



Monthly Newsletter

October 2026

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

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

From Pastor Anne:



As we spend the month of October ***Celebrating Ministries*** it's simultaneously delightful and a little bit paralyzing to think about the breadth of work that our congregation is involved in, and how much ***work*** it takes to make it all go. Each week we need ***at least*** 8 adults to staff our children's Sunday School, 4 adults to staff our Youth Group, 10 to cook, serve, and clean up WATCH Meal, 7 to staff the Food Pantry, 2 to process Community Assistance requests, and on and on... It's a lot! It's a lot of ministry, and it's a lot of work that our congregation is doing, and none of it would be possible without your generosity.

Often during "stewardship season" in the church we find ourselves focusing on the funding of the church's ministries, and that is necessary and good for us to do. There is no Food Pantry without groceries on the shelves. There is no Sunday School without curriculum and art supplies. There is no WATCH Meal without food to serve. And there is no responsible financial planning without some information about people's giving plans. However, as we are celebrating our ministries and contemplating our financial giving for 2027, let's also remember the other two legs of the "Time, Talent, Treasure" triangle.

How do you plan to share your wisdom, ideas, and inspirations with your church in the coming year? Those are ***at least*** as important as your dollars and cents. Which 2 or 3 of our church's ministries excites you enough to join in on the fun of making it work? And if none of them inspires you, what *would*? What is missing in our life together, and how can we fill that hole? We want to be a congregation that welcomes everyone, helps everyone to grow in faith, and empowers everyone to find meaningful Christian work to do in the world. As the great theologian Howard Thurman (of blessed memory) said, "'Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.'"



CELEBRATING MINISTRIES!

October WATCh Meals

- October 7 -Marinated Roast Pork and Dressing, Mashed Potatoes with Gravy, Butter Peas, Chunky Applesauce, Rolls, German Chocolate Cake
- October 14 - Chicken and Noodles, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls, Chocolate Eclairs
- October 21 - Ham Loaf, Cheesy Potatoes, Peas and Carrots, Flat Bread, Peach Crisp, Ice Cream
- October 28 - Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Corn Pudding, Rolls, Lemonade Cake

W.A.T.Ch. Meal Needs You!

Each week, our W.A.T.Ch. Meal brings people together around the table for good food, fellowship, and community. It is a wonderful ministry of hospitality - but making these meals happen takes more than food and fellowship. **It takes people.**

Right now, we have a particularly pressing need for volunteers to help with cleanup after the W.A.T.Ch. meal. The work of cleanup is an essential part of making this ministry possible, and we need more hands so that the responsibility doesn't continue to fall on the same few people each week.

We don't want anyone to feel that serving means taking on a big commitment. There are lots of ways to help — washing dishes, wiping tables, putting things away, taking out the trash, or simply lending an extra set of hands. Even a small amount of your time can make a big difference.

And there's something special about cleanup, too. It's often during those last few minutes in the kitchen that some of the best conversations happen!

If you enjoy the fellowship and ministry of W.A.T.Ch., please consider helping us sustain it. By sharing the responsibility of cleanup, we can make sure this ministry continues to be manageable, welcoming, and enjoyable for everyone involved. This isn't just about doing dishes. It's about making sure the table can remain open - and making sure those who faithfully serve don't have to carry the load alone.

If you can help, please sign up at the Welcome Center. But, really... nobody'll be upset if you just SHOW UP, either. Come join us!!

Many hands make light work - and every helping hand helps keep the W.A.T.Ch. Meal going.

Outreach News

Spread the word! October 17th is the annual “Scouting for Food” drive. Donation bags of food need to be visible on the porch or driveway by 8:00 am for pick-up by Scouts and city workers. A good portion of these donations will come to the Piatt County Ecumenical Food Pantry.



In other news, on September 22nd the food pantry was the recipient of a \$1000 gift from Heart of Illinois.

On October 5th we once again will host an Area Outreach Agency luncheon to strengthen ties with our other agencies and keep abreast of the issues of the needy in our community.

Stewardship News

Congratulations! We continue to be a strong church at a time when many are failing so you can feel proud! October kicks off our 2026 Stewardship campaign. Throughout the Fall we will be “***Celebrating the Ministries***” that make us great. Follow along each Sunday as we focus on them individually. Where does your passion lie among them? How can you participate to keep us a vital church going forward?



Rides for Jami

Do you come to church early for coffee time? Please consider volunteering to pick up Jami Apperson, our Nursery Attendant, and bring her to her shift. She needs someone to pick her up on Sundays no later than 7:45 am and someone to take her home following the second service. On Wednesdays, her time commitment is 5:00 pm - 7:30 pm. The address is 101 E Center St. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or give Jami a call at 217-308-2128.



Help Keep Our Fellowship Table Full!

One of the simple joys of Sunday morning at MUMC is the time we share between worship services - a chance to grab a cup of coffee, enjoy a treat, and, most importantly, connect with one another.

But our Fellowship Table needs you!

Without volunteers to provide treats, our Fellowship Table will be empty. And while the treats themselves are wonderful, the real purpose of that table is the fellowship that happens around it - the conversations, laughter, connections, and welcoming of friends and visitors.

We are looking for individuals and groups who would be willing to sign up to provide treats for a Sunday. And there are lots of ways to make it happen!

Who could sign up?

- Sunday School classes
- Youth groups
- Small groups
- Ministry teams
- Families

- A group of friends
- Co-workers or neighbors
- Or simply you!

It doesn't have to be elaborate, either. Cookies, muffins, donuts, fruit, breakfast treats, or another favorite snack are all welcome. The goal isn't a fancy spread — it's creating a welcoming place where people can linger, visit, and connect.

One Sunday is all it takes. Gather a few friends, ask your Sunday School class, get your family involved, or choose a Sunday for yourself. Bring a favorite treat and help create a little hospitality for your church family. We'd love to have enough people and groups sign up throughout the year so that providing Fellowship Treats doesn't fall on the same few people week after week.

So, help us keep the table full - not just with treats, but with opportunities for fellowship. Sign up on the clipboard in the serving window to choose a Sunday. Our Fellowship Table is a small but meaningful way we live out this call to hospitality. A plate of cookies or a basket of muffins may seem like a simple thing, but it creates a place for us to gather, welcome one another, and build relationships.

“Offer hospitality to one another without grumbling.” - 1 Peter 4:9

Youth Ministry News

We are still looking for families to provide meals for the youth group on Sunday nights! If you would like to sign up for a meal, please let Will know and he can sign you up!

Kids and Family Ministry

Our Sunday School class continues each Sunday morning. Ages 2-Kindergarten meet during Fellowship time in the Cafe. Ages 1-6 meet in their respective classrooms. If you are interested in teaching please let Sarah Peterson or Anne Winecke know.

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, October 4

Fall Festival, 6-7:30 pm

Tuesday, October 6

P.E.O. Committee Mtg., 6:00 pm

Monday, October 12

Outreach Comm. Mtg., 9:00 am

Fun & Fellowship Mtg, 6:30 pm

Saturday, October 17

Scouting for Food

(sorting at the church)

Monday, October 19

P.E.O., 6:15 pm

Wednesday, October 28

Midwest Mission-all day
(not a mistake)

Thursday, October 29

Midwest Mission-all day

Saturday, October 24

P.E.O. Prep Day - Morning

The Singing Men Concert, 6 pm

Sunday, November 1

All Saints Day