

*First United Methodist Church  
proudly presents their  
2025 High School Graduates*

**REFLECTIONS**

MAY 2025

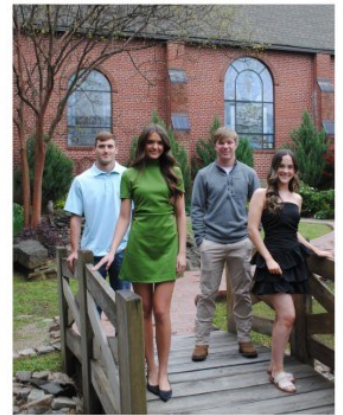
*First United Methodist Church  
317 South Main Street  
Monticello, AR, 71655*



*Mallory Paige Fallon*



*Jason Robert Lee*



*Lillian Greer Orrell*



*James Backes Sims*

*All are welcome!  
Sunday, May 4  
"Senior Sunday"*

9 am worship in FLC  
10 am potluck brunch, FLC  
"in honor of high school  
graduates"

11 am worship in Sanctuary\*

\*Seniors will be recognized &  
scholarships presented



*We wish God's richest blessings upon each of your lives.*



Friends,

As we enter the beautiful month of May, we find ourselves in the heart of the Easter season—a time when resurrection hope continues to stir within us, inviting us to new life and fresh possibilities. Nature itself seems to echo this theme, with blossoms in full bloom and the earth coming alive once again.

This season also brings with it many celebrations in the life of our church and community. We give thanks for our graduates, honor mothers and all who nurture us in love, and begin preparations for summer ministries that will nurture hearts and strengthen our witness. May is a time of movement—from the joy of spring into the intentional planning of what lies ahead.

In this spirit, I encourage us to reflect on how we are being called to grow in faith and service. The early church, as described in Acts, was marked by boldness, unity, and generosity. It is my prayer that our congregation continues to embody these qualities, leaning into God's vision for who we are becoming.

This month, we will continue our journey through Scripture together and seek the Spirit's guidance for renewing our commitment to discipleship, outreach, and justice. Whether you are a lifelong member or have just begun worshiping with us, you are a vital part of this journey.

Let us remain open to the movement of the Spirit, trusting that God is not finished with us yet. May our lives reflect the joy of resurrection and the strength of a people committed to love, mercy, and transformation.

With gratitude for each of you and the ministry we share,

Bro. Bryan





# FUMY News



**May 2025**

## Important Reminders:

- **May 4** - Graduating High School "Senior Sunday"  
**9 am worship (FLC)**  
**10 am Brunch (FLC)**  
**11 am worship with senior recognition plus**  
**6 pm FUMY Senior Roast (FLC)**
- **May 7** - FUMY Mission Work, **6-7:30 pm**, Bagging for "Feed the Kids" mission (need youth & parents)
- **May 11** - **No FUMY**  
**Happy Mother's Day**
- **May 14** - "Last pick up from school" **FUMY goes Bowling, 5:30 - 6:45 pm** (parents pick up at FUMC at 7 pm)
- **May 18** - FUMY Movie Night in youth room, **7 - 8:30 pm**
- **May 21 & 25** - **NO FUMY**
- **May 28** - FUMY Game Night & Supper **5-7 pm** in Youth Room



April was a great month for FUMY! We held our third annual "Thank You" dinner on April 6 and it was awesome! Thank you to each and everyone of you that came to the dinner! We loved getting to share what all has been happening in FUMY and all about our 2024 mission trip to Wisconsin. On Wednesdays in April, we wrapped up our series about "the journey of life with God." We talked about the gifts and graces we have been given by God while also celebrating the season of lent, Holy Week and Easter! We plan to continue learning more about our spiritual gifts as we end our month! On Sundays, we only met once for small groups and had a game night! Our small groups are done for this school year and will resume in the fall. On April 23 we had our final prayer breakfast for this school year. It was delicious! Special thanks to Lilli for the devo!

