



First United Methodist Challenge

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

March 10, 2021

Our Vision is to be a Dynamic Community of Believers

From the Pastor . . .

As we draw nearer to the return of in-person worship, it is easy to think that we are "getting back to normal." It will be a new normal, still including masks and social distance, continuing our online worship option, and moving back into a renovated sanctuary with a shorter order of worship that ties the past, present, and future together.



Will anything be the same? One thing will remain the same as it has for thousands of years for the people of God: We keep moving!

This week, as we turn to Ephesian 2:1-10, we will find a word that reminds us of the grace required to keep moving. We will also consider how that is the same thing we've been doing for the last year of the pandemic. We kept moving, because we are a people who hear God's call to move from death to life -- no matter what the world may bring.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Mark

New Pastor Appointed to FUMC

We are pleased and excited to announce that Bishop Gary Mueller has appointed Rev. Katie Pearce as the next pastor at FUMC, effective July 1, 2021. Rev. Pearce will follow Mark McDonald, who is retiring after 30 years in ministry. She is serving her fifth year as the senior pastor at FUMC Morrilton, and is an excellent pastor who will be a wonderful leader of our church in the coming years.

We have included a pastoral profile of Rev. Pearce in this issue. Feel free to reach out to her and welcome her via the contact information provided in that profile.

Easter Lilies for the Sanctuary



We are taking memorials and honorariums to purchase Easter Lilies for Easter Sunday (April 4, 2021).

We will use them in the sanctuary for worship that day and deliver them to homes afterwards. Hopefully, we will all be able to gather in the sanctuary that day!

The cost is \$22.00 per plant. If you would like to place a plant in the sanctuary in honor of or in memory of a friend or a family member, please use this form and return it to the church office by noon, Wednesday, March 10th.

Use a separate form for each honoree. Remember to enclose your payment.

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Given by _____

Paid by: check cash



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

Easter Reservations Begin Today!

To join any of our in-person worship services on Easter Sunday, you must make a reservation so we can stay within the conference guidelines for social distancing. For Easter Sunday, we have scheduled two services at 9:30 and 11:00 am. If those reach capacity, we will announce additional services as needed.

To reserve your spots, copy and paste in your browser one of these links (or visit our website or Facebook page to find the links):

9:30 am Worship Reservation

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/144011605589>

11:00 am Worship Reservation

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/144020570403>

If you cannot make your reservation via the link, contact the church office, and let us know which service you want to attend and how many from your household will attend. We are limited to 60 people in each service, so please give us an accurate count. Again, if the services reach their capacity, we will open additional worship times.

Households are allowed to sit together, and masks must be worn at all times. Ushers will seat you and dismiss you (although you can leave or go to the restroom anytime you need to). No one is allowed to congregate and visit in the hallways, but everyone is welcome to stay and visit outdoors before, during, or after the services.

The Lord's Prayer Linking Us Together - Part 1

What does the Lord's Prayer have to do with a chain? I asked this question when I read this illustration in a children's lesson recently.

Jesus became the first link in the chain when he spoke this prayer. He taught the Lord's Prayer to his disciples who taught it to others so they became links in the chain. Each generation of Jesus' followers have prayed this prayer and taught it to others right up to you and me. And we continue to pray the Lord's Prayer and teach it to others who, like us, become links in this chain.

The next time you pray the Lord's Prayer, picture yourself linked to other Jesus' followers, even ones with whom you may not always agree.

In God's peace,
Kathy McKinney

FUMC Kids!

Please join us for an



Saturday, April 3

1:00pm

Egg hunt

Ms. Carey & Mr. Bill's petting zoo

portraits with Mallory

Resurrection eggs for each family!

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Our annual Easter egg hunt will look a little different this year. While we are still finalizing the most COVID safe plans, we know for sure we will need eggs and candy! This year, we are purchasing pre-filled peanut-free eggs from Sunny Bunny eggs. Sunny Bunny Eggs is located in Springfield, MO and provides meaningful employment to people with disabilities.

If you would like to make a donation to help with the purchase of our Sunny Bunny eggs, please write Egg Hunt on the memo line of your check. This will be easier and will require less contact than individuals purchasing the supplies and bringing them to the church.

Thank you for supporting our First Kids ministry!

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 Presence

Worship

February 28th 227

Weekly Update

March 3rd 97

Daily devotional average

3/1 - 3/5 36

Our Gifts

Received in March

Received through 03/07/2021

Cash & Checks \$7,865.00

Online Giving \$733.98

Amount needed weekly \$11,427.00



When we return to our usual activities, please consider how you can be in ministry.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

from UMMEN Calendar

March 15 Christi Wann-Minnick
March 16 Luke Brissey
Reneé Kimmer Pearson
March 17 April Rice
March 18 Katie McLean
Eleanor Royer
March 19 J.D. Hill
March 20 Emma Bryant

March 15 Robb & Amanda Roberts
March 18 Lindsey & Deann Castleberry

MEMORIALS

JOHN TAYLOR, JR

Sonja Massey Turner

KATHY EDMISTON

Bennie Burks

JIM SMYTHE

DELLA MAE DORTCH

Eleanor Royer



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



First Kid Parents!

Two important things are happening over on our FUMC Kids Facebook page:

***weekly Prayer Room page with Ms. Kathy

***daily Lenten calendar for kids ~ click on a door to reveal the lesson or activity for your child. This can be done on any device and is a great faith formation tool to use at home!

