

Monticello Methodist Women

# SPRING RUMMAGE SALE

Friday, April 12  
8am - 2pm

Saturday, April 13  
8am - noon

Entrance B



PO Box 87  
200 South Main Street  
Monticello, IN 47960-0087  
Phone: (574) 583-5545  
Email: ChurchOffice@MonticelloUMChurch.org  
Website: MonticelloUMChurch.org



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# Monticello

United Methodist Church

April 2024

**Monticello United Methodist Church**  
200 South Main Street  
Monticello, IN 47960  
(574) 583-5545

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Nursery Coordinator

## TRIUMPH OUT OF TRAGEDY NEW LIFE OUT OF DESTRUCTION 50 YEARS AFTER THE MONTICELLO TORNADO APRIL 3, 1974 REMEMBERED

A tornado moved through downtown Monticello at 5:17 PM on Wednesday, April 3, 1974. The Monticello Community was forever changed because of it. When talking about the history of Monticello it is often described as before the tornado or after the tornado. When reflecting upon the tornado 50 years later, one person said it brought unity to the community as people worked together, neighbor helping neighbor. Another person credited the tornado recovery with the development of a servant's heart. There are many personal experiences shared by those who experienced the tornado and our community's recovery, however, in this space we are going to share some memories of how our congregation reached out in love during the time of recovery and rebuilding.

-Thursday morning, April 4, the Salvation Army reached out to the pastor of the church, Rev. Ed Helm, about using the United Methodist Church as the hub of their operations. The church had sustained minimal damage, only losing the glass out of one section of the large north stained-glass window and some damage to the steeple. The building was safe to be used and by Thursday evening, they were open for business in the church basement.

-The Salvation Army was in the church basement for about 2 ½ to 3 weeks before moving their operations to a warehouse located on Market Street. During their time in the church basement, they estimated serving about 75,000 meals. By Saturday, April 6 they were serving about 5000 meals a day to workers and families in the community. There are memories of going to the church every night for several weeks to eat their evening meal. There was always a pot of soup on the stove, just waiting for someone who needed something to eat to show up. When the church opened as the Salvation Army command center, the church did not have electricity. They could use the gas stove in the kitchen and many people set up their grills outside the church to help with cooking duties. Large refrigerator trucks were brought to the church to keep food cold until power was restored. Volunteers from the church and community showed up day after day for weeks to do what they could to help in the recovery effort. **CONTINUED INSIDE.**



**PASTORAL LEADERSHIP....ITINERACY....SUCCESSION PLAN....**

There are two basic ways that churches receive a new pastor. One way is through a call system where a congregation is responsible for finding, interviewing, and making an offer to the pastor they would like to hire, often assisted by denominational leadership. The other common way, which is the way used by the United Methodist Church, is called itineracy. In an itinerate system, the Bishop appoints or sends a pastor to serve in a particular church and community.

In the early days of Methodism the pastors were called circuit riders. As the settlers moved west in the United States, so did the Methodist circuit riders. In the early days of Methodism a pastor was sent into a community to establish a gathering for believers to come together. A pastor might be assigned to twelve or thirteen different communities. The circuit rider would show up about once every three months to preach, meet with leaders of the congregation to see how things were going and to serve communion. Because of the way Methodist circuit riders were appointed to establish faith communities across the United States, there was a time when there was a United Methodist Church in every zip code of our nation.

The days of the circuit rider passed over time and a pastor was assigned to a single church where the pastor also took up residence in the community. The church would provide a parsonage for the pastor and his/her family to live. In the itinerate ministry, pastors were (and are) appointed to a church, one year at a time.

My mother remembers attending annual conference to hear whether their pastor was returning for another year or whether they were receiving a new pastor. Pastors and their families found out at the same time as parishioners that they were going to move and in a matter of two weeks the pastor and family were in a new community. Fortunately, I have never experienced a pastoral change in that way, but at one time, that is how it was done.

Even though we are still in an itinerate system, currently, appointments are done in a more collaborative way. The church, the pastor and the Bishop all have input into the process. Even though an appointment is made on an annual basis, the average length of an appointment is normally 3-5 years. In my case I am in my 18<sup>th</sup> year in Monticello which is highly unusual. A succession plan is also highly unusual. The primary reason I have been allowed to stay this long and the primary reason I believe the Bishop has supported our succession plan has been missional. We have consistently had ministry goals that were best supported by consistent senior pastor leadership in our congregation.

