



First United Methodist Challenge

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

March 18, 2020

Our Vision is to be a Dynamic Community of Believers

From the Pastor . . .

As you can see in this newsletter, we are moving into a very unique season that includes a total church closure. However, it also includes some very creative and traditional ways to continue the work of our church. Our online worship will be adding some interactive tools, our church will enhance our blessing box and provide a weekly breakfast by carryout, and we are setting a goal to stay in touch by phone with everyone we can!



As you can imagine, this has been a difficult decision to make. However, after visiting a health care facility in extremely tight protocols for protection against flu and COVID-19, and after learning that our leadership was asking us to do our part in slowing the spread of this virus by closing down, something hit me:

We were created for "such a time as this!"

In the book of Esther, we read a story of a queen who saved her people from annihilation by their enemies. There is a scene in the story that takes place in chapter 4. when Esther learns of the threat of her people's demise, and her cousin challenges her to step up as their queen:

For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this" (Esther 4:14,NRSV).

It is at that moment of great despair that Esther turns to the Lord in prayer and fasting, and begins a plan to save her people, which she does.

Our church, our community, and our world are scared, and they need us. At our core, our church is most known for our love, hospitality, and outreach. That is what is needed so deeply in this time. We are made for such a time as this.

While we are entered into uncharted territory, there are countless Bible stories that show us how God leads us through the wildernesses of our lives to a new land full of hope and future. In fact, life itself is just that! We are not

free from the struggle, but we have a promise that will never be taken away.

Here and now, my friends, we are the church. We are here to love one another as Christ loved us (unconditionally!) as we "Love God, Love Others, and Serve the World." While our church will be locked, the doors of our hearts will be flung open. I pray you will help us as you are able: calling members from your home, helping us keep the Blessing Box ready for everyone, serving breakfasts, showing regular and/or extra financial support, and – of course – prayer!

In Christ,
Pastor Mark

PS. Join us in worship via YouTube anytime after 9:00 am this Sunday, or listen to the service at 11:00 am on 103.3 FM. Please don't hesitate to call me or any of our staff if you need help or just want to talk!

WORSHIP

We will not cancel worship, but we will only offer it through YouTube and our weekly radio broadcast.

To join us in worship, visit YouTube anytime Sunday after 9:00 am. Search for FUMC Batesville, AR, and subscribe to our channel. If you do not see our service immediately available, click on the "Videos" tab just below our name, and you will see all the services we have available.

Watch for some fun improvements in our online service in the coming weeks, as we add ways to register your attendance, share prayer concerns, and give! We are working to record some fun songs, add video announcements, and much more! Let Pastor Mark know any ideas you have to make our time online even more interactive.

For more information on how we will navigate through these times, go to the insert page.

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



**Easter Lilies for the
Sanctuary
and
Fellowship Hall**

Have Been Cancelled

Because of the measures being taken to address the current public health situation, we will not have Easter Lilies this year. We are constricted on getting everyone's orders on time.

If you have already paid for your order, please contact the church office as to what to do with your money. We will offer refunds, put the money in the altar flower fund, or place it in memorials, however you wish. If we don't hear from you, the money will go in the altar flower fund.

Thank You!

My heart is filled with thankfulness that you gave to the lunch, and the donations to the church in memory of my sister, Royce Knowles, she loved her church and thank all you.

Velva



Vacation Bible School

Save the date!

May 31-June 3

5:00-8:00pm

Ages 3-12



Barrett & Sara had their baby on March 12.

Her name is **Saoirse Jean Moore**.

Pronounced sur-sha and rhymes with inertia.

Moore info to come. :)



Bible Boot Camp-Midnight Madness!

save the date!

Friday, April 24 (subject to change)

6pm-midnight

Grades 4-6

GivePlus APP

Beginning immediately, you can give to the church through a simple app that you download to your smartphone and give through your checking account, debit card, or credit card. Once you've set your secure account, you can view all your donations made through the App, change your account information, and set up recurring donations! Type this link to watch a short video about the TextPlus App

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PAjqUxK8YRk>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PAjqUxK8YRk>

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

Treasurer

Ruby Curl

Lay Leader

Mike Wilson

Lay Servants/Ministers

Kathy McKinney

Randy Seale

Joel Wagoner

Sandy West

Asa Whitaker

Joel Williams

Church Council Chair

Barrett Moore

Staff/Parish Chair

Paul Holifield

Trustees Chair

Alex Roofoe

Finance Chair

Tommy Newton

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

Our Presence

March 15th

Sunday Worship Total145

Sunday School30

Our Gifts

Received in March

Received 03/01/2020 \$12,764.00

Received 03/08/2020 \$9,289.00

Received 03/15/2020 \$5,706.00

Amount needed weekly \$11,427.00

Our Service

for March 22nd

for March 29th

no in-person worship in the church sanctuary

We will not cancel worship, but we will only offer it through YouTube and our weekly radio broadcast.

