

Reflections

October 2021

317 S. Main Street



Friends in Christ,

I once read of a young clergyman who came home from the mission field to see his father, who was very ill. World War I was then at its height, and during his stay at home a new detachment of troops left his city for France. There was the usual passionate, almost strained enthusiasm, and as the train pulled out the streets rang out with the familiar, "Give 'em hell." And so they went. Then came the day of parting between father and son. The young man was saying his last farewell. Father and son clasped each other's hand, looked into each other's faces as only those in the presence of eternity may look, and as the train moved out the old man murmured, like a benediction: "Give 'em Christ, lad, give 'em Christ."

As we move into the remaining months of the year I would like to ask you to ponder with me this question. "Which shall we give them?" In a world that is filled with all kinds of bad news, political doublespeak, economic uncertainty, and national unrest, what are we, as followers of Christ, sharing with the world? Are we giving into all of the negativity? Are we jumping on the bandwagon of gloom and doom? Do we see nothing but bad on the horizon with the inevitability of it getting worse?

It has often been said that what we take in is what we will give out; garbage in garbage out. This is the circular motion upon which the world revolves. Let's take a moment and reflect back on the past 9 months. How positive of an impact have we made on those around us. Have we given them Christ, or have we given them a spirit of negativity and bitterness. God is still up to something good in the world. The fast approaching season of Advent is a testament to that fact. Let's begin to focus on the good that is around us, and the possibilities that exist because of faith in Christ. Let's stop majoring in minors and start sharing the good news of Jesus Christ and the hope that he brings to all of us. Let's "give 'em Christ."

Blessings,

Bro. Bryan



FUMY News

October 2021

Important Reminders:

- **October 10** - FUMY to help with "Sole Purpose" mission
- **October 11** - No School
- **October 17** - FUMY to lead worship and share Mission Trip Reflections @ 9 am and 11 am worship services
- **October 22** - AR Foodbank Food delivery (9 am), food packing (1 pm)
- **October 23** - Food Distribution (8 am)
- **October 24** - FUMY Pumpkin Carving & Movie at Maggie's Field (720 Allen Drive) **5 pm - 10 pm, All youth are asked to bring a pumpkin to carve or paint & a comfortable chair/air mattress! Friends are welcome**
- **October 27** - FUMY to help with FUMC Fall Fest 5-7 pm
- **October 29** - 7:00 am Prayer Breakfast, Fellowship Hall (devo by Megan)
- **October 30** - 8:00 pm - 12 am FUMY Halloween Party @ FUMC



September was AWESOME with FUMY! We started off September packing bags for "Feed the Kids." It was a blessing to get to be the first group to "kick off" packing bags for the school year and we packed 350 bags. Our Sunday nights are now our "small group" nights but we have added 30 minutes at the beginning of our evening to be with jr high only and 30 minutes at the end to be with sr high only in addition to eating supper together! *Special thanks to our rockstar youth parents that sign up to feed us each Sunday night!* We are so excited to be enjoying our Wednesdays "afterschool homework & hang times" in the youth room together again! We love fellowshipping together any chance we can! After supper with the church family, we have FUMY Mid-Week on Wednesdays from 5:30 - 7 pm. Our theme this year is "**Love One, Love All, Love Your Neighbor Y'all.**" We are threading this theme throughout our lessons & small group discussions. We are learning more about Jesus and why He wants us to love God and love our neighbor. We are learning about what it takes to be a friend and how to give grace. Three of our 7th graders have started confirmation with Bro. Bryan and they are enjoying it. On Thursdays a group of our junior high have started going to the jr. high football games together. It has been fun getting to know them while we cheer & do a lot of karaoke-style singing! *Thanks to Maggie & Andi Wagner who have gone each week with the youth!* Our month ended with more mission work. This time we went to St. James UMC in Pine Bluff to help get ready for "Project Transformation" that will begin in summer of 2022.



