

# Reflections

November 2019

317 S. Main Street  
Monticello, AR 71655



## ALWAYS GIVE THANKS

*“O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praises to him, tell of all his wonderful works. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. Seek the LORD and his strength, seek his presence continually. Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered, O offspring of his servant Israel, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.”* (1 Chronicles 16:8-13, NRSV)

Every time I read the Old Testament, one thing that really stands out to me is how often God’s children are reminded to be thankful for all God has done. If God says it once, God says it a thousand times, “I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians, and from the hand of all who oppressed you, and drove them out before you, and gave you their land” (Judges 6:9). God had given the Israelites everything, so God called them to live a life of gratitude for all God had done for them.

The life of gratitude is multifaceted. The first side is **humility**. Since all we have and are is God’s gift, when good things happen to us, God gets the credit. Job put it well when he said, “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return there” (Job 1:21). Knowing that everything we have is a blessing from God helps to keep us humble.

The next side of the life of gratitude is **hope**. We trust that the God who delivered the children of Israel from slavery is able to help us today. The God who conquered death through the cross is able to overcome the obstacles we face personally and communally, both in our church family and in our community. When you read the Bible from start to finish, you become grateful that the future is in God’s hands, and that gives you hope.

The last side of the life of gratitude is **generosity**. Because God provided everything for the Israelites, God expected them to provide for others. They were to share not only with each other, but also with those who were less fortunate (see Deuteronomy 24:19-22). Generosity naturally flows from a grateful heart. We give not because God expects it, but simply because our hearts are overflowing with gratitude and compassion for others. To put it another way, we don’t give because God or the church needs our money, but because we have a spiritual need to give. That’s why Paul names generosity as one of the fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

I want you to know how grateful I am to serve as your senior pastor. It is so exciting to be a part of such a faithful church family. Michelle and I are so thankful for your friendship and love. You are a blessing to us in so many ways. I’m thankful for a wonderful, gifted, committed church staff. They often go above and beyond the call of duty, and I appreciate their dedication. I am thankful for our church leaders. They challenge me to be the best leader I can be. Most of all, I am thankful to God for bringing us together in ministry. I am at one and the same time humbled by that gift and full of hope for the good things God will accomplish through us and our generosity.



Grace and Peace!

# FUMY

## November 2019



FUMY had a fantastic October. We began our month with mission work. We helped at Options on the square. We sorted, opened bags, cleaned, straightened and hung a lot of clothes and other items! We plan to return to Options in November to help them again. We are finishing up our Wednesday lesson series about "Truth and Dare"... we are hearing testimonies of different people and are dared to lived like Jesus. On Sundays we continue talking about "the power within" and what it means for us to hear the old Bible stories and learn about how God used others. We enjoyed some delicious suppers from our youth parents, played some fun games plus had a delicious prayer breakfast with a good devo. On Saturday, October 26, we had the opportunity to be a part of another new mission. We handed out food to families as a part of the mobile food distribution grant through the AR Food Bank. What a blessing to give to others! And on Sunday, October 27, we joined over 100 volunteers in giving shoes, socks & coats to school aged children. Later that afternoon on Sunday, October 27 we had our 17th annual pumpkin carving & painting at Audrea & Chuck Stephens' home (**THANK YOU**). We had a blast carving & painting pumpkins and then going on a "spooky" hayride. Special **THANK YOU** to Maggie & Anthony Brown, Greg Fallon, Jonathan & Natalie & Ryne Gosdin, Amy & Pierson Harper, Renea & John McClendon and Kristi Meeks plus Kate Brown & Nick Griffin for helping with our "spooky" hayride! We plan to mail the shoes that we collected for "Soles4Souls" mission on October 30. **Thank you to everyone that donated shoes & money to mail them!**

November reminds us to be thankful for all that God has blessed us with. This month brings more mission work for us again. In addition to working at Options again, our group will be distributing Thanksgiving baskets. We will have brown sacks on the tables in worship beginning on Sunday, November 3. We are asking our church family to fill at least one brown bag with non-perishable items AND to give a bag to a neighbor and ask them to fill a bag too. Please plan to pick up their bag and **return both filled bags to the church by Sunday morning, November 24**. There will be tables set up in the FLC. What a blessing to be able to give to those in need! On Friday, November 1, 6 of our youth plus Maggie Brown, Scotty Beer & me will be heading to Jr. High Refuge for a weekend of unplugging from life and finding "Refuge in God." In addition to more youth lessons and games & fellowship time, we are looking forward to the week-long Thanksgiving break. We'll come back renewed and ready for the Advent season.

