



First United Methodist Challenge

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

March 24, 2021

Our Vision is to be a Dynamic Community of Believers

From the Pastor . . .

This Sunday, we finish our series, "Back Where We Started," only one week before we return to in person worship. Over the last week, I visited with several pastors who resumed in-person worship over the last few weeks, trying to understand what we might expect. Most said they were averaging about 25-50% of their pre-pandemic attendance. While our COVID numbers are looking better, it is certainly reasonable to be suspicious of the return to "normal." It may never be the old normal, but it will be a new normal.



Over the last several weeks, we have talked about how the early church wasn't able to meet in buildings, yet they grew because they focused on God and others. We've talked about the similarities of how we've gone without full use of our building, yet new people have joined us in small groups, online worship, and more. Now, as we slowly reopen our building, the scriptures have an important reminder.

We turn to Philippians 2:5-11 to remember the invitation that started the church in the first place: every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that "Jesus Christ is Lord" (vv. 10-11). We often think of that passage as a call to convert others to Christianity, and that Christians are saved by uttering the name of Jesus. I believe it has a much more challenging message for our church as we "return to normal." And much more personal, too.

Come and see this Sunday – online or on the radio!
In Christ,
Pastor Mark

PS. Our Easter services have been filling up very quickly, but please know that we will continue to offer our online worship. If you aren't comfortable coming back to in-person worship, we will continue to worship together online, as well!

EASTER LILIES STILL AVAILABLE!

This year we had to pre-order Easter Lilies, so we have about 4 waiting for someone to purchase in memory or honor of someone.

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!

"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

Doris Casper.....member
Pat Collins.....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
Mona Neaville.....member
Neva C. Ball.....member

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

*Daily Devotionals to
start your Day!*

Monday through Friday 9 AM

www.facebook.com/fumcbatesville



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 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

If you need pastoral assistance contact:

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

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

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
March 14th 258

Weekly Update
March 17th 48

Daily devotional average
3/15 - 3/19 28

Our Gifts

Received in March

Received through 03/07/2021
Cash & Checks \$7,865.00
Online Giving \$733.98

Received through 03/14/2021
Cash & Checks \$9,525.00
Online Giving \$975.00

Received through 03/21/2021
Cash & Checks \$9,310.00
Online Giving \$733.98

Amount needed weekly \$11,427.00

MEMORIALS

GEORGE COLLINS
Bennie Burks
Larry & Dottie Lilly
Molly Smith
Tony & Alanette Rushing
Linda Bennett
Buddy & Elaine Vinson

KATHY EDMISTEN
GEORGE COLLINS

Katy Smythe
Nancy Hearn

JIM SMYTHE
JOHN TAYLOR, JR.
Ina Bolton

Birthdays and Anniversaries

from UMMEN Calendar

March 28 Julie Ross Blodgett
March 29 Ruby Curl
March 31 Liz Massey
John Ellis
Katy Smythe
April 1 Dale Altom
Joyce Prickett
April 2 Katie Tripp Grigsby
Edward House
Addison Wax

March 28 David & Holly Wilkerson
March 29 Wayne & Crystal Anderson
April 1 Matt & Carmen McDonald



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

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU!

Blessing/Prayer/Bible Box & School Backpacks

Seeking persons to help replenish boxes when able as well as donations of non-perishable items (strong preference for easy open containers)

Community Breakfast

We are also seeking people to help set-up, cook, serve, and/or clean-up for our Saturday community meal, as well as monetary donations.



MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NOW BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!

Join us on Easter Sunday for our first in-person worship service of 2021! We are excited to welcome you back into the building for the first time since we officially closed because of COVID over a year ago. There will be four services, but they are filling up quickly! Make your reservation today, before it's too late!

- EASTER WORSHIP - Sunday, April 4 at 8:00 AM [RESERVE NOW!](#)
- EASTER WORSHIP - Sunday, April 4 at 9:30 AM [RESERVE NOW!](#)
- EASTER WORSHIP - Sunday, April 4 at 11:00 AM [RESERVE NOW!](#)
- EASTER WORSHIP - Sunday, April 4 at 2:00 PM [RESERVE NOW!](#)

**YOU CAN MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TO THE SERVICES STILL
AVAILABLE BY CLICKING THE LINKS BELOW!**

Using the print version, copy and paste into your browser one of the links (or type into your browser)

8:00 am <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/145087619977>

9:30 am <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/144011605589> (to check in case there are cancelations or changes)

11:00 am <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/144020570403> (to check in case there are cancelations or changes)

2:00 pm <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/145328654919>



JOIN US ON
SATURDAY **APRIL 3**
1:00 PM

- **EGG HUNT!**
- **MS. CAREY & MR. BILL'S PETTING ZOO!**
- **PORTRAITS WITH MALLORY!**
- **RESURRECTION EGGS FOR EACH FAMILY!**





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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 March 31st newsletter must be submitted by 3:00 pm Monday, March 29nd to the church office or by email to Lyndal at lyndalwaits@sbcglobal.net.