



Monthly Newsletter

September 2026

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

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

From Pastor Anne:

A part of our Sunday School kick-off on August 30th was the start of our new Confirmation Class! We have 6 students so far, but are always open to more.

Confirmation is a strange institution in the Christian tradition. Sacramental theologians and other liturgy nerds joke around by calling it “a rite without a reason.” (“Jokes” like this are one reason that sacramental theologians and liturgy nerds don’t have a lot of friends.) They do have a point though. You may have wondered, if we proclaim that a little baby becomes a part of the body of Christ at his or her baptism, then what exactly is Confirmation “confirming”? Well, I’ll tell you.

It all got started back in late antiquity, when Christianity started to really spread far & wide throughout the lands of the declining Roman Empire. In the earliest days, of course, each city only had one group of Christians and the leader of each group was what we later came to call “The Bishop.” But as the number of Christians grew, and as the faith spread from the cities to smaller towns and rural areas, we developed a more regional system of organization. There came to be a Bishop in the big city, who was responsible for overseeing the ministry of several lesser clergy in the surrounding area. In the earliest days, the Bishop did all of the baptizing, but later on baptizing became the work of the local clergy. This left folks feeling uncomfortable. They weren’t sure if their local pastor had quite the “umph” necessary to *really* get someone all of the sacramental grace they needed. So they asked The Bishop if he would “confirm” the baptism when he made his annual visit to their local church. And that’s where Confirmation comes from!

Nowadays of course we are less concerned with sacramental “umph.” We *have* come to realize, however, that about the age of 12 or 13, our children need to begin taking some responsibility for their own spiritual development. When they are little we decide what they need to know about God, Jesus, the Bible and the Church. When they are older, *they* are the ones who need to decide what they need in order to take their next steps in faith. That is what Confirmation is all about in our day.

Youth Ministry News

Youth Group has started back up for the fall! With that starting again, we still need volunteers to make a meal for the youth on Sunday nights! Please reach out to Will if you would like to provide a meal!

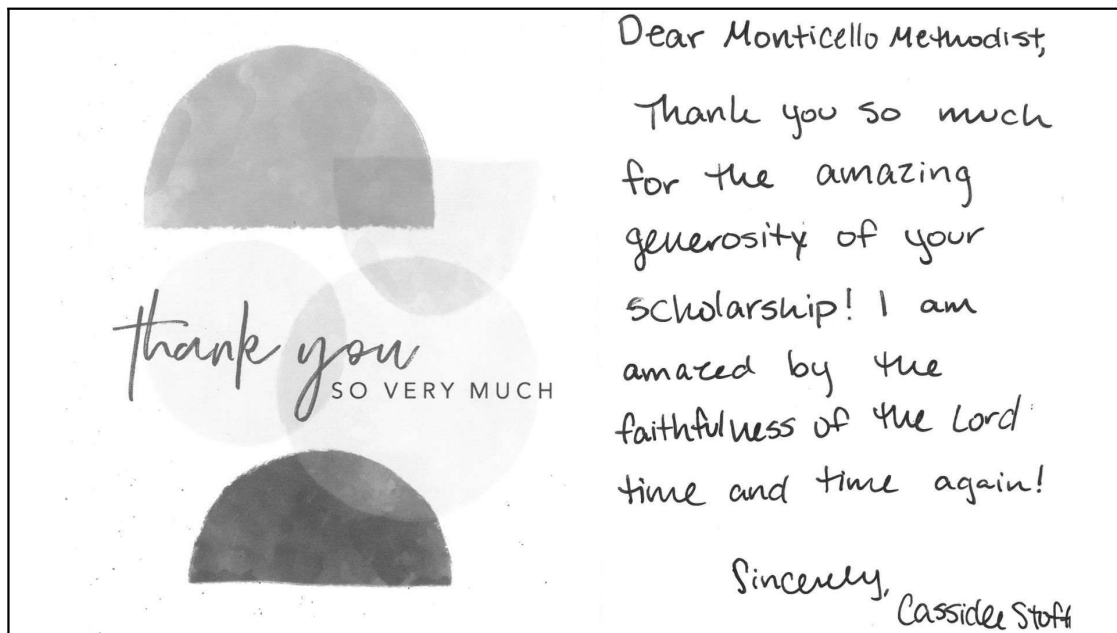
Scholarship News

This year we awarded two recipients with Emma and Dick O'Dell scholarships. The awards were \$1000 each to:

- Alyiah Ellison, who is entering her second year at Olivet Nazarene University, where she is studying Nursing.
- Cassidee Stoffel, who will attend Baylor University pursuing a degree in ministry.

There were no applicants for the Valentine Scholarship this year.

A note from Cassidee



Kids and Family Ministry

Sunday school has started back up! Preschool-Kindergaren will meet in the atrium during fellowship time. 1st grade-4th grade will meet in the Sunday school room at 9:45 while 5th-6th grade will meet in the youth room also at 9:45. If you would like to volunteer with Sunday School, please reach out. We would love to have you!

Fun & Fellowship

Mark your calendar for the **Fall Festival** the evening of October 4th from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.. This will include many of our favorite fall things like a wiener roast, scarecrow building, games, a bounce house from Action Inflatables, tractor rides, fellowship and more. Refreshments will be smores, roasted at the firepit, and cocoa & cider on the shed porch.

Music Ministry

It's that time of year! Music ensembles have begun rehearsing again! Are you interested in sharing your musical talent with our congregation? Why not join the Sanctuary Choir, Handbell Choir, or New Day Praise Team? Choir and Bells rehearse on Wednesday and New Day rehearses on Sunday morning at 10:00 (before leading worship at 10:45). All are welcome! Speak with Kathy Brown if you are interested or have any questions.

Wednesday	6:00 - 7:00	Sanctuary Choir	Choir Room
	7:00 - 8:00	Bell Choir	Bell Room
Sunday	10:00	New Day	Sanctuary

Outreach News

Food Pantry News: The food pantry area has been expanded! Utilizing the room sizing panels we have reduced the Youth gathering room area thereby nearly doubling the size of the food pantry. Visitors will now have the entire tiled room for shopping as we move our storage to the new area. This not only creates a better shopping area but keeps tables out of the hallway where they may hinder building evacuation.

As is typical, there was a slight dip in physical food donations at the end of summer. Luckily our fund is strong enough to cover shopping for the pantry ourselves to supplement supplies. We Thank you all for supporting the pantry monetarily so we have this ability. We'd especially like to thank the *TriM Sunday School Class* for increased food donations, including meat.

Community Assistance News: October 5th brings another area assistance agencies meeting. These gatherings continue to improve connection and keep our Outreach committee apprised of all the opportunities we have to coordinate appropriate and expedient assistance to those who have immediate financial needs.

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)

Wednesday, Sept 9

Outreach Comm. Mtg, 9 am

Bible Study resumes - 1:15 pm weekly

Thursday, Sept. 17

Midwest Mission-all day

Finance Comm. Mtg, 7 pm

Thursday, Sept. 10

Trustees Mtg, 5:30 pm

Monday, Sept. 21

Mat weaving, 9 am

P.E.O., 6:15 pm

Monday, Sept. 14

Fun & Fellowship Mtg, 6:30 pm

Tuesday, Sept. 22

Church Council, 7 pm

Sunday, Sept. 27

4H, 2-4 pm