

Reflections

September 2019

317 S. Main Street
Monticello, AR 71655



WHERE IS GOD IN THE WHIRLWIND?

"The LORD said, "Go out and stand at the mountain before the LORD. The LORD is passing by." A very strong wind tore through the mountains and broke apart the stones before the LORD. But the LORD wasn't in the wind. After the wind, there was an earthquake. But the LORD wasn't in the earthquake."—*1 Kings 19:11, CEB*

I'm stunned by the images coming from the Bahamas. As I write, Hurricane Dorian has already devastated property and taken lives as it heads toward the continental United States. It's hard to believe what my eyes have seen.

I once heard of a Sunday school class discussing why God allows disasters like these to happen. Some said it was a test. Others said they didn't think God wrought disaster, but was present in the rebuilding. Some said it was a punishment and we should "watch out 'cause we could be next." Honestly, all three of these ideas have biblical support, and sometimes you hear all of these ideas used about the same disaster.

The question is a deep one: *how can we hold onto a belief in a God who rules the universe in the face of suffering and tragedy?* I'm not sure there is an adequate answer, but there are several things we may affirm.

First, we affirm that **God is a creating God**. The same God who brought order from chaos in creation is still doing it today. Second, we affirm that **God loves freedom**. God could have created us as obedient robots, but God didn't. God gives us freedom to choose and plan. Sometimes, however, we do things accidentally or intentionally that God wouldn't choose for us. The same is true for creation itself. That means that sometimes things happen which are beyond God's control. Third, we affirm that **Christ is Lord**. Jesus shows us that God is ever more willing to suffer with us and for us than to punish us. During his earthly ministry, Jesus ministered to the suffering and broken. Through the Spirit, he empowers us to do the same. Finally, we affirm that **God is healing this planet through Love**. As God's partners in that enterprise, we pray for the suffering. We donate to relief organizations like the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). We help people rebuild. When we do that, God's presence is felt in the whirlwind.

Grace & Peace!



FUMY News

September 2019

August was exciting...and we loved the last two weeks of summer getting to spend some extra time with each other! We baptized 2 of our FUMY, played in our new GaGa pit, played basketball and card games, helped do mission work with Samaritan's Feet, went to the County Fair, went bowling, had some great lessons, led Sunday morning worship and shared about our mission trip plus had our annual FUMY planning day complete with lock-in and Peter's Walk! WHEW! Speaking of our planning retreat..it was incredible! We planned lots of mission work, youth lessons, fundraisers, devos, prayer breakfasts, fellowship and fun plus elected officers! Our theme for 2019-20 is "**The Power Within.**" This school year we will focus on what it means to listen to, learn from and be led by "the power within" us (the Holy Spirit). After planning our year, we did Peter's Walk. Special thanks to *Brother Hammett, Scotty Beer, Maggie Brown & Audrea Stephens* for helping lead it. Then our group went on a super fun Scavenger Hunt around town! Another set of **thank yous** to the following people for helping make our planning day & scavenger hunt such a huge success: *Diantha Beer, Scotty Beer, Maggie Brown, Greg Fallon, Jonathan Gosdin, Natalie Gosdin, Haley Greer, Carole Martin & Audrea Stephens.* I absolutely could not have done it without all of their help! School is now back in full swing and we are back on schedule with Sunday and Wednesday night FUMY activities plus our monthly prayer breakfasts.

September brings more mission work & new lessons & fun for FUMY! We start the month with packing bags for "Feed the Kids" on Wednesday. Speaking of mission work, we are excited to collect shoes this entire month for the **nationwide Soles4Souls mission.** Please bring new & slightly used shoes to Church and place them in a designated box in the Family Life Center, sanctuary, near the office doors or Fellowship Hall. Also, we are heading back to Maumelle to the Methodist Behavioral Health facility to lead youth group for the children & youth that live there. On Sundays we are talking about some of our favorite Bible stories that we find in each book of the Bible. Our Wednesdays we are doing a new series on what it means to fall recklessly in love with God. Like most years, we plan to pray for our schools on Wednesday, September 25 with the annual "See You at the Pole" prayer time held at our schools. Plus we will have prayer breakfast on September 20.

We welcome ANY 7th to 12th grade students to our group. We are fun-loving group that seeks to be the hands & feet of Jesus in the world. Please pray for our students and get to know them!

Christ above all, Lori



Snack Supper List:

September 1	No FUMY
September 8	Michelle Nickolson
September 15	Diantha Beer
September 22	FUMY to Little Rock
September 29	FUMY Parent



FUMY Officers 2019-20:

President	Sydney Fallon
Vice President	Will Beer
Secretary	Megan Stephens
DCYM Reps:	Katie Cavaness, Sydney Fallon, Lily Garza, Cole Hawkins, Megan Stephens



SOLES 4 SOULS
WEARING OUT POVERTY*



We invite YOU, your family, your friends to partner with First United Methodist Youth Group to collect new & slightly used shoes the entire month of September for the nation-wide Soles4Souls mission.

This will be our youth group's 9th collection!
In addition to shoes, we welcome monetary donations to help with the shipment of the shoes. Cost to ship is \$1 per pair of shoes.
Last year we shipped 450 pair.

Collection boxes are in the Family Life Center, sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. The shoe drive will be held September 1-30, 2019!

Thank you for your generous spirit & help!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Sunday, August 11, Ms. Judy Murphy instructed our newest Acolytes about what is involved in that ministry. They were taught the importance of this ministry, what it means to our worship, what they will wear, what they will do, and how they will conduct themselves while serving. We welcome Dawson Loyd, Andrew Maxwell, Zade Sanderlin, and Jack Wagner as new Acolytes.

