

Reflections

July 2024

317 S. Main Street
Monticello, AR 71655



Friends,

The 2024 session of the Arkansas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church is as they say, "in the books." I have always considered Annual Conference to be one of the highlights of each year. I enjoy going, but I am as equally excited to get back home and get to work. It is here, in this local church, that ministry happens. It is through this church that the people in Monticello and Drew County have the opportunity to see Jesus. We are more than a church, we are the visible presence of Jesus to those around us. When we become aware of this fact, and begin to embrace that we are more than just a gathered group of people, we become the change agents that God is calling and equipping us to be.

In Matthew 19:26, Jesus reminds us that "with God all things are possible." As we begin another year together, let's make this our mission statement as well as our goal. Let's not look at what we can or cannot do, but rather let's look at what God desires to do through us. When we do this, we will find ourselves living with passion, purpose, and unlimited possibilities. Have a great and happy Summer!

Blessings,
Bryan R. Diffie

FUMY News

July 2024

FUMY had BUSY and FUN-FILLED June. We have welcomed 7 new 7th graders and have had a blast getting to know them! The first week of June, we helped with FUMC's Vacation Bible School. Our youth helped in many ways sharing the love of Jesus with all of the kiddos! Plus, we enjoyed all of the fellowship it provided all of us, as well. We went to Top Golf in Little Rock and had so much fun! Thank you to Jaime & Ken Hunter, Maggie Brown & Laura Smith Hockaday for chaperoning with me! Plus we had an awesome scavenger hunt around the church and some epic games of "Sardines" plus hang time in the youth room and at church! We are ending the month of June with our annual FUMY Mission Trip. Our group of 18 youth & adults are headed to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. We will be gone June 22 - 29. We'll tell you all about it when we return from our trip!

July is on the horizon and we are looking forward to more mission work and fellowship time! Our annual FUMY Rummage Sale will be July 12 & 13. We'll begin accepting rummage July 7 - 11 in the FLC. We plan to go bowling plus go to The Main Event in Little Rock and have a swim party at the Burnetts' home. We also plan to do some other mission work! We hope that it works out for us to read with the children that are at Project Transformation in Pine Bluff. Plus we plan to restock our blessing box & clean up around church.

God continues to work through our youth in mighty ways! I hope that you will find time to get to know these amazing young people. May the Lord bless you and keep you...and may we seek **to Love God and to Love People.**

Christ above all, *Lori*



Reminders:

- [Redacted]
- **July 7-11** - FUMY sets up for Rummage Sale (FLC)
- **July 12** - FUMY Rummage Sale 6:30 am - 1 pm
- **July 13** - FUMY "Free" Rummage 6:30 am - 11 am
- **July 21** - FUMY to The Main Event in Little Rock, 12:30 - 8:30 pm, \$20 each
- **July 28** - FUMY Swim Party @ The Burnetts' Home, 2:30 - 7 pm

Happy Independence Day





The FON Ministry Team

We are continuing to fill bags and distribute food to Our Neighbors every other week all through the summer months. We actually continue to do this all year long every other week even when holiday seasons are upon us.

Thanks be to God for this faithful team, for all of your fervent prayers for this ministry, for your monetary gifts, and for your gifts of food.

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

Vacation Bible School 2024

PLEASE NOTICE THE VBS PICTURE.

What a wonderful Vacation Bible School we had!

THANK YOU to each of you that helped BEFORE, DURING, and AFTER.

THANK YOU to those who PRAYED for VBS.

THANK YOU for praying for the children to learn more about their walk with GOD.

GOD was TRULY present with us!

Ms. Brenda and Ms. Kim

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



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:

Tuesdays:

10:00 AM Prayer Team/weekly
12:00 PM Hopeful Hearts 7/2
1:30 PM Wilma Hankins-Wesley Rm 7/9
6:00 PM Executive Board 7/2
6:30 PM Small Group FLC Foyer—weekly

Wednesdays: Weekly

Times vary FUMY Mid-week
see youth calendar
8:00 PM Small Group/Conf. Room

Thursdays:

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

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

Levin Johnson:

Samuel Arnett

Paul Lawson:

Judy Murphy
Afternoon Owls Extension Homemakers Club

FUMY Rummage Sale...

Our youth group welcomes **all rummage donations** beginning after 9 am worship on **Sunday, JULY 7 until Wednesday, JULY 10 to our Family Life Center** *plus we welcome the Church Family (only) to shop while we set up (just give us a donation.)*

If something is too heavy, please call Lori @ 723-4968 & we will arrange a pick up.

Proceeds will go toward monthly FUMY Mission work & Mission Projects.

