

Reflections

December 2023

317 S. Main Street
Monticello, AR 71655



Dear Church Family,

As I was driving home from a meeting the other day, I noticed on the back of a tractor trailer a very thought provoking statement. I later discovered that this was a quote from the motivational speaker Zig Ziglar. Here's what it said: "F-E-A-R: has two meanings: Forget Everything And Run or Face Everything And Rise. The choice is yours."

As we move into the season of Advent, there are many passages of scripture where a particular person is told to "fear not." Usually that statement is followed by an event or circumstance that could possibly scare someone to death. From the visions of prophets to the pronouncements of angels "fear not" is a major theme in the Bible.

What if we were to heed the message of prophets and angels. What if we were to move into this Advent season as well as the upcoming year leaning into what God is up to in our lives? What if we took the advice of Zig Ziglar and faced everything with confidence and surety?

If we were to do this, I am positive that God would be able to do some amazing things. It's not that God is unable to, it's just that oftentimes we put up roadblocks and impede the full scope of what God desires to do in us and through us.

As we enter into this Advent and Christmas season, let's "fear not" and fully participate in what God is up to.

Blessings,
Bryan



FUMY News



December 2023

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Jr High Refuge was an AMAZING experience!
 THANK YOU to Jaime & Ken Hunter for chaperoning Jr High Refuge with me!



FUMY did lots of mission work in November plus 11 of us went to Jr High Refuge. We had some great lessons on “temporary highs” and what it means to say Yes to Jesus plus we always tons of fun! *Special thank you to Mayor Jason Akers for talking to our youth about drugs, alcohol & vaping and the harm they cause our bodies.* We ended our month with our last Prayer Breakfast for 2023.

December brings mission work at Methodist Children’s Home in Little Rock & Christmas caroling to local nursing homes pls our annual FUMY Progressive Dinner & lock-in plus even more fun & more great lessons! We continue to welcome new youth to our incredible group! If you know of someone in the 7th-12th grade, invite them to JOIN US They are welcome!

Christ above all, *Lori*



Important FUMY Reminders:

- **Friday, December 1**- FUMY Annual Progressive Dinner, Christmas Caroling & lock-in! **4 pm (Friday) - 9:30 am (Saturday)** Please bring a gift for our dirty Santa game (\$10 value) & canned goods.
- **Sunday, December 3** - FUMY Mission work @ Methodist Children’s Home in Little Rock, **1 - 8 pm**
- **December 6 & 13**...FUMY at same times as always!
- **December 10** - **6:30-8 pm** ALL FUMY Game Night after FUMC Children’s program
- **No FUMY December 17, 2023 thru January 2, 2024.**

FUMY will resume January 3, 2024





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

Jerry Akin:	Belinda, Laura & Carrie
D.A. & Elizabeth Anderson:	Sue & David Anderson
Dr. Roland Anderson:	Sue & David Anderson
Noel & Cora Boyd:	Carolyn & John Bullock
Carolyn Brown:	Maggie & Kate Brown
Carole & Bud Bulloch:	Elizabeth, Scott, Montre & Grace Burnett
Leo & Lillian Bullock:	Carolyn & John Bullock
Dr. Bob, Joan & Dr. Bobby Burch:	LeAnne, Trey, Ashley, Katelyn & Josh
Vilma & Ken Crain:	Kathy & James Tumilson
Floy & Harry Crossett:	Cookie & Jim Crossett
Mibry & James Jackson:	Trudy & James Jackson
Herbert McKeown:	Nickie Owens
Opal & Robert Morphis:	Cookie & Jim Crossett
Jaci Calhoun Oxner:	Loyd Oxner
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Pawels:	Sue & David Anderson
John Porter Price:	Elizabeth, Scott, Montre & Grace Burnett
Betty Jo & Henry Lee Ross:	David & Sandy, Kathy, Patty & Tammy
Lois & James Ruff:	Christine, Jeff & Adalynn Felts
Thad Smith:	Louisa & Paul Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Doyle Stephenson:	Mike, Dalene & Family
Mary & Jim Tumilson:	Kathy & James Tumilson
Betty & William Waller:	Trudy & James Jackson
David Wilkins:	Ginger Wilkins
Mr. & Mrs. B.J. Wilson:	Mike, Dalene & Family

Poinsettias given to the glory of God and in loving Honor of:

“Miss” Beth and Mr. Tommy:	The Hudgens Grands—McClain, Elijah, Isaiah & Bennett
Our “Mimi” Charlotte McGarr:	Sammy, Riggs, Kolton, Max, John Michael, Will, Kelly, Brandon, Brittney Ann & Seth
Walker & Beth; Clark & Rachael; Joe & Alex; Tye & Blakely:	Stephanie & Blair Brown



Ingathering 2023

Thank you FUMC Monticello for making Ingathering 2023 a BIG success.

