



First United Methodist Challenge

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

January 20, 2021

Our Vision is to be a Dynamic Community of Believers

From the Pastor . . .

In ancient times, some Christians took the practice of meditation and contemplation to an extreme. Sim-eon Stylites was the first Christian known to climb a poll to sit, pray, and fast as a way of removing himself from any obstructions to his faithfulness. He began his practice of sitting above the world around the year 423, and it was similar to those who lived as hermits in isolated places. "Stylites," as they were called, believed the salvation of their soul depended on isolation. They were the ultimate introverts, and would have done fine during COVID isolation and quarantine!



Jesus, on the other hand, seemed to always be among the crowds, and he called disciples to leave everything and everyone they knew to follow him. In many ways, that is another extreme that would probably be attractive to introverts.

So where do you fit in? I'm not sure I like either extreme!

This Sunday, we will turn to Mark 1:14-20 to discover something about Jesus' call to extroverts AND introverts, and consider how God is calling us to leave our comfortable places to discover something transformational! Join us as we continue to look for ways to serve God in new ways in this new year!

In Christ's love,
Pastor Mark



Secret Pals

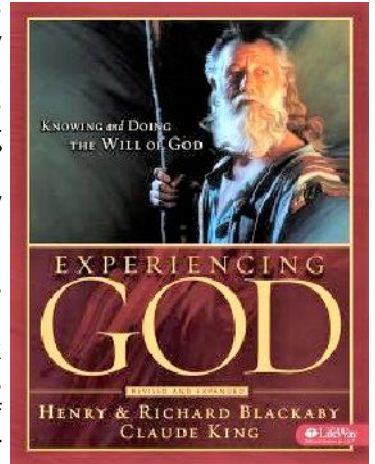
It is a new year and time to select a secret pal for the year. People are asking if loved ones will have a secret pal.

Please call Bennie Burks at 834-8111 if you can be a secret pal to members of our church that are in different facilities. It is very rewarding to be a secret pal.

Thank you.

Experiencing God Study

Our daily devotionals have been transformed into a daily Bible study! This is week 2 of a 12-week study using the Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God workbook by Dr. Henry Blackaby.



The daily devotional is aired each Monday through Friday at 9:00 on Facebook and YouTube, and it includes an introduction to each of the lessons. You can order the workbooks online (hard copies, pdfs, audiobooks, eBooks, etc.), and spend about 20-30 minutes each day in reading, study, reflection, and prayer.

It's not too late to join, and you can review any of the daily introductions at any time after they are posted.

COVID Rules for FUMC Groups

The church remains closed and access is limited to essential personnel only. That generally includes persons getting food for the blessing box, staff performing necessary duties, and clearing/maintenance persons only. Masks must be worn at all times when indoors.

Masks are required at all church functions and activities, including outside groups. We do allow you to remove your mask while seated outdoors in a small group provided you are at least 6 feet from any other person. If you stand to walk somewhere, you must put your mask back on.

Groups should remain near or below 10 people when meeting outside.

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

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

God is in Control

"Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." -Isaiah 41:10

In an attitude of prayer and gratitude, may we lift our hearts as one through this prayer.

Leader: Loving God, You know our lives have changed over the past few months in ways we would have never imagined. Yet, in the midst of fear, uncertainty, loneliness, sickness, and loss...

All: You are in Control

Leader: This world-wide pandemic is frightening, Lord. The divisive social and political climate that has come to a head in recent days, is frightening. Help us as Your people to remain calm, yet vigilant and keep in mind that...

All: Our God of Healing and Mercy is in Control

Leader: We are grateful that as we strive each day to find new ways to continue the mission and advocacy work we do in Your name we know that...

All: Our God of Justice is in Control

Leader: As we diligently work for justice, for your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven...

All: Creator God, We Know You are in Control

Leader: As we walk through our collective journeys, You lead us, guide us and comfort us and with each step we know that...

All: Our God of Guidance is in Control

Leader: And, God, as hard as it is for us to sometimes let go of trying to control every detail of our own lives, we know we can and should because...

