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Monticello

United Methodist Church

March 2024

Monticello United Methodist Church

200 South Main Street
Monticello, IN 47960

(574) 583-5545

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HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, March 24, begins Holy Week, the week leading up to Easter. On Sunday morning at each of the services we will have a Palm processional with children waving palm branches as we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on that first Palm Sunday.

Maundy Thursday-Seder Meal will be held in Connection Court on Thursday, March 28, beginning at 6:00 PM. On this evening we will have a meal similar to the Passover meal that Jesus would have shared with His disciples in the Upper Room. There will be a full meal that will be served about half-way through the evening. This is a great way to learn more about Jesus' Last Supper with His disciples and to remember how God has worked in the lives of His people.

Community Good Friday Service will be hosted by the Monticello Christian Church on Friday, March 29 beginning at 7:00 PM. The church is located at 105 Gordon Road.

Easter Sunday Services will be held in the Sanctuary at 9:30 AM and in Connection Court at 11:00 AM on Sunday, March 31. Make this Easter worship service a priority for your family and invite a friend to come with you to hear the message about Jesus.

TENDING TO YOUR SPIRITUAL FIRE

We are currently in a season of the church year called Lent. Lent is a time of spiritual self-examination. It is a time of intentional investment in our spiritual lives. Traditionally people have been asked to give up something for Lent or maybe to approach a spiritual practice in a different way. The purpose of giving something up or taking on a new spiritual discipline is for the sake of growing in our walk with Jesus.

Most of our lives are filled with little or no margin. When we have margins in our lives, we have the capacity to deal with the unexpected. When we have some margin in our budgets we can be prepared for an emergency or to do something extra. When we have some margin in our lives, we have time to experience something new that might cause us to be stretched or to grow. When we have no margin in our lives, the unexpected can cause a crisis. I have seen many people living their lives from crisis to crisis because they have no room or reserve to deal with the unexpected.

When it comes to our spiritual lives, we want to do things fast. We want fast food religion or drive-thru religion. Maybe it is reading a devotional or reading the Bible or praying as quickly as we can. I often listen to audio books or listen to the Bible being read. In the past I have often increased the speed of the reading to 1.5X so I could finish faster, but what I have found is that when I listen at a slower speed, I comprehend more, I reflect more, I am impacted in a different way than when I am just trying to finish quickly.

In Leviticus 6:8-9, God instructed Moses that when the priests brought a burnt offering to the altar of the Lord, they should leave it on the hearth throughout the night and they must keep the fire under the altar burning throughout the night. The priests could not simply make a sacrifice to the Lord and be done with it. When they offered a sacrifice to the Lord, they had to tend the fire under that sacrifice all night. They had to pay attention to the fire, they had to stoke the fire, they couldn't just ignore the fire.

Recently I have been challenged by the thought, "How am I tending the spiritual fire in my life?" It is so easy to go through the motions. It is expedient to check a spiritual practice off my daily list, but how am I tending the spiritual fire in my life? In order to keep the fire burning, I can't just check it once a week or when it is convenient. It is a daily thing, it is an hourly thing, it is something I need to nurture moment by moment. It requires my attention, it requires intentionality and it requires investment.

Lent is a time when we seek to pay attention to our spiritual lives and to attend to our spiritual fire.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Brad



RECENT 648 AND REVOLUTION HIGH-LIGHTS:

Our focus during the month of February was ways to worship and bring worship into your day to day lives. We discussed ways to read the Bible, listen to music, and how to walk with Jesus and worshipful mindsets throughout your day.

Winter Jam was a blast! We listened to Lecrae, Crowder, Cain, and others! The following week was the Superb-Owl party. Snacks, a bit of foot-ball, spikeball tournament, and a round of advertisement Bingo happened throughout the night!

The 648 winter retreat was a lot of fun! We went to the Branches church service in the morning, followed by a good lunch at Cracker Barrel. We spent some time at Adrenaline Park in Fishers, then went to IKEA for a scavenger hunt, looking for miniature Jesus figurines throughout the store. Afterwards, they headed to Top Golf for dinner and rounds of game-play.

MARCH REVOLUTION & 648 NEWS:

Revolution will be discussing "I AM" during the month of March! We will be talking about different attributes of who Jesus is and what the means for us during this Lenten/Easter season.