Between what the children collected and a few donations in the office, our church raised \$2600 for Ingathering in one week! Oh my, how generous you all are.

With the money and 20 volunteers, we bought supplies and assembled 100 hygiene kits for disaster survivors in the future. With the remaining money, we support the 200,000 Reasons ministry in our Arkansas Conference. This ministry helps to fight childhood hunger, illiteracy, and promotes family stability among the needy children.



So, your donations will not only help disaster survivors but children in our state. What a blessing for us to be in a position to help so many others.

THANK YOU!



Thank you, church family, for the sweet expressions of God's love following the death of my dad, Ken Crain. The cards, visits, prayers, food, memorials, and kind words helped so much. You welcomed him into our fellowship every Wednesday night.

Thank You! Kathy Tumilson



These are the projects that receive money from the UWF bazaar.

UWF Pledge to Mission, Methodist Family Health, UMCOR, Sound of Hope, UAM Wesley Foundation, FUMC Needy Fund, Camp Tanako, Heifer Project, FUMC Feed Out Neighbors, FUMC Sole Purpose, and UWF Scholarship.



Traditional Worship Music that Speaks to the Soul

Chancel Choir is the adult choir that leads the worship in the Traditional Service each week. They are a group of dedicated singers that rehearses each Wednesday at 6 pm in the sanctuary.

The Chancel Choir will present the cantata, **"A Glorious Christmas!"** on Sunday, December 10 at 9 a.m. in the sanctuary. This will be a **combined service** of worship. Please make plans to attend! You REALLY do not want to miss this service!!! Christmas Brunch to follow in the Family Life Center!

Bells of Hope (Adult Handbell Choir) will help to ring in the Advent season on Sunday, December 3rd in the Traditional Worship Service at 11 o'clock. This group of talented musicians will present two handbell pieces: the first piece is *"Gloria"* a variation built on James Chadwick's Christmas carol, *"Angels We Have Heard on High"*; the second piece is *"I Wonder as I Wander"* a classic Advent hymn that was written by John Jacob Niles. This hymn was based on a song fragment that Niles heard while traveling in the southern Appalachians. You will enjoy hearing the Bells of Hope play these beautiful pieces that reflect our reverence of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

This bell choir rehearses each Wednesday at 7 pm in the church sanctuary. If you are interested in ringing call Kathy Lyon, 870-308-1518, or just show up at a rehearsal. Hope to see you soon!



Children's Choir

Everyone is invited to the children's choir musical "Behold that Star" celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Join us on Sunday, December 10 at 5:30 PM in the Family Life Center (Children will meet at 4:00 PM in FLC for dress rehearsal). There will be a reception to follow. We hope all can make it!

Mrs. Kathy

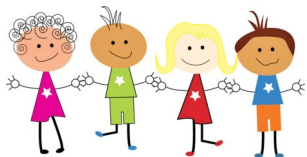


Children's Handbell Choir

The Children's Handbells did an amazing job of playing *"Glorioso"* in the Traditional Service on November 12! It is always a special time in our worship service when the children participate! If you missed their presentation you can log on to fb.com/fumcmonticello to view this special service.



Free music theory games at www.studyforfive.co.uk



Children's Ministry



On Sunday, November 5, Cheslee Oxner was baptized and joined our church fellowship. God bless you, Cheslee, as you continue to grow in God's grace and love.



On Sunday, November 12 two of our children and their moms showed us their Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes. Henry and Katelyn Busby shared their thoughts (while they were filling their shoebox) at the 9:00 service, and Jack and Andi Wagner did the same at the 11:00 service. THANK YOU! Our church family collected 31 shoeboxes for this ministry. THANK YOU to everyone who filled a shoebox and who gave money toward this mission.



Please notice the children's picture with the Flood Buckets. This picture is from the 11:00 service on November 12, though children passed out buckets at the 9:00 service, as well. Thank you to Ms. Dalene Stephenson who asked the children to participate in this worthwhile ministry.

A SPECIAL "Thank You" to Nickie and Jimmy Owens for helping out with Children's Sunday school!

