

Reflections

March 2022

317 S. Main Street



Rev. G.B.F. Hallock tells us that among the ancient Greeks the runner that won the race was not the man who crossed the line in the shortest time, but the man who crossed it in the least time with his torch still burning. He deduces from this story that we, in our current context, are often so busy with life's activities that we are in danger of allowing the torch of our spiritual life to become extinguished.

Rev. Hallock also tells of a good woman who said that in the rush and hurry of her life, she felt in danger of being "jostled out of her spirituality." He concluded by saying that "It is a real danger, this of being too busy to be good, of running too fast to keep our torch burning." These, I add, are both truthful reflections that all too often mirror our busy lives more than we really care to admit.

We oftentimes find ourselves in danger of allowing the torch of our spiritual life to be extinguished. In the hustle and bustle of our busy lives, the first thing that usually gets "the boot" is our spiritual life (Bible study, prayer time, devotional reading, and church attendance).

These seem to be of least importance when life gears down into overdrive. But we often notice when things get busy the spiritual things are what we need the most. This is what is so beautiful about the gift of the season of Lent. We, during the Lenten season, are given the opportunity to embrace those disciplines that so often become neglected during the course of the year. Lent is our time to reconnect to those things that matter the most.

As we go through this Lenten season and reflect on what God has done for us through Jesus Christ, I would like to encourage you to think deeper than what you are going to give up for Lent. Instead of giving up something, I would like to encourage you to add something too. We do a really good job throughout the year of giving up things, and it is usually the good things that are given up to make way for the bad. Instead of giving up something like chocolate, why not add more time in Bible study and prayer, more time serving others in the name of Christ, more time attending church and Sunday school, and small groups. Let's make this Lent about reconnecting with God; our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer so that we can cross the finish line with the torches of our spiritual lives burning brightly.

Blessings,

Bryan



FUMY News

✓ Love ONE
✓ Love ALL
Love your
neighbor, Y'all

March 2022

February was great! Our mission in February was to pack “goody bags” for our FUMC college students. We mailed out 12 packages full of snacks plus a card, hand-held prayer cross & a small sewing kit. We hope they added some love to our college students’ lives. During our FUMY Mid-Week on Wednesdays we finished our lesson series on “A New Normal” on what does “normal” mean and how can we trust the ups & downs of life to God. We have started a new lesson series on Wednesdays entitled, “A Life of Faith & Adventure.” We are talking about how we were made for adventure and what it means to put our faith in God no matter what is going on in our lives. In addition to our lessons on Wednesdays, we enjoy lots of fun games and fellowship! Sunday nights are slower paced with hang outs and small groups plus supper prepared by our awesome youth parents! We enjoyed watching the 2022 Super Bowl in the youth room while playing some fun games & eating some yummy food on February 13th! Finally, our February ended with our favorite Friday morning monthly prayer breakfast.

Important Reminders:

- **March 6 & 13:**
 - 4 pm Confirmation
 - 5 pm Jr High
 - 5:30 - 6:15 pm All FUMY Small Groups
 - 6:15 pm Supper
 - 6:45 pm Sr High
 - 8:00 pm “Preparing for the 13th Grade” seniors only (March 6 & 13)
- **Wednesdays in March:**
 - Afterschool homework & hang time until 5 pm
 - 5 pm Church supper (FLC)
 - 5:30 - 7 pm FUMY Mid-Week
- **March 18** - 7 am FUMY Prayer Breakfast
- **March 20 & 23** - **NO FUMY spring break**
- **March 25 - 27** - FUMY to Veritas in Rogers, AR
- **March 27** - NO FUMY



March is here and we have much to be excited about. The month begins with Ash Wednesday. We are talking about what we plan to “add to or give up” in our lives in order to move ourselves closer to God & God’s will for our lives. We will draw for prayer partners & help hold each other accountable for our Lent life changes. We also plan to have prayer stations during March to help turn our eyes toward God. We will have “preparing for the 13th grade” for our graduating seniors on Sunday nights, March 6 & 13 at 8 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Speaking of seniors, we have 23 high school seniors on our FUMY roll and we are currently finding out how many will be participating in FUMC’s Senior Sunday on May 1. We are super excited that Spring Break is coming toward the end of the month AND after 2 years we are returning to Veritas! Veritas is an Arkansas Conference Youth-sponsored event held at the Conference Center in Rogers, AR. Right now there are 12 of us planning to go to the event. Our prayer breakfast will be on March 18 since we will be at Veritas on the last Friday of the month.