October brings another variety of exciting and wonderful opportunities for our youth. Our missions for this month will be to restock our blessing box, to help with "Sole Purpose" and to help with food distribution. We have more Bible story lessons planned for Wednesdays plus small groups will meet on Sundays. Our youth will share about their mission experience in worship on October 17 and our own Maggie will be preaching! Plus we will enjoy our annual pumpkin carving/painting and an outside movie at Maggie's field this year. We will help with the games for our Fall Festival at FUMC on October 27. We will have our first prayer breakfast in 19 months on October 29! And we are going to have our first ever FUMY Halloween Party at FUMC on October 30. God is so good! And we continue to look for ways to share what Jesus is doing in our lives with others. We hope that you find many ways to share God's love with others and that you will get out of your comfort zone and do something in the name of Jesus for others.

Christ above all, Lori



Snack Supper List:

- | | |
|------------|--|
| October 3 | Andi Wagner |
| October 10 | Natalie Gosdin |
| October 17 | Haley Greer |
| October 24 | Pumpkin Carving
Maggie's Field |
| October 31 | NO FUMY |





UMW Fall Regional Meeting

On Saturday, September 11, 2021, Monticello First United Methodist Church welcomed 55 United Methodist Women and the Holy Spirit to the Fall Regional Meeting. Ladies were offered a pick-up breakfast and then were directed to the sanctuary, where they were welcomed by Monticello FUMC Senior Pastor, Reverend Bryan Diffe, who is a member of UMW. The business portion of the meeting was led by President Betty Cook and included the installation of officers and approval of the budget for the upcoming term. Special music was offered by Kathy and Rex Borchardt. Inspiring messages were presented by Southeast District Superintendent Reverend Edna Morgan and by 200,000 More Reasons coordinator Reverend Sam Meadors. A moving video tribute to those lost in the 9/1/2001 terrorist attacks was viewed. Brenda Wright provided a book review, and Sandy Funderburg and Trudy Jackson led the memorial service. Following the meeting, ladies were treated to a delicious salad luncheon served at tables decorated with fresh flowers in antique teapots, along with historical Methodist books.



Chancel Choir – Bells of Hope – Praise Band

Chancel Choir and Bells of Hope are rehearsing music for the fall season on Wednesday in the Sanctuary. Chancel Choir @ 6 pm and Bells of Hope @ 7 pm. These rehearsals are an hour of musical fellowship that lifts your spirit as you participate in preparing music for our traditional worship services. Please consider joining these adult music choirs!

The annual Christmas Cantata is scheduled for Sunday, December 5, 2021. WE hope that ALL singers will join us @ 6 pm on Wednesday, as we prepare this special story of Christmas.

If you want to join Bells of Hope, please contact Kathy Lyon @ 870-308-1518.

Quote to consider and enjoy!

**When I stand before God
at the end of my life,
I would hope that
I would not have
a single bit of talent left,
and could say,
“I used everything you gave me.”
– Erma Bombeck**

BIG THANK YOU, to Jubilation Jazz an awesome inspiration to ALL!!!



Children's Ministry

What a wonderful first Wednesday Family Night on September 22 we had! The children enjoyed singing, ringing bells, hearing a Bible story, and doing activities.

The Bible story reminded the children how Jesus told us to feed those that are hungry and to give those who are thirsty something to drink. Each child filled a gallon Ziploc bag for the needy that they will put in their cars to share with someone they see who is in need. Then we walked to the Blessing Box. Each child had a bag with a few items that they left in the Box. After a prayer for those who visit the Box, we walked back inside the church. Older kids helped younger kids. Each of us received a blessing from this Wednesday together.

We hope and pray that if you were not able to join us last Wednesday, you will join us soon.

A picture of the children in attendance is posted near this article. A special Thank YOU to Ms. Isabel Bacon and Ms. Stephanie Brown who volunteered to help on Wednesdays with the children.

Children's Sunday School continues to meet each Sunday on the second floor of the Fellowship Hall around 10:00 am (immediately after the 9:00 am service). Isabel Bacon, Diantha Beer, Kim Fletcher, and I enjoy sharing God's word through Bible stories, songs, games, and crafts with our children. COME JOIN US!

To our children and their family members: you are called by name and remembered in our prayers. You are loved.

Ms. Brenda and the Children's Ministry Team

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

The Children's Choir and Bells

Hello everyone,

Wednesday the Children's choirs and handbells met for the first time in a long time! It was great to see everyone! We had several first-time singers and ringers! If you didn't make it, come on our and sing and ring with us!

In His name we sing!

