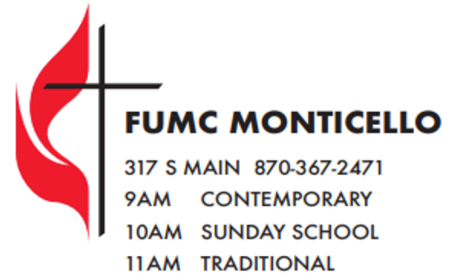


Reflections

July 2026



Dear Friends in Christ,

As many of you know, I will have the privilege of returning to England in July with a group from Arkansas for a Wesleyan Pilgrimage. This journey will include visits to significant places connected to the lives and ministries of John and Charles Wesley, as well as other sites that helped shape the Methodist movement.

For Methodists, these places are more than historical landmarks. They bear witness to a movement grounded in personal and social holiness, vibrant worship, and a deep commitment to sharing the love of Christ with the world. Walking where the Wesleys preached, worshiped, and organized communities of faith offers a meaningful opportunity to reflect on God's work in the past and to consider how the Holy Spirit continues to guide the Church today.

I look forward to revisiting places such as Epworth, where John and Charles Wesley were raised; the New Room in Bristol, one of the earliest Methodist meeting places; and City Road Chapel in London, where John Wesley is buried. Following the pilgrimage, I will also travel to Ireland to visit several sites of Methodist and Christian significance. We will depart from Little Rock on July 8 and return on July 20.

While I am away, I am grateful that our Lay Servant, T.J. Hill, will be preaching and helping to lead worship.

Thank you for your prayers during this journey. I look forward to returning and sharing stories, insights, and reflections from the places where Methodism first took root. May this season be one of spiritual growth, renewal, and faithful discipleship for us all.

Blessings,
Bro. Bryan



FUMY News & Happenings

July 2026

FUMY did some form of mission work every week in June AND we invited 6 new 7th graders to become a part of our youth group (we would LOVE to welcome more). Plus we had a TON of fun! We started June off with our annual FUMY Rummage Sale. THANK YOU to every person that donated rummage and shopped our sale. We made right at \$3,500 plus we gave away a lot of clothes & shoes & books, etc to the community during our free day. During the second week of June we helped with FUMC's Vacation Bible School. Our youth did a great job helping with the kiddos and sharing the love of Jesus! Plus, we enjoyed all of the fellowship it provided all of us, as well. We went swimming and had a couple of fun game nights plus lessons on what it means to be in relationship with God! Thank you to Jaime & Ken Hunter for opening up their home & pool to us for our swim party! Maggie and I attended ARUMC Annual Conference in Hot Springs this year and came home to take a group to Lakeside UMC to read with children through their Project Transformation mission. I am so proud of the group I took and their willingness to read with the children and share Jesus through their actions. We are ending the month of June with our annual FUMY Mission Trip. Our group of 16 youth & adults are headed to the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation in Eagle Butte, South Dakota. We will be gone June 27 - July 4. We'll tell you all about the mission work we do when we return from our trip!

July is moments away and we are looking forward to even more mission work plus lots of fun & fellowship! We have plans to swim and go bowling plus go do some fun stuff in Little Rock and play games in the youth room. We have plans to go read another day with the children through Project Transformation mission at Lakeside UMC in Pine Bluff. Plus we plan to restock our blessing box & clean up and organize around church while talking about what it means for our lives to make an impact for Christ! God continues to work through our youth in mighty ways! I hope you will find time to get to know these amazing young people. May we all seek **to Love God and to Love People.**

Christ above all, *Lori*

FUMY Reminders:

- **July 4** - FUMY home from South Dakota mission trip
- **July 8** - FUMY Games & inside Scavenger Hunt
- **July 12** - FUMY "Micah, moon pies & mystery FUN"
- **July 14** - FUMY to do mission work @ Project Transformation (Pine Bluff) then to Little Rock for FUN day, 8:15 am - 7:00 pm!
- **July 19** - FUMY Swim Party @ Baptist Children's Home pool
- **July 29** - FUMY goes bowling



CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES

THANK YOU!

We had **Snow Much Fun with God** at VBS! A huge thank you to our church family for your incredible support of VBS! We were blessed with over 50 kids and 50+ volunteers each day. We couldn't have done it without you!

Love,
Emily Johnston

2026 Vacation Bible School



A great time of learning
about Jesus

June 8, 2026

Dear Friend,

Your faithful support of our mission allows us to keep showing up when it matters the most for children & families impacted by foster care in Southeast Arkansas! We are so grateful!

