

Enough: Five Sundays to Set Down the Race for More

Ask almost anyone in Monroe how they are doing, and you will hear some version of the same answer: busy, stretched, tired.

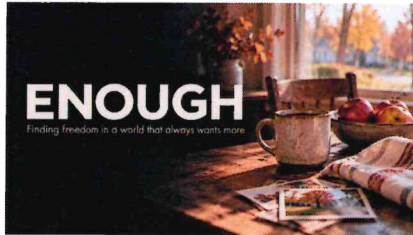
Grocery bills climb.

Housing costs climb.

Calendars fill up faster

than we can

empty them. And underneath it all, a quieter question keeps humming: Is what I have enough? Am I enough?



Starting Sunday, October 25, Monroe UMC will take that question seriously in a new five-week series called *Enough: Finding Freedom in a World That Always Wants More*. It is not a fundraising campaign dressed up as a sermon series. It is practical, honest help for real life, offered by a church that feels the same pressures you do.

We begin with gratitude because none of us started from zero. We end with generosity because shared gifts can do more than any of us can alone. In between, we make room for the things that rarely get said from a pulpit: grief, financial strain, and the pressure to prove our worth.

- **October 25: The Gifts We Overlook.**
Who and what has carried you to this day?
- **November 1: What We Carry Forward.**
On All Saints Day, we remember those

who shaped us and consider what we want to pass on.

- **November 8: Room to Breathe.**
Wise, realistic steps toward stability, whatever your situation.
- **November 15: You Are Already Enough.**
Your worth was settled by God's love before you earned, owned, or accomplished anything.
- **November 22: What Can We Make Possible Together?**
Our shared generosity, and a chance to plan for the year ahead.

Enough does not promise that faith will make you wealthy, and it will not suggest that hard times mean you did something wrong. Some households need to save; some need support; some are in a position to share more. We will talk about all of these, with respect for everyone. Wherever you are, you belong here, and no one will be asked to share private financial details.

If you need practical help right now, please talk with Pastor Jeff. Receiving support comes with no strings attached.

Worship is Sundays, October 25 through November 22, at 9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., in person and online. If a friend, neighbor, or coworker has been feeling the squeeze, this is a good moment to say, "Come with me." Details are at MonroeUMC.org.

I love the artwork from Faithful Grace. It seems to portray things from the perspective of a child. I sent the below artwork to Gina a long time ago, and it inspired her to lead a wonderful series of Sunday School lessons on the full armor of God.

As adults, we should set the example for our children by ourselves, putting on the full armor of God. Below is the Facebook article from Faithful Grace that accompanied that sweet artwork, to help us remember to put on our armor each day to fight whatever battles lay ahead...

*"Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the tricks of the devil."

- Ephesians 6:11

*Lord, help me put on the whole armor of God, every piece You've provided, so I can stand firm against the tricks and schemes the enemy uses to take me down.

*I'm in a spiritual battle, whether I acknowledge it or not, and the enemy is strategic, cunning, looking for weak spots where I'm unprotected and vulnerable.

*Teach me that this armor isn't optional equipment for when battles get intense but daily necessity for standing firm against an enemy who never stops attacking.

*The whole armor means every piece matters, belt of truth, breastplate of righteousness, shoes of peace, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, sword of the Spirit, nothing left off.

*Help me understand that I can't stand that I can't stand against the enemy's tricks in my own strength, that without Your armor I'm exposed, defenseless, easily defeated.

*Remind me that the enemy's tricks are real but so is the armor You've provided, that I don't fight unequipped but fully prepared when I put on what You've given.

*Give me discipline to put on this armor daily, to check that every piece is in place before I step into battles I'll face today.

Put on the whole armor of God,
that you may be able to stand
against the tricks of the devil.



...Submitted by Monica Bolton

Recent Email and Text Scams Targeting our Congregation



In recent weeks, many of you have received text messages on your cellphone or email messages that claim to be from Pastor Jeff Motter. The text message ID even shows the name Pastor Jeff Motter though it refers to a different phone number (in Georgia), and the email sender name shows Pastor Jeff Motter and uses the email address PastorJeffMotter@gmail.com.

THESE MESSAGES ARE SCAMS! They are **NOT** from Pastor Jeff or anyone else at Monroe UMC. If you receive them, you should do the following:

1. **Do NOT reply to the text or email.** This gives the scammer the opportunity to keep tricking you and possibly gain your personal information.
2. **Do NOT do what the text or email asks.** Most of them will ask you to purchase gift cards and send the numbers from the gift cards to the email or phone number in the message. If you do this, you will lose all the money you spent on the gift cards. Please note that Pastor Jeff or any other staff member of Monroe UMC will NEVER contact you by email or text and ask you to buy gift cards and send them the numbers.

