



# The Voice

of Monroe Street United Methodist Church  
*a Beacon and a Bridge for our community*

**March 2017**

## **From the desk of Pastor Elizabeth... Getting the House Ready for Company**

*"Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'"*

*Luke 10: 38-42*

I am not a fan of house cleaning. It takes a lot of effort to take care of two teenage boys, three cats, and a dog. I honestly wish the house would vacuum and dust and mop itself.

One thing motivates me to clean. When Alistair sees me dusting, he always asks, "Who is coming over?" Alistair knows that, like Martha, I am motivated to get the house ready for company. This means the house will look nice and my guests will have comfortable places to sit and good food to eat. Once the house is ready, I can be like Mary and focus on the one thing. I sit with my loved ones and listen to them, eat with them, laugh with them, even gather around the piano and sing with them. Christ is incarnate with us in our fellowship, embodied in the love shared among us.

**On June 19, fifty guests will come to our church** and begin participating in Freedom School. We have four months to get the house ready for company. There are many tasks in front of us. Martha got frustrated when she had to do the work by herself. Together, we can create a comfortable, safe, beautiful space for these children.

Our fifty Freedom School scholars will learn in five classrooms. Four of the classrooms are around Reeder Hall, including the Homebuilders Room, the room next to Homebuilders, and the Learning Club across the hall. We are going to divide the Learning Club into two classrooms by building a wall. The fifth classroom is the former youth room.

We need servants to join Pastor Larry in building the wall in the Learning Club. We also need servants to help furnish and decorate the classrooms. Denise Clark is leading this team. **Please speak with Pastor Larry and/or with Denise if you would like to help get our classrooms ready.**

Another project is to transform the library into a reading room for children. Ottawa Hills high school students painted a mural in this room. Then Ottawa Hills Elementary School students raised \$1886 through their Book Fair. They used this money to buy 217 new books for our reading room. Bowling Green First UMC donated 50 new books. Now we need to move some books and materials that are currently in the library into the workroom next door and re-arrange the room to create a comfortable, inviting reading space for children. Then we will organize and shelve the new books. Ellen Steiner, our librarian, is leading this effort. **Please speak with Ellen if you would like to help prepare the reading room.**

Once the house is ready, we can focus on the one thing. We can focus on the Christ who will come to us in the children, in their parents, in the college students who teach them, and in all of the servants who come from other churches and from the larger community to work in our Freedom School this summer. We can build relationships within the kingdom community that we are welcoming into our church home. Christ invites us to meet him by sitting and listening to one another, by eating together, and by laughing and playing and singing together. We can trust that divine love will abound and transform us all.

Blessings,  
***Pastor Elizabeth***



## Ash Wednesday Service

On **Wednesday, March 1**, at 7:00 p.m., Monroe Street Church will hold a contemplative service of worship marking the beginning of Lent. Our Ash Wednesday service will be held in the Chapel, with contemplative music, a time of reflection, and imposition of ashes.

Please join us for prayers, introspection and preparation. "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return."



## Sundays in March

### March 5

**Sermon:** The Good Samaritan  
Pastor Elizabeth  
**Scripture:** Luke 10:25-42  
**Lay Reader:** Sarah Twitchell  
**Altar Flowers:** Given by Miles Lanker  
in honor of Mary MacDonald's Birthday

### March 12

**Sermon:** Lament Over Jerusalem  
Pastor Larry  
**Scripture:** Luke 13:1-9, 31-35  
**Lay Reader:** Joy Flansburg  
**Altar Flowers:** Given by Denise Clark  
in memory of Mariah Hudnell

### March 19

**Sermon:** Lost and Found  
Pastor Larry  
**Scripture:** Luke 15:1-32  
**Lay Reader:** Sue Thayer  
**Altar Flowers:** Given by Ed  
Hafferkamp and family in memory of  
his mother, Chris Hafferkamp's  
birthday on March 4

### March 26

**Sermon:** Rich Man and Lazarus  
Pastor Elizabeth  
**Scripture:** Luke 16:19-31  
**Lay Reader:** Sarah Twitchell  
**Altar Flowers:** Given by Dick and  
Karen Vollmer in honor of Joel's  
birthday