Mrs. Kathy 





Feeding the Community

Feed Our Neighbors Ministry

DRIVERS needed! After several weeks of not adding any new families to our FON list, we have recently added five families. We are in dire need of another permanent driver and several substitute drivers. Please prayerfully consider becoming part of this ministry in this way.

Peanut butter is still the most needed single item that is not available - in the size we deliver - from a wholesale store. We give each of our 100 families a 15 or 16 ounce jar once every five weeks. Thank you to those who have helped us by buying peanut butter for this ministry.

Thank you to all of you who continue to be part of this ministry through your monetary donations.

Thank YOU *especially to each of you who continues to pray for Our Neighbors and for this entire ministry team.*

Please notice the picture of one of our FON teams. These are the folks who come before 9:00 on Thursdays. They open the boxes of food, put it on the counters in the kitchen, and count to be certain the right number of each item is available when the next team fills the bags. They, like each team in the FON ministry, are worker bees! Thank YOU to each of them for their faithfulness to this ministry.

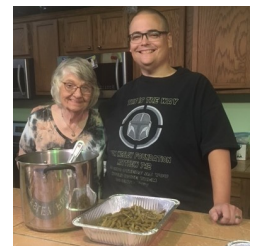
In Christian love,
The FON Ministry Team

“Inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you have done it to me.” Matthew 25:40



Wesley Foundation

The United Methodist Women fed the Wesley Foundation on Monday, September 27. We fed the students the usual fried chicken, hashbrown casseroles, macaroni and cheese, green beans, and rolls. Kavin reported to me that there was a record number back for lunch since Covid. Thank you Brenda, Louisa, Belinda, and Eva for cooking the meal for the Wesley students.





Sole Purpose Update



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2021 — 2:00-5:00 PM

The shoes are ordered, the coats are hung, and the books are ready to share with our Drew County boys and girls! All that's needed now is YOU!

We have registered a record number of boys and girls. **430** children in our community are in need of coats, shoes, and books. That is an increase of more than 150 students from the past!

And **FUMC** is going to make this happen!

Because of this huge increase, we need more volunteers than ever. It will take at least **100** people to perform various tasks—there is a job for **ALL** ages. What are those jobs?

Welcomers—greet our guests, direct them and make them feel welcome

Foot washers--Wash the feet of children and put shoes on their feet

Shoe runners—bring the shoes to the foot washers

Escorts-- Each family will need an escort as they visit each station

Water runners—bring pans of clean water to the foot washers

Kitchen assistants—in the Fellowship Hall kitchen, assistants will be filling pans of water for the washing of feet and in the FLC they will be boiling hot dogs!

Coat Assistants—helping families find the right coat

Book Assistants—helping children pick out their own books

Distributing Bibles and candy

Playground monitors

Passing out hot dogs

YOU CHOOSE YOUR JOB!

All volunteers need to arrive at 1:30 in the Family Life Center. Here, you will choose the area in which you would like to work. Volunteers should park across the street in front of the church and at the courthouse so plenty of room is available in the back of the church for our guests to park.

PLEASE *prayerfully* consider volunteering for this most important ministry.

We need our **WHOLE** church to make this happen. We need **YOU**.



Troop 67 News:

September has been a very busy month!! The scouts participated in the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at the Square, had a troop campout at Moro Bay State Park, started our Personal Fitness Merit Badge, and several recruitment activities for boys age 11 and up. We are looking forward to our Council Fall Camporee October 1-3 at White Oak State Park. If you are interested in our Popcorn Fundraiser, please speak to a Scout anytime during the month of October.



Cub Scout Pack events are back and going strong. We have had four new Cub Scouts join so far since school started. We have enjoyed den activities, a visit from Cezar and the K9 Unit of Monticello Police Department, a campout night in the museum at Mid America in Hot Springs, and several council recruitment events with the BB Gun range. We are looking forward to our Fall Fest at El Dorado at the end of October and will be continuing our den activities on Monday's at 5:30 pm.



Both Scout programs would like to thank Keith Wallis for providing Hamburger Lunch plates on September 10 as a fundraiser for both Scouting programs, we always appreciate community support.



