Monticello
United Methodist Church

Monthly Newsletter

Nov 2026

Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m. **Check us out on our web site www.monticelloumc.com**

From Pastor Anne:

The first Sunday in November is always a bittersweet occasion. On the one hand we are celebrating the promise of eternal life and fondly remembering all of our loved ones who have gone before us. On the other hand, we dearly miss those who have died, and remembering them brings both joy and tears. As I said, it's bittersweet. Charles Wesley wrote a wonderful hymn about that feeling of the presence of our loved ones seeming very close to us. It's never been very popular, I think because people feel funny singing the line "we expect to die." But it's true. Christians stand always with one foot in this world and one in the Kingdom of God, and this time of year that fact comes closest to the fore. Here are Charles's words. He says it better than I ever could.

Come, let us join our friends above who have obtained the prize,
and on the eagle wings of love to joys celestial rise.
Let saints on earth unite to sing with those to glory gone,
for all the servants of our King in earth and heav'n are one.

One family we dwell in Him, one church above, beneath,
though now divided by the stream, the narrow stream of death;
one army of the living God, to His command we bow;
part of His host have crossed the flood, and part are crossing now.

Ten thousand to their endless home this solemn moment fly,
and we are to the margin come, and we expect to die.
E'en now by faith we join our hands with those that went before,
and greet the blood-besprinkled bands on the eternal shore.

Our spirits too shall quickly join, like theirs with glory crowned,
and shout to see our Captain's sign, to hear His trumpet sound.
O that we now might grasp our Guide! O that the word were giv'n!
Come, Lord of Hosts, the waves divide, and land us all in heav'n.

November WATCh Meals

- Nov 4- Country Fried Steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, candied carrots, rolls, Apple Walnut cake with vanilla sauce
- Nov 11-Salisbury Steak with mushroom gravy, macaroni and cheese, buttered corn, bread pudding with caramel sauce.
- Nov 18- Roast turkey and dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, cranberry salad, sweet potato casserole, rolls pumpkin pie
- Nov 25- NO MEAL - Happy Thanksgiving!

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

To all the new WATCh Meal volunteers that have stepped up to help. As you've seen the meal is quite a big production and your service is greatly appreciated.

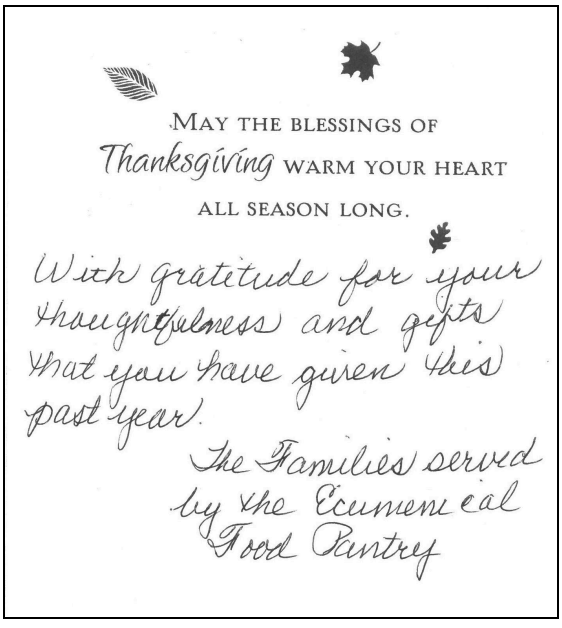
Donation to Midwest Missions



The Monticello United Methodist Church along with Faith In Action (a service group sponsored by the Piatt County Nursing Home) delivered medical equipment and bicycles to the Midwest Distribution Center Center in Chatham Illinois. Donations include crutches, walkers, wheel chairs, and canes. Several adult and children bicycles were also donated. All items will be sent to third world countries in South America from the distribution center.

Outreach News

The Food Pantry has had several blessings, including the Boy Scout food drive that was held on October 17, a gift of $1,000 from the Heart of Illinois Foundation and multiple birthday party kits from Sally Olson. A grant from Rooted and Rising was applied for to help with funding of the food vouchers. We were chosen and received $5000 from that organization. For all this we are grateful as we continue to see new families here at the pantry; and, of course, these funds help us provide financial assistance as well.



"Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40

In other Outreach news, we have chosen the following organizations for our 2026 Giving Tree Mission donations:

Crisis Nursery
ISLAND OF SAFETY

"Crisis Nursery creates an "Island of Safety" dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect by providing 24-hour emergency care for children and support to strengthen families in crisis. Crisis Nursery is the only emergency-based child care facility open 24 hours, 365 days a year for the entire community to access with no fees or income eligibility. Besides safe shelter for children, ages birth through six, we also provide family support and parenting education to strengthen parent skills and confidence. We believe that asking for help is a sign of strength."

