

Reflections January 2025



FUMC MONTICELLO

317 S MAIN 870-367-2471

9AM CONTEMPORARY

10AM SUNDAY SCHOOL

11AM TRADITIONAL



Hello Friends!

I'm usually not one to make New Year's Resolutions. Most of our resolutions are things that we should be doing in the first place. The one thing I want to accomplish in 2025 is to deepen my faith and relationship with the Lord. The primary way for us to do this is through daily scripture reading. That is why, as your Senior Pastor, I want to help us all move forward in that direction.

On Sunday, January 5, we will begin a year-long sermon series that will help us read through the Bible. Each week there is an assigned amount of reading. On the following Sunday, either I or Pastor Lori will preach a sermon drawn from the assigned scriptures. Throughout the year we hope to develop a better understanding of scripture and how it applies to our lives. There is still time to pick up a reading/preaching schedule if you have not already done so. There are digital copies that were sent out through a Google Document link as well as paper copies at all entrances to the church. Let's begin now and make 2025 the year of the Bible!

P.S Keep looking for info on Fan the Flame coming in February.

Blessings,
Bro. Bryan

FUMY NEWS

January 2025



FUMY had a fantastic December! On December 7 we had our favorite FUMY annual event... our Progressive Dinner & Christmas Caroling plus Lock-In. The youth spread Christmas cheer everywhere they sang! We sang for all of the assisted living & nursing homes in Monticello plus several of our shut-ins & we ended the night singing to our special friend Steven Diffee! We had so much FUN! And the food was delicious! Special **THANK YOU** to Jaime Hunter & Andi Wagner for being in charge of the 2 food courses. **THANK YOU** to Maggie Brown & Greg Fallon for going caroling with us and for Maggie spending the night with us! And a big **THANK YOU** to all of the youth parents that provided food & drinks. On Sundays in December we had some great fun! Not only did we watch some great Christmas movies but we played some games, too. Christian fellowship at its best! On Wednesdays during mid-week we spent a lot of time talking about the journey to Bethlehem and what it means to follow Jesus. Many of our youth shared their testimonies and told of the great things God is doing in their lives! Our last Wednesday together we did our favorite Christmas play by "re-enacting" the journey to Bethlehem for Jesus' birth. It was such fun & I was so proud at how well our youth knew the story of Christ's birth.

We are excited to welcome **2025!** FUMY resumes on January 8 and we will go pack bags with "Feed the Kids" mission that evening. On Wednesdays we are going to dive in to what who God has called us to be. Our small groups will resume on Sunday nights and we will continue exploring the book of Luke and 1st Peter.

Some upcoming FUMY dates: Sunday, April 6, we will be hosting a "THANK YOU" meal for our church family where we will be sharing about our 2024 mission trip and showing our slideshow. Sunday, May 4, we will be celebrating our high school seniors. This year we will have 6 seniors. The week of June 21-29 our youth group will go on a week-long mission trip to Denver, Colorado. And we are planning to have our annual FUMY Rummage Sale in July, 2025.

As always, our prayer in FUMY is to "pray more youth" into our group so that they, too, can experience the love of Christ & the security of knowing that there is a group that accepts them exactly how they are! We welcome all youth in the 7th to 12th grade to join our incredible group!

We pray that as we begin a new year that more will come to know Jesus and accept His love & forgiveness. In case you have not heard this... **YOU ARE LOVED! YOU ARE ENOUGH!** Happy New Year!

Christ above all, *Lori*



FUMY SNACK SUPPER

January 12	FUMY Parent
January 19	NO FUMY
January 26	FUMY Parent

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the generous Christmas gift. It is such a blessing to be in ministry with each & every one of you.

Please let me know how I can ever be there for you and/or your family. You're in my prayers.

God bless you all, *Lori*

Thank you ❤️

Dear FUMC Family,

Thank you so much for the generous Christmas gift.

It is such an honor to work here in the office, and I love working with all of you.

See you in the office.

Happy New Year!

Lynne



Dear Church Family,

I can't begin to thank all of you for your generosity during the Christmas season. The gift that was shared with me truly warmed my heart and made me proud to be your Senior Pastor.

Blessings,
Bro. Bryan

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who gave memorials, brought food, sent cards, sent flowers, and prayed for us during the loss of our mother, Jerri Higgins. Your kindness and caring helped us through this difficult time.

Love,
The Borchardt Family



Anthony and Blair Brown retrieved the gift of the king size bed with all the bedding from Mary Kinaga's house and set it up in the Martinez house.

Mary's generous gift coupled with the Brown brothers' strength, agility, know-how, and kindness in getting the bed to the Martinez house and assembling it fully demonstrates the spirit of Christmas.

