

# Reflections

February 2020

317 S. Main Street  
Monticello, AR 71655



## OF GROUNDHOGS AND LENT



*"Then the one seated on the throne said, 'Look! I'm making all things new.'" (Revelation 21:5a, CEB)*

One of my favorite movies is *Groundhog Day*. If you haven't seen it, Bill Murray plays a cynical reporter named Phil Connors. Phil goes to Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, to see the annual emergence of Punxsutawney Phil from his burrow on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Phil (the human one) isn't a very nice guy. He's mean and self-centered. But by some strange phenomenon, when Phil's alarm goes off the next morning, it's still Groundhog Day – February 2<sup>nd</sup>. He has to repeat the day over and over again until he finally gets it right. Over the course of the movie, Phil starts noticing what other people are doing and how they are feeling, and he begins to care for them.

I bet there are some days you wish you could have a "do-over" like Phil Connors. I know I do. Even the best of us have days when we let a careless word slip, or do an unkind deed, or make an unwise choice. We feel guilt and regret because we can't go back and have a "do-over" like we did when we played ball as kids.

However, as Christians, we believe in a God of infinite chances. We may not be able to go back in time or repeat days over and over again until we get them right, and certainly there are consequences for our actions. Yet through Jesus Christ, we receive forgiveness. In him we have hope and the power to change and to make up for our mistakes.

We begin the season of Lent on February 26<sup>th</sup>, which is Ash Wednesday. Let us take these forty days to repent of our self-centeredness. Let us move past our feelings of regret, guilt, and shame. May we open our hearts to Jesus, confident that he is making all things new. Yes, even you and me.

Grace and Peace!



P.S. Did you know that Groundhog Day has a Christian connection? The Gospel of Luke says that forty days after Jesus was born, Mary took him to the Temple to be purified as required by Old Testament Law (Luke 2:22-39). Many Christians celebrate this event in Jesus' life on a day called "Candlemas." If you get your calendar out and count forty days from Christmas Eve, you land on February 2<sup>nd</sup>. That's right – Groundhog Day. It happens that February 2<sup>nd</sup> is half-way between the first day of winter and the first day of spring. An old tradition said that

*If Candlemas be fair and bright, winter has another flight.*

*If Candlemas brings clouds and rain, winter will not come again.*

Europeans connected this saying with a belief that hibernating animals (like badgers, bears, and hedgehogs) could predict spring's arrival when they came out of their dens. If an animal came out on a sunny Candlemas day, it would "see its shadow," go back into hibernation, and wintry weather would continue. On a cloudy or rainy Candlemas, the animal wouldn't see its shadow, would come out of hibernation, and the rest of winter would be mild.

# FUMY News



**February 2020**

## Important Reminders:

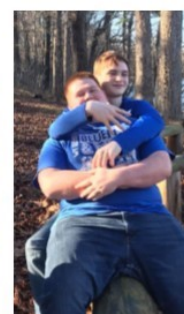
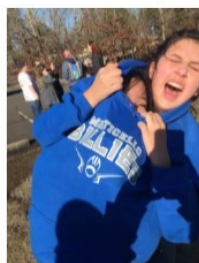
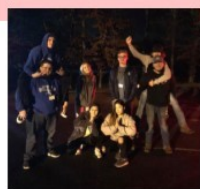
- **February 2** - FUMY, 12 pm - 3 pm, lunch & movie & games, youth room **No evening FUMY**
- **February 14-17** - No School (DC & Mont)
- **February 16** - FUMY to Little Rock & Maumelle for **MISSION WORK** @ Methodist Children's Home, Leave @ 11 am & home by 8 pm, need \$\$ for shopping & lunch
- **February 19** - All remaining fees for Veritas due (\$160 total)
- **February 21** - 7:01 am Prayer Breakfast
- **February 26** - Ash Wednesday service @ 6 pm, FUMY Prayer Stations 7-7:30 pm
- **February 28** - FUMY to Veritas, 1 pm

FUMY had an outstanding first month of 2020! We began the month with a fun night bowling, out to eat & games at church. School resumed as well as regular FUMY activities. On Sundays, we are continuing our "the power within" series as we explore Bible characters and their lives. On our first Wednesday back, the youth did mission work with "Feed the Kids" mission and packed lots of bags. Our Wednesday night lesson series is all about "Friends & Frenemies" right now. We are learning some eye-opening things about what it means to be a friend that points our friends toward God. We will continue this series into February and learn what it means to cut frenemies out of our lives and to pray for friends that encourage our faith development. In addition to our lessons, our group enjoyed small group every Wednesday plus prayer breakfast. Special thanks to **Maggie Brown, Julie Smith, Diantha Beer & Natalie Gosdin** for leading our youth in my absence while I was at Perkins school of youth ministry.

We are ready for February and all that comes with it! Our month begins with lunch & games a movie on February 2. We will continue with our "the power within" series on Sundays and after we conclude our "Friends & Frenemies" series will begin a new series on Wednesdays that helps us dive into relationships & dating. Our monthly mission this month takes us back to Maumelle to lead youth with the children at the Methodist Children's Home. We will have prayer stations immediately after the Ash Wednesday service to prepare our hearts for the Lenten season. Our month will end beginning the weekend of February 28e as we head back to Veritas (annual Arkansas confirmation event in Rogers, AR, that brings over 1500 youth and adults to worship God & hear His word). This year, 20 of us will dive into what it means to be united in Christ.

Please continue to cover our students with your prayers. Thank you for the many ways you support our youth.

Christ above all, *Lori*



### Snack Supper List:

- |             |                     |
|-------------|---------------------|
| February 2  | Lunch in Youth Room |
| February 9  | Stacey Davis        |
| February 16 | FUMY mission: LR    |
| February 23 | FUMY Parent         |

## Scouting News

Troop 67 participated in the District Winter Camp at Camp De Soto in El Dorado on January 17-19. They had 11 boys participate in merit badge classes such as Chemistry, Chess, Space Exploration, and Shotgun Shooting. Members of the Troop were part of a human Chess tournament that won first place. We will be honoring Scout Sunday on February 9 during both services and the Troop will be providing a Spaghetti Dinner for the Fellowship Meal on Wednesday, February 19.



Saturday, January 25, Pack 69 held their annual Pinewood Derby in the Family Life Center. They had 23 Scouts and 1 sibling participate in the derby. Each den group won awards for the fastest cars plus those that were creative, imaginative, and unique. We would like to thank Mr. David Anderson and Ms. Lynne Russell for volunteering to be part of the judging team.

The Pack Blue and Gold Banquet will be held on February 24 at 6 pm in the Family Life Center. They will have five Arrow of Light Scouts crossing over to Boy Scouts.

## Volunteers needed for Sager Brown mission

trip which is coming up February 23-28, 2020. We need volunteers for this mission. If you are interested in helping this year, the cost is \$100. Please call Dalene Stephenson for more information at 723-0650.

Pictured is last year's group.



## Shepherd Center Classes

**Who:** Adults

**What:** Classes in bridge; hand, knee, and foot; dominoes; knitting; yoga; and carpentry. Also planned are exercises and local history field trip.

**Where:** First Methodist Family Life Center (east door)

**When:** February 25, March 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 on Tuesday mornings. (Carpentry and yoga begin at 8:00 A.M. others at 9:00 A.M.) All classes meet at 9:00 the first day.

**Cost:** \$10.00 one-time fee

These classes are sponsored by several churches in Monticello and provide a time of fellowship and learning. Each session begins with a devotional at 9:00 A.M. News to know segments this spring include exercises for seniors and local history. An Easter craft is being planned.



Introducing Tanako's new Executive Director, Kayla Hardage. Kayla comes from a long line of Tanako history. Her parents even met there! Most recently with the State Department of Tourism, Kayla has lots of experience to bring with her. We are excited about the future at Tanako!

Registration for summer 2020 is open and now is the time to take advantage of early bird discounts. Our church offers half tuition scholarships to anyone wanting to attend camp. If you know of someone wanting to go but needing additional financial assistance, please let Lynne in the church office know. Watch future newsletters for some testimonials from our very own congregation on experiences at Camp Tanako!

For more info or to register, go to [tanako.org](http://tanako.org).



**The Chancel Choir** is preparing music for the season of Lent and Easter. The Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday, February 26 and ends on Holy Saturday, April 11, the day before Easter. The purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer for Easter through prayer, doing penance, mortifying the flesh, repentance of sins, almsgiving, and denial of ego. As a part of your almsgiving during this Lenten season, we ask that you consider joining the Chancel Choir. Your gift of musical talent is truly needed and would be very much appreciated. We rehearse each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. and present an anthem most Sundays in the Traditional service at 10:50 a.m. We are currently in need of Bass, Tenor, Alto and Soprano singers, please sincerely consider joining us for this six (6) weeks of the Lenten season!

