



Monticello First UMC
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Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors

Pastor Kara Wilson
Choirmaster: Joneen Padgett
Youth Director: Ashleigh Kelly
Finance Secretary: Sam Kelly
Secretary: Gail Cowart

Monticello First UMC • January/February 2021 Newsletter



Letter from our Pastor



Dear friends,

Do you know what the mystery flavor of Dum-Dums lollipops is? You're probably thinking, "No, of course I don't. That's why it's called mystery flavor, pastor." And you're right. No one knows exactly what the mystery flavor is, and that is because "mystery flavor" is not any single flavor. The mystery flavor of Dum-Dum lollipops is a mixture of two flavors that come together when the end of one batch of candy meets the next batch of candy. So, you might get a butterscotch and root beer mystery flavor. Or you might get a cherry and pineapple mystery flavor. It's always a surprise!

Like many of you, I am ready for a new batch of flavors to come into my life. I cannot wait for the old flavors of 2020 to fade away and the new flavors of 2021 to take over. However, it will take a while to taste the new flavor. Our country is still in the midst of a pandemic in which over 300,000 people have died. Our nation is still deeply divided politically. Calls for peace, unity, liberty, and justice seem to go unheeded. I do not much like the flavor of 2020. I'm ready for the new flavor! Bring on the next batch! Surely it will be much sweeter and richer than what we have tasted this year.

Scripture teaches us to look forward to the new things God is going to do. In Isaiah 40:18-19, it reads, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. ¹⁹ See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland" (NIV). God tells us to look forward to the amazing and incredible things that God will do, even if it seems impossible. This year, we have tasted the wilderness and the desert, and now our feet ache for a clear path through the wilderness, and our hearts pant for the streams of God's mercies. What is that new flavor coming down the pipe? How we long to taste it!

I am confident of God's steadfast and faithful love to all God's children, and that something new is coming our way. Though the old flavor will pass away, and the new flavor will come upon us, we are going to have to open ourselves to the mystery flavor for a while. We will taste a little bit of the old, and a little bit of the new. We don't have to make sense of the flavor. We just need to have patience with God's time and be humbly obedient to God's will.

God bless you all in this new year.

Love, Pastor Kara

Prayer requests for church family and friends!

Treatment & Surgery:

Carlton & Becky Henderson, Pat Thompson, Pam Kimery (Dot Strother's daughter), Bonnie Starr Bryant

Shut-ins and Retreat:

Martha Brock, Betsy Moore

Continuing Concerns:

Robbie & Sharon Aiken, Pinkie Brucher (Nona Wilson's sister-in-law), Jane Foster, Steve James (Joneen Padgett's brother), Leslie (Joneen's niece), Ray Padgett (Cliff Padgett's brother), Don Parrott, James Sauls, Wendell Wood (Max & Tracy Wood family), Bonnie Tanner, Barbara (Gail Cowart's mother)

Sermon Scriptures January/February

As we are still restricted (due to the pandemic) from having Bibles in the pews, below are the Scriptures for Sundays through February.

January 3	1 Peter 1:13-16 NRSV
January 10	Mark 1:9-13 NRSV
January 17	Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18 NRSV
January 24	Mark 1:14-20 NRSV
January 31	Mark 1:21-28 NRSV
February 7	1 Corinthians 9:16-23 NRSV
February 14	Mark 2:2-9 NRSV
February 21	Luke 18:9-13 NRSV
February 28	Luke 19:1-10 NRSV

Each Wednesday, 5:00 – 6:00 PM

Pastor Kara will host a weekly study of the Scriptures that will be read in Sunday morning worship. The Pastor's Bible Study is a place to ask questions, make connections, and go deeper in the Scripture. Contact Pastor Kara if you have any questions.

Fifty-seven Christmas baskets were delivered to our Sheriff, Deputies and 9-1-1 dispatchers by members of the First United Methodist Church. The collection effort was headed by Joneen Padgett (left), Choir Director and pianist. Many volunteers helped stuff the baskets with jars of local jelly, individually wrapped candy bars, candy canes, mints, cookies, crackers, nuts, beef jerky, plus pens, notepads, hand sanitizer, DQ gift cards and other small gifts.

Also pictured are Cliff Padgett and Pastor Kara Wilson. Many thanks to all who participated!



Financial Update

Sam Kelly, Finance Secretary

Below is a summary of our income/expenses for October and November. Overall, we are still in good shape. A year-end report will be available for the next newsletter.

Description	October	November	YTD
General Fund Contributions	\$10,260.09	\$8,929.63	\$126,161.48
Trustee Contributions	\$0	\$0	\$53,376.28
Designated Contribution	\$0	\$0	\$1090.00
Operating Expenses	\$13,776.54	\$14,620.82	\$124,866.85



Worship in person every Sunday or join us on Facebook live at 11:00 am!

NEWS BRIEFS • NEWS BRIEFS • NEWS BRIEFS • NEWS BRIEFS

The next **Red Cross Blood Drive** is January 25th in the Fellowship Hall. Please check email for times.

The combined **Youth House Meetings** of the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches are each Sunday at the Youth House from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. No meeting on January 3rd is planned. The Youth will have a lock-in on January 15th, details to come. For questions please contact Asheigh Kelly, Youth Director, ashleighke@aol.com.

Leadership Council Meetings are held each month and all members are welcome to attend. Check the Church calendar online and Sunday bulletins for details.

The United Methodist Men – Next meeting is Sunday, January 10, 2021 at 8:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall (no meeting the first Sunday in January). Also, due to the ongoing social distancing and Covid-19 pandemic the UMM have delayed the Annual BBQ and Stew fundraiser that normally takes place during the month of February. They will be meeting to discuss the timing of future fundraising events.

The Church at Monticello is searching for a Director of their outreach ministry; SunRise Gifts and Thrift Store at 428 Venture Court, Monticello. Inquiries may be sent to: tcamonticello@bellsouth.net



January:

- 1 **Malone Cunard**
- 5 **Jessica Kelly**
- 10 **Louise Kelly**
- 13 **Joanne Howe**
- 20 **Lamar Crawley**
- 29 **Linton Jordan**
- 29 **Don Kelly**

February:

- 22 **Matti Smith**
- 27 **Gena Smith**

For corrections, additions, deletions to the Birthdays and Anniversary lists, please contact the church office 706-468-1118.

Every third Thursday is **Mobile Day** at the **Jasper County Community Food Bank**, open to all our friends and neighbors in Jasper County. Hours are 1:00 to 4:30 pm on Mobile Thursday. Volunteers will distribute holiday boxes to each car depending on how many families are represented on Mobile Day.

Volunteers are always needed. The lines just keep getting longer! Volunteers begin at 9:00 am to fill boxes. Several hundred are fed each Mobile Day.

Other Thursdays, hours are 9:30 am to 1:00 pm. If interested in volunteering, call 706-468-6076 and leave your name and number.

Pick up **UPPER ROOMS** for January – February at the office, Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Please call the office and leave a message if you need assistance.