

Monticello First United Methodist Church

Monthly Newsletter

Reflections



GENERAL CONFERENCE REPORT

"...he saluted him, and said to him, 'Is thine heart right, as my heart is with thy heart?' And Jehonadab answered, 'It is. If it be, give me thine hand.' And he gave him his hand..."—2 Kings 10:15 KJV

The special called General Conference of the United Methodist Church met February 23-26 in St. Louis. The delegates voted to pass the Traditional Plan, retaining the current restrictions in our Book of Discipline, which prohibit "self-avowed practicing homosexuals" from being ordained as clergy and forbid United Methodist clergy to officiate same-sex marriages. The Traditional Plan also strengthens enforcement of those restrictions. A plan for disaffiliation also passed, creating a path for United Methodist churches and organizations to leave the denomination.

All of the legislation was referred to the Judicial Council, our church's "Supreme Court." They will determine whether or not any of the legislation is constitutional, according to our Book of Discipline. Some of it will be declared unconstitutional; we won't know how much and what parts until the Judicial Council convenes April 23-26.

Several of you have asked me if it will affect our church family here in Monticello. The answer is, "It already has." Some of us are glad about the General Conference's decision. Others have said they are "devastated" about it.

Whether you agree with the decision or are hurt by it, I want you to know that I love you, and I feel so blessed to be your pastor. My hope is that we can do what our General Conference could not, and that's to stay together in ministry in the midst of our disagreement over issues concerning human sexuality.

I also want you to know that Lori and I will continue to abide by the Book of Discipline. That includes the restrictions I mentioned earlier, but it also includes these words from the very same section in our Book of Discipline regarding human sexuality: "All persons, regardless of age, gender, marital status, or sexual orientation, are entitled to have their human and civil rights ensured and to be protected against violence ... We affirm that all persons are individuals of sacred worth, created in the image of God. All persons need the ministry of the Church in their struggles for human fulfillment, as well as the spiritual and emotional care of a fellowship that enables reconciling relationships with God, with others, and with self ... We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons" (§161G, The Book of Discipline, 2016). All are welcome here. It doesn't matter if you're gay or straight, Republican or Democrat, or what kind of sinner you are...even if you're the kind of sinner who disagrees with the preacher, you are welcome in our church family.

Reflections

Finally, since we're still getting to know each other. I want you to know where I stand when it comes to matters of politics and faith. I'm a moderate centrist. I believe Methodism is a "Big Tent" denomination; we are better when there is diversity of opinion.

That goes back to John Wesley. In his sermon, "A Catholic Spirit," Wesley says that as long as we stay focused on loving God and loving neighbor, then we can work together even when we disagree. Quoting 2 Kings 10:15, Wesley says "If your heart is as mine, give me your hand." He explains, "I don't mean, 'Be of my opinion.' You need not. I do not expect or desire it. Neither do I mean, 'I will be of your opinion.' I can't ... Keep your opinion and I will keep mine ... only 'give me your hand.'" My favorite part of that sermon is where he says, "to be ignorant of many things, and to mistake in some, is the necessary condition of humanity." No matter how right you think you are, you're wrong about some things. So am I. If we are going to err, let's err on the side of grace and mercy and love.

I encourage you to pray for me and Lori as your pastors. If you have questions or concerns, my door is always open. Call the church office or email me at hammett.evans@fumcmonticello.org, and we'll set up a time to visit. Over our 170+ year history, our church has provided leadership for our region of the state. I pray we will lead the way not only for our region, but for our state and even the denomination by showing that Christians who disagree on important matters may still come together to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Grace and Peace!





FUMY News

March 2019

FUMY had an outstanding February! We talked about what it means to intentionally pray to God and to try to see others the way that God sees them. We played some fun new games, enjoyed delicious meals prepared by our youth parents, had prayer breakfast and went to Veritas! **Veritas** was held in Rogers, AR and we took a group of 24 youth and adults. We joined over 1,400 United Methodist youth and adults across Arkansas. We learned what it means to be “completely transformed” for God. Our own Hannah McDougald serves on the conference youth team and she served communion on Sunday with the other team members. The weekend was incredible! Special thanks to **Maggie Brown, Greg Fallon and Kevin Grant for serving with me as youth counselors.**

March brings more FUMY activities and lessons plus we begin the season of Lent! Our first Wednesday in March we will do prayer stations immediately after the Ash Wednesday service to prepare our hearts for Lent. Our group will begin a new series on Wednesdays and continue with our “Plus Ultra” and “Blue Like Jazz” series on Sundays. Confirmation classes have begun for our 6th graders AND our senior high youth. Confirmation is scheduled for Easter Sunday, April 21. We ask that you pray for those 8 students that are learning what it means to become a United Methodist and what it means to say yes to Jesus.