Please continue praying for our children by name.
Kim and 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



Wednesday Night Meals

Meals subject to change without notice

December 6 — Breakfast casserole, biscuits, gravy, sausage, bacon & Birthday cake

December 13 — Pinto beans, greens, fried potatoes, ham, cornbread & peach cobbler

See you in 2024



December Preaching Schedule

- December 3, 2023** “A Light Has Dawned”
Isaiah 9:2, 5-7
- December 10, 2023** “The Genealogy of Jesus”
Matthew 1:3-17
- December 17, 2023** “The Shepherd’s Faith”
Luke 2:8-20
- December 24, 2023** “Mary’s Faith”
Luke 1:27-38
- Christmas Eve** “The Doctrine of Christmas”
1 John 1:1-4
- December 31, 2023** “A Sword in the Soul”
Luke 2:33-35

Sole Purpose

While we might think our Sole Purpose event is behind us until next year, nothing could be further from the truth! There are children in our community that still have needs and we continue to try to meet those.

In January, letters will go to both of our school districts’ elementary classroom teachers. They are asked to look closely at their students. This is a good time to *really* look at these boys and girls. If they need coats and shoes and didn’t get them for Christmas, they probably aren’t going to get them in time for our cold winter months. Who needs a coat? Who needs new shoes? Who needs socks, gloves or underwear? The teachers identify these students, and we will take items to the schools and fit them.

We are able to continue this ministry through the winter because of the generosity and commitment of our members. Thank you, FUMC!



THANK YOU to the
UAM nursing students
who generously gifted
Our Neighbors with a

smoked bone-in ham this
THANKSGIVING. The students
raised over \$1000 to purchase
seventy hams so that each family
we serve every other week could
receive one.

Six of the nursing students
unpacked food boxes, put out the
food, and filled the bags that we
later distributed to Our Neighbors.

What a beautiful way to partner
with us as we Feed Our Neighbors!

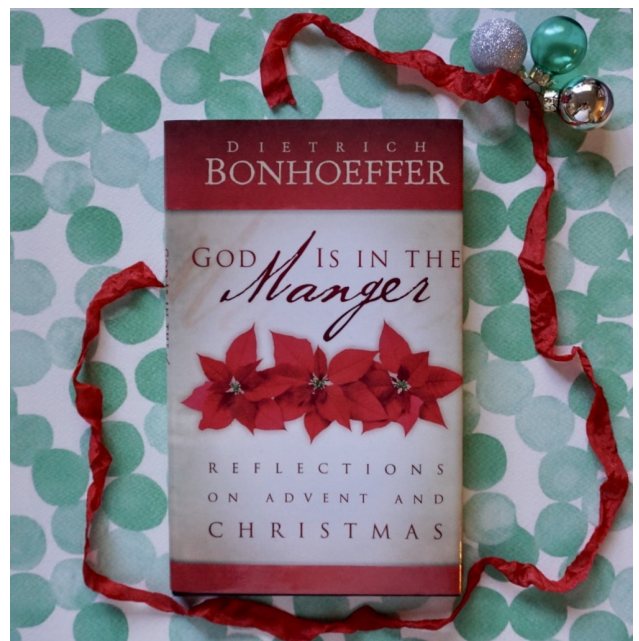
The FON Ministry Team

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



This Advent season, Bro. Bryan
will be sharing an online
devotional centered around
Dietrich Bonhoeffer's classic
work *God is in the Manger:
Reflections on Advent and
Christmas*.

This devotional will be shared
once a week through a OneCall
email.





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

NO FUMY during Christmas Break

Mondays:

- 5:30 PM Cub Scouts FH/weekly
6:30 PM Boy Scouts FH/weekly
No Scouts after December 18
8:00 PM College Ministry/weekly

Tuesdays:

- 10:00 AM Prayer Team/weekly
12:00 PM Hopeful Hearts 12/5
1:00 PM Staff 12/12
1:30 PM Wilma Hankins-Wesley Rm 12/5
6:00 PM Circle 3 12/12
7:00 PM Executive Board 12/12

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)

**Christmas Break begins after school on:
Monticello 12/15 — Drew Central 12/20
No Wednesday Activities during Christmas
Break.**



**Communion in December
will be on December 24
during Christmas Eve
Service @ 6 p.m. in the
sanctuary.**



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

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

John Clower:

Helen Guenter

Kenneth Crain:

Belinda & Dave Carpenter
Kate & Don Koen
Christine & Jeff Felts
Sandy & David Funderburg
Judy Murphy
Susan Musick
Diane & Mark Pennington
Patty Ross
Renee Treadwell
Jo Nell & Don Warren (Ken & Vilma Crain)
Brenda Wright

Mary Godwin:

Helen Guenter
The Men's Coffee Group

Roy (Bimbo) Huskey:


Helen Guenter
Brenda Wright

Sammy Searcy:

Helen Guenter

Billie Sue Wilson:

Linda Beer
Mary Calhoun
Janice & BJ Goodman
John & Cecille Green
Judy Murphy
Patty Ross
Brenda Wright



The Church Bazaar

From: Judy Bynum

For weeks ahead, the women
Had been planning an event
That brought the town together
With little money spent.

