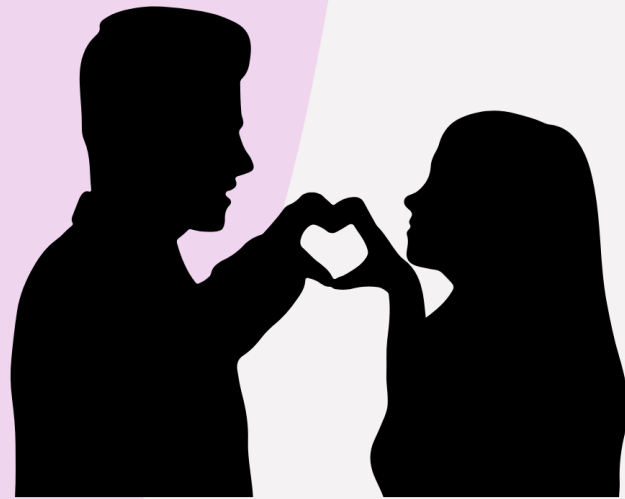


Better Together “A Ministry for Couples”

This is a ministry that seeks to strengthen couples for taking on the world together!

Come to our Kick Off event March 18 at 7pm in Connection Court to hear about the ministry and how we will be pouring into couples this year at MUMC!



reach out in love



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

Monticello
United Methodist Church

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Monticello

United Methodist Church

March 2025

Monticello United Methodist Church

200 South Main Street
Monticello, IN 47960

(574) 583-5545

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Pastor Brian L. Beeks

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Ella Miller

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Miki Seymour

Director of Children’s Ministries
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Stephanie Stewart

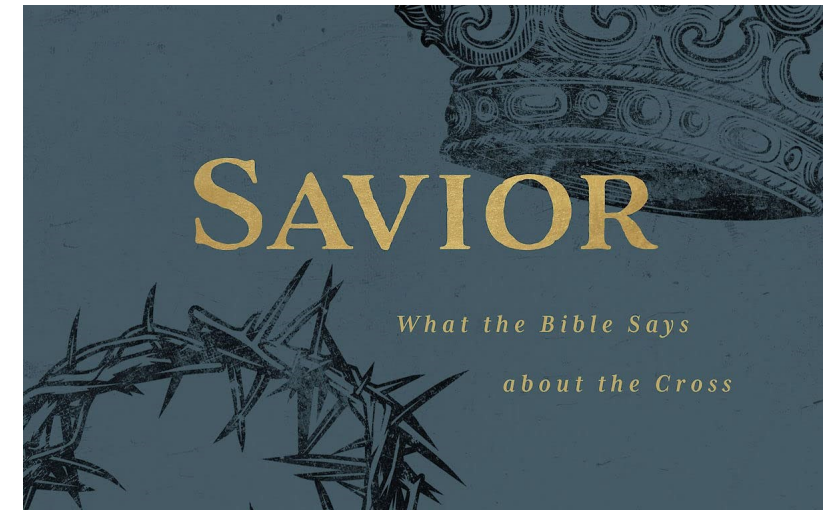
Administrative Assistant
sstewart@MonticelloUMChurch.org

Sheri Quarles

Director of Sunshine Center Preschool
sheri@MonticelloUMChurch.org

Savannah Miller

Nursery Coordinator



LENTEN STUDY

This Lenten study we will be doing three group studies in the book “Savior: What the Bible Says about the Cross” by Magrey deVega. This book and class will walk us through the story of the cross through six different lenses that we find in Scripture and that have shaped Christianity for several hundred years. These atonement theories are all Scriptural, but offer different perspectives about the work Christ did on the cross and thus offer us different ways in which we live into that reality. This six week study includes videos, as well as a book for participants to engage with.

There is a suggested donation amount of \$10 for study materials.

In order to sign up for one of these classes, please contact the church office or sign up on your connection card.