648 will be focusing on the Exodus to the Resurrection. There will be discussion on what Passover celebrates, and what brought Jesus back to Jerusalem for the crucifixion. We will be watching *The Passion of the Christ* on March 24th to conclude this series!

There will be no Revolution or 648 on Easter Sunday!

CAMP NEWS:

If you missed the Camp Sign-Up date, it's not too late to go!! 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) 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.



ADVENTURES IN FAITH

Our theme in March is "Glow in the Dark". In the dark, a world of neon colors comes to life. When the world needed some light, God sent Jesus because He glows in the dark, and He can teach us how to shine with God’s light, too! In this five-week series through the Gospels, we’ll follow Jesus’ life leading up to Easter to see some of the ways He can shine bright in our lives. As we explore, we’ll see Jesus is the light in the darkness. We’ll also learn how we can choose Jesus and know God hears our cries while celebrating how Jesus died and rose again!

FRIENDSHIP CONNECTION

Our Family Bowling Event in January was a huge success. We had a huge turnout with a total of 83 bowlers. It was a fantastic time filled with family fun, friendly competition, and great fellowship. This is one of our favorite family events.

Our Friendship Connection classes are gearing up for our UMCOR Family Event. We have begun collecting items to pack in Hygiene Kits that will be shipped out for UMCOR to distribute to those affected by natural or civil disasters. We hope to see all families with school age children at our UMCOR event on March 10. For this event we will be meeting in Fellowship Hall during normal Friendship Connection times, beginning at 5pm. Dinner will be provided and then MUMC children and their families will begin packing Hygiene Kits from the items you have donated. It is always a wonderful thing to see our families working together to help others. If you would like to be a part of this Mission Project, we will be collecting items until March 3. Donating money to help cover shipping costs is always a great way to help!

On March 10 we will begin collecting eggs and candy for our Easter Egg Hunt planned for March 30. You may donate candy for us to fill the eggs, or take eggs home and fill them yourself. Please use only pre-wrapped candy and no toys. The hunt begins at 1pm. Volunteers are needed to help hide the eggs and lead the children outside for the event. Please contact Miki Seymour at (574)870-0561 for more information.

Friendship Connection Calendar for March

March 3 – Friendship Connection 5-6:30

March 10 - UMCOR FAMILY EVENT

March 17 - Friendship Connection 5-6:30

March 24 - NO FRIENDSHIP CONNECTION Enjoy your Spring Break!!

March 30 - Easter Egg Hunt

March 31 - NO FRIENDSHIP CONNECTION – EASTER SUNDAY

HELP NEEDED

If you have ever considered joining our children's ministry team, now is your chance. Children's Ministry could use more volunteers. There are many ways you can volunteer. If you love to cook, you could provide a light meal for our children on Sunday evenings. If you love to snuggle babies you could volunteer in our nursery. Volunteers are needed for both services. We can always use more teachers for our classrooms. The curriculum is very detailed and there is little planning time needed. You do not need a teaching background, only a love for Jesus and children. We would love for you to come shadow a teacher if you are interested. Please reach out to Miki at (574)870-0561 or one of the other teachers with any questions.

SWORD DRILLS

Sword Drills will be Sunday, March 24 at 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

MUMC Online is having an amazing start to the New Year! In January and February, we averaged over 375 worshippers between The Classic, The Current, and The Couch WEEKLY! That number is astounding, but it’s true! Behind those camera lenses, we have an entire congregation of people who are experience the love and grace of Jesus Christ online! God is moving through our online ministry, and you are a major part of what God is doing there. But wait, there’s more! We have now started to post our sermon clips on TikTok and YouTube Shorts! So if you use TikTok, make sure you follow us and give us a heart!

I know that for many people this is not a space that they frequent, but in a world that is in such desperate need of hope, we have an obligation to share the message of Jesus Christ with the world. By your support of MUMC Online, (sharing, commenting, liking, talking to friends about it, inviting family) we are actively making new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world! So if you have social media, do your part by sharing and commenting. Not your thing? Then pray for those who are experiencing the love of Christ through our congregation’s online presence.