## **First Sunday Communion Offering Supports Alternative Spring Break**

The First Sunday Communion Offering for March will be the third and final offering in support of Toledo Campus Ministry's Alternative Spring Break. This year, 28 students and mentors leave on March 4 and head south to Black Mountain, North Carolina to work with Black Mountain Home for Children, Youth and Families. Founded by a Presbyterian minister in 1904 as the Mountain Orphanage, the Black Mountain Home serves abused, abandoned, and neglected children from throughout Western North Carolina from birth through college graduation. The Home has expanded its original services to also include family foster care, transitional living for teens, and independent living for youth pursuing an education beyond high school. The TCM students and mentors will have the opportunity to serve in a variety of ways, including roofing, building a 9 Square in the Air court, helping with maintenance, playing with the kids and, of course, building friendships.

Participants in Alternative Spring Break pay a subsidized rate of \$300 for the mission trip. The Communion Offering will help to provide the subsidy and scholarships for students who would like to participate in Alternative Spring Break but need financial assistance. This event is the community building, spiritual formation and service highlight of the school year. Please give generously.

## **Blanket Sunday**

Many thanks for your support on Blanket Sunday. Church World Service is an effective ministry. Your gifts will be put to good use providing blankets in response to emergency relief situations in the United States and throughout the world.

## **UMCOR Sunday**

Monroe Street will celebrate UMCOR Sunday (formerly known as One Great Hour of Sharing) on **March 26**. For more than 50 years, United Methodist congregations have been taking part in a special UMCOR Sunday offering, laying the foundation for UMCOR's ministry of relief and hope.

Funds raised on UMCOR Sunday, along with other undesignated gifts made throughout the year, cover UMCOR's costs of doing business. That means that all contributions given to support specific relief efforts are directed to those efforts instead of administrative or fundraising costs. UMCOR does not receive any United Methodist World Service or apportionment funds. It relies on this offering to exist. UMCOR's operating costs are less than 10% of its total budget. A special offering envelope will be provided during the March 26 service.

## **Healthy Recipe to Try Irish Lamb Stew**

1 T. olive oil  
1 lb. lamb stew meat, cut into ½ in. pieces  
Kosher salt and pepper  
¾ c. pearl onions, peeled (about 4 oz.)  
2 medium carrots, cut in ½ in. pieces  
1 celery stalk, cut in ½ in. pieces  
5 springs fresh thyme  
4 c. low sodium lamb or beef stock  
1 large potato, cut in ¾ in. pieces

Heat oil in Dutch oven over medium-high heat. Season the lamb with salt and pepper, then brown all over. Reduce heat to low and push the lamb to one side; add onions, carrots, celery and thyme to pot and cook 10 minutes. Add the stock and potato, bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer until the lamb and potato are very tender, about 1 hour. Discard the thyme and season with salt and pepper.

## Farewell, Tessie

On February 12, we said farewell to Tessie Studer with a reception following the worship service. After serving as our Building Superintendent for 14 years, she has moved to the Ottawa Hills school system. Tessie loved and cared for our building as if it were her own, and we value and appreciate all of her work.



## Lunch Bunchers

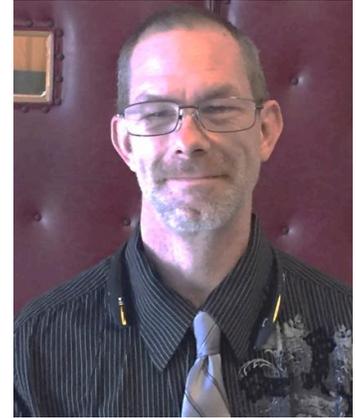
The next gathering of the Lunch Bunchers will be **Saturday, March 4** at Noon at Rick's City Diner, 5333 Monroe Street, Toledo. Any woman in the church or in the soft borders of the church is invited to join us. We share time in fellowship, enjoying fun and food. Ann Diller has graciously offered to provide devotions for us.

Please let either Betty Nicolen or Kathy Moore know by **Friday, March 3** if you are planning to attend, planning to bring a guest, need transportation or can provide transportation. As you know, we celebrate Ash Wednesday on March 1. As we continue to prepare our hearts and minds for the season of Lent, let us pray for guidance in how we can joyfully serve our Lord during this special time. Be blessed.

***Kathy Moore***

## Welcome, James

Monroe Street United Methodist Church has a new Building Superintendent, James Krohn. James has been a custodian at our church for about a year and a half. In mid-February after



Tessie resigned, James was hired as the new Building Superintendent. You may see him around on Sunday mornings as well as other days as he works to keep our church clean and welcoming.

