

Reflections

December 2020

317 S. Main Street
Monticello, AR 71655



Friday, November 6, 2020

Good morning Brothers and Sisters of Monticello First,

Ever since the birth of the United Methodist Church, pastors have been appointed to various ministries. Pastors are usually appointed beginning in July. Occasionally the Bishop and cabinet have to make appointments in January. We find ourselves in a situation that Bishop Mueller and the appointive cabinet will have to make appointments in January. With the shortage of clergy and current landscape of the Arkansas conference, there will be a need to make a pastoral change at Monticello-First.

I want to thank Dr. Hammett Evans for his leadership at Monticello and pray for him and Michelle during this time of transition. Bro Hammett will be taking the next two months away.

Pastor Lori and I will be sharing the preaching responsibilities for November and December. Lori and I will be working with the Executive Council and the staff on all administrative duties. If anyone is sick or need of pastoral care, please contact Lori at 870-723-4968, and she will keep all teams in the loop.

Change is never easy but may God “grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour.”

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Mark K Norman

*Southeast District Superintendent/Chief Missional Strategist
Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church
Office: 870-536-8806
Fax: 870-280-2651*

Thursday, November 12, 2020

Brothers and sisters of FUMC Monticello,

We know that the past couple of weeks have been quite a sudden transition for this church.

Bishop Mueller and the appointive cabinet are happy to announce that effective January 1, 2021, Reverend Bryan Diffie will be the new senior pastor here at FUMC Monticello.

He is currently the pastor at FUMC Crossett. Bryan is a proven leader in our district and a passionate pastor who has a heart for making disciples of Jesus Christ. He is married to his wife, Gretchen, and they have three children.

Byran is humbled and excited to make connections with this congregation and the Monticello community.

Grace and Peace,

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*Southeast District Superintendent/Chief Missional Strategist
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Friday, November 6, 2020

Friends,

Our time together has come to an end. We are sad to leave the friends we have made here and excited to pursue new opportunities for ministry elsewhere.

Your Executive Council is working with Bishop Mueller and the cabinet to discern who the next senior pastor of FUMC Monticello will be. Please be in prayer for the Bishop, the cabinet, and for your next pastor and his or her family.

Michelle and I are using this time of sabbath for rest and renewal as we prepare to move. We trust God is preparing the good future God has promised for us all.

We are praying for you and with you well.

Grace & Peace,

Bro. Hammett

December 1, 2020

Dearest Church Family,

On November 29 we began the Christian season of Advent. Advent marks the beginning of the Christian calendar year providing the church a rich cycle of rehearsing the mighty acts of God in Jesus Christ. Appropriately, the calendar year begins by looking backward to the first coming of Jesus Christ at Christmas and looking forward to Christ's Second Coming to usher in God's kingdom in fullness. Journeying through Advent takes us to Christmas, where we will celebrate another coming of Christ — the coming of Christ into our hearts. This season is marked by a preparation and expectation.

As the community of faith, we will focus once again on waiting and expecting God to do the miraculous. Bro. Mark and I will be using the book Because of Bethlehem by Max Lucado in our Advent sermons. We will be sharing hope, peace, joy, and love. This season of Advent invites us prepare as John the Baptist in preparing the way for the Lord. During Advent, we celebrate the three “comings” of Christ: remembering Christ coming as an infant to the world, anticipating Christ's Second Coming, and gratefully allowing Christ to come into our lives in ever deeper ways through repentance and preparation.

As FUMC Monticello, we are all in this together! I want you to know that if there is anything that I can do for you, please reach out. Your encouragement and your prayers are so very much appreciated.

Merry Christmas!

Pastor Lori

FUMY News



December 2020

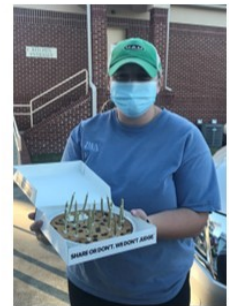
FUMY continues to meet on Sunday & Wednesday nights. We are having fun & learning more about God & ourselves despite the social distancing and masks. We will move inside for 30 minutes beginning December 2 for each Sunday & Wednesday as the temps get cooler.

*We are excited to share that we have bought Christmas gifts for 4 children that live at the Methodist Children's Home. What a blessing to be able to give! We miss getting to do mission work there in person. We are ready for Christmas!
Christ above all, Lori*

Important FUMY Reminders:

- **Sundays:** 5 - 5:30 pm All FUMY Games & Snacks (outside)
5:30 - 6 pm Small Groups (inside FLC)
- **Wednesdays:** 5 - 5:30 pm All FUMY Games & Snacks (outside),
5:30 - 6 pm All FUMY (inside FLC)
- No FUMY **after** December 16 **until January 3, 2021.**
- **December 19-** Ring Bell for the Salvation Army @ Walmart

Merry Christmas! Jesus is the reason for the season!



Happy Birthday to Maggie!



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.

Because of a generous donation, our youth group was blessed to give 98 needy families a pie for the holidays! God Bless You!





Children's Choir

On Sunday, November 22 some of the children's choir and I were seen and heard on video during online service singing "Wade in the Water." It was awesome! So many people have commented how they loved hearing and seeing the children. I am hoping to do more of this throughout the coming months; so everyone get ready to sing!

It has been an unusual time for our church and our country, but there is so much to be Thankful for!

God is Good all the time!

Love to all!!! ❤️
Kathy Borchardt

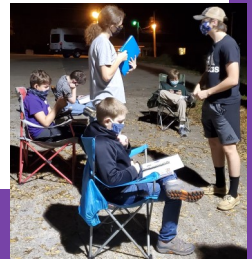


Troop 67 has worked on Rank Advancements for the month of November. Our Service Hour Challenge winner was Thomas Holland. Patrol



Leaders will be working on Skill Requirements for the next several weeks, and the Troop is planning to participate in the Council Winter Camp Event in January. The troop will continue their face-to-face meetings every other week and Zoom on the weeks in between.

Pack 69 Dens are still meeting once a month. Webelos Den (4th Grade) have been working on their Dutch Oven requirements and enjoying cooking outdoors. Tigers (1st) and Bears (2nd) have been working on cooking requirements as well as physical exercises. The Pack will continue meeting once a month into the new year.



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY News

Advent is here! Each Sunday the meaning of one Advent candle will be shared and the part it plays in our lives as we prepare to once again celebrate the coming of our Lord Jesus.

Please join me for the Children's Moment in the online video worship service of FUMC and in the 11:00 service. Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love will be the topics for the four Sundays in Advent.

May each of you be happy, safe, and healthy. You are missed! To those we have seen in person in worship and in the videos: How wonderful it is to see your faces! You are beautiful!

Each of you is called by name as you are remembered in my prayers,
Ms. Brenda

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



The FUMC Preschool began a four-year old class the first week of October. We have been busy preparing for Kindergarten and learning lots of new things. We are excited to be back at school and are planning to begin a three-year old class in the spring. Please continue to pray for this program and the continued health of all of our students.



Feeding the Community

FEED OUR NEIGHBORS Ministry

To each of you who supplied the items we delivered to Our Neighbors the week before Thanksgiving, THANK YOU! With your generous gifts of dressing, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes or yams, and bread and your monetary donations that helped us fill in the gaps, each family received a box with stove top dressing, cranberry sauce, sweet potatoes or yams, and a loaf of bread. Vegetables and a few other items from the Food Distribution were also included.

The Neighbors were also given items by two other groups that must be THANKED: Our UMY bought a pie for each family and Dr. Christine Felts' Nursing students bought a cured ham for each family.

Besides supplying the pies and hams, the UMY with some of their parents and the Nursing Students followed drivers to the homes of Neighbors. What an experience! I wish you could have seen the parking lot! It was full of people loading cars with hams and boxes (with pies), people deciding who would follow whom, people getting ready to help people. If only I could have videoed and then shared with you! Our FLC parking lot was so alive! What a Praise the Lord event! What a day for Giving Thanks for all He has done for each of us!

Brenda Wright



It was such a heartwarming experience when Judy and I pulled into our driveway and saw the message board. So glad to be a part of the greatest church/ congregation in the whole world.

Love to all, Judy and George Harris

Chancel Choir and Bells of Hope

*"Do You Hear What I Hear?" said the Singers and the Ringers everywhere!!! The Chancel Choir and Bells of Hope will resume weekly rehearsals beginning Wednesday, December 2. Members have been notified with the details of the Rehearsal requirements and the specific times; however, if you want to join Our group of merry musicians, arrive at the church on Wednesday as follows:
Chancel Choir 6:00 p.m. enter at bell tower entrance into the Sanctuary
Bells of Hope 7:00 p.m. enter at the single glass door to the fellowship hall
Chancel Choir and Bells of Hope will provide special music during the Advent Season. Hope all of you will tune in virtually or attend our onsite worship as we prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth!*



I have acquired a new laptop with video editing software to do the online worship since Bro Hammett's transition. It has been a fun and stressful challenge since I have never been a video editor.

Michael Reed



Special Thank you to several FUMY and former FUMY that helped deliver Thanksgiving food to the “Feed Our Neighbors” families!



Special THANK YOU to UAM Nursing Students & their instructor Dr. Christine Felts for providing a ham for all 98 of the “Feed our Neighbors” families!



Tucker James Johnston was baptized on Thursday, November 19, 2020. Tucker is the son of Gavin and Emily Johnston.

FUMC MONTICELLO PRAYER CONCERNS

In Christian Sympathy:

The Family of John Frank Gibson

For Those in the Hospital:

John David Lammers
Louine Leech

For Those Having Surgery:

Susan LaPointe (11/24)
James Sims (11/23)
James Tumlison (11/23)

For Those At Home:

Charlie Abernathy
Thelma Adams
Kathy Albonetti
Olivia Ashcraft & twins
Dianna Bates
Lorenz Berry
Genie Boren
Susan Bowman
Matthew Brooks
Ken Burchfield
Bart Bynum
Raymond Chisom
Wanda Cook
Eric Coon
Mary Crain
Bill Crain
Donna Crelia
Kay Crook
Alberto Cueto
Carolyn Curry
Matt Daniel
Rev. Bryan Diffee & family
Mary Donaldson
Bro Hammett Evans
Kenneth Farrar
Terry Fletcher
Luke Forrest
Charlotte Scucchi Fullmer
Kevin Grant
Stacy Hopper Groves
Joel Haden
Billy Joe Hancock
Judy Harris
Kim Hoffman
Larry Honeycutt
Pam Hudson

For Those At Home

(Continued):

Debbie Hyatt
Janet Dancer Inman
Carolyn Inzer
Sonny Jones
Verna Lammers
Martha Landes
Robert Langley
Marge LaPointe
Bob Lee, Sr.
Freddie Lee
Rev. Jim Lenderman
Steve Maggard
Jonathan Marchese
Anne Martell
Yvette Martell
John McKenzie
Matty McKeown
Dr. Randy McKiever
Arwyn Montroy
Ira Neal
Melba Neely
Erin Norris & baby boy
Jaci Oxner
Rose Pevey
Demetria Peters
Michelle Pounds
Grady Rawls
Jim Russell
Lynne Russell
Danny Sawyer
Paul Scheible
Lynette Scott
Helen Smith
Nelda Tarver
JoAnn Taylor
Vanessa Upton
Tatty V'elez
Amy Ward
Jerry Webb
Juanita Webb
Michelle Webb
Cindy Calaway Wellenberger
Harold West
Ginger Wilkins
Rev. Ed Wyers
James Youngblood

