

Reflections

January 2022

317 S. Main Street



Happy New Year! As 2021 has drawn to a close and 2022 has begun, I want to ask you to join me in praying that this will be the year of renewal and revival.

On January 9, we will begin a new series called *Living the Five*. During the five weeks of this series we're going to dig into the five primary components of Jesus' teaching from the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

Here's how I want you to get involved. I would love for you to pick up a packet that includes a DVD and participant guide. These are our gifts to you if you are willing to **Grab** the materials, **Gather** a few friends, and then **Grow** with us during this new series.

Friends, you can do this. There are people you will meet this week in your neighborhood, at work, in the grocery store, and at school who need to know that Jesus loves them. Invite them to join you. **Grab** a resource set, **Gather** a few friends, and let's **Grow** together.

You can gather at your home, business, before school, or wherever you are comfortable. The teaching will be done for you on the DVD, so your responsibility is simply to invite some people, perhaps serve some chips and dip, and guide them through a few questions provided in the participant guide. That's it. You can do this.

If we begin 2022 by being intentional about sharing the love of Jesus, I am confident that amazing things will happen. May God bless you and your family as we turn the corner and face this New Year with faith and confidence.

Blessings,

Bro. Bryan

FUMY News

JANUARY 2022

December in FUMY was awesome! We started our month doing mission work. We made 50 blessing bags to give out to anyone we may encounter that could use one. On the first Sunday in December we had Advent prayer stations. We went to the 5 stations with our small groups which made the experience even more special. The final Sundays in December we talked more in depth about Joseph and his part in Jesus's life. Wednesdays are crazy fun! We hang out afterschool and enjoy games, a movie, doing homework together and just chilling. Our Wednesday evening lessons focused on Mary and how we need to live our lives focusing on others. We had a delicious prayer breakfast on December 10 and our final FUMY activity was our Progressive Dinner with Christmas caroling AND after 2 years finally a LOCK-IN! We had such fun! Super huge shout out of **THANKS** to the parents that cooked and sent the delicious foods! **THANK YOU** to Gretchen Diffee & Carole Martin, Renee Holland & Stacey Davis for being in charge. Thank



you to Maggie Brown, Audrea Stephens & Andi Wagner for chaperoning with me. Congratulations to our 3 newest members of FUMC: Montre, Ryne & Thomas! We are so excited for you and we will pray for you as we encourage you on your life & spiritual journey. Finally, we said "see ya later" to

one of our FUMY members & her family. Pryor Harper with her brother & parents have moved to Missouri. We sent her off with our love, prayers & best wishes.

We are so excited to ring in **2022**. We have 23 seniors that will be graduating so we have an exciting spring to look forward to. January brings more mission work. We will pack bags with "Feed the Kids" mission on Wednesday, January 5. We hope to slip away during January for a senior high refuge but are not sure what dates we can do that just yet! We plan to learn more about Jesus's life and what it means to follow him. Our small groups will resume on Sunday nights beginning January 9. All of us look forward to our small group time!

We pray that as we begin a new year that God will be glorified and more will come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Let's all be more intentional to "Love God & Love People"

Happy New Year! Christ above all, Lori

FUMY Snack Supper

- January 9 - FUMY Parent
- January 16 - FUMY Parent
- January 23 - Haley Greer
- January 30 - FUMY Parent



Chancel Choir – Bells of Hope – Praise Band

A Big THANK YOU to the singers, ringers and instrumentalists that provided beautiful music in our Contemporary and Traditional Worship services this Advent and Christmas season:

Kathy Borchardt, Carolyn Bullock, Barbara Cantley, Belinda Carpenter, Dave Carpenter, Renee Clark, Hannah Diffie, Mary Donaldson, Greg Fallon, Mallory Fallon, Sandy Funderburg, Jennifer Fryer, Walter Godwin, Natalie Gosdin, Charles Graham, Kevin Grant, Haley Greer, Joy Holley, Cindy Hudgens, Michael James, Kathy Lyon, Addy Beth Maxwell, Shelia Maxwell, Wil Maxwell, Diane Pennington, Sarah Perez, Jay Simpson, Julie Smith, Andi Wagner, Presley Wagner, and The UAM Brass Quintet



The Children's Choir and Bells

What a great Holiday performance we had in December! So proud of these children singing and ringing joyously of the birth of Jesus!!

Hope to see everyone back in January!

Wishing all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Mrs. Kathy 



 HAPPY
NEW YEAR



Children's Ministry

Beginning [Wednesday, January 12, 2022](#), we will be returning to ***after school CHILDREN'S MINISTRY ACTIVITIES*** (*singing, bell ringing, and Bible story with activities*). We will begin around 3:30 and conclude at 5:00, just in time for the children to enjoy the Family Meal in the FLC with their families.

