



First United Methodist Challenge

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

April 8, 2020

Our Vision is to be a Dynamic Community of Believers

From the Pastor. . .

As I write this, I am sitting on my back porch on a beautiful Sunday afternoon. I've just spent time listening to the birds, the lawnmower, a few cars passing by, and the company of my dogs.

That's not been normal for me.

Sundays are usually busy days, and by early afternoon, I've already put in eight hours of "work." Because of the coronavirus, however, my life has slowed down, and I wonder how I've survived at the pace I've kept for so many years. I've always worked hard to keep a sabbath day (Fridays), but they've never felt like this. I've certainly worked hard during our "shut down," which is more like a "relaunch" of church. I've put in some long days learning new ways to reach out, gather online, and plan for a future filled with uncertainty. Today, however, feels like the first Sabbath I've experienced in years.

As you prepare for Easter this year, maybe you are finding some changes that seem new. We probably aren't going to dress up for Easter, as some have already shared how much they enjoy worshipping at home in comfortable clothes. Did we really rush to get to church? When did that happen?

I hope you can sense the direction of this: in order for there to be a resurrection, there has to be a death. In order for new habits to take, old ones have to end. Our abilities or finite, and we have been filling our lives until they are overflowing with things we love (and some we don't, too). It is time to let some parts of our lives stop, so new ones can begin. It's time to empty our lives of all that we have filled it with, so there is room for what God wants to put into our lives.

It's time to prepare for a Resurrection Day, not an Easter holiday. A time of new beginnings and better care for ourselves, our family, our neighbors, and our world.

Let's discover new life this Sunday by casting off the old and embracing the new!

In Christ's love,
Pastor Mark



Light it Up with Hope and Courage

Where: WRMC East Entrance Parking Lot

Date: Friday, April 10th

Time: Cars will arrive between 7:30 pm and 7:45 pm.
Ceremony will start at 8:00 pm.

Churches United has partnered with WRMC to share a night of prayer and support for our healthcare workers and patients. To adhere to social distancing guidelines participants will be asked to stay in their vehicles, practice safe and slow driving in the parking lots, and flash their lights to celebrate the medical staff during the ceremony. The ceremony will be broadcast over a local radio station.

BLESSING BOX NEEDS

If the Blessing Box is full, please place your donation in the large, green storage box next to the children's entrance in the covered drop off. You may also fill the box out of this if there are items in there. (We have staff and volunteers that are moving those items into the pantry a few times a day.)

These items are low in our Blessing Box Pantry:

****ALL CANNED GOODS (veggies, soups, meat, fruit)****

- Mac & cheese
- Ramen noodles
- Breakfast items (pop tarts, breakfast bars)
- Proteins (canned meat, etc.)
- Kid-friendly foods
- Smaller rice bags, mashed potatoes, etc.
- Coffee or drink mixes

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.

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

Covenant Prayer

From John Wesley's Covenant Service, 1780

I am no longer my own, but thine.
 Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
 Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
 Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
 exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
 Let me be full, let me be empty.
 Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
 I freely and heartily yield all things
 to thy pleasure and disposal.
 And now, O glorious and blessed God,
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
 And the covenant which I have made on earth,
 let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.



We Want Your Photos!

We are looking for church photos -- recent and past -- to include in our publicity and communications. If you have photos, wait until we open the building to bring them by the church office. We will scan them (and return the originals) or email any digital copies to:
media@fumcbatesville.org

Feel free to let us know any stories behind the photos by submitting them in writing!

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 Presence

April 5th

Sunday Online Worship Total 258

Our Gifts

Received in April

Received through

04/05/2020.....\$11,550.00

Amount needed weekly \$11,427.00

Our Service

for April 12th

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.

MEMORIALS

MARGARET MATTHEWS

Robert & Janet Brown

Billie & Skip Rutherford

Catherine & Byron Joe Swafford

Birthdays and Anniversaries

from UMMEN Calendar

April 13 Lowell Turner
Cayley Wagoner
Bart Wilkerson

April 14 Amy Lewis

April 18 Matt Martin

April 16 Dick & Nancy Bernard

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

Our Mailing Address is:

First United
Methodist Church
P.O. Box 2014
Batesville, AR 72503-2014

Now I say to you in conclusion, life is hard, at times as hard as crucible steel. It has its bleak and difficult moments.

Like the ever-flowing waters of the river, life has its moments of drought and its moments of flood.

Like the ever-changing cycle of the seasons, life has the soothing warmth of its summers and the piercing chill of its winters.

But if one will hold on, he will discover that God walks with him,

and that God is able to lift you from the fatigue of despair to the buoyancy of hope and transform dark and desolate valleys into sunlit paths of inner peace.

