

The Monroe Doctrine



May 2024

Honoring the Moms, Mother Figures, and Women in our Lives



Moms, mother-figures, and other women in our lives need encouraging in their lives. They want to hear affirmative words,

like “I love you, Mom” or “Great job! Way to go!” While the Mother’s Day holiday focuses our attention on that for one day a year, we want to be Christ-followers who are appreciative, uplifting, and grateful all year long.

When we are kids and teens, we don’t always honor our mothers or the women in our lives. Sometimes we disobeyed and did the opposite of what they asked or threw fits to get our way. We might have known God’s fifth commandment, yet we failed over and over. Now that I’m grown (or so I like to think!), I strive to honor my mother as I should. That includes growing older and becoming more spiritually mature. My Mom is still my mother (and as she is fond of reminding me, I will always be her “little boy”).

There are many ways to **honor our mothers, mother-figures, and influential women** in our lives as adults, but let’s consider three. (If your mom was not “honorable,” read below.)

We can **talk well of our mothers**. We may treat her well in her presence, but then talk badly about her behind her back. Scripture reminds us that our mouths are not made to speak both curses and blessings (James 3:9-12). Instead, focus on something good your mother did or still does for you. Thank her and let her hear you talk well of her. You’ll be encouraging and building her up for those positive things in life.

There may be times when we speak well about our mother or other women but talk disrespectfully to them. When we speak badly to her, we dishonor both her and God. God hears how we speak, and God sees how we text or post on social media. Instead, **speak respectfully to your mothers, wives, and other women**. Your mom deserves it, if for no other reason than she carried and gave birth to you. Remember, our children hear how we speak to others and learn. If they hear us disrespect women, they think it is OK to talk that way (and treat them disrespectfully). Instead, always strive to speak respectfully to the women in your life who have cared for and shaped you.

Listen to her. Sometimes we think we know everything – especially through our teens and twenties. Then we reach a point of desperation and confusion. We realize Mom might have some insight and want to know what she would say. Listening to her doesn’t mean we have to make the same choices, but it can give us another point of view. (The same goes for sisters, aunts, wives, and other women in our lives.) Even more, we

can listen to her needs today. She may need our help, and we need to offer it in a way that respects and honors her wishes and gives her dignity. Listen to her, as she has for us many times.

What if our mothers were not good mothers?

Unfortunately, not every mother has been able to be a “good mother.” Some abandoned their children. Some were alcoholics or addicts, and their children were forced to raise themselves. Others verbally or physically abused their children. Others struggled with mental illness or just seemed more distant. No mother is perfect. Still God directs us to honor our mothers whether they deserve it or not. Honoring them doesn’t mean excusing their faults or sins. We esteem them for the role God gave them, and we pray for God to give us the grace to forgive or at least to understand.

Grace and peace,



Wrestling with Doubt

Everyone has doubts and questions about things in life at one time or another. That includes our spiritual walk and faith in God. We’ve been exploring some of our common doubts and will continue through May. Please join us or invite a friend to share this important series.

May 5 Is Heaven Real?

May 12 Why are some prayers unanswered?

May 19 Why do the innocent suffer?

You can also receive daily devotional messages by text. Just text the word DOUBT to 833.209.6622.

Online Giving Change

The Finance team has selected a new provider for our online giving option. We are currently using **Vanco** and will continue to do so through June 30, 2024. We will soon launch our online and text giving through our new church management platform, **Breeze**. This switch will save the church a monthly subscription fee.

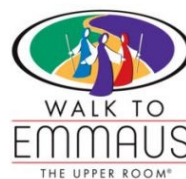
With **Breeze**, you will be able to give a one-time gift or set up a recurring gift, both of which may be done via credit or debit card or as an ACH transaction directly from your bank account. Your gift will go directly to the church’s account without a go-between, and your information will be secure. And you can direct where your offering will go such as General Fund, Capital Improvements, UM Special Sunday, Children’s Ministry, or Altar Flowers. You can choose to cover the processing fees associated with electronic giving. And you will be able to give by text, which will be helpful when we have a special appeal for a project or a need.

We intend to provide current electronic givers instructions about ending their contributions through **Vanco** and setting them up in **Breeze**. We’ll provide instructions for everyone who wants to get started with electronic giving. Watch for more details. We will complete the switchover by June 30, 2024.

