

Reflections

September 2023
317 S. Main Street
Monticello, AR 71655



Friends,

In the *Westminster Dictionary of Theological Terms*, the word *revival* is defined as “a term to designate a sense of the work of the Holy Spirit among persons or in churches that brings a new sense of vitality and devotion.”

As we begin yet another school year, which marks the start of many “new” beginnings, why not begin now praying for revival? There is no time better than now to pray that the Holy Spirit will move in a new way to bring about change in our hearts, our lives, and our church. Being that we have not had time to settle down into routines and everything is still fresh and new, we find ourselves more open to fresh winds of change.

Revival begins with people who are tired of the way things are and earnestly desire a change. Revival begins when people discover that the wells of their own resources are dry and are in need of a fresh outpouring of that living water that never runs dry. My friends, we are all in need of revival and there is no better place to begin than right here. and there is no better time than now!

May God bless you as you begin to allow the Holy Spirit to pour out the healing and refreshing waters of revival into your hearts and lives.

Blessings,
Bro. Bryan



FUMY NEWS

September 2023



August came in **HOT** (quite literally) and FUMY hit “the ground running.” We had our annual FUMY planning retreat/lock-in the first weekend in August with a super fun “around the town” scavenger hunt. We planned lots of mission work, youth lessons, fundraisers, devos, prayer breakfasts, fellowship and fun plus elected officers! Our theme for 2023-24 is “**God gives unconditional love.**” Our mission trip will be to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and we plan to go June 22-29, 2024. Special thanks to *Maggie Brown* for spending the night with us at church and to *Ashlee Orrell* for breakfast and to *Jaime & Ken Hunter* for supper. And a special thank you to our **FABULOUS** Scavenger Hunt drivers: *Maggie Brown, Greg Fallon, Jaime & Ken Hunter, Audrea & Megan Stephens and Andi Wagner!* Other things in August included our girls meeting their final two times for small group with our college intern Hannah before she headed back to college. Plus, we also had another game night and movie night AND we did Peter’s Walk. Peter’s Walk is a experience where the youth are blindfolded and lead by adults so that they can experience some of the things that the disciple Peter might have had as he walked and trusted his life with Jesus. *Special thanks to Maggie Brown, Valerie Harvey, Jaime Hunter and Renee Holland for serving as guides, and to Ken Hunter who was “Peter.”* School is now back in full swing! Our mission work this month was on August 20. We helped clean out the “Feed the Kids” closet and we helped First Presbyterian Church clean off their fellowship hall stage by re-bagging their clothes, sorting hangers, and fixing their hang up racks in their free clothing closet. It was a great project! We came back to church and played games after a delicious pizza dinner (TY Renee Holland). Our back-to-school cookout with our church family was fun! We enjoyed the delicious food & all of the fun games we played. We restarted our monthly prayer breakfasts on August 25 (TY to Mallory for the devo). Our last week of August was even more fun! We went swimming at the Hunter girls’ aunt’s pool in Warren (TY to Jaime Hunter for the yummy food) and we restarted our afterschool homework & hang time. **WHEW!** All in all, a great August for FUMY!

FUMY Officers 2023-24:	
President	Mallory Fallon
Vice President	Presley Wagner
Secretary	Lilli Orrell

September brings more mission work & new lessons & fun for FUMY! We start the month off with packing bags for “Feed the Kids” on Wednesday, Sept. 6 at First Presbyterian Church. On Sundays in September we are resuming our small groups! We’re excited to have TJ Hill as the small group leader for our boys group. Maggie Brown is with her 7th-9th grade girls and Audrea Stephens is with her 10th-12th grade girls. We are “focusing” on what it means to Focus on God. What distracts us and what seeks our attention? We’re taking some real looks at ourselves and how we can best reflect God in our lives. We have a fun activity planned for the end of September. We’re going to Little Rock to “The Main Event.” It looks like a fun place! We also plan to be in the stands cheering for our Billies & Pirates this month & watching the band, flag line, pom squad & cheerleaders perform. We’ll end our month with monthly prayer breakfast.