FUMY is excited about our 2022 mission trip this summer. We are returning to Nashville, TN with CSM. Our graduating seniors participated in this trip to Nashville back in 2017 so it will be special for all of us to return to place that is near & dear to many of their hearts! The last day to sign up for the students to go on our mission trip is **April 27**. As always, 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. Thank you for any amount you consider donating.

FUMY seeks to be Jesus’ hands and feet in the world. Thank you for always supporting our group with your love & prayers!

Christ above all, *Lori*



We will need your help!

FUMY Envelope Fundraiser

Coming April 2022

Envelopes ranging \$5 - \$200

To support our FUMY mission trip & mission projects all year long!

Snack Supper List:

- March 6 - FUMY Parent
- March 13 - Sheila Maxwell
- March 20 - No FUMY - Spring Break
- March 27 - NO FUMY - Veritas

Chancel Choir – Bells of Hope – Praise Band

Chancel Choir and Bells of Hope are rehearsing music for the Lenten and Easter season on Wednesday in the Sanctuary. Chancel Choir @ 6 pm and Bells of Hope @ 7 pm. These rehearsals are an hour of musical fellowship that lifts your spirit as you participate in preparing music for our traditional worship services. Please consider joining these adult music choirs!

Chancel Choir is excited to welcome our three newest members: Dr. Renee Clark, alto; Dr. Terry Nugent, baritone; and David Webb, bass. The photo below was taken before the traditional service began on February 13. Several singers missed the photo shot that morning...but our newest members arrived on time and were ready to sing! We LOVE our Chancel Choir and their dedication to leading worship!



The Children's Choir and Bells

The Wednesday Children's Choir, Handbells, and activities has really taken off this semester!! Getting back to afterschool pickup has allowed many children to join, and for that we are so thankful!!

The Children's Choirs and Handbells have been busy preparing for our March 6 performance during the late service (11 am). We hope to see everyone there!

In his name we sing,

Mrs. Kathy 

Children's Ministry

What a wonderful group of boys and girls we are seeing on Wednesdays at our after school programs and at Sunday school! What a blessing!

A very special THANK YOU to the adults that have been helping: Isabel Bacon, Kim Fletcher, Diantha Beer, Kathy Norris, and Mary Kinaga. Your help is invaluable.



On the second floor in one of the children's classrooms, Mrs. Isabel Bacon has drawn the outline of a tree. JESUS is the root of our tree.

The children's hands have been traced and cut out and are the leaves on our tree. You MUST come and see our tree!

Wednesday, April 13 during our after school program time (3:30-5:00), we will have Easter snacks, Easter stories, and Easter activities relating to the death and resurrection of JESUS followed by an Easter Egg Hunt.

Filled Plastic Eggs are needed. Please bring to the church office no later than Monday, April 11 for our Easter Egg Hunt on Wednesday, April 13.

You are always remembered in prayer — you and the members of your families.

In Christian love,
Ms. Brenda

“Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of God.”
Luke 18:16



THANK YOU for your continued faithfulness to this ministry.

Many of you pray faithfully for this ministry. Enough cannot be said about the power of prayer. Please continue to pray that we (individually and collectively) are following God's will in this ministry. Thank you for your fervent prayers.

The number of families we serve changes weekly; some families are being delivered to and some pick up their bags from 11:00-12:00 when they come to the church parking lot. Our families are receiving the blessing of food; together we receive blessings of friendship and fellowship.

Large jars of spaghetti sauce, jars of peanut butter, and loaves of bread are given out every five weeks. Please donate these items whenever you can.

All monetary and food donations are appreciated and given to Our Neighbors.
The FON Ministry Team

Matthew 25:40 "... as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."



A gift was given to
 Feed Our Neighbors in
 appreciation of our
 Disciple Bible Study
 leader, Mary Jo Wisener.



**Communion in March will be
 on Sunday, March 6, 2022.**

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 (LeAnne/Julie) March 8
- 10:00 AM Wilma Hankins—March 8
- 6:00 PM Libby Annulis—March 8

Wednesdays:

- 3:30-5:00 PM Children's rotation
- 3:30-5:00 PM FUMY Hangtime
- 5:00 PM Family Night Meal FLC
- 5:30 PM "Thoughts From the Upper
 Room" with Bro. Bryan
- 5:30-7 PM FUMY Mid-Week
- 6:00 PM Chancel Choir
- 6:30 PM Wednesday Small Group
- 7:00 PM Bells of Hope

Thursdays:

- 3:30 PM Feed Our Neighbors
 (Every other Thursday)

Spouses Without Partners

Tuesday, March 1, 2022
 Noon to 1:00 P.M.
 Lunch Provided
 Please RSVP by 2/28

In Memoriam

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

William Busby:
 Judy Murphy

Edwin Copeland:
 Stacey & Barry Davis

David Hyatt Jr.:
 Stacey & Barry Davis
 Bennie & Buck Henderson
 Diane & Mark Pennington

