

# Reflections November 2024



**FUMC MONTICELLO**

317 S MAIN 870-367-2471

9AM CONTEMPORARY

10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

11AM TRADITIONAL



Friends,

Once, a writer tried to imagine what would happen if the stars were entirely obscured for a hundred years and then suddenly started shining on some clear night. One thing that would surely happen is that nearly everyone would be out looking up and enjoying the beauty of the heavens as never before. Most of us do not look at the stars more frequently because they have always been there and have, therefore, become commonplace to us. It is so with a great many of our blessings. The air that we breathe, the food that we eat, the water with which we quench our thirst, and other things necessary to our happiness and well-being are accepted as a matter of course. For many, there is no thought of gratitude or thanksgiving to the One who has made these blessings possible. With us, it is not intentional ingratitude. We have become so accustomed to having them that there is no sense of wonder in our hearts. The Apostle Paul reminds us, however, that we should be *"giving thanks always for all things unto God!"* (Ephesians 5:20)

So, in the spirit of Thanksgiving and at the beginning of the month that marks this holiday, I would like to ask: "What are you thankful for?" What are the blessings that we oftentimes take for granted? So often we focus so much on what we do not have that we forget about what we do have. We focus so much on the negative to the exclusion of the positive. I encourage you to reflect this month, as much as possible, on what you have to be thankful for and give God the praise for those blessings.

*"When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed,  
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,  
Count your many blessings; name them one by one,  
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done."*

("Count Your Blessings" | Johnson Oatman, Jr., pub.1897)

Blessings,

Bro. Bryan

# FUMY News

November 2024



FUMY had lots of happenings in October! FUMY started it off by heading to the Drew County Fair for a night of fun & fellowship. We attended "Fields of Faith" on October 23rd with a whole stadium full of teenagers & youth workers praising God in worship together. We had a delicious prayer breakfast on October 25 AND we had a fun night carving & painting pumpkins at Maggie's home on October 27! We met with our small groups and talked about where our hope comes from & what it means to be a Christian disciple. Plus we dove deeper into the book of Luke and the book of 1st Peter and on Wednesdays we talked about what it means to live our lives with purpose! Our last Wednesday of October was spent hosting games for our church's annual Halloween Fall Festival on 10/30. So much fun!



As we head into hopefully some cooler weather, November comes with lots of reasons to be thankful! With the help of our children's ministry (who are decorating the brown bags), **we'll have brown bags on Sunday, November 10 for you to pick up.** Please fill them with non-perishable items and return them **by noon on Sunday, November 24**, so that we can give them to food insecure families. On Wednesdays in November we're exploring the wonder of worship, The Lord's Prayer and what does the Trinity really mean. Sundays we'll have our small groups & snack suppers together. Plus we'll do mission work on November 10, have our monthly prayer breakfast and give out Thanksgiving baskets to food insecure families before we enjoy a week-long thanksgiving break right before Advent begins.

As always, FUMY seeks to be the hands & feet of Jesus! We cannot do all that we do without your love, support & prayers! God bless all of you!

Christ above all, *Lori*

## Snack Supper List:

November 3	Ashlee Orrell
November 10	FUMY
November 17	Reneé Holland
November 24	Monica Sims



## Important Dates:

- Nov 10: Local Mission work
- Nov 22: Prayer Breakfast
- Nov 24: All filled Thanksgiving bags due @ noon, 3-7 pm FUMY to deliver & hand out Thanksgiving bags to food insecure families plus supper



## Join us for Ingathering 2024!

November 23, 2024  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The HUB  
2310 E Oak St, Conway, AR 72032  
(Behind Wesley UMC, Conway)

Each year your Ingathering donations are used to help disaster survivors nationally. Whether it be a small-town event, statewide disaster, or helping our neighbors.

As with so much in our lives, we tend to start taking the easy way out, so as soon as an event happens (and the area is safe), teams will start walking the neighborhoods with our new Family Bags. Our main purpose is to make sure everyone is safe and has questions answered. This has three (3) objectives; show God's love, provide a small number of supplies, and help the local pastors check on their congregations. The pastors are experiencing the disaster also and are overwhelmed.

We are asking for donations to purchase a small shower/laundry trailer. This trailer would be used primarily for the volunteers. There have been times when we couldn't respond because we could not provide a sanitary environment, such as showers.

This year, items can be ordered from an Amazon wish list and sent directly to The HUB.

This year's collections consist of:

Hygiene Kits, Cleaning (flood) Buckets, and Monetary Donations for AR Disaster Ministry Shower/Laundry Trailer & 200,000 More Reasons.

[Amazon Wish List Link](#) if link does not work, copy and paste into your browser.

