



Reflections

February 2026

870-367-2471

317 S. Main St.

9 AM Contemporary

10 AM Sunday School

11 AM Traditional



Dear Church Family,

As February unfolds, it offers a meaningful pause in the rhythm of the year. The busyness of January's new beginnings gives way to a season that invites reflection, love, and faithfulness. In the life of the Church, February often carries us deeper into discipleship, preparing hearts for the journey toward Lent and Easter.

Scripture reminds us that love stands at the center of our faith. The apostle Paul writes that love is patient, kind, and enduring. This love is not limited to sentiment or season; it is the steady, transformative love of God at work among us. It is revealed when the community prays for one another, serves neighbors in need, welcomes the stranger, and remains faithful through both joy and challenge.

This month, gratitude is offered for the many ways love is already evident within this congregation. Faithful volunteers, generous givers, compassionate listeners, teachers, caregivers, and servants continue to embody Christ's love in visible and quiet ways. Ministry happens not only within the walls of the church but also through daily acts of grace carried into homes, workplaces, schools, and the wider community.

February also invites intentional care for spiritual growth. Worship, study, prayer, and service shape disciples who live with purpose. As the season of Lent approaches, reflection on how God may be calling each person to deeper faith, renewed commitment, or fresh acts of compassion becomes especially meaningful.

Thank you for being a congregation rooted in love, grounded in faith, and open to the transforming work of the Holy Spirit. May this month be marked by encouragement, connection, and a renewed awareness of God's presence among us.

Blessings,

Bro. Bryan



Important Reminders:

- **February 1:** “Hoodies, Hot Chocolate & Horseplay”, All FUMY 5:30 - 8 pm
- **February 8:** FUMY Super Bowl Party, Youth Rom, 5 pm to the end of game, plus bring your favorite food to share
- **February 13:** Absolute last day to sign up for Veritas
- **February 15:** All remaining Veritas fees are due!
- **February 18:** 6 - 7 pm ASH Wednesday Worship Service
- **February 20:** 7 am Prayer Breakfast
- **February 22:** FUMY “Around the Church Scavenger Hunt” 5:30 - 8 pm
- **February 27 - March 1:** FUMY to Veritas, Ft Smith



Snack Suppers:

- February 1 - Renee' Holland
- February 8 - FUMY Super Bowl Party
- February 15 - **NO FUMY**
- February 22 - Karla Pace

2026 began with FUMY packing 420 bags with the “Feed the Kids” mission. It is a blessing to pack these bags of food for children who do not have enough food to eat on the weekends. On Wednesdays, we did weekly mission work by helping with the FUMC kids ministry and by helping prep food for Wednesday meals. On Wednesday nights during FUMY we have talked about what it looks like to accept God’s gift of salvation, what it looks like to give our whole selves to God, and what it means to live a holy life. We only met on one Sunday night during January but when we did meet we had fun watching “The Princess Bride” while we enjoyed pizza in our pajamas. On Friday, January 16, Maggie and I took a group of youth to “Winter Jam” in North Little Rock. It was a wonderful night full of praising God! It was incredible! We ended the month of January with our monthly prayer breakfast. Special thanks to Camryn for leading our devotion.

February is here! And FUMY has a LOT going on! Our mission for the month will be to help lead the kids to their respective activities on Wednesdays and to help with meal prep on the first 3 Wednesdays of the month. We also plan to pack & send goody bags to our college students. On Sundays, we have some fun activities planned while we spend some time listening to the word of God. On Super Bowl Sunday we have an “FUMY party” planned! We’ll eat and cheer for our favorite team while playing some fun “Super Bowl” games! On Wednesdays we will explore what it means to be in service to God & others, dive into what Ash Wednesday and Lent mean, attend our FUMC Ash Wednesday worship service plus do Lent prayer stations and talk deeper about what it means to relinquish control of our lives to God. Plus we’ll have our monthly prayer breakfast AND a group of us are heading to Fort Smith for Veritas! We are excited to see what God has in store for us. This year’s Veritas theme is ‘Imago Dei’.

In closing, I want to encourage each of us to remember Ephesians 4:32, “Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” Remember to Love God and to Love Others. Together let’s be the hands & feet of Jesus.