Faith in Action
1111 North State Street
Monticello, Illinois 61856
217-762-7575

"Faith In Action organizes caring people (volunteers) of all faiths who wish to offer support and companionship to senior adults."

Services include:

- Transportation for Doctor Appointments and Errands
- Short-Term Meal Preparation
- Telephone Reassurance
- Companionship/Visiting
- Grocery Shopping
- Chores
- Respite Care
- Ramp Building

Look for the Giving Trees in the Atrium beginning the first week in November.

Stewardship News

Over the past month we have been Celebrating our Ministries! We have highlighted our Outreach, Nurture, Worship, Education & Youth Ministries and provided the details of our Administrative and Building ministries as we share the details of our 2027 budget of $700,000.

Everyone has been invited to invest the resources that God has given us - our energy, our prayers, and our money - into our Church. Our stewardship goal is for everyone to feel connected, to build a community of love within the church, and share that love with the community and world around us.

By November 15th, we'll have the 2026 church directories as well as a stewardship letter highlighting how our church has used and will continue to use our resources. The letter will also include the 2027 Estimate of Giving card. We ask everyone to prayerfully consider how you will help Celebrate our Ministries in 2027.

Please bring those Estimate of Giving cards to Consecration, November 22nd.

New Employee!

Please be sure to welcome Tia Becker, Nursery Attendant, as our newest addition to the staff. She has been helping Jami and has now been made an official part of our MUMC team.

New Employment Opportunity

Sadly, we have to announce that Carol Wintersteen will be retiring at the end of the year and we are searching for her successor. If you know of anyone who would be good for this exciting, challenging job, please pick up a job description and application at the Hospitality Desk.

Fun and Fellowship

Sunday October 4 was our FALL FESTIVAL. We cooked s'mores, had fun in the Bounce House, and went for a hay ride behind the tractor.







Looking ahead, mark your calendars for November 29th; our 5th Sunday Fellowship Advent Party. We'll have a festive Sunday with decorating, a movie, and a puzzle contest. And don't worry; there'll be yummy food as well!

Kids and Family Ministry

We are excited to announce that during Wednesday WATCH meals we have childcare service. Please note the following rules we are putting in place to make sure we can provide a safe space for our kids.

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1. Once your child is done eating their meal they can join our Childcare workers for some free time while their adults are fellowshipping together or participating in one of our music ministries.
    a. The nursery is available for children aged Kindergarten and younger.
    b. Children in grades 1-6 will be in the school aged Sunday School room across from the nursery.

2. Children wanting to use the play spaces must have their adult walk them down to the room to check in. The guardian will leave their cell phone number in order for communication between the Childcare worker and themselves. Children must also be checked out by their adult when it is time to go.

3. If a child has to be reminded more than three times to act appropriately the Childcare worker will call the guardian to come get their child immediately.
    a. If this occurs, the child may not use the play space for the rest of the night.
    b. If after repeated instances on multiple nights the child will not be able to use the play space during Wednesday nights.

4. A restroom is available in the nursery for use.

5. If a child wants to leave the room- the childcare worker will call the adult to come get them. This will reduce unsupervised children being left alone in the hallway.

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The next big thing we have coming up is on Dec 20- we will present our Christmas program "Wrapping All the Way". Please join us during the first service to watch our kids- they have been working hard learning their lines and new songs.

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)

Sunday, Nov 1
All Saints Day
Flu shots - 7:30-8:30 am

Monday, Nov 2
Outreach - Giving Tree set-up- 9:00 am

Tuesday, Nov 3
Cub Scouts, 6 pm

Thursday, Nov 5
Trustees Mtg., 5;30 pm

Monday, Nov 9
Outreach Comm. Mtg., 9:00 am
Fun & Fellowship Mtg, 6:30 pm

Tuesday, Nov 10
Cub Scouts, 6 pm

Wednesday, Nov 11
Midwest Missions - All Day

Monday, Nov 16
Mat Weaving, 9 am
P.E.O. 6:15 pm

Sunday, Nov 29
5th Sunday Advent Party 11:00 am
4H, 2-4 pm

Mark your calendar for these Christmas Season Events:
Sounds of Christmas - Dec 13, 3:00 pm
Cookie Walk - Dec 19
Kids' Christmas program - Dec 20 at 8:30 Service
Blue Christmas Service - Dec 20, 2:00 pm, Cisco UMC
Christmas Eve Services - Dec 24, 5:00 and 7:00 pm