



Monthly Newsletter

Oct 2025

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 October is one of those lesser known “special days” in the church: Worldwide Communion Sunday. Unlike some of our more festal celebrations, Worldwide Communion Sunday is relatively young. It was first invented in 1933 by the Stewardship Committee at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh as a means of celebrating the essential unity of all Christians and emphasizing the need for all of us to work together to build a better world. From one congregation in Pittsburgh it spread first to the rest of the Presbyterian church, and then to other denominations until, in 1940, it was endorsed by the National Council of Churches.

Like many aspects of our faith, it has a little bit of strangeness to it, perhaps the strangest being that for well over $\frac{3}{4}$ of Christians *every Sunday* is worldwide communion Sunday. The vast majority of Christians celebrate Holy Communion at each and every worship service. It’s only a very few of us who do not. It is fascinating, though, to think about the incredible variety of *ways* in which all of our brothers and sisters around the world celebrate this holy meal. About half of us are *required* to use unleavened bread, and about a fourth of us are *forbidden* to use unleavened bread. The other 25% couldn’t care less. Some insist that (as our *Book of Discipline* used to say) “the pure, unfermented juice of the grape be used. For others only real wine will do. One denomination that I know of uses water instead. In some churches everybody drinks out of the same cup. In others people dip their bread into the cup. In still others the clergy crumble the bread into the wine and then toss a bit of the resultant mush into people’s mouths using a tiny golden spoon.

It’s a marvelous illustration of an essential reality of the Christian faith. There are many things that divide us and make us distinct from one another, but *at the same time* there is an underlying bedrock of unity that makes us one with each other.

Welcome...

Kristen Kelley, our new part-time custodian! You may know Kristen from attendance at late service. She joined our staff September 1st and is already doing a great job!

Help Wanted

The search for a new Nursery Supervisor continues! We have been advertising the position on the various online hiring portals at surrounding colleges and universities, and are looking forward to interviewing at least one candidate in the near future. As soon as we have hired somebody, we will develop a rotating volunteer system for the required second adult. Applicants must be 18 or over and be available to work Sunday mornings (approx. 3.5 hours) and Wednesday evenings (approx. 2.5-3 hours). Applications are at the Welcome Center or apply online at www.monticelloumc.com/apply

Fun & Fellowship News

I cannot believe we are entering the last few months of 2025. With that being said, Halloween is just around the corner and our annual Tent or Treat is on Sunday October 26th from 3:00 to 4:30 PM. An event like this takes help from our congregation and in addition to sharing the event and inviting others, there are 3 ways you can help us!



****Donate peanut free candy to the church by October 20th**

****Host a booth at the tent or treat event!**

****Volunteer to help the day of! We need help in various places throughout the event.**

After Halloween, we'll focus on the holidays! Mark your calendar for Sunday November 30th! It's a 5th Sunday with a combined service, lunch to follow, then ending with Hanging of the Greens! In addition to that keep your eye open for other small events in November and December! There are also still open Sundays for Fellowship snacks in November and December. Volunteers are much appreciated!

Church Directory

Say Cheese! Our directory sign ups are underway with Universal Church Directory. Picture appointments are available Thursday November 6th through 8th. You can sign up for a picture slot at the website below or you can call the church office to schedule. There's a list of frequently asked questions available at the church or you can always ask Kelly or Carol and we'll be happy to help!

To book your pictures go to <http://www.ucdir.com> or call the office to have Carol sign you up.

User name: il449 Password: photos

Music Ministry

From the earliest days of the Methodist movement, hymn singing has been at the heart of our worship. John and Charles Wesley understood the power of music to teach, to inspire, and to bring people closer to God. Charles Wesley alone wrote more than 6,000 hymns, many of which we still sing today—"O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing," "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling," and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," to name just a few.

For Methodists, hymns were never just "songs." They were sermons in verse—words meant to be carried from the sanctuary into everyday life. In the days when many people couldn't read or didn't own books, hymns became a way to learn and remember the truths of scripture. Singing together also created a deep sense of unity and shared faith among the worshipping community, something that still rings true when we lift our voices as a congregation.

Over time, the Methodist hymnal has grown and evolved, reflecting new generations of faith while still preserving the treasures of the past. Whether it's the soaring language of the Wesleys, the beloved classics of Fanny Crosby, or more contemporary expressions of praise, hymn singing continues to remind us that God is both timeless and present in every age.

In an effort to celebrate this rich tradition, I'd love to hear from you. What is your favorite hymn, and why? Is there a hymn that has carried you through a difficult time, or one that brings back a cherished memory?

Please share your favorites with me and I'll make an effort to use some of your suggestions in an upcoming service. Write your favorite hymns on a scrap of paper and give them to me after worship. Email (music@monticelloumc.com) or text (217-621-5838) them to me. Drop your suggestions off in the Church Office. Let's celebrate the way God uses music to speak to each of us.

"Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth." —Psalm 96:1

Stewardship News

We are kicking off our 2026 Stewardship Campaign with an important question! What does Love Boldly, Serve Joyfully and Lead Courageously mean to you?

We feel those 3 things are extremely important to our church and congregation. It's a part of who we are in our community. Over the coming weeks you will hear messages from different leaders in our congregation and how we fulfill this vision statement. We have a lot to pack in the next couple months and can't wait for you to be a part of it all!

Family Ministry News



There are exciting new things afoot in the Sunday School! First of all, there is Sunday School! Our fall semester began the Sunday after Labor Day and the children are back to learning their Bible stories. Second, the new Playground is finally built. We can't play on it quite yet, because S&K has to come and see to the fencing and pour a bunch of chip on the ground in case anybody falls off, but soon, very soon. Also there are some great new toys in the kids area: big building blocks and scooters and all sorts. Come, join us on Sunday mornings and have fun learning about God's love.

Youth Ministry

Although we are only in October, our 2026 mission trip location has been announced. We will be serving in Charleston, South Carolina in June of 2026.

Also, this past month our youth group helped out the Piatt County Ecumenical Food Pantry by having a food pantry scavenger hunt. Our group split up into teams and went out of town to different church members' houses to collect food for the food pantry. Thank you to all who donated to make a difference in the community!

Food Pantry News

Thank you Church Family for all the donations to the Youth Scavenger hunt! We are continuing to see a rise in the number of new families so the extra stock is much appreciated.



The pantry also benefited from the Rick Ridings “Fill a Ford” food drive in September. This was a fun event with the truckload of food delivered September 25th. Thank You Rick Ridings!



Lastly, we hope to once again benefit from the Scouting for Food drive on October 18th.

Thank you for continuing to support the pantry!

Meetings & Events

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, Oct 5

Charge Conference

Monday Oct 6

Agency Lunch- noon

P.E.O. 6:15 pm

Wednesday, Oct 8

Stewardship Mtg, 8 pm

Thursday, Oct 9

ZOOM Finance Mtg, 7 pm

Saturday, Oct 18

Scouting for Food

Monday, Oct 20

Mat Weaving, 9 am

P.E.O. 6:15 pm

Fun & Fellowship, 6:30 pm

Oct 20- Oct 23

Pastor Anne out for Retreat

Saturday, Oct 25

P.E.O. Work Day

Sunday, Oct 26

Tent or Treat, 3 pm