

# *Reflections*

April 2021

317 S. Main Street



Dear Friends,

I recently came across a poem written by the late Captain Harry Lee of the Red Cross, which reads:

## **The Road to Bethany**

The last week – the lone week –  
Each weary evenfall,  
The Master climbed the hill road,  
Between the cedars tall.

Among the whispering cedars,  
The olives gray and dim,  
The Master sought the one door  
That was not closed to Him.

And always at the last turn  
He saw the little light,  
That Mary's hand had set there,  
To guide Him through the night.

So, for a love-lit candle  
That made the way less bleak,  
The Master climbed the hill road,  
The last lone weak.

As we enter the month of April and move closer to the events of Holy Week and Easter, I pray that the blessings and message of this time may truly transform your lives through Jesus Christ, our Lord!

Blessings,

Bryan



# FUMY News



## Reminders:

- **Saturday, April 3** - 10:00 am FUMC Easter Egg hunt (FUMY needed to hide eggs at 9 am)
- **Easter is April 4** (no FUMY)
- **Sundays**  
FUMY 3:30-4:45 pm  
Confirmation 5-5:45 pm
- **Wednesdays**  
FUMY 5:30 - 7 pm
- **April 14 - absolute LAST day** to sign up for Mission Trip 2021 (OKC, June 27-July 3)

## COMING in May:

FUMY Envelopes of Support fundraiser for mission trip & missions... envelopes ranging from \$1 to \$5 to \$200 (in \$5 increments)

### Senior Sunday, 2021

Celebrating our Graduating Seniors at **11 am** on



## April 2021

FUMY's March was all over the place both physically & emotionally. We returned to the youth room after not being up there for a year. It was wonderful to fellowship outside with games and then to retreat to our "safe place" and be in ministry with one another. One of our beloved youth is now with Jesus. Jordan Lee is whole in the arms of Christ. We celebrate his new life in heaven but we are left with many questions down here. We are so appreciative to the counselors and therapists that are talking to our youth and being there for them. If a parent wants the contact info for one of the counselors/therapists, please let me know.

We have been following "Sacred Invitation" and are leaning in to what it means to follow Jesus. Our Sunday night small groups continue to be a blessing for all of us. We are diving deeper into what it means to be a follower of Jesus and how do we include others on the journey. Wednesdays we have shared more of the parables that Jesus taught to the disciples and his followers. I pray that our youth are being challenged by Jesus and that they are deepening their understanding of what it means to follow him.

Our students received "Lenten Prayer" bags during March and they are encouraged to pray. We put 7 different items in their bags to encourage prayer: sand (trace a word with your finger or just feel the sand, small piece of red rope (tie a knot in the rope as a symbol of a burden, untie the knot after you give burden to God), labyrinth (trace a labyrinth on paper for you to follow with your finger and pray as you trace), a rock for you to hold and remember that God is with you), a handheld cross for you to hold tight to while you pray), a pack of lifesavers with a suggestion for who to pray for based on the color of candy (**Red** – pray for someone in your family, **Orange** – pray for a friend or neighbor, **Yellow** – pray for a teacher/leader or someone in charge, **Green** – pray for someone you do not like, **Purple** – pray for yourself) and a small LED candle (turn the candle on as a reminder to pray). Our students also drew names so that they could pray for one another.

Spring Break came the 4th week of March and we are so thankful for a break! School and sports and life has gotten demanding again and we are thankful for a moment to break and breathe.

April brings Holy Week and Easter. Our youth will help with the Easter Egg hunt this year. We are so thankful for the many ways our youth minister to each other and reach out to one another. We are doing more to encourage our youth to talk to one another and to seek help! **No one is an island!** We must check on each other and pay attention when things change.