Snack Supper List:

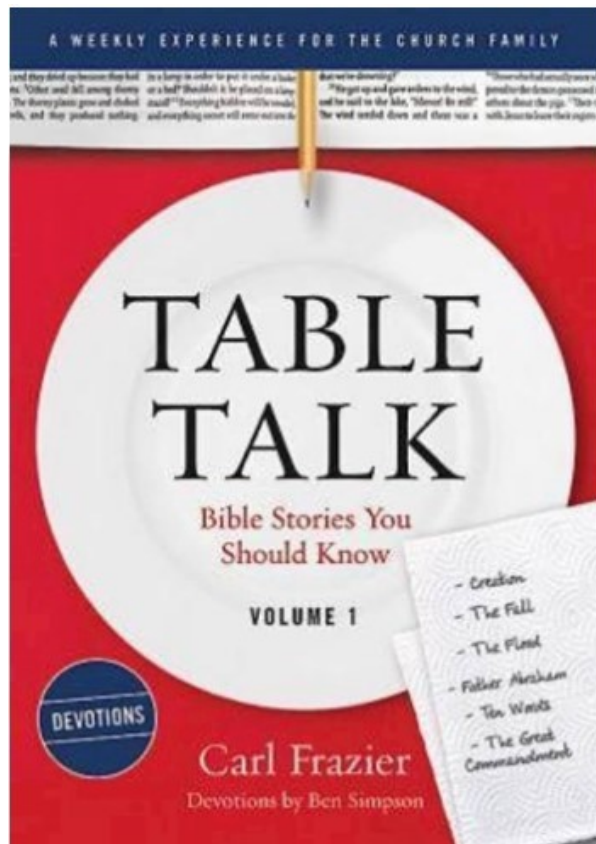
September 3	No FUMY (Labor Day)
September 10	Valerie Harvey
September 17	FUMY Parent
September 24	<i>FUMY to Little Rock</i>

We welcome ANY 7th to 12th grade students to our group. We strive to be an inclusive fun-loving group that seeks to be the hands & feet of Jesus in the world.

Please pray for our students and their families!

Christ above all, *Lori*





Beginning Wednesday, September 13 we are going to try something new during our Wednesday Night Meal — Table Talk. This six-week program for the whole church family is designed to bring all ages together for dinner, fellowship, study, and to engage with the Pastor in conversation about key stories of the Bible. The stories we will look at are: Creation, The Fall, The Flood, Father Abraham, Ten Words, and The Great Commandment. We will begin around 5:15 after everyone has gone through the line and is seated. We will be done in time for adults to go to choir. This is an intergenerational study that will include children, youth and adults.

Revival

Brother Bryan will be preaching Sunday, September 17-19 at Greenhill United Methodist Church as a part of their revival services. Services each night will be at 7 pm. On Sunday there will be a potluck meal beforehand at 6 pm. Come and bring your friends and family. Greenhill UMC is located at 372 Green Hill Road. Wilmar, AR, 71675.

Chancel Choir and Bells of Hope

BIG ANNOUNCEMENT!!! We have a new pianist / choir accompanist!!! Dr. Dipendra Sunam has agreed to fill this position. Dr. Sunam is the piano professor in the Music Department at the University of Arkansas at Monticello. He is currently serving as pianist at FUMC, Crossett. Once he has fulfilled his obligation to their congregation (second week in September) he will begin his work at FUMC, Monticello. We are extremely excited to have the opportunity to work with another fabulous pianist!

WELCOME, Dr. Sunam!

Chancel Choir members are singing their hearts out, as they prepare for weekly Traditional Worship Music! If you've wanted to join this fun group of singers, now is the time! We rehearse each Wednesday at 6 pm in the Chancel Choir room on the second floor of the East Wing above the nursery, at the end of the hallway! Please join us! We will have a music folder and choir robe waiting for you. Christmas Cantata rehearsal begins on Wednesday, September 13!

Bells of Hope (Adult Handbell Choir) rehearses each Wednesday at 7 pm in the church sanctuary. We need two (2) ringers to complete our group! If you are interested in ringing call Kathy Lyon, 870-308-1518, or just show up at a rehearsal. Hope to see you soon!

The Praise Band has been working on something so old that it's new again -- "Manifesto" by The City Harmonic. We are excited to bring this song back into worship! I thought I'd share the lyrics with you now so you can think on them and be ready to worship with us.