Also, as we move toward Easter, we know a lot of people will be looking online for what church they may want to visit during this season. Please share our Easter events on Facebook, mark that you are going, and invite others to join you in person or online! A personal invitation is still, with all of this technology that God has blessed us with, the most effective way that a person decides to go to a church for the first time.

ALL IN FOR MUMC

Thank you to everyone who made a commitment to the All In for MUMC stewardship campaign! Based on the families and individuals that turned in pledges, we are seeing some big trends! Of those who designated funds for the General Budget we see a 3% increase over what those same people gave last year. Regarding the Capital Campaign, those who made pledges this year are giving 27% more than they did last year, with several households making commitments that did not contribute toward the capital campaign in 2023. With the Online Campus pledges, we have seen an increase of 66% over what that same group gave last year! How exciting!

Now, this does not mean that everything is fully funded, and we know that there are many people who were unable to turn in a pledge. This will be something we are working towards all year, and it is not too late for you to be All In for MUMC! You can still turn in pledges in the church office or at this link: <http://tinyurl.com/MUMCAIIn>

If you have any questions, please see Pastor Brian or Pastor Justin.

SPRING MEMBERSHIP CLASS

Our Spring Membership Class will begin on March 3 and meet on Sunday afternoons at 3pm in the Parlor. This is a 6-week class (skipping Easter) that will talk about the church, our faith as Methodists, and what membership is in our context. Childcare will be provided, but does need to be arranged. Please reach out to Pastor Justin or Pastor Brian to sign up or if you have any questions!

LENTEN OFFERING

Our Lenten Offering will be designated for Camp Scholarships once again this year. We have found that summer camp is one of the most significant ways to invest in the spiritual well-being of our youth and children. Our goal is to provide a \$200 scholarship for five-day camps or up to 50% of the cost of shorter camps for each child or youth connected with our church to attend. If greater scholarship assistance is needed we will find a way to get them to camp if they want to go.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Don’t forget to set your clocks an hour ahead before you go to bed on Saturday, March 9!



NEWS FROM THE METHODIST WOMEN
At our March 14 meeting, we will be filling Easter Eggs. Remember to bring lots of small individually wrapped candy. In 2023 we filled over 2300 eggs; let's beat that this year!

SPRING RUMMAGE SALE
The rummage sale is April 12 & 13. Set-up dates are Wednesday, April 10 and Thursday, April 11. We will be looking for nice and clean housewares, pots, pans, bedding, towels, decorations, dishes and outdoor décor, tools, planters, and yard tools. NO TVs, computers, or winter clothing. Contact Peggy at (574)297-4079 with any questions.

SPRING FUNDRAISERS
The Spring Coin Toss for the Capital Campaign will be Sunday, March 17. Please bring in your spare change on that day and we will throw it in the big bucket. All that change that seems so little adds up to a lot. Keep collecting that change because a quarter a day helps the debt go away.

Gift Cards will be available to order in April and will be ready for pickup by Mother's Day. Watch for more information and an order form in the April newsletter.

IN REMEMBRANCE
Katie Krintz died on January 2, 2024.

Peggy Vultaggio died on February 15, 2024.

THE GARDEN DAYCARE AND PRESCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS
Thank you to the congregation for their support of the Daycare and Preschool Scholarship Fund during the month of February. The need for scholarship money is ongoing, so anytime you are able to give to their scholarship fund, it is appreciated. This year we are seeking to establish a sustainable way to offer scholarships to the most needy families. At this point, any household whose income is less than 250% of the poverty level, qualifies for a scholarship on a sliding scale. The amount of their scholarship varies based upon their household income.

Lunch Bunch

starts back up

Wednesday, March 6

at noon

We will meet at USA in their back room. This is for any women (and their friends) in the church. We have a Dutch-treat lunch, a devotional and lots of laughter. Call Bootsie (574)581-0859 for any questions.

Celebrations

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

Bob Wendt turns 96 on March 1.
(703 W Washington St; Monticello IN 47960)

Bob Lotzgesell turns 93 on March 22.
(PO Box 62, 7189 E Washburn Dr; Buffalo IN 47925)

EASTER LILIES/SPRING FLOWERS

We would like to display pots of Easter Lilies and assorted potted spring flowers in the sanctuary on Easter Sunday, March 31. Anyone wishing to purchase a plant in memory or in honor of a loved one, may fill out this form and return it to church office or call the church office (574)583-5545. The cost will be \$16.00 for either the lily or the potted spring flowers. (Your money needs to accompany your order.) The plants will be distributed from the church after the Easter Service.