**We WILL celebrate our high school graduating seniors in May.** Please pray for Justin Berry, Emily Haddox, Nathan Meeks and Sandra Mondragon. Their senior year has been completely turned upside down! We will celebrate them in worship on **Sunday, May 2 at 11 am.**

Our annual "Envelopes of Support" fundraiser will begin in May. We are still planning to go on our mission trip to Oklahoma City, OK, in June. We welcome everyone to give when the time comes... either online or by taking an envelope with a specific dollar amount and enclosing the amount and dropping it in the mail or in an offering plate. Thank you for the many ways you support our group so that our youth can go on a mission trip in June and to do mission work each month of the year!

Pray for our youth. Pray for their parents. Pray for each other. We continue to be in uncertain times but we hold tight to the MOST CERTAIN THING...**God loves each one of us and God is always, always with us!**

Easter is April 4 & we are Easter people! He is RISEN! He is risen indeed!

Christ above all, Lori

N  
E  
W  
  
C  
A  
m  
E  
R  
A  
S



During COVID when we were live streaming from our homes and using our phones, we realized that the filming quality was much better than the cameras we had on-site. When we returned to the church, three new cameras were purchased for live streaming. Two new cameras were purchased for the Sanctuary, and one new camera for the Family Life Center. We hope you have noticed a difference.



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

The Chancel Choir and Bells of Hope have resumed weekly in-person rehearsals, and we are thrilled to sing and ring together again!

We are very grateful to Dr. Renee Clark for serving as our pianist while Mary Donaldson is recovering. Dr. Clark is a classical pianist and so very helpful as we prepare our music for worship in the Traditional Service. If you see "Renee" please express your gratitude for her willingness to play. We hope that you will join us for Easter Sunday! If you are a musician and would like to join a choir, please do so on Wednesday at:

5:30-6:00

Bells of Hope (Adult Handbells)

6:30-7:00

Chancel Choir (Adult SATB Choir)

You are SO very WELCOME...if you are a newbie, call or text me @ 870-308-1518 so that I can prepare a music folder just for YOU!

Kathy Lyon,  
Director of Music Ministries



## March brings outdoor activities in Scouting!!

Boy Scout Troop 67 still meets weekly by in-person and Zoom meetings. The first weekend of Spring Break the troop was able to camp at Chemin-A-Haut State Park in Bastrop, LA. It was great to be outdoors hiking and exploring. The troop also assisted the Park Rangers with their new Children's trail by painting special features and games. Coming up will be a Spring Camporee with De Soto Council at Cane Creek State Park in Star City April 9 & 10. We will also be having an Eagle Court of Honor for Johnny McClendon on April 25. Planning for another troop campout in May.



Cub Scout Pack 69 is starting slowly meeting in person with Dens once a month indoors at the church. Scouts from the pack were able to participate in an Adventure in the Wilderness Day Camp at Camp De Soto during March. They worked on rank electives and participated in an Adventure Challenge. The pack plans to have their Pinewood Derby, Recognition Banquet, and Crossover Ceremony on April 17 outdoors at the church. The De Soto Council will be hosting their first Twilight Camp for Cub Scouts at the end of April. Lots of activities are being planned to bring our Cub Scouts back to outdoor adventures.





## Children's Choir



Hello Everyone,

April is here and what wonderful events springtime brings. Easter Sunday at FUMC will be filled with our children singing "He is Lord" during both the early and late service. It will be in a video that we have prepared so please look for that.

I want to thank all the parents who have been so supportive and helpful during this time when we can't meet in person. I can't until we can be together once again and praise His name in song.

Love to all,

Mrs. Kathy



## The FUMC Preschool

April will be bringing lots of pretty weather for our preschoolers to get outside and enjoy the sunshine. We will be studying all the wonderful things about spring like butterflies, flowers, and spring baby animals. We will be continuing with our letters, numbers, colors, and shapes as well as making patterns, sequencing, and reading sight words. Our Bible Story for April will focus on the Creation Story and learning about how God made all the wonderful things we enjoy.

We will begin registration for our fall semester towards the end of April and already have a list of families interested in joining us for next school year. Please be in prayer for our program as we make plans and prepare for a new year.

"Spring's greatest joy beyond a doubt is when it brings the children out."  
Edgar Guest.