In fundraising news, we held our annual "Envelopes of Support" fundraiser the entire month of April. This one fundraiser supports our FUMY monthly mission work and helps us with our annual summer mission trip. This summer we are heading to Colorado Springs, Colorado. We will be gone June 21-28. We are humbled by the incredible generosity from our church family! **As of April 29, FUMY has received \$5516.88 in donations!** Wow! We are overwhelmed by your generous support! Thank you so much for supporting our youth & their mission work!

And now... **it's May!** We are so excited to celebrate **4 high school graduates during worship: Mallory Fallon, Jason Lee, James Sims, and Lilli Orrell plus Anna Claire Hollis during our FUMY senior roast!** In addition to celebrating them in worship at 11 am on May 4, we will host a "senior roast" in their honor that evening at 6 pm.

On May 7 we will be packing bags for "Feed the Kids" mission at First Presbyterian Church to close out their bagging for this school year. **PLUS** during May we plan to have lots of fun & fellowship, go bowling, play games, and watch a movie in addition to a few more lessons about what it means to love God & to love others before we start our summer ministry in FUMY!

We are excited about the two young ladies that are in confirmation and will be joining us in FUMY in June! Rosa Martinez and Cariah Miller are learning all about what it means to follow Jesus and become a member of the United Methodist Church! God bless you both on your journey!

**Our next FUMY Rummage Sale will be here soon...** Bring your rummage to church after 10 am on Sunday, July 6 through July 9! **Our sale day is Friday, July 11 and our free day is Saturday, July 12.** God is calling each one of us to be God's disciple! I hope that you will listen to the Holy Spirit and choose to be the hands & feet of Jesus. You never know... you could be the only "Jesus" that someone might see that day! Let's be image-bearers of THE ONE whose image we are made in.

Christ Above All, *Lori*







Join us on Sunday, May 18, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for the first presentation in our new educational series, *"It's History."* Our Senior Pastor will share insights from a recent trip to England and highlights from the rich history of the Methodist movement.



**Feeding the Community**

## The FON Ministry Team



**Feeding the Community**

It is always appropriate that our FON team members are thanked for their faithful commitment to this ministry.

It is tremendously important that our Church Family be thanked for their prayers and gifts for this ministry.

Without each of you and your unselfish desire to help others, FON would not have been able to help feed others as we do every other week. **THANK YOU** for being the Hands and Feet of Jesus through this ministry.

In Christian love,  
FON Ministry Team

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

Wow, our church has had one busy spring!! While such joyous events during Lent, Holy week, and other spring-community activities, held in our FLC and FH, have kept me a busy, busy bee, I am grateful for every step I take in the care for our church campus.

Bro. Bryan, Lynne & I have created a "care and use checklist" document recently. It was our goal to provide all church members and nonmembers guidelines on the care and use of our facilities. I have posted some in each kitchen for your inspection. Please, when booking a date for use of our facilities, reach out to me for any other special instructions or guided set-up (870) 723-7043.

Please take time to look over these guidelines and help me care for our church and its blessed facilities; it truly takes a village.

Yours truly,  
Nelwyn



## Graduates



**Tucker Johnston** will finish Small Wonder pre-k 4 this year and begin Kindergarten in the fall at Monticello Elementary.

**Emma McRae**, the Smith's granddaughter, will graduate from Drew Central and begin UAM in the fall majoring in Natural Science.

**Katherine Eleanor Strickland**, the Carpenter's granddaughter, will graduate from Fayetteville with a degree in Exercise Science and will attend Harding in the fall working towards a degree in Physical Therapy.

# FUMC CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



***MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!!***

***VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL***

***JUNE 9TH-13<sup>TH</sup> 9AM-12PM***

***May 14<sup>th</sup> is the last night of  
children's Wednesday  
activities for this school  
year!***

***We had an amazing April learning about  
the resurrection and staying on a path  
toward Jesus!***

***"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light  
on my path." Psalm 119:105***

Have questions or want to learn more about  
FUMC children's ministries? Text or call us!