We believe in the one true God
We believe in Father Spirit Son
We believe that good has won

And all of the people of God sang along - Amen, Amen

We are free He died and lives again
We will be a people freed from sin
We'll be free, a kingdom with no end

And all of the people of God sang along - Amen, Amen

Our father who art in Heaven,
hallowed be thy name
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who have trespassed against us
Lord lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil
For Thine is the kingdom, power and the glory forever

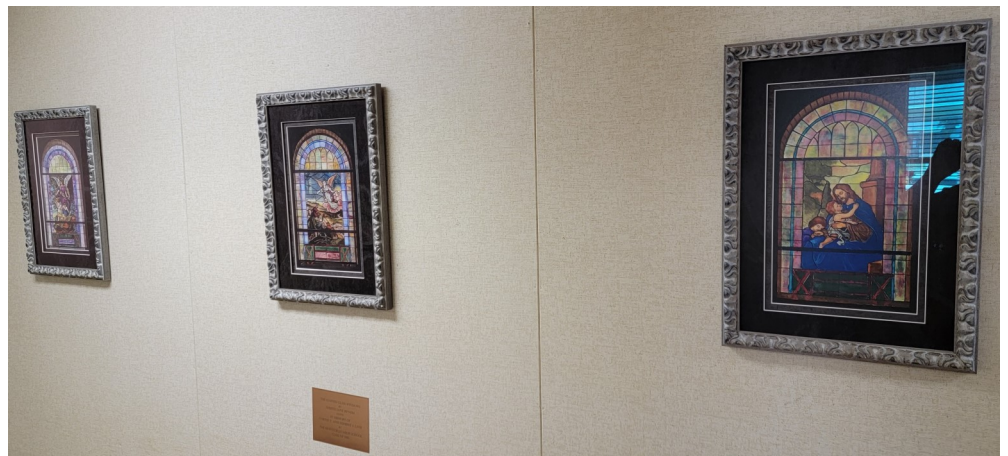
We're singing
Amen, Amen



This year Sound of Hope is celebrating 13 years of love and safety, healthy food and medical care, school fees and job training, little libraries and community gardens. Thirteen years of giving HOPE to children in Thailand, India, Burma, and Swaziland.

Rusty (son of James and Trudy) and Erica Jackson established Sound of Hope to support vulnerable orphaned children in developing countries from poverty, predators, and disease by partnering with programs that provide holistic care. Since Sound of Hope incorporated in May 2010, approximately \$1,500,000 has been raised and donated to support the future that each child deserves.

United Women of Faith donates annually from money raised at our Holiday Bazaar. This year's bazaar will be Nov. 11.



The Stained Glass Windows, by Judith Lane Bynum, were given in memory of Corine T. and Herbert S Lane by the Monticello High School Class of 1965. They are located in the hallway by the Pastors' and church offices.



Feeding the Community

THANK YOU, for answering our plea and helping both financially and with food items for this ministry.

You, our church family, are so mission minded. Your prayers, gifts, and service are what keeps this ministry alive. Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus for the people this ministry serves.

THANK YOU, FON “hands-on” team members. Always. Your faithfulness to this ministry does not go unnoticed. It takes each of you to complete our bag filling and distribution.

The FON Ministry Team

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



Sole Purpose



Our 2023 Sole Purpose distribution is right around the corner—it’s crunch time! On October 15, we will be welcoming families into our church from all across our county. We **NEED** you to be there!

In September, we have two special evenings planned with all proceeds going to Sole Purpose. On **September 6**, we will host a Wednesday night **Fish Fry** with all of the fixing’s. You *won’t* want to miss that evening. Mike Stephenson and his crew of men will be preparing a fine meal for our church family!

Then, on **September 20**, during our Wednesday night meal, we will have a *Dessert Auction*. If you’ve missed the last one, you surely will want to be here for this one. This is a fun night of fast and furious bidding—lots of laughs, lots of fun and lots of cakes, pies and cookies waiting to go to your home!

Both of these events provide the funds needed to begin the purchasing of the items we want to help our local families with. Please come join in these church-wide family nights! And bring a friend!

Scouting has started back in full swing with recruitment. We held our first Scout night on August 28 for Cub Scouts, kindergarten through 5th grade. Den meetings will return on September 11 at 5:30 pm.