3. **Delete the text or email message.** If you know how, report the email or text as Spam and block it so you will not receive any further messages from that number or email address.
4. **When in doubt, call Pastor Jeff, or the church office to ask if the message you received is real.**
5. **Stay on guard** for possible scams. Unfortunately, this is a very present danger in our culture as people are tempted to use the wonders of technology in malicious ways.

Pastor Jeff has filed reports with the appropriate authorities regarding these matters, though there is actually little law enforcement can do to prevent these scams from occurring.

Christmas Poinsettias

It's time again to place your order for poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary and Atchley Hall for Christmas. The cost is \$10 and envelopes for payment will be available in the pews and at the Welcome Center in Atchley Hall. Orders must be in by **Wednesday, November 25th**.



The poinsettias come from Bern's Garden Center. They are 6-1/2" pots with 5-7 blooms. You are welcome to take your poinsettias home after the Christmas Eve service.

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 is every Sunday

from 10:45 - noon.

through December 6th

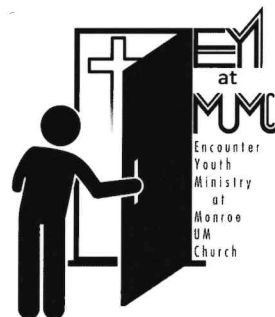


Pancakes with Santa

Saturday, December 12th

9:00 - 11:30am

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.)

SLINKY Tutoring Cooperative Ministry between Monroe & Amanda UMCs was recently featured in the Great Miami River District News and Notes. The brief news article is below. You can help as a tutor/mentor or by donating to the ministry. Contact Gina Craft.

Slinky Cooperative Tutoring



For the past eight years, Monroe United Methodist Church has received a district grant to support its Slinky Tutoring Center. What began as a tutoring ministry has grown into a cooperative

learning center shared by Monroe UMC and Amanda UMC, where young students receive support in developing essential literacy skills. While much of the focus is on helping primary students learn to read, the program also encourages creativity and self-expression.

Creative writing gives children an opportunity to practice and strengthen their reading skills in a fun and engaging way. Because classroom schedules do not always allow time for writing and sharing, Slinky tutors help students explore their imaginations and express themselves freely.

As tutors, discovering that writing down the words students hear in their heads, or say out loud, can serve as a bridge to sounding out words in a book. With limited time together, we do not focus heavily on correct spelling. Instead, creative spelling gives students the freedom to remain engaged in the writing process without interrupting their artistic flow. The tutors think of themselves as “story navigators,” helping students include the essential elements of a story: setting, characters, a problem or goal, and a solution or outcome.

Through this practice, we have witnessed how writing stories brings greater joy to reading. Students begin sounding out words with more confidence, predicting what comes next, and reading entire sentences rather than isolated words. Moments of encouragement naturally arise as students make discoveries on their own and recognize their growth. Being part of that journey is both rewarding and inspiring.

To find out more about the Slinky Cooperative Tutoring, contact Gina Craft
- gmatcraft@gmail.com



We would like to thank everyone who helped setting up and cleaning up for the Staff Appreciation luncheon. The SPRC committee really appreciate the help. Thanks again, SPRC Committee.

Thank you to everyone for all the cards that were given to me at the Staff Appreciation luncheon. It is a joy being at MUMC.
Larry Daniel

Thank you to everyone for the thoughtful cards, gifts, and words of appreciation given to me at the Staff Appreciation luncheon. Your kindness meant so much to me.
Edna Miller

Thank you to the church family for all your gifts of appreciation. Mel Flower

The entire staff of Monroe UMC is grateful for your expressions of support and appreciation at last week's Staff Appreciation Luncheon. Thank you for the kind words, cards, and gifts. We are blessed to serve Christ alongside all of you.

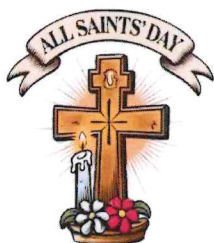
Thank you to everyone who helped with the Trunk or Treat in the Community Park yesterday. Whether you donated, prayed, or were there in person, you helped share some of Jesus' love with our neighbors.



The United Methodist Women will meet **Thursday, November 19th** in Atchley Hall. The program will be by Ann Copeland. Please bring a donation of paper goods and hygiene products for Hope House women. All women of the church are invited to attend and bring a friend.