Christ above all, *Lorú*





FUMC CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



**THIS SEMESTER, OUR WEDNESDAY
ACTIVITIES ARE ALL ABOUT CREATION!
BUCKLE UP AS WE DIVE INTO THE
WONDERS AND BEAUTY OF GOD'S
MIRACULOUS CREATIONS!**

**JOIN US SUNDAY
FEBRUARY 22ND!!**

**OUR CHILDREN'S CHOIR
WILL PERFORM IN THE
9:00 AM CHURCH
SERVICE!**



**ALL CHILDREN ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US EVERY SUNDAY FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:00 AM ON THE
3RD FLOOR ABOVE THE FELLOWSHIP HALL!**

**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

Feed Our Neighbors

Right after Christmas we saw an increase in the number of families who drove to the church to get bags of food. Then the number fell off to its usual number. We will always be at the ready for new or returning families who ask for a bag.

THANK YOU, Church family, for responding again to our request for a particular food item.

We received plenty of 5 oz cans of chicken for our families.

Your prayers and your outpouring of gifts for this ministry are what keep it going. You are blessing to our food insecure Neighbors.

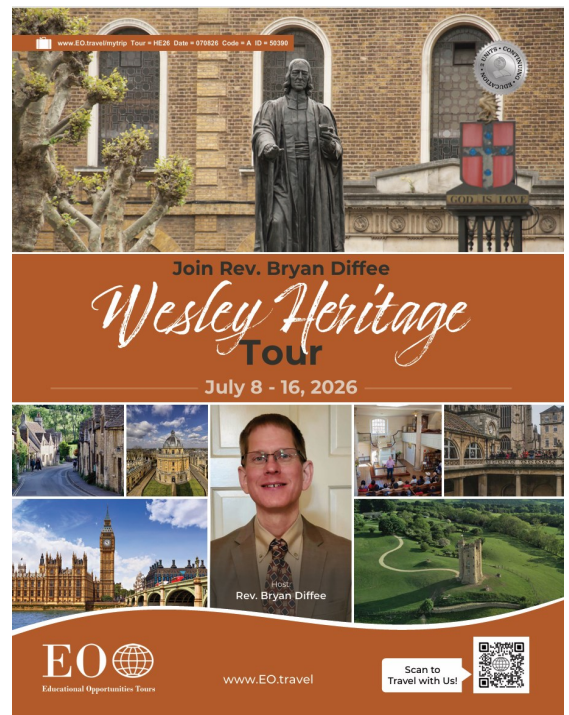
"I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers for I hear of the love you show all God's people." Philemon 1:4

FON Team



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!



Right Click on this link to download the brochure

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

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>



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 870-723-3980

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 318-447-9309

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 870-723-4054

BEREAVEMENT TEAM

Volunteers provide a meal for the family after the funeral of a loved one.
SANDY FUNDERBURG PHONE 870-723-4945

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

FUMC Circle 5 Jan 11

Valentine's Day Raffle Alert!
Circle 5 is excited to host our annual raffle for a fabulous Valentine's Day gift basket! This year's basket is packed with amazing goodies, including Kendra Scott earrings, a Stanley H2O Timber, dish towels, a valentines door mat, a poppy phone charger, coffee/soup mug, to do pad, grocery bag, inspiration cards, decorative wooden heart with pink pearls and spatula set— with a total value of over \$170!

Tickets are just \$5.00 each or get five tickets for \$20.00. Every ticket purchased helps support the Wilma Hankins Scholarship!
The lucky winner will be drawn on Wednesday, February 11, 2026. Contact any Circle 5 member for your tickets. Don't miss your chance to win and support a great cause!



FUMC Food Drive for UAM students

Items needed:

- Assorted Snacks
- Breakfast Items
- Drink flavor packets
- Microwaveable Meals (pop top)
- Protein sources (tuna/chicken, protein bars)



Feeding the Community



Join us on February 18 at 6:00 PM for our Ash Wednesday worship service in the sanctuary!

