

Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday,  
February 18

*About Our Lenten Series  
(from @Sanctified Arts)*

Lent was originally a season for new converts to learn and prepare for their baptism on Easter. During that time, they would study what was central to Christianity. As we crafted this series, we asked: What are the core, foundational concepts of Jesus' life and ministry? What makes each of these good news? Can we trust that the good news is truly good,

even when it challenges us?

If we're being honest, we can easily distort or sanitize Jesus' teachings. Following Jesus leads to a richer, more expansive life, but it's not necessarily comfortable. We often describe Jesus' ministry as "radical" which comes from the Latin word "radicalis," meaning "root" or "ground." Therefore, the good news should bring us back to our roots, back to what grounds us: loving our neighbor, caring for the vulnerable, pursuing justice and mercy, and resting in God's unending grace.

The good news is extravagant, untamed, illogical, and persistent. It is joyful—like fine wine saved for celebration. It grows like a mustard seed that flourishes rapidly into a tree to shelter the birds. It smells like expensive perfume poured from an alabaster jar and like crumbling bread passed endlessly through a hungry crowd. It sounds like children laughing and like stones dropped to the ground instead of violently thrown. It feels like feet washed with tender care. The good news is alive in the world.

We hope this series will provide fertile ground for conversation and worship, rooting our hearts and lives in the expansive goodness of God. This Lent, may the teachings of Jesus lead us forward. Let the good news ground us. And let that good news inspire us to take action in a world desperate to hear, see, and taste what is good.



## Looking Ahead

- Feb. 13 - Kids Club, 6-8pm
- Feb. 14 - Men's Breakfast & Bible Study, 8am
- Feb. 17 - Pancake Dinner, 5-7pm
- Feb. 18 - Ash Wednesday service, 7pm
- Feb. 16 - *MUM Messenger* articles deadline
- Feb. 21 - Connections for Women, 9am
- Feb. 23 - *MUM Messenger* Mailed
- Feb. 25 - Lent Study begins, 11am

**To see more about our coming Lenten Season plans, please go to p. 3.**



### Monroeville United Methodist Church

219 Center Road, Monroeville, PA 15146-1748  
Phone: 412-372-7474



#### Church Staff:

Senior Pastor - Kelly J. Smith ..... [RevKelly@MonroevilleUMC.org](mailto:RevKelly@MonroevilleUMC.org)  
Administrative Assistant - Karen Marci ..... [MUMC@MonroevilleUMC.org](mailto:MUMC@MonroevilleUMC.org)  
Coordinator of Financial Ministries - Leslie Thorsen ..... [FinancialSec@MonroevilleUMC.org](mailto:FinancialSec@MonroevilleUMC.org)  
Coordinator of Communications - Betty Henderson ..... [Communications@MonroevilleUMC.org](mailto:Communications@MonroevilleUMC.org)  
Youth Leader - Natalie Frydryck ..... [MUMYouth@MonroevilleUMC.org](mailto:MUMYouth@MonroevilleUMC.org)  
Director of Choral/Trad. Ensembles - Lynn Bruhn ..... [Music@MonroevilleUMC.org](mailto:Music@MonroevilleUMC.org)  
Organist/Director of MUM Rings - Lynn Bruhn ..... [OrganBells@MonroevilleUMC.org](mailto:OrganBells@MonroevilleUMC.org)  
Director of Praise Worship Ministries - Michael Ondrick ..... [Praise@MonroevilleUMC.org](mailto:Praise@MonroevilleUMC.org)  
Custodian - Tom Crock  
Kitchen Custodian - Betty Frydryck

#### Other Church E-mail Addresses:

Lay Leader - Ron Morgan .... [Layleader@MonroevilleUMC.org](mailto:Layleader@MonroevilleUMC.org)

Prayer Chain ... [Prayers@MonroevilleUMC.org](mailto:Prayers@MonroevilleUMC.org)