Emily Johnston (870) 820-4298  
Mary Beth Gongora (870) 308-5985



An Extra Special **THANK YOU** to the following supporters of  
**FUMY's Annual Envelopes of Support**  
 for monthly mission work & their 2025 mission trip to Colorado Springs, CO  
**Through their generosity, FUMY raised \$5,516.88.**

Anonymous	Bennie & Buck Henderson
Sue & David Anderson	Jaime & Ken Hunter
Amanda & Whit Barton	Kathy & Jere Johnston
Linda Beer	Mary Kinaga
Nelwyn & Hoyt Birch	Kay & Don Koen
Jill & Anthony Brown	Judy & Jack Lassiter
Stephanie & Blair Brown	Judy Murphy
LeAnne Burch	Susan Musick
Belinda & David Carpenter	Nickie & Jimmy Owens
Gail & Randy Cockrell	Diane & Mark Pennington
Gretchen & Bryan Diffie	Gail Pittman
Christine & Jeff Felts	Julie & Tommy Smith
Joe Fletcher	Louisa & Paul Smith
David Fowler	Dalene & Mike Stephenson
Sandy & David Funderburg	Renee Treadwell
Amanda & Blake Gilbert	Brenda Wright
Kami & Paul Griffin	Singles & Doubles Sunday School Class
Judy & George Harris	Fellowship Sunday School Class



Plan to join us on  
 Mother's day, May 1,  
 the Children will sing  
 and ring at the 9:00 am  
 Service.



*Class of*   
**2025**

FUMC Senior Recognition  
 Sunday, May 4, 2025  
 11:00 am, Sanctuary

## Save the date: FUMY Rummage Sale...

Our youth group welcomes **all rummage donations**  
 beginning after 9 am worship on  
**Sunday, JULY 6 to Wednesday, JULY 9**  
 to our Family Life Center

**Public Sale date:** July 11 & **Free Day:** July 12



Dear Church family and friends,  
 With lots of activities around our campus  
 comes lots of serving dishes, baskets, etc.  
 left on counters.

Please check the long table in the Family Life  
 Center to see if your dish is  
 among them.

Thank you.



FUMC Vacation Bible School  
 June 9-13, 2025



### AR Travelers of FUMC

Looking for a great vacation this year? Join  
 the AR Travelers of FUMC on a trip to  
 beautiful Maine! We travel aboard a  
 spacious motorcoach. We will enjoy historic  
 Portland Waterfront, visit Boothbay Railway  
 Village, Explore Kennebunkport, and so  
 much more!

Departing from our church parking lot  
 Friday, September 19 and returning Monday,  
 September 29. The Cost is \$1739 per person  
 and includes hotels, most meals, tours, and  
 tips. Contact Dalene Stephenson at  
 870-723-0650 for more information.

## 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  
5:00 PM Jr. High FUMY  
5:30 PM FUMY Small Groups  
6:00 PM FUMY Supper  
6:30 PM Sr. High FUMY

### Mondays:

6:30 PM Boy Scouts FH May 5, 12 & 19  
7:00 PM College Ministry Small Group

### Tuesdays:

10:00 AM Prayer Team/weekly  
12:00 PM Hopeful Hearts — May 5  
1:00 PM Staff Meeting — May 13  
1:30 PM Wilma Hankins-Wesley Rm—May 6  
6:00 PM Executive Council — May 13

### Wednesdays: Weekly

3:30 PM Wednesday After-school Activities  
3:30 PM FUMY Hang Time  
5:00 PM Wednesday Night supper  
5:30 PM FUMY Midweek  
6:30 PM Small Group

### Thursdays:

11-12 PM Feed Our Neighbors  
(Every other Thursday)

May 14, 2025 is last Wednesday Activities  
and supper till the Fall.

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

### Faye Chandler:

Sue & David Anderson

### Von Eubanks:

Mary Calhoun

### Debbie Fowler:

Sandy & David Funderburg  
Kathy & Jere Johnston

### Kenny Hudgens:

Sue & David Anderson  
Isable & Ed Bacon  
Mary Calhoun  
E. Roselle & W. Shelton Emfinger  
Judy & George Harris  
Bennie & Buck Henderson  
Robin Johnson, Mandy Tropf, Katie Calhoun,  
and Lillie Green  
Kathy & Jere Johnston  
Phyllis Jones  
Tommy Maxwell  
Renea & John McClendon  
Marion Ryburn  
Kathy & James Tumilson

## April Giving General Fund

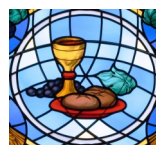
April 6, 2025 — \$7,618  
April 13, 2025 — \$10,848  
April 20, 2025 — \$5,972.00  
April 27, 2025 — \$3,847.00  
Four-week Total — \$28,385.00  
Monthly Amount Needed to Make Budget — \$51,253  
Total for 2025 \$162,643

**WELCOME**

New members Beverly Burks & Debra Burt,  
who joined on March 30, 2025.

