



First United Methodist Challenge

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

April 1, 2020

Our Vision is to be a Dynamic Community of Believers

From the Pastor. . .

Recently, I ran across a humorous video highlighting some of the stages of quarantine. It starts with the attitude that "this won't be too bad." Next, we move into an all-out Netflix binge. After that, we struggle until we end up spending quality time with our family. The next to last stage is the one I related to when I read it: we meltdown. What's the next stage, you ask? We start the second day and start all over.



I've heard a similar theme throughout our first two weeks of our social distancing. We are moving through several stages of grief, and we don't necessarily move through them in quick succession. We bound around from one to the other, from feeling okay to feeling overwhelmed, from feeling love to feeling alone.

The Bible tells about some of the struggles we face:

How long will you forget me, Lord? Forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
How long will I be left to my own wits,
agony filling my heart? Daily?
How long will my enemy keep defeating me? (Psalm 13:1-2)

If you read the rest of that Psalm, you'll read about the Psalmist's cry to God for understanding, and then finally a cry for faith. The Psalmist is struggling just like us, so how do we get to that same hope and faith?

We cry out. As you struggle, don't try to act like you've got it together to impress God and others. Be honest, be authentic. By crying out to God, we become honest with God. That, in turn, makes us closer to God and deepens our faith even in the midst of our struggles.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Mark

EMAIL YOUR EMAIL TO OUR EMAIL

Help us keep in touch with you by emailing your best address to our church email: fumcbatesville@gmail.com so we can update our newsletter and other communication! Feel free to share your updated cell phone numbers, too.

SPECIAL GIVING OPPORTUNITY

For the next two weeks, we have been given a gift of NO conference apportionments, which is 10% of our weekly offerings that is used for ministries beyond our local church. The conference has given us this forgiveness so we can focus our tithes and offerings locally as we adjust to the changes all around us.

What does this mean for us?

First, 100% of the gifts we have received for the last two weeks AND the next two weeks will be used locally.

Second, it is a great time to give extra or pre-pay your church contributions. Some members give their gift as an annual gift, and while many can't do this, it is a great time to make your gift go even further toward our ministries during our building closure and social distancing. If you can give extra, please consider doing so before Easter!

BLESSING BOX NEEDS

Thank you to SO many people who are helping with our Blessing Box. You can put items in the box anytime you want, and you can also drop off donations in the large box next to the children's entrance if the box is full or you are bringing larger quantities. We work to check the box every hour or two, and we try to put enough food in the box to feed 1-2 families a single meal.

Here are some items that we need this week.

We are out of:

- Cereal
- Ramen Noodles
- Mac & Cheese

We are low on:

- Breakfast items (pop tarts, breakfast bars)
- Canned vegetables (all kinds)
- Proteins (canned sausages, tuna, etc.)
- Ravioli
- Packaged rice dishes, mashed potatoes

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

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.

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.

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.

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 29th

Sunday Online Worship Total 204

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

Received through

03/22/2020.....\$2898.92

Received through

03/28/2020.....\$6,212.18

Amount needed weekly \$11,427.00

Our Service

for April 5th

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.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

from UMMEN Calendar

April 5 Ronda Thompson

Holly Wilkerson

April 6 Brooke Knowles

Rusty Staggs

April 8 Megan McSpadden

April 9 Brandt Crouch

Beatrice Moore

April 10 Dorianne Dias

April 11 Dallas Estes

Devyn Seale

Dyllan Seale

April 5 Reggie & April Rice

April 9 Mary Jeanette & Stanley Wood

MEMORIALS

Stanley Reed

Urba Reed

Royce Knowles

Glenda & Marcus Bowers

Donna Middleton

Chaney Huddleston Class

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
Linda Hicks..... friend of John Ellis
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
Bill Luster..... 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 & Rodney Rice..... family members of Rice Family
Sam Rigsbee..... relative of member
Raye Rogers..... member
Charlotte Rose..... member
Tom Sellers..... member
Gayle Silberhorn..... member
Bob Spencer..... father of member
Gladys Smith..... mother of David Smith
Shirley Stuckey..... member

Our Prayers for Those in Hospitals

Baptist Hospital - Little Rock

David McDonald..... brother of Mark McDonald

Arkansas Children's Hospital - Little Rock

Bella Floyd..... friend of members

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 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

✠ Our Prayers for Those Who Mourn ✠

Margaret Matthews, a member of FUMC and mother of *Dr. Doug Matthews*, passed away last Thursday. Her memorial service will be held at a later date. Memorials can be made to FUMC or a charity of your choice. Her obituary can be found at the Roller Funeral Home web-site, at

<https://www.rollerfuneralhomes.com/services.asp?pa ge=odetail&id=54954&locid=7>.



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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
 Take out at side door of the Hall

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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

No Services or Activities as we follow the guidance of our State Government and our Arkansas District of the United Methodist Church

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 8:30am & 11:00am on our YouTube channel (FUMC Batesville, AR)

Next Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the April 8th newsletter must be submitted by 3:00 pm Monday, April 6th to the church office or by email to Lyndal at lyndalwaits@sbcglobal.net.