



The Voice

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

August 2017

From the desk of Pastor Elizabeth...

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now..."
Philippians 1: 3-5

As Freedom School draws to a close, my heart is filled with gratitude for you, my brothers and sisters at Monroe Street. You have shared so generously in this gospel witness, and as a result our church has become home for many, many children.

Our Freedom School day began with breakfast. I thank you who got up early and came to church to make egg casseroles and toast and fruit plates, set up the cereal table, and prepared Reeder Hall to welcome children. When the children came you served them this delicious food and talked with them and helped them start the day well. You also welcomed breakfast teams from other churches and helped them get organized to cook and serve food.

When the children arrived at Freedom School, their parents and grandparents signed them in. Volunteers signed in and needed instructions about where to go and what to do. Children appeared and needed to see the nurse. I thank you who sat at the hospitality table. You welcomed all of our guests with such grace.

Our teachers needed help in their classrooms as they moved through their reading lessons every morning. I thank you who were classroom assistants, helping the children with their learning activities. The children appreciated your attention.

Many of our children loved to read one-on-one with an adult. I thank you who came so faithfully to read with students. They loved the books and they loved spending time with you!



Every day, at least one child had a stomach ache or needed a band aid. The children learned that they could come see our wonderful parish nurses, who were here every morning. I thank our nurses who so faithfully provided loving care to our children.

This is our learning summer with Freedom School. One thing we have learned is that we need more help at lunch time. Volunteers from other churches picked up our lunches at Cherry Street Mission and brought them to us, but it took a lot of work to prepare the lunches, serve the lunches, and then clean up the kitchen. There was also a lot of extra milk to organize! I thank you who came and ate lunch with children and helped serve the meals and cleaned up afterward. We are very grateful for your hard work.

The children participated in enrichment activities every afternoon. I thank you who came and helped with these activities. On Tuesday afternoons the children worked in the community garden, helping to plant a butterfly garden. Guests also came in to teach them about the natural world. I thank our community gardeners who led these activities and gave children a gardening experience and I thank our special guests who taught us about snakes and made pickles with us.



On Friday afternoons we took field trips. I thank you for going with us on these outings, and helping us make sure the children had safe, positive experiences!

Thanks to a partnership with Sylvania First UMC, we offered a Vacation Bible School to Freedom School children on Tuesday afternoons after Freedom School was dismissed. I thank you for joining the children in their activities and supporting them in their faith formation.

Many of you also worked for Freedom School behind the scenes, buying and organizing classroom supplies, installing air conditioners, furnishing and decorating the rooms, doing administrative work, cleaning the rooms and taking out trash, asking for donations of gifts cards for the teachers, recruiting volunteers, creating bulletin boards, organizing our backpacks and school supplies, shelving donated books, donating food and supplies, and hosting our Freedom School finale meal and program. For these and the many other gifts you gave, I thank you.

Every Sunday, we lifted up Freedom School students and teachers by name, and invited you to pray for them. I thank you for holding these beloved ones in your hearts and for praying for their well-being.

I am so thankful that I share life in Christ with you. I trust that the good work that has begun among us will continue, as our Freedom School community leads us into a new kingdom future.

Blessings,
Pastor Elizabeth



Reflection on Ephesians

During the month of August we will be reading and reflecting on a letter entitled Ephesians. It offers great insight into the church at the end of the first century, now many years after Jesus' death and resurrection. The majority consensus among scholars is that while reflecting many of Paul's ideas and written in Paul's name, it is more likely written by a disciple of Paul after his death. The name for this is Pseudonymous – writing in the name of another. While it seems to us in the 21st century as inappropriate and perhaps even illegal, it was a common practice and a way of honoring the person in whose name it was written in the 1st century C.E.

Ephesians addresses directly questions with which the early church was dealing. Some of the conclusions are troubling to us today. And yet, it offers great inspiration in other places. It is in Ephesians we find the central tenet of our faith: "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what God has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." (Eph. 2:8-10)

I pray that you will join us each Sunday in August as we explore the Book of Ephesians.