### **February 2020 Newsletter Children's Ministry**

We are looking for a Vacation Bible School director. If you are the one that has this on your heart, please give me a call (504-812-2842) or send a text or come for a visit. All of the Children's Ministry staff at FUMC are eager to assist you. **YOU WILL NOT BE DOING THIS ALONE!** Your creativity is what we need! Cokesbury has a great VBS program from which we can draw songs, crafts, snacks, and Bible stories that go together. They even have coordinating decorations at our fingertips. But you may have a new idea of your own and we would love for you to share! I can't wait to hear from **YOU!**

It is that time of the year when our CONFIRMANDS (those who will be trained in our Christian faith and beliefs) will meet with our senior pastor Bro. Hammett. They will meet each Sunday in March during the Sunday School hour in the Sixth Grade Sunday School room, which is on the third floor above the Fellowship Hall. Additionally, the CONFIRMANDS will visit, tour, and worship with the Congregation B'nai Israel on

March 6 before attending Confirmation Camp at Camp Tanako March 6-8.

If you are interested in learning more about becoming a confirmand, Bro. Hammett or I would love to hear from you.

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



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

**Kelly Grubbs by:**

Kathy and James Tumilson

**Kenny Johnson by:**

Kathy and James Tumilson

**Mary Lou Mahurin:**

Gail and Randy Cockrell

**Patsy Rivers:**

Gail and Randy Cockrell

**Judy Ryburn:**

John B. Frazer, Jr.

**Steve Stewart by:**

Jere and Kathy Johnston

**GREETERS**

**9:00 AM                      10:50 AM**

Feb. 2	Kathy & James Tumilson	Kathy and Jere Johnston
Feb. 9	Troop 67	Troop 67
Feb. 16	Sally & Bob Kirst	OPEN
Feb. 23	Jill & Anthony Brown	OPEN

**ACOLYTES**

Feb. 2	Pierson Harper & Alex Martinez
Feb. 9	Troop 67
Feb. 16	Abby Huskey & Macy Tolin
Feb. 23	Danner & Dawson Loyd

**LITURGIST**

Feb. 2	Rev. Lori Fallon
Feb. 9	Troop 67
Feb. 16	
Feb. 23	



**Feeding the  
Community**

**Food Distribution**

FUMC's next food distribution will be on March 21, 2020 between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. The food will be delivered on March 20, 2020 between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. to the Fellowship Hall. Please keep these dates in mind. We will need volunteers to sort and distribute the food.

**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**

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

**Mid-Week Fellowship Meal Menu**

February 5	Ham, mac & cheese, lima beans, salad, and dessert
February 12	Meatloaf, great northern beans, salad, and dessert
February 19	Spaghetti, bread, salad, and dessert
February 26	Breakfast casseroles, meat, biscuits and gravy, and dessert



FUMC Monticello was blessed to put shoes on approximately 500 children in Drew County last year! And...we gave more than 250 coats to boys and girls who needed them for our Arkansas winters. It was a blessing—certainly, for the children and their families, but for our church family, as well. The need is still there and we can continue to be a blessing.

We will begin preparing for a new distribution for the fall of 2020. Again, we will be providing shoes for 500 children in our elementary schools. The decision has been made to, once again, include coats in this mission. We have so many children with needs in Drew County and our church has shown its willingness to assist with these needs.

So, how can our church family help? We will need to raise approximately \$12,000 to cover the costs of the shoes and the coats. Donations, pledges, honorariums, and memorials are needed to help raise the funds for these items. We will also be providing some fundraiser opportunities to the congregation. As the big distribution day gets closer, we will need manpower! But, if last year is any indication, both of these areas will be easily covered. Our church family stepped up to this mission in the most beautiful way!

*We are blessed to be a blessing!*

Looking for the perfect Valentine gift for someone you love? Here's an idea! Give a Samaritan Feet Valentine card to that special someone. Make a donation towards putting shoes and coats on our children in Drew County. Honor your loved one(s) with a truly beautiful "gift of giving" this Valentine's Day. Cards are available in the Family Life Center, the sanctuary, and the church office. Simply put your donation in the offering plate or in the office and take your card(s).

To: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

A contribution to

Samaritan Feet

Has been made in your name with

**LOVE!**



First United Methodist Church

317 S. Main St.

Monticello, AR 71655