I wish you a blessed Thanksgiving season. Please remember to pray for one another. Come Holy Spirit come.

Christ above all, Lori

### Important Reminders:

- **November 1 - 3:** Our group leaves at 2:00 pm for Jr. High Refuge, Shepherd of the Ozarks, Harriet, AR
- **November 3:** Church family asked to pick up two brown sacks, fill one bag with non-perishable items for needy families and ask a neighbor to fill another & let them know when you will pick it back up (please return by November 24 to Family Life Center)
- **November 22:** Prayer Breakfast @ 7:01 am
- **November 24:** 2:00 - 6:30 pm, FUMY to sort food, deliver & hand out Thanksgiving baskets to needy families (Family Life Center) plus supper

### Snack Supper List:

November 3	<b>No FUMY: Refuge</b>
November 10	Amy Howard
November 17	Diantha Beer
November 24	Monica Sims





*You are invited to a Fish Fry  
honoring  
Freddie and Bob Lee  
Sunday, November 17, 2019  
Noon - Family Life Center*

Bob & Freddie are moving to North Arkansas. They have been faithful members of Monticello First since December 1974. Please join us as we say our goodbyes and wish them God's richest blessings.

The church will provide the fish, fries, and hush puppies. If you would like to bring a side item or dessert, please contact Sally Kirst at 870-224-5466.



### CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

**Shoebox Ministry:** November 1-17 we will be collecting filled shoeboxes for the Shoebox Ministry (also known as **Operation Christmas Child** and **Samaritan's Purse**). This will be our sixth year to be part of this ministry. Each shoebox should contain a "wow" gift (doll, ball with pump, or stuffed animal) and other items such as toys, hygiene items, and school supplies, but please have no liquids, food, or war-related toys or items. We will have a DISPLAY in the FLC which will have instructions how to fill and label a shoebox, an example of a filled shoebox, and empty shoeboxes (if you don't have one). Please return your filled shoeboxes (with \$9 for shipping and handling) to our DISPLAY table in the FLC or the secretary's office on or before Sunday, November 17. The shoeboxes will be delivered by noon on the 17th. If you would like to be part of this ministry but prefer not to fill a shoebox, we will gladly fill a shoebox for you. Please earmark your gifts: **Shoebox Ministry**. Please join us in prayer for this ministry. Thank You!

**Heifer International:** Our children will be going to the Heifer Village and Urban Farm and Museum in Little Rock on Saturday, November 16. Our plans include riding the trolley and eating at the River Market before walking to the Heifer International Headquarters for our tour. As always, please pray for our children as they continue to learn about Jesus and how to better serve others.



Cub Scout Pack 69 participated in the De Soto Area Council Fall Campout Weekend October 25-26 in El Dorado. We had 15 Cub Scouts from Monticello and their families participate in movies & popcorn, fishing derby, BB Guns, Archery, Canoeing, Fall Festival games, Bobcat Ceremony, and Closing Campfire. Even with the rain the kids still had their smores. Great time!



On Monday, October 7, Boy Scout Troop 67 held a Flag Retirement Ceremony during their weekly meeting. The Veterans Association assisted the Scouts with the ceremony. The Troop had around 60 flags given to them in the last year and a half that needed to be retired.



On Saturday, October 26, Lay Servant Training was held at the First United Methodist Church. A big thank you to the UMW for preparing the menu and food, and to these ladies Kathy Tumilson, Susan Musick, Louisa Smith, and Betty Sawyer for serving the meal.



Dear Lori and our fans at First Monticello,

Once again, we asked and you did not disappoint! What could be better than BBQ and Mac and Cheese? The meal was fantastic! Thank you for your continued support of our program and our players. We couldn't do it without you! GO BIG BLUE!

MHS Football Boosters



Coming in December FUMY and FUMC will ring the bell for the Salvation Army Kettle Drive.

Please sign up to ring on the Sign-up Genius.  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0945ABAD2BA1F85-ring1>



## Community Events

### **November 9 Fall Bazaar**

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center

### **November 14 Fall Health Fair**

at Drew Memorial Hospital from 9:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

### **November 23 Vera Lloyd Turkey Trot**

Registration open. Register for 10K or 5K run, 5K walk, or Virtual Participation. [Runsignup.com/vlturkeytrot](http://Runsignup.com/vlturkeytrot)

## Coming up in December

**December 3** — Annual Carols of Christmas Parade — contact the Chamber at 870-367-6741 or [monticellochamber@sbcglobal.net](mailto:monticellochamber@sbcglobal.net) for info to enter a float.

