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# Monticello

## United Methodist Church

February – March 2026

### Monticello United Methodist Church

200 South Main Street  
 Monticello, IN 47960

(574) 583-5545

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### LENTEN SERMON SERIES

The Lenten Sermon Series this year will be loosely based up- on the book *Jesus the Stranger* by Kenneth Collins. The goal of the series will be to walk with Jesus and see him in a new way during this season of Lent. We will look at the humanity of Christ and how Jesus had a lot more experiences that align with our own life experiences while He was on this Earth. We will not be doing a book study, but if you are a person that wants to know what we are referencing feel free to read along!

### ASH WEDNESDAY

Join us this Ash Wednesday, February 18, at 7pm in the Sanctuary for a reflective and meaningful service marking the beginning of Lent. Through prayer, Scripture, and the imposition of ashes, we will remember our dependence on God and renew our commitment to walk with Christ toward the hope of Easter. All are welcome to come, worship, and begin this sacred season together.

### HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday, March 29, 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 Service will be held in Connection Court on Thursday, April 2, beginning at 6pm. On this evening we will discuss what happened at the Last Supper, who was in the room, and what we can learn from this practice of Maundy Thursday in our own lives. Communion will be a part of this service.

Community Good Friday Service will be held in our Sanctuary on Friday, April 3 beginning at 7pm. We will be joined by several churches in the area as we remember Good Friday as the larger body of Christ.

The Easter Egg Hunt and activities will take place on Saturday, April 4 from 1 to 3pm. Stay tuned for more information about this exciting event!

Easter Sunday Services will be held in the Sanctuary at 9:30am and in Connection Court at 11am on Sunday, April 5. Make this Easter worship service a priority for your family and invite a friend to come with you to hear the message about Jesus.

Dear Church Family,

1 Corinthians 3:6–7 says “I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.” I want to thank each of you who joined us for our recent State of the Church meeting. It was a meaningful moment for us as a church family to pause, look honestly at where we are, celebrate where God has moved, and prayerfully consider where God is leading us next. Transparency matters, and so does unity. I am grateful for a congregation that leans in, listens well for the Spirit, and seeks God together.

One of the clearest priorities that emerged is our desire to finish strong with our current Capital Campaign by June to avoid the increase in interest rates. Our goal is to pay down this remaining debt so that we can step into the next season unencumbered and fully open to a fresh vision from God. We don't want yesterday's obligations to limit tomorrow's obedience, but have a history of continued faithfulness to the leading of the Spirit. Clearing this ground is not just a financial step—it's a spiritual one. It is our way of saying, “Lord, we are ready for whatever You want to do next.” Now, what's next is not another building campaign. We are not filling in that blank, we are allowing God to fully lead us into this next season.

Scripture reminds us again and again that God rewards faithfulness, not flashiness. He is far more concerned with obedient hearts than impressive appearances. We are not chasing trends, numbers, or applause. We are chasing faithfulness—faithfulness in generosity, faithfulness in prayer, faithfulness in loving God and loving people. And I believe with all my heart that God honors that kind of quiet, steady obedience.

As we look toward 2026, our heartbeat is simple and bold: to love our community better so that they may know God's love through us. Programs alone won't do that. Buildings alone won't do that. Only a Spirit-filled, Christ-centered people who genuinely love their neighbors will do that. We want our church to be a place where the broken find healing, the lonely find family, and the searching find Jesus. We are still focusing on Community, Worship, Discipleship, and Care, because those aren't just trends, that is who we are.

Church, I am deeply hopeful about what God is doing among us and what He is preparing to do through us. Thank you for your faithfulness. Thank you for your generosity. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for loving this church and this community the way Jesus does.

Let's finish this season strong.

Let's step into the next one unburdened and expectant.

And let's love people into the Kingdom—one life at a time.

With gratitude and hope in Christ,



## THRIVE

Thrive is having a huge impact on the students of Meadowlawn. I (Pastor Justin) love when I walk into the school and the kids know me and are excited that we are coming into their classrooms! For February, things will be a bit different. We will work with 3rd - 5th grade on February 6th, but will not be doing K-2 because we are assisting with Junior Achievement in a Day on February 26th and 27th. Reach out to Pastor Justin if you are able to assist in this special event! For March, our dates are March 6th for 3rd - 5th grade and tentatively March 20th for K-2nd (pending approval because of Spring Break). If you want to get on the volunteer list and serve in this ministry reach out to the office!

## RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Some highlights from the last month include...

- On December 21st, 648 and Revolution had their Christmas Parties! For each group, we asked students to bring a white elephant gift so that we could do a gift exchange. On that night, we also did cookie decorating and finished up our message series on Advent.
- On New Years' Eve, 648 students met for their New Years Eve Lock-In. We played games, celebrated the New Year, had a time of worship, and Luke gave a message on how we begin a new year with Jesus. Altogether, we had an amazing night together as a family celebrating the start of a New Year!
- On January 11th, we had 35 high school students at 648! This night was our highest number of students that we've seen on a Sunday night since 2020.
- On the last Sunday in January, we had our very first 5th Grade Move Up Night at Revolution. On this night, we invited the current 5th grade students to come and get a taste of what Revolution is like. Although they will have to wait until the end of the school year to permanently move up to Revolution, we will continue to do our 5th Grade Move Up Nights on the last Sunday of the month until that time. If you currently have a 5th grader, we invite them to join us on February 22nd and March 29th.
- In November, we began our confirmation class for this year. We have 11 students in confirmation, which includes students that have not been through confirmation and are in 7th grade or older. Our curriculum for this year is coming from The Chosen Tv series. Each class, students watch an episode of The Chosen and then we discuss what we saw. In November, confirmation took their first class trip to the Catholic Church here in Monticello.



## FEBRUARY AND MARCH REVOLUTION & 648 NEWS

- January was our month-long competition for new members at 648. Each week, students were encouraged to bring new people with them to 648. Our 4 small groups competed against each other to see who could get the most new members of their group!
- Our attendance at youth groups on Sunday Nights has been rocking since the beginning of this calendar year. On January 11th, we had the most students at 648 in a long time! 35 students is the most students that we have seen since 2020 when we began recording attendance in one church.
- As of now, we do not have any big events planned for the months of February and March. Our SLT team will meet on February 1st to discuss special events that we might want to do in those months. We will be doing a pancake breakfast as a camp scholarships fundraiser on a Saturday morning in March, so stay tuned for more details on that to see how you can help support our students going to camp this summer!
- ATTENTION 5TH GRADERS AND THEIR PARENTS
  - 5th grade students are invited to begin attending Revolution on the last Sunday of every month. Some of our fifth graders have been begging to come to revolution, and we finally caved in. I hope that your fifth graders are excited as we are to see some new faces! ☺

## IMPORTANT DATES

- 648 will meet at their normally scheduled times on every Sunday in February and March
- Revolution will not meet on March 22nd because of Spring Break



## OUR MEMORY VERSES -

"He saved us, not because of the righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy." Titus 3:5

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take." Proverbs 3:5-6

"Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9



## OUR BIBLE STORIES -

Jesus is born.

Jesus calms a storm.

Jesus forgives the thief on the cross.

Jesus comes back to life.

God Sends Manna and Quail From Heaven

God Gives the Ten Commandments

God's People Worship a Golden Calf

God Tells His People How to Build the Tabernacle

Caleb Trusts God Will Help

Rahab Helps the Israelite Spies

The Israelites Cross the Jordan River

Joshua Leads God's People



## CHRISTMAS OUTREACH SUCCESS -

Back on December 14th, MUMC Kids and their families got together and packed gift bags for 16 White Oak residents. They were carefully decorated and packed full of love. Thank you to all who helped make this event a success.

## EASTER EGG HUNT & ACTIVITIES -

The annual Easter Egg hunt will be on Saturday, April 4th from 1-3pm. We will have bins out in Feb & March taking candy donations. Stay tuned for more information and ways you can help make this fun event a success!



## MUMC ONLINE

MUMC Online is more than a livestream—it is a true campus of our church, created to reach people far beyond the walls of our building. Every week, individuals who may never step into our Sanctuary are worshiping with us, hearing the gospel, and taking steps of faith through this digital ministry. For some, MUMC Online is a first connection to Christ and the Church; for others, it is a lifeline during seasons of illness, travel, distance, or uncertainty. This campus allows us to live out Jesus' call to "go and make disciples" by meeting people exactly where they are and inviting them into a growing relationship with Him.



This ministry is deeply evangelistic in nature, and it flourishes because of the prayers, generosity, and participation of our congregation. You can support MUMC Online by praying for those who join us each week, sharing our services and posts with friends and family, and volunteering as an online host or prayer partner. Together, we can extend Christ's love beyond our walls and continue building a welcoming online community where lives are changed by the hope of the gospel.

## JOIN OUR ISRAEL PILGRIMAGE — JANUARY 19–29, 2027

Pastor Justin is excited to invite you to walk in the footsteps of Jesus on our Holy Land pilgrimage with Educational Opportunities (EO Tours), January 19–29, 2027! This life-changing trip will take you to the most significant biblical sites throughout Israel — from the shores of the Sea of Galilee and Capernaum, to Jerusalem's Old City, the Garden Tomb, and beyond — with time for worship, reflection, and community along the way. The journey includes round-trip international airfare from Indianapolis, deluxe motorcoach transportation, 1st-class hotels, daily guided sightseeing, breakfast and dinner included, and devotionals that bring Scripture to life. The cost of the trip is \$4,046 but if you get your deposit in by Feb 19th you save \$150!