Wednesday, August 21, there were twenty-four children ages 3-12 that participated in our Wednesdays At Church for Kids (WACK). They sang with Ms. Kathy Borchardt, rang bells with Ms. Jennifer Fryer, and listened to the creation Bible story and did a related art activity with Ms. Isabel Bacon and me. It was the beginning of a wonderful school year on Wednesdays At Church for our Kids. We invite any kids ages 3-12 to join us!

QUEST for grades 3-6 will be held September 28 at St. James United Methodist Church in Little Rock. The cost is \$15. We are looking forward to taking our kids to this event. It is a fun-filled Saturday (10:00-3:00) where kids will explore the meaning of God's call on their lives and become equipped with ways they can be disciples who help make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Brenda Wright, Children's Minister

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14



Community Events

Market in the Park farmers' market plans opening day for the Fall market September 7, 8:00-11:00 A.M. Come out and enjoy food and fun while you support our market fundraising activities.

Weevil Welcome cookout, September 10 at 6:00 P.M. This city/chamber sponsored event will provide an opportunity to meet new faculty and staff. Contact the chamber to purchase a dinner ticket which is \$5.00 or to provide a door prize.

GREETERS

	9:00 AM	10:50 AM
Sept. 1	Deborah James Michael James	Judy Murphy
Sept. 8	Renee Treadwell Trudy Jackson John Frank Gibson	Margo Stevens
Sept. 15	Margo Stevens Joel Stevens	Renee Holland Margo Stevens
Sept. 22	Kim Fletcher Tony Fletcher	Valerie Harvey Margo Stevens
Sept. 29	Jill Brown Anthony Brown Ember	John Davis Davis

ACOLYTES

Sept. 1	Danner & Dawson Loyd
Sept. 8	Addy Beth & Andrew Maxwell
Sept. 18	James Pierce Breedlove & Thomas Holland
Sept. 22	Ryne Gosdin & Rylan Harvey
Sept. 29	Presley & Jack Wagner

Weekly Events

Sundays

9:00 AM Contemporary Service
9:50 AM Sunday School
10:50 AM Worship
5:00 PM Jr. High FUMY
6:00 PM Snack Supper FUMY
6:30 PM Sr. High FUMY
6:00 PM Small Group

Mondays:

6:00 PM Scouts

Tuesdays:

1:00 PM Staff Meeting
6:00 PM Disciple One Study

Wednesdays:

3:00 WACK (Wed. at Church for Kids)
3:00 FUMY Hang Time
5:00 Mid-week Fellowship Meal
5:30 FUMY Mid-week
6:00 Chancel Choir
6:00 PM Small Group Meeting
6:30 PM Small Group Meeting
7:00 PM Bells of Hope
7:00 PM Praise Band Practice

Thursdays

4:30 PM Feed Our Neighbors
5:30 PM Small Group

LITURGIST

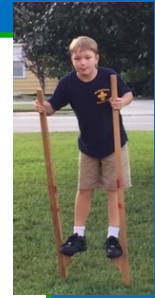
Sept. 1	Julie Smith
Sept. 8	Rev. Lori Fallon
Sept. 15	Sally Kirst
Sept. 22	Belinda Carpenter
Sept. 29	Rev. Lori Fallon

MID WEEK FELLOWSHIP MEAL MENU

Sept. 4	Ham, Mac-n-cheese, lima beans, salad, and dessert
Sept. 11	PEO Chicken Spaghetti , unbundled green beans, salad, French bread, and dessert
Sept. 18	Boston butt, baked beans, fruit salad, and dessert
Sept. 25	Pizza, corn, salad bar, and dessert



On Monday, August 26, Cub Scout Pack 69 had Open House/Registration for K-5th Grade kids who were interested in the Scouting program. Boy Scout Troop 67 set up skills/activities for the young "scouts" to try while parents met with leaders. As of August 27, we have 30 new applicants for the Monticello Cub Scout program and expect a few more by the first den meeting on September 9.



The Methodist Family Health Sentinel has recognized First United Methodist Church in their Fall issue Church Awards section with a Church Award of Outstanding Volunteers. This recognizes churches that have provided exceptional volunteer support to Methodist Family Health. We welcome representatives from Methodist Family Health on September 29 at both services to present this award.

Disciple 1 Bible Study will continue to meet in the meeting room across from the church office on Tuesdays from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Disciple 4 Bible Study orientation will be September 5 at 10:00 A.M. in the meeting room across from the office.

Please join us for two baby showers in September honoring Beth Staten and Meri Whitney Brown.

The Staten shower will be on September 22, in the FLC from 1-2 P.M. Beth and Tyler are expecting a baby girl, Charlotte Elizabeth. Beth is registered at Drew Memorial gift shop and babylist.com

The Brown shower will be September, 29 at 2:00 P.M. at the Stevens' residence at 203 Golf Course Drive.

Meri Whitney is registered at Amazon.com, City Drug, Marketplace 2, and Target.com.



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

Barbara Abston by:

- Sue and David Anderson
- Isabel and Edmond Bacon
- Mr. and Mrs. Barton Bynum
- Lanier Carson
- Faye Chandler
- Commercial Bank
- Jacquelyn and Dean Elliott
- Michelle Elliot
- Judy and Eddie Everett
- C.C. "Cliff" Gibson, III
- Bennie and Buck Henderson
- Mary Emily and Julie Jackson
- René and Jerry Johnson

- Phyllis and Sonny Jones
- Sally and Robert Kirst
- Kate and Don Koen
- Jack Lassiter
- Diane and Ray Lloyd
- Robin McClendon and Thomas Wingard
- Monticello Ecumenical Retirement Center
- Susan Musick
- Jim Rasco
- Eddy Ann and Richard Reinhart
- Patty Ross
- Lisa K. Smith
- Linda and Grady Tabor
- Jane Thomasson
- Kathy and James Tumilson