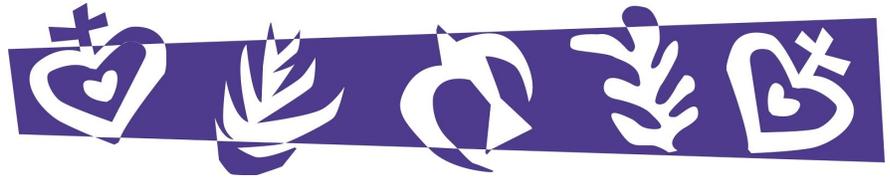


Reflections

March 2021

317 S. Main Street



To the saints in Christ at Monticello, who are faithful brothers and sisters. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

Who's ready to go back to church! I know that it has been quite some time since we were able to gather for in-person praise, thanksgiving, and worship. Well, the wait is finally over. The newly formed Relaunch Team met on Monday, February 22 and decided to allow both of our worship services to open again for in-person worship. It was also decided to allow our adult Sunday school classes to resume meeting in person. The date of our Grand Reopening will be Sunday, March 7.

Before this date, the Relaunch Team is doing some editorial work to our Reopening Plan to reflect current data, as well as determining seating arrangement in the Family Life Center. The Sanctuary will have the same arrangement as before.

If you do choose to return to in-person worship and adult Sunday school on March 7, we ask for you to familiarize yourself with our Reopening Plan as well as make a reservation no later than noon on each Friday preceding Sunday worship services by registering at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0945ABAD2BA1F85-sign> to use SignUp Genius, calling the church office @ 870-367-2471, or emailing masterfumc@gmail.com. For Sunday school, the office will have to determine where your class can meet depending on how many people are going to be in attendance.

Masks will be required at all times while in the facilities. An exception will be made for all children under two years of age. Social distancing will be required as well. There will also be no food or drink in any of our facilities until further notice. This is to keep all worshipers healthy and safe. You will be screened for temperature upon entering the building, and a list will be kept of all attendees for contact tracing purposes.

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Blessings,

Rev. Bryan Diffie

FUMY News



March 2021

February was full of surprises! SNOW much SNOW! We did get to be together in person for two Sundays and one Wednesday this month....and we had such fun! We have a new outside game: 9 square in the air! We are looking forward to more fun playing with it this next month. Our group met via zoom on the other Sundays and Wednesdays. We played many games and shared laughs plus talked a lot about Jesus and how we communicate with God. Our small groups met on Sundays and on Wednesdays we talked about Jesus and his ministry. Our mission in February was to add food to the blessing box and I am so proud of the youth that added food & toiletries. We also sent "goody bags" to our college students! We are in the season of Lent now. Our youth are getting "Lent" bags this last week of February with specific things to encourage them to pray. In this season of Lent we are focusing on Jesus' sacred invitation to get to know him through prayer. We are encouraging each other to clear away those things that keep us from our relationship with God. Finally, we collected snow pics of our youth & their families & even their animals. Here are some of our favorites!



March is here... a whole year of a pandemic! WOW! FUMY is excited to return to church for youth activities on Sundays and Wednesdays. Spring Forward will allow us to gather outside longer and we are excited about the warmer weather. We will continue our Sunday small groups and Wednesdays we are following the "Sacred Invitation" series. We are learning more about what it means to follow Jesus and to be invited into a real relationship with Him. With our new Lent bags we are exploring more ways to pray. Confirmation classes continue on Sunday nights at 5 pm with Bro. Bryan for our 7th graders (6th graders will begin confirmation in August, 2021, when they are beginning 7th grade). If there are any older youth that have not gone through confirmation and wish to do so, just let me know! We ask that you pray for those students that are learning what it means to become a United Methodist and what it means to say yes to Jesus: *Kolton Beer, James Pierce Breedlove, Max Efird, Rylan Harvey, Alex Martinez, Ady Beth Maxwell, and Presley Wagner.*

FUMY is hoping and praying that they will get to go on a mission trip this summer and to do local mission work! We are scheduled to go to Oklahoma City, OK, in June for our trip. The last day to sign up for the students is April 15. We need your help financially to send our youth on a mission trip and to continue doing mission work both during the year and in the summer.

