

Reflections

December 2019

317 S. Main Street
Monticello, AR 71655



GO A DIFFERENT WAY THIS CHRISTMAS

"And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went to their country another way."— Matthew 2:12

I love Christmas. It's my favorite time of year. It reminds me of days past, the scent of peppermint, and the taste of hot cocoa with melty marshmallows, time with family and friends.

Just after Halloween, my brother, sister, and I used to eagerly await the arrival of the Christmas catalog. Mom and Dad told us to choose one gift we really wanted Santa to bring. We'd dog ear the pages, prioritize, and negotiate with each other ("Hey, Brice, if you get the Oscar Goldman, I'll get the Bionic Bigfoot!").

In church, we'd anticipate the arrival of Christmas by lighting a candle each week. We'd sing songs about poor people offering what they had to the baby Jesus. In one church, we had a birthday party for Jesus. We even got to eat birthday cake! Then we'd go home and sing songs about jingle bells and little drummer boys. The next morning, we'd open our presents.

Subtly I learned that Christmas was about *me*. It was like having an extra birthday. It was about getting what I wanted (I'm still disappointed that I *didn't* get that Bionic Bigfoot!). Jesus was "the reason for the season," but if he would be happy with the tiniest gift, then why bother giving my best?

As I've gotten older, and God has blessed me more and more, I've had to unlearn much of what I learned as a child about Christmas. In Jesus, God gave everything and risked everything to show you and me how much God loves us.

The real miracle of Christmas is that Christ will be born in us today. When Christ is in our hearts, we live like he lived—self-sacrificially. That means giving of ourselves (everything we are) and using the resources God has provided us (everything we have) to serve God's purposes in the world.

This Christmas, Jesus wants each of us to take time apart from the busy-ness of all the parties and shopping to give of ourselves and our resources to help those who are less fortunate. That's what he came to do, and that's his birthday wish.

Merry Christmas!



FUMY News

*Merry
Christmas*

December 2019

Important FUMY Reminders:

- **Saturday, December 14-** Our FUMY annual Progressive Dinner, Christmas Caroling & lock-in! **Please bring a gift for our dirty Santa game (\$10 value)** Please RSVP (to Lori) for the Progressive Dinner by **December 12**.
- FUMY on December 15.
- No FUMY **after** December 18 **until January 12, 2020**.
- **December 21 & 22** - Ring Bell for the Salvation Army @ Walmart

Merry Christmas! Jesus is the reason for the season!

FUMY did lots of mission work in November and we have plans to do more in December!

We are livin' to be the hands & feet of Jesus.



THANK YOU to Scotty Beer & Maggie Brown for chaperoning Refuge with me!



A very special **THANK YOU** to our Church family...
For helping our youth group give 43 families food for the holidays! God Bless You!





Once again, on October 27, our church was filled with children, parents, grandparents, church members from FUMC, and churches across Monticello as we ministered to our community's needs. On this day we washed the feet of approximately 120 boys and girls. We put new shoes and socks on all of these little feet and a new winter coat on each child. As they left, each child received a Bible, Halloween candy, and a hot dog. And it was such a treat to see our playground filled with community children.



At the end of our time, we realized that we still had coats and shoes to share; so these were sorted and taken to our schools to be distributed to those children who were unable to make it to the church. This was an additional 127 children. So, with our August distribution and the latest in October, we have reached almost 500 families in Monticello and surrounding areas!



We heard countless testimonies from these families about the blessings of these shoes and coats. We have testimonies of our own as we served our neighbors. While these families have been blessed by FUMC members, we, too, have been blessed beyond measure! Plans are already in place for next year's distribution. Thank you to every single one of you who have made all of this possible.

The Bells of Hope (FUMC Adult Handbell Choir) will perform at the Monticello Music Club on Monday, December 9, at 7:00 p.m. This December meeting will be held in our church sanctuary. Also performing at this meeting will be the Monticello Senior High Madrigals, under the direction of Bobby Brown. Lastly, Mr. Brown and our Music Minister, Kathy Lyon, will present a seasonal duet. This will be an evening of beautiful music from local talents. The public is invited and encouraged to attend!



The Chancel Choir

Invite you to attend their annual Christmas Cantata

“A Noel Celebration”

Sunday, December 15, @ 10:50 a.m.

317 S. Main Street

Monticello, Arkansas



CHILDREN’S MINISTRY NEWS

Thirteen children and adults visited Heifer International in Little Rock on Saturday, November 16. We enjoyed riding trolleys, eating at the River Market, walking to Heifer Village, learning about Heifer International's many projects, “playing” in the hands-on Heifer Village, shopping in their gift shop, and petting their animals outside. We presented a gift to them that will go toward the purchase of animals for this important mission. What an interesting, fun, and educational experience! Thank you to these adults for going with us: Isabel Bacon, Diantha and Scotty Beer, and Nikki and AJ Hood.

Sunday, November 17, 14 shoe boxes for the Samaritan's Purse ministry were delivered to the drop-off point for our area, Shady Grove Baptist Church. Several other members of our congregation made online contributions. Thank you to everyone who participated in this ministry with us.

