



Monthly Newsletter

May-June 2026

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

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

From Pastor Anne:

When I was first collecting ideas for the brochure that we are including in our visitor gift bags I made an interesting discovery: a lot of folks don't know what goes on in the "other" worship service. I suppose that *should* have been obvious, but I've been a pastor for an awfully long time and it's easy for me to forget that not everybody goes to all of the worship services every single week. So here's a little breakdown for those of you who have always wondered just what goes on at the other service.

8:30 Service: Our early service is a more Liturgical service. We have organ music, the Sanctuary Choir, the Bell Choir, and other special music. The pastor wears traditional vestments and we read all four of the scripture lessons from the lectionary. It's kind of middling-formal, except during the Kids Time which is absolute chaos. We celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday of the month.

10:45 Service: Our later service is more casual. We have a blend of hymns and contemporary music led by the New Day ensemble. The pastor wears street clothes and we read only the First Lesson, Second Lesson, and Gospel Lesson - we skip the Psalter. The general atmosphere is more relaxed. We celebrate Holy Communion every week.

So there! Now if your schedule requires you to attend the "other" service, you'll have some idea what to expect.

In Sympathy for...

...the family and friends of Marilyn Olson, who passed away on Thursday, April 2nd. A memorial service was held at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, April 15th, 2026 at MUMC. Interment was in Monticello Township Cemetery.

W.A.T.Ch. Meals

- May 6 - Baked pasta, meatballs, Italian salad, bread sticks w/cheese sauce, strawberry shortcake
- May 13 - Final meal of the year -Picnic Time - hamburgers, hot dogs, grilled chicken Breasts, potato salad, Cowboy beans, ice cream sundaes

Hospitality

Sunday April 26th was a fun day as Emily Jenkins introduced the Hospitality Committee's new ideas for making our church welcoming to visitors. There were gifts bags, new name tags for regular church attenders, and a fancy new digital check-in system for taking attendance and tracking newcomers! All in all well received.

Music Ministry

This spring brings an important moment in the life of our church. After more than 50 years of faithful service, our organist, Mary Ellen Dean, has retired. We celebrated her in worship and during fellowship time on Sunday, April 19.

For many of us, it's hard to imagine worship here without Mary Ellen at the organ. For many years, her music has led our singing and added depth and meaning to our services. She has been part of so many important moments in the life of this congregation – celebrations, times of grief, and everything in between.

Mary Ellen has shared her gifts with consistency, care, and quiet dedication. Her presence has shaped the sound and spirit of our worship in ways that will not be forgotten. We are deeply grateful for the time, talent, and faith she has given to this church over so many years.

While we will miss her, we also give thanks for the legacy she leaves behind. The Music Ministry she helped sustain continues, carried forward by those who share their gifts and by a congregation that loves to sing.

In this season of transition, we are especially mindful that the strength of our music ministry comes from the willingness of people to participate. If you have ever thought about sharing your musical gifts, this is a wonderful time to step forward. Whether you sing, ring, play an instrument, or would simply like to help support the music program in other ways, there is a place for you.

Our choir welcomes new voices, the bells would love some additional ringers, and we are always open to instrumentalists or small groups who would like to contribute to worship. You don't need to be a professional—just willing to offer what you have. Music has a way of bringing people together, and each person's contribution helps enrich our shared worship.

If you see Mary Ellen in the coming weeks, please take a moment to once again thank her and wish her well in this next chapter.

As we move through this season of spring, we are reminded that even as things change, the heart of our worship remains the same. We will continue to lift our voices together in praise and thanksgiving.

“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.” – Psalm 98:4

Thank you from Mary Ellen Dean

“To my UMC Family,

I found such JOY serving at my beloved UMC my entire life through good and tough times. My deepest and humbling gratitude for all who have helped me on this wonderful journey.

The Sunday Service was so JOYOUS and uplifting me and my family. I wish to THANK YOU all for the beautiful tribute you prepared: Pastor Anne's message, Kathy's video, Gloria's music, Tammy & Gloria with all the photos etc., Choir members, Buz, Jamie, Will, Ushers, Orchid corsage, beautiful flowers and cake reception, cards, our congregation and my “Happy Birthday” wishes too.

All was above and beyond my expectations. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. The JOY of the LORD is my STRENGTH!”



Outreach News

Saturday May 9th our church will be the collection and distribution site for the 2026 Postal Workers “Stamp Out Hunger” campaign. Piatt County Ecumenical Food Pantry will receive a portion of the the collection so don’t forget to set out your yellow bag of donations for the postman.

In response to our communications to area schools, several have agreed to set up collections for gently used school supplies that we will collect and take to Midwest Mission. There they will be sorted out and readied for donation to schools in Honduras that badly need them.

So far this year we have helped 13 families who are having financial difficulties, spending \$3474. As always the pantry is very busy. We served 60 unique families in April, many of them twice. Thank you for your all your outreach donations!

Kids and Family Ministry

Graduate Honor Day -If you want to recognize someone from our church family that's graduating 8th grade, high school or college this year, please email or call the office with their information (name, where from, future plans, etc.) by May 10th so they can be recognized on Sunday, May 17.

762-2579, office@monticelloumc.com

Vacation Bible School 2026 is in the works! The dates are July 13-17th with a pool party the night of the 17th. Our theme this year is "Rainforest Falls". Here is the link to register. vbspro.events/p/8ec6df or you can use the QR code. If you are interested in volunteering, reach out to Anne or Sarah, we would love to have you!



Youth Ministry

We had our last youth group for the semester on May 3rd. We divided into vehicles and headed to Victory Lanes in Decatur to go bowling! It was a great way to end the youth group semester!

I know I've thanked everyone, but once again, from the leadership team, we cannot thank the church enough for what they do for the youth during the school year. From donations to making meals and everything else in between. Our youth group would not be possible without your congregation.

Fun & Fellowship News



Happy 10th
Birthday to us!

*Join us for a 5th Sunday
Birthday Breakfast*

May 31st

as we celebrate **10** years
at 2020 E. Washington!

Breakfast will be served from 8:30
to 9:30 and then join us for a
celebratory service at 10 AM

*Let's rejoice over a decade of
discovery, faithfulness, growth,
community outreach and building
future ministries!*

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

MONTICELLO METHODIST CHURCH, 2020 E WASHINGTON ST., MONTICELLO, IL 61856; 217-762-2579; office@monticelloumc.com

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)

Friday, May 1

Faith in Action Volunteer
Appreciation Breakfast

Sunday, May 3

Singing Men concert, 3 pm

Monday, May 4

P.E.O., 6:15 pm

Tuesday, May 5

IL/Piatt Co Extension Serve It Safely
class - 9-11 am

Saturday, May 9

Post Office Food Drive

Monday, May 11

Outreach Comm Mtg, 9 am
F & F Comm Mtg, 6:30 pm

Thursday, May 14

Trustees Mtg, 5:30 pm
Finance Comm. Mtg, 7 pm

Sunday, May 17

Honoring of Graduates
Last day of Kids' Sunday School

Tuesday, May 19

Church Council, 7 pm

Monday, May 25

OFFICE CLOSED for holiday

Thursday, May 28th

Midwest Mission - all day

Sunday, May 31

Combined Worship, 10 am
Church 10 Birthday Party!