## Weekly Events

### Sundays

9:00 AM Contemporary Service

9:50 AM Sunday School

10:50 AM Worship

4:00 PM Youth Praise Band

5:00 PM Jr. High FUMY

6:00 PM Snack Supper FUMY

6:30 PM Sr. High FUMY

6:00 PM Small Group

### Mondays:

5:30 PM Scouts

6:30 PM Small Group

7:00 PM Small Group

### Tuesdays:

10:00 AM Prayer time with Lori

1:00 PM Staff Meeting

6:00 PM Disciple 1 Study

### Wednesdays:

11:15 AM TOTS

3:00 WACK (Wed. at Church for Kids)

3:00 FUMY Hang Time

5:00 Mid-week Fellowship Meal

5:30 FUMY Mid-week

6:00 Chancel Choir

6:00 PM Small Group Meeting

7:00 PM Bells of Hope

7:00 PM Praise Band Practice

### Thursdays

10:00 AM Disciple 4 Bible Study

4:30 PM Feed Our Neighbors

5:30 PM Small Group

## GREETERS

	<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>10:50 AM</b>
Nov. 3	Deborah James Michael James	Judy Murphy
Nov. 10	Renee Treadwell Trudy Jackson John Frank Gibson	Margo Stevens
Nov. 17	Margo Stevens Joel Stevens	Valerie Harvey Margo Stevens
Nov. 24	Kim Fletcher Margo Stevens Tony Fletcher	Margo Stevens

## LITURGIST

Nov. 3	Paul Griffin
Nov. 10	Rev. Lori Fallon
Nov. 17	Rev. Lori Fallon
Nov. 24	Diane Pennington

## ACOLYTES

Nov. 3	Danner Loyd & Rylan Harvey
Nov. 10	Addy Beth & Andrew Maxwell
Nov. 17	James Pierce Breedlove & Dawson Loyd
Nov. 24	Ryne Gosdin & Lillie Green

## Mid Week Fellowship Meal Menu

Nov. 6	meatloaf, mac and cheese, green beans, salad, bread. and dessert
Nov. 13	taco bar, beans, salad, and dessert
Nov. 20	ham, dressing, yams, and dessert
Nov. 27	Thanksgiving Break

*Memorials were given to the glory of God*

*And in loving memory of:*

**Barbara Abston by:**

Lori and Greg Fallon  
Sandra and J.D. West

**Judy Ryburn by:**

Commercial Bank  
Lori and Greg Fallon  
Christine and Jeff Felts  
Joy and Dennis Holley  
Kate and Don Koen  
Diane and Mark Pennington  
Sandra and J.D. West  
Mary and Bill Whiting  
Ginger Wilkins

**Kenny Johnson by:**

Stacey and Barry Davis  
Lori and Greg Fallon  
Cliff Gibson  
Bennie and Buck Henderson  
Joy and Dennis Holley  
Sandra and J.D. West  
Ginger Wilkins

**Barbara Stover by:**

Lori and Greg Fallon

**In honor of Michelle and  
Hammett Evans by:**

Mary E. Calhoun



**First United Methodist Church**  
**Holiday Bazaar**  
**Family Life Center**

100's of Handmade Items!

Frozen meals  
Supporting the work of the church  
\$10

Lunch—\$5.00  
Served 11:00—1:00 p.m.  
Menu:  
Soup  
Cornbread  
Dessert  
Drink

317 South Main  
Monticello, AR  
November 9, 2019  
9:00—2:00  
All proceeds go to missions!



The UMW table will have a new painting of one of our stained glass windows by Judy Bynum and a CD of 12 inspirational songs on the piano by Mary Donaldson. We will also have frozen cornbread dressing, pear preserves, muscadine jelly and other baked items.

Thirty vendors with a variety of handcrafted items will be on hand to show their goods.



If you would like to place a red poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one, please complete the order form below and place in the offering plate with your check made out to First United Methodist Church and in the memo line marked poinsettia. Cost of a poinsettia this year is \$20.00. The flowers will be placed in the church on December 11th.

In loving memory of

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In loving honor of

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Hanging of the Greens will be Sunday, November 24. We need volunteers to set up the trees in the Family Life Center after the 9:00 service and in the Sanctuary after the 10:50 service. Please contact the church office or Sandy Funderburg if you are able to help.

First United Methodist Church

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