



Reflections

December 2025

870-367-2471

317 S. Main St.

9 AM Contemporary

10 AM Sunday School

11 AM Traditional



Dear Church Family,

As this year draws to a close, my heart is filled with gratitude for the generosity and faithfulness you have shown throughout our Pony Express Financial Stewardship Campaign. Your willingness to participate, to pray, and to share in the work of our church's mission is a powerful witness to the Spirit moving among us. Each commitment card, each act of encouragement, and each gift offered reflects a shared desire to nurture a vibrant, grace-filled community.

The Pony Express is always more than a fundraising effort. It is a reminder that ministry is carried forward not by a few, but by an entire congregation—neighbors in faith, offering what they can so that our church may continue to serve with compassion, creativity, and courage. I am deeply grateful for the way this congregation continues to embody generosity as a spiritual practice.

As we approach the New Year, there is a renewed sense of hope. The season of Advent invites us to prepare for new possibilities and new expressions of ministry. I believe the coming year will offer opportunities to deepen discipleship, strengthen relationships, and engage more fully in the needs of our community. I look forward to all that will unfold as we continue walking this journey together.

May this Advent and Christmas season bring peace to your homes, joy to your spirits, and a renewed awareness of the presence of God who comes close to us in love.

Grace and peace,
Bro. Bryan



News & Updates

December 2025



MERRY CHRISTMAS



We focused on what it means to really be thankful during the month of November in FUMY. We talked about worry and we talked about being more present with the people in our lives. FUMY had the honor of collecting lots of non-perishable food for food insecure families during the month of November! THANK YOU to all of you that donated food. We also collected shoes for MHS during the month. Thank you to all who donated! For fun, we played games, watched a movie & had a yummy “Friendsgiving” meal where we all brought our favorite foods to share. Finally, our last prayer breakfast for 2025 was on November 20 just before the youth got out for a week-long break!

December dawns with the beginning of Advent. In addition to talking about Advent on Wednesday nights, we plan to sing Christmas carols to local nursing homes and shut ins on December 12 during our annual Progressive Dinner. We’ll have small groups and do the annual “Christmas play” in the youth room on December 17. We are excited about the upcoming Christmas break so that we can spend some much needed time with our families while we rejoice in the birth of our Savior!

Merry Christmas! Christ above all, *Love*

Important FUMY Reminders:

- **Friday, December 12**- FUMY Annual Progressive Dinner, Christmas Caroling & lock-in! 4 pm (Fri) - 9 am (Sat)
- **Sunday, December 14**- **NO FUMY** (5 pm Children’s Christmas Program)

No FUMY December 21, 2025 thru January 4, 2026.

FUMY resumes on Wednesday, January 7, 2026

FUMC CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
SUNDAY DECEMBER 14TH 5:00 PM

ALL ARE INVITED FOR A NIGHT OF MUSIC,
CELEBRATION, AND REFRESHMENTS!

**DECEMBER 17TH WILL
BE OUR LAST
WEDNESDAY OF
CHILDREN'S
ACTIVITIES FOR 2025.
WE WILL RESUME OUR
NORMAL WEDNESDAY
ACTIVITIES JANUARY
7TH 2026.**



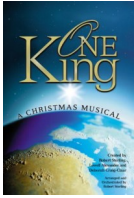
**THIS NOVEMBER,
CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES WAS ABLE
TO DELIVER 28
OPERATION
CHRISTMAS CHILD
BOXES THANKS TO OUR
CHURCH MEMBERS
WHO DONATED FUNDS
AND TIME TO HELP OUR
CHILDREN HAVE A
HAND IN THIS
EXPERIENCE! THANK
YOU!!**



ALL CHILDREN ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 AM ON THE 2ND
AND 3RD FLOOR!

WEDNESDAY ACTIVITIES HAVE BEEN A BEAUTIFUL, FAITH FILLED JOURNEY OF FELLOWSHIP FOR OUR
CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!!! IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN GETTING INVOLVED
ALWAYS FEEL FREE TO REACH OUT TO US!

♥ EMILY & MARY BETH



The Chancel Choir will present their annual Christmas cantata on Sunday, December 7. "One King" is a masterful composition that weaves intricate melodies with profound lyrics to re-tell the timeless story of Jesus and his birth. The Choir will be accompanied by Mary Donaldson, pianist, and instrumentalists from the UAM Music Department. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us in the Sanctuary for this special service of worship.



The Bells of Hope (Adult Handbell Choir) will ring during the Advent season, beginning on Sunday, November 30 in the Traditional worship service. We invite you to join us during the special Advent season for inspiring music performed by our bell choir.