We are having a call out meeting on February 1st at 5pm in the Sanctuary for any that are interested in going. You can also check out the itinerary on your own by going to this website: <https://www.eo.travelwithus.com/tours/hl27011927a61480#eotours>  
Let's walk where Jesus walked together! Talk to Pastor Justin if you have any questions.

## FROM THE MISSIONS COMMITTEE

Hello Church Families,

For the month of February, the Missions Committee is raising awareness and support for two local ministries: the White County Food Pantry and Women to Women. We invite each family to partner with us in supporting these missions as they serve families in our community.

You may contribute by giving directly to the White County Food Pantry or Women to Women - please be sure to designate your donation accordingly with your offering. You may also choose to purchase items from the list below and bring them to church anytime during the month of February:

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Dish soap
- Kleenex
- Deodorant
- Men's 3/1

Thank you for your continued prayers, generosity, and support of these important ministries.





### **MONTICELLO METHODIST WOMEN**

MMW held its election of officers in January. President Karen Aldrich is joined by Treasurer Nancy Leonard and Secretary Peggy Reedy for the 2026 year. We are going to be busy in February and March. On February 12th we will meet in the kitchen instead of the quilting room for the annual "Clean the Kitchen/ Inventory Day". Cleaning begins at 10am, with a break for lunch together and then finish if needed. Cleaning supplies will be provided. Our regular meeting of March 12th returns to the quilting room at 11am to stuff eggs in preparation for EASTER. We will be accepting donations of candy the week beginning February 22nd thru the week ending March 8th. As in the past donation totes will be in the lobby. You also will have the option of picking up bags of 36 eggs and having your own fun stuffing and of course do not forget to bring them back! As always, all women are welcome to join us.

### **UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH**

Join us for a monthly commitment to spiritual growth, friendship, and purpose as a member of United Women in Faith. Hosted by the Monticello United Methodist Church, the next gathering will be held on Tuesday, February 17th at 6:30 p.m. Childcare is available with two days' notice.

Belonging to a church women's group is a powerful way to connect with others and can be a source of emotional and spiritual support. Women of all denominations and life stages are welcome to connect, reflect, and explore opportunities for community impact and personal growth.

February's meeting will include a devotional and a presentation by Patty Godlove on the Feed-HIS-Sheep Ministry supported by Food Finders and a partner with MUMC's Soup for the Soul. Feed-HIS-Sheep Ministry offers hope and resources for those in need.

To learn more about Women in Faith at MUMC, or request childcare for February's meeting, contact Linda Mylet at (765) 427-9108.

Come be inspired, supported, and empowered!

# Celebrations

Three very special MUMC friends are celebrating milestone birthdays this month. Please shower them with cards!

**Maxine Brewer turns 98 on February 2**

(109 1/2 N Beach; Monticello IN 47960)

**Bob Wendt turns 99 on March 1.**

(814 S Sixth St; Monticello IN 47960)

**Bob Lotzgesell turns 96 on March 22.**

(PO Box 62, 7189 E Washburn Dr; Buffalo IN 47925)



## **ONE-Thing Feed-HIS-Sheep**

ONE-Thing items will be added to the "Feed HIS Sheep" food distribution that occurs each month during the Soup for the Soul dinners.

January Donation is Cereal

February Donation is Peanut Butter

March Donation is Canned Fruit

April Donation is Canned Meat

May Donation is Laundry Soap

June Donation is Personal Hygiene

July Donation is Cereal

August Donation is Peanut Butter

September Donation is Canned Fruit

October Donation is Canned Meat

November Donation is Laundry Soap

December Donation is Personal Hygiene

Feed-HIS-Sheep Ministry is a mini food pantry that is supported by funds contributed to an account **separate** from Soup for the Soul.