FUMY is reminded that Wednesday, March 13 is the absolute last day to sign up for our mission trip to South Carolina in June. A much needed & anticipated Spring Break comes the third week of March. Our March will end with a fun game night and prayer breakfast.

As always, we seek to be Jesus’ hands and feet in the world. Thank you for always supporting our group with your prayers! Let me know if you ever want to become a mentor to our group!

Christ above all, Lori

Important Reminders:

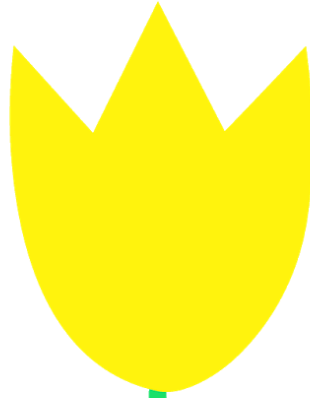
- **March 6 - Ash**
Wednesday service, 6:30 -7 pm prayer stations with small groups
- **March 13** - Absolute LAST day to sign up for mission trip
- **March 17** - NO FUMY
- **March 18 - 22:** No FUMY - Spring Break week
- **March 24** - All FUMY games & supper, 6 - 8 pm
- **March 27**- FUMY resumes
- **March 29** - 7:01 am Prayer Breakfast



Snack Supper List:

- | | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| March 3 | Alicia Whitaker |
| March 10 | Haley Greer |
| March 17 | No FUMY
(Spring Break) |
| March 24 | Kevin Grant |
| March 31 | Renee' Holland |





*We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the families of: Dave Hospodor;
Alex Snyder (Brandi Hudgens' Sister); Mike Staten (Tyler Staten's father)*

***MEMORIALS WERE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND IN LOVING
MEMORY OF:***

Elvin Bates by: Margaret and Rod Norton

Mildred Blocker by: Margaret and Rod Norton

Kelley Grubbs by: Wes and Monteene McCoy, Marion Ryburn, WA and Mary Tucker,
Mike and Charlena Johnston, and Bradley and Evelyn Hopper

Dave Hospodor by: Barbara Abston

Glenda Scogin by: Mike and Charlena Johnston

Owen Stanford by: Mike and Charlena Johnston, Gwen Stanford

James White by: Margaret and Rod Norton

Financial Summary for January 2019

Budget Ending Balance	\$ 136,115
Non Budget Ending Balance	\$ 138,924
Preschool Ending Balance	\$ 5,689
Combined Total	\$ 280,729



Dear Church Family,
 Words do not adequately express the gratitude I feel! It truly is a privilege to call you my church family. The retirement party was WONDERFUL!! Delicious food, Elvis singing in the background, a room full of people dear to me, a beautiful gold cross, a flame necklace, and... Oh My Goodness the money wreath!!! My mouth dropped open when I realized how generous you were! The support, love, and kindness you have shown me throughout the years has been greatly appreciated. My greatest joy has been getting to know each of you.

I leave the church office in good and efficient hands. Lynne Russell has already shown us that she has a heart for ministry. I know she will be blessed at Monticello FUMC. So thankful I am not leaving all of you just the office work!

I thank God for You!

Love, Dalene

Children's Choir will sing and ring on March 31 in the early service.

On Sunday, April 14 the children will be performing their Easter musical in

Congratulations to Chris Sims for being named UAM Educator of the year by the Chamber of Commerce at its annual banquet in February. Chris is the Professor of Biology at UAM, who joined the staff in 2002. Coming from a family of teachers, his father, James, once told him, "If you become a teacher, I'm gonna kill you. Do something where you can make some money." His students and UAM are very happy he did not heed his father's advice.



ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

- March 3** Pierson Harper & Ryne Gosdin
- March 10** Thomas Holland & Macy Tolin
- March 17** Danner Loyd & Addy Maxwell
- March 24** Max Efird & Addy Maxwell
- March 31** James Pierce Breedlove & Abby Huskey

LITURGIST SCHEDULE

- March 3** Lori Fallon
- March 10** Lori Fallon
- March 17** Michael James
- March 24** David Anderson
- March 31** John Davis

GREETERS

- March 3** Margo and Joel Stevens
- March 10** Jill and Anthony Brown
Trudy Jackson
Renee Holland
- March 17** Kim and Tony Fletcher,
Renee and John Gibson
Judy Murphy
- March 24** Margo and Joel Stevens
LeAnne Burch
Danner Loyd
- March 31** Dalene and Mike Stephenson
Deborah and Michael James
Katy and Jere Johnston

You are invited to a baby shower for Peyton Fletcher -James on Sunday, March 17, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. It will be at the home of Reathel Privett, located at 198 Old Dean Road, Monticello, AR. Peyton is registered at Amazon, Target, and Wal-Mart. RSVP 870-723-4487. Thanks!