With Susan leading the brigade
Of ladies working hard,
They divided up the list of jobs
And started moving forward.

The table of the Family Life
Center, where early church
Is held at nine each Sunday,
Had to be moved and worked.

As areas for the vendors
Who sought to sell their wares,
As well as tables to eat soup
And cornbread over there.

Dalene was crawling on her knees,
With measuring tape in hand,
While Louisa taped the floor with lines
To divide where tables stand

In rows next to the pathway
Among the festive tables:
Why, I just wanted to buy some
Of all, if I'd been able!

There were snacks of every size and shape
To stuff a stocking sweetly;
There were fresh wreaths smelling of the woods
From where the boughs were neatly

Trimmed and fashioned in a circle round,
With bow amid the greens:
Oh, such a luscious smell and sight
As I had ever seen!

The woodworked bowls of every type
Of tree that could be found
Were smoothed and polished to a sheen
In perfectly crafted rounds

There were wooden pens and openers
To make our writing fun,
While drinking little 8-ounce Cokes
When Christmas cards are done.

Fresh hot tamales, knitted toys,
Bright quilted table runners,
Bags of pre-wrapped goodies
To make a Christmas funner!



Why, there was cornbread dressing,
All mixed and ready to
Be baked Thanksgiving morning
Without all the "to do"

That usually is a necessity
To fix it just like Mom's —
Just put it in a Pyrex dish
And claim it at your own!

T-shirts, paintings, earrings, bracelets,
All within the range
Of someone buying presents,
Yet getting back some change.

The camaraderie of friends
From all around the town
Greeting those from other churches,
Both new and old friends found,

Created a cacophony
Of music of this place
That laced the smiles and laughter
To well-define this space.

For here was a community
Of true diversity,
Of folks from other walks of life,
Of believers, just like me,

Who delighted in the purest joy
Of having a bazaar
To bind the crowd together
From places near and far

To simply have a time to play
Inside, out of the weather,
Complete with hearty country lunch
Before festive time was over.

Then it was time to shut the doors,
To pack things up in tube,
To rearrange the tables
For tomorrow's early church;

The missions of the women
Had new finding to bestow
On projects of the community
To give others and to show



The love they have for people
Less fortunate than we:
Praise God from Whom all blessings flow!
For the bazaar that funded these.





December 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Group to Sager Brown FUMY Mission Work in LittleRock	4 Cub Scouts 5:30 p Boy Scouts 6:30 Erneagram 6 p College Ministry 8 p FLC	5 Prayer Team 10 a Hopeful Hearts Noon Wilma Hankins 1:30 p	6 Wednesday Activities Meatloaf, party potatoes, green beans, salad, rolls Birthday Cake	7	8 Sager Brown group returns	9
10 Christmas Carntata Sanctuary 9 a Brunch 10 a Children's Cantata 5:30 p FUMY 6:30-8 p	11 Cub Scouts 5:30 p Boy Scouts 6:30 Erneagram 6 p College Ministry 8 p FLC	12 Prayer Team 10 a Staff Meeting 1 p UWF Christmas Potluck hosted by Libby Annyllis Circle 6:30 p Executive Board 7:00 p	13 Wednesday Activities Leftover night!!	14 FON	15	16 Wreaths Across America 11 a Oakland Cemetery 
17 NO FUMY	18 Cub Scouts 5:30 p Boy Scouts 6:30	19	20 NO Wednesday Activities	21	22 Office closed	23
24 Worship @ 9 a FLC Christmas Eve Service Sanctuary 6 p with Communion	25 Christmas Day 	26	27 NO Wednesday Activities	28 FON	29	30
31 NO FUMY New Year's Eve		Christmas Break	Christmas Break	Christmas Break	Christmas Break	5:30-7p FUMY Midweek 6-7p Choir 6:30p Small group 7p Hand bells
		Christmas Break	Christmas Break		Wednesday Activities After school pick up and kids' activities FUMY Afterschool homework and hang time	

December Services

December 3, 2023

9:00 AM in FLC

11:00 AM in Sanctuary

December 10, 2023

Adult Cantata

9:00 AM in Sanctuary

10:00 AM Potluck Brunch FLC

Children's Cantata

5:30 PM in FLC

December 17, 2023

9:00 AM in FLC

11:00 AM in Sanctuary

December 24, 2023

9:00 AM in FLC

Christmas Eve Service

6:00PM in Sanctuary

December 31, 2023

9:00 AM in FLC

11:00 AM in Sanctuary

Office Closed

Friday, December 22

Monday, December 26

Tuesday, December 27

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