Larry

The deadline for the September issue of ***The Voice*** is **Sunday, August 20.**

Please send articles to Barbara Coleman at bbc1743@sbcglobal.net

Sundays in August

August 6

Sermon: Adopted and Marked
Pastor Larry
Scripture: Ephesians 1:3-14
Lay Reader: Cindy D'Amato
Altar Flowers: Given by Clark and Lynda Collins in honor of Noah's birthday

August 13

Sermon: By God's Grace
Pastor Larry
Scripture: Ephesians 2:8-10
Lay Reader: Volunteer Needed
Altar Flowers: Open

August 20

Sermon: Rooted in Love
Pastor Elizabeth
Scripture: Ephesians 3:14-21
Lay Reader: Marilyn DuFour
Altar Flowers: Open

August 27

Sermon: One
Bill Hull
Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-6
Lay Reader: Jerry Charles
Altar Flowers: Given by Dick and Karen Vollmer in celebration of their wedding anniversary

Garden News

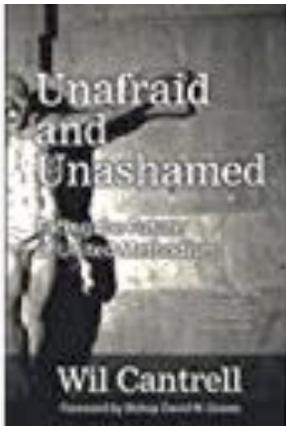
The garden is growing vigorously. We are starting to harvest a few vegetables for The Bridge. The bees are making honey and we hope to extract it soon.

The children of the Freedom School have been creating a pollinator garden in the shape of a butterfly while they learn about pollinators and plants, and how to care for and share the garden. Come look at their progress.

As always, we welcome help in caring for the garden.

Fall Book Study

Unafraid and Unashamed: Facing the Future of United Methodism by Will Cantrell



I will be planning another book study for the Fall, and I wanted to give you a heads-up because I believe this may be one of the most important books we will ever read.

Our average book study attendance in the past has been about ten, and I hope that we can get the whole congregation on board for this one. I am willing to offer multiple class times if necessary. Consider purchasing the book and reading it in advance. The book has a five-star rating on Amazon, and here is an excerpt from the review:

Nothing is needed more in the contentious dialogue surrounding human sexuality that threatens the unity of the United Methodist Church than a resource created to nurture the souls of all United Methodists. Through an unflinching look at the challenges facing United Methodism, Unafraid and Unashamed by Will Cantrell cultivates faith, respect for disparate opinions, appreciation for the Wesleyan means of grace and commitment to the church. Unafraid and Unashamed has been developed to aid local pastors and church leaders in effectively communicating the issues facing the denomination in a manner that strengthens the church.

It is a great resource for any United Methodist seeking a clear understanding of the challenges and opportunities before us.

I have had formal training and experience in human sexuality and counseling, and I have a wealth of additional literature on sexuality and the Bible that will add significant depth to the study. It will be another opportunity to learn to live out Jesus' message of love, acceptance, understanding, respect, and grace. As the apostle Paul said in Galatians, "You are all sons and daughters of God through faith in Jesus Christ, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." How can we presume to believe differently?

Times and dates will depend on the level of response I receive. Please give serious consideration to participating. Call or text at 419-360-3097 or email at Ldamato419@aol.com with your intention to participate. I will be glad to order a book for you.

Lou D'Amato

Congregational Care

Thank you to all who helped with the summer brunch! Our card ministry continues as Thinking of You cards will be sent to our shut-ins this month. Quarterly visits to our elderly and shut-ins will be made in August, as well as phone calls to lapsed members.

The Evangelism Callers still need more volunteers to serve one Sunday per month. If interested, please contact Marilyn Lodge or Sue Thayer. The Agape Ministry is also seeking new volunteers. Contact Linda Perry.

From the Trustees

Just about one year ago we were at the beginning of our church renovations and now we are nearing the end. The Trustees are pleased with the results to date and we hope you are too.

There are three projects that we plan to have finished by Rally Day on Sunday, September 10. These projects have been delayed during early and mid-summer due to the activity levels in the church with Freedom School and Adventure Camp. The three remaining projects are:

- Renovation of the elevator including complete re-wiring, lowering of call buttons, automatic door openers installed at all levels, cleaning and liberating of the sliding screens and adjustment of the outside door at ground level so that it opens and closes much more easily
- The renovation of the three restrooms, with the current women's restroom under Circle Drive converted into a dual-sex fully handicapped accessible restroom and the men's and women's restrooms at mid-level in the narthex area renovated and converted into single use restrooms
- Replacement of the double brown doors leading from Circle Drive to LaRue Auditorium.

The Trustees thank you for your support of all the renovation and upgrade work. While there are still some smaller projects to do, we feel the physical plant is in much improved and safer form and ready to support a thriving congregation.

Lunch Bunchers

Save the date! The Lunch Bunchers will be meeting on **Saturday, September 9**, at 12 noon. Please watch for further details.

Choirs Resume in September

Do you love to sing or want to learn to play handbells? Choirs will be resuming rehearsals in September, after Labor Day. Watch for updates in the August weekly emails, or contact Denise Mathias, 419-473-1167, ext., 230. There is a place for you!

