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# Monticello

## United Methodist Church

May 2024

### Monticello United Methodist Church

200 South Main Street  
Monticello, IN 47960

(574) 583-5545

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#### Savannah Miller

Nursery Coordinator

### FRIENDSHIP CONNECTION END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION

Friendship Connection will conclude for the year on Sunday, May 5, and for this year's celebration, EVERY ONE is invited! This Church Picnic event will take place outside, weather permitting. Be sure to bring something to sit on. Bring a dish to share, as well. The main dish will be provided. There will be games also so if you are willing to help out, please contact Miki Seymour at (574)870-0561. Don't miss this fun family event and be sure to bring a friend!

## FRIENDSHIP CONNECTION

## OLD FASHIONED Church Picnic

SUNDAY, MAY 5TH  
5:00-6:30

SACK RACE

REVERSE CHARADES

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

BRING A CHAIR OR A BLANKET TO SIT ON

WE WILL PROVIDE THE MAIN DISH  
PLEASE BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH TO SHARE



LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING AHEAD

It is hard to believe that about 10 years have passed since we embraced a process called Fruitful Congregation’s Journey. As part of this journey, we sought to catch a vision for where God was leading us as a congregation. We started by embracing the mission statement of the United Methodist Church which is “To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” We also embraced a vision statement for our congregation which says, “Our vision is to create welcoming environments where all can connect to God, grow in Christ, and love one another.” As our mission and vision are before us, we don’t always do it perfectly, but those are the goals we strive to accomplish.

As we sought to live out our mission and vision, we had goals of doing the following things. 1) Provide ministry to and with all people in a multigenerational and diverse community. 2) Train and encourage people to reach out with invitational hospitality. 3) Practice relevant, inspiring worship. 4) Provide paths for people to grow and mature as disciples of Jesus Christ. Because of the goals we changed our Sunday morning schedule and created two distinctively different services. I believe it can be helpful to look back at the journey we have taken, but we also must always look forward and seek to find ways to show invitational hospitality and welcome others to take a journey of faith.

Another part of our Fruitful Congregation’s Journey was to develop a Master Plan for our campus. Many of you will remember a time not so long ago when the church was landlocked with only 17 parking places on our property. We developed a Master Plan that included about 20 different stages or projects. Those stages and projects ranged from the building of our new addition to replacing gutters on the building. And the price tag on those projects ranged from \$2,000 to \$2,000,000. In recent weeks some of the committees of the church have looked back on the Master Plan. I was amazed to realize that we have completed 12 of those 20 stages or projects. The trustees have addressed some of the smaller projects as needs have arisen in caring for the facilities.

At this point we are seeking to pay off the Master Plan loan before we take on the next major priority of the Master Plan. In the next few weeks we will be able to announce that the Master Plan Loan is less than a half million dollars. Some of the projects that are yet to be accomplished on the Master Plan include renovation and remodeling of the church basement, upgrading our heating and cooling system in the old part of the building, upgrading our electrical panels in the old part of the building and installing a back-up generator.

I believe the online campus became a reality because of our vision to do whatever we could to help others connect with God, grow in Christ and love one another.

We are currently walking through a transition of leadership as we implement the succession plan. I believe this succession plan of leadership is going to allow the mission and vision of the Monticello United Methodist Church to continue uninterrupted. We undoubtedly will do some things differently and will do new things in the future, but our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world will continue.

Yours in Christ,  
*Pasta Bua*

INFORMATIONAL MEETING ABOUT GENERAL CONFERENCE-MAY 19, 2024

General Conference is a meeting of United Methodist’s from around the world that normally meets every four years. The General Conference is the only group that can officially speak for the United Methodist Church. At the time of publication, the General Conference is actually meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina from April 23 to May 3, 2024. On Sunday, May 19, at 3:00 in the afternoon, there will be meeting in the parlor to try and help us understand the actions of General Conference and the implications for our local church. Anyone interested in knowing more about the decisions of General Conference are invited to attend.