The three offerings are:

Sunday mornings at 8:15am in the Quilting Room starting March 9

Sunday evenings at 5pm in the Parlor starting March 9

Wednesday evenings at 8pm via Zoom

IMPROVING WITH AGE STUDY

Pastor Sue Ringenbach and Kathy Peters might be thinking of you, if you feel as though you are sometimes on the sideline of church life. Are you thinking about your aches and pains more than God's plans for you? Please join us for the book study, Improving with Age, beginning at 12:30pm on Sunday afternoon, March 2, in the church Common Grounds. It will be held for 6 weeks. Kathy has a free book for you: if you're interested, call (574)870-0140. This study is open to both men and women.

DEAR BELOVED IN CHRIST,

As we approach the sacred season of Lent, I write to you with love and encouragement, urging each of you to reflect deeply on the significance of this holy time. Lent is not merely a ritual or a period of fasting; it is a spiritual journey that invites us to draw closer to God, to renew our hearts, and to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Christ's glorious resurrection.

Lent is a time to pause and examine the condition of our hearts. It is an opportunity for self-reflection and repentance, where we recognize our need for God's grace and mercy. The ashes we receive on Ash Wednesday are not just a symbol of our mortality, but a reminder of our dependence on God for our very lives and salvation. They call us to turn away from sin and to seek God with renewed sincerity.

The forty days of Lent, mirroring Christ's time in the wilderness, invite us to walk with Him in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These disciplines help us to detach from the distractions of the world and focus our hearts on what truly matters—our relationship with God and with our neighbors. Through fasting, we learn to depend not on material things, but on God alone. In prayer, we open our hearts to the Lord, speaking to Him and listening for His voice. And in acts of charity, we are reminded of our call to love and serve others, as Christ loved and served us.

Lent is also a time of renewal. It is a season for spiritual growth, for deepening our faith, and for embracing the call to holiness. Just as a garden requires pruning to bear more fruit, so too does our spiritual life require seasons of purging, reflection, and renewal. As we strive to live more fully in Christ, we are invited to let go of old habits, destructive patterns, and anything that separates us from God. The journey of Lent leads us to the cross, where we encounter the depth of God's love and mercy, and ultimately, to the joy of Easter, where we celebrate the triumph of life over death.

Our Lenten sermon series this year is titled Savior, and we will be taking a deep dive into what the Bible says about the cross. There is a lot of ways to view what Jesus' life, death, and resurrection means for us as Christians, and we call those views atonement theories. We will look at the six main ways in which we view Christ's mighty act of salvation, and allow the Spirit to use these views to renew and transform us in this season. We will also have Lenten studies that I encourage you to be a part of so that you can grow closer to God and to one another in this season.

Lent is a gift, and I encourage you to use this gift of grace as a way to once again draw close to our God. As we prepare to celebrate being Easter people, let us first be Lenten people, and do some of the hard work of our faith.

May the grace of the season of Lent lead us into the light of Christ's resurrection.
Yours in Christ,



RECENT 648 HIGHLIGHTS:

The group finished up their discussion on the book UnChristian by David Kinnaman, at the beginning of the month! 648 was able to have some discussions about how the book covered topics that were relevant to perceptions our group has, or our students within their own high schools may experience. On February 9, 648 had their annual Superb-Owl party, with snacks, a football game, and a lot of 9-square played, followed by the winter retreat the next weekend. The group then concluded February with the start of their Villains of the Bible series; focusing on King Saul for this first week!



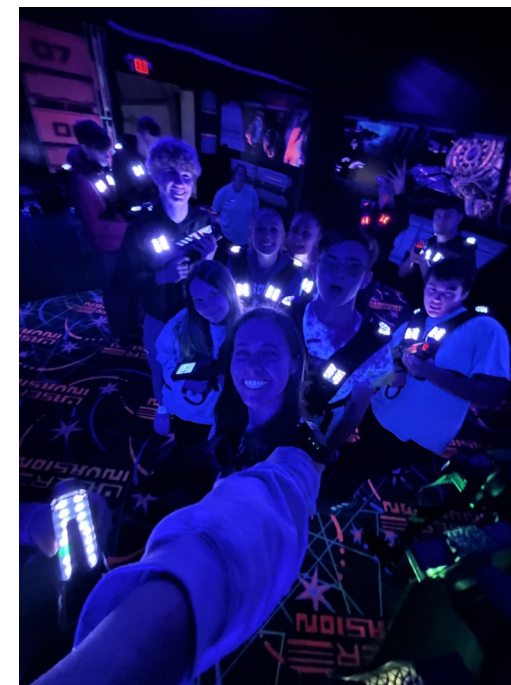
WINTER RETREAT HIGHLIGHTS:

The 648 winter retreat was a success in Lafayette, Indiana. The group started their day at Northview Church for their 9am church service, followed by brunch at Bob Evans. They then went to LTCH and helped clean 3 of their permanent housing apartments to prepare them for new guests. It was hard work, and the 7 students attending put all their effort into helping make a difference for this organization! They were then rewarded with some laser tag at Malibu Jacks, followed by an escape room, with dinner to conclude their evening!

MARCH 648 NEWS:

648 will be continuing their current series, "Villains" of the Bible! In the weeks prior to spring break, they will be focusing on the Old Testament, such as the Pharaoh and the serpent! After spring break and heading towards Easter, the focus will be on different "Villains" that were involved in Jesus' story.

MARCH 2ND will be our Camp Sign-Up night! Parents/guardians, please attend with your child for the beginning of this night to get them signed up for camp. Incoming 6th graders through 8th graders will be able to sign up for Camp Adventure at 5pm (before Revolution), and then incoming freshman through our 2025 graduates are welcome to sign up for camp at Epworth Forest CC at 6:48pm (incoming freshman may also sign up at 5pm before Revolution). Please come prepared to make a small payment. If you are in need of a scholarship for camp, please email emiller@monticelloumchurch.org to get that application process started! High School Camp at Epworth Forest will be June 22 through June 27. Middle School Camp will be June 8 through June 13.





ADVENTURES IN FAITH

The kids enjoyed Miss Robin and were eager to learn how to use their prayer beads. Miss Robin did a fantastic job leading them in how to use their beads to pray and we are very grateful for her willingness to spend some time teaching them. We had more than 30 kids receive their own set of prayer beads made by Robin!

Our theme for March is The Big Picture. Every great movie tells a great story. When we see those stories played out on the big screen, we can learn a little more about ourselves and the world around us. Jesus knew how powerful stories could be, and he made them a big

part of how he taught his followers. In this 5-week series, the kids will hear some of the stories Jesus shared that can help them see the big picture of a life spent following God. Kids will see that God helps us know what's true, the ways we can give back to God, how God sends us helpers, and how God gives us second chances.

UMCOR

MUMC Kids will be gearing up for our UMCOR Family Event in March. We will begin 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 30. For this event we will be meeting in Connection Court, beginning at 5pm. Dinner will be a carry-in so choose your favorite family dish and bring it to share! MUMC children and their families will begin packing Hygiene Kits from the items that have been 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 begin collecting items March 16 and collect up until the day of the event! The items needed to pack are specific so donation lists will be provided at each starting point. Monetary donations would also be welcome so items can be ordered online! Donating money to help cover shipping costs is also a great way to help! Lots of hands are needed to make this event a success. Please contact Miki at MSeymour@MonticelloUMChurch.org with any questions!

VOLUNTEERS

Children's Ministries could use your help. I need one more teacher to co-teach every other month with Mrs. Libby during the Classic service at 9:30am and I could use at least 2 more volunteers to teach on a rotation during the Current Service in various classrooms. The curriculum and all needed supplies are provided for you. You would only have approximately 30-40 minutes to plan for during each service. You do not need teaching experience to volunteer, only a passion to share the love of Jesus to our children. Please see Miki with questions or to volunteer.



MUMC ONLINE

What does it mean to do worship, discipleship, community, and care online? This is a question that I (Pastor Justin) have been pondering for over four years now, and I have some insights. I believe we do worship well online with our Sunday morning services and The Couch, where in 2024 we averaged over 400 online worshippers PER WEEK! That is an amazing number! Discipleship is something we take seriously as well, with different groups and study options happening online all the time. Community is alive at MUMC Online, where people pray for one another and hold one another up, even if they have never met in person. But care, care seems to be the hardest element. How do we live out the calling to care online?