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
6:00 PM Bible Study for Ladies

Tuesdays:

10:00 AM Prayer Team/weekly
12:00 PM Hopeful Hearts — 2/3
1:30 PM Wilma Hankins-Wesley Room 2/3
1:00 PM Staff Meeting 2/10
6:00 PM Executive Council — 2/10
7:00 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/weekly
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:*

Jackie Forrest:

Diane & Mark Pennington

Faye Guess:

Dandy & David Funderburg
Bennie & Buck Henderson

Rose Kinaga:

Belinda & Dave Carpenter
Dandy & David Funderburg
Bennie & Buck Henderson
Kathy & James Tumlison

Lent Begins February 18, 2026



Preaching Schedule for February

February 1, 2026 Scripture: Psalm 13 Rev. Bryan Diffee
February 8, 2026 Scripture: Song of Songs 2:10-13 Rev. Lori Fallon
February 15, 2026 Scripture: Matthew 17:1-9 Rev. Bryan Diffee
February 22, 2026 Scripture: Genesis 12:1-3 Rev. Bryan Diffee

January Giving General Fund

January 4, 2026 — \$6,857
January 11, 2026 — \$10,074
January 18, 2026 — \$29,404
January 25, 2026 — No In-Person/Online Only
Weekly Amount Needed to Make Budget — \$11,592
YTD Budget Giving \$45,008
YTD Budget deficit \$1,360



**Communion in February will
be on February 8 during the
9 & 11 AM services.**



**Hopeful Hearts will meet on
February 3 @ noon in the
Family Life Center.**

January Attendance

January 4, 2026: 9:00 AM — 75; 11:00 AM — 46
January 11, 2026: 9:00 AM — 64; 11:00 AM — 68
January 18, 2026: 9:00 AM — 69; 11:00 AM — 61
January 25, 2026: No In-Person/Online Only

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL NOTES

Class of 2026

Michael Blazier, SPPRC/Leader
John Kidwell, Trustees
Valerie Harvey, Treasurer
Bryan Diffie, Senior Pastor
Lori Fallon, Associate Pastor

Class of 2027

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

Class of 2028

Anthony Brown, SPPRC
Jaime Hunter, Trustees
Amanda Gilbert, Finance

Meeting was brought to order at 6:00 P.M. by Michael Blazier. Rev. Bryan Diffie opened the meeting with prayer.

Motion: to accept the December meeting minutes as presented made by Audrea Stephens; seconded by Valerie Harvey. All in favor. None opposed.

Old Business:

Entergy will come out and assess the buildings for energy saving costs. Lynne Russell to call and make the arrangements.

No new information on selling the vans. The decals will be removed by Josh Martin at his body shop.

***Motion:** Since the meeting on January 13, 2026, a full-asking price of \$1500.00 was offered on the 2001 Ford Econoline van by Justin Harrison. The Executive Council held an email vote, which was accepted.

New Business:

Going forward, it has been suggested that the trustees board be divided. Each trustee will take on the management of one area, e.g., campus buildings, campus grounds, and parsonage. New member coming onto the board would manage parsonage, then move to campus grounds in their second year, and then move to campus buildings in their last year on board of trustees. The idea was agreed upon. Jaime Hunter will be over the parsonage; Loyd Oxner, the grounds; and John Kidwell, the buildings for 2026.

The battery in the 2015 bus needs to be replaced. Loyd Oxner will contact Monticello Exxon to come out and replace.

SPPRC: No report given.

Trustee Report:

The water in the Family Life Center is still brown. It is not as bad as it was, and the City has addressed the issue. We may be at the end of one of the old lines. We will monitor and address if necessary. Ask Tommy Smith regarding updates on the Family Life Center ramp.

Finance Report:

Valerie Harvey gave report on Special Accounts. Lynne Russell gave report on Financial Reports. The 2026 budget was discussed and there is an error on one of formulas.

Motion: to approve the financial report and the 2026 budget with the amended error. All in favor. None opposed.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL NOTES CONT.