All: The God Who Gives Us Choice is in Control

All: Enable us to let go of our worry, fear, and self-centeredness, to reach out in love and listen to others, and let You, God, be in Control.

Leader: Amen

— Based on a litany by Deaconess Christi Campos, executive for donor relations,
United Methodist Women

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 Holfield

Trustees Chair

Alex Roofe

Finance Chair

Tommy Newton

Our Presence

Worship

January 10th 244

Weekly Update

January 13th 75

Daily devotional average

(week 1 of Experiencing God): 54

Our Gifts

Received in January

Received through

01/04/2021

Cash & Checks..... \$10,555.00

Online Giving..... \$0.00

Received through

01/11/2021

Cash & Checks..... \$6,315.00

Online Giving..... \$9,916.32

Received through

01/18/2021

Cash & Checks..... \$6,229.41

Online Giving..... \$952.04

Amount needed weekly \$11,427.00

Birthdays and Anniversaries

from UMMEN Calendar

January 24 Laura Brissey
Pam Smith

January 25 Gina Robertson

January 26 Ruth Ashcraft

Paul Glover

Ron Lewallen

Andy Walmsley

January 27 Glenda Martin

January 28 Donna Ruth Arnold

Carrie Carter Davis

Jerry Rose

January 29 Barbara Stevenson

Miller Bryant

MEMORIALS

DELLA MAE DORTCH

First Community Bank

Willa Harkey

Dale & Gayle Cole

Charles M. McClain, Jr.

Mary C. Smallwood

Susie & Phil Farris

Sara & Barrett Moore

Max & Susan McElmurry

Boris & Pamela Dover

Margaret L. Sturch

Della Mae Dortch

Jim Smythe

Jim Wann

Jim Smythe

Rocky & Laura Sutton

Joseph R. Ruiz

Marti Ruiz

Thank you so much for your generosity in 2020!

We will have a full year-end report and giving statements available later this month.



EMAIL US!!!

Email us at fumcbatesville@gmail.com to add your email to our newsletter list, in case we are not able to mail it for a brief time because of safety concerns.

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



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

Terri Presley.....member
Troy Smythe.....son of Katy Smythe
Phyllis & Jim Terhune.....members
Pat Collinsmember

Our Prayers for Those in Hospitals

UAMS - Little Rock

Kathy Edmisten.....sister of Bennie Burks

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
Virgina Swetnam..... mother of Lorrie McClure

Woodcrest Assisted Living

Marilyn Coffman..... member
Judy Murrah member

Daily Devotionals to start your Day!

Monday through Friday 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 Smartmember
Petty Officer Zane Smartmember
Capt. Michael Stevenson.....grandson of members
Lt. Cmdr. Greg Tebbettsson of Diane & Terrell Tebbetts
Capt. John Ticenephew of Verona Bebow
Lance Cpl. James Brantley Wheelercousin of member

✠ Our Prayers for Those Who Mourn ✠

Our Sympathy goes out to *Dan & Nicole Driver and family*, and *Ed & Katie Driver and family* in the death of Dan and Ed's father, **Charles Cooper Driver**, who passed away Thursday, December 31st.

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



DRIVE BY, HONK & WAVE, IT'S A
BABY SHOWER PARADE

HONORING

**SHELBY BROWN-SWAIM AND BABY
LUKE MICHAEL MARTIN DALRYMPLE**

Since we can't be together for Shelby's big day
let's shower the baby in a different way!
Drive by for curbside treats and favors.
Sunday, February 7, between 2 and 3pm
First United Methodist Church Breezeway

**SHELBY IS REGISTERED AT
WALMART, TARGET AND AMAZON**



First United Methodist Church
 615 East Main St.
 P.O. Box 2014
 Batesville, AR 72503-2014

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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 Monday - Friday 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 27th newsletter must be submitted by 3:00 pm Monday, January 25th to the church office or by email to Lyndal at lyndalwaits@sbcglobal.net.