



First United Methodist Challenge

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

March 25, 2020

Our Vision is to be a Dynamic Community of Believers

From the Pastor. . .

I believe takes more work to close the doors of the church than to keep them open! The last week has been full of learning curves, and my expectations are uncertain! That said, I've been so impressed by our church and community. Everyone is struggling with what we can and can't change, but everyone is also looking for ways we can grow and learn.



Lent is a time of sacrifice and change as we realign our lives to God. While this more than we would have tried to do on our own, it is in many ways our preparation for a transformation that greater than we could have thought of on our own. While I believe that God mourns with us in our struggles because of this virus, I still believe that God can make something truly positive come from this.

First, we are going to be even more of a church and less of a building. I still say things like, "when we get to come to church again," and realize that is so limiting to what we can do. While we are called a "congregation," which implies we come together, the early church did so for generations, and we knew their growth was exponential.

Second, we are going to focus on caring for each other and caring for our community. Everything else will be secondary to this. From our Phone Care Team to our online ministries, from our Blessing Box to our Saturday Breakfast, we will deepen our walk with our congregation and with our neighbors. We will share the love of Christ above all else.

Third, we will change. There is no doubt in my mind that we will run back to some of our old ways of doing things (like potlucks!), but we will also find many changes will be innovative and energizing! I ask you to keep an open mind as we find ways to become even more focused on our mission, perhaps more than we've experienced in our lifetime!

We will again worship this Sunday at 9:00 am on our YouTube channel and via radio at 103.3 FM at 11:00 am.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Mark

WORSHIP

Thank you for joining us in worship online and on the radio last Sunday. We will again premier our worship service at 9:00 am, and that same service will be broadcast on 103.3 FM at 11:00 am.

We will post the link on our church's Facebook page Sunday morning so you can click there to go directly to our YouTube channel. If you want to go directly to it, open YouTube and search for "FUMC Batesville, AR." Click on that channel and look for a tab near the top that says, "Videos." Click that and look for the worship service that has the current date (i.e., March 29, 2020 for this Sunday). That 9:00 service is what will be broadcast on the radio, and it will be available on our YouTube channel after 10:00 am so you can watch it anytime that is convenient for you!

We are continuing to find new ways to share in worship, and this week we are working to add some videos from others in our congregation. We hope to have updates from members in other places as well as greetings from people throughout town. If you are willing to record a short video to address our church and share your hopes and dreams, please contact Pastor Mark and let him know!

Blessing Box

Asa Whitaker is building more boxes like the one we have out our church, and we are approaching 10 boxes spread around our communities! Our Blessing Box is in high demand, and many people are dropping by food every day. We continue to see new families reached, as well.

We are asking for volunteers to come and stock the blessing box at regular times, and we have a few volunteers who are doing that. The staff are also helping with that, but we can use more people. Even if you can't commit to come at a regular time, please drop food off anytime it is convenient for you. If the box is full, there is a large check near the children's entrance for you to put overflow supplies (and to take some out to use in the box if you need).

Contact Teresa if you want to take a regular time to check the box.

"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.

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

Hello, my name is Saoirse Jean Moore.



I was born on March 12th.

I weighed 6 lbs 0.6 ozs.

I was 18 inches long.

My parents are Barrett and Sara Moore.

My grandparents are:

Shelby & Beatrice Moore

Pat & Chris Forgy

Tricia & Loverd Peacock

Phone Care Team

Our new congregational care team has begun making phone calls this week. We have seven people who have signed up to call so far, and we still have around 100 families left to call. The staff will be calling, as well, but the staff will also be working in new ways and we hope to get as many church members involved as we can.

If you are willing to call about 10 families each week (2 each day or whatever is easiest for you), please contact Teresa in the church office.

Vacation Bible School

Save the date!

May 31-June 3

5:00-8:00pm

Ages 3-12



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 Roofe

Finance Chair

Tommy Newton

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

Our Presence

March 22nd

Sunday Worship Totalonline worship

Sunday School.....

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 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.

When you pray,

pray for our church,

pray for our ministries,

pray for our Sunday school teachers,

pray for our staff,

pray for each other,

pray for our church!

