

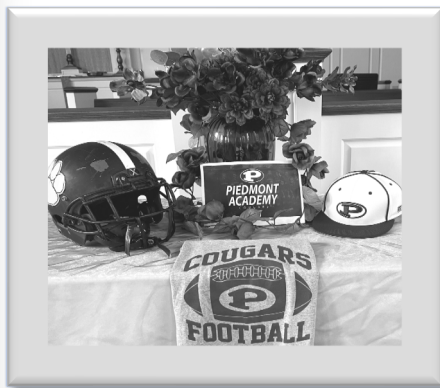


**FALL SPORTS TAILGATE SUNDAY ... was a success** with over 160 attending the 6:00 pm service and cookout! Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers, guest speaker and coaches, athletes and cheerleaders who attended. Pastor Ben officiated, and the fellowship hall was full afterward for the cookout (grill service by our United Methodist Men). A great program and turnout! If you missed the Service, check it out online at: [facebook.com/MonticelloFirstUMC](https://facebook.com/MonticelloFirstUMC)



*Left, Dr. Nolen Wood was Keynote Speaker for the Tailgate. Joneen decorated (below) with school colors and led the spirit songs of the teams. Cookout followed in the Fellowship Hall.*

Volunteers of the United Women in Faith serve behind the scenes for our special event meals, bereavement and thanksgiving luncheons. *Ladies, we appreciate you!*



**GO CANES!  
GO COUGARS!**



**SANCTUARY FLOWERS**

“On the occasion of what would have been the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lamar & Charlotte Crawley, I would like to place these flowers in memory of Lamar Crawley and Forrest Stephens, two of the kindest gentlemen I have ever known,” wrote Lorna Jean Bynum, Class of '59 AHS.

# Letter from our Pastor

## Fall Tailgate a great success ...



Our annual Fall Sports Tailgate was a great success! We had 166 in attendance; both Jasper County High School and Piedmont Academy were well-represented.

Our thanks to the coaches and athletic directors from both schools who worked to get their student athletes to attend. We are grateful for these young persons who play football, softball and volleyball, and cheerleaders who represent our schools and community. Please continue to keep these student athletes and their schools in your thoughts and prayers.

There is a long list of individuals to thank for their contribution to the success of this event. The hamburgers, hotdogs and baked beans were very good. Thanks to Larry Smith, Johnny Strother and Jeff Howe – and their other helpers – for grilling hot dogs and hamburgers; it was very hot outdoors and without a doubt even hotter standing over the grills. Thanks to the United Women in Faith for the cookies and other desserts. They did their usual kitchen work to serve and clean up after the party was over. None of our special events would happen without our volunteers.

Don Kelly contacted Buddy Cain, former teacher, head coach and principal at JCHS. Buddy helped secure the services of the Rev. Dr. Nolen Wood, lead pastor at Life Church in Athens, Georgia. Thanks to Buddy for his help and also for introducing Dr. Wood during our service. Nolen was an outstanding speaker and all our attendees listened attentively to him. We were indeed blessed by his presence and message.

I contacted Jeff Holloway, the Athletic Director at JCHS and he actively promoted attendance for our tailgate. Don Kelly talked to Ashley Henderson, Head Football Coach at JCHS several times and found him to be very enthusiastic. Thanks to Jeff and to Coach Henderson for encouraging their young persons to attend. It was a pleasure to see our “own” Ashleigh Kelly and her volleyball team in attendance. *(Good luck this year; you and your players are in our prayers.)* Monticello High was well represented by football, softball and volleyball players. Go Canes!

Johnny Strother, Sam Kelly and Carol Tyler’s combined efforts resulted in an outstanding attendance from Piedmont Academy. Past experience, before my day, has proven that without having individuals to contact each of our schools well in advance of August, attendance will not be nearly as good as it was last Sunday night. Our thanks to the Piedmont Coaches for their support and aid in turning out an outstanding representation from Piedmont Academy. We wish all of Piedmont’s fall sport teams great success this year. Go Cougars!

