

Reflections

October 2019

317 S. Main Street
Monticello, AR 71655



Grace & Peace!

IF YOUR HEART IS RIGHT...

"(Jehu) greeted him and said, 'Is your heart right with mine as mine is with yours?' Jehonadab said, 'It is.' Jehu said, 'If so, give me your hand.'" —1 Kings 19:11 (CEB)

I hate family fights—not a good argument or a nice heated discussion. Fights. Every family has conflict. Healthy families deal with conflict in ways that lead to people feeling heard, and committed to sticking together even when they cannot come to agreement.

Fights break out when family members “go for the jugular.” Harsh words are spoken, feelings are intentionally hurt, and reconciliation is difficult. Tragically, so many family fights end when someone finally screams, “This home would be better without you!” Believe me, the worst place you can be is in the middle of *that*.

Sadly, there are folks in our denomination who are in the middle of a big ol’ family fight over issues surrounding homosexuality and biblical interpretation. On one extreme is a group of pastors and laity who see marriage and ordination of LGBTQ persons as a matter of justice. On the other side is a group of pastors and laity who believe that homosexuality is a sin and, therefore, that marriage and ordination should be prohibited for LGBTQ persons.

Since the special called General Conference back in February, the conflict in our denomination has intensified. Legislation for General Conference 2020 has been submitted and is in the process of being translated into the four official languages of the UMC. Based on the summaries released by the various groups thus far, two things are clear: 1) everyone wants “more space” – ranging from allowing these matters to be decided regionally to splitting the church into 2-4 new denominations, and 2) people on all sides are weary of the conflict.

There are people I admire, love, and respect on both extremes and in the middle. It breaks my heart to see these folks “go for the jugular” with each other as they did at GC2019. Each side accuses the other (unfairly, I think) of biblical illiteracy, pastoral recklessness, and theological ineptitude.

This is not a simple matter of “Who’s right and who’s wrong.” These convictions run deep and are both reasoned and heartfelt. Whatever happens, we will continue to disagree with one another over serious matters. The question is, “How will we deal with them?”

I think we begin by recognizing that each one of us is wrong about something. It seems to me, therefore, that if we are to err at all, we should err on the side of love. It was Jesus who said that people would know we are his followers “by our love” for one another, which applies even to those with whom we disagree. In a day of immense polarization in church and society, we have a significant opportunity to show the culture at large how to engage in civil discourse.

When it came to dealing with someone who had a different opinion, John Wesley said, “If your heart is right with my heart, give me your hand.” Love me as your sibling. Pray for me. Encourage me to love more deeply and to do good works. Give me your hand, and let’s build God’s Kingdom together.

In the midst of this current family squabble, I’m confident and hopeful that God’s love will prevail. You can be that cool-headed, warm-hearted person!

Grace and Peace!





FUMY News



Important Reminders:

- **October 2- Mission Day**
FUMY to help at Options, 6 - 7:30 pm plus **last day** to Register for Jr High Refuge
- **October 4-** DCHS Homecoming
- **October 6-** FUMY: 5 pm Jr High, 6 pm **OUT TO SUPPER @** , 7 pm Sr High
- **October 14-** **No School**
- **October 16-** **Last Day** to order FUMY t-shirts
- **October 18-** MHS Homecoming
- **October 25-** 7:01 am Prayer Breakfast, Fellowship Hall (devo by Megan)
- **October 28 -**
FUMY
Pumpkin Carving & Hayride at Megan Stephens' Home (184 Burton Road) meet at FUMC by 3:45 to ride bus, **4 pm - 8pm**, **All youth are asked to bring a pumpkin to carve or paint!**
Friends are welcome



October 2019

September with FUMY was packed full of incredible opportunities! We packed bags for "Feed the Kids," hosted another "soles 4 souls" shoe drive, led youth at the Methodist Behavioral Health Facility for 50 kids, prayed at our local schools with "See you at the Pole" plus had our monthly prayer breakfast. Our Sunday nights continue to encourage us through Old Testament Bible stories as we understand what it meant for the early believers to trust God and what it means for us to find "the power within" (the Holy Spirit) and trust God with our lives. Wednesday nights we have completed a series about what it means to be "Reckless" in our love for God and we are now beginning a "Truth and Dare" series. Both are challenging us to trust God with our lives and are "daring" us to follow God no matter what! We have restarted our youth small groups. We have 5 groups led by an incredible group of leaders: Scotty Beer, Maggie Brown, Lori Fallon, Jonathan Gosdin and Audrea Stephens. You leaders have no idea the footprint that you will leave on the hearts of these youth and the blessings you will receive from them!

