



First United Methodist Challenge

615 East Main Street • Batesville, Arkansas 72501 • 870-793-3803
www.fumcbatesville.org

January 6, 2021

Our Vision is to be a Dynamic Community of Believers

From the Pastor . . .

I want to thank Rev. John Fleming for sharing an excellent word with us last Sunday! I am so deeply grateful that all of the Flemings are part of FUMC, and that John is our District Superintendent.



As John brought such a fine word for us, I want to explore more of the way that our words can create. We will look back to the very beginning – Genesis 1:1-5 – and recall how God created everything by speaking, "Let there be ____." If we are made in the image of God, what are we to say to use our words to create (rather than tear down).

Join us this Sunday at 9:00 am (contemporary) or 11:00 am (traditional) on YouTube and Facebook, or on 103.3FM at 11:00 am.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Mark

Pastor Mark Retiring This Summer

Dear Church Family,

I am writing to share with you that I am planning on retiring from full-time ministry at the end of this appointment year, which is June 30, 2021.

Kelley and I have talked about retiring for several years. This year, I will reach 30 years of full-time service and thus become eligible for retirement. Many of you know that we have deep family roots in Central Arkansas, and we will return to our home in Conway to be nearer to our children and their families.

Having shared that, please know that I am still very much here as your pastor! I hope we can learn from all our lessons during the pandemic so we will be a stronger church than we were before the Exodus – I mean the pandemic. Above all else, my primary goal is simply to be the best pastor I can for our church.

I will continue to share the Word and the sacraments, to find new and innovative ways to be the church as we move out of the pandemic, and to serve with you in ministry to our congregation, community, and world. I intend to continue to lead as your shepherd until it is time for the transition to the next privileged pastor. (We will learn of the pastor who will follow me in a few months, and we will welcome him/her to visit and discover what an incredible church family this is.)

Until that change happens, I look forward to sharing life with you, and living it abundantly!

In Christ's love,
Pastor Mark



Welcome to Saoirse Jean Moore
Baptised on Christmas Eve!
Parents are Barrett and Sara Moore



It is time to pick a new secret pal for 2021.

Please call Bennie Burks at 834-8111 if you are interested in being a secret pal to a shut in.

"The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."

Please review the names on the prayer list. Names will remain on the prayer list for 2 weeks.
At the end of 2 weeks to continue the name, please call the church office.

Our Prayers for Those at Home

Della Mae Dortch Member
Terri Presley.....member
Troy Smythe.....son of Katy Smythe
Phyllis & Jim Terhune.....members
Carolyn Wilsonmember

Our Prayers for Those in Hospitals

Hospital in Tennessee

James Curluncle of Tom Curl

Our Prayers for Those in Health Care Centers and Retirement Homes

Brookdale Cary - Cary, NC

Dianne Taylor..... member

Eagle Mountain Assisted Living

Janine Kimmer..... member
Polly Livingston member
Carol Robertson member
Barbara Stevenson member
Stanley Wood..... member

Wood-Lawn Heights

Mildred Arnold member
Bobbie Sue Graves..... mother of Diana Waldrip
Lucille Maris member
Virginia Swetnam mother of Lorrie McClure

Woodcrest Assisted Living

Marilyn Coffman..... member
Judy Murrah..... member

Daily Devotionals to start your Day!

Monday through Saturday 9 AM

www.facebook.com/fumcbatesville

Our Prayers for Those in U.S. Military Service

MSgt. Jason Austinson of Robin Austin Gay
Colonel Mark Bowersson of Marcus & Glenda Bowers
Lt. Col. Chris Carpenterson of R.L. & Susan Carpenter
Lt. Col. Marc Jonesnephew of Mildred Arnold
SPC Lane Lively.....grandson of Glen & LaDonna Busby
Capt. Ian MacDonaldnephew of Starr & Johnny Kent
Trent McDonald.....cousin of member
Lt. Col. Shannon McLoughlin..daughter of Cecilia Vinson
Major Adam Mooreson-in-law of Ken & Ginger Davis
Staff Sgt. Jonathan Reed.....son of Dan & Vicki Reed
TSgt. Karl Sagerson of Shirley Stuckey
Stg. Bradley Skelton.....
Sergeant Keegan Smart member
Petty Officer Zane Smart member
Capt. Michael Stevenson.....grandson of members
Lt. Cmdr. Greg Tebbettsson of Diane & Terrell Tebbetts
Capt. John Ticenephew of Verona Bebow
Lance Cpl. James Brantley Wheeler cousin of member

✠ Our Prayers for Those Who Mourn ✠

Our Sympathy goes out to *Dan Driver and family* in the death of his father, **Chuck Driver**. Funeral arrangements are not available at this time.