To join us in worship, visit YouTube anytime Sunday after 9:00 am. Search for FUMC Batesville, AR, and subscribe to our channel. If you do not see our service immediately available, click on the "Videos" tab just below our name, and you will see all the services we have available.

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.

The FLOWER CALENDAR for 2020

Please take a moment to stop by the flower calendar and pick a week of two to sign up to do the flowers.

No Altar Flowers Through March 31st

Birthdays and Anniversaries

from UMEN Calendar

March 22 Barbara Estes
Vincent Guyette
Dr. Jordan Weaver
Mary Margaret Ives

March 24 Alanette Rushing

March 25 B.J. Slaughter

March 27 Matthew Adams

Burke Fraiser

March 28 Julie Ross Blodgett

March 27 Edward & Katie Driver

March 28 David & Holly Wilkerson

MEMORIALS

MARY ANN MARSHALL

William & Louise Sandefur

Timmy & Joan McKinney

IRVIN KIMMER

Pete & Helen Musgrave

Get Up & Give

Our United Methodist Women are asking you to help us with our annual "Get Up & Give" Lenten collection project. We ask that you contribute necessities to the children and families in Methodist Family Health's care. The project is during the entire 40 days of Lent, and both children and adults can participate by donating items listed below. These clinics help children and families manage psychiatric, emotional, behavioral and spiritual issues. Look for posters around the church to learn more.

Below is a list of items that the United Methodist Women are asking the congregation to help collect for this project:

1. Men and boys boxers and briefs in all sizes
2. Women's panties in sizes 7-14
3. Non-underwire bras in sizes 34-40 in cups B, C, D and DD
4. Socks in all adult sizes

Please review the names on the prayer list. Names will remain on the prayer list for 3 weeks.
At the end of 3 weeks to continue the name, please call the church office.

Our Prayers for Those at Home

Don Wayne & Patsy Anderson...parents of Wayne Anderson
Hannah Baker.....
Gerri & George Bentz..... member
Vernon Block father of Gina Garrett
Marcus & Glenda Bowers..... members
Clif Burrell, IV son of Clifton & Norma Burrell
Winnell Calhoun member
Doris Casper member
Charles Covington..... friend of members
Bryan Dickey friend of David Smith
Nancy Duncan friend of Amanda Pickett.
Chad Edwards friend of David Smith
Annebelle Fletcher friend of David Smith
Don Gilchrist..... member
Randy & Linda Guthrie..... relatives of Glenda Bowers
Alvetta Hatfield mother of Karen Holifield
Patty Healey..... mother of Jon Healey
Mona Hobbs..... friend of Diane Tebbetts
Kerry Jennings..... sister of member
Mary Johnson mother in law of Clifton Burrell
Janine Kimmer member
Sharon Looney friend of Jon Healey
Mary Ann Marshall member
Ruth Meyers..... aunt of member
Janice Murphy cousin of Sharan Pittser
Maria Paningua..... friend of member
Angela Panneck friend of member
Traci Phillips..... daughter of George & Pat Collins
Terri Presley..... member
Judy Pridgen friend of Glenda Martin
Pat Rice..... family member of Rice Family
Rodney Rice..... family member of Rice Family
Sam Rigsbee relative of member
Raye Rogers..... member
Charlotte Rose member
Gayle Silberhorn member
Bob Spencer..... father of member
Gladys Smith..... mother of David Smith
Shirley Stuckey..... member
Shirley Waits..... member

Our Prayers for Those in Hospitals

If you need pastoral assistance contact:

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

Our Prayers for Those in Health Care Centers and Retirement Homes

Eagle Mountain Assisted Living

Polly Livingston member
Jackie Martin..... member
Carol Robertson..... member
Barbara Stevenson member
Katherine Tripp member
Stanley & Mary Jeanette Wood members

Wood-Lawn Heights

Mildred Arnold member
Bobbie Sue Graves..... mother of Diana Waldrip
Troy Kuchler stepdad of member
Lucille Maris member
Margaret Matthews member
Virginia Swetnam mother of Lorrie McClure

Woodcrest Assisted Living

Robert (Lit) Craig..... member
Marilyn Coffman member
Judy Murrah member
Dianne Taylor..... member

Our Prayers for Those in U.S. Military Service

MSgt. Jason Austinson of Robin Austin Gay
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
Capt. 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.....
Senior Airman Keegan Smart..... member
Petty Officer Zane Smart member
Capt. Michael Stevensongrandson 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 *the family of Mary Ann Marshall*, who passed away Wednesday, March 11th. Graveside services were held at Roselawn Memorial Gardens Cemetery Friday, March 13th.