Thank You

Denise and I appreciate all the words of condolence and kind words we have received regarding the passing of my father, Leonard Clark. While he is deeply missed, we are grateful for the full life he lived and how supportive he was of his family.

Larry

Untying the Knots

Save the Date!



**Women's
Retreat
Saturday,
September 30**
At Widewater
Retreat Center

What are the knots in your life?

Are you looking for spiritual support in dealing with them? Our retreat will include large and small group work, private and guided reflections, and some hands-on activities. Mark your calendar now and plan to attend!

Worlds Of Belief in August

Worlds of Belief is a group that likes to visit religious and spiritual places and events around northwest Ohio. New participants are always welcome. The group will go to Lakeside Chautauqua for church and a picnic on **Sunday, August 13**. We will carpool from MSUMC church parking lot:

- Meet at 7 a.m. to carpool for the dockside service at 8:30, or
- Meet at 8:30 a.m. to carpool for the service at Hoover Auditorium at 10:30 a.m.

To participate, (1) please RSVP to Sarah Twitchell at 567-249-6735, to say which carpool you will join, and (2) if you are able, please bring a dish to share for our potluck picnic following the 10:30 service: Sarah and Larry Twitchell will be hosting the event and will provide main course, drinks, and plates, etc.

You can read details about the worship services at <http://www.lakesideohio.com/religion/worlds-of-belief-services>.

Here are the guidelines for entry to Lakeside for worship:

Attend a Sunday morning worship service at no charge with a Church Pass. Church Passes are available from 7:30-10:30 a.m. Sunday; valid until 3 p.m. Attend a morning worship service, stay for lunch and enjoy the activities on the grounds. The pass includes admittance for guests and auto, and will be collected upon departure.

After worship and the picnic, people can enjoy the grounds, go for a swim or play a game of shuffleboard before leaving by 3:00 p.m. – remember, if you stay past 3:00 p.m. you will be charged for a daily pass for yourselves and your vehicle in order to get out of the gate!

The preacher of the week, who will be speaking at the Hoover service, is the Rev. Dr. Faith Fowler, Pastor, Cass Community United Methodist Church,

Detroit. She will speak on her church's "tiny house project," a great instance of urban ministries.

Upcoming Worlds Of Belief, September & October

Suggestions for visits in September and October include:

1. University Church on Hill Ave, Toledo: They have a 5 p.m. Sunday Vespers Service which would be a good choice for us, and we could probably arrange a tour/talk on garden before or after.
2. Saint Lucas Lutheran Church on Walbridge Street, Toledo: The interior of the church is full of spectacular wood carvings by German carvers, and contemporary work includes a community garden, daily meals, and other outreach.
3. First Church of Christ, Scientist, on Central Ave. in Toledo: We would likely attend a 7:30 p.m. Wednesday Evening Testimony Meeting.
4. Collingwood Arts Center, on Collingwood Avenue in Toledo: This historic Toledo landmark has a rich history in terms of religious organizations and spiritual experiences. Bryan MacDonald has offered to arrange a guided tour for us.

If you are interested in helping to arrange any of these excursions, or have ideas for others, please contact Lynne at lynne.hamer@utoledo.edu or 419-283-8288.

If you very much want to attend an event and have a complicated schedule, let Lynne know when you are available and we will try to work around your needs.

Houses on our Minds

On July 10, twenty members of the congregation and the Leadership Team met with our District Superintendent, Rev. Scot Ocke, for the required Church Conference to discuss the Trustees' resolution to sell the Drummond Road parsonage. After good discussion of the resolution and questions, the vote was unanimous in favor of the sale. The parsonage is now listed with Welles Bowen and is on the market. The appropriate sale proceeds required by the United Methodist Discipline will be reserved in the Foundation for any possible future purchase of a parsonage.

Stay tuned for a great fix-up week this fall! Maumee Valley Habitat for Humanity's own board and staff members will join folks from our congregation and Neighborhood Center to rehab a home in Monroe Street's neighborhood.

Volunteers Needed for Clean Your Streams 21

Mark your calendar! On **September 23**, Monroe Street Church will host one of three volunteer kickoffs on the Ottawa River for the Toledo area's largest waterway cleanup, Clean Your Streams. In 2016, 960 Clean Your Streams volunteers picked up more than 26,000 pounds of garbage from over 30 miles of riverbank!

Volunteers will gather at 8:00 a.m. for registration and a continental breakfast. Orientation will begin at approximately 8:30 a.m., followed by the cleanup from 9:00 to 11:30 a.m. An appreciation picnic will be held at the conclusion of the event at the Lucas County Recreation Center.