Troop 67 is preparing for their first Troop campout in September at Cane Creek. They are looking forward to Canoeing and trying out some new recipes in the Dutch oven.

Our annual popcorn fundraiser with Campmasters has begun this month. Any Scout can take your order.





**Hopeful Hearts will meet on
September 5 @ noon in the
Family Life Center.**

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
5:00 PM Jr. High FUMY
5:30 PM Small Groups
6:15 PM Supper
6:45 PM Sr. High FUMY

Mondays:

5:30 PM Cub Scouts FH/weekly
6:00 PM Jr. Auxiliary 9/11
6:30 PM Boy Scouts FH/weekly

Tuesdays:

10:00 AM Prayer Team/weekly
12:00 PM Hopeful Hearts 9/5
1:00 PM Staff 9/5
1:30 PM Wilma Hankins-Wesley Rm 9/5
6:30 PM Executive Board 9/5

Wednesdays:

3:30-5:00 PM Wednesday Activities
5:00 PM All-Church Meal
5:30-7:30 PM FUMY Mid-week
6:30 PM Small Group FLC Foyer/
weekly

Thursdays:

11-12 PM Feed Our Neighbors
(Every other Thursday)

Fridays:

7:00 AM FUMY Prayer Breakfast 9/25

In Memoriam

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

Herbert Bradley:
Kathy & Jere Johnston

Carole Bulloch:
Kathy & Jere Johnston

Sue Hickam:
Belinda & Dave Carpenter
Kathy & Jere Johnston

Ben Nichols:
Dennis & Joy Holley
Kathy & Jere Johnston

Verda Schell:
Kathy & Jere Johnston

Cheryl Shirey:
Kathy & Jere Johnston

Helen Smith:
Kathy & Jere Johnston

*Memorials were given to the glory of
God and in loving honor and appreciation of:*

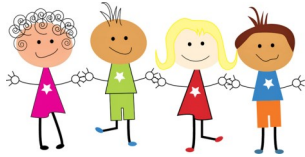
Vicki & Clinton Ross:
Sandy & David Funderburg



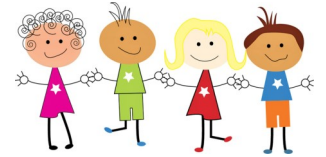
**Communion in September
will be on September 3.**

September Preaching Schedule

September 3, 2023 "Someone Worth Losing
Everything For" Luke 9:57-62
September 10, 2023 "Too Hungry For Words"
John 4:27-34
September 17, 2023 "Beginning at the End of
Ourselves" Acts 4:37-47
September 24, 2023 "The Great Why of God"
Genesis 12:1-3



Children's Ministry



We have begun our after school programs on Wednesdays at church. We pick up the children at each school and drop them off at the church around 3:30 for a quick snack, Bible story and craft, songs, and bells.

If your child hasn't signed up yet, please drop by the church office. Lynne will give you a form to fill out. This is important so we can get in touch with the children's care takers if we need to.

This year our 6th grade students are going to be helpers. This will be a new "thing" and should be a fun addition to the program.

Also this year, we have a program designed specifically for our 3 and 4 year olds. These children will come to the Fellowship Hall around **4:40**. *At 4:45 they will have an abbreviated form of the same Bible story as the older children and a small craft. By 4:55 they will be taken upstairs for music with Kathy Borchardt. Kathy Lyon will be there, too. (The older children will be heading to the FLC at this time for the 5:00 family meal.)*

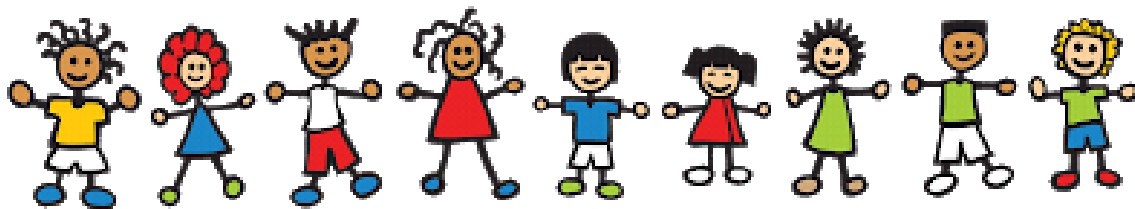
At 5:05 these PreK children will be led to the Family Life Center (FLC) to be joined by their families for the family meal or picked up to go home.

