

FALL SPORTS TAILGATE SUNDAY ... was a success with over 170 attending.

Thanks to all our wonderful volunteers, guest speaker and coaches, athletes and cheerleaders who attended. Pastor Ben recognized coaches & staff; Joneen, Gail and Reid Robinson provided special music. Guest speaker Dr. Alton Standifer (below) gave an uplifting speech and prayed over teachers and staff. Joneen did her usual fabulous decorating. So good to have a full house!



UMM cooked the meal and United Women in Faith served desserts & fresh watermelon in the Fellowship Hall. Our guests overflowed into the Sunday School rooms (below).

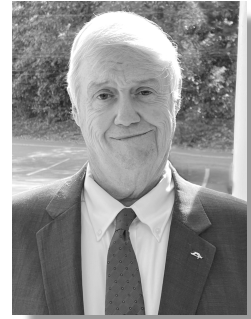


**GO CANES!
GO COUGARS!**



Letter from our Pastor

Fall Tailgate a great success ... and upcoming events in the life of our Church



All of us on the staff of Monticello 1st UMC (Sam, Gail, Joneen and Ben) trust that you have had a good summer. We hope that you have taken advantage of the days of summer to take some breaks, see your families and maybe visit some places you wanted to go. Time does indeed fly when you are having fun. Now our summer hiatus is over and September is here. The UMM, the United Women in Faith and Sunday School all are about to resume in September after Labor Day. I look forward to these groups resuming (see the News Briefs for dates and times, and check our weekly email blasts for updates).

Our Sunday morning worship service numbers have been less than ideal. Partially because so many of you have been pursuing summer activities and partially because of those who left our fellowship over the issues at the national and international level in the United Methodist Church. I will state – once again – that nothing that even the most conservative person would find objectionable – has changed at your church. I love and miss those who have left over matters of their own personal conscience. But, the life of your local church must go on.

I know that many of you are concerned about our diminished numbers and wonder about the future. I personally am not afraid and full of fear about the future. I have faith that we are faithful and God will take care of His church and faithful people. Instead of worry and fear about the future, I would suggest to you to pray for your church. Be involved in your church and say some good things about the church. God will take care of you and of us.

Our annual Fall Sports Tailgate was a success. We had about 175 in attendance, both schools were well represented. Dr. Alton Standifer brought an outstanding message. The hamburger and hotdog supper was a great success. Thanks to all of those who did the preparation, the cooking, the serving and the cleanup which were necessary for this event to happen. I hope that this event makes you feel more hopeful about your church. We are still “staying alive.” We must stay strong in the Lord and the power of HIS MIGHT (Ephesians 6:10).

This fall will be full of events. Charge Conference and the preparations for it are coming soon. We will have our All Saints recognition service for those who have gone to be with the Lord on Sunday, November 3rd. We will also observe Veterans Day on Sunday, November 10th, and have our Thanksgiving Dinner together in November. Our Christmas Eve service will be on Tuesday, December 24th.

Our church will have the baptisms and the infant baptisms of children in September and possibly October. I look forward to all of these events (Charge Conference excepted) and hope you look forward to participating in them with the rest of your church family.

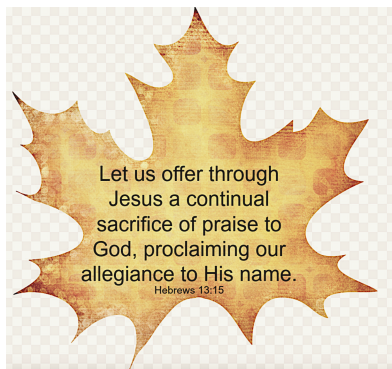
May God be with each of you and bless you. I look forward to seeing you in church on Sunday.

Grace and Peace, Ben

Traditional Worship in person every Sunday at **11:00 AM!**

or join us on Facebook (link in weekly email blast).

Sunday School 9:45 AM resumes September 8th!



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- **UWF Luncheon** meeting is Monday, September 9th at 11:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall due to Labor Day holiday. All women in the Church are invited. First Monday each month is the usual meeting.
- **UMM Breakfast** meeting resumes September 9th and October 1st, 8 AM in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Red Cross Blood Drive** – September 11th, 1:00 - 6:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Schedule your appointment online at www.redcrossblood.org and use sponsor code: jasper.
- **FFF Group** meetings – Third Wednesday, 11:00 AM (Sept. 18th & October 16th) covered dish at Charlotte Crawley's home. Bring your favorite foods. All welcome.
- **Leadership Council** – Next meeting is Sunday, September 8th at 5:30 PM. Meetings are usually held the second Sunday each month at 5:30 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 to the Office.
- **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.
- **Per Ken Horton, a second grant came through and construction of the new building can proceed!** 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 3:00 PM and Friday from Noon to 3:00 PM.

We want to hear from you!

September Birthdays:

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



October Birthdays:

5. Andie Lewis
14. Lindsay Moore
22. Willy Roberts
23. Patricia Tomlinson
26. Jack Nabors
29. Micah Tyler
30. Rev. Ben Strength
31. Nancy Brock

WANT TO SING WITH THE CHOIR OR HAVE FAVORITE HYMN SUGGESTIONS?

See or text Joneen Padgett, Music Director