



First United Methodist Challenge

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

April 15, 2020

Our Vision is to be a Dynamic Community of Believers

From the Pastor. . .

Easter is more than just a single Sunday; it is actually a season of the church year that lasts for seven Sundays! That means that Easter began on April 12 this year and continues through May 24.

On Easter Sunday, I began to notice several articles that reported Easter as a "somber" and "solitude" holiday because of our separation under the coronavirus. While my experience of Easter was definitely different and I missed several of the traditions I'm used to, I would not call it "somber," nor was it covered with "solitude." I spend the morning in worship, sharing communion with you in a brave new way. I relaxed on a Sunday afternoon (part of the new normal that I still enjoy), and my family joined together via a video conference. It was very different, but it was also filled with blessings.

Last Sunday, I asked you to begin to recognize new life this Easter by dreaming new dreams, seeking new visions, and making new traditions. Knowing Easter is more than a single day, I ask you to continue to look for the new life we are finding in this time. We will continue to celebrate Easter for the full seven weeks, and then we will continue to celebrate Easter until we have come back together in worship in our building, no matter how long that may take. We will continue to look at the ways that God appears over and over, even during our most uncertain times.

This Sunday, we will continue the Easter story in John's gospel as we look at John 20:19-31. You will recognize it as the story of doubting Thomas, and I believe it has a powerful message for us today, one that I believe will be the beginning of a new movement of God through the church.

Join us at "youtube.com/c/FUMCBatesvilleAR" at 9:00 am, on 103.3 FM at 11:00 am, or catch up on our YouTube Channel anytime thereafter!

In Christ's love,
Pastor Mark



There's Still Time for Your Easter Offering!

As we have shared, our conference has allowed 100% of our gifts to remain in our local community as part of our Easter offering, forgiving our normal "apportionments" or "tithes." If you missed the change to give under this opportunity, please mark your gift "Easter offering" or submit it online this week!

Thank you to all those who continue to support all the ministries our church. We are so grateful for your commitment to our mission and ministries.



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:

- Ramen noodles
- Peanut butter
- Canned vegetables

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



**Send in your
Pictures and Videos!**

Many have been sharing pictures and videos of life during our separation, and we have included them as a slideshow during one of our songs in worship each week.

Please keep sending pictures! We hope to have more people each week!

Send to
fumcbatesville@gmail.com

Ways to Give During the COVID-19 Crisis

- Give through our website at www.fumcbatesville.org
- Give through our Giving App (Give Plus Church on App Store or Google Play)
- Text any gift amount to 855-726-9179 and follow the link you will receive
- Mail checks to FUMC, P.O. Box 2014, Batesville, AR 72503

Church-wide Devotionals

**Posted every morning on
the Church Facebook page.**

Join us!

<https://www.facebook.com/fumcbatesville/>

A Devotional from Bishop Mueller

I Give Thanks

I wish COVID-19 had never reared its ugly head. My heart breaks for its victims, their families and the entire world which is suffering because of it. And to be honest, I get angry because it is disproportionately affecting the poor, people of color and those who struggle to survive in the best of times. Yet it is amazing what is happening.

People are doing the right thing and staying home. Easter has come and gone, and Christians have discovered innovative and creative ways to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. Medical personnel have become our new heroes as they risk their lives to save lives. Individuals with compassionate hearts are reaching out to feed the hungry and help those who are hurting. Millions are discovering they long for a deeper relationship with God that didn't seem all that important before. And all of us are finding that there are many things in life we thought we had to have that we can do very well without.

When I look at what has happened the last five weeks, I give thanks to God for how ordinary human beings have responded to COVID-19 in extraordinary ways.



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 Presence

Average Daily Devotional views through April 4th 312

Sunday Online Worship Service..... 214

Our Gifts

Received in April

Received through

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

Received through

04/12/2020.....\$9,434.80

Amount needed weekly \$11,427.00

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.

Without A Will, You Have No Say

One of the most powerful and lasting ways of furthering the Church's mission is by making a gift through your will. But it requires planning now to ensure your wishes are carried out.

If you die without a will:

- State law controls the distribution of your estate;
- Settling your estate may be costly;
- A court selects the person to settle your affairs and care for your children;
- Your desire to leave gifts to your church or other favorite charities will not be carried out.

The United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas assists United Methodists in giving to their local church or other United Methodist institutions or programs.

For free information, contact VP of Development Janet Marshall at 501-664-8632 or by email at jmarshall@umfa.org.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

from UMMEN Calendar

April 19 Chris Carpenter
April 20 Ashley Montgomery Foster
April 21 Marieta Fraiser
April 22 Sandy West
April 23 Mona Neaville
April 24 Chad McClure
April 25 Kate Emery
Cindy Kallsnick

April 21 George & Gerry Bentz
April 23 Jason & Laura Seaton

MEMORIALS

MARGARET MATTHEWS

Eleanor S. Neel

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

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

White River Medical Center

Verlie Garrett mother of Lane Garrett

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



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 615 East Main St.
 P.O. Box 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 5:30 pm on Facebook Live
 "Daily Devotional" on Facebook each morning at 8:00 am

Watch our worship service Sunday at 9 am at [YouTube.com/c/FUMCBatesville.AR](https://www.youtube.com/c/FUMCBatesville.AR)
 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 22nd newsletter must be submitted by 3:00 pm Monday, April 20th to the church office or by email to Lyndal at lyndalwaits@sbcglobal.net.