So on [Wednesday, January 12, 2022](#), we will be picking up children from Monticello Elementary and Monticello Middle Schools. Children attending Drew Central will ride a school bus to the church and will be dropped off there as they were prior to the pandemic.

To our children and their families: each of you is called by name and remembered in our prayers. You are loved.

Ms. Brenda and the Children's Ministry Team

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



Feed Our Neighbors Ministry



Feeding the Community

Since the pandemic has waned somewhat, a few of our Neighbors are now able to come to the FLC to pick up their bags. Those Neighbors who are unable to come because of lack of transportation, other mobility issues, or other issues are still being delivered to.

For your continued prayers for this Ministry, Thank You. Thanks, too, for your monetary gifts and your gifts of food.

Peanut Butter is still the food item we need more than any other.

In Christian love,
The FON Ministry Team

"Inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you have done it to me." Matthew 25:40

Feed Our Neighbors has received a very generous gift from The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas as a blessing for our food ministry. We thank them for it.

Spouses Without Partners

Tuesday, January 11, 2022

Noon to 1:00 P.M.

Lunch Provided

Please RSVP by 1/10

367-2471



**Communion in January
will be on Sunday,
January 9, 2022.**

In Memoriam

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

William Busby:

Sue & David Anderson
Nelwyn Birch
Christine & Jeff Felts
Helen Guenter
Judy & George Harris
Bennie & Buck Henderson
Joy & Dennis Holley
Kathy & Jere Johnston
Mark & Diane Pennington
Jane Thomasson
Ginger & David Wilkins

Dorothy Owens Calhoun:

Sandra West

Barry Hall:

Lori & Greg Fallon

Guy Hawkins:

Lori & Greg Fallon

Catherine Mayers:

Sue & David Anderson
Lori & Greg Fallon
Bennie & Buck Henderson

Harold West:

Lori & Greg Fallon

Rev. Ed Wyers:

Lori & Greg Fallon

Weekly Events

Sundays:

- 9:00 AM In-person & Online Service
11:00 AM In-person & Online Service
10:00 AM Adult, Youth, and Children's
Sunday School
10:00 AM Chancel Choir
4:00 PM Confirmation Class FH
5-7:30 PM FUMY Small Groups/Supper

Mondays:

- 5:30 PM Cub Scouts FH
6:30 PM Boy Scouts FH

Tuesdays:

- 10:00 AM Prayer Team
6:00 PM Circle 3-Jan. 4 (LeAnne/Julie)
10:00 AM Wilma Hankins—Jan. 11
6:00 PM Libby Annulis—Jan. 11

Wednesdays:

- 5:00 PM Family Night Meal FLC
3:30-5 PM Children's rotation —
new time begins Jan. 12
5:30 PM "Thoughts From the Upper
Room" with Bro. Bryan
5:30-7 PM FUMY Mid-Week
6:30 PM Wednesday Small Group

Thursdays:

- 1:00 PM Disciple IV Bible study FH
3:30 PM Feed Our Neighbors
(Every other Thursday)



December was a short month for Scouts. Cub Scouts continue to work on their advancement requirements. We also had another recruitment night for Cub Scouts with Crafts and STEM projects. Thank you to Renea McClendon for assisting in our recruitment night. The Troop continues to work on their Personal Fitness Merit Badge, this month was nutritional food discussions. The Troop also held their annual Christmas party with pizza, fabulous desserts, and the Dirty Santa game.

January brings Winter Campout for both groups at Camp De Soto in El Dorado and preparing for the annual Pinewood Derby for the Cub Scouts.

We wish everyone a Happy New Year!



Thank You!

Dear FUMC Family, thank you so much for your generous Christmas gift. You have been so welcoming these past 11 months. We look forward to many more years of mission and ministry. You're all the best!

Blessings, Bryan, Gretchen, Steven, Brad, and Hannah Diffe

Dear church family, thank you for the generous Christmas gift! The blessing I get from being in ministry with all of you is truly priceless. God continues to do amazing things here and through all of you. You are all in my prayers.

Merry Christmas! Ready for what 2022 holds. May God continue to be glorified in all that we do.

Much love, Lori Fallon

Dear FUMC, I am so thankful for the generous Christmas card from this church family. I love working for FUMC and the people of this church. I hope you all had a blessed Advent and Christmas season and that 2022 is a wonderful year. In Christ, Lynne Russell

Thank you to my church family for your generous Christmas gift. Thank you, too, for your many acts of kindness.