Honoring Our Saints

Join us **Sunday, November 1st** for our All Saints Day worship services at **9:30 AM and 11:00 AM** as we honor and give thanks for the cloud of witnesses that surrounds us. During both services, we will remember the loved ones and saints of our church family who have passed away in the last year. Together, we will hold their families in prayer and light a candle in sacred memory of each life lived in faith. We will also share in Holy Communion. Please join us for this special morning of reflection, hope, and community.



Carols for the Coming Christ: The Songs That Tell Our Story

What's your favorite Christmas carol? Is it *Silent Night*, sung by candlelight on Christmas Eve? *Joy to the World*, with its triumphant announcement of Christ's



coming? Or perhaps a quieter song that takes you back to childhood

Christmases, family gatherings, or someone you especially miss this time of year?

Music has a remarkable way of bringing memories to life. Sometimes just a few notes can transport us to another time and place. A familiar carol can bring a smile, a tear, or a feeling of comfort that words alone can't quite express.

But Christmas carols do more than stir our memories. They tell the story of God's love entering our world through Jesus Christ. They give voice to our longing for peace, our hopes for a better world, and the joy of knowing that God is with us.

This Advent and Christmas season, beginning Sunday, November 29, we're inviting you to experience these familiar songs in a fresh way through our worship series, **Carols for the Coming Christ**.

Each week, we'll explore the stories and messages behind beloved carols, alongside some newer songs that offer fresh perspectives on the Christmas story. Together, we'll consider what these songs teach us about hope, peace, joy, and love—and what their promises mean for our lives and our world today.

And we'd love for you to help us tell the story!

As we prepare for Advent, we're inviting everyone to share a favorite Christmas carol and the memories or meaning it holds for you.

Maybe it reminds you of singing beside a parent or grandparent, a special Christmas Eve, or a time when its words brought comfort or renewed hope. Maybe there's a story behind the carol you've always wondered about.

We've included a "**Study Your Own Carol**" page with this newsletter. Take a few minutes to choose a favorite, share why it matters to you, and perhaps discover something new about its history or message. You can also complete the survey online at **MonroeUMC.org/Carols**.

We hope to share some of your reflections and memories as part of our Advent and Christmas celebrations. You don't have to be a great singer or know anything about music. We simply want to hear your story!

Christmas music connects generations, carries memories, and reminds us that the good news of Jesus' birth is a story we continue to share.

This year, as we prepare to welcome Christ anew, let's listen a little more closely to the songs we've sung for years—and discover what they still have to say to us today.

What's your Christmas carol? We can't wait to hear about it



A Plan, Not a Bill: The 2027 Estimate of Giving

On the final Sunday of our Enough series, November 22, Monroe UMC will invite everyone to take part in something many churches do each fall: an Estimate of Giving for the coming year. If that phrase makes you wince a little, we understand. So let us say plainly what it is and what it is not.

An Estimate of Giving is an **optional, confidential** way to tell church leaders what you expect to give to our general operating fund in 2027. That knowledge helps them plan responsibly. Staffing, utilities, building maintenance, and ministry supplies are costs that arrive every week, and leaders can budget far more wisely when they have a realistic sense of what to expect.

It is not a bill, a contract, or a measure of anyone's faithfulness. You may revise, reduce, or pause your estimate whenever life changes, and no increase is required. *Your place in this congregation does not depend on what you earn, accomplish, serve, or give.* If protecting food, housing, medicine, utilities, and safety is where your resources need to go, that is faithful stewardship too. You may also choose not to give, and Pastor Jeff is glad to talk about support that may be available.

The **general operating fund** is the everyday foundation for the life of this church:

- **Worship and music**, including our praise team, chancel choir, and handbells.
- **Children's ministry**, from Sunday school to Vacation Bible School, where more than 40 children recently learned about God as Creator and Redeemer.

The image shows a card titled "ENOUGH" for Monroe UMC's General Fund. The card is titled "My / Our 2027 Estimate of Giving" and includes instructions: "An optional, confidential plan. You may revise it at any time." It has checkboxes for "My / Our planned general fund giving:" with options for per week, per month, per quarter, and per year. There is a section for "Enter one amount and check one frequency" with checkboxes for "I / We plan to give but prefer not to submit a financial estimate" and "Name(s)", "Address", and "City / State / ZIP". At the bottom, it says "Optional information is on the reverse. Return November 22 in worship, mail to PO Box 310, Monroe, OH 45050, or complete online at MonroeUMC.org/Enough. Returning a card is optional."

- **Encounter Youth Ministry**, whose members created and installed a storybook trail at Bull's Run Arboretum this summer.
- **Our building**, which hosts Northern Lights Walk to Emmaus, Kairos Prison Ministry, Scout Troop 42, and many family and community gatherings.