## Weekly Events

### Sundays

9:00 AM In-person & Online Service

11:00 AM In-person & Online Service

9:50 In-person & Online Adult Sunday School

3:30 PM FUMY

5:00 PM Confirmation

### Tuesdays:

10:00 AM Prayer Team (Zoom)

### Wednesdays:

9:50 AM Senior Pastor's Bible Study (Zoom) Last one of this series.

6:00 Wednesday Zoom Meeting

Saturday April 3: Easter Event & Egg Hunt (see Children's Ministry Article)

## Children's Ministry News

### **HAPPY EASTER!**

Saturday, April 3 (the day before Easter Sunday), there will be an Easter Event and Egg Hunt at our church. It begins at 10:00 and is for anyone—you, your friends, cousins, grandkids, neighbors—that would be Children's Sunday School ages—those through 6th grade.

Please call the church office and sign up with Lynne (870-367-2471) if you plan to attend. We want to be prepared. If someone comes and has not signed up, that is fine. You are welcome to come anyway. We just need a count of some kind. THANK YOU!

If you are five years old or older, please wear your mask. We will practice social distancing.

We have many activities planned:

1. Each child will receive Resurrection Eggs after their meanings have been explained.
2. Simon Peter and Mary Magdalene will visit the older children and talk about Easter morning, while the younger children will have the option of hearing the Easter story from a Bible story book.
3. Everyone will have the opportunity to have their picture taken with the Easter Bunny.

***Pictures with the Easter Bunny are for everyone! Bring your babies!***

4. Everyone will be invited to the Easter Egg Hunt, which will be in three separate locations on the church grounds. Please have your own Easter Basket.

Thank YOU to Ms. Isabel Bacon, Ms. Kathy Johnston, and Bro. Bryan Diffie for helping coordinate this fun event.

Please continue sending me your pictures with any activity you've completed as part of the Season of Lent. Please send them to me by email (brenda.wright@fumcmonticello.org or by text to 504-812-2842).

God bless each of you.

Ms. Brenda

“And He took the children up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.”

Mark 10:16

## Feed Our Neighbors

Feed Our Neighbors needs weekly volunteers to drive and to be substitute drivers. Prayerfully consider joining this ministry. We deliver food weekly to 101 families. If you have some time to volunteer, this ministry can use you. Call Brenda Wright at 504-812-2842 if you are interested.

**Items FON need for the coming weeks: 16 oz. peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, spaghetti noodles, 15 oz. canned vegetables and fruits, canned meats.**



**Feeding the  
Community**

 *In Memoriam*

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

**Jimmy Baxter:**

Barry & Stacey Davis

**John Brixie:**

Barry & Stacey Davis

**Michael Cavanaugh:**

Stacey & Barry Davis

**John Frank Gibson:**

Andra & Danny Brown

Dalene & Mike Stephenson

**Kevin Hicks:**

Lori & Greg Fallon

**Jordan Robert Lee:**

Paula & David Atwell

Isabel & Ed Bacon

Freddie & Elizabeth Black

Allison & Ryan Collins

Stacey & Barry Davis

Fern & Charlie Fincher

FUMC Children's Choir

Judy & George Harris

Bennie & Buck Henderson

Joy & Dennis Holley

Judy & Jack Lassiter

Diane & Ray Lloyd

Linda Magness

Carole & Roger Martin, Michael & Max Efir

Zach McClendon, Jr.

Renea & John McClendon

Robin McClendon & Tom Winegard

Charlotte McGarr

McQueen & Co.