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2VGZCVJZY9N8H/ref=hz\\_ls\\_biz\\_ex](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2VGZCVJZY9N8H/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex)

ARKANSAS CONFERENCE

### **Emergency Response Training**

11/9/24  
8:30:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
N109



For more information or to sign up

[FirstChurchSpringdale.org/connectional-missions](http://FirstChurchSpringdale.org/connectional-missions)

If you are interested in Emergency Response Training, call the church office at 870-367-2471 for more information.



Please notice the two photos from Children's Sunday school. The children were learning about making altars to God. These are their creations.

Adalynn and Christine Felts are in the third photograph. They talked about OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD at the 11 o'clock service.

Please pick up your shoebox (directions are inside each box) from the OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD display in either the FLC or the Sanctuary. Boxes are due no later than 11 o'clock on Sunday morning, November 24.

Please continue to pray for our children as they learn more and more about Jesus through words and actions.

Ms. Brenda and Ms. Kim  
"And He took the children up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them."



## The FON Ministry Team

THANK YOU for your continuous contributions to this ministry. Without you we would not be able to help the food insecure in our area.

THANK YOU to the twenty volunteers that make sure the food is ordered, counted, bagged, and distributed to the 70 or so families we help every other week.

As members of our church family, you are sincerely appreciated for your prayers for this ministry. Always!



Feeding the Community

Please help us with these food items:

Peanut Butter

Boxes of Cereal

Small cans of chicken

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



If you would like to place a poinsettia in memory or honor of a loved one, please complete the order form that will be in the November 10, 2024 bulletin, and I need them returned no later than December 1, 2024. I do not yet have a price for this year's plants, but it will be on the order form.

## 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:

- 1:00 PM Disciple Bible Study  
5:30 PM Cub Scouts FH  
6:30 PM Boy Scouts FH  
7:00 PM College Ministry Small Group

### Tuesdays:

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

### Wednesdays: Weekly

- 1:00 PM Libby Annulis Circle — Nov. 20  
3:30 PM Wednesday After-school Activities  
3:30 PM FUMY Hang Time  
5:00 PM Wednesday Night supper  
5:30 PM FUMY Midweek  
8:00 PM Small Group/Conf. Room

### Thursdays:

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



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



**Communion in November  
will be on November 3  
during both services.**

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

### Pauline Cockrell

Belinda & Dave Carpenter  
Bennie & Buck Henderson  
Susan Musick  
Kathy & James Tumilson

### Lu Ann Denison

Sue & David Anderson  
Nelwyn & Hoyt Birch  
Dennis Dodson  
Helen Guenter  
Joy & Dennis Holley  
Kay & Don Koen  
Judy & Jack Lassiter  
Tommy Maxwell

### Jerri Higgins

FUMC Staff  
Belinda & Dave Carpenter  
Lisa & Cliff Gibson  
Bennie & Buck Henderson  
Joy & Dennis Holley  
Kathy & Jere Johnston  
Charlotte McGarr  
Susan Musick

### Paul Lawson

Helen Guenter

### Tom Rabb

Helen Guenter  
Joy & Dennis Holley

### Grady Tabor:

Helen Guenter

Shepherd Classes of Monticello were enjoyed by approximately 30 senior citizens in our community each Tuesday morning in October. The classes always began with a devotion followed by card games, crafts, bingo, trivia, line dancing, and a great assortment of snacks. A field trip to The Desha County Museum with lunch at Pickens Restaurant was a highlight. We ended our season with a delicious potluck. Many thanks to everyone who served on the planning committee, the volunteers who led the games and classes, the pastors that brought devotions, and the attendees. This is a great time for those age 50 and up to socialize and enjoy life. Mark your calendars for every Tuesday in October 2025 from 9:00 to noon.





*First United Methodist Church*  
**Holiday Bazaar**  
*Family Life Center*

100's of Handmade Items!



Lunch—\$5.00  
Served 11:00—1:00 p.m.  
Menu:  
Soup  
Cornbread  
Dessert  
Drink



317 South Main  
Monticello, AR  
November 9, 2024  
9:00 – 2:00

All proceeds go to missions!

Donations are welcome for the United Women of Faith Methodist Church table.

The donations can be food, breads, cakes, frozen meals, or other homemade household items.

Please bring your donations to the FLC by 9:00 AM on Saturday, November 9.



The AR Travelers sponsored by First United Methodist Church recently returned from a wonderful bus tour to South Dakota. A group of 48 boarded a brand new Mercedes-Benz Motorcoach and departed for the legendary Black Hills of South Dakota. We visited the World War I Museum, the famous Corn Palace, Mount Rushmore National Memorial, Custard State Park, Crazy Horse Monument, High Plains Heritage Center, a guided tour of Deadwood, and so much more! We were blessed with a safe, Christian driver, beautiful weather, amazing harmony and comradery between the travelers. We thank God for the blessings we received on this trip.