James enjoys making candles as a hobby, and has sold some of his candles to members of our congregation. He makes votive candles, bees wax candles, pillar candles and several other kinds. One day he would like to open his own candle shop.

He participates in the Martial Arts and Tai-Chi classes offered at our church. This summer, James will be working with the bees as part of our garden project. James graduated from Start High School. He has three children, twin girls, Mariah and Monica, and a son, Nicholas. Please introduce yourself to James and welcome him in his new position.

## MSUMC Community Garden

The Garden Committee is planning for the 2017 growing season. We are looking for volunteers to help. James Krohn and Jerry Charles will be raising bees in the garden.

If anyone is interested in raising chickens either to start a small business or as a volunteer to the community garden, please contact Bea Maugeri at 419-539-2604.

Once again, the community garden will be renting individual beds for a nominal fee.

## It Was a Happy Valentine's Day!

On Valentine's Day, Pastor Elizabeth received a Singing Valentine from her husband Tom, delivered by the Ottawa Hills Choraliers. Every year the Choraliers choir travels around the city on Valentine's Day, singing to raise money for a charitable cause. This year, the Choraliers donated this money to Freedom School.

The Choraliers came to Monroe Street and sang for the Monroe Street church and Neighborhood Center staff and for the Tai Chi classes. They had a very appreciative audience! The showstopper was the Motown classic, "Ain't No Mountain High Enough." Thank you Choraliers for supporting Freedom School.



Our Congregational Care Committee also brightened the day of our shut-ins, college students and military personnel by sending them valentines.

## Strings Concert

The Bowling Green Sinfonietta will be in concert at Monroe Street Church on **Friday, March 31**, at 7:00 p.m. This lovely string ensemble will play a varied concert of classical works. If you like strings, this is the program for you!

## Our Concert Series

The Monroe Street United Methodist Church Concert Series presents Brian Rotz, organist, on **Friday, March 17**, at 7:30 p.m.



Brian is a former Director of Music and Organist at Monroe Street and St. Mark's Episcopal. He is an accomplished organist, having won the National MTNA Organ Competition, the coveted Indiana University Performer's Certificate, and has been heard on *Pipedreams*, the nationally broadcast NPR organ program.



Like and follow  
Monroe Street Church Toledo



## Young Voices of Greater Toledo...



... will sing in the morning worship service on **Sunday, March 12**. We welcome these vibrant young people and their families. They will be singing a song from the musical, *100% Chance of Rain*, which they are learning for their Spring Concert on **May 7**.

## Searchers Advent Class

If you've heard of Mountain Mentors and would like to learn more about the program, please join the Searchers Advent class on **March 12**. Sue Thayer will be leading our discussion. We'll meet in the Chapel at 9 a.m.



## From the Treasurer

### MONROE STREET FINANCIAL REPORT

Month Ending January 31, 2017	Current Month	Monthly Budget	Year to Date	Annual Budget
	Actual		Actual	
<b>Total Contributions</b>	\$42,183.00	\$26,859.00	\$42,183.00	\$337,320.00
<b>Lackland Endowment Match</b>	\$415.00	\$417.00	\$415.00	\$5,000.00
<b>Total Foundation Subsidy</b>	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$70,000.00
<b>Lackland Bequest</b>	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$20,000.00
<b>Total Other Income</b>	\$164.00	\$116.00	\$164.00	\$1,300.00
<b>Total Rental Income</b>	\$3,785.00	\$2,978.00	\$3,785.00	\$32,565.00
<b>Total Income</b>	\$46,547.00	\$30,370.00	\$46,547.00	\$466,185.00
<b>Total Operating Expense</b>	<b>\$53,085.00</b>	<b>\$50,495.00</b>	<b>\$53,085.00</b>	<b>\$576,829.00</b>

The 2017 Operating Campaign has generated \$311,873 in pledges so far this year. January expenses were over budget because of some boiler problems.