We have done this in a few ways, but I still feel we can do better. This year, I want to care better on MUMC Online. I want our online campus members to be involved in caring service in their own communities in the name of Christ, and I want to be able to facilitate that care for those who don't know where to start. So what does that mean? Well, in April we are going to have a MUMC Online Day of Service. One day where we ask everyone who calls MUMC Online their community to intentionally be a part of caring for those around them. It could be as simple as raking leaves or as complex as volunteering at a local food pantry. Whatever the Spirit puts on your heart, we ask that you do it. If someone ask you why, tell them because of the MUMC Online Day of Service. Post on social media about it, invite friends to be a part of it! Truly, we can do so much more together, and MUMC Online can be the catalyst for something amazing happening in your community through our online community. More info will be coming out this month, so stay tuned to MUMC Online.

LENTEN OFFERING

Our Lenten Offering will be designated for Camp Scholarships once again this year. We believe in the power of camp to change the lives of young people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and we need your help to do it! Our goal is to provide a \$200 scholarship for five-day camps or up to 50% of the cost for shorter camps for each child connected with our youth and children's ministry. If there is greater need we want to meet it so that finances is not a prohibiting factor for any student who wants to go to camp. Please prayerfully consider how you can be a part of introducing one of our young people to Jesus at camp!



Celebrations

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

Bob Wendt turns 98 on March 1.
(814 S Sixth St; Monticello IN 47960)

Bob Lotzgesell turns 95 on March 22.
(PO Box 62, 7189 E Washburn Dr; Buffalo IN 47925)

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 2025

Narcotics Anonymous
M—7:00 PM Room 201

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<p>2 REG SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES 12:30pm- Improving With Age 5pm- Revolution Camp Sign Up Night 6:15- Disciple Fast Track 6:48pm- 648 Camp Sign Up Night</p>	<p>3 5:30pm- Fitness Class 7pm- GCM Board Meeting 7pm- SPRC Meeting</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5 5:30pm- Fitness Class 7pm- Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7pm- The Couch</p>	<p>6 6:30pm- Grace Notes Rehearsal 6:30pm- Line Dancing Lessons</p>	<p>7 6:30am- Men's Emmaus 8:30am- Thrive</p>	8
<p>9 REG SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES 12:30pm- Improving With Age 5pm- Revolution 6:15- Disciple Fast Track 6:48pm- 648</p>	<p>10 5:30pm- Fitness Class 7pm- Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>11 4:30pm- Soup for the Soul</p>	<p>12 5:30pm- Fitness Class 7pm- Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7pm- The Couch</p>	<p>13 9am- MMW Meeting 6:30pm- Grace Notes Rehearsal</p>	<p>14 6:30am- Men's Emmaus</p>	15
<p>16 REG SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES 12:30pm- Improving With Age 5pm- Revolution 6:15- Disciple Fast Track 6:48pm- 648</p>	<p>17 5:30pm- Fitness Class</p>	<p>18 6pm- Better Together 6:30pm- Trustees Meeting</p>	<p>19 5:30pm- Fitness Class 7pm- Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7pm- The Couch</p>	<p>20 6:30pm- Grace Notes Rehearsal 6:30pm- Line Dancing Lessons</p>	<p>21 6:30am- Men's Emmaus</p>	22
<p>23 REG SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES 12:30pm- Improving With Age 5pm- Revolution 6:15- Disciple Fast Track 6:48pm- 648</p>	<p>24 5:30pm- Fitness Class</p>	<p>25 4:30pm- Soup for the Soul</p>	<p>26 5:30pm- Fitness Class 7pm- Chancel Choir Rehearsal 7pm- The Couch</p>	<p>27 6:30pm- Grace Notes Rehearsal</p>	<p>28 6:30am- Men's Emmaus</p>	29
<p>30 REG SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES 12:30pm- Improving With Age 5pm- UMCOR Packing Event 5pm- Revolution 6:48pm- 648</p>	<p>31 5:30pm- Fitness Class</p>					