Monticello Middle School

Susan Musick

Margaret & Rodney Norton

Diane & Mark Pennington

Brenda Reynolds, Diana & Family, and

Derick & Family

Patty Ross

Dalene & Mike Stephenson

Margo & Joel Stevens

**Jordan Robert Lee: (continued)**

Juanita & Jerry Webb

David Wells

Mary Jo Wisener

Brenda Wright

Suzanne & Mike Zieman

**Wes McCoy:**

Diane & Buster Newman

**Jaci Oxner:**

Lori & Greg Fallon

**Betty Jo Ross Pruet:**

Lori & Greg Fallon

Judy & George Harris

Dalene & Mike Stephenson

Brenda Wright

**Rebecca Socia:**

Lori & Greg Fallon

**Dane & Annette Weindorf:**

Barry & Stacey Davis

*Thank you*

Dear Bryan, Lori, Dennis, and Church Family,

We want to thank all of you for your expressions of love, support, and sympathy at this time of loss and grief as we celebrated the life of Jordan Lee.

We especially appreciated the lovely luncheon that was prepared for us.

In Christian love.

The Lee Family



***Faster lilies given in loving memory of:***

D.A. & Elizabeth Anderson

Dr. Roland Anderson

Carolyn Brown

Jordan Lee

Jordan Lee

Martha Sue & Ervin McClain

Doris & Maurice Nichols

Joseph & Gertrude Pauwels

Betty Jo Ross Pruet

Betty Jo & Henry Lee Ross

Bill Wisener

By: Sue & David Anderson

By: Sue & David Anderson

By: Margaret Norton

By: Freddie & Bob Lee, Sr.

By: Margaret Norton

By: Susan Musick

By: Glenda Nichols

By: Sue & David Anderson

By: Margaret Norton

By: Sandy & David Funderburg and Patty Ross

By: Margaret Norton

**There are still lilies available if you wish to purchase one.**

You are joyfully invited to the  
wedding of

APRIL

24

2021

KELLY M A R I E  
MURPHY



BRANDON ALEXANDER  
B R A M L E T T

4:00

Gardner Residence  
160 Cougar Terrace  
Hot Springs, AR 71913

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

*Honk, cheer and ride past our soon to be Bride*

***Kelly Murphy*** Bride-Elect of ***Brandon Bramlett***



Sunday, April 11, 2021

1 to 2 PM

Church parking lot

Help us celebrate with Kelly and Brandon! The couple is registered at Wal-Mart.

Join Us For A Drive-By

**BRIDAL SHOWER**

In honor of

*Laura Smith*

Bride-Elect of

*Blake Hockaday*



Saturday, May 1, 2021

2 to 4 PM

108 Birdie Lane, Monticello

Home of Alicia & Sam Whitaker

*Since we cannot be together to celebrate, let's shower the bride in a different way. Drive by to show your love and enjoy curbside treats.*

## Holy Week and Easter Services



*Come Worship With Us!*



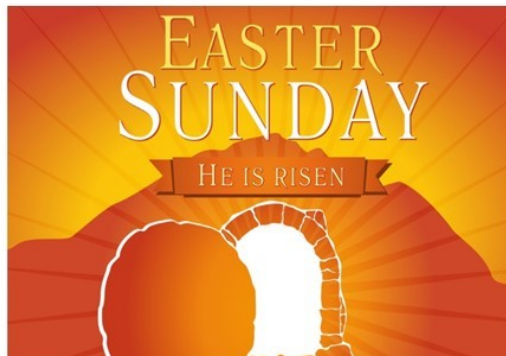
Join us on Sunday, March 28th at either 9 (Contemporary in Family Life Center) or 11 am (Traditional in Sanctuary) for Palm Sunday worship. Each service will feature a palm procession as we celebrate and remember Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem at the beginning of Holy Week.



Join us on Thursday, April 1st at 7 pm in the Sanctuary for a special service of Holy Communion as we remember the meal that Jesus shared with his disciples in the Upper Room in Jerusalem.



Join us on Friday, April 2nd between the hours of 4—7 pm for a come and go prayer service in the Sanctuary. This will be a time for us to reflect upon the sacrifice that Jesus made on our behalf.



Join us Easter morning at one of our three worship experiences:

7 am Sunrise Service in the Church Prayer Garden

9 am Contemporary Service in the Family Life Center

11 am Traditional Service in the Sanctuary



HOLY WEEK

---



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