Wesley Heritage Tour with Rev. Bryan Diffie | July 8, 2026

Join Rev. Bryan Diffie on a Wesley Heritage Tour, starting at \$5,146* from Little Rock, departing on July 8, 2026. You will see the English countryside of Coventry, the Cathedral, and the charred ruins of the old cathedral standing side by side as a tribute to the indomitable spirit of the British people. On to Epworth, the childhood home of John and Charles Wesley, St. Andrews Church, Cotswolds, Stratford-upon-Avon, William Shakespeare's birthplace, where he also courted his wife, Anne Hathaway, and Holy Trinity Church, where he is buried. Oxford is next, where you will see Christ Church College at Oxford University, the ancient port city of Bristol, the "New Room," which is the oldest Methodist building in the world, Charles Wesley home, the spa town of Bath, where the warm waters have refreshed, healed and much more!

* Register Early & Save

- \$150 Register by August 8, 2025
- \$125 Register by September 8, 2025
- \$100 Register by October 8, 2025
- \$75 Register by November 8, 2025
- \$50 Register by December 8, 2025
- \$25 Register by January 8, 2026

Full deposit required. Savings are deducted from the balance.

Click on this link to download the brochure

https://www.eo.travelwithus.com/files/uploads/HE26_070826A_50390_Diffie_Final.pdf

www.EOtravelwithus.com Tour=HE26 Date=070826 Code=A ID=50390

Join Rev. Bryan Diffie
Wesley Heritage Tour
July 8 - 16, 2026

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Educational Opportunities - Tours

www.EO.travel

Scan to Travel with Us!

Wednesday Evening Church Meals



Weekly Wednesday supper is at 5:30 PM.

If you are available to volunteer in the kitchen on Wednesday afternoons, your help would be greatly appreciated. Call the church office 870-367-2471 if you are able to serve in this capacity.

Below is the signup genius for desserts. Copy and paste the link into your browser.
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084EA4AE23A7FFC70-58215335-fumc>



Here is Jessie Chappell, one of the stops on the Pony Express with her faithful sidekick Harvey.

Pony Express will be coming to a conclusion soon. If you did not get an envelope, it was an accidental oversight. Please call the church office, and we will get an envelope out to you.

Thank you for participating.
First United Methodist Executive Council



Feed Our Neighbors

What a blessing you are!
Every time there is a need. You respond without hesitation.
With Hands Generously Giving!

We received rice and beans to add to 74 bags that we filled for our Nov. 20 giving - with more to give away another day. **THANK YOU!**

Thanks, too, for the **70 bone-in hams** the UAM Nursing students gifted FON.

We are asking for **cans of fruit** (even in the form of small jars of **jelly**) for December.

It comes as no surprise to you that more people are food insecure now than even a month ago. God bless you for **caring, giving, praying.**

FON Ministry Team

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



Just like the original riders of The Pony Express, teamwork and dedication to the cause, brought great success. So did the members of FUMC! Thanks to our Trail Bosses: Nelwyn Birch, Stephanie Brown, Liz Burnett, Gail Cockrell, Kim Fletcher, Paul Griffin, Judy Harris, Renee Holland, Michael James, Sheila Maxwell, and Audrea Stephens for making sure the routes kept the saddlebags moving. Special thanks to Louisa Smith for the delicious Trail Boss Breakfast and Liz Burnett for the much improved flyers and decorations for the campaign. Thank each of you that participated, and thank God for our blessings.



2025 Fall Festival



United
Women
in Faith

All ladies of the church are invited to our annual UWF Christmas Potluck. It will be held in our Family Life Center on Tuesday, December 16, at 6:00 p.m. We will enjoy a delicious meal, short business meeting, and Christmas fun!

We will also have opportunities to help others this season by wrapping gifts for a needy family and packing bags for Annswood residents. Homemade cookies (three to a zip lock bag) would be greatly appreciated for the bags!

Please join us and invite a friend as we share this blessed time together as Sisters in Christ through United Women of Faith!

If anyone needs a ride, please call the church office at 870-367-2471 or Dalene 870-723-0650.





Highlights from the Home for the Holidays tree-lighting ceremony on November, 30. Our adult handbell choir, Bells of Hope, performed and did a phenomenal job. Our First United Methodist Men had a spot with their new tent set up. They handed out Bibles, books, church information, and free books for the children.

The Drew County Master Gardener group was out in force with many FUMC members present.

Ms. Cleo Young was the official tree lighter. She received over 800 votes from people in the community for this awesome privilege.