Fellowship Chair - Ron Morgan ... [Fellowship@MonroevilleUMC.org](mailto:Fellowship@MonroevilleUMC.org)

**MUM Preschool**  
Becky Burtick (Director)  
E-mail.....[Director@MUMPreschool.org](mailto:Director@MUMPreschool.org)  
Phone..... 412-372-8819  
Website.....[www.MUMPreschool.org](http://www.MUMPreschool.org)

**Church Office Hours**  
9:00 am - 4 pm Monday-Thursday  
Office closed on Fridays  
**Rev. Kelly's Contact Information**  
Church phone - 412-372-7474  
[RevKelly@MonroevilleUMC.org](mailto:RevKelly@MonroevilleUMC.org)  
Cell phone - 214-202-9291  
Rev. Kelly's weekly day off is Friday.

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## NOTES TO NOTE

**First Annual**  
**fat Tuesday**  
**pancake Supper**

**Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**5-7pm**

All proceeds go to support our Emergency Assistance Fund which provides immediate financial relief and support to individuals and families facing urgent needs.

\$10 per person/\$30 per family/free for children 3 & under  
Dinner will include pancakes, sausage, and beverages.

**YTD Finance Update end of Dec. 2025**  
**Revenue: \$373,095 Expenses: \$395,019**



If you have prescription eye glasses you no longer need, you can bring them to the church and put them in office. They will be taken to the Lions Club to be re-used for people in need.

### MUM Preschool Public Open House/Registration Night Tuesday, Feb. 3, 6 pm

Church members may contact Mrs. Burtick, Director, for enrollment information prior to February 3. Director @MUMPreschool.org



Lydia Circle will be hosting the "Good as New" Used Book Sale this spring!

Please save your gently used books, complete puzzles & board games (in good condition) to donate. We will let you know when it is time to bring them in!

### Vigil for immigrants seized by ICE

This event is held every Friday, 8:30 am -9:30 am at the Pittsburgh ICE building, 3000 Sidney St, Pittsburgh 15203.

This is a peaceful event to help remind the public of the terrible injustice that is being committed against our neighbors. The quiet protest is to support the immigrants being held at the ICE facility. The event begins each week with hymns, prayers and moments of silence. Participants may carry signs and stand on the sidewalk, but no shouting or bull horns.

This is hosted by Sisters of St. Joseph, Pax Christi and Casa San Jose.

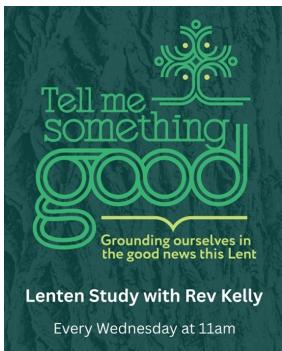
### Sunday Schedule

**8:45 am Seekers Adult Class**  
**10:00 am Worship Service in the Sanctuary & Online**  
**Sunday School Ages 3-12th grade (following Children's Sermon)**

**the good news is...**  
all are invited

**Ash Wednesday Worship**  
February 18<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm

### Lenten Study with Rev. Kelly Wednesdays. 11 am



Lenten Study with Rev Kelly  
Every Wednesday at 11am

beginning on February 25. Each class will last about 75-90 minutes.

February 25, March 4, March 11,  
March 18, March 25, April 1

We have several resources to help you along your Lenten Journey including: a daily devotional book, daily devotional cards, and the Lenten study led by Rev Kelly. Reach out to Karen or Rev. Kelly in the office for copies.