Ed White (Wheaties):
 Carolyn & John Bullock
 Stacey & Barry Davis
 Elgenia & Jim Ross

Vernie Therman:
 Stacey & Barry Davis

Sandra West:
 Belinda & Dave Carpenter
 Stacey & Barry Davis
 Bennie & Buck Henderson
 Kathy & Jere Johnston
 Debbie & Steve Morrison
 Judy Murphy
 Susan Musick
 Diane & Mark Pennington
 Lisa & Terry Twyford



February marked the 112th birthday of Boy Scouts in America. The year 2022 marks the 69th year of Scouting at Monticello FUMC. Our scouts enjoyed participating in both services on Scout Sunday as well as continuing their Monday night meetings in February. We also had the De Soto Council District Recognition Banquet in February where all scouts who earned the rank of Eagle in 2021 were recognized as well as District Awards of Merit and the Silver Beaver Recognition. Lucas Babst and Johnny McClendon were recognized from Troop 67 on their Eagle rank and Renee' Holland was awarded the Silver Beaver. The Silver Beaver Award is a council level recognition given to an adult leader who gives distinguished service to the Council through volunteerism and leadership. Renee was surprised by the nomination and honored to receive the award.

The Cub Scouts are gearing up for their annual Pinewood Derby to be held on February 28 in the Family Life Center. Our AOL den is ready for their crossover ceremony on March 28. This month they have been finishing up their final skills including a fun elective of Yo-yo skills. Troop 67 has had all their younger scouts advance up. They are excited about a Spring Break camping trip to Poverty Point in Louisiana. They will be planning four nights and five days of activities that include fishing, canoeing, night hikes, LOTS of open fire cooking, patrol activities with lashing skills, museum visits and more. They hope spring-like weather is in the future to plan more campouts in the upcoming months.





Congratulations to Renee' Holland!!!

Renee' Holland was presented the 2021 Silver Beaver Award by De Soto Area Council on Saturday, February 19 at the annual Council Recognition Banquet in El Dorado. The Silver Beaver is the highest volunteer recognition there is within BSA Councils, recognizing a volunteer's dedicated service to Scouting.

Generally there is only one Silver Beaver Awarded per year within the entire council. This is a big deal and Renee' was extremely deserving of the honor!

Wesley Foundation

The church is helping the Wesley Foundation make some repairs needed to their parsonage from storms in the amount of \$2500. If you would like to help with these repairs, make checks payable to FUMC. Thank you.

The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas

Monticello FUMC,

Thank you for your recent contribution to your new Jordan Lee endowed scholarship.

The Foundation is honored to be a partner in your ministry and grateful for the faith you have in us.

Blessings,

Rev. Lynn Kilbourne

Shepherd Center — Spring 2022

Who: Adults

What: Classes in bridge, card games, dominoes, knitting crocheting, quilting, and carpentry. Other possible classes include crafts, technology, and jewelry making.

When: Register on March 1 @ 8:45 AM. Classes will continue each Tuesday in March and April 5. Activities begin @ 9:00 AM except carpentry which begins at 8:00.

Where: First Methodist Family Life Center (east door)

Cost: \$10.00 (one time)

This is sponsored by several churches in Monticello and provides a time of fellowship and learning. Each session begins with a devotional. News to Know segments will include useful information



**DREW CENTRAL
COLOR RUN
2022**

5k Run/Walk
March 12, 2022
Sign in starts 7:15 a.m.
Race starts 8:00 a.m.
Proceeds go toward
Playground Equipment
See link for registration
\$25 Registration fee

Register online at:
<https://bit.ly/dc5kcolor>
or
scan QR code

The poster features a central QR code in a circular frame. The background is light gray with colorful, abstract geometric shapes in shades of blue, green, orange, and red. The text is in a bold, sans-serif font.

NEXT STEPS for FUMC Sole Purpose Event!

Our next Sole Purpose distribution will be held once more next fall! But that doesn't mean we have been sitting still! Since our last distribution in October, we've been in close contact with all of our schools. They have helped us identify children who need shoes that fit and who need coats to keep them warm. During the month of January, over 50 pairs of shoes and that many coats have been taken to these children to help them through this winter season.

Recently, a group of volunteers met to determine what worked well at our last event and what areas could use improvement. A big thank you to those who shared their insight, their recommendations and their thoughts concerning next steps!

So now it's time to start preparing for our next event. There are **two areas** that must be addressed now in preparation for our fall distribution.