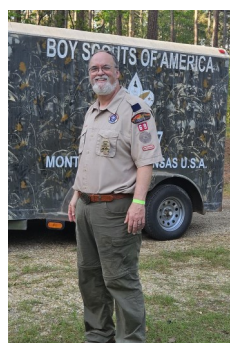


Hopeful Hearts will meet on  
May 5 @ noon in the  
Family Life Center.



**Communion in May will be  
on May 4 during 9 AM and  
11 AM services.**





April has been a busy month for Scouting! Both the Pack and the Troop have been involved in several activities and requirements. The dens in Pack 69 have been working on their Champions of Nature elective: focusing on natural resources, renewable and non-renewable resources, recycling, and composting. They dedicated one night to study the water cycle and understand Monticello's Wastewater system. Additionally, they visited the UAM Museum and Planetarium with Dr. Bramlett, learning about snakes, fish, deer, bears, Arkansas crystals, and our galaxy. They even experienced a virtual trip to the moon and back. The Champions of Nature elective requirements were completed on April 28 with discussions on Air Pollution and Pollination. A few members of the Pack attended the De Soto District Derby Weekend at Camp De Soto April 25-26 where they were able to participate in a Fishing Derby, Range & Target activities, STEM movement experiments, and a District Pinewood Derby. The final Pack meeting for this school year will be on May 5, featuring ice cream and awards presentations. We will also be sharing summer camp opportunities at Camp De Soto.



Due to weather conditions, several events with the Troop were postponed and rescheduled for later in April. Despite this, they have been diligently working with our Young Scouts to earn their first rank of "Scout." Many of our older Scouts are working on merit badges in Citizenship of the Community or Communications, which require attending a community meeting such as Quorum Court. The Troop attended the April meeting and learned about the debates and discussions before major equipment purchases. Additionally, the Troop participated in the De Soto District Spring Camporee with a Medieval theme, and a workday at Camp De Soto, where they cleaned, moved, or created new trails, cleared trees at several campsites, and thoroughly cleaned the dining hall and Berry Building with Pine Sol. During the Spring Camporee Troop 67 took home the overall winner's stone award for "The Conquers of De Soto" and the GOLDEN SPOON for the Dutch Oven Dessert Competition. Some Troop members volunteered to assist with the Cub Scout Derby weekend at Camp De Soto at the end of the month. We have continued our meetings with Mr. John McClendon, focusing on the Personal Management Merit Badge. Our next meeting will be on May 5, where we will discuss Summer Camp options and plan our meetings through June 15. After Summer Camp, the Troop will take a break until school resumes in August.

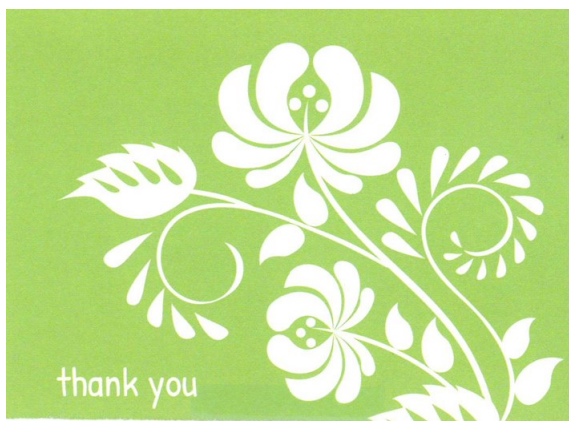






Ten of our members traveled to Baldwin, LA, to spend a week volunteering at the Sager Brown UMCOR Depot. It was not all food and games! However, we enjoyed both. Pallets of cleaning buckets and health kits were inspected, assembled, prayed over, and made ready for shipment to a disaster area when needed. Several members also served one day in the community helping sort clothing at the St. Mary resale shop. Bro. Bryan started our day with a devotion and our week ended with a worship service in Jubilee Hall. We would LOVE to have you join us next year March 15 - 20, 2026. Please let the church office know if you are interested in attending.

