



Monthly Newsletter

August 2026

Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m.

Check us out on our web site www.monticelloumc.com

From Pastor Anne:

“And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

~Matthew 6: 5-6

Maybe it's just because the various Internet algorithms have figured out that I'm a pastor, but I'm growing concerned about the videos that have been crossing my feed lately. I'm not worried about the company that wants to sell me a 66-page context guide for the Bible (one page for every book!) I'm worried about these videos of happy, smiling, singing & preaching young people annoying the traveling public who have no way to get away from them. I have seen them depicted as doing their evangelistic singing and preaching on airplanes, in airports at the baggage claim, on city busses and subway trains. One internet-famous evangelist/influencer even captioned her TikTok video “I just love a captive audience.”

Excuse me as I channel grandpa Simpson, but in my day it was street preachers. You couldn't walk down the sidewalk of a shopping district in any major city back in the 1980s without taking the chance of getting yelled at by some amateur Ernest Angely. They were mostly annoying and sometimes entertaining. I will forever cherish the memory of some Temu Jimmy Swaggert who took issue with my peace sign earrings shouting after me “You're leading your congregation to heeeeeeeeeell!” as I walked away down the sidewalk in St. Louis.

But you see, that's the important part. *I walked away.* I *could* walk away. I wasn't trapped. These poor folks I see on my screen who are trapped on a plane, a bus, a subway car – they can't get away. It's truly obnoxious. As the Christian faith continues to decline in popularity & power in our society, there will be those whose reaction is to act out in various unhelpful and sometimes frightening ways. This is just one of them. We need to keep in mind that The Good News ceases to be good if someone is stuffing it down your throat.

Many thanks to...,

All of the folks who helped provide community parking at the 2026 Freedom Fest. The project went quite smoothly and everybody looked festive in their hi-vis vests. The rumor is spreading that we will have an opportunity to repeat the event next Summer, so keep your ear to the ground.

Music Ministry

As summer draws to a close, we are excited to welcome everyone back to our active music ministries! Rehearsals will resume on Wednesday, September 2, 2026, and there is a place for everyone to share their gifts.

Whether you love to sing, ring, or make a joyful noise, we invite you to consider joining the Sanctuary Choir, New Day, or the Handbell Ensemble. Music is a wonderful way to worship, build community, and enrich the life of our church.

If you have ever thought about participating—or if you're ready to return after a summer break—we would love to have you! Please reach out to Kathy Brown or Christy Killion for more information.

We would also like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who has stepped in to lead our hymn singing throughout the summer and to the many musicians who faithfully provide special music throughout the year. A special thank you to Those Guys, Christy Killion, and her daughters, Leah and Audrey, for sharing their talents so generously. We are especially grateful for Gloria Cardoni, whose faithful service at the organ and piano blesses our church and congregation week after week.

Monticello United Methodist Church is truly blessed with an abundance of gifted musicians who help lead us in worship and draw us closer to God through music. Thank you for sharing your time, talents, and hearts with us. We look forward to making joyful music together this fall!

"Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth." — Psalm 96:1

Fun & Fellowship

As you've noticed we've currently taken a small break from Sunday morning fellowship due to lack of volunteers for providing the treats. We will resume regular fellowship treats in September but volunteers to make that happen are much appreciated. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin table in the sanctuary! If you want to see fellowship treats return sooner then please feel free to sign up in August as well. We encourage and appreciate everyone's help in making this possible on a regular basis.

Be sure to join us on Sunday August 30th for a summertime luncheon following our 5th Sunday service. It's always a treat to join in the fellowship that happens during these Sundays!

And new to 2026...we will be doing a church-wide Fall Festival! Watch for more info to come, including the date and time, but it will include many of our favorite fall things like a wiener roast, scarecrow building, games, fellowship and more. This event will be open to all ages and to the community and it will replace our annual tent or treat. Look for more info coming soon!

Stewardship

Your stewardship committee is starting to plan for 2027 and gosh does that seem weird to say! But 2027 is just around the corner and over the next few months you'll start to see info on our plans for next year! Stay tuned!

Outreach News

A little look at the Outreach numbers as June 30:

- \$6256 spent on budgeted missions so far
- \$30,651 spent on all Community Assistance, including Food Pantry, ride help and financial support
- \$2,833 spent on other missions (often this is member gift designated to a favorite mission which we pass along)

At this time of year we see an increase in folks struggling to pay their power bill so we are beginning to see more applications for that. Of course, food struggles continue to increase due to high prices so we have seen several new faces in the pantry as well.

Lastly, Vacation Bible School had \$580.66 collection for their Kid-to-Kid mission for fruit trees in Honduras and we added another \$500 to that donation.

As always, we are grateful for your generous support of all our outreach endeavors.

Youth Ministry

Youth group is starting back up this month! Youth group is open to any student that is in 6th -12th grade. We typically meet every Sunday night from 5pm - 7pm. Every Sunday a meal is served also! If you would like to volunteer to sign up to make a meal for the youth group, please reach out to Will! Our first youth group meeting will be on August 23.

Kids and Family Ministry

A big thank you to all of our VBS volunteers!! We had about 65 kids attend Rainforest Falls VBS and couldn't have done it without your help!



Sunday School will be starting on August 30th. Kids ages 3 and up are welcome and invited to attend!

Typical Weekly events:

Worship Services, Sunday at 8:30 and at 10:45, with Sunday School in between at 9:45.
T.O.P.S., Monday, 4 pm
Food Pantry, Tu & Th 12:45-3 pm, Wednesday, 5:30-7 pm
Boy Scouts, Monday, 7 pm (if school is in session)
Mat Weaving for Midwest Missions - Every third Monday of the month at 9 am
“Just Walking” - Tu & Th, 8:30 am - Half hour devotional followed by indoor walking
Bible Study Wednesdays, 1:15 pm
W.A.T.Ch. Meals - Wed, 5 pm (September through mid-May)
Sanctuary Choir rehearsals, Wed, 6 pm; Bell Choir & New Day rehearsals -Wed, 7pm*
Youth Group, Sunday, 5-7:00 pm; mid August through mid-May
Summer Singers - Thursdays at 6:30 pm, June through mid-August
*(Sanctuary Choir and New Day take rehearsal hiatus June through August)

August 3-7

Church carpet cleaning

Monday, August 10

Outreach Comm. Mtg. 9 am
Fun & Fellowship, 6:30 pm

Sunday, August 16

Summer Singers Finale Concert, 3 pm

Monday, August 17

Mat Weaving, 9 am
P.E.O. 6:15 (elsewhere)

Sunday, August 23

Youth Group resumes

Sunday August 30

Rally Day - Kids' SS resumes, 9:45 am
Confirmation Class starts, 9:45 am