UMW going to LaComedia

If you are going to LaComedia on May 16 and want to car pool, be at the church parking lot ready to leave at 10:30 AM SHARP. Any questions contact **Jane Majors**.

Encounter Jesus on the Walk to Emmaus



The next Men’s Walk to Emmaus will be hosted here at Monroe UMC from Thursday, May 2 through Sunday evening, May 5. The 9:30 am

Contemporary Service will meet in the Sanctuary on Sunday, May 5, as Atchley Hall will be used by Emmaus.

During the weekend, participants (“pilgrims”) join with the team to learn more about God’s grace, pray individually and together, examine their souls, and experience the loving presence of the Risen Christ (see Luke 24:13-35). They stay here in the church, eat meals, fellowship, and do

other activities throughout the weekend.

We are honored to welcome Emmaus here for the weekend and pray that God will use our hospitality to help transform lives. While Emmaus is here from May 2-5, please be courteous, welcoming, and respectful. They will use all the building, except the office. On Sunday morning, they will be in the Sanctuary until about 8 am.

All men are welcome to participate on the Emmaus Walk. If you would like more information about how to sign up, contact Jerry or Anne Lapham, or Pastor Jeff.

Scholarship Offering for Africa University Students



Envisioned as a place for students from across the continent by Methodist Bishop John Hartzell in 1898, Africa University launched in 1992 in Zimbabwe through the efforts of The United

Methodist Church. Since then, more than 10,000 students have studied and received degrees in fields as diverse as agriculture, health, business, computer science, and theology.

At this year's West Ohio Annual Conference, a special mission offering will be received to provide scholarships to students from our partner conference, North Katanga Conference in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. One year at AU costs \$6,500, with a four-year bachelor's degree totaling \$26,000. United Methodists and congregations are invited and encouraged to give toward this scholarship goal.

Spaghetti Dinner Social



Please join us for a FREE spaghetti dinner In Atchley Hall open to church members, friends, and community members. Bring a friend

or neighbor with you on Thursday, May 23, to Monroe United Methodist Church, 206 East Ave. We'll be serving from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. The Menu includes Spaghetti and Meatballs, Garlic Bread, Tossed Salad, Desserts, and Drinks.

Why?

At Maundy Thursday service, I was moved to tears. Even though I was raised in the church, I always struggled at Easter time. I never understood why and always felt guilty because I knew the crucifixion and resurrection are the focal point of Christianity. Why did I feel so distant from the cross? Why did I never feel passionate about this time of year? Why did I feel so close to God/Jesus so many times in so many ways, yet when it came to the crucifixion and resurrection, there was a distance, a coldness. That Thursday my heart was open and I could feel Jesus. What he did became real and personal. I could feel his love in the room with me. I imagined the sorrow and grief he must've felt, yet he loved us so much that he willingly and undeservedly laid his life down for us in the most cruel and torturous way. Maybe my deliverance from depression and the growth in my faith had opened up my heart. Maybe in the past I was like Peter and couldn't accept what Jesus did. Maybe I didn't want a suffering Jesus. Maybe I was embarrassed about this crucifixion thing, like it is a "hard sell" to the world. To non-believers it is a crazy concept. Was it easier for me to pick and choose the parts of the gospel that suited my needs? Was I ashamed to share the gospel because I didn't like that part of the story? The Bible says if I am ashamed of Jesus and the gospel, so the father will be ashamed of me. Praise God for what Jesus did for us. "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." 1 Corinthians 1:18


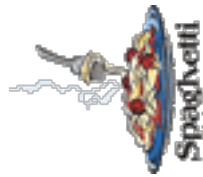

--Monica Bolton

Finance Summary from First Quarter 2024

Thank you for your faithful support of Jesus' work of ministry through Monroe UMC. During the first quarter of the year, we received \$11,916.75 less in offerings than budgeted; however, we spent \$8,781.48 less than planned. Therefore, we had a loss of \$3,135.27 during the first quarter. See the summary below. If you wish to see more detailed financial reports, please contact Arlene Horton, Treasurer, or Jerry Michael, Finance Chair.