Come join us for fun, fellowship, and food to learn about and support the memory of Methodist churches in Arkansas. You are invited to become a member of the Arkansas Conference Historical Society and to attend its annual Luncheon on Saturday, April 27, at noon at Little Rock First UMC.

All are welcome to attend. You do not have to join, but we hope that you will want to receive more information.

Contact Helen Guenter at 870-723-0053 or the church office at 870-367-2471 for more information to register or go to www.arkansasumcarchives.com

The forms will be in the Family Life Center and Sanctuary on March 10.

Easter Lily

If you would like to place a lily in memory or honor of a loved one, the cost is \$17.00. Please place your form and check to FUMC in the offering plate or drop by the church office.

In loving memory of _____

In loving honor of _____

By: _____



The First United Methodist Church of Monticello is offering English as a Second Language (ESL). Classes are Mondays and Thursdays at 1:30 P.M. For more information, contact Isabel Bacon at baconi@uamont.edu or 870-723-4672 and leave a message.

Drew Memorial Transitions is an Outpatient Counseling Program for seniors. A few of their services include



Drew Memorial TRANSITIONS

Transportation within 30 miles of the Drew Memorial Health system, Nutritionally-balanced noon meals and snacks, Family /counseling, and

Disease education and management. For more information, their contact number is (870) 460-4840. There are a few flyers in the church office if you would like to pick one up.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Be sure not to miss it.

WHERE: Monticello Elementary School

WHEN: March 11, 2019

TIME: 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

According to state law children must be 5 years of age on or before August 1.

Please bring birth record or social security card. Please enroll your child even if you do not have these items.

MEALS FOR THE COMING WEDNESDAYS

March 06 Pizza and salad

March 13 Potato Bar

March 20 Spring Break/No Meal

March 27 Pork loin, salad, baked beans

Thank you to the following for sharing food to Feed Our Neighbors: Sally Kirst, Freddie Lee, and Louisa Smith.



UAM is dedicated to helping students have success in and out of the classroom. They have a career services department that focuses on helping students prepare for job interviews. An important part of preparing for an interview is looking professional, but many students struggle with acquiring professional attire such as suits, skirts, and ties.

UAM has launched a Professional Clothing Closet to provide appropriate attire for their students. They collect gently used two-piece suits, jackets, blazers, dresses skirts, blouses dress shirts, ties, and slacks. If you have any gently used items that fit this description, please drop them off in the church office during the month of March, and we will see that they get to UAM. After that, you can still donate directly to UAM and drop it off at 459 University Drive.

CONTACT US

Give us a call for more information about our worship services and programs at:
 870-367-2471—Church
 501-944-9719—Pastor Cell
 870-723-4968—Associate Minister Cell
 323-229-2122—Secretary Cell

Pastor Email—hammett.evans@fumcmonticello.org
 Associate Minister Email
 lori.fallon@fumcmonticello.org
 Secretary Email—masterfumc@gmail.com



On Monday, February 25, Cub Scout Pack 69 had four boys receive their Arrow of Light and Crossover from Cub Scouts to Boy Scout Troop 67. The four new members of Troop 67 are Stephen Bragg, Kolton Beer, Sawyer Headlee, and Joshua McMahon.

The troop is preparing for their next campout at Shiloh National Military Park and hike the 14 mile Shiloh Military Trails March 21-24.



Monticello Chamber of Arkansas Community Events for March

March

- 4-9 **Mary Poppins, Jr.** musical and dance production. UAM Fine Arts Center. Another great Seark Concert Association production. Searkconcert.org for schedule and ticket information.
- 7-9 **Historic Highway 35 Junk Hunt** passes right through Monticello. The chamber is offering free booth space on the chamber parking lot to all our members. Just contact our office at (870)367-6741 or monticellochamber@sbcglobal.net to reserve your space. Check out the Historic Highway 35 Junk Hunt listing on Facebook.
- 11 Chamber volunteers will be at Drew Central Middle School for our annual presentation of the **Arkansas Scholars Program** to all eighth-grade students.
- 28-30 **Annual Boll Weevil Stampede Intercollegiate Rodeo.** Fair Ground Arena, Highway 35 East, Monticello, AR. 300 participating cowboys and cowgirls, representing 15 colleges and universities will provide some of the very best in college rodeo excitement.
7:00 nightly/Adults \$10/Children \$5/Age 6 and