



# First United Methodist Church Monticello

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February 26, 2019

## CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Hammett N. Evans,  
Senior Pastor

Rev. Lori Fallon,  
Associate Pastor/  
Youth Minister

Lynne Russell,  
Administrative  
Assistant/Finance  
Secretary

Kathy Lyon,  
Music Minister

Kathy Borchardt,  
Children's Choir  
Director

Jennifer Fryer,  
Children's Handbell  
Choir Director

Mary Donaldson,  
Instrumentalist

Fern Fincher,  
Nursery Director and  
Custodian

Shelly Mullins,  
Preschool Director

Paula Atwell,  
Preschool Teacher

Michael Reed,  
Audio-Visual Tech

Dear Friends,

As I write to you tonight, my heart is heavy. The special called General Conference of the United Methodist Church has just adjourned. Today the delegates voted to pass the Traditional Plan by a vote of 53% For and 47% Against. The Modified Traditional Plan retains the current disciplinary restrictions prohibiting "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" being ordained as clergy and forbidding clergy to perform same-sex marriages. The Plan also strengthens enforcement of those restrictions.

All the legislation that passed has been referred to the Judicial Council of the UMC, our church's "Supreme Court." The Judicial Council will determine whether or not any of the legislation is constitutional, according to our Book of Discipline. The way ahead is unclear until they make that determination.

What is clear is that many of our brothers and sisters in the United Methodist Church are hurting tonight. Some of them are in our own church family. They are people we sing with and pray with in worship. They are people who bring us food when we're grieving. They are people who come see us in the hospital when we are sick. Please be in prayer for all who are hurting in our church family and in our denomination over this decision.

Our church family is blessed by its rich diversity. To paraphrase John Wesley, we may not think alike, but we do love alike. I assure you that we will continue to be an inclusive church that welcomes and embraces all persons, regardless of any label, whether they are conservative, moderate, or progressive. As your pastor, I covet your prayers as we move forward in faith, hope, and love.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Hammett N. Evans,  
Senior Pastor