First, it's time to begin raising funds once again. Last year we shared a donation board and folks were able to make donations in that way. It worked beautifully! Our church family responded generously; so be watching for the Sole Purpose Board.

Secondly, we need to build our teams. So many of our church family participates in some way, and for that we are unbelievably grateful—but we need more folks for the teams that make decisions, do the ordering, and help with the organization of the event. There is a great deal of work that must take place before the event and we need more hands—and minds! It will not take much of anyone's time if we all work together.

We need volunteers for the following committees:

Shoe/Sock Committee: Help with the ordering of shoes

Coat Committee: Help with the ordering of coats

Book Committee: Help with the ordering of books and Bibles

Food Committee: Help with the ordering of hot dogs, buns, drinks, etc.

Fundraising Committee: Determine ways to raise funds to purchase all items

Communication Committee: Communication with schools, community and family

Advisory Board: This board will make decisions concerning all the areas above, the distribution and next steps in this mission.

Please prayerfully consider serving on a committee/board. We will be providing interest forms to everyone to provide you that opportunity or you may simply call or text Belinda Carpenter at 870-723-3980.

We really need your help! And so do our kids !



United Methodist Women

Faith, Hope, Love in Action

Globally UMW support projects focusing on the needs of women, youth, and children. Our Pledge to Mission offering supports 96 national mission institutions such as Camp Aldersgate, higher ed scholarships for international students, and over 300 programs in 110 countries.

Locally we support the following:

- Provide meals for UAM Wesley's Soul Food twice a year
- Deliver Christmas goodies to shut-ins
- Provide lunch at Lay Leader Training
- Adopt a needy family at Christmas
- Honor graduating seniors with a gift to missions in their name
- Cooperate with First Baptist church and First Presbyterian churches to give Christmas bags to residents of Annswood
- Host a Holiday Bazaar

Proceeds from the 2021 Bazaar enabled us to support financially the work of the following:

- Methodist Family Health
- UMCOR
- Sound of Hope
- UAM Wesley Foundation
- FUMC Assistance to the Needy Fund
- Camp Tanako
- Heifer Project
- FUMC Feed Our Neighbors
- FUMC Sole Purpose



A well-deserved Special Mission Recognition pin was awarded to Louisa Smith. Louisa serves on our newly formed Nurture committee by planning and implementing a churchwide interest inventory, organizing a freezer for frozen meals available to sick and shut-ins, providing home-cooked meals for the monthly Spouses Without Partners group, and providing a monthly church calendar. In addition to all this, she cooks for our Wednesday Fellowship meal every week and delivers food to shut-ins twice a month with our FON ministry. Well done good and faithful servant!

NURTURE TEAM REPORT

The Nurture Ministry Team has taken seriously the charge to provide "congregational care."

- Membership audit to clean up church rolls based upon death, birth, confirmation, move, or transfer of membership. This project is ongoing and will take several months to complete.
- Visitors are recognized by a new mug with a brochure highlighting opportunities at FUMC.
- Because of the pandemic over the past couple of years, many of us have gotten out of the "habit" of church attendance. Nurture Team is making contact with members who have come back infrequently or not at all. Originally over 100 families were contacted, and the Team continues to contact persons via mail, phone call, or pastor visit, if deemed appropriate, to make sure the congregation members know they are missed.
- We have started a list of persons who can help with transportation, simple tasks, grocery/prescription pick up. Please call the church office if you have a need and we will try to help out.
- The freezer in the Fellowship Hall is designated for frozen meals for those congregation members who are ill, recovering from hospitalization, shut-ins, or in the days following a death. Meal trains are focused and short-term duration. The freezer meals are for infrequent identified needs. The list of meals available is on the front of the freezer. Please sign out the meal to where delivered so that we can keep the freezer stocked and meals available.
- Under the leadership of Kathy and Jere Johnston, we have identified those members who are shut-ins, in nursing homes, or elderly and not as active as they would like to be in church activities. We have made contact via mail, phone calls, visits, meals, and special holiday celebrations at Christmas and Valentines to nearly 30 individuals. Our list is by no means static, and we welcome referrals to this part of our nurture ministry. Contact Kathy Johnston.
- We have started a targeted bridal and baby shower effort to help recognize and celebrate these major life events. Julie Smith has taken responsibility for this part of our congregational care. Contact her to share upcoming wedding and baby announcements.
- Life events affect our lives daily and none more altering than the death of a spouse. Nurture Team invited widows, widowers, and those whose spouse may no longer be able to live at home to lunch. Over lunch, the group shares experiences and offers support for others. Lunch is served from 12-1 pm the first Tuesday of each month in the FLC conference room. Reservations are requested by Monday afternoon. There is no charge for the lunch and there is no formal program. For more information, contact Susan Musick or Sally Kirst.
- A calendar is being formulated with the activities of the church and will be available the last Sunday of the month in the narthex, the handicapped entrance in the sanctuary, and in the FLC at the north entrance and the south entrance. Contact Louisa Smith to add events to the calendar.

