



December 2021

Offering Jesus Christ to everyone through worship, prayer, study, mission, and fellowship.

Sunday Worship: 8:30 & 10:45 am

Check us out on our web site www.monticelloumc.com

From Rev. Kathy...

Words are so inadequate to express our shock and sadness at the tragic death of Natalie McDowell, our Director of Youth Ministries. Natalie touched so many lives as a volunteer in our Youth Ministry and then as staff for the past 5 ½ years. Natalie shared the love of Jesus in so many ways. She listened to the kids, she cheered for the kids, she challenged them to grow in their faith. And we all grieve her death.

In the midst of our grief we are reminded of Jesus teaching us about eternal life. We are reminded of how important it is to share the love of Jesus. We are reminded that Jesus' love never ends.

Our Youth Ministry has continued--because Natalie had November and December planned! And she left lists, and more lists! And files labeled in such a way that everything we needed to find could be found.

She also had her faithful volunteers -- Jamie Hannah, Will Pontius and Mel Munster -- trained on how to step in and lead. We give thanks to God for Natalie's faithful leadership to the youth at the Monticello United Methodist Church. Amen!

#ShineNataliesLight

Rev. Kathy

Annual Cookie Walk

Thank you to Carolyn Vanderkloot and the many volunteers who helped with our Cookie Walk. Thanks also to all of the bakers. We raised \$1,371.00 to go towards making our Fire Pit area accessible.

Sounds of Christmas

You are all invited to come enjoy this year's concert on Sunday, December 12, at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary. This beautiful Music Ministry event will include performances by the choir, bells, and Those Guys. We hope you'll plan to stay for Tri-M BBQ. Proceeds from the dinner will go to Cunningham Children's Home.

Longest Night Service

On Tuesday, December 21 at 7 pm we will have a ***Longest Night Service*** (also called a Blue Christmas Service). This service begins by gathering in honesty about grief, hearing the consolation found in God's presence and love, and departing with the joy that comes from memory and a sense of shared peace. All are invited to attend.

Our Children Sing!

Our kids will be singing at the 4 pm Christmas Eve Service. Thank you to Emily Jenkins and Sarah Peterson for working with the kids.

Christmas Eve Services

We will be worshipping at 4 pm and 7 pm. Each service will include Holy Communion and candlelight. We will exclusively use battery operated candles this year.

Mortgage Update

As of December 6, our mortgage balance is \$399,883.09!

Meetings & Events...

Sunday, December 12

Sounds of Christmas Concert, 4:30 pm

Friday, December 24

Worship at 4 pm and 7 pm

Monday, December 27

Office Closed

Monday, January 3

Office Closed

Just Walking

This group meets each Tuesday & Thursday morning at 8:15 a.m. for devotions, discussion and walking. Join us anytime!

Fifth Sunday

January 30, 2022 is a fifth Sunday. We will have one service at 10 am, Sunday School at 9 am. Our lunch menu is to be determined!

Did you know?

The Vocational class from Monticello High School comes each week and performs various jobs around our building--vacuuming, cleaning tables, setting-up tables, cleaning windows and re-setting the chairs in our Sanctuary! They have been doing a great job.

Family Ministry News

What a wonderful time of the year! Make sure you check out the Kids' area in the sanctuary as it has new stuff added.

Each family will be receiving a letter and a survey for each child. Please fill it out and get it back to Melanie or place it in the basket in the kids area of the sanctuary. This will help Miss Melanie get to know the families of MUMC a little better. Also, if you would like to serve in any area of the kids' ministry, please let Melanie know. This could include Sunday School, VBS, future Wednesday events, etc. You can talk to her in person, or through email at mburger@monticelloumc.com.

Kids, keep your eye out for a special Christmas package coming to each of you this month! There will be a family game night in January. Details to come.

2022 Budget

| | |
|-------------------------|----------------|
| Education Ministry | \$33,920.00 |
| Outreach Ministry | \$83,184.00 |
| Nurture Ministry | \$15,700.00 |
| Youth Ministry | \$53,995.00 |
| Worship Ministry | \$61,023.00 |
| Pastoral Ministry | \$107,419.00 |
| Administrative Ministry | \$66,292.00 |
| Building Ministry | \$257,467.00** |

**This number includes \$160,000.00 for our mortgage.

| | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Total | \$679,000.00 |
|--------------|---------------------|

Youth Meals- Spring Semester

Each week we feed the youth group but we need your help! Ask your friends, small groups, Sunday School classes to help out with this ministry! Interested? Contact Will Pontius or check out the sign-up sheet at the Hospitality Desk.

December Youth News

Sunday, Dec 12

Sounds of Christmas Concert and Dinner
4 pm

Tuesday, Dec. 14

HS only Final Exam Study Tables
6:30-9:00

Wednesday, Dec. 15

HS only Final Exam Study Tables
6:30-9:00

Thursday, Dec. 16

HS only Final Exam Study Tables
6:30-9:00

Sunday, Dec. 19

Youth Group Christmas Party 5-7:30 pm
Bring a White Elephant Gift

Sunday, Dec 26

NO MYF-Merry Christmas!

Our Sympathy...

--to Brian, Andrew and Austin McDowell
on the death of Natalie.

--to the family of Betty Bruhn.

--to Joyce Munster on the death of her
mother, Ann Brazleton

--to Louise Brewer on the death of her
husband, Jack.

Thank you!

- Thank you for all of the socks, hats, jackets, etc...that you contributed to the Piatt County Toy and Gift Program.

--Martha Morris

- Thank you for all of the gifts contributed to the Kids at the Baby Fold plus your cash donations for our Home Bound folks. We received 43 pairs of pants, 29 t-shirts, 9 quilts, 2 receiving blankets and 1 sweater plus \$345 in gift cards!

--The Outreach Committee

- Thank you to all who helped with our Hanging of the Greens! Also thanks to Andy Blacker for his artistic vision!
- Thank you to all our volunteers! Your service helps to tell the story of Jesus' love.

Merry Christmas

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From Your Church Staff:

Kathy Brown

Melanie Burger

Gloria Cardoni & Mary Ellen Dean

Jamie Hannah

Mary Catherine St. John

David Shiley

Rev. Kathy Sweet

*May you all experience the love and
peace of the Christ-child.*