Orders are due by Monday, March 11.



Easter Flowers

Please order _____ Easter Lily at the cost of \$16.00 each.

Please order _____ Spring flower at the cost of \$16.00 each.

In memory of _____ Given by: _____

In honor of _____



UMCOR HYGEINE KITS

We are actively collecting items for the UMCOR Hygiene kits! Below is a list of acceptable items for donation. These items can be brought to the Church Office any time through the week or can be brought to Starting Point on Sunday morning. There are collection bins outside of the Sanctuary and Connection Court. These items will be collected through March 3. The children will also be collecting monetary donations on Sunday, March 3, at the end of each service. They will then go shopping that evening to get any remaining items they need to get these kits packed. The monetary donations also help to pay for toothpaste and shipping!

The packing event will take place at 5pm on Sunday, March 10. This is a fun family event that starts with dinner and ends with the hygiene kit packing.

UMCOR HYGIENE KIT ITEMS NEEDED

One hand towel (15 x 25 –17 x 27 inches)

*No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels

One washcloth

*No kitchen, cleaning, or microfiber towels

One comb

*Must be sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth

*No pocket combs or picks

*Rattail and combs without handles are acceptable but must have at least 6 inches of teeth

One toenail or fingernail clipper

*No emery boards or metal nail files

Bath-size soap (3 oz. bar or larger)

*No Ivory or Jergen's soap

*Do not remove from packaging

One adult toothbrush

*Do not remove from packaging

*Personal advertising not acceptable (ex. a dentist's name or office)

10 adhesive bandages (¾ by 3 inches)

*Common household bandages acceptable

One-gallon size resealable bag

**Toothpaste IS NOT allowed in the kits, however we are encouraged to send \$2 per kit to cover the cost of a tube of toothpaste.

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)

March 2024

Narcotics Anonymous
M—7:00 PM Room 201

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 6:30am– Men’s Emmaus	2
3 REG SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES 10:45am– Lenten Study 12:15– Confirmation Class 5pm– Chosen Season 3 5pm– Friendship Connection 5pm- Revolution 648– 648	4 5:30pm– Fitness Class	5	6 12pm– Lunch Bunch 5:30pm– Fitness Class 7pm– Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7pm– The Couch	7 6:30pm– Grace Notes Rehearsal	8 6:30am– Men’s Emmaus	9
10 REG SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES 10:45am– Lenten Study 5pm– Chosen Season 3 5pm– UMCOR PACKING EVENT 5pm- Revolution 648– 648	11 5:30pm– Fitness Class	12 4:30pm– Soup for the Soul	13 5:30pm– Fitness Class 7pm– Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7pm– The Couch	14 11:00am– MMW Meeting 6:30pm– Grace Notes Rehearsal	15 6:30am– Men’s Emmaus	16
17 REG SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES Spring Coin Toss 10:45am– Lenten Study 5pm– Friendship Connection 5pm- Revolution 648– 648	18 5:30pm– Fitness Class	19 6:30pm– Trustees Meeting	20 5:30pm– Fitness Class 7pm– Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7pm– The Couch	21 6:30pm– Grace Notes Rehearsal	22 6:30am– Men’s Emmaus	23
24 PALM SUNDAY REG SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES 10:45am– Lenten Study 11:00am– Sword Drills 5pm- Revolution 648– 648	25 5:30pm– Fitness Class	26 4:30pm– Soup for the Soul	27 5:30pm– Fitness Class 7pm– Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7pm– The Couch	28 MAUNDY THURSDAY 6:30pm– Grace Notes Rehearsal 6pm– Maundy Thursday Seder Meal	29 GOOD FRIDAY 6:30am– Men’s Emmaus CHURCH OFFICE CLOSSES AT NOON 7pm– Community Good Friday Service at the Christian Church	30 1pm– Easter Egg Hunt
31 EASTER SUNDAY REG SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES						