

Reflections

February 2021

317 S. Main Street



Lent Begins
Ash Wednesday

Dear FUMC Family,

I can't believe that it has been one month since I was appointed as your Senior Pastor. I want to thank everyone who has reached out to me either through emails, texts, phone calls, or stopping by the office. It has been a delight, and I look forward to getting to know you all better. There are several things I would like to share with you in this letter.

First, I have begun phone call visitations. I asked for a list to be compiled of those in our church who are not able to access our online services and/or ministries. I am working my way down that list and have enjoyed getting to know the folks on the other side of the phone. If you know of anyone who needs or would love a call from me, please do not hesitate to let me know. I am also working on some "Zoom with the Senior Pastor" events. This will be a chance for you to sign-up in groups to have a time of conversation with me, which is a safe way for us to get to know one another. Be looking for both specific dates and ways to sign-up in the near future.

Second, I am wanting to start a Zoom Bible study for those who are interested. We already have a group that meets on Wednesday nights; so I was thinking of Wednesday morning at 10 am. This will be a great way for me to get to know some of you and to also dive into the study of God's Word. With this study, there will be no books to purchase or curriculum. We will simply go verse-by-verse through a particular book of the Bible and listen to God and each other as we seek to better understand how the Bible intersects with our daily lives. Stay tuned for more information.

Third, the season of Lent begins this month. Ash Wednesday is February, 17. Rev. Lori and I have been discussing how to safely conduct this very meaningful service. We have not worked out all of the particulars, but we will share the information once everything has been planned. COVID has forced all of us to be creative with how we do ministry, and we thank you for your patience.

Finally, the staff and I have been working on how to begin live services safely in the near future. We will be working closely with the Executive Council to help determine how and when this will be possible. I don't know about you, but I am ready to safely gather at church once again. We will still be offering an online option for those who are not ready to return, and we will also be using our FM transmitter for those who want to gather on the church parking lot while others are inside.

I know that this is a lot of information to digest, but I am excited for what God is doing in the life of our church and our community. Thank you again for your support, prayers, and encouragement. Working together, we can make a difference as we seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Blessings,

Rev. Bryan Diffie



FUMY News



Important Reminders:

- **Sundays in February:**
4-5 pm Games & Small Groups either outside or on Zoom (weather dependent)
7-8 pm Among Us game (online)
- **Wednesdays in February:**
6-7 pm Zoom only (will be in FLC when permitted)
- FUMY Outside Scavenger Hunt coming soon! Watch your texts & emails for details!
- FUMY Lent Goody Bags will be delivered in late February and include our new wristbands!
- Fingers Crossed about our FUMY Summer Mission Trip 2021 to OKC, OK, June 27 - July 3... deadline to register for trip is March 12, 2021. Cost is \$200 per youth, \$100 for additional siblings

February 2021

Well, the month of January was back to Zoom with FUMY... it was cold outside so we stayed inside our own homes on zoom! We hope to return to hanging out together outside in February. We will watch the weather and make determinations based on that.

During January, our small groups continued to get together on Sunday nights. We are seeking to dive deeper into what is going on in our lives and with our souls. We play some trivia games and hang out together. We have fun! On Wednesdays, we are doing a new series: "hearing Jesus in a noisy world." Each week we are talking about what it means to listen for Jesus and to follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit. We are talking about what it means to trust our lives to Jesus. I delivered FUMY goody bags and it was so nice to see my youth, even from a distance! Our mission for the month of January was to provide a meal for UAM basketball team. We delivered hamburgers & chicken nuggets from Wendy's to an appreciative team!

Ready or not, February is coming! We hope to get to play some games outside again. We have a new game to play...9 square in the air! We played this game at Refuge and we are excited to get to play it here, as well. We will continue with our small groups on Sunday nights and will continue learning more about what it means to follow Jesus and hear Him in a noisy world. Our monthly mission this month will be to add food to our FUMC Blessing Box. The youth will be encouraged to add items and then send a pic to me of them doing it. Ash Wednesday is February 17 and we will talk about what we plan to "give up" or "add to" our lives this Lenten season. We will also have prayer partners and will plan to do prayer stations in a safe way outside.

Please continue to cover our students with your prayers. Please stay safe & take care of yourselves. And, as always, thank you for the many ways you support our youth.



Christ above all, *Lori*



Last month, FUMC delivered beautiful gift boxes, filled with all kinds of goodies, to the heroic staff at Drew Memorial Hospital. In this time of pandemic, we thank the staff at the hospital who works so diligently to keep us safe. We pray for their health and ask the Lord to keep them safe. Thanks to Lori for putting the beautiful boxes together and to Lori and Julie for delivering them.



Last month, we had a few inches of snow. This picture shows First United Methodist Church and the yard in its beauty.



From Monteene McCoy: Belated Christmas Card

To my Dear Church Family, I wish that I could write each and every one of you a Christmas Card, but I am not able to do that at 97 years old. So I am writing one card to everyone that I dearly love and miss so much.

Have a very blessed Christmas and keep love in your hearts.

I wish I could give all of you a Christmas hug!
With love, Monteene McCoy

The family of Jaci Oxner acknowledges with grateful appreciation your kind expressions of sympathy.

“Thank you for the meal and all the thoughts and prayers!”

The Oxner Family

Weekly Events

Sundays

9:00 AM Online Service

After that, the service will be on the website.

Wednesdays:

6:00 Wednesday Zoom Meeting



Boy Scout Troop 67 has been conducting Troop meetings virtually through December and most of January. The troop met together at the City Park Pavilion on the 25 to have rank advancement procedures submitted and to discuss our upcoming Winter Camp January 29 & 30. The Scouts are excited to be able to camp, following COVID guidelines and the permit from the Department of Health. We had 11 Scouts and 3 adults participate with the opportunity to work on merit badges such as First Aid, Fire Safety, Law, Traffic Safety, Environmental Science, Shotgun Shooting, and Metal Working.



Cub Scout Pack 69 Dens have been virtual during December and January. Den Leaders have been giving parents individual things to work on at home that would work toward advancements. The dens did meet together on January 25 at the City Park Pavillion to go over future events and discuss fundraising ideas. We are looking forward to a Day Camp for Cub Scouts at Camp DeSoto in El Dorado on February 20.



Communion: We will be celebrating the Sacrament of Holy Communion on Sunday, February 7. We are asking everyone to gather in the church parking lot(s) at 11am to share in the litany over our FM transmitter. You will then be asked to drive through the covered drive by the office to pick up your prepackaged communion elements from one of our pastors

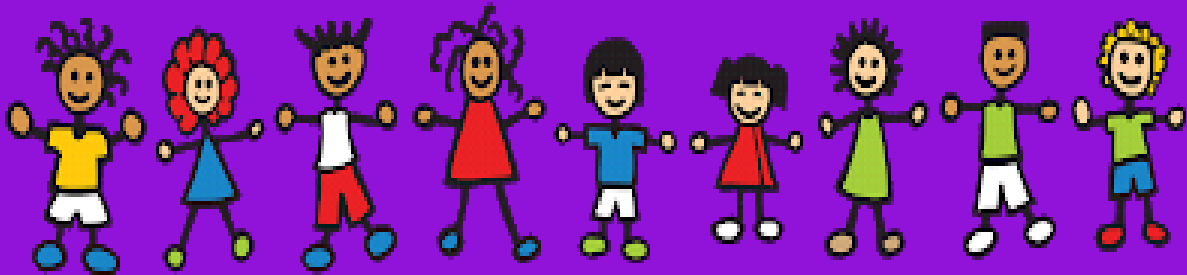


Ash Wednesday: Due to our COVID numbers our Ash Wednesday Service is going to look a little different this year. Instead of having an in-person service with the traditional imposition of the ashes, we are going to have an online service only. We are inviting each family to come by the church sometime during February 15-17 to pick up ashes for this service. We are still working out what time and location for the pick-up and will notify everyone once it has been decided.



Hello Everyone,
Hope your New Year is off to a great start!!
I have sure been missing the faces of all of the children on
Wednesdays at choir.
But I am so enjoying seeing and hearing them on Sunday morning
live stream!!
We will have more of that in the coming months! So look for us!!
In his name we sing,

Kathy Borchardt 



Children's Ministry News

The season of LENT begins on Ash Wednesday which is February 17 this year. LENT is the season in the Christian calendar when we prepare our hearts and minds for **Good Friday** and **Easter**, *Christ's passion and then His resurrection.*

Activities for LENT will come to you either through a parent's email or text or it will be delivered to you. You will learn more about LENT and what it can mean in your life through these activities. Then you will want to talk to your parents about what you've learned.

You are loved and you are missed. Prayers continue for each of you.

Ms. Brenda

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



The FUMC Preschool

Happy Valentines Month! The preschool will be studying how to love our neighbors this month. We will use the story of Jesus feeding the 5000 as an example of how we can share with others to show them love. We will continue our way through the alphabet and begin preparing our older class for the transition to Kindergarten. Continue to pray for the continued health of our littles, our staff, and their families.

FEED OUR NEIGHBORS Ministry

Many of you have been faithful partners in this ministry by supporting it with your prayers, your presence, your gifts (by sharing food items and monetary donations), your service (by driving and packing), and your witness (by showing your love of Jesus to Our Neighbors, to others in our community, and to each other).

THANK YOU!

Each of you in our church family is an important and essential part of this ministry. It takes us all - working together - to ensure that those that are in need of a bit more food receive this small supplement.

Our heartfelt and sincerest thanks, The "Feed Our Neighbors" Team

Matthew 25:40 "... as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me."

Items FON needs for the coming weeks: 16 oz. peanut butter, 24 oz. spaghetti sauce, 15 oz. canned vegetables, canned meats, loaves of bread, one lb. sugar, one lb. flour.



Feeding the Community



FUMC Adult Music...Chancel Choir, Bells of Hope and Praise Band

Hope everyone is enjoying the music that we are presenting in our virtual services. What a great blast from the past that reminds us of Great Worship and the many talented musicians that we have at First United Methodist Church—Monticello!. God is good and continues to make a way for us to raise a song of praise and for this, I am thankful! Rehearsals and on-site worship are two things that I am looking forward to with anticipation! So let me take this opportunity to invite YOU to join us when we resume rehearsals. NEW music ideas are being worked on as we have used this time to review and renew the vision of just how great our worship (led by the Chancel choir, Bells of Hope, Praise Band, Children's Choirs and Children's Handbells) can/will be! WE are such a blessed Church with such a gifted congregation! Are you refreshed and ready to make 2021 amazing? One of the best kept secrets among Church goers is the joy and pure pleasure that is gained by participating in a choir or music group! Don't miss out on the opportunity to participate! WE need you...we need each other!!! Hope to see you soon!

Kathy Lyon

Director of Music Ministries

Memorials were given to the glory of God

Roselyn Busby:

Margaret & Rodney Norton

Norma Fletcher:

Kathy & Jere Johnston

Margaret & Rodney Norton

Linda & Grady Tabor

Sylvia Hackett:

Gail & Randy Cockrell

John Frank Gibson:

Nelwyn & Hoyt Birch

Joy & Dennis Holley

Susan Musick

Margaret & Rodney Norton

Kenny Johnson:

Joy & Dennis Holley

Jack Jorden, Jr.:

Stacey & Barry Davis

Norman Kellum:

Gail & Randy Cockrell

Beverly Lobitz:

Bennie & Buck Henderson

Jaci Calhoun Oxner:

Belinda & Dave Carpenter

Gail & Randy Cockrell

Stacey & Barry Davis

Bennie & Buck Henderson

Joy & Dennis Holley

Robin Johnson

Diane & Mark Pennington

Patty Ross

Kathy & James Tumilson

Sandra West

John Porter Price:

Margaret & Rodney Norton

Betty Ross Pruett:

Sue & David Anderson

Isabel & Ed Bacon

Nelwyn & Hoyt Birch

Belinda & Dave Carpenter

Lanier Carson

Gail & Randy Cockrell

Cookie & Jim Crossett

Stacey & Barry Davis

And in loving memory of:

Betty Ross Pruett continued:

Cathy & David Denson

Amanda & Blake Gilbert

Mary & William Givens

Judy & George Harris

Bennie & Buck Henderson

Phillip Herring

Joy & Dennis Holley

Yolanda (Tiny) & Russell Irons

Mary Emily & Julie Jackson

William Jackson

Kathy & Jere Johnston

Phyllis & Sonny Jones

Sara & Jerry Jordan

Laura & Bruce Kaufman

Kate & Don Koen

Judy & Jack Lassiter

David Leech

Charlotte McGarr

Linda Magness

Betty & Ronnie McFarland

Pat & Randy Montgomery

Debbie & Steve Morrison

Susan Musick

Margaret & Rodney Norton

Joel Stevens

Linda & Grady Tabor

Kathy & James Tumilson

Sandra West

Linda Rabb:

Sandy & David Funderburg

Sandra West

Rebecca Socia:

Stacey & Barry Davis

J.D. West:

Sandy & David Funderburg

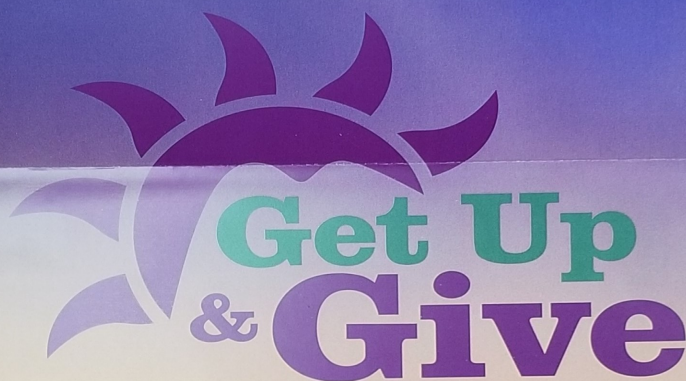
Bill Wisener:

Joy & Dennis Holley


Get Up & Give collection boxes will be in the office entrance beginning February 17. Please stop by if you have a donation. Call the church office for entrance.

For a complete shopping list go to MethodistFamily.org/Get-Up-And-Give.

For Where Your Treasure is ...



**Get Up
& Give**



Methodist
FAMILY HEALTH

Collection Dates:
February 17 - April 1, 2021

You can honor the Lenten season by collecting and donating necessities for Arkansas children and families at Methodist Family Health.

For a complete list of items, visit MethodistFamily.org/Get-Up-And-Give or look inside a Get Up & Give brochure.

For where your treasure is, there also will be your heart. - Matthew 6:21



Congratulations to Susan Cossey on the birth of her first grandchild!

Emilia Mae Cossey

Born January 5, 2021

Weighing 7 lbs. 5.4 oz.

20 1/4 inches long

Proud parents are Lindsey & Adam Cossey

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