Public Sale date: July 12 & Free Day: July 13

Hopeful Hearts will meet on



July 2 @ noon in the
Family Life Center.

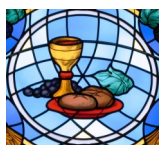
Calling all students going into the 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grade!

You're invited to join us for the first annual FUMC Monticello Summer Camp, July 29 -- August 1, 8:30am to noon. The activities include art, baking, exercising, science, and puppetry!

Visit

<https://form.jotform.com/241767323069158>

and sign up TODAY!



Communion in June will be on July 14 during both services.

The FUMC Monticello Kids Camp will cost \$30.00 per child.

**For financial assistance please contact Amanda Gilbert at*

870-723-4145.



Sole Purpose Gearing Up!

Last Sunday, Tommy Smith gave his own personal testimony about the ways in which our Sole Purpose event has touched his life. Yes, we know it touches the lives of countless parents and children in our community but, oh, my, what it does to us as members of the church! Tommy shared that experience with our congregation and invited everyone in our congregation and all of those online to join with us this year. Thank you, Tommy!

We are gearing up! While Sole Purpose is still three (3) months off, now is the time we begin to get very busy—getting children registered, inviting parents, inviting other churches, ordering, ordering, ordering! So what are our needs **NOW**? If you want to be involved in this part of the ministry, here are a few ways that you can help:

1. We need a volunteer coordinator. This will involve inviting other churches through letters that are already prepared and gathering enough volunteers to help with the preliminary set-up on Thursday evening prior to the Sunday distribution.
2. Putting health kits together for children. This year, through a generous donation from another church in our community, we are able to provide health kits for every child. We have the materials—they need assembling.
3. Putting activity kits together. Last year, families waited in our sanctuary until their time to get shoes. We had so many families in need last year that this resulted in a long wait for these children. This year we will be putting activity packets together for them. Again, another church in our community is offering us a great deal of assistance in this.
4. Putting together a data base of children's names and sizes. These will be used in the ordering process and at our registration tables on distribution day.
5. Addressing and sending reminder forms home to children the week before distribution.
6. Sorting the children's books

And we still need funds—we ALWAYS appreciate how blessed we are by your gifts that make this event possible.

And we are going to need volunteers on September 29! It takes many, many people to make this happen.

One more thing that needs to be mentioned! Did you notice above that other churches are beginning to join us in this mission? That has been our goal all along—that as a community we come together and take care of our children.

God's hand is all over this mission! Let us do His work.

"We are blessed to be a blessing!"

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL NOTES

Class of 2024

Michael James, Lay Leader/SPPRC Leader
Maggie Brown, Trustees
Stephanie Brown, Finance Leader
Bryan Diffee, Senior Pastor
Lori Fallon, Associate Pastor

Class of 2025

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

Class of 2026

Michael Blazier, SPPRC
John Kidwell, Trustees
Valerie Harvey, Finance

Meeting brought to order at 6:00 PM by Michael James
Opening prayer by Bro. Bryan Diffee

Motion: to accept the May 2024 minutes as presented made by Walker Jarrett and seconded by Stephanie Brown. All in favor. None opposed.

Financial Report – Dalene Stephenson gave report on Special Accounts, and Lynne Russell gave report on May financials.

Motion to accept financial reports as presented made by Walker Jarrett and seconded by Maggie Brown. All in favor. None opposed.

Pledges are down from last year

Old Business

- Continuing discussion on turning the Preschool room into a sensory/storage area. Julie Smith spoke with Cole Hawkins regarding building a wall in old pre-school room. Would not be permanent.
- Cole Hawkins will install the baby changing station in unisex bathroom in Family Life Center.
- Julie Smith to get pictures of the proposed pavilion printed. They will be displayed so that congregation will know what the proposed structure will be.

New Business

Discussion held on survey put to the church members regarding the changes made to the Book of Discipline at 2024 General Conference. Below are the results of the survey

- Monticello FUMC should allow church to be used for same-sex marriage: disagree, 55; neutral, 21; agree, 27
- Member will leave Monticello FUMC if church is allowed for same-sex marriage: disagree, 33; neutral, 21; agree, 27
- Monticello FUMC should not consider sexual orientation in pastor appointments: disagree, 57; neutral, 9; agree, 37
- Member will leave Monticello FUMC if homosexual pastor is assigned: disagree, 28; neutral, 8; agree, 72
- Does member want to learn more about these issues in church meeting: disagree, 28; neutral, 19; agree, 51
- Does member feel less certain about Monticello FUMC membership: disagree, 43; neutral, 18; agree, 31
- Overall supportive of postponed 2020 General Conference decisions: disagree, 28; neutral, 19; agree, 51

Regarding discussions that council members had with members, could there have been some confusion on questions?

