



Monthly Newsletter

March 2024

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

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

From Pastor Anne:

Every year on Ash Wednesday, I invite the congregation into the season with the words, “*Dear brothers and sisters in Christ: the early Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation.*” Each Christian engages the season in their own way, of course. Some folks give up chocolate, or gambling, or meat, or some other significant thing in their life, attempting to grow in strength against temptation. Other people pick up holy habits that they have let slide, devoting (or re-devoting) themselves to a more disciplined life of prayer and the study of the scriptures. Some people choose to “take something on” for Lent, rather than giving something up. Often they will engage in works of service to those whom Christ loved best: the widows, the orphans, the poor, and the stranger.

However you choose to observe a Holy Lent, I hope that you find the season to be a blessing. When we come at last to the end of it, and enter into the celebration of Holy Week, may the Lord find us suitably prepared to once again adore the mystery of His self-giving love upon the cross, and the glory of His resurrection.

Our Sympathy to...

The family of Debra Stone, who passed February 19th. A private graveside service was held. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.mackey-wrightfuneralhome.com

What's up with the...

Lectionary? I've gotten a couple of questions from folks about the multiple readings on Sunday mornings, and also detected some mistaken impressions that are floating around, so I thought that this month I would do a little explainer about the Lectionary.

A “lectionary” is the name for any listing of scripture readings assigned for worship on certain days or occasions. Christians and Jews have used various lectionaries over the years, beginning sometime in the 3rd century. When I refer to “The Lectionary” what I am talking about is the one that is currently in vogue: The Revised Common Lectionary - which is the product of a lengthy collaboration between representatives of the Anglican (Episcopal), Presbyterian, Lutheran, Methodist, and Roman Catholic churches in all of the English-speaking countries of the world. After it was published, there was a trial period of nine years, and then changes were made based on feedback from the churches. The result is what you hear each Sunday when you come to church.

Our current lectionary is structured on a three-year cycle of readings. This year we are reading from the gospel according to Mark. Next year we will read from Luke’s gospel, and in 2026 we will read from Matthew’s. Readings from the gospel according to John are sprinkled throughout the three years. Each Sunday (and non-Sunday holy days like Ash Wednesday and Good Friday) also has its “First Lesson.” The first lesson is almost always from the Old Testament. In Matthew’s year we read the biblical accounts of the Patriarchs (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph) and the story of the Exodus from Egypt. During Mark’s year we read through the story of King David and the other Kings of Israel. During Luke’s year we have readings from the books of the prophets. During the season of Eastertide we set aside the Old Testament and take our first lesson from the book of The Acts of the Apostles. After the first lesson, there is a Psalm which has been chosen for us as our congregational response to the good news we have just read. The second lesson is chosen from among the epistles in the New Testament. During Advent/Christmas/Epiphany season and during Lent/Easter/Pentecost, the second lesson is chosen to coordinate with the Gospel lesson. During the half of the year known as Ordinary Time, we just sort of “read our way” through the various letters.

In the United Methodist Church, preachers are not required to use the lectionary, and some prefer not to. I personally like it because it helps me to avoid the tendency to stick to my favorite parts of the Bible, and instead forces me to wrestle with the more difficult passages that I might otherwise avoid. Another advantage is that you can go out to breakfast or lunch on Sunday with friends who are Catholic, Lutheran, Presbyterian, or Episcopalian and compare notes on how your pastor has made hash out of that week’s scripture readings.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone for the warm greetings and Birthday wishes. I have celebrated another year of blessings and love from our Congregation. I am grateful to be a part of our MUMC.

Love, Ronn Davis.

Come and Help with Easter Breakfast

We will need a host of volunteers to help with our breakfast on Easter. Please lend a hand:

Setting up tables & chairs: Friday, March 29 at 1:00 p.m.

Prep cooking: Saturday, March 30 at 9:00 a.m.

Final cooking & serving: Sunday, March 31 at 7:30 a.m.

Clean up: Sunday, March 31 at 10:00 a.m.

Please let the Luscious Lunch Ladies (Chris Reetz or Gail Winterroth) know if you can help.

Midwest Mission Distribution Center

One of our very own is featured in the Midwest Distribution Center newsletter. Carolyn Kleven gives her story on why she volunteers. The feature is available at www.midwestmission.org, under What We Do→ News→ Feb 9 newsletter “What’s Your Why”; or check out the Welcome Center.