Thank you

We would like to offer thanks to **Dr. Justin Atkins and Dr. Jim Carmical** for being a part of our recent Vaccination Town Hall. We are so thankful that you and your families are a part of our church and community and so willing to give of your time and expertise. If you have not seen the town hall, you can still find it on the First United Methodist of Monticello Facebook page.

Weekly Events

Sundays:

9:00 AM In-person & Online Service

11:00 AM In-person & Online Service

10:00 AM Adult, Youth, and Children's Sunday School

10:00 AM Chancel Choir

4:00 PM Confirmation Class FH

5-7:30 PM FUMY Small Groups/Supper

Mondays:

5:30 PM Cub Scouts FH

6:30 PM Boy Scouts FH

Tuesdays:

10:00 AM Prayer Team (Zoom)

Wednesdays:

5:00 PM Family Night Meal FLC

5:30-7 PM Children's rotation

5:30-7 PM FUMY Mid-Week

5:30-7 PM Scripture in the Wesleyan Way

5:30-7 PM Financial Peace (Dave Ramsey)

5:30-7 PM Family Night Games in the FLC

6:30 PM Wednesday Small Group

Thursdays:

1:00 PM Disciple IV Bible study FH

3:30—Feed Our Neighbors

Dear Family and Friends,

Beth and I want to say thank you for all of the love and support you have all shown during my surgery and recovery. The visits, calls, texts, letters, cards, flowers, gifts, and food received have been humbling and so very much appreciated. We are both so very grateful to have such wonderful people in our lives that have shown such kindness and encouragement during this time. God bless you all.

Tommy and Beth Maxwell.

Dear Friends, words cannot express how much it means to have friends like you, who are there in times of need.

Thank you so much for the food, water, and cleaning supplies that were donated for hurricane relief.

Cecile & Casmer Kirby

Dear Church Family, thank you so much for helping our family celebrate the birth of our sweet Mia Kate. The beautiful flower placed in the sanctuary meant so much to us. Thank you again,

Cookie and Jim Crossett

Rev. Bryan and Kathy, thanks so much for hosting us last weekend. Hopefully your congregation enjoyed the worship service! Please extend a thank you also to Michael. Wally with Jubilation Jazz

Rev. Bryan and the Monticello FUMC Leadership Team,

Thank you for a wonderful Leadership gathering with you yesterday. I am grateful for the ministries of your church and delighted to be your DS. God bless you all.

Rev. Edna Morgan DS/CMS Southeast District.



In Memoriam

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

Houston Berryman:

Helen Guenter
Sandra West

Ken Burchfield:

Helen Guenter
Bennie & Buck Henderson

Joe Guenter:

Bennie & Buck Henderson
Sally & Bob Kirst

Barry Hall:

Helen Guenter

Rowena Poteet Parrott James:

Helen Guenter

Sonny Jones:

Elgenia & James Ross

Terry Jordan:

Sue & David Anderson
Helen Guenter
Sandra West

Tim Knight:

Sandra West

Hubert McKeown, Sr.:

Helen Guenter
Sandra West

Sammy Mullis:

Helen Guenter

Barbara Owen:

Bennie & Buck Henderson

Mary "Kat" Kathryn Taylor:

Helen Guenter

Harold West:

Cathy & Mike Cash
Helen Guenter
Sally & Bob Kirst
Connie Sanderlin

Bill Wisener:

Helen Guenter

Bro. Ed Wyers:

Isabel & Ed Bacon
Carolyn & John Bullock
Helen Guenter

James Youngblood:

Helen Guenter

And in loving honor of:

Dalene and Mike Stephenson:

Ginger & David Wilkins

Charlotte McGarr on her birthday:

Carol & Roger Martin and John Michael & Max Efirid



In Memoriam

Freezer Meal Project

The Nurture Committee is starting a freezer meal project for those in the congregation who are shut-in, ill, recuperating, or post-bereavement. The meal train works well for short term meals to help those new parents or those recovering from hospitalizations. The freezer meals continue our congregational care for those who may need an occasional meal.

We are asking the congregation to help us keep the meals in the freezer located in the Fellowship Hall. The freezer was donated by Rob and Sally Kirst for that purpose prior to the pandemic. There is a log in the freezer to help us keep fresh meals available as well as labels to put on the dish supplied.