— Martin Luther King Jr.

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
Bella Floyd friend of members
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
David McDonald..... brother of Mark McDonald
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

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

Janine Kimmer..... member
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
Virgina 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
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
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 Stevenson.....grandson of members
Lt. Cmdr. Greg Tebbettsson of Diane & Terrell Tebbetts
Capt. John Ticenephew of Verona Bebow
Lance Cpl. James Brantley Wheeler cousin of member

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

COVID-19 Updates

When will we worship in the sanctuary again?

When we can safely do so without risking anyone's health. While the schools will continue to meet through alternative methods of instruction for the rest of the school year, our conference has called for us not to gather in groups of 10 or more throughout the month of April. We will honor that by continuing to keep our buildings close while we find new ways to stay connected. We do not want to gather early and be the source of a greater spread of the virus, so we will proceed cautiously and with the advice of our conference, state, and federal leaders.

When we are able to worship again, we will share plans to come together in ways that will help us fully celebrate Easter, Pentecost, graduation, confirmation, and whatever else we want to celebrate. (Probably not all on the same Sunday!)

Are our staff being paid?

Yes, we continue to pay all of our staff their average weekly pay, and the Church Council has applied for the "Payroll Protection Program" under the CARES Act to help us continue to pay our employees during our building closure. In addition, most of our staff are working their hours through online staff meetings, devotionals, creative activities that maintain social distancing, and lots of calls and messages.

What is needed the most?

Prayers. We are praying that God will use this situation to help us grow even stronger in our relationship with God and our relationships with each other. In addition, we continue to need food to help with our Blessing Box. An update list of needs is in each newsletter.

What about hospital and health care visits?

Our pastors and congregational care coordinator (Mark, Carl, and Bennie) are not allowed to make in-house visits, but they and many others are making weekly phone calls to keep up with people in health care facilities, or other congregational needs.

Is the Phone Care Team still calling?

Yes, but we only have volunteers covering about 1/2 of our households, and need more people to be able to reach every family. We plan on continuing this weekly at least through our building closure, and we hope to continue some form of it after we re-open the building.

Why can't small groups of fewer than 10 meet in the church?

First and foremost, state health officials have emphasized that the best practices are washing our hands, keeping social distance, wearing masks when in groups in public, and isolating ourselves as much as we are able. While we know that we can have small groups meet, we do not want to risk passing the virus from one family to another.

Second, we are keeping the building closed so that when it is safe, we can reopen with confidence. Because the virus can live long periods of time on surfaces, we do not want to have to completely sanitize our building and then wait for an additional two weeks after a group meets.

How has this affected our church's finances?

Our Finance Committee is working to project those impacts, but it is too soon to know for sure. They have projected a savings of about \$2000 per month in utilities, supplies, meals, etc. The conference has also given us a period free from apportionments, which will save us a few thousand dollars. We have decided to cancel Vacation Bible School, which will save a few thousand dollars, but we will also plan some family and outreach activities as soon as it is safe to do so.

Our giving did experience and immediate drop in the first two weeks, but we are grateful that we have so many people utilizing our online giving (up over 200% in March!), and continuing to mail in contributions to P.O. Box 2014, Batesville, AR 72503. We had a strong offering on Palm Sunday in both regards, and we are working to honor your continued support!

Is anyone allowed in the church facilities?

No groups are meeting, and most staff are working from home. We do have some staff and volunteers performing essential functions, such as deposits, checks, newsletters, food ministries, and cleaning/sanitizing. There are rarely more than 5-6 people on any given day, but even those people are not there at the same time. Our breakfast crew keeps their group below 10, and they use protective gear and only provide take away containers from the doorway. A few have also been in the building recording worship elements (music, sermon, etc.). The doors are deadbolted, so access must be gained through staff or the pastor.



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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**

"Weekly Worship": Online each week beginning at 9:00 on YouTube (FUMC Batesville, AR) and on 103.3 FM at 11:00 am

"Mid-week Update" with the pastor each Wednesday at 5:30 on Facebook Live

"Daily Devotional" on Facebook each morning

Good Friday Hospital "Drive In"

Arrive at the East (main) parking lot at WRMC between 7:30-7:45 pm Friday, April 11 and stay in your car for a radio-broadcasted ceremony led by the ministerial alliance.

Easter communion online

10:00 am on YouTube (live)

12:00 pm on Facebook (live)

Prepare your elements that represent the body and blood of Christ and join us live for a service of Holy Communion that should last 5-10 minutes. Everyone is welcome at our virtual table!

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

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



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

Next Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the April 15th newsletter must be submitted by 3:00 pm Monday, April 13th to the church office or by email to Lyndal at lyndalwaits@sbcglobal.net.