RECENT 648 AND REVOLUTION HIGHLIGHTS:

In April, we covered some “crazy stories of the Bible!” We dove into different reasons why some of these stories might be in the Bible, and found things we could still take away from it. We covered stories such as the tent stake murder in Judges 4, Balak and Balaam and the talking donkey in Numbers 22, and the story of Elisha and the bears in 2 Kings 2. Covering stories like this can help us understand easier passages, as well as find the Bible more interesting!

We’re also excited to welcome back Luke this month! We can’t wait to hear about his experience and see what new ideas he has been able to bring back to Monticello!

UPCOMING IN 648 AND REVOLUTION:

June 2nd is our 648 Reunion night! If you or someone you know has been a member of 648, we would love to see you back here at the church at 6:48pm on June 2nd. We will have games, worship, and a short message! We hope to see you there!

In May, we won’t have youth groups on Mother’s Day or Memorial Day, but we will have youth groups on May 5th, and May 19th! We will have our invitation only senior banquet on May 19th, and conclude our crazy Bible stories series on May 5th!

CAMP NEWS:

We currently have 27 students signed up for camp this summer! Camp is a great way to further your connection with God and the community He has provided for you. We want to continue to grow this group; it is not too late to sign up! There are still spots left for both Middle and High School students. Middle School camp will be June 9th-14th, and High school camp will be June 23rd-28th. Please reach out to Ella Miller ([emiller@monticelloumchurch.org](mailto:emiller@monticelloumchurch.org)) or Luke Deno ([ldeno@monticelloumchurch.org](mailto:ldeno@monticelloumchurch.org)) for details and for the church discount code! If you need extra financial support in order to get to camp please, reach out as well.







Our annual UMCOR Family Event was a huge success. We had a goal to pack 450 Hygiene Kits and we packed 511. The packing team was smaller than usual but they worked hard and got the job done.

Our Community Easter Egg Hunt was a success again this year. We had perfect weather for the day and more than 6,000 eggs were hidden outside the church in various areas. While that sounds like a lot, the very excited group of children had them all spoken for in under 10 minutes. We had a little over 140 children in attendance. Thank you to all who were involved from filling the eggs to helping with the event, it was all very much appreciated.

**ADVENTURES IN FAITH**

It's been an exciting month for our kiddos. Our theme for March was "Glow in the Dark". This turned out to be a favorite for the kids. Next month's theme is "Throwback". Our Good Friday Service at the Monticello Christian Church was well attended. We are grateful they allowed us to provide this children's service for them. Marcia Brooks has a passion for teaching kids about Holy Week and she planned a very exciting evening. The kids learned about Good Friday through bible verse readings then were able to make a beautiful cross.

**FRIENDSHIP CONNECTION**

Our end of the year party for Friendship Connection will be held on May 5 at the regular time of 5-6:30pm. Please join me in praying for good weather as we are planning to have an old fashioned church picnic. We have some fun family events planned. I will need some adult helpers so if you love watching excited children run around and get a little crazy, please contact Miki Seymour and she will get you signed up. MUMC kids will be providing the meat for the event but we are asking families to bring in their favorite church carry-in dish to share. We are looking forward to some good old fashioned family fun. You do not have to attend Friendship Connection to join us!

Kidmin volunteers are needed for Friendship Connection. A fun and easy to use curriculum is provided for you. If you are a youth interested in helping out, we would love to include you. We would love to have you come in and observe a lesson if you would like to check it out before making a commitment. Adventures in Faith volunteers serve on average every other month. Friendship Connection follows the school calendar. We currently only have one volunteer teacher for 2nd-3rd grade. If you are interested in Children's Ministry in any way please contact Miki Seymour.

**CALENDAR**

May 5 - End of the year Celebration for Friendship Connection 5-6:30pm.