Prepare meals for 2-4 people — we can take more for larger families. Place meals/casseroles in disposable ovenware/aluminum. Cover the food with plastic then foil and freeze before bringing to the church. There is a label to identify the meals and preparation instructions located in a folder with the log in the freezer. Desserts are also needed for 2-4 people.

The Nurture Committee will primarily distribute the meals within our membership; although anyone may take a meal to a congregation member you know might need or appreciate a meal. Please indicate on the log form to help us track our efforts. Nurture Committee will check the freezer regularly and solicit meals as needed.

We begin the freezer meal project October 3. If you have any questions or would like to provide a meal or dessert, contact Louisa Smith 870-723-3560.

GUIDELINES FOR FREEZER MEALS

Prepare for 2-4 people (If a larger family, take two meals).

Place meals/casseroles in disposable ovenware/aluminum.

Cover food with plastic wrap then foil.

Freeze before bringing to freezer.

Put directions on label provided:

Name of dish: _____

Directions for preparing: *Example:* Thaw before baking. May bake frozen. Dish is ready when bubbles around side.

Bake at _____ for _____ minutes

Dessert for 2-4 servings

Suggestions: Bundt cake, pound cake, cookies, fruit breads, muffins. Place in freezer proof container/ freezer bag.

Please include on log:

Meal description. *Example:* Chicken spaghetti

Date placed in freezer. *Example:* 10/4/21

Your name

Date and family to whom food was delivered

Meals are solicited for shut-ins, post-bereaved, sick, post-hospital stay and can be delivered by anyone who desires to visit. More than one meal may be taken if deemed necessary. Meals removed should be signed out on the log to help with inventory in freezer. Inventory will be checked monthly and additional meals solicited as needed.

Minimum # of meals - 5

Maximum # of meals -10

Meals are discarded after 60 days.

Monticello Chamber of Commerce Arkansas

1. The **25th Annual Weevil Welcome cookout** event will be held in McCloy Park on Monday, October 4, 6:00 p.m. There is still time to donate a door prize for the event by contacting the chamber of commerce at monticellochamber@sbcglobal.net, or, (870)367-6741. This special event is designed to honor all UAM employees and their guests. Tickets are available for non-employees for only \$5.00 each at the chamber of commerce, 335 East Gaines Street, Monticello, AR.
2. Everyone is encouraged to **Paint The Town Green** during UAM Homecoming Week, October 10-16. Make your plans now to decorate your store fronts, post messages on your signs, or, otherwise decorate your business to show support for UAM during this special week. Window painting is always a popular way to express your support. Also, the chamber has school support yard signs available for \$10.00 each.
3. **Annual Carols of Christmas holiday parade** is scheduled for Tuesday, November 30, 6:00 pm. People are already calling the chamber and reserving their favorite Christmas carol to use as inspiration for their float. Remember, no two entries can use the same song, so, call early!

Don't forget to attend the **Holiday Craft Bazaar** to be held Saturday, October 2, in the Mini Park, at our farmers market site on South Main Street.

FUMC Bazaar

Saturday, November 13

9:00 A.M.— 2:00 P.M.

Lunch served



Applications are available in the church office. Church members are encouraged to donate handmade/food items for the Methodist table. All proceeds are for missions.



**Communion in November will be on
Sunday, November 7, 2021.**

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL NOTES

Class of 2021

Julie Smith, Lay Leader/SPPRC Leader
LeAnne Burch, Trustee Leader
Paul Griffin, Finance Leader
Bryan Diffie, Senior Pastor

Class of 2022

Jack Lassiter, SPPRC
Ray Ryburn, Trustees
Stephanie Brown, Treasurer
Lori Fallon, Associate Pastor

Class of 2023

John Davis, SPPRC
Wil Maxwell, Trustees
Justin Atkins, Finance

The Executive Council of the First United Methodist Church of Monticello meets at least once each month to complete various requirements of the United Methodists of Arkansas and to take action to benefit our local church. The Council is providing a short summary of primary actions and proposed activities discussed at these meetings which will be included in each monthly newsletter. These notes are not the complete minutes of the meeting.

Meeting September 07, 2021

Financial Report. The council reviewed the August 2021 financial report. The financial report was accepted as presented.

Relaunch Committee. The council reviewed and approved the Relaunch Committee's decision to continue masking for foreseeable future.