CHURCH CLOSURE

Because of the continued developments in the Coronavirus pandemic and the advice of denominational, state, and national officials, FUMC will close effective immediately. We plan to reopen in early April, but we will be evaluating that decision based on information at that time. This means that all gatherings at FUMC are canceled, with only a few exceptions listed below. This will include all worship services, meetings, children and youth ministries. Sunday School classes, small group, music rehearsals, and Bible studies. It also includes all 12 Step groups, Scouts, trainings, and other community groups.

The ONLY exceptions to this closure are:

- Saturday Breakfast will continue, but we will only serve carry out boxes from the side door.
- Essential staff will be allowed to come and check messages and complete communication items such as emails, newsletters, and One Call phone messages. Please note that we will NOT have regular office hours, but we will be checking messages regularly to respond within a couple of hours. Also, we encourage you to call our ministry staff directly via their email or cell phone for any urgent needs. Cell phones are included below. We will also be deep cleaning in the church and sanitizing every room and hallway, so we are confident that we are safe when we reopen.
- The Blessing Box will continue to operate, so we are asking for volunteers to contact Bennie Burks if you can help us keep it stocked as the need for food increases. She can tell you how to work with our protocol to access the church for the food pantry. We also need food donations! Please bring your food to place in the blessing box, and DO NOT include bags. If the blessing box is full, there is a chest outside the entrance to the Education Building/children's department you can place it in. We hope to have the blessing box checked and filled hourly to help those who are having trouble providing food for themselves or their families.

The church will be locked down by deadbolt locks, any access that is necessary must be coordinated with our staff members. We want to strictly control ALL access to ensure the safety of our staff who will need to come to work during this time.

Spring Break

We highly recommend you DO NOT TRAVEL during Spring Break! It is imperative that we slow down in our lives and find ways to slow the spread of the Coronavirus so we can save lives and return to normal as quickly as possible!

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
- Ruby Curl (Finances): (870) 834-5377

Also, we are organizing a Phone Care Team of people who are willing to make 2-4 phone calls most days to check in with members of the church. It is important to us to have some personal contact while we lose the ability to gather in person. If you are willing to help us keep in touch, please contact Teresa Brown to give us your name, and we will get in touch with you (by phone!) to let you know how it will work.

FINANCES

As you can understand, we are moving into this closure with an abundance of caution, and we have considered all the options. The only significant risk for us is that our giving will likely diminish during this closure, but our basic expenses will continue, and our ministries will likely increase dramatically. Because of this, we are asking you to give regularly and give generously. We have many convenient ways for you to continue to support our church's ministries:

- Giving via our new APP has increased by over 300% this year, and it is our a highly convenient and secure method to give.
 - For an Apple produce, go to the App Store and search for "Give Plus Church."
 - For Google or Android devices, go to Google Play and search for "Give Plus Church."
 - Both stores will show the App as "Give + " by Vanco Services.
 - Once you download it, search for FUMC by location, enter your information, and you can then donate by checking, savings, credit card, or debit card. You can also view all your donations at anytime!
- Checks can be mailed to the church at P.O. Box 2014, Batesville, AR 72503.
- Cash (and checks) can be brought to the church by appointment, or we can arrange to have someone pick up your donation. Staff will meet you at an arranged time.
- You can arrange for your bank to send checks by bill pay. Simply set up your payments (one-time or recurring) and have them delivered to P.O. Box 2014, Batesville, AR 72503.
- You can give through our website at www.fumcbatesville.org. Click on "Give Online" on the right side of that page.



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

Non-Profit
 Org.
 U. S. Postage
 PAID
 Batesville, AR
 72501-4694
 Permit No. 398

Address Service Requested
 Want off the mailing list?
 Call 870-793-3803

Inside This Issue!

- *From Pastor Mark - page 1*
- *Easter Lillies Have Been Cancelled - page 2*
- *Stewardship - page 3*
- *Important Info About Our Services & Ministry - insert*

email us at fumcbatesville@gmail.com

Check out newsletters online!


www.fumcbatesville.org/



No Services or Activities through March 31st

Check the insert for more information.

Listen to the Worship Service at 11:00 am on
 KWOZ FM 103.3 or on the internet
www.ar1033.com and click Listen Live button
 paste into your web browser <http://player.tritondigital.com/2341>
 Get the KWOZ app for your smartphone
 or add it to your favorites on apps such as TuneIn Radio



Watch at 8:30a and 11:00a
 on our YouTube channel
 (FUMC Batesville, AR)

Next Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the March 25th newsletter must be submitted by 3:00 pm Monday, March 23rd to the church office or by email to Lyndal at lyndalwaits@sbcglobal.net.