Pastor Justin has been on staff at MUMC since 2017. He understands our mission and our congregation. The consistency and stability he brings will help the congregation to continue moving forward.

Pastor Justin and I have been working very collaboratively for many months. We are already beginning to shift responsibilities and are seeking to do so in such a way that it is a very smooth and natural transition.

On March 11, 2024, the Bishop made it official, Pastor Justin will assume the title and role of senior pastor on July 1, 2024. Because of the type of transition we are making, I do not believe you will see any radical changes come July 1, but Pastor Justin’s authority and responsibilities will change. He will not necessarily take over all my roles, but he will continue to work in his areas of strength and passion.

I will remain on staff as the Pastor Emeritus until June 30, 2025. We do not know the details of what the staff will look like at that point, but the staff will be shaped and developed around the jobs and tasks that need to be accomplished.

This continues to be an exciting time of ministry at the Monticello United Methodist Church. I look forward to seeing how God will continue to move in the life and ministry of our congregation.

Yours in Christ,

*Pasta Bua*

**RECENT 648 AND REVOLUTION HIGH-LIGHTS:**

This past month in Revolution, we covered the Easter Story. We discussed the pathway up until the events of Easter. We also helped with the Friendship Connection UMCOR packaging. In 648, we covered the story from the Passover to Easter. 648 concluded this series by watching *The Passion of the Christ* on Palm Sunday. We had no meeting on Easter Sunday so people could celebrate the resurrection of Christ with their families!

We also are so proud of our performers in both the Twin Lakes and North White High School drama productions! Many of our students within the church were involved and performed some wonderful shows!

**UPCOMING IN 648 AND REVOLUTION:**

This month Revolution and 648 will be doing a “weird stories of the Bible” series! We’ll be covering stories such as Elisha and the Bears (2 Kings 2:23-25) and Balak and Balaam (Numbers 22:22-40). We’re looking forward to having these interesting “out of pocket” stories be covered and explained!

**CAMP NEWS:**

We currently have 17 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)) 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.





UMCOR

Thank you to all who donated to our UMCOR Hygiene Kits. Your support of Children's Ministries, as always, is appreciated! We were able to pack an outstanding 511 kits to ship, beating our goal of 450. Thanks to your generosity, we are also sending a check for \$1022 to cover the cost of a tube of toothpaste per kit. The youth from Revolution were on hand to help those with multiple children pack boxes. We had a smaller group of 43 this year so it was a good thing we had a potato bar for dinner. We needed the extra carbs for energy! The kits were packed up, prayed over, and ready to be shipped out in 30 minutes! Revolution was on hand to help those with multiple children. Thank you to everyone who helped from planning, to cooking, to donating, to those who helped put away tables and chairs at the end. It could not have been done without every one of you and I appreciate you all! A special thank you to Charlie Gutwein who stayed after church to help set up!!



ADVENTURES IN FAITH

"Throwback" is our theme for April. From retro toys to fashion trends, we all love a good throwback. (Especially grown-ups because it reminds us of being young again.) There are things that remind us of a moment in time, but other things feel timeless and like they're always in style. In this four-week series, kids will travel through the decades and see that the teachings of Jesus in the Gospels are always trending. As we hear from Jesus, we'll see it's always good to be humble, we can always forgive, Jesus is always fair, and love always needs action. Our Memory verse for the month comes from Hebrews 13:8, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever."

EASTER EGG HUNT

The annual Easter Egg Hunt was held on March 30 at 1pm. Stay tuned for the details on the fun that was had!

APRIL CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CALENDAR

We are currently in need of volunteers to provide dinner for the kids who attend Friendship Connection. We do not have anyone signed up to provide meals in April. You do not have to have a child who attends Friendship Connection to provide this service. Contact Miki Seymour at (574) 870-0561 or MSeymour@MonticelloUMChurch.org if you would be willing to provide a light meal for approximately 40 children on any Sunday evening in April.

- April 7, 5-6:30pm- Friendship Connection
- April 14 5-6:30pm- Friendship Connection
- April 21 5-6:30pm- Friendship Connection
- April 28 5-6:30pm- Friendship Connection

SWORD DRILLS

Sword Drills will be Sunday, April 28 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

Did you know that last month we reached over 8,000 people on Facebook alone? That is 8,000 different people who were able to see and hear the message of Jesus Christ, just because of our Facebook and your sharing. See, we currently have about 1.5k followers on our page. If you didn't like, comment, and share what we put out on Facebook we would only reach that group. But because you do, we have such a large impact! But, we can do so much more. Currently, about 5% of our page followers actively like, comment, or share our stuff. If that number jumped to 10%, we estimate an increase of 5,000 more people reached for the Gospel! Help us spread the Gospel with just a few clicks!