Thank you Mary, Anthony, and Blair.





Children's Choir



During this Christmas season the children's choirs had a wonderful Christmas musical "The Joy of Christmas"! Followed by a great reception! It was a great way to start the season.
So here's to a wonderful Christmas, and a Happy New year!!
In His name we sing,
Mrs. Kathy



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

In children's Sunday school, we have been learning about the preparations for baby Jesus' arrival. We have discussed the joy that the gift of Jesus brings us all, and we are continuing to pray that God fills our hearts with joy and peace this season as we celebrate baby Jesus' birthday!



WEDNESDAYS

On Wednesdays, we have been learning about the birth of baby Jesus! We have talked about the shepherds, the angel, and the wisemen. We discussed the wisemen's gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, representing baby Jesus' kingship, divinity, and sacrifice. We continue to pray for God to remind us of the true meaning of this holiday season as we bask in the true love and peace that Jesus has brought to the world! What a gift! Thank you, God!





Feeding the Community

The FON Ministry Team



Feeding the Community

Feed Our Neighbors - January 2025

THANK YOU, FON Team Members, for your faithful commitment to this ministry. From time to time others, too, will help when needed. **THANK YOU!**

The number of families we help has increased significantly. We will continue to help any that come to the Fellowship Hall's Kitchen door from 11:00 am until noon.

And as always, **Thank you**, church family, for your continued support of this ministry through your prayers, your monetary gifts, and food items.

In Christian love,
FON Ministry Team

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



We want to help your family.

We can connect you with resources for:

- Housing
- Recovery
- Employment
- Transportation
- Education
- Mental Health
- Physical Health
- Safety
- Dental
- Financial Stability
- Food
- Childcare
- Legal Assistance

100 Families is a community effort to help families in crisis.

Families enrolled in 100 Families work **together** with several different community agencies to create a plan based on their unique situation. 100 Families is different because we don't just refer. We **follow up** and work alongside families until they are **thriving**.

Target clients are parents (custodial or noncustodial), caregivers, or expectant parents in need.

Services are currently available in multiple counties across Arkansas

Enroll in 100 Families by contacting:
Crystal Regalado
crystal.regalado@arkansasfamilies.org
870-469-2444
150 Hyatt Ct. Monticello, AR 71655



100 Families Initiative of Drew County is designed so that multiple organizations can help families access resources and move out of crisis

COST

- All services are provided free of charge

ELIGIBILITY

- Parents with children under age 18 (including noncustodial)
- Income Eligibility. Example: Family of 5 must make less than \$6,096/month
- Participants must be willing to work in cooperation with a care team toward family preservation and self-sufficiency.

CONTACT

Drew County Coordinator:
Crystal Regalado
Arkansas Baptist Children & Family Ministries
To get started, Call
870-469-2444
crystal.regalado@abcfm.org

OUR MISSION

To help families move out of crisis, to stability, and onto career using existing community resources by engaging community partners, training agencies on a collaborative case management system, and recruiting case managers to respond when a family is in crisis

ACCESSING SERVICES/ENROLLMENT

Parents will work with a Case Manager and a Care Team to set goals, access resources, and remove barriers to meeting your goals. There are 100's of Care Team Members in our area who are willing to help using our system and model and provide families in need with resources.

We continue working with families as long as they are working towards their goals and need additional help to move to stability and onto a career. We help families obtain stability in the following areas: Dental, Education, Financial Stability, Food, Legal Issues, Housing, Recovery, Mental Health, Physical Health, Safety, Transportation, Employment, Childcare, and Child Welfare Outcomes.



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 FUMY Small Groups
6:00 PM FUMY Supper
6:30 PM Sr. High FUMY
3:00 PM Executive Board — Jan. 12

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 — Jan. 7
1:00 PM Staff Meeting — Jan. 7
1:30 PM Wilma Hankins-Wesley Rm Jan. 7

Wednesdays: Weekly

- 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)

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

Lynda Blackburn

Bennie & Buck Henderson
Charlotte McGarr
Diane & Mark Pennington

Kaitlin Carroll

Gail & Randy Cockrell
Kim & Bob Lee

Lu Ann Denison

Rene & Jerry Johnson
Kim & Bob Lee

KC Knobloch

Kim & Bob Lee

Grady Tabor

Kim & Bob Lee

Nancy Thompson

Sandy & David Funderburg
Bennie & Buck Henderson

Mary Jo Wisener

Sue & David Anderson
Belinda & Dave Carpenter
Gail & Randy Cockrell
Bennie & Buck Henderson
Phyllis Jones
Charlotte McGarr
Diane & Mark Pennington

Rick Wilson

Linda Beer
Belinda Carpenter
Sandy & David Funderburg
Bennie & Buck Henderson

*Memorial given to the glory of
God and in loving honor of:*

Cindy & Chuck Dearman

Mary E Calhoun



Hopeful Hearts will meet on
January 7 @ noon in the
Family Life Center.