SPPRC Report Based on August 31 called meeting, letters were sent to parents and teachers regarding pre-school closing and explained that fees and any tuition paid would be fully refunded.

The Council confirmed that the First Tuesday of every month at 6:30 P.M. will be the Executive Council meeting day and time for the remainder of the 2021 year.

Trustee Report. [Jeff Bone has begun the repair of old gutters and will install new gutters and flashing where needed.](#)

Joey Mann will install new outdoor carpeting in front of the Administration entrance to the south entrance to fellowship hall. The cost will be \$2000. The Council chose the carpet and color (Iron Ore) to be installed. The removal of old carpet and installation of new outdoor carpet will not exceed \$2000. Any amount above this price will have to come back to Council for approval.

Chris Cox will begin to work on the empty lot in the next few weeks.

The door to the Family Life Center needs to be repaired or replaced. Reggie's Lock and Key has been contacted to repair or replace if necessary.

An update on the bus parking structure was provided. It appears that the structure might be able to cover all four vehicles in the present parking area. Down payment has been given to Eagle Carports. The structure will be brown similar to the accent colors on present church buildings.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL NOTES (CONT.)

Plans for empty lot on Jackson Street. Julie Smith reported that the Fellowship Sunday School class had discussed with her the use of some or all of the funds given by Betty Matthews to help with the building of a structure/pavilion on the lot. Also, the class will be using some of the funds from their class to honor Bill Wisener.

Bro. Diffie will investigate if we need to have some level of input from the District on this type of construction project, and he will report at October meeting.

The Council approved organization of a committee to investigate the possibility of putting a structure/pavilion on the site. A One Call email message will be sent to invite members to sit on this committee. The Council will appoint members of the committee chosen from members that respond to the email. Committee will report back to Executive Council with findings on how the structure/pavilion can be built.

Pastor Report Bro. Diffie reported that a Leadership meeting with the new District Superintendent Edna Morgan will held in the Family Life Center on Sunday, September 12, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. Questions to be discussed were sent earlier to Executive Council members.

Wednesday Family Night Wednesday Family Night will start on September 22. Instead of picking up the children from the different schools, we will have a family dinner beginning at 5:00 P.M. Then at 5:30 the children will go to their rotations of choir, hand bells, and story/craft time. Youth will continue to be picked up at school and brought back for FUMY hangtime. Adult choir and hand bells will continue on Wednesday night at 6:00 and 7:00 P.M. Praise Team will also meet at 7:00 P.M. Nursery will also be available from 5:00 to 7:00 P.M. Social distancing and masks will be in effect.

Stephanie Brown volunteered to work with Brenda Wright with the children, and Tommy Smith will teach Financial Peace. Bro. Bryan will teach a study "Scripture in the Wesleyan Way."

Next Executive Council Meeting will be Tuesday, October 5 at 6:30 p.m.

Please return the Time and Talents sheet to the church office.

TIME AND TALENTS

With the reopening and relaunch of our church and the new ministry efforts of Nurture, Outreach, and Witness, we need our help! Sometimes folks are overlooked in being asked to share their gifts. Each of the new ministry groups has a plan of action, and we need your participation as well. Please consider your gifts and where you would like to serve. Circle your choices and return via email to the church or drop in the offering plate.

NURTURE: "Feeding" the congregation spiritually, physically, socially, and emotionally.

- Visitation of bereaved, hospitals, nursing homes
- Participate in a telephone tree/phone chain
- Lead/participate in a small group, Bible study, VBS
- Provide meals -- bereavement/post-bereavement, illness/post-hospitalization or surgery, new baby, shut-ins
- Help in kitchen
- Hostess of a shower -- bridal/baby
- Help with and/or plan "celebrations" e.g. confirmands, graduates, special recognitions
- Visit visitors
- Mentor new members
- Interact/support UAM students, high school graduates -- care packages, check-ins, sharing a meal
- Bus driver

OUTREACH:

- Simple home repairs for senior homeowners, building ramps
- Gardeners -- prayer garden, yard maintenance
- Sole Purpose
- Feed Our Neighbors, Blessing Box, food distribution
- Feed the Kids

WITNESS:

- Help Promote church events on social media
- UAM ministry

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

Other way(s) you would like to help: _____

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