All children will be picked up at the Family Life Center this year, either after the Wednesday activities or after the family meal. But by 5:30 all children must be picked up from the FLC.

All parents, children, and other family members are encouraged and welcome to join us in the FLC for the 5:00 meal.

THANK YOU for your continued prayers for these children and this ministry.
Ms. Kim Fletcher and Ms. Brenda

"Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.'" Matthew 19:14 NIV





The back-to-school cookout was a great success. A big “Thank You” to our cooks, Kenny Hudgens, James Tumilson,



John Kidwell, Jim Crossett, and Dave Carpenter, and of course, the ladies who are our regular cooking geniuses. Regular Wednesday meals have resumed at 5 PM in the Family Life Center. Come join us and then stay for evening activities — FUMY at 5:30, Adult Choir at 6, and Adult Handbells at 7 P.M.

And beginning September 13 at 5:15 PM, Bro. Bryan will begin Table Talk (see page 3).



Trinity Sunday School class has been having a big crowd lately. They meet in the Fellowship Hall. At this time, they are studying the book of Romans. All are welcome to join them at 10 AM.



UPCOMING COMMUNITY EVENTS TO PLAN FOR...

- October 3, **“Boots, Jeans & Drew County Dreams”** is the theme for the Drew County Fair Parade – 5:00 pm, Downtown Monticello. Contact the chamber of commerce at (870)367-6741 or monticellochamber@sbcglobal.net to register your entry. No entry fee; however, you must register.
- October 10, **27th annual Weevil Welcome** event at McCloy Park, 6:00 pm. The chamber of commerce is extremely proud of this outstanding university and the many employees who contribute to UAM’s continuing success. Plan now to take part in another fun opportunity to visit with friends and meet people new to our community. We will have food, fun, and door prizes. Contact the chamber at 870-367-6741, monticellochamber@sbcglobal.net to find out how your business/organization can get involved.
- November 17-18 **National Gospel Singing**, Greenhill Baptist Church. Fri night 6:00-8:30 pm & Sat 9:45 am – 2:00. Lunch will be served on Sat.
- November 28 **“Carols of Christmas” parade** starts at 6:00 pm in Monticello’s Historic Downtown. Call soon to register your float or other entry. You will need to select your favorite Christmas song and then decorate your float to depict that music. All floats must be lighted and have your Christmas carol playing for everyone to hear. **NO TWO FLOATS MAY USE THE SAME SONG.** *Some entries have already been registered. No entry fee.*



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL NOTES

Class of 2023

Paul Griffin, Lay Leader/SPPRC Leader
Justin Atkins, Finance Leader
Bryan Diffie, Senior Pastor
Lori Fallon, Associate Pastor

Class of 2024

Michael James, SPPRC
Maggie Brown, Trustees
Stephanie Brown, Treasurer

Class of 2025

Walker Jarrett, SPPRC
Logan Hancock, Trustees
Dalene Stephenson, Finance

Meeting brought to order at 6:30 PM by Michael James

Opening prayer by Rev. Lori Fallon

Motion: to accept the June minutes as presented made by Stephanie Brown and seconded by Maggie Brown. All in favor. None opposed.

Financial Report Lynne Russell gave general operating budget report.

Motion: to accept financial report as given, made by Dalene Stephenson and seconded by Maggie Brown. All in favor. None opposed.

Stephanie Brown will report on July special funds at next meeting.

Old Business

The committee for the Pavilion is ready to have plans drawn up. The pad will be 50 x 80. There will be locking storage. A three-foot wall will surround open structure with openings/breaks to move tables and chairs in as needed. Planned, are six permanent picnic tables and electric ceiling fans, and a washing station in cooking area. A stage area for Praise Band or other uses discussed. May be removable structure. Landscaping will be grass for now. An estimated cost of \$100,000 is needed for this project. Jeff Felts is working on quotes with Smith's Steel and Varco Pruden. Old bus at Ryburns for repair. Estimate is \$3000 to repair the air conditioning.

Motion: to give Maggie Brown the authority to approve bus repairs, if reasonable, by Justin Atkins and seconded by Stephanie Brown. All in favor. None opposed.