**Communion in January will
be on January 5 during both
services.**

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

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL NOTES

Class of 2025

Walker Jarrett, Lay Leader/SPPRC Leader
Tommy Smith, Trustees
Dalene Stephenson, Finance Leader
Bryan Diffie, Senior Pastor
Lori Fallon, Associate Pastor

Class of 2026

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

Class of 2027

Belinda Carpenter, SPPRC
Loyd Oxner, Trustees
Audrey Stephens, Finance

December 3, 2024

The Executive Council of FUMC met at 6:30 pm. Ten members were in attendance. Br. Bryan opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes from our last meeting were emailed to all members. A motion was made by John Kidwell and seconded by Stephanie Brown to approve as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

The financial records were reviewed. Stephanie Brown asked that we wait until January to approve a budget for 2025. Our expected income for next year has improved, however, we will have to tighten our belt on spending. It was decided the council will meet January 12 at 3 p.m. to create and approve a budget for 2025. All extra projects such as Sensory Room, etc. will be on hold for now. A motion was made by Walker Jarrett and seconded by Maggie Brown to approve the finance reports. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business: Walker Jarrett discussed a repair that is needed on the FLC railing going down the ramp by kitchen. The metal pipe has rusted at the base. Trustee Chair, Maggie Brown, will make some contacts to get repairs made.

Pastor's Report: Br. Bryan reported both he and Lori have completed their online reports for appointments to the Conference. A staff meeting was held today and the December activities were discussed. Dec. 8 will be our Christmas Cantata followed by brunch. The Children's Musical will be held that evening at 5 followed by a reception. Br. Bryan is leading an Advent Bible Study on Wednesdays. A Hymnal Devotion every Monday at 7:15 on Facebook is being led by Br. Bryan. The staff Christmas party will be on December 16. The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 6 p.m. Br. Bryan encouraged us to check our newsletter for the preaching and reading plan for 2025. The schedule will have us reading through the Bible in a year.

Concerning community involvement, Br. Bryan has been asked once again to be the Polar Express reader for Drew Central.

Youth & Associate Pastor Report: Lori reported the youth with the help of our congregation prepared 29 baskets for Thanksgiving to needy families. The youth will have their annual Christmas Progressive dinner and Christmas caroling on December 7. Our last church family meal for 2024 will be December 18 and will resume January 8.

Michael James expressed his appreciation for our support, dedication and extra care given during this year. The council expressed their appreciation to Michael and all those leaving the council for their hours of service the past years.



With no further business, Lori dismissed us in prayer.

Those in Attendance: Michael Blazier, Maggie Brown, Stephanie Brown, Bryan Diffie, Lori Fallon, Valerie Harvey, Walker Jarrett, John Kidwell, Julie Smith, Dalene Stephenson



January 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Wednesday Activities After school pick up and kids' activities FUMY Afterschool homework and hang time	5:30-7p FUMY Midweek 6-7p Choir 7p Hand bells		1  Office closed	2 Feed Our Neighbors 11a		4 EHC work day 9a
5 Communion FUMY Pajamas & Pizza "Chill Night" 5:30p	6	7 Prayer Team 10 a Hopeful Hearts Noon Staff Meeting 1p Wilma Hankins Circle 1:30	8 Wednesday Activities Soup with fixins Birthday Cake Small group 6:30p	9	10	11
12 FUMY Jr High 5p FUMY Small Group 5:30p FUMY Supper 6p FUMY SR. High 6:30p Exec. Board 3p	13 Cub Scouts 5:30 p Boy Scouts 6:30 p College Ministry Small Group 7p	14 Prayer Team 10 a Circle 3	15 Libby Annuls 1p Wednesday/Activities Dried Beans, Summer Sausage, Mexican cornbread, cabbage, dessert Small group 6:30p	16 Feed Our Neighbors 11a	17	18
19 NO FUMY	20 	21 Prayer Team 10 a	22 Wednesday Activities Breakfast Casserole, biscuits, sausage gravy, jelly, dessert Small group 6:30p	23	24	25
26 FUMY Jr High 5p FUMY Small Group 5:30p FUMY Supper 6p FUMY SR. High 6:30p	27 Cub Scouts 5:30 p Boy Scouts 6:30 p College Ministry Small Group 7p	28 Prayer Team 10 a	29 Wednesday Activities Lasagna, Caesar salad, bread, dessert Small group 6:30p	30 Feed Our Neighbors 11a	31 FUMY Prayer Breakfast 7a	