**SWORD DRILLS**

Sword Drills will be Sunday, May 26, during the 11:00am Adventures in Faith. This is for 2nd through 5th graders and is a fun, fast way of learning the books of the Bible. Helpers will be available. Don't forget your Bibles!



**MUMC ONLINE**

In April, we had someone start a relationship with Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior ONLINE! Think about that. A person who does not live in Monticello joined us online for one of our services, was convicted by the Holy Spirit, and decided to make a life changing decision. All because we as a church have committed to proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ online to the world. That gives me chills! God is moving online, and we are a part of that movement.

As we look towards the summer, I (Pastor Justin) am looking at doing an Online In-Depth Bible Study on the Book of Hebrews. We are discussing this on MUMC Online, but if this is something that interest you and you are not on Facebook please email me at [jcason@monticelloumchurch.org](mailto:jcason@monticelloumchurch.org) or reach out to the church office to get signed up. We will be on Zoom and will walk slowly and deeply through one of the most exciting books of Scripture. Hope to see you there!

**SOUP FOR THE SOUL**

We have made some changes to Soup for the Soul to better love our community and to make everyone feel more welcome into our space. To that end, we will now be having tablecloths on the tables and place settings, along with real plates and silverware. We hope that by putting out the good stuff we can be more hospitable to our community and to facilitate more relationships. This is a big change for us, and we hope it shows our community that we love them enough to give our best. We would love it if you would come and enjoy a meal with us, so we can sit around tables together and discuss our worlds.



# Celebrations

Two very special MUMC individuals are celebrating milestone birthdays this month! Help them celebrate by showering them with cards!

**Keith McCloud turns 94 on May 7.**  
(814 S 6th St; Monticello IN 47960)

**Beverly Chrisop turns 90 on May 13.**  
(711 W Marion; Monticello IN 47960)



WAYS TO GIVE

The ministries of the church are supported by the faithful generosity of those who give. Did you know that over 35% of our giving comes from those who give electronically? It is simple and easy, all you have to do is go to church website, MonticelloUMChurch.org and click on the Give button in the upper right hand corner of the page or you can use the QR code to the right. You will set up a user profile, just like you do on any other internet account. You can give one-time or you can set up a recurring transaction. You can give by making a transfer from a bank account or your can use a credit card. If you use a credit card there is a 4% service fee that you can choose to help with, if you choose to do so. Other ways to give include the offering box located outside the sanctuary or Connection Court. We also receive a large percentage of our giving through the mail at P.O. Box 87. We are also able to receive stock transfers Please contact the church office for more information about the details of making a transfer.



RED ROSE SUNDAY

Red Rose Sunday will be May 19, and is a time where we celebrate our graduates from high school and college in our worship services. Students who attend the services that Sunday will be acknowledged and given a gift from the church for their accomplishments. If you have a graduating student, we need the following information: Name, School, Degree (if in college), and Future Plans.

Please have this information in to the Church Office no later than Monday, May 13.



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, April 28 we received four new members to our church:  
Karen Aldrich  
Evan Kyburz  
John Schlink  
Dave Surber  
They have all been involved in our congregation for some time, but please welcome them as new members of our congregation.

MISSIONS FOCUS FOR MAY: PAY OFF TWIN LAKES STUDENT LUNCH DEBT

Twin Lakes School Corp. has a Care Fund to help pay off Student Lunch Debt. At this time, there is nearly \$2,000 total in unpaid lunch fees.

Jen Craig, Director of Food Services, feels for families who have accrued lunch debt. "It's a sad situation," she said. "Families hit a rough patch and their kids have to charge their lunches. Over time, the amount keeps growing, and pretty soon it just becomes overwhelming for them."



As the year draws to a close and parents are being asked to settle their accounts, please consider donating to the Care Fund to erase Student Lunch Debt. It would be fantastic if we could wipe out the current amount entirely! Think of what a blessing that would be to those families to be able to start next year with a clean slate!