**Where are we going in 2025?** Beautiful Maine, September 19 - 29, 2025. We will tour Smithsonian Air & Space Museum, guided tour of seaside city of Portland, view Longfellow's boyhood home, tour of Pineland Farms, costal villages of Kennebunk and Kennebunkport, plus much more. **Cost is \$1739 per person for a double occupancy room or \$2284 per person for a single room.** We have already filled one bus and have a second bus half filled. If you are interested in joining us, please call Dalene at 870-723-0650. Brochures can be found on bulletin tables. A \$75 deposit holds you a spot on the bus.



## You're Invited to a Parsonage Open House!

Join us for a special Open House at our parsonage! We are excited to welcome you into our home and share fellowship with our church community.

**Date:** November 10

**Time:** 2:00 - 4:00 pm

**Location:** 208 Glenwood Drive

Enjoy refreshments provided by the Diffees and see the lovely home that you provide for your Senior Pastor and family. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Church Family Help Needed:

- Fill a decorated brown bag (or 2) with non-perishable items.
- Invite your neighbor to fill a bag
- Please bring your bag(s) to the Fellowship Hall by *noon on Sunday, November 24.*



- All items will be used to make Thanksgiving Baskets for food insecure families identified through the schools in our area.

## The Purpose of Sole Purpose

Every kid should have new shoes  
With a pair of socks,  
As well as a warm coat to wear  
When the winter rocks!

And wouldn't it be nice to get  
A new book and a Bible,  
So Mom and Dad can read to me,  
Even if I'm able?

A hot dog lunch will be nice, too,  
With relish and a sweet,  
'Cause being given all these things  
Has made me want to eat.

The big church at the end of Main  
Was scary, until we entered;  
And then we saw immediately  
Where their hearts were centered!

Everyone was so nice to us,  
Showing us the way  
To where the coats and shoes and stuff  
For us were on display.

As we left, we thanked them all  
With smiles upon our face,  
Skipping in our new school shoes  
Or running fast to race!

Cannot wait to show my friends  
When I get to school!  
Oh, how nice to have new shoes  
Like all kids who are cool.

I'm not sure that the big church knows  
How much this has meant,  
Not just for the kids, but also  
For all our thankful parents.

We learned that the sole purpose  
Of inviting us to enter  
Was to be sure each one of us  
Left feeling like a winner!

Jesus loves me, this I know  
Because this church succeeds  
To be the hands and feet of God  
Meeting others' needs.

by Judy Bynum



## **FUMC College Ministry**

Our Small Group meets on  
**Monday nights @ 7 pm** in the FLC.  
*We invite anyone out of high school to  
join our group!*



For more info, contact  
Maggie Brown @ 870-723-4051



Scouting this month has been everything for the Outdoor requirements for our Cub Scouts. We have been working on various requirements that involve learning the Outdoor Code and the Principles of Leave No Trace. Some of our scouts participated in the De Soto District Fall Campout "Fall into Cubs" at Camp De Soto this month.

Our Scouts BSA Troop continues to work on Hiking Merit Badge requirements and our three Scouts closest to Eagle rank had a work day with Dr. Clare Norcio. During October the Troop participated in the District Fall Camporee at Ross Rhodes Scout Reservation in Bismarck.

For the month of November both groups will be working on their service to the community by participating in the De Soto District Scouting for Food campaign.



# EXECUTIVE COUNCIL NOTES

## Class of 2024

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

## Class of 2025

Walker Jarrett, SPPRC  
Tommy Smith, Trustees  
Dalene Stephenson, Treasurer

## Class of 2026

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

Meeting brought to order at 6:05 PM by Michael James

Opening prayer by Bro. Bryan Diffie

**Motion:** to accept the September 2024 minutes as presented made by John Kidwell seconded by Valerie Harvey. All in favor. None opposed.

**Financial Report** – Dalene Stephenson gave report on September Special Accounts, and Lynne Russell will email September Financials at a later date.

There are PPP funds in special accounts that can be utilized for general budget, and there is \$91,000 in AR Foundation (that are not memorials) that can be utilized for general budget if needed. It would take 48 hours to be transferred.

**Motion** to accept Special Funds financial report as presented by Stephanie Brown and seconded by John Kidwell. All in favor. None opposed.

**Motion** to move funds from Building Fund to depreciation and maintenance to erase negative balance made by Walker Jarrett and seconded by Maggie Brown. All in favor. None opposed.