October brings another variety of exciting and wonderful opportunities for our youth. Our mission for this month is helping unpack & sort through the donations at Options on the square and boxing up & shipping some of the shoes we have collected for the "Soles 4 Souls" mission. This year we are offering our local schools a chance to take some of our collected shoes and replenish their school "shoe closet" for students that have shoe emergencies. We want to extend a special **Thank You** to everyone that donated shoes. We have more Bible story lessons planned for Sundays and on we will continue our "Truth and Dare" series on Wednesdays plus small groups will meet. We will host another prayer breakfast plus enjoy our annual pumpkin carving/painting and hayride. We hope that you find many ways to share God's love with others and that you will get out of your comfort zone and do something in the name of Jesus for others.

Christ above all, Lori



Snack Supper List:

- October 6 Audrea Stephens
- October 13 Stacey Davis
- October 20 Denise Baldwin
- October 27 **Pumpkin Carving -**
Audrea & Chuck Stephens' home

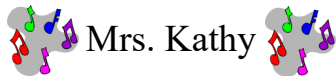


Chancel Choir and **Bells of Hope** are two rehearsed musical groups that sing and ring in the Traditional Worship Service. Both choirs meet on Wednesday evening! **Chancel Choir** (SATB Choral Choir) rehearses at 6:00 p.m. on the second floor of the East Wing of the Education Department and **The Bells of Hope** (3 Octave Adult Handbell Choir) rehearses at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary. YOU are welcome and strongly encouraged to join these choirs! We believe that participation in these choirs generates a sense of church family and belonging...a place to express the gospel message in song...an opportunity to serve and share your talents! If you've considered



It has been a busy September for the Children's Choirs with singing and ringing in the Traditional service. We also traveled to The Woods nursing

home where we sang several songs and handed out goodie bags to the residents. What a blessing for all. Come join us on Wednesdays.



Mrs. Kathy



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

Saturday, September 28 eight 4th- 6th graders went to a conference event at St. James UMC in Little Rock: QUEST. They participated in worship, break-out sessions, a bounce house, dance, and filling rice bags. The break-out sessions were the following: Explore the meaning of God's call on their lives; Develop and deepen their practice of spiritual disciplines; Acquire a solid foundation of United Methodist theology; Become equipped to go into the world with confidence in their faith and calling, so they may in turn, make disciples who make disciples of Jesus Christ. A very special THANK YOU to our chaperones: Isabel Bacon, Diantha and Scotty Beer, Kathy Johnston, and Jonathan Gosdin.

In November we will load up our church buses and head to the Heifer Headquarters for a tour of the facility and the grounds. A ride on the trolley and lunch in the River Market will be part of the fun.

Brenda Wright

"And He took them in His arms and blessed them..." Mark 10:16





The SECOND Samaritan Feet Shoe Distribution

Sunday, October 27, 2019

1:00-4:00 p.m.

We are so blessed to be able to offer a *second* shoe distribution to our school children in Drew County. The first event touched the hearts of everyone who participated in any way—whether through donations, time, or prayers. And there was no doubt that it touched the lives of the children and parents who received the shoes. The event was SO good that we knew that we want to continue this ministry. The need is there and so are WE.

In this spirit, the decision was made to not only provide the act of foot-washing, a pair of socks and a pair of shoes, but to further our service by giving children a warm winter coat. That ministry is moving forward quickly. We are gathering gently used coats, new coats that our church members are buying and donations so coats can be purchased. These children and their families will leave our church with new shoes and a coat, a new Bible, an invitation to worship with us and a hot dog! Their needs will be met both physically and spiritually!

We need volunteers! Lots and lots of volunteers! Volunteer forms are available weekly in our church bulletins and online through Sign-Up Genius. We have many jobs available. These include registration, foot washing, water runners, children escorts, hot dog “handlers,” greeters, coat and shoe distributors, and more—there’s a job for everyone and a job for all ages. A nursery will be provided for parents with little ones. Volunteers will come at 1:00 for job assignments. The distribution will begin at 2:00 and end at 4:00.

Please plan to spend a Sunday afternoon with your fellow church members on Sunday, October 27, 2019. While these families will be blessed, we know that our hearts will receive the biggest blessing.

“We are blessed to be a blessing!”



Community Events

October 26 — *Annual Possum Valley Fun Day*

Coming up in November and December

November 23 — *Vera Lloyd Turkey Trot*
Registration open. Register for 10K or 5K run, 5K walk, or Virtual Participation.
RunsSignup.com/vlturkeytrot

December 3 — *Annual Carols of Christmas Parade* — *contact the Chamber at 870-367-6741 or monticellochamber@sbcglobal.net for Info to enter a float.*

Weekly Events

Sundays

9:00 AM Contemporary Service

9:50 AM Sunday School

10:50 AM Worship

4:00 PM Youth Praise Band

5:00 PM Jr. High FUMY

6:00 PM Snack Supper FUMY

6:30 PM Sr. High FUMY

6:00 PM Small Group

Mondays:

5:30 PM Scouts

6:30 PM Small Group

7:00 PM Small Group

Tuesdays:

10:00 AM Prayer time with Lori

1:00 PM Staff Meeting

6:00 PM Disciple 1 Study

Wednesdays:

11:15 AM TOTS

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

7:00 PM Bells of Hope

7:00 PM Praise Band Practice

Thursdays

10:00 AM Disciple 4 Bible Study

4:30 PM Feed Our Neighbors

5:30 PM Small Group

GREETERS

	9:00 AM	10:50 AM
Oct. 6	Kathy Johnston Jere Johnston	Margo Stevens
Oct. 13	Stephanie Brown LeAnne Burch Blair Brown	Judy Murphy
Oct. 20	Kathy Tumlison James Tumlison	Valerie Harvey
Oct. 27	Dalene Stephenson	Renee Holland

LITURGIST

Oct. 6	Rev. Lori Fallon
Oct. 13	Mary Jo Wisener
Oct. 20	Rev. Lori Fallon
Oct. 27	Susan Musick

ACOLYTES

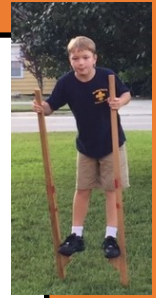
Oct. 6	Abby Huskey & Alex Martinez
Oct. 13	Macy Tolin & Lillie Green
Oct. 20	Eli Coburn & Max Efird
Oct. 27	Pierson Harper & Thomas Holland

Mid Week Fellowship Meal Menu

Oct. 9	Sandwich bar, chips, fluffy salad & dessert
Oct. 16	Vege soup, crackers, cheese toast, fruit & dessert
Oct. 23	Breakfast casserole, biscuits & gravy, fruit salad & dessert
Oct. 30	Chili cook-off, hot dogs, chips & 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.



Shepherd's Center — Tuesdays, October 15, 22, 29 and November 5, 12, 19
Classes in bridge; hand, knee, and foot; dominoes; knitting; yoga; carpentry; dancing and much more. Shepherd's Center 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 may include information about Alzheimer's, technology, photography, and local history.

For more information, contact Susan Musick at 318-447-9309

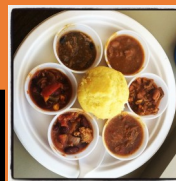
Disciple 1 Bible Study will continue to meet in the meeting room across from the church office on Tuesdays from 6:00 to 8:00 P.M.

Disciple 4 Bible Study will continue to meet in the meeting room across from the office from 10:00 to noon.

A big thank you to all who volunteered in the prayer garden this summer — LeAnn Burch, Sandy Funderburg, Deborah James, Louisa Smith, Kathy Tumblison, Brenda Wright, and Walter Godwin. If you have the time and the desire to help in the garden, contact Deborah James or Sandy Funderburg.



The UMW fed Wesley on Monday, September 30. We served close to 90 meals. All circles contributed to the delicious meal of fried chicken, homemade macaroni & cheese, baked beans, rolls, & desserts. Many ladies pitched in cooking, hauling the food to UAM, serving the meals, and cleaning up. Fellowship and fun was had by all.



FUMC's second annual chili cook off will be Wednesday, October 30 during the Fellowship meal. Dust off your favorite/secret recipes and join us that evening for a fun meal together. We will have hot dogs, cheese, chips, and dessert to round out our meal. Last year, Diantha Beer won for the best chili. Who will win this year? If you plan to bring chili, please let Kathy Tumblison know.





The Call

Dear First United Methodist,

Thank you so much for hosting our Fall PRIDE classes for prospective foster parents! Your hospitality was outstanding!

Every meal was great, and your members went out of their way to engage with and encourage our families!

We so appreciate your willingness to love on these families as they step out in faith to serve children in foster care!

God Bless,
Deborah S. West



In Memoriam

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

Judy Ryburn by:

Sue and David Anderson
Sally and Ryan Beebe
Stacey Davis
Debbie and Byron Gasaway
C.C. "Cliff" Gibson, III
Bennie and Buck Henderson
Mary and William Jackson
Rene and Jerry Johnson
Phyllis and Sonny Jones
Sage and Chris Loyd
Kristi McClain
Charlotte McGarr
Eddy Ann and Richard Reinhart
Patty Ross
Marion Ryburn
Kathy and Rusty Smith
Roxanne Smith
Dalene and Mike Stephenson
Susan and Tom White
Mary Ann, Dixie, and William White

Barbara Abston by:

Belinda and Dave Carpenter
Sandy and David Funderburg
Charlotte McGarr
Diane and Mark Pennington
Singles and Doubles Fellowship
Sunday School Class

Charlotte Dickson

Stacey Davis

Emmett Smith

Stacey Davis

In Honor of Chuck and Cindy Dearman

Mary E. Calhoun