*Thank you*



Dear Church Family,  
I am grateful beyond words for all of the prayers, beautiful cards, visits, amazing meals, and gift cards I received during my recovery.  
Your kindness has been a great source of comfort.  
May God bless you for your generosity!

Christine Felts



*Y*OUR KINDNESS MEANS SO MUCH  
AT THIS DIFFICULT TIME.

Dear FUMC,

The Chandler family would like to thank you all for your prayers, acts of kindness, and other support with the loss of our mother, mother-in-law, & grandmother Faye Chandler. From the support of Rev. Diffie and Rev. Fallon providing beautiful funeral services to the generous gift cards to a family favorite, Ray's, we have felt so loved and supported and we appreciate your generosity and kindness.

In Christ,

John, Patty, Jordan & Alex Chandler  
Hallmark

Bill, Christina, Anthony & Evan  
Chandler

# EXECUTIVE COUNCIL NOTES

## Class of 2025

Walker Jarrett, Lay Leader/SPPRC Leader  
Tommy Smith, Trustees  
Dalene Stephenson, Finance Leader  
Bryan Diffie, Senior Pastor  
Lori Fallon, Associate Pastor

## Class of 2026

Michael Blazier, SPPRC  
John Kidwell, Trustees  
Valerie Harvey, Treasurer

## Class of 2027

Belinda Carpenter, SPPRC  
Loyd Oxner, Trustees  
Audrea Stephens, Finance

Meeting brought to order at 6:05 PM by Walker Jarrett  
Opening prayer by Bro. Bryan Diffie

**Motion:** to accept the minutes from the February Executive Council meeting made by Valerie Harvey and seconded by Belinda Carpenter. All in favor. None opposed.

**Financial Report** – Valerie Harvey gave report on March Special Accounts.  
Lynne Russell reported March 2025 Financials.

**Motion:** A motion to accept March 2025 financial reports as presented by Tommy Smith and seconded by Michael Blazier. All in favor. None opposed.

## Old Business

- Sensory room wish list to be published.
- John Kidwell to recruit people to help finish the sensory room wall.
- Trees that were dead/dying are down.

## New Business

- The roof has sustained more damage due to wind. The estimate is \$3200 to repair the south side of the roof. We will need a stewardship campaign to replace the roof at some point. Michael James will work with Tommy Smith in June to begin to look for new insurance.
- The conference is working to help congregations offset insurance costs. More questions at this point.
- Some things to do for Vision Plan – put out information weekly on what church is doing in community, check on pricing for electronic bill board on Hwy 425, put name plates on bookshelves with cards with church name and service information. Put flyers for Vacation Bible School coming up in June.

**Motion:** to accept the bid of \$3200 to repair the south side of the roof made by Dalene Stephenson and seconded by Michael Blazier. All in favor. None opposed.

## SPPRC Report

No report given.

## Trustees Report

- The deck at parsonage needs some repair. The lattice needs replacing. It is falling apart.
- Call Mr. Bug regarding the termite inspection.
- We have a lock to secure the choir door. It needs to be installed.

## Scholarship Report

There are two new scholarships available to our church community. One is the Kevin Grant Memorial Scholarship, and the other is the Jaci Calhoun Oxner Memorial Scholarship. The Jaci Calhoun Oxner scholarship is open to an one in the congregation of any age to further their education.

## Sager Brown Report

We had a great group of ten that went to Sager Brown. UMCOR is looking for volunteers for emergency response.