*Jerry Charles, Treasurer*

## From the Director of Music...

On a recent Sunday the Angels' Wings played a tune that many know as Londonderry Air. This tune is sometimes used for hymns, and a text found in our Worship and Song music supplement book is a beautiful hymn to creation and the Holy Spirit:

Creation sings!  
And we are in the music,  
The movement of God's energy and art,  
A liturgy that links our life to angels,  
A litany that rises from the heart.  
The Spirit sings!  
Through love and lamentation,  
From Pentecost to joy of Easter Day  
The universe is resonant with music,  
The smallest creature dances to its play.

May you find blessing in the springtime beginning of new life, and rejoice!

**Denise**

## Look at Our New Website!

After many hours of work, our new Monroe Street Church website has launched! It has a new look, and tells people who we are and what we do.

Take a look at [www.monroestreetchurch.org](http://www.monroestreetchurch.org)

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Monroe Street Church website. At the top left is the church logo, a red cross with a flame-like shape, and the text "MONROE STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - Toledo, Ohio". To the right is a red "Contact Us" button. Below the logo is a dark red navigation bar with white text for "Home", "Who We Are", "What We Do", "Sermons", "Neighborhood Center", and "Calendar". The main content area has a white background with the heading "MONROE STREET CHURCH AND NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER". Below this is a paragraph: "At Monroe Street Church we extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, gay, filthy rich, dirt poor, yo no hablo ingles. . . and who else is welcome? [Read More](#)". There are four square images with text overlays: "Worship Times" (a group of people), "I'm New" (a church building), "Listen to A Sermon" (a sunset over a building), and "Neighborhood Center" (a green field). The footer is dark red and contains contact information: "Monroe Street United Methodist Church, 3613 Monroe Street, Toledo, Ohio 43606, Phone: 419-473-1167". It also lists "Sunday Morning Services" (9:00 am Sunday School, 10:30 am Worship), a "Follow Us..." section with a Facebook icon, and three buttons: "Download Our Newsletter", "Sign Up for Weekly Email", and "Request a Prayer". A copyright notice at the bottom reads "Copyright © 2017 Monroe Street United Methodist Church, All rights reserved."



## The Season of Lent

The season of Lent may be the most emotionally charged season of the Christian year. It is a forty-day journey (not counting Sundays) when we watch the tight-knit community of Jesus and the Twelve form and grow in what it means to be faithful to the loving God Jesus tenderly called Abba. Jesus confronts and overcomes temptation in the loneliness of the desert. As he faces the cost of his mission of salvation, Jesus' prayer reveals both his agony and his trust: *My Father, if it's possible, take this cup of suffering away from me. However, not what I want, but what you want* (Matthew 26:39). We see in Jesus the faithfulness we desire and the trust to practice it in good times and in hard times.

There is practice and there is failure as the disciples face their own temptations and as they are sent out to serve, heal, teach and proclaim the reality of God's kingdom on earth. Lent is a time of deep reflection as we consider the desert places of our own lives and the practice and failure that meet us in our own quest of faithfulness to the God of love, peace, and justice.

Growing conflict with religious leaders and the triumphal entry into Jerusalem on a beast of burden are but signs of what is to come in the days ahead. Moving from the exhilaration of crowds honoring him as Jesus rode into the city to the stark reality of his crucifixion is a whiplash of emotion. The highest hopes of the triumphal entry were totally crushed by the brutality and agony of the cross. Loud shouts of joy turn to cries of grief as the light born with Jesus is extinguished, plunging the world into the severity of utter darkness.

The season of Lent gives us time to remember our own humanity and our own mortality as we observe the lives of the Twelve, who were seeking to be faithful followers of Jesus in a world not unlike our own. But Ash Wednesday and the Crucifixion do not tell the entire story. There is more to come. And what is to come is so dazzling that the struggles in a troubled and violent world and the utter darkness of the crucifixion are rendered helpless. They are no longer the threat they once appeared to be.

Rueben Job, from *A Guide to Prayer for All Who Walk with God*  
Upper Room Books, 2013.

