



## Monthly Newsletter

### March 2026

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

Check us out on our web site [www.monticelloumc.com](http://www.monticelloumc.com)

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### *From Pastor Anne:*

In 2024 Easter fell on Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. Last year it was on April 20<sup>th</sup> and sparked any number of “420” jokes. This year it is on April 5<sup>th</sup> and next year it will be on March 28<sup>th</sup> which is almost as early as it gets Easter-wise. We all learned in Confirmation Class that Easter Sunday falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox, but of course, it’s quite a bit more complicated than that, mainly because the celebration of Easter predates the whole world agreeing on a single calendar, to say nothing of the invention of the clock.

For instance, the full moon that’s used to figure out the date of Easter isn’t the full moon that you see when you look at the night sky. It’s a *theoretical* full moon, called the ecclesiastical full moon. I swear I am not making this up. The vernal equinox in question, likewise, is not a day when the day & night are actually of equal length. The ecclesiastical equinox is on March 21<sup>st</sup>, regardless of day length. For a while back there in the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> centuries, the Christians of Rome celebrated Easter on an entirely different date than the Christians at Alexandria because the whole thing is so complicated. Eventually almost everybody got on the same page about when Easter was, but by the 16<sup>th</sup> century the tiny errors in their calculating tables (1 day for every 310 years) built up so that the ecclesiastical full moon and the actual full moon were about 4 days apart. At that point, Pope Gregory XIII threw up his hands and declared a revision of the calendar. He put his very best mathematicians and astronomers to work on it, and they came up with the calendar that we use today, leap years and all. The correction called for Thursday, 4 October 1582 to be followed by Friday, 15 October 1582, which must have been very confusing, but before long everybody settled into the new calendar. Except for our Orthodox brothers and sisters in eastern and southeastern Europe. Being very traditional, they stuck with the old calendar so sometimes we celebrate Easter on two different Sundays.

Last bit of trivia: the earliest that Easter can possibly be is Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>. That hasn’t happened since 1818, and it won’t happen again until 2285. The latest that Easter can possibly be is Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. That last happened in 1943, and will happen again in 2038 (just 12 years from now!)

## *Staff Changes*

Phil Winecke has joined our staff as a part time custodian for the Sanctuary, replacing Aimee Sawlaw. Thanks Aimee lugging chairs around and making sure everyone has their favorite spots on Sundays!

## *In Sympathy for...*

... the family and friends of Ronald Dean who passed January 21, 2026. A graveside service was held on January 27th at Mansfield Cemetery

## *W.A.T.Ch. Meals*

- Mar 4 Roast Pork w/dressing, mashed potatoes 'n' gravy, honeyed carrots, rolls, German Chocolate cake
- Mar 11 Swedish Meatballs, buttered noodles, mixed vegetables, rolls, Devil's Food cake
- Mar 18 No Meal – Spring Break
- Mar 25 Baked ham, Au Gratin potatoes, peas and mushrooms, rolls, Pineapple Sunshine cake

## *New Member Class*

Maybe you've been attending worship at Monticello UMC for a few weeks or months and would like to explore becoming a member of our congregation. Maybe you've been part of this congregation's life for many years, and just have never gotten around to becoming a full professing member. (Maybe you don't even *know* if you are "official" or not - call or email the office. We can tell you.) Whatever the reason ***you are invited*** to join our New Member Class. We will hold two half-hour meetings per week through the season of Lent, and ***you can choose each week*** which meeting you want to go to. **If you missed the first class in February, no worries; you can still join in.** I hope to see you there!

### Class Meetings

Sunday, March 1st 9:45 - 10:15 a.m. ***or*** Wednesday, March 4th 5:30-6:00 p.m.  
Sunday, March 8th 9:45 - 10:15 a.m. ***or*** Wednesday, March 11th 5:30-6:00 p.m.  
Sunday, March 15th 9:45 - 10:15 a.m. ***or*** Wednesday, March 18th 5:30-6:00 p.m.  
Sunday, March 22nd 9:45 - 10:15 a.m. ***or*** Wednesday, March 25th 5:30-6:00 p.m.

## *Outreach News*

- Our All Agency Luncheon will be held on Monday, March 2. We continue to see representatives from new agencies join this group. At this point we can truly say that this quarterly event has been very valuable to MUMC 's ability to point our local people in financial need to the right sources to get them help. It's also gratifying to watch the various agencies connect and confer with one another to learn about resources they hadn't known about before.
- Food Pantry.
  - We continue to be busy in 2026. Thank you to all those who donate monetarily and with drop-offs. Special thanks to all our volunteers!
  - The Cisco Clovers 4H Club / Piatt County 4H held their Super Bowl Food Drive for our pantry once again. Thank you so much!



## *Kids and Family Ministry*

We have started planning for VBS this summer! Rainforest Falls VBS will be held July 13th-17. Be on the lookout for volunteer and participant sign ups in the next few months! Also, if you have a child who acolytes, we have plenty of availability openings on the sign-up genius.

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## *Youth Ministry*

We still have a couple of Sunday's left where we are in need of a meal for the youth. If you would like to sign up, please talk to Will and he can get you on the list!

## *Fun & Fellowship News*

Spring is in full swing for fellowship!

Join us for our annual Egg Hunt on Saturday March 28th from 9 to 11. The doors open at 9 and the hunt begins at 10! The Egg hunt is for ages 0 thru 5th grade.

Sunday March 29th is a Fifth Sunday which means a fellowship luncheon after a combined Palm Sunday service!

And for something new...Save the Date... on Saturday April 18th the Fun and Fellowship committee would like to formally invite you to our 1st Senior Prom! The event is for those 55 and older and will feature dinner, dancing and an evening of fun! Look for more details to come in the month of March!

### **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, 5-7:15 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)

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#### **Sunday, March 1**

New Member Class II, 9:45 am

#### **Monday, March 2**

All Agency Lunch, noon

P.E.O., 6:15 pm

#### **Wednesday, March 4**

New Member Class II, 5:30 pm

#### **Sunday, March 8**

New Member Class III, 9:45 am

#### **Monday, March 9**

Outreach Comm. Mtg, 9 am

Fun & Fellowship Comm. Mtg, 6:30 pm

#### **Wednesday, March 11**

New Member Class III, 5:30 pm

P.E.O., 6:15 pm

Fun & Fellowship Mtg, 6:30 pm

#### **Thursday, March 12th**

Trustees Mtg., 5:30 pm

Finance Comm. Mtg., 7 pm

#### **Sunday, March 15th**

New Member Class IV, 9:45 am

#### **Wednesday, March 18th**

New Member Class IV, 5:30 pm

#### **Sunday, March 22**

New Member Class V, 9:45 am

#### **Wednesday, March 25**

New Member Class IV, 5:30 pm

#### **Saturday, March 28**

Easter Egg Hunt -9-11 am

#### **Sunday, March 29**

Palm Sunday - 5th Sunday Combined

Worship at 10 am