**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)

# February 2026

**Narcotics Anonymous**  
**M—7:00 PM Room 201**

| Sun   | Mon   | Tue  | Wed  | Thu   | Fri  | Sat       |
|---|---|--|--|---|--|-----------|
| <b>1</b><br>REG SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES<br>12:15pm- SLT Meeting<br>2pm- State of the Church Meeting<br>5pm- Israel Trip Callout<br>5pm- Revolution<br>6:48pm- 648 | <b>2</b><br>5:30pm- Fitness Class<br>7pm- Finance Committee Meeting                         | <b>3</b><br>6:30pm- UWF Meeting                              | <b>4</b><br>5:30pm- Fitness Class<br>7pm- Chancel Choir Rehearsal<br>7pm- The Couch  | <b>5</b><br>6:30pm- Line Dancing Lessons<br>6:30pm- Grace Notes Rehearsal<br>7pm- The Chit Chat                                   | <b>6</b><br>6:30am- Men's Emmaus<br>8:30am- Thrive | <b>7</b>  |
| <b>8</b><br>REG SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES<br>12:15pm- Confirmation Class<br>12:15pm- Children's Ministry Meeting<br>5pm- Revolution<br>6:48pm- 648                  | <b>9</b><br>9:30am- Calico Cut-Ups<br>5:30pm- Fitness Class                                 | <b>10</b><br>4:30pm- Soup for the Soul                       | <b>11</b><br>5:30pm- Fitness Class<br>7pm- Chancel Choir Rehearsal<br>7pm- The Couch | <b>12</b><br>10am-MMW Kitchen Clean-up Day<br>6:30pm- Line Dancing Lessons<br>6:30pm- Grace Notes Rehearsal<br>7pm- The Chit Chat | <b>13</b>  | <b>14</b> |
| <b>15</b><br>REG SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES<br>5pm- Revolution<br>6:48pm- 648  | <b>16</b><br>5:30pm- Fitness Class  | <b>17</b><br>6:30pm- UWF Meeting<br>6:30pm- Trustees Meeting | <b>18</b><br>5:30pm- Fitness Class<br>7pm- Ash Wednesday Service                     | <b>19</b><br>6:30pm- Line Dancing Lessons<br>6:30pm- Grace Notes Rehearsal<br>7pm- The Chit Chat                                  | <b>20</b>  | <b>21</b> |
| <b>22</b><br>REG SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES<br>5pm- Revolution<br>6:48pm- 648  | <b>23</b><br>9:30am- Calico Cut-Ups<br>5:30pm- Fitness Class<br>7pm- Church Council Meeting | <b>24</b><br>4:30pm- Soup for the Soul                       | <b>25</b><br>5:30pm- Fitness Class<br>7pm- Chancel Choir Rehearsal<br>7pm- The Couch | <b>26</b><br>6:30pm- Line Dancing Lessons<br>6:30pm- Grace Notes Rehearsal<br>7pm- The Chit Chat                                  | <b>27</b>  | <b>28</b> |

**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 2026

**Narcotics Anonymous  
M—7:00 PM Room 201**

| <b>Sun</b>  | <b>Mon</b>   | <b>Tue</b>                             | <b>Wed</b>   | <b>Thu</b> | <b>Fri</b>  | <b>Sat</b>                          |
|---|--|--|--|------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| <b>1</b><br>REG SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES<br>12:15pm- SLT Meeting<br>3pm- Threads of Fellowship<br>5pm- Revolution<br>6:48pm- 648         | <b>2</b><br>5:30pm- Fitness Class                            | <b>3</b>                               | <b>4</b><br>5:30pm- Fitness Class<br>7pm- Chancel Choir Rehearsal<br>7pm- The Couch  | <b>5</b>   | <b>6</b><br>6:30am- Men's Emmaus<br>8:30am- Thrive              | <b>7</b><br>10am- Confirmation Trip |
| <b>8</b><br>REG SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES<br>3pm- Threads of Fellowship<br>5pm- Revolution<br>6:48pm- 648                                 | <b>9</b><br>9:30am- Calico Cut-Ups<br>5:30pm- Fitness Class  | <b>10</b><br>4:30pm- Soup for the Soul | <b>11</b><br>5:30pm- Fitness Class<br>7pm- Chancel Choir Rehearsal<br>7pm- The Couch | <b>12</b>  | <b>13</b><br>6:30am- Men's Emmaus                               | <b>14</b>                           |
| <b>15</b><br>REG SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES<br>3pm- Threads of Fellowship<br>5pm- Revolution<br>6:48pm- 648                                | <b>16</b><br>5:30pm- Fitness Class                           | <b>17</b><br>6:30pm- Trustees Meeting  | <b>18</b><br>5:30pm- Fitness Class<br>7pm- Chancel Choir Rehearsal<br>7pm- The Couch | <b>19</b>  | <b>20</b><br>6:30am- Men's Emmaus<br>8:30am- Thrive—tentatively | <b>21</b>                           |
| <b>22</b><br>REG SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES<br>3pm- Threads of Fellowship<br>5pm- Revolution<br>6:48pm- 648                                | <b>23</b><br>9:30am- Calico Cut-Ups<br>5:30pm- Fitness Class | <b>24</b><br>4:30pm- Soup for the Soul | <b>25</b><br>5:30pm- Fitness Class<br>7pm- Chancel Choir Rehearsal<br>7pm- The Couch | <b>26</b>  | <b>27</b><br>6:30am- Men's Emmaus                               | <b>28</b>                           |
| <b>29</b><br>REG SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES<br>3pm- Threads of Fellowship<br>12:15pm- Confirmation Class<br>5pm- Revolution<br>6:48pm- 648 | <b>30</b><br>9:30am- Calico Cut-Ups<br>5:30pm- Fitness Class | <b>31</b>                              |  |            |   |                                     |