Trustee Report

Precision Alarm to come out and see if phone line can be put in.

Sprinklers are not working in Prayer Garden. Call Jose Escamilla.

SPPRC

Employee manual was discussed. Paul Griffin along with Bro. Bryan will meet with all employees at special staff meeting to discuss and hand out employee manual.

Motion: to approve the Employee handbook with a few corrections made by Justin Atkins and seconded by Stephanie Brown. All in favor. None opposed.

Sr. Pastor Report

We had our first staff meeting today after taking a break for the summer. We are gearing up for the fall program. We are taking a different route, structuring it to be more informational to parents. A packet of info including a calendar will be going home in advance. The Bible time and craft will be from a VBS kit that has everything needed including music. The kit will last until the children begin practicing for the Christmas program. Then a new kit will be purchased for winter and last until the children begin practicing for Easter program.

Determining the best time and day to begin a Disciple Bible Study. We will probably begin with

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL NOTES CONT.

FUMY Youth

Youth planning a retreat and we need drivers for scavenger hunt.

Building Hope for Young Families and Professionals – Lori Fallon is teaching and hoping to grow the Sunday School class. Sent out a text to 32 people, and 10 came to dinner at La Terraza.

Enneagram Part 2 will begin in September with a virtual retreat before class.

Looking to begin a college ministry with Maggie Brown as contact. It will connect the church to college. Not looking to compete with The Welsey Foundation. Invite to church and small group.

We need help for move-in day at UAM on August 13. Call church office if you can help.

Motion: to adjourn meeting by Justin Atkins seconded by Maggie Brown. All in favor.

None opposed.

Meeting adjourned 8:04 P.M.

Next meeting Tuesday, September 5, 2023.

Closing prayer Rev. Lori Fallon



We would like to thank you
for participating in our
Baby Bottle Fundraiser. With
your church's support we
will be able to continue helping
families and saving babies!
Hope Place Monticello



What a beautiful picture of the Super Blue Moon that occurred on August 30, 2023. There will not be another Super Blue Moon until January, 2037.

A big “Thank You” to Gretchen Diffie for capturing this wonderful event with a beautiful picture of the church that evening.



September 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday Services Contemporary 9 a FLC Sunday School 10 a Traditional 11a Sanctuary			Wednesday Activities After school pick up and kids' activities FUMY After-school homework and hang	5:30-7p FUMY Midweek 6-7p Choir 6:30p Small group 7p Hand bells	1	2
3 Communion 9 & 11 a NO FUMY	4 Labor Day Office Closed 	5 Prayer Team 10 a Hopeful Hearts Noon Staff Meeting 1 p Willma Hankins 1:30 p Executive Board 6:30	6 Wednesday Activities Fish Fry, Hudspettes, French fries, colelaw & Birthday Cake 	7 FON	8	9 EHC work day FUMC Tallgate Tent UAM Family Day (need help)
10 FUMY Jr. High 5 p FUMY Sm. Group 5:30 p FUMY Supper 6-15 p FUMY Sr. High 7 p	11 Cub Scouts 5:30 p Boy Scouts 6:30 p	12 Prayer Team 10 a Lobby Prayer Circle 6p	13 Wednesday Activities Fried Chicken, Mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, corn, raw veggies, rolls, dessert Circle 5 6p	14	15	16
17 FUMY Jr. High 5 p FUMY Sm. Group 5:30 p FUMY Supper 6-15 p FUMY Sr. High 7 p	18 Cub Scouts 5:30 p Boy Scouts 6:30	19 Prayer Team 10 a	20 Wednesday Activities Roast, carrots, rice, English peas, rolls Dessert Auction to benefit Sole Purpose	21 FON	22 First Day of Autumn 	23
24 FUMY to Little Rock The Main Event Leave 12p/return 7:30 p	25 Soul Food at Wesley Cub Scouts 5:30 p Boy Scouts 6:30	26 Prayer Team 10 a Safe Prom Meeting FH 6p	27 Wednesday Activities Ham, mac & cheese, lima beans, salad, rolls, dessert	28	29 FUMY Prayer Breakfast 7 a	30 Lifeline Screening 8-5 FUMC Tallgate Tent UAM Homecoming (Need Help)

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