SPRING FUNDRAISERS

The Fundraising Committee for the Capital Campaign will be selling gift cards for the April Fundraiser. An order form is included in this newsletter. It can be turned in to the office during the week. Members of the fundraising committee will be available after both services on April 14 and 21 to take orders and answer questions. Orders must be placed by noon on Monday, April 22. The gift cards will be available for pick up no later than Sunday May 5. Gift cards make great Mother's Day gifts for the special women in your life. They are also perfect for graduation remembrances, birthdays, thank you gifts or just to have handy for your own personal use. The proceeds from this sale will help reduce the debt on our new building. Thank you for supporting this and all of the fundraisers that benefit the Capital Campaign.

Thank you to everyone who brought in change for the Spring Coin Toss! We collected a total of \$686.11 for the Capital Campaign. We will have another coin toss in the fall. Remember, *a quarter a day helps the debt go away.*

# Lunch Bunch

is for any and all women in the church (and their friends)! We will meet on

## Wednesday, April 3, at noon

at USA Restaurant - in the 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.

**GENERAL CONFERENCE 2020**

By Pastor Brian

Yes, that is correct, the 2020 General Conference of the United Methodist Church will be meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina on April 23-May 3, 2024. General Conference is a meeting of United Methodists from around the world who meet every four years to set goals and make decisions for the denomination. The General Conference is made up of just under 900 lay and clergy delegates from around the world. Despite all the people who claim to speak for the United Methodist Church, General Conference is the only body who can speak on behalf of the denomination.

The reason this is referred to as the 2020 General Conference is because the 2020 General Conference was delayed multiple times because of COVID-19. The items on the agenda are supposed to be the items that were already on the agenda for the 2020 General Conference. Because of the global nature of the delegates in attendance it has been difficult to get the conference rescheduled.

It seems that things have been quiet in the way of news and controversies in recent months, but the closer we get to General Conference, the more likely you are to hear about issues and controversies that will be coming before the General Conference delegates. I would encourage you to become educated and aware of the issue, but I would caution you about believing everything you hear.

There are common sense proposals and there are proposals that some would consider radical that will be considered by the General Conference delegates. Anything you hear before April 29 will only have the status of being a proposal. The first week of General Conference they meet in legislative groups and it is in the second week that they take up issues as an entire body. They do their business in a similar way that our congress does their business (and yes, that includes gridlock).

When it comes to controversial items, there will always be someone putting their spin on a decision that has been made. Before getting too emotional about anything you see in the news or online, let me encourage you to wait until more clarifying information is made available which will happen in the next few weeks after General Conference.

One of the major proposals is to allow the United Methodist Churches in the United States to remain a part of the global denomination but have our own Book of Discipline reflecting cultural values that may be different from cultural values in other parts of the world. If General Conference passes that proposal, it will be considered a constitutional change. A constitutional change does not take effect until it receives a 2/3 majority vote from annual conferences around the world. Not all decisions are considered constitutional, so all decisions do not need a 2/3 vote from the annual conferences around the world, but some may need further approval. Constitutional changes will not go into effect until it receives the required 2/3 majority vote.

Even though the General Conference may speak for the denomination, ministry happens in the local church. It has been my experience that the decisions of General Conference have little impact on the local church. My expectation is that no matter what happens at General Conference, the Monticello United Methodist Church will continue to reach out in love to our community who not only reside physically in the Monticello area, but they also connect with us online from around the world. Please keep the General Conference and delegates in your prayers.

If you have any questions or would like a possible clarification on something you may have heard, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Justin or me.

**SPRING RUMMAGE SALE**

The Spring Rummage sale is right around the corner. Drop off is Wednesday, April 10 and Thursday April 11, starting at 8:30am. Your offerings are someone's treasures. No TV's or microwaves. The sale starts on Friday at 8am and goes until 2pm. Saturday the sale will last from 8am until noon. If you have questions, call Peggy at (574)297-4079.

**IN REMEMBRANCE**

Corinne “Cody” Hay died on February 24, 2024.

**CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER**

-The Salvation Army brought in a few officers who coordinated and oversaw the relief center, but most of the workers came from the local community. High School students at the time remember spending every day at the church sorting clothing by size for families in need. In addition to the meals served at the church, there were canned food, non-perishable food and personal hygiene items that were distributed at the church. There were people sleeping on cots and even some child-care that was provided.