This was such a great community outing. We hope it's a start to many more community events.



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
5:30 PM FUMY Bible Study
6:00 PM FUMY Supper
6:30 PM FUMY Small Groups

Mondays:

- 5:30 PM Cub Scouts FH
6:30 PM Boy Scouts FH
7:00 PM Bible Study for Ladies

Tuesdays:

- 10:00 AM Prayer Team/weekly
12:00 PM Hopeful Hearts — 12/2
1:30 PM Wilma Hankins-Wesley Room 12/2
1:00 PM Staff Meeting 12/9
6:00 PM Executive Council — 12/9
6:30 PM Small Group FLC Foyer/weekly
8:00 PM Bible Study for Young Adults FH

Wednesdays: Weekly

- 3:30 PM Wednesday After-school Activities
3:30 PM FUMY Hang Time
5:30 PM Wednesday Night Supper
6:00 PM FUMY Midweek
6:00 PM Chancel Choir
6:30 PM Small Group FLC foyer
7:00 PM Bells of Hope
7:00 PM Praise Band

Thursdays:

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

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

Beverly Davis:

Helen Guenter
Bennie & Buck Henderson
Eddy Ann Reinhart

Mary Hawkins:

Charlotte McGarr

Florence Rush:

Gail & Randy Cockrell
Sandy & David Funderburg
Helen Guenter
Bennie & Buck Henderson
Charlotte McGarr



November Giving General Fund

November 2, 2025 — \$12,445
November 9, 2025 — \$10,158
November 16, 2025 — \$14,604
November 23, 2025 — \$6,141
Four-week Total — \$43,348
Weekly Amount Needed to Make Budget — \$11,827
YTD Budget Giving \$502,638
YTD Budget deficit \$53,241

November Attendance

November 2, 2025: 9:00 AM — 81; 11:00 AM — 79
November 9, 2025: 9:00 AM — 58; 11:00 AM — 44
November 16, 2025: 9:00 AM — 70; 11:00 AM — 55
November 23, 2025: 9:00 AM — 62; 11:00 AM — 65
November 30, 2025: 9:00 AM — 67; 11:00 AM — 55



**Communion in December
will be on December 24
during 6 PM Christmas Eve
service.**



**Hopeful Hearts will meet on
December 2 @ noon in the
Family Life Center.**

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
Audrea Stephens, Finance

Meeting was brought to order at 6:05 PM by Walker Jarrett. Pastor Lori Fallon opened the meeting with prayer.

Motion: to accept the minutes from the October meeting as presented. All in favor. None opposed

Old Business:

- An email vote regarding the Master Gardener plan to build raised beds for a community garden was approved after the October meeting. All in favor. None opposed.
*At the time of this transcribing, the beds are complete on the Jackson lot.
- The Fall Festival and Holiday Bazaar were both great successes. The Holiday Bazaar raised an estimated \$5,000 for missions.

New Business

- A new credit card from Simmons Bank attached to our current account was issued to Jaime Hunter. The new Walmart program did not work out for us. They never returned my inquiries.
- The sanctuary doors need to be refinished, the handrails leading to church need to be repainted, and the walkways need to be power washed. Maybe we can get a volunteer to take on this project.
- The Pony Express saddle bags have gone out. Will report on pledges at next meeting.

Trustees

- No new information on sale of vans, and no action on the ramp.

SPPRC

- Pastor Lori Fallon inquired about the minimum for part-time pastors for future budget discussion. Pastor Lori brought a document for discussion, and it was given to Walker Jarrett. An inquiry as to when Lori Fallon was hired as Local Pastor. She was hired for this position in 2017.

Finance

- Lynne Russell reported on the Special Funds. Report from Valerie Harvey.
- Lynne Russell reported on the finances of the church. No questions.

Motion: John Kidwell made a motion to accept both reports; Audrea Stephens seconded the motion. All in favor. None opposed.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL NOTES CONT.

Assoc. Pastor Report

- Over \$700 was raised for Samaritan's Purse Christmas boxes. The children will fill the boxes on this Wednesday during after school activities. The boxes will then be shipped.
- Youth has been furnished with 42 names of families from the schools in Drew County. The youth will fill boxes on November 23, and families will pick up from the Fellowship Hall.
- The Young Adults group is going well, and it may be time for them to have a budget line item. They have a non-budget account right now.
- There is no Wednesday Activities the week of November 24, 2025.
- LeAnne Burch is organizing an Angel Tree with The Call.
- Youth progressive dinner is on December 12, and youth will carol after.
- Pastor Lori Fallon and Maggie Brown will attend the Delta Charge Conference on November 16, 2025.