Mark your donations "School Lunch Debt."





## LUNCH BUNCH

Lunch Bunch is for any and all women in the church (and their friends)! We will meet on Wednesday, May 1, at noon at USA in their back room. Come for a Dutch-treat meal, a brief devotional, fellowship and laughter! No reservations needed - just come! Call Bootsie (574-581-0859) for any questions or if you need a ride. We will begin taking reservations for Lunch Bunch on June 5 at the Wolcott Cafe at 11:30am. This Lunch Bunch is by reservation only.

## CHURCH PLANTING WORKDAY

Weather permitting, we will have a church workday on Monday, May 27 starting at 9 am. We will plant begonias in the pots around the church, mulch, and do other grounds work needing done around the property of our church. If you are available to help with this very important project please call or text Mary Ann Novack at (765) 586-1127. Any amount of time would be greatly appreciated.

## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

Sunday, May 5, 2024 will be confirmation Sunday when we recognize those who have completed our most recent Confirmation Class. We had one of our largest Confirmation Classes with 15 participants. The class has been meeting twice a month since November, which has included in-person classes as well as field trips. These confirmands will be recognized and will participate in each of the morning services on May 5. Please show your encouragement and support to these students as they continue their journey of faith.

Members of the class include:

Jackson Dexter  
Addie Govert  
George Govert  
Adam Haselby  
Jace Haselby

Kolton Kilmer  
Ellis Losiewicz  
Fiona O'Keefe  
Riley Powers  
Reese Provo

Austin Rubio  
Brodie Swygman  
Chewie Walters  
Carlee Westerhouse  
Katy Westerhouse

## MEMORIAL FLOWERS

Once again this year we will be planting Red Whopper Begonias in the Memorial Garden. This beautiful plant requires very little maintenance and flowers all summer. If you would like to order begonias in memory of a loved one(s) please fill out the order form below and mail it to, or turn it in to, the church office by May 19. Cost for these Begonias is \$5.00 each.

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ begonia(s) for Memorial Sunday to be planted later in the Memorial Garden.

In Memory of:

\_\_\_\_\_

Given By:

\_\_\_\_\_

**ORDERS ARE DUE, WITH PAYMENT, TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY MONDAY, MAY 19.**



REGULAR SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE  
8:30 Adult Sunday School  
9:30 The Classic Worship Service  
9:30 Adventures in Faith (Children)  
11:00 The Current Worship Service  
11:00 Adventures in Faith (Children)

# May 2024

Narcotics Anonymous  
M—7:00 PM Room 201

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 12pm– Lunch Bunch 5:30pm– Fitness Class 7pm– Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7pm– The Couch	2 6:30pm– Grace Notes Rehearsal	3 6:30am– Men’s Emmaus	4
5 REG SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES 5pm– Friendship Connection End-of-Year Picnic 5pm- Revolution 648– 648	6 5:30pm– Fitness Class	7	8 5:30pm– Fitness Class 7pm– Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7pm– The Couch	9 11am– MMW Meeting 6:30pm– Grace Notes Rehearsal	10 6:30am– Men’s Emmaus	11
12 REG SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES	13 5:30pm– Fitness Class	14 4:30pm– Soup for the Soul	15 5:30pm– Fitness Class 7pm– Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7pm– The Couch	16 6:30pm– Grace Notes Rehearsal	17 6:30am– Men’s Emmaus	18
19 REG SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES 5pm- Revolution 648– 648	20 5:30pm– Fitness Class 7pm– SPRC Meeting	21 6:30pm– Trustees Meeting	22 5:30pm– Fitness Class 7pm– Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7pm– The Couch	23	24 6:30am– Men's Emmaus	25
26 8:30am– Drive-In Service REG SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES 11am– Sword Drills	27 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	28 4:30pm– Soup for the Soul	29 5:30pm– Fitness Class 7pm– Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7pm– The Couch	30	31 6:30am– Men’s Emmaus	