As always, we seek to be Jesus' hands and feet in the world. Thank you for always supporting our group with your love & prayers!

Christ above all, *Levi*



Important Reminders:

- **Sundays in March:**
3:30 - 4:30 pm:
All FUMY outside games & Small Groups
 - **Wednesdays in March:**
5:30 - 6:30 pm
All FUMY
- When weather forces us **inside only**, we will **only meet for 45 minutes!**
- **March 21 & 24 -**
NO FUMY - Spring Break week



We need your help!

FUMY Envelope Fundraiser

Coming April 2021

Envelopes ranging **\$5 - \$200**
To support our **FUMY mission trip & mission projects all year long!**



Picture by: Rev. Stephen Coburn



FUMC Adult Music...Chancel Choir, Bells of Hope and Praise Band

Chancel Choir and Bells of Hope Resume Rehearsals!!!

After 357 days of COVID -19 restrictions, the Chancel Choir and Bells of Hope are resuming weekly in-person rehearsals!. On Wednesday, March 3, rehearsals will be held in the church sanctuary as follows:

5:30-6:00 Bells of Hope (Adult Handbells)

6:30-7:00 Chancel Choir (Adult SATB Choir)

Both groups will practice social distancing and wear masks for the duration of the rehearsal time and will have a temperature check and sign in chart!

WE are so excited to be able to *make a joyful noise unto the Lord*, together...in person! Please take this re-launch as the perfect opportunity to join our group! You are so very WELCOME...if you are a newbie, call or text me @ 870-308-1518 so that I can prepare a music folder just for YOU!

Kathy Lyon,
Director of Music Ministries



BSA: On February 8, 2021 Boy Scouts of America celebrated their 111th Birthday in the United States. The Year 2021 is the **58th year of the First United Methodist Church of Monticello chartering Troop 67.** We appreciate everything this church gives to the Scouting programs in Monticello. During the last weekend of January we were able to do a one-night campout with the De Soto Winter Camp in El Dorado. We are continuing to plan one-night campouts for the spring and still following our COVID precautions. Adding a lot of hand sanitizer and washing hand stations to our camp supply lists for preparation before every event along with masks and added transportation from parents. Our next troop camp event will be March 19-20 at Chemin-A-Haut State Park in Bastrop and then our Spring Camporee with De Soto Council will be April 9-10 at Cane Creek State Park. Our Scouts continue to work on rank advancement and merit badges.



Cub Scouts: Den meetings are continued with individual scout work with parents and den leaders from home. Pack 69 plans to meet in person March 1 at the church. De Soto Council is planning a Cub Scout Day activity at Camp in El Dorado on March 13 and also a Twilight camp at De Soto on April 30-May 1. We are in the planning stages of our annual Pinewood Derby and the Crossover and Recognition Banquet for our Cub Scouts. We know both events will have to be outdoors. We hope to have this event in April when we are sure of good weather.





Some of the children and I were seen and heard in the Sunday, February 21 online service singing "Jesus in the Morning". So appropriate for a morning service. This song tells us that in our every day life, we should praise, love, and serve Him all day long. I am always so blessed when I hear the children sing, and I can't wait till we are all together again!!

We will keep on singing online in the months to come so look for us!!

Love to all, Mrs. Kathy 



Children's Ministry News

The Season of Lent is here! Each of our children received a manila envelope 'packet' with Scripture readings and accompanying activities for each of the special days and Sundays in this season through Easter Sunday. PLEASE, take pictures of your children with any activities they do in observance of the Season of Lent (not necessarily from the packet) so their pictures can be included in the May Newsletter.

Thank you to Kathy Johnston and Kim Fletcher for going through the Sacred Invitation for Children's Ministry from the Foundry Foundation with me from which the children's packets were created.

Thank you to Ember Davis and to Diantha Beer for participating in the Children's Moment in Sunday worship.