# March 2017

**Sunday**

10:30 a.m. Worship Service  
 12:30 p.m. Kingdom Harvest Church  
 12:30 p.m. Redeemed by the Blood of Christ Church

**Monday**

7:00 a.m. Day Care  
 9:00 a.m. Tai Chi Club  
 11:00 a.m. Soft Zumba  
 5:30 p.m. Yoga with Connie

**Tuesday**

7:00 a.m. Day Care  
 9:30 a.m. Tai Chi Class  
 10:00 a.m. Computer Lab  
 3:00 p.m. Open Gym  
 6:00 p.m. Kingdom Harvest Bible Study  
 6:00 p.m. Martial Arts

**Wednesday**

7:00 a.m. Day Care  
 10:00 a.m. Computer Lab  
 10:00 a.m. Beacon and Bridge Bible Study  
 11:00 a.m. Soft Zumba  
 11:30 a.m. Bridge  
 3:00 p.m. Open Gym  
 6:00 p.m. Martial Arts

**Thursday**

7:00 a.m. Day Care  
 9:30 a.m. Tai Chi Class  
 10:00 a.m. Computer Lab  
 11:00 a.m. Cardio Dance  
 3:00 p.m. Open Gym  
 6:00 p.m. Martial Arts  
 6:00 p.m. Redeemed by the Blood Bible Study  
 6:00 p.m. Zumba  
 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

**Friday**

7:00 a.m. Day Care

**Saturday**

9:00 a.m. Martial Arts (2d Saturdays)  
 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			7:00 p.m. ASH WEDNESDAY service 6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Wesleyan Chorus Rehearsal	7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast 11:00 a.m. Sacred Stories 6:00 p.m. Mountain Mentors Board		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:00 a.m. Intercessory Prayer 12 noon Intergen. Choir Rehearsal	9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:00 p.m. SPRC	5:00 p.m. Finance 6:00 p.m. Young Voices 6:00 p.m. Shawl Ministry	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Wesleyan Chorus Rehearsal	11:00 a.m. Sacred Stories		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
12 noon Intergen. Choir Rehearsal	9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:00 p.m. Trustees	6:00 p.m. Young Voices	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30 p.m. Agape Ministers 7:30 Wesleyan Chorus Rehearsal	7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast 11:00 a.m. Sacred Stories		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Voice deadline 8:00 a.m. Intercessory Prayer 12 noon Intergen. Choir Rehearsal	9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting	5:30 p.m. Leadership Team 6:00 p.m. Young Voices 6:00 p.m. Blanket Ministry	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Wesleyan Chorus Rehearsal	11:00 a.m. Sacred Stories 6:00 p.m. MSNC Board		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
1:30 p.m. Worship at Holly Glen	9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:00 Jobs with Justice	10:00 a.m. Fold & Address VOICE 6:00 p.m. Young Voices	6:00 p.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal 7:30 Wesleyan Chorus Rehearsal	11:00 a.m. Sacred Stories		



**Church Staff**

Larry Clark, Pastor  
Elizabeth Rand, Pastor  
Lanette Cornwell, Administrative Assistant  
Denise Mathias, Director of Music  
James Krohn, Building Superintendent

**Church Office:**

Mondays through Thursdays.  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Phone: 419-473-1167  
Fax: 419-474-5467  
Church website: [www.monroestreetchurch.org](http://www.monroestreetchurch.org)

**Services**

**SUNDAYS:** Sunday School 9:00 a.m.  
Worship 10:30 a.m.

**Prayer Groups**

Intercessory Prayer Service  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month at 8:00 a.m.

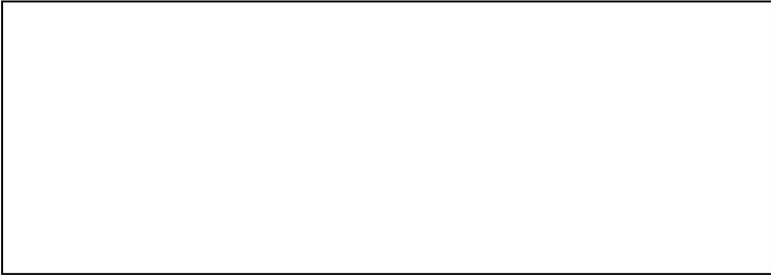
Men's Prayer Breakfast  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month at 7:00 a.m.  
Uncle John's Pancake House, 3131 Secor Road

**Mission and Vision Statements**

*Making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world  
Celebrating the love of Christ by serving as His heart and hands*

*Monroe Street United Methodist Church's vision is to minister to a great diversity of people, accepting and celebrating their lifestyles and circumstances. Our church will be both a beacon and a bridge for those desiring a connection with God and for those who make service to others a priority. We will compassionately meet people's needs, both within and outside of our congregation, with focused programs, increased partnering, and open communication.*

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