



November 2021

# AKLEAF



*Lonoke First United Methodist Church*

## Thankful

It is fast approaching the holiday season, as we prepare to celebrate Thanksgiving the end of this month. I thought I would take time to reflect on thankfulness. It has been a year of great transition in my personal life. I have moved from a place that I loved to another church that I love more each day. I must admit moving is hard, physically especially in July, and emotionally. It was hard, but it has been really good. My family is settled and happy. We are loving the community and my kids are making friends. I am thankful that in the midst of all the change I have found a sense of peace and joy. I stopped by the bank I used to work at a few weeks ago, and one of my old tellers said, "You look really happy, not that you were unhappy before but I can see that you are really happy now." It is true, I have found a sense of happiness and joy that came from entering the ministry and fulfilling my call. I was not unhappy before, but I am certainly happy now in ways I did not understand before. I am thankful for this new sense of joy, and peace. I am thankful for my wonderful family. I am thankful for the great churches that I have the privilege to serve. And most of all I am thankful for a relationship with an all-powerful God. What are you thankful for this holiday season? Do you take the time to tell God how thankful you are for his blessings or do you just assume that he knows? I want to close by

sharing a prayer with you, one that I wrote for myself as I reflect on this year and what it means to me.

My Lord, I reflect on the marvelous wonders of You. That You are powerful enough to create the universe, and that you control everything in it, even death. And yet You have a desire for a relationship with me. You choose to come to earth and be subjected to the pain, torture and humiliation of death on a cross. Then You demonstrated Your power over all of creation through Your resurrection. And You did it all for a me. I find it almost unthinkable that a God so big and powerful that He can speak the universe into existence would want a relationship with me, but I know that it is true and I celebrate that through Your resurrection it is possible. All I have to offer is my love and faith. I pray that you will help me to give those freely. And that You will take me and use me; or not use me in accordance with Your will. That I can be filled or emptied in accordance with Your glory. I can rest with peace with the knowledge that through Your resurrection that only questions in my life that truly matter have been answered, and I can be at peace as I attempt to live out Your will for me on Earth.



Amen

Rev. Jeremy Pressgrove



*Family Resource Services*  
*Project 150*

**Working to provide Thanksgiving Baskets for children and families in the Lonoke School District.**

Your monetary donation helps provide a Thanksgiving meal box to current Lonoke food pantry clients. Our goal is to distribute 150 Thanksgiving meal boxes in November.

This project continues in memory of Chris James who began the original Thanksgiving box project in 2010 to share Thanksgiving meal boxes with 100 families in Lonoke.

### Choir Notes

Let's start rehearsing for Christmas with familiar anthems from years past to sing during Advent and on Christmas Eve! Rehearsals start at 6:30pm November 10th, 17th and December 1st, 8th. We will also rehearse on Sunday morning if needed. Invite others to join us and let's get ready to celebrate the season!

## Snapshots from Lonoke Business Academy's Ribbon Cutting





### The Call Gift Baskets

Each year at our annual Christmas Gathering, gift baskets are a special treat and blessing for foster and adoptive families! All of the baskets have a theme and are enjoyable for the whole family. We need the help of our local churches again this year to provide baskets for these incredible families in our community. Ideas for themes include:

- Family Game Night
- All Things Red
- Christmas Baking (pictured)
- Ice Cream Sundae
- Movie Night
- Cookies and Cocoa



Have fun as an individual, family, Sunday school class, etc. Include a card sharing who the gift came from and the name of your local church. Be as creative as you would like to be with the theme as you build a basket for a local foster or adoptive family that will bring them joy and encouragement during the Christmas season!

P.S. This is a perfect way to include children in serving others during the Christmas Season!

Baskets needed by December 1st.

Melissa Furnell

County Coordinator

The CALL in Lonoke & Prairie Counties

### FUMC's Newest Edition

Nicholas Cooper Edgar, son of Nick and Belinda Edgar and grandson of Joey and Anita Wilson made his entrance on October 14th, weighing 8.2 pounds and measuring 21 1/5 inches long.



### FUMC Childcare Center Update

Well, we had two good fundraisers this fall. The pumpkins turned out GREAT! It is always fun to see how creative our families are. Thank you all for your support in this fun event.

The school year is going well! The children are learning and having fun. We had parent/teacher conferences in October. Several parents attended and seem to be happy with the way things are going.

Fall has arrived, the children have been learning about the change of the seasons, pumpkins, turkeys, leaves, and so much more. We are gearing up to start our Holiday Festivities. We will be decorating the halls for Christmas very soon. (Already!!!)

We heard we will be visited by Santa this year. We are very excited about this!

Again, thank you for all you do to support our ministry!

Stephanie Studer



## Lonoke First United Methodist Church

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Lonoke, Arkansas 72086

Church Office Information  
Monday-Thursday, 9am-2:30pm  
Friday, 9am-12pm  
501-676-6767  
fumclonoke@sbcglobal.net

### Upcoming Meetings and Events

Church Council Meeting, Sunday, December 5th, 4-6pm.

Stewardship Sunday, November 21st. Pledge cards will be turned in that day. They are available today if you want to pick one up and begin praying about it.

UM Youth will meet each week on Sundays from 6pm-8pm.

Be sure to check out our facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lonokefumc> and website: <https://fumclonoke.com/>

We stream our live service each Sunday morning via Facebook Live and Youtube.

Check-in, Comment, Follow and Like us for updates and announcements! We love hearing from all of our viewers



SCAN ME

### Prayer List

Our prayers are with:

Jane Lipton, Peggy Anderson, Debbie Depriest, Emily Clark, Marlo Johnson, Lonnie Davis, Art Cole, Jim Goode, Brenda Dobbs, Jane Fowler, Maleah Behrens, Morgan Burnett and Beth Wright.

If you have any changes or additions to the prayer list, please call or email the church office.