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

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

Our Prayers for Those in Hospitals

White River Medical Center

Mac McClure.....father of Chad McClure

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 *Bennie Burks and family*, in the death of her sister, **Kathy Edmisten**, who passed away Friday, March 5th.

A private family service will be held; with a public celebration of life held at a later date.

† Our Prayers for Those Who Mourn †

Our sympathy goes out to *Pat Collins and family*, in the death of her husband, **George Collins**, who passed away Saturday, March 6th.

Services will be private.

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

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
Barbara Stevenson member
Stanley Wood..... member

Wood-Lawn Heights

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

Woodcrest Assisted Living

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 Stevensongrandson of members
Lt. Cmdr. Greg Tebbettsson of Diane & Terrell Tebbetts
Capt. John Ticenephew of Verona Bebow
Lance Cpl. James Brantley Wheelercousin of member

If you need pastoral assistance contact:

Pastor Mark McDonald - 501-650-0046

Associate Pastor Carl Hudson - 870-251-6227

Clergy Biography

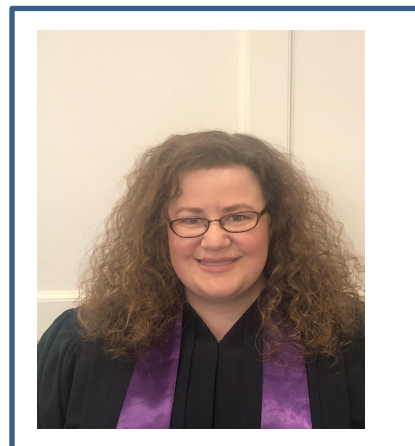


Name: __Katie Goss Pearce__

Date of Birth: __1/9/86__

Household Family Members (name and ages):

- I grew up in Springdale where my parents still live.
- I have two sisters. Sarah lives in St. Louis and Elizabeth lives in Little Rock with her husband, Michael and their son, James.



Education Information:

Hendrix College, B.A. in Music and Religion

Vanderbilt Divinity School, Masters of Divinity

Baptist Health Medical Center, Clinical Pastoral Residency

Interests/Activities/Hobbies/Religious or Civic Affiliations:

- I serve as a Jurisdictional Delegate for the Arkansas Conference.
- I chair the Nominations Committee for the Arkansas Conference and serve on the Conference Board of Pensions.
- I serve on the Young Leaders Advisory Board at Wespath, the UMC's pension agency.
- I participate in Advancing Pastoral Leadership, a continuing education cohort for young clergy in the South Central Jurisdiction.
- I am active in a Conway chapter of P.E.O. and plan to join a chapter in Batesville.
- I have served for the past year as chair of the Conway County COVID taskforce.
- Pre-pandemic I loved to travel. I have been to Israel, England, Sweden, and Japan, and hope to add more countries to the list when we can travel safely again. Along with two clergy friends I am trying to visit all 75 counties in Arkansas and would appreciate any tips for exploring this part of the state.
- Other hobbies include playing the flute, swimming, reading mysteries and thrillers, spending time with family and friends, and meeting new people. I have never been confused for an introvert!

Three things I value about pastoral ministry in The United Methodist Church:

- 1) One of the things I treasure most about the United Methodist Church is that our theology and practice emphasize both personal discipleship and social holiness. We see these dual priorities in our mission statement: "to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world." I love teaching and preaching scripture, but our faith does not remain in the pews; we are called to an active faith and to love God by serving our community.
- 2) Some of the most holy moments in ministry are offering God's grace to others through the sacraments of baptism and communion. I am drawn to our practice of the open table

Clergy Biography



and infant baptism as tangible signs that God's grace is available to all people. It is always a joy to be the vessel of that grace for others.

- 3) One of the greatest joys and privileges as a pastor is being present with people in moments of celebration and during difficult moments. I served for a year as a hospital chaplain, often journeying alongside families on one of the worst days of their lives. As a pastor I attend to those trying times with the congregation, but I also get to be present for happy moments, life transitions and for lots of in between times as well.

Highlights from most recent appointment:

- In my first year at Morrilton FUMC the congregation decided we wanted to support foster and guardianship families in Conway County because several members were foster parents. This started with a children's clothing closet where foster parents and guardians could shop for free. Over the past five years this ministry has grown into an incorporated 501c3 that renovated a home the church was using for storage. It is now Promise House, a resource center for foster and guardianship families to get clothes, diapers, toys, bedding, freezer meals and more. There is also a furnished playroom where parents can have supervised visitation.
- Prior to the pandemic the church was planning a capital campaign for a new roof and other building renovations. We put this on hold at the beginning of COVID, but as the pandemic waged on we did not want to wait any longer. The scope of the project was smaller, but we did complete about two thirds of the original project this fall.
- We launched several Fresh Expressions of church during my time at Morrilton FUMC. We had a long standing dinner church at a local restaurant, created worship opportunities at a downtown coffee shop, and started a college ministry at UACCM, the local community college.

I am excited about working with the church to create vitality and to make disciples of Jesus Christ by:

I am excited to get to know the people of Batesville First United Methodist Church and the surrounding community. I look forward to learning and celebrating the ways you serve God and the community, growing in our faith together, and challenging one another to be ambassadors of God's love, grace, and hope.

Contact info

Email: Katie.pearce@arumc.org

Mailing address: 301 S. Chestnut St. Morrilton, AR 72110



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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



Daylight Saving Time is this Sunday
 Move your clocks ahead one hour
 before going to bed Saturday night

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 March 17th newsletter must be submitted by 3:00 pm Monday, March 15th to the church office or by email to Lyndal at lyndalwaits@sbcglobal.net.