder.
- **Chicken Noodle Soup Kit:** 2 cans chicken, egg noodles, chicken broth, 1 can carrots, 1 can peas, poultry seasoning, and garlic powder.
- **Hearty Vegetable Soup:** 1 box small pasta, 2 cans diced tomatoes, 2 cans mixed vegetables, 1 can beans, vegetable broth, and Italian seasoning.
- **Teriyaki Chicken & Rice:** Instant rice, cans of chicken, teriyaki sauce, 1 can mixed vegetables, and garlic powder.
- **Three-Bean Chili:** Elbow macaroni, kidney beans, diced tomatoes, tomato sauce, chili powder, cumin, and garlic powder.

Thank you for demonstrating God's love to our Monroe neighbors through this hands-on ministry!



Birthdays

3 – Glen Majors **(93 years)**
10 – Jim Huston
Larry Webb
15 – Mike Finley
17 – Hayward Ball **(94 years)**
20 – Hannah Motter
22 – Mike Long
25 – Connie Schoffner
26 – David Linn
27 – Karen Kitchell
29 – Don Warmoth

Anniversaries

2 – Gary & Bobbie Hoff **(61 years)**
5 – Chuck Puchta & Michelle Wysong

The deadline for the
November Newsletter
is
Wednesday, October 21st



October 31

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
27		28	Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	29	10:00am –12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room 10:00am Share Group/Parlor	30	11:00am –12:00pm Yoga/Narthex 1:00pm –3:00pm Grief Share Group/Library 6:00pm Youth Group 7:00pm Praise Team/AH	1		2		3	
4	Holy Communion	5	Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	6	10:00am –12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room 10:00am Share Group/Parlor	7	11:00am –12:00pm Yoga/Narthex 1:00pm –3:00pm Grief Share Group/Library 6:00pm Youth Group 7:00pm Praise Team/AH	8		9	10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	10	
11	 12:15pm Staff Appreciation Luncheon	12	Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	13	10:00am –12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room 10:00am Share Group/Parlor	14	11:00am –12:00pm Yoga/Narthex 1:00pm –3:00pm Grief Share Group/Library 6:00pm Youth Group 7:00pm Praise Team/AH	15	 12:00pm UMW Salad Luncheon/AH 7:00pm Trustees/Library	16	10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	17	1:00pm –5:00pm Hannah Mottet Birthday Party/AH
18		19	Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	20	10:00am –12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room 10:00am Share Group/Parlor 1:00pm Finance Committee/AH	21	 11:00am –12:00pm Yoga/Narthex 1:00pm –3:00pm Grief Share Group/Library 6:00pm Youth Group 7:00pm Praise Team/AH	22		23	10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	24	11:30am –5:00pm Lapham Family/AH
25	2:00pm –4:00pm MUMC Trunk or Treat (South parking lot)	26	Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	27	10:00am –12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room 10:00am Share Group/Parlor	28	11:00am –12:00pm Yoga/Narthex 1:00pm –3:00pm Grief Share Group/Library 6:00pm Youth Group 7:00pm Praise Team/AH	29		30	10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	31	 2:00pm –6:00pm Raven Holland Birthday Party/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

Phone: 513.539.7290

E-mail: monroeumc@cinci.rr.com

Website: www.monroeumc.org

Monroe UMC Staff

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Andy Garitson, Contemporary Worship Director: andy.garitson@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](#)