Sunday, December 15, at 6:00 in the Family Life Center our children will present their Christmas program. Kathy B, Jennifer, Isabel, and I have been preparing the children for this since August. Please join us and be a part of this special night.

Brenda





The Children's Choirs and Handbells recently sang and rang in the late service for our church family and visitors. We also visited Belleview Estates and performed several songs and rang handbells to a wonderful group of residents. We handed out goody bags to everyone! What a blessing! God is good all the time.

♥ Mrs. Kathy



Thanks to the Trinity Sunday School Class for all their help in decorating the Family Life Center. A special thank you to Sheila Maxwell and Amanda Gilbert for choosing and purchasing the new FLC Christmas tree decorations and to Dalene Stephenson & Sandy Funderburg for the table decorations. Also, a thank you to Bennie Henderson & her team, Judy Harris, Kami Griffin, & Jill Brown for the special round table decoration. A huge, Chrismon tree-size thank you to Blair and Anthony Brown for putting up and decorating our gorgeous tree in the sanctuary and to Stephanie Brown and LeAnne Burch for their decorating help. Sandy and Belinda Carpenter beautifully brightened our sanctuary by purchasing and putting up the new window treatments and fresh looking garland. Come, see, and be blessed by how our church's new Christmas look all came together.

Sandy Funderburg



If you have not signed up to ring the bell, FUMY and FUMC will ring the bell for the Salvation Army Kettle Drive the weekend of December 21 and 22. Please sign up to ring on the Sign-up Genius link.

<https://bit.ly/2NJ3uGf>

Advent Candle Families

- Dec. 1: Griffin and Bullock Families
- Dec. 8: Kidwell and Maxwell Families
- Dec. 15: Wilkins and Anderson Families
- Dec. 22: Barton and Forrest/Perez Families
- Dec 24: Davis and _____ Families



Community Events



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

GREETERS

	9:00 AM	10:50 AM
Dec. 1	Jill Brown Margo Stevens Anthony Brown	Margo Stevens
Dec. 8	Amanda Barton LeAnne Burch Whit Barton	Judy Murphy
Dec. 15	Kathy Tumilson James Tumilson	Jere Johnston Kathy Johnston
Dec. 22	Dalene Stephenson Mike Stephenson	Renee Holland
Dec. 29	Stephanie Brown Blair Brown	None Scheduled

ACOLYTES

Dec. 1	Presley & Jack Wagner
Dec. 8	Max Efird & Alex Martinez
Dec. 15	Abby Huskey & Macy Tolin
Dec. 22	Eli Coburn & Pierson Harper
Dec. 24	Addy Beth & Andrew Maxwell
Dec. 29	Danner & Dawson Loyd

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

Liturgist

Dec. 1	Rev. Lori Fallon
Dec. 8	Susan Musick
Dec. 15	Julie Smith
Dec. 22	Diane Pennington
Dec. 24	Rev. Lori Fallon
Dec. 29	Ember Davis

Mid Week Fellowship Meal Menu

Dec. 4	Pizza, salad, and dessert
Dec. 11	Vege. soup, ham & cheese sliders, pimento cheese sandwiches, corn bread, and dessert
Dec. 18	Potato bar with all the fixings and dessert

Memorials were given to the glory of God

Barbara Abston by:

LeAnne Burch
Belinda and David Carpenter
Helen and Joe Guenter5
Judy Murphy

Dr. Roland Anderson by:

Helen and Joe Guenter

Mickey Arrington by:

Helen and Joe Guenter

Charles "Chuck" Baxter by:

Helen and Joe Guenter

Camille Rabb Berryman by:

Helen and Joe Guenter

Mildred Blocker by:

Helen and Joe Guenter

Kelly Grubbs:

Belinda and David Carpenter
Helen and Joe Guenter

Leone Cason Hendrickson by:

Commercial Bank
Helen and Joe Guenter

Kenny Johnson by:

Commercial Bank
Belinda and David Carpenter
Helen and Joe Guenter
Bennie and Buck Henderson
Jack Lassiter
Patty Ross
Mellie Jo and Wayne Owen

And in loving memory of:

Jeanne Metzger by:

Stacey and Barry Davis
Helen and Joe Guenter
Mellie Jo and Wayne Owen
Patty Ross
Suzanne and Mike Zieman

Susan Pemberton by:

Helen and Joe Guenter

Mike Pittman by:

Helen and Joe Guenter

Judy Ryburn by:

Belinda and David Carpenter
Helen and Joe Guenter
Mellie Jo and Wayne Owen
Diane and Mark Pennington

Michael Staten by:

Helen and Joe Guenter

Dorothy Wisener by:

LeAnne Burch
Stacey and Barry Davis
Helen and Joe Guenter
Claudia Hartness
Susan Musick
Patty Ross
Suzanne and Mike Zieman



Poinsettias given to the glory of God and in loving memory of:

Jerry Akin	by: Belinda, Laura, and Carrie
D. A. and Elizabeth Anderson	by: Sue and David Anderson
Parents: Cora and Noel Boyd	by: Carolyn and John Bullock
Lillian and Leo Bullock	by: Carolyn and John Bullock
Joan, Bob, and Bobby Burch	by: Debbie and Steve Morrison
Bobby, Joan and Dr. Bob Burch, Sr.	by: LeAnne, Trey & Ashley, Katelyn & William and Patty Ross
Juanita and Tom Cashion	by: Susan Cossey
Vilma Crain	by: Kathy and James Tumilson
Juanita and John Frank (Mutt) Gibson	by: Renee and John Frank Gibson
Mr. and Mrs. Billy Gorman	by: Angie and John Kidwell
James and Milbry Jackson	by: James Andrew and Trudy Jackson
Parents: Jo and Charles Jackson	by: Dr. Charlie Jackson, Jimmy Jo Leech, Lucy Cyphers, and Deborah Jackson & their families
Judge Kenneth Johnson	by: Robin Johnson and Mandy Tropf
Gran Gran	by: Lillie Kate Green
Mr. and Mrs. John Kidwell, Sr.	by: Angie and John Kidwell
Martha Sue and Ervin McClain	by: Susan Musick
Joe Musick	by: Susan Musick
Doris and Maurice Nichols	by: Glenda Nichols and Family
Herman Nickolson	by: Michelle and Jack Nickolson
Dr. Gwen Norrell	by: Susan Cossey
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Pawwels	by: Sue and David Anderson
Floyd Lee (Pete) Pittman, Jr.	by: LeAnne, Trey & Ashley, Katelyn & William
Molly and James Ross	by: Elgenia and Jim Ross
Henry Lee Ross	by: Sandy and David Funderberg and Patty Ross
John, Loyd, and Kirk Ruth	by: Ruth and Robert Langley
Parents: Bennie Ryburn, Jr. and Judy McKenney Ryburn	by: Angie Ryburn & Bennie & Carita Ryburn



Poinsettias given to the glory of God and in loving memory of:

Grandparents: Norma & Ray McKenney by: Angie Ryburn & Bennie & Carita Ryburn
and Virginia and Bennie Ryburn
Thad Smith by: Louisa and Paul Smith
Beatrice and Carl Snipes by: Elgenia and Jim Ross
Ernestine and Thomas Spain by: LaDonna and Frank Spain
Parents: Mr. and Mrs. W.E. Treadwell by: Renee and John Frank Gibson
Mary and Jim Tumlison by: Kathy and James Tumlison
Betty and William Waller by: James Andrew and Trudy Jackson
William Matthew Wisener by: Mary Jo and Bill Wisener

Poinsettias given to the glory of God and in Loving Honor of:

Carole and Bud Bullock by: Scott, Liz, Montre and Grace
Ken Crain by: Kathy and James Tumlison
Don Gold by: Debbie and Steve Morrison
Kevin Grant by: Kathy and James Tumlison
Norma Jean Hammett by: Michelle Pounds and Hammett Evans
Barbara and David Langley by: Ruth and Robert Langley
Jean and Russ Langley and family
Julie and Tommy Smith and family
Danner and Dawson Loyd by: Lolly and Pop Loyd
Charlotte McGarr by: Brittany Ann & Seth, Kelly, William, John Michael,
Max, Kolton, Zade, McKenzie, and Mia
Our children and grandchildren by: Louisa and Paul Smith
Mary Ellen Pounds by: Michelle Pounds and Hammett Evans
Betty Jo Ross Pruett by: Sandy and David Funderberg
and Patty Ross
Kathy and James Tumlison by: Their kids and grandkids

*Thank
You*

Dear Church Family, thank you all so much for the love, cards, and support you gave me and our family during Kenny's illness. I have been blessed to be part of this church for over 30 years and each of you are a blessing from God. The reception you provided after the service was so appreciated. Each of the committees did a great job. Our family truly appreciates everything. God bless each of you. Robin and family.

Dear Church Family, WOW!!! 😊 Bob and I are so blessed to have been a part of FUMC Monticello for 47 years. Our hearts are full of love and gratitude. We have so many, many wonderful and cherished memories! Thank you for honoring us in such a fun and happy way. A BIB, BIG thank you to ALL the folks who did the fish fry, kitchen labor, decorations, and especially our Sunday School Class for making it happen!!! You made us feel so special along with the Roast and Toast

It was a treat to have Bro. Dennis and Denise 😊 join the celebration. Thanks for all the Cards and Well wishes as we start our "next chapter" and journey in Fayetteville. We wish all of you a blessed and joyful Holiday Season. Know that our door is always open! Woo Pig Sooie! We love y'all bunches and again thank you!!!

In Christian love, Freddie and Bob

New address: 1994 West Leslie Drive, Fayetteville, AR 72704

Phone No. 479-439-8950

Dear FUMC Monticello, thank you so much for your prayers for my family and I. Your kindness is very appreciated. Your card brightened my day. Thank you so much! Love Hannah Tumilson

FUMC, thank you so much for the meal you provided us after Mom's funeral. It was very nice of y'all. We are so thankful to have such a wonderful church family. Benjy, Ray, and I are blessed to have y'all and call y'all friends. Thanks again, Angie Ryburn