



Monticello First UMC  
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***Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors***

***Pastor: Rev. Kara Wilson***

*Choirmaster: Joneen Padgett*

*Youth Director: Ashleigh Kelly*

*Financial Secretary: Sam Kelly*

*Church Secretary: Gail Cowart*

## Monticello First UMC • November/December 2021 Newsletter



# Letter from Pastor Kara



Dear Friends,

I'm at a bit of a loss for what to write for this letter, so I will share a few thoughts and questions that are on my mind these days:

*Curiosity is greater than expertise.* No one becomes an expert without asking lots of questions. Plus, when someone assumes the role of the expert, it can stifle stirrings of curiosity. So, I'm trying to engage more from a standpoint of curiosity these days. It's a learning process, though.

Speaking of expertise, I thought learning how to accurately pronounce Hebrew and Greek names in the Bible would be a big deal in seminary. As it turns out, it's not! Instead, my professors like to quote Luther and encourage us to "sin boldly" in our mispronunciations. It goes to show that sometimes, the tiny things are not really all that important after all. Sometimes.

On a note of curiosity, here's something I've been pondering: Why does it seem easier to forgive someone who wronged *you*, rather than to forgive someone who wronged *someone you love*? Maybe I'm the only person who feels that way. But in any case, maybe we can figure out some things together.

Usually people see Advent, the 4 Sundays leading up to Christmas, as a season of expectation. What would happen if we saw the Advent of Christ as a newborn child and the redeemer of the second coming with curiosity and anticipation, rather than merely expectation? What would unfold for us then?

As we move into the Advent season, let's continue to be curious about what God has in store for us.

*Grace and peace, Pastor Kara*

## ***Sermon Scriptures – November and December***

November 7 – Revelation 21:1-6a

November 14– Mark 13:1-8

November 21– Revelation 1:4b-8

November 28– Genesis 38:13-19, 24-27

December 5– Joshua 2:1-21

December 12– Ruth 3:1-18, 4:13-17

December 19– 2 Samuel 11:1-17

December 26– TBD – Guest speaker

## **Finance Update** *by Sam Kelly*

*Below is a summary of our income/expenses for August & September.*

*The 2021 Year-end report will be available in the next Newsletter.*

<i>Description</i>	<i>August</i>	<i>September</i>
General Fund Contributions	\$8,438.00	\$7,404.00
Trustee Contributions	\$0	\$0
Designated Contributions	\$0	\$0
Operating Expenses	\$11,733.00	\$11,202.00



*Sunday School 9:45 AM* Adults meet in the Fellowship Hall and Youth/Children meet in the Nursery.  
*Traditional Worship in person every Sunday or join us on Facebook live at 11:00 am!*

**NEWS BRIEFS • NEWS BRIEFS • NEWS BRIEFS • NEWS BRIEFS • NEWS BRIEFS**

The **United Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting** is the first Sunday each month at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. The October *Chicken Q* was a sold-out success! Over \$1200 was raised. Thanks to all who made it possible.

The **United Methodist Women's Meeting** is the first Tuesday each month at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

The combined **Youth House Meetings** of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches are Sundays, 5:30–7:00 pm at the Youth House . For information, contact Asheigh Kelly, ashleighke@aol.com.

**Leadership Council Meetings** are held each month and all members are welcome. The next meetings will be November 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. December is TBD. Check emails and Sunday bulletins for details.

**UPPER ROOMS** for November & December are here! Pickup at the office, Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays from 11:00 to 4:00 pm. Please call the office and leave a message if you need assistance.

Every fourth Thursday is **Mobile Day at the Jasper County Community Food Bank**, open to all our friends and neighbors in Jasper County. Hours are 1:00 to 4:30 pm on Mobile Thursday. Other Thursdays, hours are 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. If interested in volunteering, call 706-468-6076 and leave your name and number.

***November:***

2. Jillian Howe
5. Sam Kelly
7. Alexandra Kelly
8. Janet Anderson
11. Gail Parrott
23. Emily McElheney
24. Matthew Wade
26. Becky Boyd  
Donald Tyer
28. Margaret Watson
29. Morgan Tillman  
Panzer



***December:***

18. Will Tillman
19. Matt Tumlin
26. Aniesa Howe

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!**

- 11-22 Russell & Nancy Pool  
12-17 Larrv & Cindy Smith

*For corrections, additions, deletions to the Birthdays and Anniversary lists, please leave a message at the church office, 706-468-6118.*

Office hours are Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm. We want to hear from you!

***ML&J Christmas Angels:*** Stay tuned for further details! We will sponsor several families' children for Christmas. As usual, look for the Angels on the Christmas Tree for children's wish lists.

## CHRISTMAS BASKETS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS



*Time to prepare the annual Christmas Baskets for 1<sup>st</sup> responders! We are very excited to be able to continue our church's tradition of giving Christmas baskets to those who selflessly protect our Jasper County citizens. We have accumulated enough baskets throughout the year as well as one nice jar of various items such as jelly, barbecue sauce, etc. We would be very grateful for any donations of fillers to go in the baskets. It could be candy canes, Christmas tree decorations, candy bars, markers, small notepads, gift cards, or other small gifts. A box will be placed in the foyer of the church starting November 7<sup>th</sup> through December 12<sup>th</sup> for donations. Contact Joneen Padgett.*



## CHOIR NEWS!

**Rehearsals are each Sunday after worship service until 12:45 pm.**

The **Community Christmas Cantata rehearsals** are at the Presbyterian Church on Sundays, 1:30 – 3:00 pm unless otherwise designated. Check emails and bulletins for announcements or call Joneen Padgett at 770-539-2682 to participate! The Cantata performance is scheduled for Sunday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at the Monticello Baptist Church, 4:00 pm.

## Children's Church ... *always puts a smile on your face!*



Our children are precious, and we are in process of compiling the results of the Children's Ministry questionnaire. Whether led by Pastor Kara or Mary Greeson, our Children's Church moment is always special!

*L-R: Ellie Drew, Kate Suwinski, Sarah Kait Kelly, Pastor Kara, Emma-Claire Kelly, Grant Kelly and Emma Suwinski.*