Due to privacy laws, First Church cannot access hospital admission records. Please let the church office know when you or a family member are hospitalized. 870-793-3803

If you need pastoral assistance contact:

Pastor Mark McDonald - 501-650-0046
Associate Pastor Carl Hudson - 870-251-6227

Church Leadership

Senior Pastor

Reverend Mark McDonald

Associate Pastor

Carl Hudson

Choir Director

Amanda Pickett

Church Administrator

Teresa Brown

Minister of Congregational Care

Bennie Burks

Minister to Children & Family Ministries

Katie McLean

Minister to Youth

Lorrie McClure

Worship Leader

Alicia Williams

Sexton

Joe Johnson

Lay Leader

Mike Wilson

Lay Servants/Ministers

Cyndi House
Kathy McKinney
Sandy West
Asa Whitaker

Church Council Chair

Barrett Moore

Staff/Parish Chair

Paul Holifield

Trustees Chair

Alex Roofe

Finance Chair

Tommy Newton

Our Mailing Address is:
First United
Methodist Church
P.O. Box 2014
Batesville, AR 72503-2014

Our Presence

Worship

December 20 274
December 27:215

Christmas Eve Worship

In person (4:00 & 6:00 pm): 90
Online (8:00 pm): 195

Weekly Update

December 16 88
December 23 80

Daily Devotionals resumed this week after a Christmas holiday!

Our Gifts

Received in December

Received through
12/06/2020
Cash & Checks..... \$7,550.00
Online Giving.....\$553.44

Received through
12/13/2020
Cash & Checks..... \$6,530.00
Online Giving..... \$1,174.32

Received through
12/20/2020
Cash & Checks..... \$2,190.00
Online Giving.....\$648.04

Received through
12/31/2020
Cash & Checks..... \$33,413.83
Online Giving..... \$5,698.86

Received in January

Received through
01/04/2021
Cash & Checks..... \$10,555.00
Online Giving.....\$0.00

Amount needed weekly \$11,427.00

Thank you so much for your generosity in 2020!
We will have a full year-end report and giving statements available later this month.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

from UMMEN Calendar

January 1 Bryan Lee Jeffery
January 2 Wesley Gay
Greg Neaville
January 3 Alicia Williams
Heather Jackson
Alice Simmons
January 4 Devin Rice
Kristin Rice
January 5 Daniel King
January 6 Sonja Massey Turner
January 7 April McSpadden
January 8 Joel Wagoner
Shea Wilkerson Ninemire
January 10 Virginia Gray Patterson
Chad Wann
January 11 R.L. Carpenter
January 12 Shawn Smith
January 13 Leah Taylor
January 14 Isabella Grace Anorve
Robert Williams
January 15 Tommie McDonald
Madison Neaville Morgan
January 16 Nancy Bernard
Harry Crossett
Jerry Lewis
Bill Robertson

January 3 Mitch & Sarah Bolin
January 5 Tim & Ronda Thompson
January 10 Phil & Laura Brissey
January 16 Patrick & Tammy Arnold

MEMORIALS

GEORGE BENTZ, SR.

Bill & Anne Luster

JIM SMYTHE

Bill & Anne Luster
James & Debra West
Bennie Burks
The Tate Family
Michael & Sandy West

DONNABROWN

Chaney Huddleston Class

JIM SMYTHE, GEORGE BENTZ, SR.

FLOY MAE CROSSETT

MARYWHITAKER, TROY KUCHLER

Ron & Barbara Cheatham

MARYWHITAKER

Michael & Sandy West



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email us at fumcbatesville@gmail.com
 Check out newsletters online!
www.fumcbatesville.org/



Community Breakfast

Free

8:30 Every Saturday
FUMC Fellowship Hall
No inside dining
Take out at side door of the Hall



The FUMC Challenge **Page 4**

FACEBOOK CONNECTIONS
facebook.com/fumcbatesville

"Mid-week Update" with the pastor Mark each Wednesday at noon on Facebook Live
 "Daily Devotional" on Facebook & YouTube each morning at 9:00 am

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

While we are closing the facilities, we are deeply concerned that we continue to provide care for our church and community. If there is anything, we can do to help you, please leave a message at (870) 793-3803 or call one of these staff members:

- Pastor Mark McDonald: (501) 650-0046
- Pastor Carl Hudson: (870) 251-6227
- Katie McLean (Children & Families): (870) 307-4034
- Lorrie McClure (Youth & Families): (870) 613-6961
- Bennie Burks (Visitation): (870) 834-8111
- Teresa Brown (Administrator): (662) 284-7390

Listen to the Worship Service at 11:00 am on KWOZ FM 103.3 or on the internet whiterivernow.com/ar1033/ and click Listen Live button
 Get the KWOZ app for your smartphone or add it to your favorites on apps such as TuneIn Radio

Watch our worship service Sunday at 9:00 am on our YouTube channel FUMC Batesville, AR youtube.com/FUMCBatesvilleAR



Next Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the January 13th newsletter must be submitted by 3:00 pm Monday, January 11th to the church office or by email to Lyndal at lyndalwaits@sbcglobal.net.