### About the Logo

As we developed the logo and branding for this theme, we wanted the visuals to feel earthy, like roots firmly planted in rich soil. We started with tree imagery, photographing tree roots and bark textures. We imagined the ways Jesus' teachings can ground and root us in the good news, but also push us to grow and expand like branches reaching to the sky. As we discussed the scriptures in the series more and more, we realized that at the core of Jesus' teachings are not esoteric ideas, but people. Time and again, Jesus refocuses our attention on people - often those who are harmed, judged, oppressed, or hungry. And so, in the tree icon, the branches are also



2026

## NOTES OF APPRECIATION



Dear MUM family,  
The MUM Staff thanks you for your generous Christmas gifts. We deeply appreciate all your thoughtfulness and kindness. We, also, are very appreciative of your generosity of time, talent and spirit as we all continue to work as a team in ministry together. With extreme gratefulness for all you have done and continue to do in support of us,

Lynn, Michael, Karen, Leslie, Rev. Kelly, Betty F., Tom C., Betty H.

The MUM Outreach Ministry thanks the congregation for all of your help in reaching out to others throughout the year.

We appreciate all of the gifts and donations of gift cards to our **Magi Project** in November. You were able to help 125 children and youth from Sunrise School to have merrier Christmases by taking tags for gifts and cards. We have received personal Thank You notes from many of the kids and teachers. They are posted on the Outreach bulletin board and a red bulletin board near it close to the parlor.

Please take a moment to look at and read some of them - it will warm your heart. We also donated **\$540** to Ward Home for at-risk youth through the Magi Project!

Our designated **Thanksgiving Offering** provided **\$1,257** to our Campership Fund which will help our MUM Kids go to summer church camp.

We divided our designated **Christmas Offering** of **\$2,835** equally between the World Central Kitchen and Greater Pittsburgh Area Food Bank.

Thank you your continued generosity in supporting our Vision of *Serving God, Sharing Love, Changing Lives!*

**Our Seekers** Adult Sunday School & Monday Evening Class has distributed 2025 offerings from attendees to MUM Emergency Assistance fund (\$407), Reconciling Ministries (\$100), Shepherd Society (\$287), UMCOR for Ukraine (\$274.50). Thank you to all who contributed to helping others.

**Lydia Circle** thanks everyone who supported our mission projects in 2025 by buying pecans, bringing or buying books at our spring book sale, and adding to the Trees of Life by buying medallions. The money we raised, plus donations from our circle members, enabled us to support World Central Kitchen, UMCOR Mission Barn, and Gwen's Girls with donations of \$600 each. Circle members also donated \$375 for Bikes for Girls through Child Fund. We appreciate your help in sharing with others!



With Caring Connections ACTION, we have received many Thank You notes for the cards, gifts, visits, etc. that people have received. Those notes are given to the team to put on the ACTION board at the table for everyone to enjoy and realize how much your caring efforts are appreciated.

## SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

### OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULTS

#### Seekers Adult Classes

Sundays at 8:45 am in the Church Parlor

Mondays at 7:00 pm on ZOOM

The new book is *How Did I Get to be 70 When I'm 35 Inside* by Linda Douty. If you want to join the discussion, please contact Leslie Thorsen for a book, Zoom link or information at 412-372-7474 or [FinancialSec@MonroevilleUMC.org](mailto:FinancialSec@MonroevilleUMC.org). Books are available for \$10 suggested donation.

The class is open to anyone at any time! The new year is a good time to start something new!

PS You do not need to be 70 to enjoy reading and discussing the current book.

**Men's Breakfast/Bible Study** is the second Saturday of the month at 8 am. The group meets in-person for breakfast (\$7) and on Zoom. Rev. Kelly leads the Bible Study. The next meeting will be **Saturday, February 14 at 8 am**. Please email Kevin Whitfield at [kevinawhitfield@msn.com](mailto:kevinawhitfield@msn.com) to RSVP.

**Connections for Women** meets on the 3rd Saturday of the month at 9 am. ALL WOMEN are invited to come! There will be a program and time to connect with each other. Please bring your own mug for coffee or tea. The next meeting is **Saturday, February 21 at 9 am** in Fellowship Hall.

### KIDS & YOUTH



Youth (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) join us for Sunday School downstairs in the Youth Room following the Children's Sermon at worship.