Pastor Report:

- We had the first staff meeting of the year. We mapped out the events happening in the new year.
- The children's choir will sing on February 22 in the 9:00 am service and on Palm Sunday, March 29 in the 11:00 service.
- The final Wednesday for children's activities will be May 13.
- Ash Wednesday service will be at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary on February 18.
- There are five students in this year's confirmation class.
- The men's Sunday School class continues to meet. There is usually five in attendance with room for more.
- The men's prayer breakfast meets on the first Thursday of the month at 6:00 am. We had eight in attendance the last time.
- I will be moderating the Quiz Bowl on January 15, 2026.
- I am scheduled to baptize two children and remember the baptism of another at the Campground church on the January 25. Pastor Lori Fallon will preach in the 9:00 am service, and I will be back by the 11:00 am service.

Associate Pastor Report:

- We have put out prayer cards in the FLC and the sanctuary. We want to be intentional in praying for our church members' needs.
- The ladies' Bible Study will meet on Mondays at 6:00 pm beginning on January 26. We will study "How to be a Mary in a Martha World" by Joanna Weaver
- The Young Adults Bible study and small groups will meet on Tuesdays at 7:00 pm. They will study "The Walk" by Adam Hamilton. This group needs funds as we feed them weekly.
- FUMY will be heading up to Winter Jam this Friday the 16th.
- FUMY packed 420 bags last week for Feed the Kids. The Christmas Eve service offering was split between Feed the Kids and Feed the Neighbors. Each group received \$2210.00.
- Senior Sunday will be on May 3 this year. We have ten seniors to celebrate.
- FUMY will hold their yearly "Thank You" meal in April.
- FUMY is trying something new: New Sunday Nights: Alliterations. A couple examples are Pajamas, Pizza, (the) Princess Bride & Hoodies, Hot Chocolate, and Horseplay.
- Children's ministry is teaching our children about creation. With Bro. Bryan teaching confirmation class, I will be teaching the Bible story with them on Wednesdays.
- I will begin a new Course of Study on Congregational Care at the end of January.
- I, also, will be helping at Quiz Bowl on Thursday afternoon.
- The Spring distribution of \$1,000.00 for the Jaci Oxner Scholarship was given to Jack Nickolson when we received his Fall semester grades and Spring semester schedule, per scholarship details.







Closing Prayer by Rev. Lori Fallon

Motion: to adjourn meeting at 7:00 PM made by Amanda Gilbert and seconded by Jaime Hunter.

All in favor. None opposed.

February 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 ALL FUMY 5:30p	2  Cub Scouts 5:30p Boy Scouts 6:30p Women's Bible Study 6p	3 Prayer Team 10 a Hopeful Hearts Noon Wilma Hankins Circle 1:30p Young Adults 7p	4 Wednesday Activities Pork loin, Roasted Veggies, Stick of Butter Rice, Rolls, Birthday Cake Small group 6:30	5 Men's Prayer Breakfast 6a Feed Our Neighbors 11a	6 FUMY Prayer Breakfast 7a	7 EHC Workday FH
8 Communion FUMY Superbowl Party 5p	9 Cub Scouts 5:30p Boy Scouts 6:30p Women's Bible Study 6p	10 Prayer Team 10a Executive Council 6p Circle 3 Young Adults 7p	11 Wednesday Activities Beans, Summer Sausage, Mexican Cornbread, Cabbage, Dessert Small group 6:30	12 Abraham Lincoln Birthday 	13	14 
15 NO FUMY	16  Women's Bible Study 6p	17 Mard-Gras  Prayer Team 10 a Young Adults 7p	18 Wednesday Activities Ash Wed. Service 6p Soup, Cornbread, Crackers, Toppings, Dessert Ash Wednesday Service 6p Libby Annulis 1p Small group 6:30	19 Feed Our Neighbors 11a	20 FUMY Prayer Breakfast 7a	21
22 George Washington's Birthday  Children Sing 9a FUMY "Around the Church Scavenger Hunt" 5:30 p	23 Cub Scouts 5:30p Boy Scouts 6:30p Women's Bible Study 6p	24 Prayer Team 10 a Young Adults 7p	25 Wednesday Activities Chicken Spaghetti, Salad, Bread, Dessert Small group 6:30	26	27 FUMY to Veritas 7p	Wednesday Activities Children Activities 3:30p until 5:15p Supper 5:30p FUMY 6p Small group 6:30p Chancel Choir 6p Adult Handbells 7p Praise Band 7p