Last, but not least we need to thank Gail and Joneen. Gail did an excellent job of providing programs for Sunday evening and managing all the other things that must be done to have special events at Monticello 1st UMC. It would take more space than I have available to thank Joneen for all that she did to get us ready: decorations, music for the service and school fight songs are some of the numerous things Joneen provided. It was a wonderful time for our Church and community!

Your Pastor attended the North Georgia Conference Southwest District setup meeting in Fayetteville August 27<sup>th</sup>. Details to come in the email blast. If you do not receive our weekly emails, contact the Office.

### **Mark our Upcoming events on your calendars:**

- November 12, 5:30 p.m. – Charge Conference hosted by Monticello First United Methodist Church. We will be joined by the other United Methodist churches in Butts and Jasper Counties. There will be a covered dish dinner before the meeting. The business session will begin (hopefully) around 6:15. When we have more details, I will share them with you.
- November 19 – our Thanksgiving dinner following morning worship. Last year’s event was delightful. It was special for us to gather together as a church family and celebrate the blessings we have received from the Lord!
- December 24 – Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year. I have learned that in previous years if Christmas Eve occurs on a Sunday, that it is customary to have no morning worship service. We will gather in the afternoon for worship (and return home before dark; time – TBD).

I trust that the membership of our church will support these special events. Thanks be to God that we are able to resume life and worship together again. I hope to see you in morning worship this week.

*Grace and Peace, Ben*



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

*Sunday School 9:45 AM* resumes in September!

**NEWS BRIEFS • NEWS BRIEFS • NEWS BRIEFS • NEWS BRIEFS • NEWS BRIEFS**

- **UWF Luncheon** meeting is September 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Sam Kelly will present "Where the Money Goes." All women in the Church are invited. First Tuesday each month is usual.
- **UMM Breakfast** meeting resumes September 10<sup>th</sup> and October 1<sup>st</sup>, 8 AM In the Fellowship Hall.
- **Red Cross Blood Drive** – September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 - 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Schedule your appointment online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and use sponsor code: jasper.
- **Joy Group** meetings – Third Thursday, 11:00 AM (Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> & October 19<sup>th</sup>) covered dish in the Fellowship Hall. For September, bring something that gives you joy. All ladies welcome.
- **Leadership Council** – Meetings are usually held the second Sunday each month at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall; all members are welcome. Covered dish meetings at noon will be announced via emails and Sunday bulletins. To sign up for weekly email blasts, please provide your email address.
- **Upper Rooms** for September & October are here! Pickup on the wall in the hall behind the Sanctuary. Please call the office if you need assistance.
- 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., Monticello.



*For corrections, additions, deletions to the Birthdays and Anniversary lists, please leave a message at the church office, 706-468-6118.*

Fall Office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday 11:00 AM to 3:30 PM and Friday from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

*We want to hear from you!*

**September Birthdays:**

2. Becky Felts
3. Sharon Pennebaker
11. Banks Benton
14. Preston Tyler
16. Ashleigh Kelly
19. Trisha Yearwood



**October Birthdays:**

2. Nona Wilson
5. Andie Lewis
14. Lindsay Moore
22. Willy Roberts
23. Patricia Tomlinson  
Robby Aiken
26. Jack Nabors
29. Micah Tyler
30. Rev. Ben Strength
31. Nancy Brock  
Charlanna Cantera

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**FAVORITE HYMN**

suggestions? See or text Joneen Padgett



Monticello First UMC  
651 College Street  
Monticello, GA 31064

Email: [m1umc@icloud.com](mailto:m1umc@icloud.com)  
Phone: 706-468-6118  
Website: [monticellofirstumc.com](http://monticellofirstumc.com)  
*Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors*

*Pastor: Rev. Ben Strength*  
*Choirmaster/Accompanist: Joneen Padgett*  
*Financial Secretary: Sam Kelly*  
*Secretary/Office Manager: Gail Cowart*

## Monticello First UMC • September/October 2023 Newsletter