-The church also became a place where people would come to sit around and tell their experiences and stories. There was no formal counseling provided, but the church became a place where there were patient and compassionate listening ears who did what they could to help with the emotional recovery of our community.

-The church had made plans to launch a radio ministry, the target start date of broadcasting the church service may have been Easter Sunday which was just 11 days away, but a dedicated phone line had been run between the church and the local radio station just days before the tornado. The radio station was damaged in the tornado and so the church became a place where the local radio station could broadcast until the station was repaired. This communication on the local radio station was so important during the time of recovery.

-Palm Sunday was on April 7. The church and downtown still did not have electricity, but they met for worship. The Presbyterian Church building was not available as a place to meet because of the damage their building incurred, so the United Methodists invited the Presbyterians to join them for worship on that morning and their pastor shared in the service with the United Methodist pastor. There was standing room only as those gathered sang at the top of their lungs. It was on that morning, April 7, 1974 that our radio outreach began. Since there was no power, the organ could not be used, so a second piano was rolled into the sanctuary from the choir room. The sanctuary piano was located by the stained glass window that had been broken out. Even though they thought all the glass had been cleaned up, when the pianist played, she discovered that there were shards of glass between the keys and she experienced small cuts on her fingers that caused her hands to bleed.

-After about 3 weeks, most students returned to school, but because of the damage to some of the school buildings, they needed alternative places to meet. Our church was one of at least 3 churches that housed students. Our building was used mainly for junior high aged students. Instead of students moving from class to class, in many cases it was the teachers that moved around. Some desks that could be salvaged from the school was brought in for students, but one teacher remembers her students sitting in the elementary sized chairs from the church’s classrooms. The last 4 weeks of the school year involved shortened school days, but students were served lunch each day. Once again, our church kitchen was used. Hundreds of meals were prepared each day and then transported to various locations where the students were meeting.

-During the time of community recovery, there was an evening when the high school band was rehearsing in Jacob’s Well, there was a church meeting in the old parlor, a wedding rehearsal and a funeral visitation all happening in the church building at the same time and no one complained. They all did what they needed to do and the church was a place that brought the community together.

Rev. Helm said that the church never locked its doors for many weeks because there was always something going on in the building. Our church building became an important hub for the community as it recovered. No one would ever choose to go through such a disaster, but our community is stronger because of it. As we look back, we are thankful for the ways the community came together. As we look forward, may it be a motivator for us to care for one another and to reach out in love.







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)

# April 2024

Narcotics Anonymous  
M—7:00 PM Room 201

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 5:30pm– Fitness Class	2	3 12pm– Lunch Bunch 5:30pm– Fitness Class 7pm– Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7pm– The Couch	4 6:30pm– Grace Notes Rehearsal	5 6:30am– Men’s Emmaus	6
7 REG SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES 3pm– Spring Membership Class 5pm– Friendship Connection 5pm- Revolution 648– 648	8 5:30pm– Fitness Class	9 4:30pm– Soup for the Soul	10 5:30pm– Fitness Class 7pm– Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7pm– The Couch	11 11:00am– MMW Meeting 6:30pm– Grace Notes Rehearsal	12 6:30am– Men’s Emmaus 8am– MMW Spring Rummage Sale	13 8am– MMW Spring Rummage Sale
14 REG SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES 12:15pm– Confirmation Service Project 3pm– Spring Membership Class 5pm– Friendship Connection 5pm- Revolution 648– 648	15 5:30pm– Fitness Class 7pm– Finance Committee Meeting	16 6:30pm– Trustees Meeting	17 5:30pm– Fitness Class 7pm– Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7pm– The Couch	18 6:30pm– Grace Notes Rehearsal	19 6:30am– Men’s Emmaus	20
21 REG SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES 1:30pm– Grace Notes at White Oak 3pm– Spring Membership Class 5pm– Friendship Connection 5pm- Revolution 648– 648	22 5:30pm– Fitness Class	23 4:30pm– Soup for the Soul	24 5:30pm– Fitness Class 7pm– Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7pm– The Couch	25 6:30pm– Grace Notes Rehearsal	26 6:30am– Men's Emmaus	27
28 REG SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES 11am– Sword Drills 3pm– Spring Membership Class 5pm– Friendship Connection 5pm- Revolution 648– 648	29 5:30pm– Fitness Class 7pm– Church Council Meeting	30				