



Dear FUMC Family,

I hope that you do not miss coming to worship on Sunday morning for Children's Sabbath Sunday or coming to the "Dinner of the Ground" on Sunday evening!!! Sunday will be a special day at FUMC. I am including photos of the children preparing for Sunday morning in this email. They have worked hard learning their parts, learning their songs, and learning where to stand in the Sanctuary. The children have also developed questions to ask me that I have not seen before, so I hope the questions are easy.

Sunday night, invite your family and friends to join you at "Dinner on the Ground". Please bring food to share to this traditional potluck meal. The event starts at 5 pm. More information is included in this email.

Please be in prayer for the family of Bob Morton. Bob entered the church triumphant Tuesday morning while a patient in an area hospital. His sons Scott and Murray were at his bedside. His life will be celebrated with a graveside service on Friday, Oct 13 at 12 noon at Memorial Gardens.



**"Dinner on the Ground"**

**We are looking forward to having dinner together on Sunday Evening at 5 pm for "Dinner on the Ground " being held on the church's lots at the corner of 5th and Laurel. This is a potluck meal so please bring your favorite dishes to share and enjoy this special time with others. Invite your family and friends to join you for this time of fellowship.**

**Just a suggestion!**

If your name begins with:

A-H Bring Entrees

I-M Bring Vegetables

N-S Bring Desserts

T-XYZ Bring Salads

There will be an egg toss and bounce house for children.

Help is needed to set up and tear down for "Dinner on the Ground"!

Following the worship service on Sunday, volunteers are needed to move tables and chairs for the church to the tent for "Dinner on the Ground". Following the meal, help is needed to move the tables and chairs back to the church. Persons with trucks are also needed to help transport the table and chairs. For more information contact Paige Mims or Bro. Jaimie



(Stock Photo of Dinner on the Ground of another era.)



**"Night of Worship" with the Spirit of J will be Sunday, November 5 at 6 pm in the Sanctuary with Chili supper to follow.**

**A love offering will be taken at the "Night of Worship" to be given to the Cyndy and Tommy Ryder family to assist with medical expenses. I have included a story by Shelby Brown that explains the reasons for Ryder's family needs.**

**There will be a Chili Supper following the "Night of Worship" at 7pm in the Cabe Fellowship Center and a Silent Auction. The cost of the meal is \$10.00 per person. All proceeds raised will also be given to the Ryder family to assist with the medical needs of the children.**

**The doors to the Cabe Fellowship Center will be open at 5 pm to bid on things at the Silent Auction.**

**A Story of Love, Sacrifice and Selfless commitment.**

With a heart for helping people, Cyndy and Tommy Rider chose a career path to do exactly that...help people. Cyndy is a Paramedic and Tommy is a Registered Nurse. After working in the field, both now teach these important professions to others going into these lifesaving careers. It should not be a surprise that the couple decided to become foster parents to help children who have been neglected and don't have a loving and caring home. Part of this decision was encouraged by some friends who had adopted three children. In 2018, they started the process to become foster parents by attending classes in Hope, Arkansas sponsored by The Call.

Cyndy and Tommy began their foster care journey with Tatum in October of 2019 who was 5 months old and is now 4.

Anna Marie was their next precious foster child who came in June 2020 and was 7 weeks old and is now 3. Ellie and

Blake followed shortly after that in the first part of July 2020 and were 3 and 4 years old and are now 6 and 7.

MacKenzie came into their care in May of 2021 and was 3 days old and she is now 2. All five children are siblings from the same broken home.

After months of court hearings, home studies and home inspections, adoption of all five children became official on August

17, 2022. Cyndy and Tommy sacrificed a life of quiet nights for one full of hustle and bustle but most of all blessings. As

Cyndy says, God has had His hand in the middle of this journey since the beginning. She claims God's blessings and sufficient resources will see them through this labor of love.

As Jesus taught us by washing his disciples' feet, we are called to serve others in humility and love. Cyndy and Tommy

certainly live out this example of servanthood. This family confronts another challenge and one they would rather not

have to face. Two of the children have been diagnosed with Sagittal Craniosynostosis and are scheduled for brain surgery

at Children's Hospital in Little Rock. Tatum will have surgery 11-29-23 and Anna Marie will have surgery on 12-1-23.

Tommy will need to take a leave from work to care for the children because they will not be able to have much interaction

for an extended period. That is the reason for them to undergo surgery at the same time. It is suspected that MacKenzie

may have this as well and will be tested. Please join us as we help bridge the gap during this critical period of recuperation

of Tatum and Anna Marie.





## Charge Conference

**Our 2023 Charge Conference will be held on Sunday afternoon, October 22 at 2:30 pm in the Caba Center. The Ashdown United Methodist Church will join with us for this Charge Conference led by District Superintendent Edna Morgan. The congregation is invited to attend. Thank you to the committee chairs for your attendance at this meeting.**

God is Faithful!

Bro. Jaimie J. Alexander

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