How wonderful to see and hear the Children's Choir with Kathy Borchardt! Thank YOU! You did such a fantastic job! Last, but by no means least, a Valentine's Day bag was delivered to each of our children with help from Kathy Borchardt, Kim Fletcher, and Kathy Johnston. Thank YOU!

We hope to be together soon! You are in our prayers!

Ms. Brenda

"And He took them in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them." Mark 10:16

The FUMC Preschool

February was a very snowy month for us, so we are looking forward to learning about all the wonderful things that spring brings. In February, we were able to provide a number activities for our preschoolers to do while they were at home during the snow days. We provided exercise videos, snow recipes, some Mardi Gras lessons, and crafts via our preschool Facebook page.

Our Bible story for the month of March is the Easter Story which leads us up to Easter Sunday in April. Other things we will be learning about in March are rainbows, wind, animal eggs, and rain. Our 4 year old class has begun learning to sound out words and are mastering some beginning math skills. Our 3-year old class is practicing spelling and writing their names and learning through our story times.

We are grateful that all are still healthy and learning together. Thank you for your continued support and prayers of this program. We are receiving phone calls and messages almost daily from parents wanting their children to be a part of this program in the fall.

"Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants."

Deuteronomy 32:2

FEED OUR NEIGHBORS Ministry

The Lord has blessed us indeed as the Feed Our Neighbors Ministry is the recipient of two grants: a \$3,000 grant from The Methodist Foundation of Arkansas and a \$5,000 matching grant (\$2,500 from the Toyota Foundation and \$2,500 from Ryburn Motor Company). Thank YOU to Ryburn Motor Company, the Toyota Foundation, and The Methodist Foundation of Arkansas.

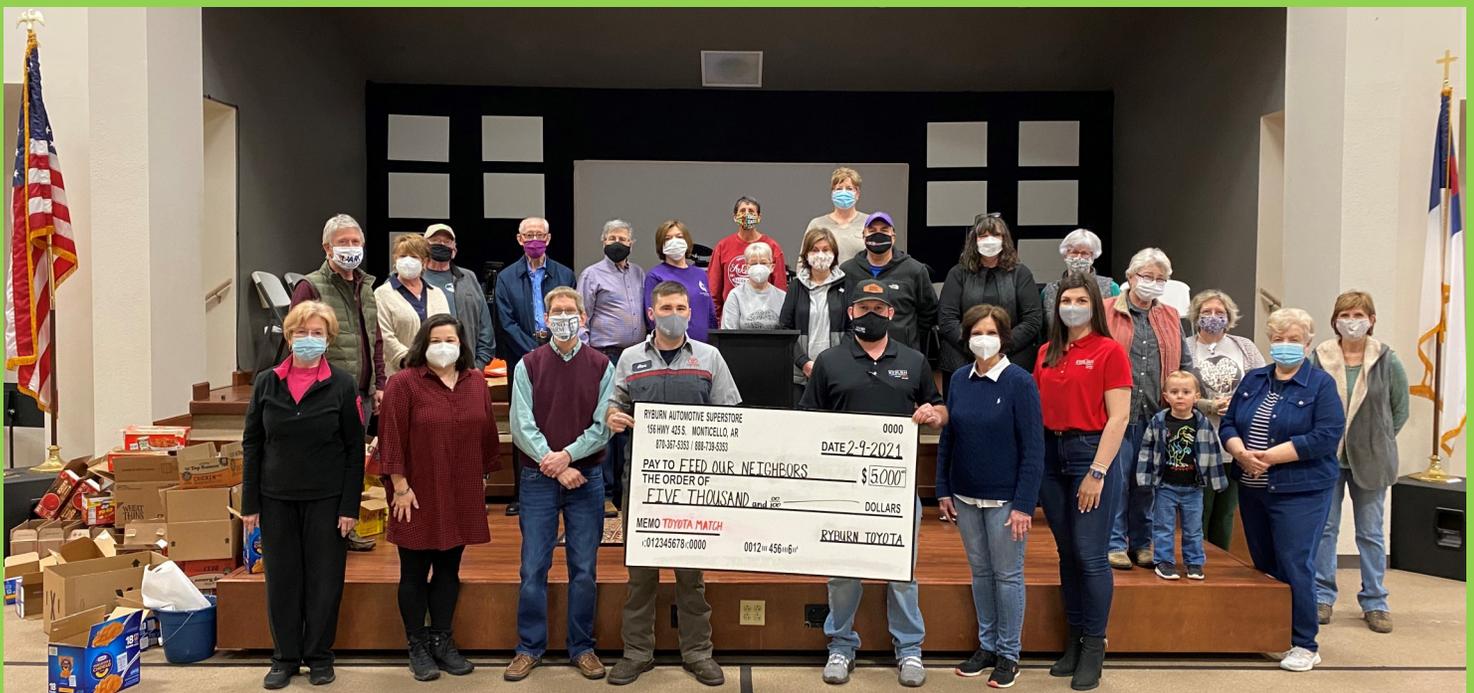
As always, thank you to our church family for your continued support of this ministry. Around 250 adults and children are helped with each weekly delivery, where God's presence is often felt and heard in the voices of Our Neighbors. These deliveries are made possible because of the drivers and packers and through your generous monetary and food donations.