Baptism

February 25, Maddox David Shiley, born October 5, 2023
to Anne Celin C. Shiley and Patrick Eli Shiley, Urbana, IL

Audio/Visual Updates

Last Week was a busy week as we replaced the TVs in the sanctuary with a pair of 130 in screens and dual projectors. Additionally we replaced the TV in the back of the sanctuary with a 98 in tv screen for the choir and praise band to use. The two large TVs that were in the sanctuary were then mounted in the atrium to be used as digital signs and to stream Sunday morning services on/ Additionally we installed a new piano mic and wireless microphone system. Big thanks go to Kim Baker, Jim Holmes, Dave Shiley, Will Pontious, and Buz Sievers for their help getting everything installed. These updates were partially funded by the memorial gifts in honor of Russell Cloud and Carolyn Timmons.

March WA.T.C.H. Meals

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| Mar 6 | Ham and Beans, Fried Potatoes, Slaw, Corn Bread, Peach Crisp, Ice Cream |
| Mar 13 | No Meal – Spring Break |
| Mar 20 | Beef Stroganoff, Buttered Noodles, Buttered Corn, Rolls, Devil's Food Cake |
| Mar 27 | Baked Ham, Au Gratin Potatoes, Peas & Mushrooms, Rolls, Pineapple Upside Down Cake |

Family Ministry News

As I write this today, I can feel the warmth, sunshine, and life that spring brings! What a wonderful time of year. Here are our updates with our Family ministry.

- Our Sunday School classes have changed groupings a bit to better meet the needs of our students. Here is what we are offering currently,
 - **The Orchard**, Preschool-Kindergarten
 - **The Orchard**, 1st-3rd grade
 - **Once or twice a month, we will combine these two younger classes.**
 - **Orchard 4 to 8**, 4th-8th grade
 - **Coffee Connection** on the last week of the month for 8th-12th grade
- We will continue to take weekly missions offerings in our Sunday School classes.
- We will begin a NEW curriculum this month for our Preschool-4th graders, called Simply Loved by Group.
- We are also working on plans to expand and improve our outdoor play area. Any ideas are welcome!
- Our Vacation Bible School will be July 22nd-26th from 6:15-8:00pm. More info to come!

Youth Ministry News

March Youth Group Schedule:

March 3: Youth Group 5pm -7pm

March 10: No Youth Group - Spring Break

March 17: Youth Group 5pm-7pm

March 24: Youth Group 5pm-7pm

March 31: No Youth Group - Easter

April Newsletter Deadline

Thursday, March 21st

Meetings & Events...

Typical Weekly events:

T.O.P.S., Monday, 4 pm
Food Pantry, Tu & Th 1:30-3 pm
Boy Scouts, Monday, 7 pm (if school is in session)
Baby Moms - Mon & Thurs, 10 am Just Walking - Tu & Th, 8:30 am
W.A.T.Ch. Meals - Wed, 5 pm (coordinates with school schedule generally)
Choir, Bell Choir, New Day rehearsals -Wed, 6, 7, 8 pm respectively
Confirmation Class - Sunday 3:30-4:30
Youth Group - Sunday, 5-7 pm

Saturday March 2

Cub Scout Chili Supper Fundraiser, 4-7 pm

Sunday, Mar 3

White Elephant Bingo & Potluck, 4-6 pm

Monday, Mar 4

Girl Scouts, 6 pm; P.E.O. 6:15 pm

Monday, Mar 7

Finance Comm. Mtg, 6:30 pm

Monday, Mar 11

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

Wednesday, Mar 13

Trustees Mtg, 5:30 pm
NO W.A.T.Ch Meal

Thursday, Mar 14

Midwest Mission Distribution - All Day

Sunday, Mar 17

4H 2-4 pm

Tuesday, Mar 19

Church Council Mtg, 7 pm

Saturday, Mar 23

Easter Egg Hunt, 10 am

Sunday, March 24

Warren Taylor's 100th Bday
Openhouse, 1-3

Monday, Mar 25

Girl Scouts, 6 pm

Tuesday, March 26

Worship Comm. Mtg, 7 pm

Holy Week Services

Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24

8:30 & 10:45 services

Gather in the Atrium for the Procession with
Palm Branches

Proclamation of the Passion of Our Lord
Jesus Christ
Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday, March 28

7:00 p.m.

Service of Confession, Footwashing, &
Holy Communion

Good Friday, March 29

12:00 Noon

Service of the Seven Last Words of Christ

Easter Sunday, March 31

Breakfast at 8:30 a.m.
Combined worship service at 10:00 a.m.