

Reflections

March 2020

317 S. Main Street
Monticello, AR 71655



NO LENTEN LEGALISM

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you—it’s God’s gift—not from works, so no one may boast.” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

In addition to being Michelle’s birthday, March 4th is National Grammar Day. When I think about good grammar, I remember one of my favorite teachers, Ms. Evelyn Murphy. She was my 8th and 10th grade English teacher. She had so many pet peeves. “Do *not* say ‘off of,’” she would say. “A lot is *not* one word.” “Irregardless is *not* a word.” I make typos like everyone else, but I rarely break any of Ms. Murphy’s rules.

Ms. Murphy taught me the difference between subjective and objective case nouns as well as subject-verb agreement: “She and I went to the store, never she and me.” She taught us how to diagram sentences and how to recognize iambic pentameter. Ms. Murphy was a linguistic legalist. She taught us the rules, expected us to follow them, and graded us accordingly. She trained us to be linguistic legalists too.

When I got older, however, I learned that many of our so-called grammar rules are really more matters of style than of law. For example, split infinitives are acceptable when an adverb separates the “to” and the verb. Passive voice is acceptable when one does not know the source of the action. I’m sure all of us were taught not to end a sentence with a preposition, but that is not a hard-and-fast rule, either. Ending a sentence with a preposition is allowed when the sentence would not make sense without it. For example, “What are you waiting for?” does not have the same meaning as, “What are you waiting?” “For what are you waiting?” is reserved for formal occasions. In everyday speech, it sounds pretentious. The writer or the speaker has the freedom to use whichever phrase is most appropriate to the setting and audience. It’s a matter of style.

Sometimes we treat Lent in a legalistic fashion, rigidly following the rules, and feeling guilt and shame when we fail, yet Christ set us free from legalistic rule following. We follow Christ not from fear, but for love.

Grace and Peace!





FUMY News

March 2020

FUMY had a great February! We started the month off with lunch in the youth room plus a movie & some games on February 2. On Sundays we continued our “the power within” series by talking about Queen Esther and Samuel and how God calls each one of us to do things in His name. On Wednesdays, we did a study on “Friends & Frenemies” and how God calls us to live authentic lives that show others Jesus inside of us. We talked during many small group sessions about how to identify toxic people in our lives and what to do about them. We also took a long look at ourselves and identified ways that we can be better friends to those in our lives. Plus we played some fun new games, enjoyed delicious meals prepared by our youth parents and had prayer breakfast. Our mission for the month of February involved us going to Maumelle to the Methodist Behavioral Facility for Children. We made prayer bookmarks with them, played games using our big parachute, talked to them about what it means to pray and had a delicious snack. Some of the life stories that the children told us just broke our hearts and we have committed to pray for them. **Thank you to Audrea Stephens & Greg Fallon for chaperoning with me.** Our last Wednesday in February began Lent. In addition to the daily Lenten prayers and reflections, we are committing to pray for each other and to live our lives obedient to Jesus. On Friday, February 28, 21 of us are headed back to **Veritas** in Rogers, AR. We will join over 1,500 United Methodist youth and adults across Arkansas. We will learn what it means to be “united” in Christ. I am excited to bring **Diantha Beer, Maggie Brown, Greg Fallon and Audrea Stephens with us as youth counselors.**

March brings more Lenten activities plus FUMY lessons, mission work & fun! Our first Wednesday in March we will do prayer stations to continue our Lenten journey. Our group will begin a new series on Wednesdays about what God intends for us in dating & relationships. On Sunday nights we will continue sharing stories from the Old Testament that encourage us to use “the power within” to lead lives following Jesus. Confirmation classes have begun for our 6th graders. If there are any older youth that have not gone through confirmation and wish to do so, just let me know! Confirmation is scheduled for Easter Sunday, April 12. We ask that you pray for those 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 11 is the absolute last day to sign up for our mission trip to Oklahoma City, OK in June. A much needed & anticipated Spring Break comes the third week of March. Our March will end with a faith story by our own Dr. Jack Lassiter. If you would be willing to share your testimony or your faith story, we welcome you to come & share with our group.

As always, we seek to be Jesus’ hands and feet in the world. Thank you for always supporting our group with your prayers! Christ above all, Lori

Important Reminders:

- **March 1** - FUMY home from Veritas, no evening youth
- **March 11** - Absolute **LAST** day to sign up for 2020 mission trip
- **March 20** - 7:01 am Prayer Breakfast
- **March 21** - FUMC Hosts **Free Food** Distribution 9 - 11 am, Fellowship Hall
- **March 22 & 25** - NO FUMY - Spring Break week
- **March 29** - FUMY resumes plus “faith sharing with Jack”

FUMY Envelope Fundraiser

Coming April 2020

Envelopes ranging \$5 - \$200
To support our FUMY mission trip & mission projects

Snack Supper List:

- | | |
|----------|-------------------------------------|
| March 1 | No evening FUMY (home from Veritas) |
| March 8 | Natalie Gosdin |
| March 15 | Haley Greer |
| March 22 | No FUMY (Spring Break) |
| March 29 | Brenda Wright |



Coming April 2020: FUMY - Mission Trip Fundraiser

“Envelopes of Support”

How it works: Envelopes on display boards (in Family Life Center or sanctuary) in **five dollar increments from \$1 to \$200**

Reason: This one fundraiser *eliminates* bothersome fundraising!

What is the money for: The money is for the youth group’s mission trip to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, June 21-27, 2020

How the youth group will respond to the gifts:

Worship “moments” where the youth share about the mission trip

Each student pays \$200 to go on mission trip but it costs \$500 per student. After paying mission trip costs, remaining funds will be used to do monthly mission projects and to support registration costs for other youth events.



Join us in our first Samaritan Feet Fundraiser meal! On Wednesday, March 4, all proceeds from our Wednesday evening meal will go directly towards purchasing shoes and coats for our Drew County children. The menu will feature a variety of soups, lots of cornbread, and some of our best desserts! It will be a good evening of fellowship and food—and start us on our new mission!

Last October, as we placed shoes and coats on many of our Drew County children, we were engaged in conversations with these children, parents and grandparents. The stories touched our hearts as we learned what this mission means to these families. We will be sharing some of these experiences with you in our newsletter each month.

A FUMC volunteer’s story:

“While working at the hot dog stand, I visited with a grandmother and the four grandchildren she was raising. They had just left the FLC proudly wearing their new socks, shoes, and jackets. After thanking us for what we were doing, the grandmother added this comment: ‘Now I’ll be able to buy groceries this month.’ We are blessed to be able to do this project for so many struggling families.”

Committing \$1.00 per day during the Season of Lent will purchase two pairs of shoes or two jackets for a child in our community.



Scouting News

The Troop appreciates the observation of Scout Sunday on February 9 during both services. Troop 67 served the fellowship meal on February 19 — thank you to everyone who came to eat spaghetti! The boys are preparing for their next two camping events — Spring Break Petit Jean Mountain Hike/Campout and Spring Camporee at Cane Creek State Park April 3-5.



Monday, February 24, Cub Scout Pack 69 held their Blue and Gold Banquet with Crossover Ceremony in the Family Life Center. Members of each den received achievement awards, and they had five Arrow of Light Candidates Crossover to Boy Scout Troop 67. The five boys were Tyron Harris, Thomas Holland, Alexander Lane, Samuel Pickens, and Daniel Tolbert.



Shepherd Center Classes Continue through March 31

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.



Camp Tanako is hosting our first Spring Fundraiser on Sunday March 8, and we'd love for you to attend! Come check out our facilities, meet our new Executive Director, experience our high ropes course and zipline, enjoy burgers and hot dogs by the grill, and reconnect with all your favorite campers - from every generation!

Register today using the link below!

<https://form.jotform.com/200332577340144>

Can't attend but would love to contribute? Just click the link below!

<https://give.egive-usa.com/App/Giving/eGive14866Conv>

THE CHILDREN'S CHOIRS WILL PRESENT "BECAUSE HE LIVES" ON SUNDAY, APRIL 5, AT 6:00 PM. THIS MUSICAL IS THE COMBINATION OF MODERN WORSHIP SONGS AND FAMILIAR TUNES OF THE CHURCH WITH NARRATION OF CHRIST'S DEATH AND RESURRECTION. WE HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE THERE!

**REJOICE AND SING,
MRS. KATHY**



Children's Ministry March 2020

Sunday, March 1, Bro. Hammett will begin meeting with and teaching the confirmands. They will have weekly lessons during the Sunday school time during the month of March. In addition to the information they will glean from these lessons, they will learn still more when they attend Confirmation Camp March 6-8 at Camp Tanako. Additionally, the confirmands will be visiting Temple B'nai Israel in Little Rock before arriving at Confirmation Camp on March 6. One final note: Easter Sunday is the day the confirmands who so wish will be joining our church.

Easter is just a few weeks away. Our Children's Sunday school is anticipating a visit from St. Peter and from the women who found Jesus' tomb empty that first Easter Sunday.

Vacation Bible School will be June 8-10, 2020. Ember Davis will be our director. The Sunday school teachers are on board to help with the planning. Please join us if you, too, want to part of this important event in the lives of our children. We will meet (and eat together) in the room adjacent to the kitchen during the Fellowship Meal Wednesday, March 4.

Brenda

"And He took them up in His arms, put His hands upon them, and blessed them." Mark 10:16

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

Jean Metzger by:

Robin Johnson

Keith Montgomery by:

Robin Johnson

Helen Posey:

Susan Musick

Patsy Rivers:

Bennie & Buck Henderson

Gail & Randy Cockrell

Judy Ryburn:

Marybeth & John Frazer, Jr.

Robin Johnson

Pauline Slovak by:

Susan Musick

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

Tuesdays:

10:00 AM Prayer time
with Lori

1:00 PM Staff Meeting

6:00 PM Disciple 1 Study

7:00 PM Small Group

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

GREETERS

9:00 AM

10:50 AM

March 1 LeAnne Burch
Renee Treadwell & Frank Gibson

OPEN

March 8 Dalene & Mike Stephenson

OPEN

March 15 OPEN

Renee Holland

March 22 Belinda Carpenter

OPEN

March 29 Stephanie & Blair Brown

OPEN

ACOLYTES

March 1 Addy Beth & Andrew Maxwell

March 8 James Pierce Breedlove &
Alex Martinez

March 15 Thomas Holland & Lillie Green

March 22 Presley and Jack Wagner

March 29 Rylan Harvey & Ryne Gosdin

LITURGIST

March 1 Paul Griffin

March 8 Rev. Lori Fallon

March 15 OPEN

March 22 Rev. Lori Fallon

March 29 Diane Pennington

Mid-Week Fellowship Meal Menu

March 4 Samaritan's Feet Soup Supper
Soups, chili w/the fixings,
corn bread, and desserts

March 11 Gumbo

March 18 PEO Sponsored Dinner
Chicken spaghetti, unbundled
green beans, green salad, and
fabulous desserts

March 25 Spring Break /No Meal



Congratulations to all the FUMC members that were honored at the Monticello–Drew County Chamber of Commerce banquet on Thursday, February 27. Renee Holland received the Woman of the Year for 2019; Master Gardeners, with many FUMC members, were honored with the non-Profit of the year; Susan White was honored with the Educator of the Year for Monticello Schools; and Dr. Mary Stewart was honored with Educator of the Year for UAM. Congratulations to all the award recipients. They deserve their award for all the work they do in the community and with our children and young people.



A wonderful group of ladies from FUMC — Peggy King, Sally Kirst, Freddie Lee, Susan McClendon, Dalene Stephenson, Renee Treadwell, Kathy Tumblison, and Brenda Wright — went to Sager Brown Depot the week of February 23 to work in the mission field. They distributed food boxes to the elderly, packed school kits, worked in the sewing room, worked at a thrift store for a mission, and helped in a kitchen ministry. For fun, they attended a Mardi Gras parade and enjoyed Cajun cuisine. Next April FUMC will send another group and would love for you to join us.



Daylight savings Time begins Sunday, March 8.
Don't forget to "Spring Forward" on that day.



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.

First United Methodist Church

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