Please continue to join us in prayer for this ministry as we seek to do God's will. Our love for God is deeply embedded in this ministry.

The Feed Our Neighbors Ministry Team

“As you did it to one of the least of these, my brethren, you did it to me.” Matthew 25:40

Items FON needs for the coming weeks: 16 oz. peanut butter, 15 oz. spaghetti sauce, spaghetti noodles, 15 oz. canned vegetables and fruits, canned meats, one lb. sugar, one lb. flour.

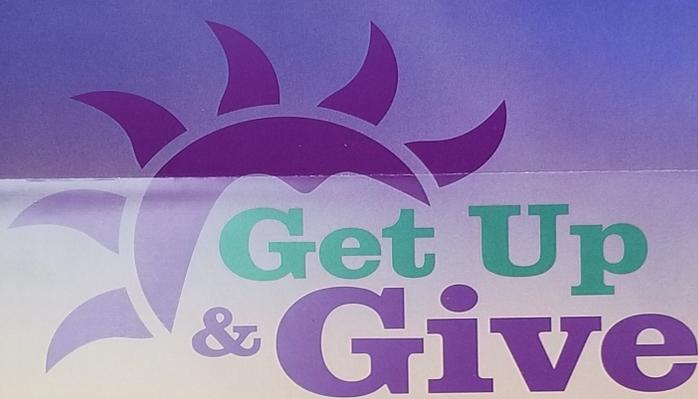


Front row left to right: Sheere Scogin, Rev. Lori Fallon, Rev. Bryan Diffie, Alex Harvey, Andrew Brannon, Brenda Wright, Halley Ryburn, **Second Row:** Auddy Doss, Dalene Stephenson, Mike Stephenson, Joe Fletcher, Jere Johnston, Kathy Johnston, Fern Fincher, Belinda Carpenter, Dave Carpenter, Lynne Russell, Kathy Tumblison, Louisa Smith, Slade McRae, Lea Ann Forrest, Susan Musick, LeAnne Burch, **Third Row:** Julie Smith and Christine Felts

Not Pictured: Maggie Brown, Kami Griffin, Bob Kirst, Sally Kirst, Tommy Maxwell, Debbie Morrison, Michelle Nickolson, Terry Nugent, Nick Smart, Paul Smith, James Tumblison, and Mary Jo Wisener

Get Up & Give collection boxes will be in the office entrance through March 30. Please stop by if you have a donation. Call the church office for entrance. For a complete shopping list go to MethodistFamily.org/Get-Up-And-Give.

For Where Your Treasure is ...



**Get Up
& Give**

Methodist
FAMILY HEALTH

Collection Dates:
February 17 - April 1, 2021

You can honor the Lenten season by collecting and donating necessities for Arkansas children and families at Methodist Family Health.