Please join us in praying over one of the families providing a safe, loving home for a child in foster care in Southeast Arkansas. Combined, your gift and their service change lives every day.

Thank you for joining us in this important work!

By Grace,

Betsy Anderson

Betsy Anderson

Southeast Arkansas Affiliate Director

The CALL

banderson@thecallinarkansas.org - (870)308-9502

FUMC Monticello,
Thank you so much
for all the ways you
support our mission
throughout the year.
You are a light!



A big “thank you” to Nelwyn Birch for all the hard work she put into First United Methodist Church the last two years. Her last day was Tuesday, June 30. We will miss seeing her smiling face on any given day. If you see her, tell her how much she is appreciated.



Sole Purpose



Sole Purpose is not a one day event but a year round mission for our church and our community. And now is our time for fund-raising! We will soon start the purchasing of shoes, coats, and Bibles for children who need these items—and, as with everything else, prices have gone up! To date we have raised approximately \$1,500. We are hoping to raise \$8,000 to purchase the needed items. Please prayerfully consider dropping your dollars, your checks, your coins into the shoes that our children will be holding during our communion time each month. Anything you contribute will be much appreciated and well-used.

If you want to be part of this ministry, please contact Belinda Carpenter at 870-723-3980. We need all the volunteers we can get. The children and families we serve are richly blessed but you, too, will be feeling these blessings in your life.

An Extra Special **THANK YOU** to the following supporters of **FUMY's Annual Envelopes of Support** for monthly mission work & their 2026 mission trip to South Dakota **Because of their generosity, FUMY raised \$10,250.**

Anonymous
Sue & David Anderson
Jill & Anthony Brown
Stephanie & Blair Brown
Carolyn & John Bullock
LeAnne Burch
Belinda & David Carpenter
Gretchen & Bryan Diffie
Lori & Greg Fallon
Christine & Jeff Felts
Joe Fletcher
Kimberly & Tony Fletcher
David Fowler
Sandy & David Funderburg
Louise & Walter Godwin

Judy & George Harris
Bennie & Buck Henderson
Jaime & Ken Hunter
Trudy & James Jackson
Mary Kinaga
Kay & Don Koen
Judy & Jack Lassiter
Judy Murphy
Susan Musick
Nickie & Jimmy Owens
Diane & Mark Pennington
Julie & Tommy Smith
Louisa & Paul Smith
Brenda Wright



THANK YOU



All are welcome to join us for a come-and-go baby shower for Matthew & Amy Montgomery, daughter of Deborah & Michael James, in the Family Life Center on July 26, 2026, from 1:30 to 3:00 PM. The Montgomerys are registered at Babylist.

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

Tuesdays:

10:00 AM Prayer Team/weekly
12:00 PM Hopeful Hearts — 7/7
1:30 PM Wilma Hankins-Wesley Room 7/7
6:00 PM Executive Council — 7/14
7:00 PM Bible Study for Young Adults FH

Wednesdays: Weekly

6:30 PM Small Group FLC Foyer/weekly
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:*

Brooke Jackson: Charlotte McGarr
Jim Moore: Susan Musick

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

Linda Magness: Jane Thomasson

Fifth Sunday Meal & Service Schedule

August 30, 2026 — 10 AM Meal; 11 AM Service
November 29, 2026 — 10 AM Meal; 9 AM Service
We need someone to coordinate the November 29 meal. If you are interested, call the church office at 367-2471.

Preaching Schedule for July

July 5, 2026 Scripture: Psalm 15 Rev. Bryan Diffie
July 12, 2026 Scripture: Psalm 11 Rev. Bryan Diffie
July 19, 2026 Scripture: Psalm 17 T.J. Hill
July 26, 2026 Scripture: Psalm 116 Rev. Bryan Diffie

June Giving General Fund

June 7, 2026 — \$12,545
June 14, 2026 — \$6,007
June 21, 2026 — \$7,540
June 28, 2026 — \$8,290
Weekly Amount Needed to Make Budget — \$11,592
YTD Budget Giving \$280,163
YTD Budget deficit \$21,229



**Communion in June will be
on July 5 during the 9 AM
and 11 AM service.**



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

June Attendance

June 7, 2026: 9 AM — 67; 11 AM — 72
June 14, 2026: 9 AM — 59; 11 AM — 63
June 21, 2026: 9 AM — 63 ; 11 AM — 50
June 28, 2026 9 AM — 53; 11 AM — 42



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 501/812-2812

FEBRUARY DONATION NEEDED: CANNED CHICKEN

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

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

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 870-723-1915

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

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

June 9, 2026, Executive Council Meeting

Meeting was brought to order at 6:04 P.M. by Michael Blazier. Rev. Bryan Diffie opened the meeting with prayer.