Could there be ore pointed data collected?

A decision is needed tonight so that a statement can go out to church members.

Motion: to modify the building use agreement policy at First United Methodist Church to not allow same-sex marriages to be permitted on church premises. All in favor. None opposed.

Motion: to notify the district superintendent and the Arkansas Conference that Monticello FUMC does not wish to be appointed clergy who is a practicing homosexual. All in favor. None opposed.

SPPRC Report -- None

Trustees Report

- The older bus had to have more repairs to the AC system. No more money put into bus. Just drive around town.
- Griffin Heating and Air came to service the unit that serves the third floor on sanctuary side. It needed Freon. If leak persists, unit may need to be replaced.
- The smell in church may be due to opening in basement that leads to under sanctuary. A screened insert may be necessary to keep out animals, but allow air flow.
- Julie Smith and Cole Hawkins getting ideas to take out disabled elevator and putting in an ADA ramp.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL NOTES CONT.

Pastor Report

- VBS is almost finished. On average, we had 69 children in attendance.
- The 7:15 AM morning prayer service will continue until June 18, 2024. There have been a couple people attending in person, but online there have been 100 or more daily tuning in.
- Mark Pace from Gideons will be here on June 23, 2024, to speak and TJ Hill will be the lay servant for the service.
- June 30, 2024 is the fifth Sunday; so there will be one service at 11:00 o'clock in the sanctuary with a luncheon following in the Family Life Center.
- July 14 through August 4, 2024, the sermon series will be on Camp Meeting Revival. We will use the props from VBS.
- Witness Sunday is June 30, 2024 with mission reflection.
- Bro. Bryan has been writing a weekly article for the Advance since January, which is making an impact in the community outside of the church. Prisoners get the paper and are writing in with feedback.

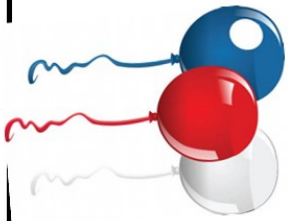
Assoc. Pastor Report

- The CPR class for staff working with children has been cancelled because of an emergency in the teacher's family.
- The Witness Team, headed by Liz Burnett and Amanda Gilbert, are so excited to work on growing the church.
- The newsletter is on the tables in the Family Life Center for those who want to pick one up.
- We plan on transitioning from using OneCall, a paid subscription, to Remind, a free app that the schools use, to be phased in this Fall.
- FUMY has welcomed our incoming 7th graders to the group of youth that meet on Sundays and Wednesdays.
- FUMY rummage sale will begin collecting on July 7 after worship and setting up in the Family Life Center for the sale on July 12 and 13. On Saturday the 13th, everything is free.
- My second Spiritual Direction training session was in late May. Next session will be in October.
- On June 30, 2024, Tee Bolin will come and speak about Lay Servant Ministry.

Meeting adjourned 7:30 P.M.
Closing prayer Rev. Lori Fallon

Next meeting Tuesday, July 2, 2024 @ 6:00 PM in FLC .
All are welcome to attend.





July 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 2 3	4 5 6	7 8 9	10 11 12	13 14 15
7 ALL FUMY 4-7 p Begin bringing rummage	8 ALL FUMY 1-5 p Rummage Sale set-up	9 Prayer team 10 a Wilma Hankins Circle 1:30 p Small group 6:30 p ALL FUMY 1-5 p Rummage Sale set-up	10 ALL FUMY 4-7 p Rummage Sale set-up	11 ALL FUMY 9 a Rummage Sale set-up Feed Our Neighbors 11 a	12 Youth Rummage Sale FLC 6:30 a — 1p	13 Youth Rummage Sale FLC 6:30 a — 1 p EHC Work day FH 9 a
14 Communion ALL FUMY Bowling 5-7 p	15	16 Prayer team 10 a Small group 6:30 p	17 ALL FUMY 5-7 p	18	19	20
21 ALL FUMY 12:30—8:30 p To Main Event in Little Rock	22	23 Small group 6:30 p Prayer team 10 a Small group 6:30 p	24 ALL FUMY 5-7 p	25 Feed Our Neighbors 11 a	26	27
28 All FUMY Swim Party 2:30-7p	29 8:30a—12p FUMC Monticello Kid's Camp	30 8:30a—12p FUMC Monticello Kid's Camp Prayer team 10 a Small group 6:30 p	31 8:30a—12p FUMC Monticello Kid's Camp ALL FUMY 5-7 p	August 1 8:30a—12p FUMC Monticello Kid's Camp		