Gifts for capital improvements, Hope House, UMCOR, and United Methodist special offerings are separate and additional. The estimate covers general operating support only.

The card is simple. Write one amount and check how often you plan to give: weekly, monthly, quarterly, or yearly. If you plan to give but would rather not name a figure, there is a box for that. A separate, optional section is there for anyone wanting information about including Monroe UMC in their estate plans.

To receive an Estimate of Giving card, visit **MonroeUMC.org/Enough** or contact the church office at 513-539-7290. If you choose to respond, return your card during worship on November 22, mail it to Monroe UMC, PO Box 310, Monroe, OH 45050, or complete it online at **MonroeUMC.org/Enough**. Returning a card is entirely optional. Those who already give online through **MonroeUMC.org/Give** can continue exactly as they do now.



General Operating Fund		
	Income	Expenses
September	\$15,116	\$27,746
Third Quarter	\$61,737	\$77,071



Be Thankful

**Be Thankful
for the Little
Things in Life**

Be thankful for the clothes that fit a little too snug, because it means you have enough to eat.

Be thankful for the mess you clean up after a party, because it means you have been surrounded by friends.

Be thankful for the taxes you pay, because it means you're employed.

Be thankful that your lawn needs mowing and your windows need fixing, because it means you have a home.

Be thankful for your heating bill, because it means you are warm.

Be thankful for the laundry, because it means you have clothes to wear.

Be thankful for the space you find at the far end of the parking lot, because it means you can walk.

Be thankful for the lady who sings off-key behind you in church, because it means you can hear.

Be thankful when people complain about the government, because it means we have freedom of speech.

Be thankful for the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours, because it means you're alive.



STUDY YOUR OWN CAROL GUIDE

Our Advent and Christmas theme this year features the ways that carols have shaped our experience of faith. We want to know about your favorite carols and perhaps a bit about why you like them. This handout helps you do that AND helps you dig a bit deeper into the study of the carol to learn about its history. You can search the internet for the history of any carol!

My favorite carol of the season _____

I like this carol because _____

This carol brings up memories of _____

This carol reminds me that _____

Here is what I found out about this carol _____

My name is (we might use the information above so you can tell us your name, or not!)



November



Birthdays

- 8 – Denise Dyke
- 11 – Dan Moak
JoAn Webb
- 16 – Donna Whitenack **(96 years)**
- 20 – Jane Majors
- 22 – Ralph Carpenter
Pam Kilburn
- 23 – Eleanore Short
- 28 – Herb Gansheimer

**Sunday,
November 1st**



December Newsletter
Deadline is
Sunday, November 15th
(Due to Thanksgiving)



**November
26th**

Sunday						
Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday
Friday		Saturday				
1 Holy Communion	2 Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	3 10:00am –12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room 10:00am Share Group/Parlor	4 11:00am –12:00pm Yoga/Narthex 1:00pm –3:00pm Grief Share Group/Library 6:00pm Youth Group 7:00pm Praise Team/AH	5	6 10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	7 10:00am –1:00pm Kairos Council Meeting/Library
						
8	9 Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	10 10:00am –12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room 10:00am Share Group/Parlor 7:00pm Men's Group	11 11:00am –12:00pm Yoga/Narthex 1:00pm –3:00pm Grief Share Group/Library 6:00pm Youth Group 7:00pm Praise Team/AH	12	13 10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	14  1:00pm –5:00pm Bella Holland Birthday Party/AH
15	16 Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	17 10:00am –12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room 10:00am Share Group/Parlor 1:00pm Finance Committee/AH	18 11:00am –12:00pm Yoga/Narthex 1:00pm –3:00pm Grief Share Group/Library 6:00pm Youth Group 7:00pm Praise Team/AH	19 1:00pm UMW/AH 7:00pm Trustees/Library	20 10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	21
						
22	23 Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	24 10:00am –12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room 10:00am Share Group/Parlor	25 11:00am –12:00pm Yoga/Narthex 1:00pm –3:00pm Grief Share Group/Library 6:00pm Youth Group 7:00pm Praise Team/AH	26 Office Closed	27 Office Closed	28
						
29	30 Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	1 10:00am –12:00pm Sewing Group/Youth Room 10:00am Share Group/Parlor	2 11:00am –12:00pm Yoga/Narthex 1:00pm –3:00pm Grief Share Group/Library 6:00pm Youth Group 7:00pm Praise Team/AH	3	4 10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	5 10:00am –1:00pm Kairos Council Meeting/Library 2:00pm –3:00pm Wedding & Reception /Sanctuary/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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Edna Miller, Office Manager: monroeumc@cinci.rr.com

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

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