In addition to cleanup volunteers, volunteers will be needed to assist with hospitality, to help register participants and to provide leadership to participating

groups during the actual cleanup as Site Captains. (Site Captains are especially needed because the 50th anniversary of Toledo Campus Ministry will be celebrated the same day.) If you can help, please contact Marilyn Lodge (419) 842-0070 for hospitality and Kickoff Coordinator Marilyn DuFour (419) 491-8072 for all other volunteer opportunities.

Save the Date for Sacred Grounds™ Workshop II

The first Sacred Grounds™ workshop in the Toledo area was hosted by The University Church on July 15, with 35 participants from many faith communities. The MultiFaith Council of Northwest Ohio has partnered with several local conservation organizations to assist faith communities in implementing the NWF's Sacred Grounds Garden for Wildlife™ Program and to identify local resources that will support the use of native plants to create habitat for birds and butterflies, welcome bees and other pollinators, reduce water pollution from runoff, and lessen the contributions to and impacts from climate change. Participants learned how theology matters in the shared call of diverse faiths to creation care, how building natural communities can beautify their grounds and improve their environmental stewardship in a variety of ways, and how they can draw on local resources to get the job done. A second Sacred Grounds™ Workshop, which will focus on specifics and answer the question "How can my faith community do this?" is scheduled for **October 15**. Save the date and please consider joining us.

First Sunday Communion Offerings and School Kits

The First Sunday Communion Offerings for July through September will be used to purchase supplies for school kits. The kits will be used by the Monroe Street Neighborhood Center and donated to the Festival of Sharing, which will distribute them throughout the country. If you wish to purchase supplies for the kits, we need the following:

- One pair of blunt scissors removed from the package (rounded tip only)
- Three 70-count spiral bound notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages (no loose-leaf or filler paper)
- One 30-centimeter/12 inch ruler
- One hand-held pencil sharpener removed from the package
- One large eraser (no pencil cap erasers)
- Six new, unsharpened pencils with erasers (remove from the package)
- One box of 24 crayons
- One 12"x14" to 14"x17" (finished size) cotton or lightweight, kid-friendly or solid colored (no logos) canvas bag with cloth handles. (No reusable shopping bags or backpacks.)

CROP Walk Save the Date!

The 2017 CROP Walk will be held on **October 22**, starting at 1:00 p.m. Please mark this date on your calendar! The CROP Walk raises funds for hunger prevention and hunger relief activities in Toledo and around the world. We are looking for walkers. If interested, please contact Kevin Mulder (419-539-2604).

God,
help us to listen for your voice ...

in the words of the Bible,
in the cries of the poor,
in the testimony of saints,
in the warnings of prophets,
in the questions of children and young people,
in everyday conversations with our neighbors,
in words unsaid,
in the movement of breath ...

God, sometimes your voice
may not be a voice at all.
God, help us to hear you ...

in the sound of the sea,
in the crash of the wind when the ferry's cancelled,
in the rustle of leaves and the sweep of a cleaning brush,
in the laughter and debate of birds in the cloisters.

Help us to sense you ...
in the smell of grass after a rain.
in the colors of the sea.
in the tang of salt spray.
in the touch of a stranger.

Amen



(A prayer from the Iona Community)

Greetings from the Neighborhood Center:

Well, we have certainly been busy this summer and the building has been packed with smiles, laughter, and love!

Freedom School has provided over 50 children with an opportunity to strengthen their reading skills and to be exposed to different enrichment activities while making new friends. A special thank you to all our volunteers. We have had an outstanding showing of those wanting to assist. This labor of love would not have been possible without all of you. I recently described Pastor Elizabeth Rand as a "firecracker" because she is on fire for Freedom School, and you cannot be around her longer than two minutes before you catch the fire that is within her when she speaks of Freedom School and her passion for youth. Freedom School ended on July 28.



Adventure Camp has hosted 46 campers this summer and the adventures have been amazing, including swimming, going to the Art Museum, learning about disasters, creating their own pillowcase survival kits, and visiting the Lucas County Fair (pictured). This summer the Monroe Street Neighborhood Center had the opportunity to partner with Parks and Recreation where our campers have spent time at Pearson Park, learning archery and canoeing and participating in art projects. Adventure Camp ends on August 11.

The date and location for the **Hats off Gala** have changed. Our new date is **Saturday, November 18** at Maumee United Methodist Church. Please mark your calendars.

We have three Mud Hens games left. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help with this project. We appreciate your support and time. Thus far the Center had made over \$1,000 which will be used to support our programming.