Belle View Estates:

The Woods:

Dorothy Calhoun
Mary Parker
Betty Jo Pruett

Grand Manor:

Mary Emily Calhoun
Wanda Cavaness
Louise Funderberg
Mary McNeese
Tom Rabb
Martha Sue Wagner
Billie Sue Wilson
Benny Jack Wilson
Cleo Young

Arbor Oaks in Malvern:

Connie Eford

Dumas Nursing Home:

Wheaties White

Missionaries:

Rusty & Ericka Jackson
Shorel & Sandra Kleinart & kids
Bo & Lauren Scott

In the Service: *All of our military*

Brendon Berry
Dr. Trey Burch
Jim Crossley
Austin Curry
Stephen Gray
Jo James
Karson Kilcrease
Allen Lewis
Russell Penn
Clay Shrum
Ryan Watts

Our Country:

One Nation Under God

Our Church

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

Roselyn Busby:

Robin Johnson

Norma Fletcher:

Sue & David Anderson

Isabel & Ed Bacon

Commercial Bank

(Employees, Officers, & Directors)

Jacquelyn & Dean Elliott

Traci & Nat Grubbs

Judy & George Harris

Bennie & Buck Henderson

Sally & Bob Kirst

Kate & Don Koen

Judy & Jack Lassiter

Jimmie Jo & Davis Leech

Louine Leech

Joye & James McClain

Judy Murpht

Susan Musick

Patty Ross

Sue & Charles Rowland

Mistye & Scott Saffold

Dalene & Mike Stephenson

Juanita & Jerry Webb

Barbara Ann & Farris Womack

John Frank Gibson:

Judy & George Harris

Kate & Don Koen

Patty Ross

David Kinzalow:

Robin Johnson

Lewis D. Orrell:

Robin Johnson

Patty Ross

John Porter Price:

Robin Johnson

Patty Ross

Susan Smith

Charles Treadwell:

Robin Johnson

Patty Ross

J.D. West

Robin Johnson

Patty Ross

Dalene & Mike Stephenson

Bill Wisener:

Kimbraly & Richard Barnes

Judy & Jonathan Bigham

Robin Johnson

Chris & Monica Simms

Memorial given in loving Honor of:

Joe Fletcher:

Sally & Bob Kirst

Weekly Events

Sundays

9:00 AM Online Service

11:00 AM Service/Sanctuary

Wednesdays:

6:00 Wednesday Zoom Meeting



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

D.A. & Elizabeth Anderson	By: Sue & David Anderson
Dr. Roland Anderson	By: Sue & David Anderson
Vilma Crane	By: Kathy & James Tumilson
Dr. C. Lewis & Wanda W. Hyatt	By: Charlotte McGarr
Lewis Hyatt, Jr.	By: Charlotte McGarr
Joan Marchese	By: Sue & David Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Pauwels	By: Sue & David Anderson
John Porter Price	By: Scott, Liz, Montre, and Grace Burnett
Henry Lee Ross	By: Sandy & David Funderburg & family
Mary & Jim Tumilson	By: Kathy & James Tumilson
Matt Wisener	By: Mary Jo Wisener
Bill Wisener	By: Mary Jo Wisener

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

Carole & Bud Bullock	By: Scott, Liz, Montre, and Grace Burnett
Ken Crain	By: Kathy & James Tumilson
Betty Jo Ross Pruett	By: Sandy & David Funderburg & family
Our Benna	By: Sydney, Mallory, Clintt, Clay, Caroline, and Clark
Our Mimi, Charlotte McGarr	By: Kolton, Max, John Michael, William, Kelly, Brandon, Brittney Ann, and Seth
My children and grandchildren Diantha Beer, Kelly Murphy, William & Kolton Beer, Carol & Roger Martin, John Michael & Max Efird, and Brittney Ann & Seth Norsworthy	By: Charlotte McGarr

First United Methodist Church
317 S. Main St.
Monticello, AR 71655