Discussion on letter to be sent to congregation to create awareness regarding financial deficit and encourage second-mile giving and pledging in 2025. All members of Executive Council to sign and letter to be mailed out with third quarter giving statements.

## Old Business

Update on tree removal – November 2, 2024. We need trailers to haul off wood from the tree removal.

Sensory room update – wall and simple shelving will happen soon.

Suspend fund-raising on Pavilion. Remove slide from announcements.

Flooring needs will be addressed in the future as funds allow.

Get another quote from the Escamillas on fence around parsonage. Due to current finances, Bro. Diffie to purchase the fence at this time and be reimbursed as finances allow.

## New Business – None

## SPPRC Report

A couple of people have expressed interest in the Children's Program Director. More info at next meeting.

## Trustees Report – None

## Pastor Report

Charge Conference will be here on November 24, 2024 @ 3:30 PM. The Conference Packet will be turned in by October 2, 2024. No changes in Pastor salaries in 2024.

Men's fish fry on October 24 at 6:00 PM.

**Motion** to approve Conference Packet as presented made by Maggie Brown and seconded by John Kidwell. All in favor. None opposed.

## Assoc. Pastor Report

Young Professional Sunday school class continues to meet.

Church members volunteered at Miracle League on September 28, 2024.

Youth to the Drew County Fair on October 2, 2024.

Course of Study – October 12, 2024

Spiritual Direction – in Mt. Eagle from October 13 – 17, 2024.

Bless the animals will be October 20, 2024.

Youth to carve pumpkins on October 27, 2024, at Maggie Brown's house

Fall Festival will be October 30, 2024. Trunk or Treat – Lynne Russell heading up; Chili contest – Jaime Hunter heading up; Games – Lori Fallon heading up; and Parade of Costumes.

Bridal Shower for Kate Brown is November 3, 2024.

Holiday Bazaar is November 9, 2024, in the Family Life Center.

**Motion** to adjourn made by Dalene Stephenson and seconded by Valerie Harvey. All in favor. None opposed.

Meeting adjourned 7:35 P.M.





Next meeting Tuesday, November 5, 2024 @ 6:00 PM

Closing prayer Rev. Lori Fallon



# November 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>Wednesday Activities</b> After school pick up and kids' activities <b>FUMY Afterschool homework and hang time</b></p>	<p><b>5:30-7p FUMY Midweek 6-7p Choir 7p Hand bells</b></p>				1	2
<p>3 All Saints Sunday: Communion Fall Back! 1:30p Brown Shower FUMY Jr High 5p FUMY Small Group 5:30p FUMY Supper 6:00 p FUMY SR. High 6:30p</p> 	<p>4 Disciple Study 1p Cub Scouts 5:30 p Circle 3 6p Boy Scouts 6:30 p College Ministry Small Group 7p</p>	<p>5 Prayer team 10 a Hopeful Hearts Noon <b>Election Day RH</b></p>  <p>Executive Council 6</p>	<p>6 Wednesday Activities Mississippi Roast, Potatoes, Carrots, Green Beans, Rolls, Birthday Cake Small group 6:30p</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 <b>UWF Bazaar 9a-2p</b></p>  <p><b>EHC Workday</b></p>
<p>10 FUMY Game Night 5-7:30p</p>	<p><b>Veteran's Day</b> Disciple Study 1p Cub Scouts 5:30 p Boy Scouts 6:30 p College Ministry Small Group 7p</p>	<p>12 Prayer team 10 a Wilma Hankins Circle 1p</p>	<p>13 Wednesday Activities Chicken pot pie, salad, rolls, fresh fruit Small group 6:30p</p>	<p>14 Feed Our Neighbors 11a</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 FUMY Jr High 5p FUMY Small Group 5:30p FUMY Supper 6:00 p FUMY SR. High 6:30p</p>	<p>18 Disciple Study 1p Cub Scouts 5:30 p Boy Scouts 6:30 p College Ministry Small Group 7p</p>	<p>19 Prayer team 10 a</p>	<p>20 Wednesday Activities Thanksgiving Dinner: Dressing, Gravy, Creamed Potatoes, Sweet Potato Casserole, Rolls, Pie Libby Annulis 1p Circle 5 6p Small group 6:30p</p>	<p>21 Feed Our Neighbors 11a</p>	<p>22 FUMY Prayer Breakfast 7a</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 FUMY Mission 2-6:30p</p>	<p>25 Disciple Study 1p NO School Thanksgiving break</p>	<p>26 Prayer team 10 a</p>	<p>27 No Wednesday Activities</p>	<p>28</p> 	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>