



## SCOUTS APPRECIATION SUNDAY

Troops 331, 331G and the Cub Scouts were honored at Scouts Appreciation Day on February 4<sup>th</sup>. The scouts presented the Colors and led the congregation in the Pledge of Allegiance, the Scout Oath and Pledge. Scoutmaster Melissa Slocumb gave an informative "State of the Troops" presentation.



Pastor Ben said, *"Monticello First UMC has supported Scouting for decades. My oldest son, Jim, and my youngest son, Karl, were both in Troop 331. Over the years Troop 331 has enriched the lives of hundreds of young ones and helped them to become the type of men and women that this country needs. We are proud to sponsor Troops 331, 331G, Pack 331 and Venture Crew 331. These young men and women will enrich their lives and the lives of our community, and country, with the values and skills that they have learned in the Scouting program."*



*"We also wish to recognize and thank those men and women who freely give of their lives, and precious time, to work with the Scouts. We deeply appreciate your dedication to making a positive impact on the lives of these young persons."*



Sam Kelly presented a donation to the Scouts from the United Methodist Men to Melissa Slocumb during the Service.

*"Pastor Ben and Joneen delivered baskets to the Courthouse offices in January to show our appreciation for their services to our Community. Each office received a basket full of treats."*

*"We received several gracious thank you notes, even from the Judge!" reported Joneen.*





## Traditional Worship in person every Sunday

or join us on Facebook online at

<https://www.facebook.com/MonticelloFirstUMC/videos>

*Sunday School 9:45 AM* in Fellowship Hall. Free Coffee!

### NEWS BRIEFS • NEWS BRIEFS • NEWS BRIEFS • NEWS BRIEFS • NEWS BRIEFS

- o The **United Methodist Men's Breakfast Meeting** is the first Sunday each month at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.
- o The **United Women in Faith's Meeting** is the first Tuesday each month at 11:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.
- o The **Food, Fun & Fellowship Meeting** is the third Wednesday each month at 11:30 am. Any one, age or gender is welcome to attend. The location will again be at Charlotte's home on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Details in weekly email blast.
- o **Covered dish luncheon** after Service on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Bring your favorite dishes to share. Brief **Leadership Council Meeting** to follow luncheon. (Leadership Council meetings are usually the second Sunday at 5:00 pm.)
- o **Red Cross Blood Drive** is scheduled for March 11, 1:00 – 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Please visit Red Cross Blood.org and enter: jasper to schedule an appointment.
- o **Holy Week** is scheduled for March 25 – 29; noon service in the Chapel followed by luncheon in the Fellowship Hall.
- o **Community Easter Sunrise Service** – will be held at 7:00 am, March 31<sup>st</sup> on our lawn. Details to come. All welcome. **Traditional Easter Service** at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary & online. Mark your calendars!
- o **Upper Rooms** for March & April are here! Pickup at the office Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 11:00 to 3:00 pm. Please call the office and leave a message if you need assistance.
- o Every fourth Thursday is **Mobile Day at the Jasper County Community Food Bank**, open to all our friends and neighbors in Jasper County. Hours are 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. If interested in volunteering, come to the Foodbank by 8:30 am any Thursday, 2171 Post Rd.



#### **March Birthdays:**

- 7. Tracy Wood
- 13. Jeff Greeson
- 14. Sharon Aiken
- 17. Johnny Strother
- 26. Cliff Padgett
- 28. Sara Russell

#### **April Anniversaries:**

- 13. Max & Tracy Wood
- 26. Mr. & Mrs. Tony Lewis

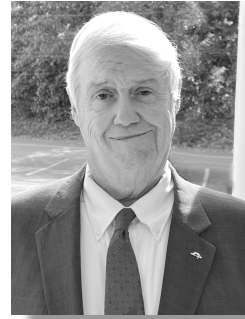


**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

*For corrections, additions, deletions to the Birthdays, Anniversary & email lists, please leave a message at the church office, 706-468-6118 or email us at [m1umc@icloud.com](mailto:m1umc@icloud.com). We want to hear from you!*

# Letter from our Pastor

*Refresh your souls... Easter is coming!*



March is here – or will be by the time you are reading this. I love the Spring. Warmer days, budding trees, flowering redbuds, dogwoods, spring flowers, all those things bring me joy. God has given us a beautiful world, please enjoy it. At my age I remember many springs and hope by the grace of God that you and I will see many more. “He has made everything beautiful in its time...” ECCLESIASTES 3:11 NKJV Enjoy the beauty that He has made and may His love for us make us beautiful in our time. It is in our relationship with Jesus Christ that we become truly beautiful. What greater beauty can we have than to be filled with the love, grace and peace of Jesus Christ?

Holy Week is coming. We will have our annual Holy Week services from Monday, March 25th to Good Friday, March 29th. Services will begin at 12 p.m. and will be followed by a lunch prepared by the ladies of the Monticello United Women in Faith. Our speaker on Monday, will be the Rev. Corey Ingold, pastor of Monticello Presbyterian Church. Tuesday’s guest preacher will be Rev. David Artessa, senior pastor at Monticello Baptist Church. Wednesday’s speaker has yet to be determined, it may well be me. On Maundy Thursday we will have Holy Communion and a brief communion meditation by your pastor. Good Friday’s speaker will be Evangelist M. Horton, from Springfield Baptist Church. I enjoy these Holy week services, especially the visiting speakers. It is also a special treat to have those who have been gifted with beautiful singing voices come and sing for the Lord and for us. I also find it delightful to have those fellow Christians who attend these services from the other churches in Monticello. We are really all His children, and it is pleasing to God to see us worship together.

Monticello First United Methodist will also host the community Easter Sunrise service, March 31st, on our front lawn, weather permitting. The service will begin at 7 a.m. The service has already been planned, with various speakers. The musicians and soloists have been secured. Please plan to attend and help us celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord. Do not worry about the weather. If we face uncertain weather, partly due to the very early date of Easter, March 31, plans are made to move the service inside to our sanctuary.

It has been three months since we had a fellowship meal in the fellowship hall after morning worship. We plan to eat together on March 10th. There will also be a Leadership Team meeting after dinner. It is time for us to get together as a church family and enjoy good food and fellowship with one another. One of the worst things about the pandemic was that it separated us from one another. Please plan to come and eat with your church family.

UMCOR (United Methodist Commission on Relief) Sunday is March 10th. We will take a special offering for UMCOR on that Sunday. UMCOR is one of the top rated, if not the top rated, relief agencies in the United States and in the world. This commission responds to floods, fires, wars, famines and tornadoes across the United States and the world. What is unique about UMCOR is that all the money donated to the relief of people’s distress and suffering goes to RELIEF. There is no percentage of donated funds that is diverted to maintain offices, salaries or benefits. 100% of what is given to a specific cause goes to the relief of those the donors intended to aid. The offering on UMCOR Sunday is used to pay the overhead that UMCOR incurs in managing these many crises. The work of UMCOR is one of many reasons I am proud and happy to be a United Methodist.

*Grace and Peace, Ben*



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*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors*

***Pastor: Reverend Ben Strength***  
*Choirmaster/Pianist: Joneen Padgett*  
*Secretary/Office Manager: Gail Cowart*  
*Financial Secretary: Sam Kelly*

## Monticello First UMC • March / April 2024 Newsletter