Birthdays and Anniversaries

from UMMEN Calendar

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

April 4 Kim Stobaugh

March 29 Wayne & Crystal Anderson

April 1 Matt & Carmen McDonald

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

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

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

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 Austin.....son of Robin Austin Gay
Colonel Mark Bowers.....sson of Marcus & Glenda Bowers
Lt. Col. Chris Carpenter.....son of R.L. & Susan Carpenter
Lt. Col. Marc Jones.....nephew of Mildred Arnold
SPC Lane Lively.....grandson of Glen & LaDonna Busby
Capt. Ian MacDonald.....nephew of Starr & Johnny Kent
Trent McDonald.....cousin of member
Capt. Shannon McLoughlin....daughter of Cecilia Vinson
Major Adam Moore.....son-in-law of Ken & Ginger Davis
Staff Sgt. Jonathan Reed.....son of Dan & Vicki Reed
TSgt. Karl Sager.....son of Shirley Stuckey
Stg. Bradley Skelton.....
Senior Airman Keegan Smart..... member
Petty Officer Zane Smart..... member
Capt. Michael Stevenson.....grandson of members
Lt. Cmdr. Greg Tebbetts.....son of Diane & Terrell Tebbetts
Capt. John Tice.....nephew of Verona Bebow
Lance Cpl. James Brantley Wheeler..... cousin of member

If you need pastoral assistance contact:

Pastor Mark McDonald - 501-650-0046

Associate Pastor Carl Hudson - 870-251-6227

CHURCH CLOSURE

Because of the continued developments in the Coronavirus pandemic and the advice of denominational, state, and national officials, FUMC will close indefinitely, effective immediately. 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 and essential volunteers will need to come to work during this time.

FUMC is very much alive and well, even though it's hard to see where everyone is. While we are working to share our ministries with you in new ways, we ask that you continue your financial support! While some expenses are decreasing because the building is not used every day, support for our staff and many ministries continue. Some -- like the Blessing Box and Saturday Breakfast -- will increase!

- **Please consider giving electronically!** It is the most secure way to give, because it goes directly from your bank or card to our church within a few days. It is certified under strict security standards. We have several ways for you to give electronically:

- **Give Plus App.** This is an extremely convenient way to give and also to be able to see your gifts anytime you want to login. Simply go to the App Store (for your Apple devices) or to Google Play (for your Android devices), search for "Give Plus Church" and download that App. You can search for our church by location and then it will ask you to set up your account (including your choice of giving by checking or credit/debit card). After that setup, you will not have to enter account information for subsequent donations, and you can return to the app anytime to view your giving history confidentially.

- **Text to Give.** Text the amount you want to give to 855-726-9179 and follow the prompts to set up your account. After that, you will be able to simply text the amount and confirmation donation. You will not be able to review previous donations via text, but we will include it on your church's giving statement.

- **Website.** We also have a page on our website for you to give electronically. Visit our website (www.fumcbatesville.org), and click the "GIVE ONLINE" button on the right hand side of that page.

- Please note that we pay a small fee of roughly 3-4% of your donation, and there is a box you can check to help offset that. We certainly welcome that, and many people are already doing so!

- Your Bank/Financial Institution. You are also able to utilize the "Bill Pay" feature in your financial institution at no cost to you or the church. Contact your bank for that information.

- If you want to pay by check, we are including an addressed envelope with this newsletter and ask that you mail your check to the address on the envelope (P.O. Box 2014, Batesville, 72503).

Of course, we are ready to help you in any way you can. We can help you with shopping, running errands for you, and other needs you have. That can include picking up donations if that is the most comfortable way for you.

Thank you for your generous support for Christ and FUMC. Please pray for us as we work to stay faithful to our mission and care for all the gifts with which are entrusted.





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

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Inside This Issue!

- *From Pastor Mark - page 1*
- *Phone Care Team (and baby pics) - page 2*
- *Stewardship - page 3*
- *Info About Our Services, Ministry & Finances - 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

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

Next Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the April 1st newsletter must be submitted by 3:00 pm Monday, March 30th to the church office or by email to Lyndal at lyndalwaits@sbcglobal.net.