# EXECUTIVE COUNCIL NOTES CONT.

## Pastor Report

- Holy Week – Palm Sunday children will process with palms in both services.
- We now have a processional cross for acolytes 3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up to be trained.
- Maundy Thursday and Good Friday in Sanctuary at 7:00 PM and Easter sunrise service at 7:00 AM in Prayer Garden. 9:00 in Family Life Center and 11:00 in sanctuary as usual.
- Confirmation class has begun and will end on May 18, 2025, with Confirmation Sunday.
- After Easter on May 18 at 6:00 PM in Fellowship Hall, “It’s History” educational series will begin.
- Morning Prayers on Wednesday mornings in the sanctuary beginning at 7:00 AM.
- Nelwyn Birch has made a check list for people/groups using the Family Life Center and Fellowship Hall to help keep the facility clean.
- Discussion regarding lay members to the Annual Conference. Julie Smith and Maggie Brown are elected lay members for the church. Julie Smith also has a vote as the chair of Camping and retreat ministries. Julie cannot vote twice; so we need to elect another person through a Charge Conference. We need to nominate someone soon as the Annual Conference is June 18-20.

## Assoc. Pastor Report

- Senior Sunday will be on Sunday, May 4 – we have 4 seniors graduating from Monticello High School that we are celebrating.
- We will be giving out 4 scholarships. Eleanor Stearns Musick, Circle 5, Jordan Lee Memorial and a new one: Kevin Grant Memorial scholarship
- There is a new scholarship for anyone pursuing higher education through college or trade school or specialty school. It is the Jaci Calhoun Oxner Scholarship. \$2000 total gifted to one person. \$1000 for fall semester and \$1000 for spring semester. Scholarship application deadline is May 10, and the scholarship will be awarded on June 1 during worship.
- I am in course of study currently – through Perkins School of Ministry. Taking Bible 5.
- The youth group sponsored their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual “Thank You” this past Sunday night and it was well received. We had a great turnout and a delicious meal. The youth shared about their 2024 mission trip and all of the things going on in the youth group.
- This month is the youth group’s annual “Envelopes of Support.” This fundraiser supports all of the youth group’s monthly mission work and summer mission trip to Colorado Springs, CO.
- The wish list for the new sensory room will go out soon! Julie Smith has been consulting with Emily Johnston and Diana Hill on what we need for the room.

**Motion:** to adjourn made by Dalene Stephenson and seconded by Michael Blazier. All in favor. None opposed.

Meeting adjourned @ 6:45 P.M.

Next meeting Tuesday, May 13, 2025 @ 6:00 PM





# May 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Wednesday Activities</b> After school pick up and kids' activities <b>FUMY</b> Afterschool homework and hang time	<b>5:30-7p FUMY Midweek</b> <b>6-7p Choir</b> <b>7p Hand bells</b>			1	2 Pinnacle Point CPR training FH 9-12p	3
<b>4 Communion</b> <b>SR Sunday Recognition</b> <b>Brunch 10 a</b> 	<b>5</b> Boy Scouts 6:30 p College Ministry Small Group 7p	<b>6</b> Prayer Team 10 a Hopeful Hearts Noon Wilma Hankins Circle 1:30p	<b>7</b> Wednesday Activities Fried Chicken, creamed potatoes, butter beans, gravy & Birthday Cake Small group 6:30p	<b>8</b> Feed Our Neighbors 11a	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> EHC work day FH 9a
<b>11</b> 	<b>12</b> Boy Scouts 6:30 p College Ministry Small Group 7p	<b>13</b> Prayer Team 10 a Staff Meeting 1p Executive Council 6p Charge Council MHS Graduation	<b>14</b> Wednesday Activities Sandwiches, chips, dip, pickles, dessert Small group 6:30p	<b>15</b> DCHS Graduation 	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 
<b>18</b> <b>It's History FH 6p</b> <b>ALL FUMY 7-8:30p</b>	<b>19</b> Boy Scouts 6:30 p College Ministry Small Group 7p	<b>20</b> Prayer Team 10 a Monticello Baseball Banquet 5p FLC	<b>21</b> Small group 6:30p <b>NO FUMY</b>	<b>22</b> Last day of school Drew Central <b>Feed Our Neighbors 11a</b>	<b>23</b> Last day of school Monticello	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> <b>NO FUMY</b> Steven Diffe's 30th Birthday Hymn Celebration 6p sanctuary	<b>26</b> Memorial Day 	<b>27</b> Prayer Team 10 a	<b>28</b> FUMY Game Night 5-7p	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> FUMY Prayer Breakfast 7a	<b>31</b>