The Nurture Team meets the first Tuesday of each month at 5 pm in the FLC. Members include Pastors Bryan and Lori, Susan Musick, Sally Kirst, Kathy and Jere Johnston, Cookie and Jim Crossett, Cindy Hudgens, Diantha Beer, Beth Maxwell, Julie Smith, Sandy Funderburg, Maria Daniels, and Louisa Smith. If you would like to participate, please come to the next meeting, Tuesday, March 1.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL NOTES

Class of 2022

Jack Lassiter, Lay Leader/SPPRC Leader
Ray Ryburn, Trustee Leader
Stephanie Brown, Finance Leader
Bryan Diffee, 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.

Meeting January 18, 2022

SPPRC had no information to report.

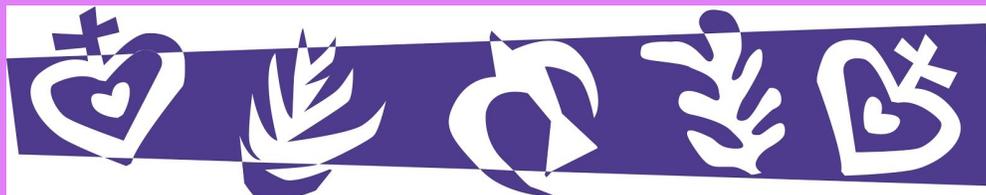
Trustee—The Executive Council heard updates on several items related to general upkeep of the FUMC campus. The decision was made to postpone discussion on a pavilion on the Jackson Street vacant lot until a later time.

Finance—The Executive Council reviewed the December 2021 financial report.

Pastor Report—Reverend Diffee has applied for a grant to assist in the costs to attend a leadership conference. The conference replaces a similar conference that church members have previously attended. Reverend Fallon discussed the creation of a class designed for high school seniors.

The next meeting of the Executive Council will be held in the Family Life Center on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

The Executive Council is developing a job description for a part time position of Praise Band and Contemporary Music Director. The draft was developed online and the final revised job description will receive final review and approval at our next meeting on March 1.



March 2022

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	*Wednesday Activities Kids Afterschool Choir, hand bells Meal, Bible Study Small group 6:30p		1 Shepherd Center 9 a Prayer Team 10 a Spouses without Partners Noon FLC Nurture Committee 5-6p Executive Council 6:30 p FLC	2 *Wednesday Activities Supper: Potato Bar with all the fixin's and birthday cake-	3		5
		7 Soul Food-UMW Book Club 1:15 Cub Scouts 5:30p FH Boy Scouts 6:30p FH Young Adult Small Group 8 p	8 Shepherd Center 9 a Prayer Team 10 a Wilma Hankins Circle 10 am, Wesley Room Libby Annulis Circle 6p Circle 3 6 p	9 *Wednesday Activities Supper: Chicken Spaghetti, Salad, Garlic bread, dessert	10 Feed our Neighbors Quilting Club 5:30 p		12
6 Communion Children sing and ring hand bells 11 a service Confirmation 4 p		14 Circuit Elder Breakfast FLC 10 a Cub Scouts 5:30p FH Boy Scouts 6:30p FH Young Adult Small Group 8 p	15 Shepherd Center 9a Prayer Team 10 a	16 *Wednesday Activities Supper: Taco Bar, Beans, Rice, dessert Circle 5 6 p	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18 Youth Prayer Breakfast 7 a	19
13 Confirmation 4 p 		15 Shepherd Center 9a Prayer Team 10 a	16 *Wednesday Activities Supper: Taco Bar, Beans, Rice, dessert Circle 5 6 p	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18 Youth Prayer Breakfast 7 a	19	
20 First Day of Spring 	21 Spring Break Begins	22 Shepherd Center Prayer Team 10 a	23 -NO *WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES Small group 6:30 p	24 Feed Our Neighbors	25 FUMY to Veritas	26 FUMY at Veritas	
27 FUMY home from Veritas Confirmation 4 p	28 Blue and Gold Banquet— Boy Scouts FLC Young Adult Small Group 8 p	29 Shepherd Center Prayer Team 10 a	30 *Wednesday Activities Supper: Poppy Seed Chicken, Rice, English peas, bread, dessert	31			
No Confirmation Class							

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