Yours in Service,
Clara L. Petty
Executive Director



MONROE STREET FINANCIAL REPORT				
Month Ending June 30, 2017	Current Month	Monthly Budget	Year to Date	Annual Budget
	Actual		Actual	
Total Contributions	\$ 25,042.00	\$ 26,859.00	\$ 191,349.00	\$ 337,320.00
Lackland Endowment Match	\$ 320.00	\$ 417.00	\$ 1,869.00	\$ 5,000.00
Total Foundation Subsidy	\$ -	\$ 5,833.00	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 70,000.00
Lackland Bequest	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 20,000.00
Total Other Income	\$ 30.00	\$ 108.00	\$ 303.00	\$ 1,300.00
Total Rental Income	\$ 1,675.00	\$ 2,304.00	\$ 15,985.00	\$ 32,565.00
Total Income	\$ 27,067.00	\$ 40,521.00	\$ 284,906.00	\$ 466,185.00
Total Operating Expense	\$ 42,743.00	\$ 46,848.00	\$ 277,180.00	\$ 576,829.00

Jerry Charles,
Treasurer

Renovation update expenses.				
Repair Roof on East End			\$ 48,500.00	Complete
Painting			\$ 13,399.00	Complete
Electronic Sign			\$ 30,968.00	Complete
Marble Slab Repair Fron Door			\$ 3,827.00	Complete
Sound & Video Equipment			\$ 127,791.00	Complete
Lighting			\$ 4,096.00	
Restrooms Restoration				?
Platform and Choir Loft			\$ 18,671.00	Complete
Chairs for Chapel & Sancutary			\$ 14,529.00	Complete
Carpeting for Chapel & Sancutary			\$ 34,534.00	Complete
Painting for Video Screen on Wall			\$ 4,180.00	Complete
Miscellaneous Expenses			\$ 5,956.00	
Capital Fund Drive Expense			\$ 32,981.00	Complete
Elevator Restoration			\$ 8,505.00	
Learning Room Wall Construction			\$ 574.00	
LaRue Outside Double Doors			\$ -	
Security System			\$ 1,976.00	
			\$ 350,487.00	

These are the current expenditures through March 31, 2017. Quotes for updating restrooms and elevator doors have been received.

Transferred from Foundation				\$380,000.00
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August 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

Tuesday

9:30 a.m. Tai Chi Class
 3:00 p.m. Open Gym
 6:00 p.m. Kingdom Harvest Bible Study

Thursday

9:30 a.m. Tai Chi Class
 11:00 a.m. Cardio Hustle
 3:00 p.m. Open Gym
 5:00 p.m. Redeemed by the Blood Bible Study
 6:00 p.m. Martial Arts
 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Monday

9:00 a.m. Tai Chi Club
 11:00 a.m. Zumba Gold
 5:30 p.m. Yoga with Connie
 6:00 p.m. Martial Arts
 6:30 p.m. POUND Fitness

Wednesday

10:00 a.m. Beacon and Bridge Bible Study
 11:00 a.m. Zumba Gold
 11:30 a.m. Bridge
 3:00 p.m. Open Gym
 6:00 p.m. Martial Arts

Saturday

9:00 a.m. Martial Arts (2d Saturdays)
 10:00 a.m. Savvy Seniors POUND Fitness
 11:00 a.m. POUND Fitness
 7:00 p.m. AA Meeting

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:45 a.m. Witness Committee 7:00 p.m. True Colors Chorale	2	3 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast 11:00 a.m. Sacred Stories 5:00 p.m. Music Committee 6:00 p.m. Mountain Mentors Board	4	5
6 8:30 a.m. Intercessory Prayer	7 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting	8 5:00 p.m. Finance Committee	9	10 11:00 a.m. Sacred Stories	11	12
13 Worlds of Belief Road Trip to Lakeside	14 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:00 p.m. Trustees	15 7:00 p.m. True Colors Chorale	16 6:30 p.m. Agape Ministers	17 7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast 11:00 a.m. Sacred Stories	18	19
20 VOICE DEADLINE 8:30 a.m. Intercessory Prayer	21 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. Leadership Team 7:00 p.m. Outreach/Mission Team	22	23	24 11:00 a.m. Sacred Stories	25	26
27 1:30 p.m. Worship at Holly Glen	28 9:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:00 p.m. Jobs with Justice	29 10:00 a.m. Fold and Address Voice for mailing 7:00 p.m. True Colors Chorale	30	31 11:00 a.m. Sacred Stories 6:00 p.m. MSNC Board Meeting		

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

Services

SUNDAYS: Summer Worship 9:30 a.m.

Prayer Groups

Intercessory Prayer Service
1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 8:30 a.m.

Men's Prayer Breakfast
1st and 3rd 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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