



Monthly Newsletter

Nov 2025

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

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

From Pastor Anne:

Several of you have asked me about the big white candle next to the baptismal font, and the first Sunday in November, All Saints Day, is one of the occasions upon which we light it, so here is a little explainer. When I very first arrived here at MUMC, I did what I always do in a new church: I went through the closets & cupboards & storage rooms to see what I could see. One of the things that I found was the lovely purple leather-bound lectionary book that I read the gospel lesson out of every Sunday. What a find! It appears to be a legacy from the (now sadly closed) United Methodist Church in Deland. Another thing that I found was a big white candle. It was stored in a metal shelving unit along with a large number of other candles and various other worship accouterments, but it caught my eye right away because you don't often see this particular kind of candle in a United Methodist church. Usually it's only our Roman Catholic, Episcopalian, and Lutheran brothers & sisters who have them

This particular kind of big, white candle is called a Paschal Candle, and it is meant to call our attention to the fact that all of us have been united to the death & resurrection of Christ by virtue of our baptism. We light it on Easter Morning to signify the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. It will burn through all the 50 days of Easter right up until the festival of Pentecost. We also light it every time we baptize someone, for every funeral that we hold in the church, and on All Saint's Day. None of the standard issue liturgical books says to light it on the festival of The Baptism of the Lord (first Sunday after Epiphany) but I do anyway because I think it's appropriate and the books don't know everything. The candle that I found in the metal cupboard isn't the one that currently stands at the front of the Sanctuary, by the way. Our current Paschal Candle was purchased in memory of several members of our congregation in 2023.

Church Directory

It's almost time to Say Cheese! Church directory pictures are coming up on November 6th thru 8th. Please be sure to sign up at <http://www.ucdir.com> or call the church office. Our user name is il449 and the password is photos.

Fun & Fellowship News

We just finished another successful tent or treat! We enjoyed having multiple families come through and we saw a lot of smiling faces! Thank you to all of you that helped make this event a success!



As we near the end of 2025 we'll be enjoying Hanging of the Greens and a Fifth Sunday luncheon on November 30th! Plan to join us for a soup and salad and Christmas cheer as we start the Advent season. You don't have to decorate to enjoy good fellowship!

We are also planning a group trip to Millikin Vespers on Sunday December 7th at 2:30. Tickets will be purchased soon so please be sure to let Kelly know if you are interested in tickets!

Music Ministry

Join us as we celebrate the season with our annual *Sounds of Christmas* concert on **Sunday, December 14 at 3:00 PM** in the sanctuary. This joyful afternoon of music will feature performances by our **Sanctuary Choir, Handbell Choir, Those Guys**, and our **Children's Choir**—all sharing the message of Christ's birth through song.

Following the concert, everyone is invited to stay for a **free fellowship dinner**. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather as a church family, share a meal, and continue the spirit of the season together.

We are also still accepting **hymn requests** to be featured in upcoming worship services. If you have a favorite hymn that holds special meaning for you, please share it with us!

Come and be part of this heartwarming celebration of faith, music, and community. We look forward to seeing you there!

Family Ministry News

This year our Sunday School classes will be performing their Christmas program December 21 during the 8:30 service. We will begin practicing during Sunday school starting November 9th.

Outreach News

Giving Trees

The Outreach Committee has chosen the recipients of our 2025 Giving Tree Missions. We will collect for "K9s for Warriors" and "Hope on 5th", Lincoln, IL.

- *"K9s For Warriors is the nation's largest Veteran service organization focused on providing highly trained Service Dogs to Warriors with invisible wounds of war. Our program is focused on mitigating the debilitating symptoms of service-connected traumas. We validate our methods through tireless research and make breakthroughs every day. Successfully guiding a Veteran through the K9s For Warriors program and providing them with a Service Dog doesn't just change the Warrior's life. It saves it."*

The majority of our K9s are rescues, giving them a second chance and new purpose to serve a Veteran in need. Each pair who graduates from our program represents two lives saved – the Service Dog and the Warrior".

- *"Hope on 5th promotes community services and provides shelter to central Illinois veterans, homeless and those at risk of homelessness through offering services and housing on an emergency, temporary, transitional, and permanent basis".*

Look for the trees in the Atrium beginning the first week in November.



Stewardship News

Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully, and Lead Courageously are our new guiding words as we move into 2026. Our campaign is currently under way and 2026 and each week we are learning more about what these words mean to various areas of the church. Estimated giving cards will soon be available and consecration Sunday will be on Sunday November 23rd! We are looking forward to where we are headed in 2026!

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, 5-7:15 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)

Sunday, November 2

All Saints Sunday

4H, 3-4:30 pm

Monday, November 10

Outreach Comm. Mtg, 9 am

Fun & Fellowship Mtg., 6:30 pm

Wednesday, November 12

Trustees Mtg, 5:30 pm

Monday, November 17

P.E.O., 6:15 pm

Sunday, November 23

Consecration Sunday

Sunday, November 30

5th Sunday- Combined Worship

with meal and Hanging of the Greens to follow