For a complete list of items, visit MethodistFamily.org/Get-Up-And-Give or look inside a Get Up & Give brochure.

For where your treasure is, there also will be your heart. - Matthew 6:21

***Memorials were given to the glory of God
And in loving memory of:***

John Porter Price:

Jimmie Jo & David Leech

Betty Ross Pruett:

Cookie & Jim Crossett

Sally & Bob Kirst

Pat McKinney

Judy Murphy

Diane & Mark Pennington

Lisa & Terry Twyford

Union Bank & Trust

J.D. West:

Jimmie Jo & David Leech

Bill Wisener:

Jimmie Jo & David Leech

Weekly Events

Sundays

9:00 AM Online Service

11:00 AM Online Service

(Beginning March 7 — In-person worship for both services with registration.)

3:30 PM FUMY

5:00 PM Confirmation (Zoom)

Tuesdays:

10:00 AM Prayer Team (Zoom)

Wednesdays:

10:00 AM Senior Pastor's Bible Study (Zoom)

6:00 Wednesday Zoom Meeting

FUMC MONTICELLO PRAYER CONCERNS

In Christian Sympathy:

Family of Kevin Hicks

For Those in the Hospital:

Susie Bennett

Bart Bynum

For Those At Home:

Charlie Abernathy

Olivia Ashcraft & twins

Dianna Bates

Roy Bennett

Lorenz Berry

Genie Boren

Susan Bowman

Matthew Brooks

Bud Bulloch

Carole Bulloch

Ken Burchfield

Raymond Chisom

Wanda Cook

Chris Coon

Mary Crain

Bill Crain

Donna Crelia

Kay Crook

Alberto Cueto

Carolyn Curry

Matt Daniel

Candy Doss

Kenneth Farrar

Sylvia Farrar

Terry Fletcher

Michael Gilbert

Louise Godwin

Walter Godwin

Kevin Grant

Stacy Hopper Groves

Joel Haden

Barry Hall

Diane Harris

Kim Hoffman

Larry Honeycutt

Pam Hudson

Debbie Hyatt

Janet Dancer Inman

For Those At Home

(Continued):

Carolyn Inzer

Sonny Jones

Mary Kavanaugh

Pat Kissenger

John David Lammers

Ruth Langley

Marge LaPointe

Rev. Jim Lenderman

Steve Maggard

Jonathan Marchese

Anne Martell

Beth Maxwell

Monteene McCoy

John McKenzie

Matty McKeown

Dr. Randy McKiever

Arwyn Montroy

Melba Neely

Ben Nichols

Erin Norris & baby boy

Linda Outlaw

Diane Pennington

Grady Rawls

Gladys Ruff

Paul Scheible

Lynette Scott

Elaine Smith

Helen Smith

Nelda Tarver

JoAnn Taylor

Vanessa Upton

Tatty V'elez

Amy Ward

Gavin Wear

Michelle Webb

Cindy Calaway Wellenberger

Blaine Wells

Chuck West

Harold West

Rev. Ed Wyers

James Youngblood

Belle View Estates:

Mary Ellis - *rehab*

Grand Manor:

Mary Emily Calhoun

Wanda Cavaness

Louise Funderberg

Mary McNeese

Tom Rabb

Martha Jean Wagner

Billie Sue Wilson

Benny Jack Wilson

Cleo Young

The Woods:

Dorothy Calhoun

Mary Parker

Betty Sawyer - *rehab*

Arbor Oaks in Malvern:

Connie Efird

Dumas Nursing Home:

Wheaties White

Missionaries:

Rusty & Ericka Jackson

Shorel & Sandra Kleinart & kids

Bo & Lauren Scott

In the Service: *All of our military*

Brendon Berry

Dr. Trey Burch

Jim Crossley

Austin Curry

Stephen Gray

Jo James

Karson Kilcrease

Allen Lewis

Russell Penn

Clay Shrum

Ryan Watts

**United States of America
Our Church**

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Blessings,

Rev. Bryan Diffie

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