Motion: to adjourn this meeting made by Dalene Stephenson and seconded by Belinda Carpenter. All in favor. None opposed.

Pastor Lori Fallon closed the meeting with prayer at 6:36 PM.

The next Executive Council will be on December 9, 2025, at 6:00 PM.

*Information inserted at time of transcribing notes.



FUMC
MONTICELLO

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS.

FEED OUR NEIGHBORS

Join us on Thursdays to put together meals for local families in need.
BRENDA WRIGHT PHONE 504-812-2812

HOPEFUL HEARTS

Widows/Widowers come together each month for a meal and fellowship provided by volunteers.
LOUISA SMITH PHONE 870-723-3560

FEED THE KIDS

FUMC supports this non-profit organization by helping prepare food bags for local children. The bags are sent home with students at their schools.
RENEE HOLLAND PHONE 870-550-1281

SHEPHERD CENTER HOST

FUMC hosts this event each October for community members over 50. A variety of fun activities are planned each week on Tuesday.
DALENE STEPHENSON PHONE 870-723-0650

SOLE PURPOSE

Provides shoes, socks, coats, Bibles, books, and hygiene kits for local children in the community.
BELINDA CARPENTER PHONE 870-723-3080

UAM WESLEY FOUNDATION

Meals are provided for students at the Wesley Foundation Ministry on the UAM campus.
DALENE STEPHENSON PHONE 870-723-0650

SENIOR CARE

Volunteers assist seniors with transportation to doctors and other appointments and provide social outings for those who are able.
SUSAN MUSICK PHONE 318-417-9309

WEDNESDAY NIGHT ACTIVITIES

After school activities for children | Youth activities
Free meal for everyone | Birthday celebrations | Small groups
OFFICE PHONE 870-367-2472

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Annual Craft Fair by the United Women in Faith to support missions.
TRUDY JACKSON PHONE 870-723-5052

CHILDREN'S LIBRARIES IN THE COMMUNITY

Children's books are placed in local public locations as reading corners for children.
KATHY TUMLISON PHONE 870-723-4051

BEREAVEMENT TEAM

Volunteers provide a meal for the family after the funeral of a loved one.
SANDY FUNDERBURG PHONE 870-723-4915

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

Choir | Handbells | Praise Band | Children's Choir
KATHY LYON PHONE 870-308-1518

feed your soul

317 S MAIN ST, MONTICELLO, AR 71655 | PHONE 870-367-2471 | fumcmonticello.org





December 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Advent Bible Study 12p Cub Scouts 5:30p Boy Scouts 6:30p Ladies Bible Study 7p	2 Prayer Team 10a Hopeful Hearts 12p Wilma Hankins Circle 1:30p	3 Wednesday Activities Fried Chicken, Creamed Potatoes, Gravy, Butter Beans, Corn, Birthday Cake	4 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6a Feed Our Neighbors 11a	5	6 EHC Workday 9a
7 2nd Sunday of Advent Cantata 10a Sanctuary Potluck Lunch in FLC FUMY—Bible Study, Supper & Small Groups 5:30-7p	8 Advent Bible Study 12p Cub Scouts 5:30p Boy Scouts 6:30p Ladies Bible Study 7p	9 Prayer Team 10a Staff Meeting 1p Executive Council 6p Circle 3 Young Adults 8p	10 Wednesday Activities Vegetable Soup, Potato Soup, Cornbread, Crackers, Cheese, Onions, Dessert	11	12 FUMY Progressive Dinner & Christmas Caroling 4p	13 Wreaths Across America 10a Oakland Cemetery
14 3rd Sunday of Advent Children's Christmas program 5p FLC	15 Advent Bible Study 12p Cub Scouts 5:30p Boy Scouts 6:30p Ladies Bible Study 7p	16 Prayer Team 10 a UWF All Women of the Church Potluck 6p FLC Young Adults 8p	17 Wednesday Activities Baked Potato Bar, Pulled Pork, Chili, Broccoli, Cheese, Ham, Dessert	18 Feed Our Neighbors 11a	19	20
21 4th Sunday of Advent	22 Advent Bible Study 12p Ladies Bible Study 7p	23 Prayer Team 10 a	24 Christmas Eve Service 6p	25	26	27
28 1st Sunday after Christmas	29	30	31 New Years Eve 	Break JANUARY 1 Happy New Year 	Children Activities until 5:15	Supper 5:30p Small group 6:30p Chancel Choir 6p Adult Hand Bells 7p Praise Band 7p