Love in Christ, Brenda Wright

Thank you so much for your thoughtful and generous gift. I feel very blessed to work with the children of our church. I wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a healthy and Happy New Year. Love, Kathy Borchardt

Dear Church Family, thank you so much for the monetary Christmas gift that you gave to me last Sunday. Because of the precious people at FUMC Monticello, serving as your Music Director has always been a delightful appointment. You are the absolute best! Much love and Christmas merriment to all of you! Sincerely, Kathy Lyon

Dear Church Family, thank you for the Christmas gift. It is an honor and a pleasure to serve our Lord as your accompanist. God Bless! Mary Donaldson

Hope Place Monticello would like to thank you for your support, whether it is financial, volunteering, or praying for us. It is all greatly appreciated. You have helped to make a difference in the lives of mamas and babies! Here are a few stats for the year so far. Five mamas earned car seats for their babies. We had six new babies added to our Hope Place family. We gave away 106 packages of diapers. Our mamas took 220 parenting classes, and we were able to help 2,418 people through our food pantry. All of this is made possible because of you! Thank you so much for having a heart for our ministry. Merry Christmas from all of us here at Hope Place!

Brandy Davis, Danica Gray, Angela Womack, and Ashlyn Burris

The Family of Guy Hawkins greatly appreciates the food, drinks, and paper products for the celebration of life that we had. Words don't seem adequate to express how much we appreciate everything that was done. We were very blessed by everything. Many thanks! The Family of Guy Hawkins

Thank you to the United Methodist Church for the great services you all have provided. It is greatly appreciated. Thank you, Options

The calls, cards and GREAT food provided by our dear church family were deeply appreciated. NO MORE falls for Sally! The kind anniversary wishes were great! Our children provided an over the top celebration! We thank God for the bounty of blessings.

Sally & Bob Kirst

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL NOTES

Class of 2022

Jack Lassiter, Lay Leader/SPPRC Leader
Ray Ryburn, Trustee Leader
Stephanie Brown, Finance Leader
Bryan Diffie, Senior Pastor

Class of 2023

John Davis, SPPRC
Wil Maxwell, Trustees
Justin Atkins, Treasurer
Lori Fallon, Associate Pastor

Class of 2024

Carole Martin, SPPRC
Maggie Brown, Trustees
Isabel Bacon, Finance

The Executive Council of the First United Methodist Church of Monticello meets at least once each month to complete various requirements of the United Methodists of Arkansas and to take action to benefit our local church. The Council is providing a short summary of primary actions and proposed activities discussed at these meetings which will be included in each monthly newsletter. These notes are not the complete minutes of the meeting.

December 07, 2021

The Trustee Report was presented to the Council. The Council discussed various repairs needing attention. The gutters still need to be repaired in places. The can light in walkway by FLC needs to be repaired. The lights by elevator need to be repaired. All repairs will be made in near future.

The Council discussed planting ground cover on the vacant lot on Jackson so that weeds do not come up again. This could be accomplished on a workday. Trustees will discuss with lawn maintenance any additional funds that will be needed for maintenance of this property.

The monthly Finance Report was presented and approved

A report on the Jordan Lee scholarship was presented. Information has been sent to The Methodist Foundation of Arkansas to the attention of J. Wayne Clark.

The Class of 2024 of the Executive Council was announced. Their term of office will begin January 1, 2022. Carol Martin, Maggie Brown, and Isabel Bacon are members of the class of 2024.

SPPRC reported that current pledges for 2022 are \$376,000. Pledges for last year were \$349,000.

The PPP money is still in Special Accounts.

(continued on next page)

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The Council discussed a onetime bonus or a salary increase for church staff. The last increase in salaries was given for the 2020 year. No salary increases were given for the 2021 year. The Council approved a salary increase for all church staff.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, January 18, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

HAPPY NEW YEAR



United Methodist Women of Monticello Christmas Extravaganza

The Family Life Center echoed with laughter December 14 as 43 ladies of our church enjoyed a delicious holiday meal and great fellowship. The Libby Annulis Circle sponsored the evening, which also included fun door prizes, a Christmas story skit, singing Christmas carols, and playing the left/right game with gifts. A special thanks to the stars of our skit, Jennifer Fryar (Mary) and Michael Reed (AV). FUMC is blessed to have so many willing United Methodist women! Because our group is so mission minded, the leftover food was boxed as meals for our Feed our Neighbors program. We had a great 2021, and I look forward to the many blessings 2022 will bring.



First United Methodist Church
317 S. Main St.
Monticello, AR 71655