



First United Methodist Challenge

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

February 3, 2021

Our Vision is to be a Dynamic Community of Believers

From the Pastor . . .

This Sunday, we begin a new sermon series entitled, "Back Where We Started." We will follow the New Testament Epistles (letters) from the lectionary to take a glimpse into how the early church began. Rather than looking back at the good old days of the early church, I want to focus on how we've been reliving some of the same challenges of the early church during the last year as we've been in a pandemic. I believe it will be a profound and challenging way to consider how we are called to get back to where we started!



This week, we will turn to 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 as we consider what our church is really worth to us. And an even deeper and more profound question: What is it worth to others?

Listen to the services at 11:00 am on 103.3 FM, or watch them on Facebook or YouTube starting at 9:00 am (contemporary) and 11:00 am (traditional) or anytime thereafter!

In Christ's love,
Pastor Mark

PS. Remember that this Sunday is Communion Sunday, and we will have a time on communion online at 10:00 am (as well as at the end of the radio broadcast). You may prepare your own elements (such as bread and juice), or contact the church office and we can deliver elements to your doorstep!

FUMC Food Pantry Ministry

The food pantry at FUMC currently serves two groups of people. One program is the **Backpack Ministry at Southside Schools**. Every week, our church delivers food to the school and that food is placed in students' backpacks in order for them to have food at home on the weekends. Ron and Barbara Cheatham do the shopping every week and Sharan Pittser delivers to the school. Thank you for helping us feed hungry children.

The 2nd program is our **Blessing Box**, and it is located in the front yard our church. Items are placed in here that anyone can come by and what take they need. Many people in the community drive by frequently to add food and for that we are grateful. However, during the pandemic, we have seen an enormous demand in food items. So much so that our volunteers have organized a daily schedule that they come to church and fill the Blessing Box. I have seen these folks come in like little Christmas elves...wearing their masks and gloves and consistently trying to keep it filled with food. What a grand task this is, and our amazing volunteers keep it running like clockwork.

Thank you!
Katie McLean

Thank you to those that do all the shopping, bring food, donate money and volunteer so we can keep feeding the hungry.

Ron and Barbara Cheatham
Kathy McKinney
Jim Ramsey
David and Sharan Pittser
Ron and Martha Lewallen
Tom and Ruby Curl
Pastor Mark and Kelley McDonald
Asa Whitaker
Bennie Burks
Amanda Roberts
Maggie Beshears

Check out photos on page 2.

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 17th

Check the insert to see how we will observe
Ash Wednesday

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

FUMC Food Pantry Ministry



FUMC was able to donate stockings to the students at White River Academy! Each child received candy, personal hygiene items, a handmade mask and mask holder, hand sanitizer and other fun items! The FUMC Children's Ministry program is excited to work with WRA in the future. We have plans to volunteer at the school and offer woodworking, art classes and other opportunities to build relationships with these amazing kids! Thank you to everyone that donated to this new ministry.

Pictured L to R: Mary Eary, Director of WRA and Sharon Martin, Administrative Assistant

 The poster features a red pickup truck filled with cartoon animals (a dog, a cat, a squirrel, and a bear) and colorful balloons. The background is decorated with green leafy branches.

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**

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

Our Presence

Worship

January 24th 247

Weekly Update

January 27th 106

Daily devotional average

1/25 - 1/29 32

Our Gifts

Received in February

Received through

02/01/2021

Cash & Checks..... \$10,460.00

Online Giving.....\$603.44

Amount needed weekly \$11,427.00

Wesley Covenant Prayer

“I am no longer my own, but thine.

Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with
whom thou wilt.

Put me to doing, put me to suffering.

Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for
thee,

exalted for thee or brought low for thee.

Let me be full, let me be empty.

Let me have all things, let me have
nothing.

I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.

And now, O glorious and blessed God,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.

And the covenant which I have made on
earth,

let it be ratified in heaven.

Amen.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

from UMMEN Calendar

February 8 Randy Seale

February 9 Belinda Bube Prince
Lexie Slaughter Gatlin

February 10 Aranda Altom

Julie Ballard

Jeannie Wagoner

February 12 Dan & Vicki Reed

MEMORIALS

DELLA MAE DORTCH

David & Suzanne Blair

Katy Smythe

Bill & Anne Luster

Beth Meacham

DAILOSMONSON

Ernestine, Beth, Callie & Mack Boyce

Becky & Jimmy Winemiller

Mr. & Mrs. Rex Boyce, Jr.

DELLA MAE DORTCH

JIM SMYTHE

GEORGE BENTZ, SR.

Bob & Susie Carter

JIM SMYTHE

DELLA MAE DORTCH

Buddy & Elaine Vinson

DELLA MAE DORTCH

Dr. & Mrs. Tasker Rodman

Lynda Jett & Rita Hill

Raymond & Diane Lacroix

Ron & Martha Lewallen

First United Methodist Church

A church alive in the grace of God,

offering Christ,

transforming lives,

and changing our world

through the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

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

Shiloh Nursing Home - Springdale, AR

Kathy Edmisten..... sister of Bennie Burks

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

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 Wheeler cousin of member

Daily Devotionals to start your Day!

Monday through Friday 9 AM

www.facebook.com/fumcbatesville

✠ Our Prayers for Those Who Mourn ✠

Our sympathy goes out to *Linda Hix*, in the death of her son, **Scott Atkins**, who passed away over the weekend.

Funeral arrangements are pending 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



Save the Date: Ash Wednesday February 17

Ash Wednesday (*in TWO weeks on Feb. 17*) is the first day of the season of Lent, which represents the 40 days of preparation for the celebration of the resurrection (Easter Sunday). During Lent, Christians around the world consider the sacrifice that was made by Christ prior to his death and resurrection. It culminates with Holy Week, when we remember the walk with Jesus from the triumphant entry into Jerusalem (called Palm or Passion Sunday) to the death on the cross on that Friday.

Ash Wednesday, therefore, is the beginning of a spiritual journey. Lent as a time of preparation is not a biblical requirement, although it is based on the biblical time of preparation (Jesus' 40 days of prayer and fasting, Israel's 40 year of the Exodus, etc.). The tradition of using ashes as a symbol during Lent – especially on Ash Wednesday – began in the church in the 11th century, was originally simply sprinkling ashes or dirt on a person's head as a reminder of the death of Christ (ashes to ashes, dust to dust). Over the years, people began mixing the ashes with oil and making the sign of a cross on our foreheads. That part of our tradition only began in the 20th century in our country.

Because we continue to be cautious with the pandemic, we are following the conference guidelines for our Ash Wednesday services. Here are the details about our two opportunities:

- **At noon**, we will have a brief service on the outside front steps of the sanctuary where we will hear a devotional from Pastor Mark, share in a time of prayer, and share communion like we did on Christmas Eve. Instead of the imposition of ashes, we will share a small item we encourage you to wear throughout Lent to remind you of the way God provides for us in our times of struggle. We will also have instructions on how you can self-impose ashes if you choose to do so.
- **From 5:00 - 6:00 pm**, we will offer a time for families to drive through the covered drop-off to receive a communion cup, an item to wear throughout Lent, and instructions for the self-imposition of the ashes if you want to do that on your own.

If you would like communion elements or an Ash Wednesday packet delivered to you because you aren't able to attend either of those services, please contact the church office and we'll drop it at your home!



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 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 February 10th newsletter must be submitted by 3:00 pm Monday, February 8th to the church office or by email to Lyndal at lyndalwaits@sbcglobal.net.