Category	Actual	Q1 Budget	Difference
INCOME			
Offering	\$ 69,257.13	\$ 82,050.00	\$(12,792.87)
Other Income	\$ 2,376.11	\$ 1,499.99	\$ 876.12
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 71,633.24	\$ 83,549.99	\$(11,916.75)
EXPENSES			
Personnel	\$ 42,569.85	\$ 48,101.01	\$ (5,531.16)
Administration	\$ 3,436.01	\$ 2,901.99	\$ 534.02
Buildings & Operations	\$ 17,174.70	\$ 17,787.89	\$ (613.19)
Worship Ministry	\$ 925.95	\$ 225.00	\$ 700.95
Christian Education	\$ 1,239.95	\$ 3,450.03	\$ (2,210.08)
Missions	\$ (50.00)	\$ 500.01	\$ (550.01)
Connectional Giving	\$ 11,129.25	\$ 12,241.26	\$ (1,112.01)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 76,425.71	\$ 85,207.19	\$ (8,781.48)
NET DIFFERENCE 1ST QTR	\$ (4,792.47)	\$ (1,657.20)	\$ (3,135.27)

Note: As of April 21, we have \$39,915 in the Capital Improvements fund toward air conditioning and fire safety upgrades described in a recent letter; a partial payment was already made for the new system installed in Atchley Hall. Thank you for your generosity to provide a suitable place for Christ's ministry to occur.

Sunday		Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		Saturday	
28	1:00pm –6:00pm Eagle Scout Ceremony/AH	29	Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	30	10:00am Share Group/Parlor	1	5:00pm –10:00pm Emmaus Dinner & Set-up For Walk 6:00pm –7:30pm Youth Group	2	 1:00pm Emma us Walk begins	3		4	
5	Holy Communion	6	Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	7	10:00am Share Group/Parlor	8	6:00pm –7:30pm Youth Group	9	11:00am –12:00pm Yoga/AH 12:00pm –1:00pm Yoga/Narthex	10	10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	11	
12		13	Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	14	10:00am Share Group/Parlor	15	6:00pm –7:30pm Youth Group 7:00pm SPCR Committee/Parlor	16	10:00am UMW Going to LaComedia 11:00am –12:00pm Yoga/AH 12:00pm –1:00pm Yoga/Narthex	17	10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	18	11:30am –4:00pm Linda Larkin/AH 4:30pm Emmaus Gathering
19	 10:45am –11:00pm Sunday at the Park/Monroe Community Park 3:00pm –6:00pm Piano Recital/Jean Bradley/AH	20	Church Office Closed 6:00pm Yoga/AH 7:00pm Scouts/AH	21	10:00am Share Group/Parlor 1:00pm –2:00pm Finance Committee/Library	22	6:00pm –7:30pm Youth Group	23	 11:00am –12:00pm Yoga/AH 12:00pm –1:00pm Yoga/Narthex 6:00pm Spaghetti Dinner/AH	24	Church Office Closed 10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	25	
26		27	 Church Office Closed	28	10:00am Share Group/Parlor	29		30	11:00am –12:00pm Yoga/AH 12:00pm –1:00pm Yoga/Narthex	31	10:00am Exercise/AH 11:00am Yoga/AH	1	



May Birthdays

- 1 – Arlene Horton
- 2 – Sharon Warmoth
Melanie Flower
- 3 – Lynne Alleman
- 5 – Ed MacDonald **(98 years)**
- 10 – Peggy Hesson
- 20 – Ken Cobb
Rob Kilburn
- 22 – Joann Kersh
- 26 – Monica Bolton
- 28 – Reed Musgrove
Jennifer Lacefield
- 31 – Giselle Sanvee

May Anniversaries

- 11 – Phyllis & Jerry Michael **(56 years)**
- 21 – Arthur & Arlene Klemushin **(52 years)**
Pastor Jeff & Becky Motter
- 23 – Monica & Dillis Bolton
- 24 – Anne & Jerry Lapham
- 28 – Giselle & David Sanvee
- 31 – Herb & Ginny Gansheimer **(61 years)**
Don & Linda Kobert **(55 years)**

Statistically Speaking...

	<u>Offering</u>
March 24	\$1,195
March 31	\$3,267
April 14	\$9,866

June Newsletter
Deadline

Sunday, May 26



May 2nd - May 5th

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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Monroe UMC Staff

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Melanie Flower, Organist

Jerry Lapham, Newsletter Editor

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*



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