Motion: to accept the May meeting minutes as presented by John Kidwell seconded by Anthony Brown. All in favor. None opposed.

Old Business:

- No update on the police report against Freedom Accessibility. John Kidwell will follow up with the police department.
- John Kidwell discussed Ken Hunter being interested in the van. John Kidwell will follow up with Ken Hunter to make sure he is still interested in the van.
- The committee will meet on June 25 at 6:00 p.m. to review the Strategic Planning survey results and discuss next steps.
- Lynne Russell will obtain quotes to replace the carpet in the FLC and report back at the next meeting.
- The committee discussed several needed repairs, including drainage spouts. John Kidwell will ask Ken Hunter if he is interested in completing the repairs.
- Rev. Bryan Diffie reported that the A/C repair quote was \$9,000. The committee agreed to use the building fund to replace the A/C on the 3rd floor.
- The committee discussed repairing the roof.

Motion: Valerie Harvey made a motion to sell the van for \$2,000 to Ken Hunter, less the cost of any repairs completed for the church. John Kidwell seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed.

Motion: Valerie Harvey made a motion to have the entire roof repaired. Loyd Oxner seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed.

Motion: Loyd Oxner made a motion to replace the A/C on the 3rd floor for \$9,000. Valerie Harvey seconded the motion. All were in favor. None opposed.

New Business:

None.

SPPRC:

None.

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL NOTES CONT.

Trustee Report:

- Lori Fallon will continue monitoring the youth room ceiling to determine whether repairs are needed.
- Nelwyn Burch, the church custodian, reported that the groundskeepers are not weed eating around the shrubs or spraying Roundup where needed. Loyd Oxner will discuss the issue with the company and, if they are unwilling to address it, will contact Ken Hunter to see if he is interested in the job.

Finance Report:

- Valerie Harvey presented the Special Accounts and General Account reports and explained that the Vanco account issue should be resolved by next month.

Motion: to approve the financial report made by John Kidwell and seconded by Anthony Brown. All in favor. None opposed.

Senior Pastor Report:

- Vacation Bible School included 58 children and 53 volunteers.
- Reported Lori, Maggie, Michael Blazer and himself will attend annual conference next Monday-Wednesday.
- Tomorrow the 7:15 am prayers will begin each Wednesday.
- After school begins in August so will the men's breakfast.
- Attending the Wesley Heritage Tour in England from July 8–22. TJ Hill will fill in on July 19 while he is away.

Associate Pastor Report:

- The FUMY rummage sale raised \$3,300.
- Vacation Bible School included 58 children and 53 volunteers.
- Youth Mission Trip to South Dakota is scheduled for June 27 through July 4.
- Project Transformation will take place June 16 and July 14, this is where the youth go read for three hours.
- Lori and Maggie will learn next week whether they will continue to be appointed to Delta Charge.
- Seven new seventh graders have joined the youth group.
- Women's bible study wrapped up will start back in the Fall.

Closing Prayer by Rev. Lori Fallon

Motion: to adjourn meeting at 6:34 PM made by John Kidwell and seconded by Valarie Harvey. All in favor. None opposed.

Next regular meeting July 8, 2026, at 6:00 PM.

250! July 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 NO FUMY	2	3	4 
5 Communion	6 OFFICE CLOSED	7 Prayer Team 10 a Hopeful Hearts Noon Wilma Hankins Circle 1:30p Small Group 6:30p Young Adults 7p	8 FUMY 5p	9 Work Day Sole Purpose 9a	10	11 EHC Work Day FH 9a
12 FUMY 5-7:30p	13	14 FUMY Mission 8:15a Prayer Team 10 a Small Group 6:30p Young Adults 7p	15	16	17	18
19 FUMY Swinm Party 4p	20	21 Prayer Team 10 a Small Group 6:30p Young Adults 7p	22 NO FUMY	23 Feed Our Neighbors 11a	24	25
26	27	28 Prayer Team 10 a Small Group 6:30p Young Adults 7p	29 FUMY Bowling Fun 5:30p	30	31	