



# First United Methodist Challenge

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

May 13, 2020

Our Vision is to be a Dynamic Community of Believers

## From the Pastor. . .

### UPDATES

I have several important things to share this week:

First, please take time to read the letter that Barrett Moore, our Church Council chair, has included in this newsletter (see the insert). It will bring you up to date on our hopes for reopening our buildings.



Secondly, as we are beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel, I've asked all our ministry coordinators from the Church Council to join me on a "Launch Team" to help plan our church's new start. While the council will make the decision when we reopen our buildings, our ministry coordinators are working to prepare for that day AND find ways to increase safe contact until we reopen the buildings.

Third, it is so very important that you set the example of safe distancing by wearing a mask anywhere you cannot control appropriate social distancing (such as shopping). While many of our groups continue to meet via video conferencing, some people are meeting in their cars, wearing face masks, keeping social distancing, etc. I want to encourage you to be vigilant about this work, so we can return to our building sooner, rather than later.

Lastly, we continue to seek out new pictures and ideas to make our online worship more enjoyable, engaging, uplifting, and moving! Please don't hesitate to share anything with me as we continue to grow in this exciting new ministry. To that end, you will receive a survey within the next two weeks to help our ministry leaders plan for how we come back together in person AND continue to reach out with our online worship. The survey will have no more than 10 questions, and I would deeply appreciate you completing that survey and encouraging others to do so!

### WORSHIP

As you may recall, we followed the disciples in the days following Jesus' resurrection by continuing with the book of John. We've finished that, and now we will move to see the stories that Matthew recorded for that same period. While John is written with a more mystical approach,



Hello FUMC! I have something for you to do during our quarantine!

Can you begin collecting lids (plastic bottle caps, milk carton lids, soda can pop tops, etc.) for our kids' ministry please? We are going to set up a Maker Space classroom soon and we can certainly use your plastic lids and caps for kids to use in their art/Bible stories.

Right before this pandemic, we published a wish list for items we will need. At this time, if you can just collect caps and lids, that will be great. These are small and we can easily disinfect them once we return to church.

Thank you! Happy collecting!

Ms. Katie

Matthew is written in what some would call "churchy" language. It was written to a more religious audience, and I think you will find that our stories over the next two weeks will bring even more understanding to how the resurrection brings hope to use in these COVID-19 days!

Join us as we look at Matthew 28: 11-15 and consider how our church closure has actually forced us to see more of Christ in the world today!

In Christ's love,

Pastor Mark

PS. We're going to have some fun this week in worship, so don't miss it! 9:00 am on Facebook and YouTube (and anytime after that), and 11:00 am on 103.3 FM.

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

Please join the parade to wish **Clark Emery**

A Happy Birthday!



Line up in front of Eagle Mountain Elementary

at 2:00, Tuesday, May 19 to drive by his house!



**EMAIL US!!!**

Email us at [fumcbatesville@gmail.com](mailto: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.



### Ways to Give During the COVID-19 Crisis

- Give through our website at [www.fumcbatesville.org](http://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

### Daily Devotionals to start your Day!

Monday thru Saturday 9 AM

[www.facebook.com/fumcbatesville](http://www.facebook.com/fumcbatesville)



### Blessing Box

The need for our Blessing Box has actually increased in the last few weeks, so we are in need of more cash and non-perishable donations! Here are our greatest needs:

- Cash to use to purchase food
- Canned vegetables
- Crackers
- Canned/packaged proteins (fish, mean, mac and cheese, etc.)
- Packaged fruits
- Breakfast foods
- ANY non-perishable foods

Drop them off in the large storage container next to the children's entrance or put them directly into the blessing box in smaller amounts (we try to keep it filled with enough for 1-2 families to prepare a single meal).

## 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

Average Daily Devotional views  
through May 9th ..... 144

Sunday Online Worship Service..... 189  
Weekly Update Views ..... 122

Communion May 3rd..... 145

## Our Gifts

### Received in May

Received through  
05/04/2020  
Cash & Checks..... \$16,865.00  
Online Giving..... \$4,620.30

Received through  
05/11/2020  
Cash & Checks..... \$10,019.41  
Online Giving..... \$2,396.87  
*Amount needed weekly ..... \$11,427.00*

## 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 Lenten collection project, Get Up & Give, is being extended from April 9 to June 30!**

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

from UMMEN Calendar

May 17 Leah Gardner  
May 18 Richard Ashcraft  
Kim Osborn  
Susan Tripp  
Mike Wilson  
May 19 Clark Emery  
Terri Presley  
May 20 Caroline Patterson  
Crystal Smart Rolins  
Kelsey Weaver  
May 21 Melissa Brewer  
Carla Langston  
Molly McLean  
Reggie Rice

## MEMORIALS

### KATHERINE TRIPP

Bryant's Pharmacy  
Robert & Suzanne Evans  
Barrett & Sara Moore  
Dan & Bonnie Dyer  
Raymond & Diane LaCroix  
First Community Bank

### CONWAY MATLOCK

Dot Lewis  
Chaney Huddleston

### MARGARET MATTHEWS

DON GILCREST  
KATHERINE TRIPP  
Martha & Jon Healey

## 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.

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  
Nancy Duncan ..... friend of Amanda Pickett.  
Annebelle Fletcher ..... friend of David Smith  
Bella Floyd ..... friend of members  
Verlie Garrett ..... grandmother of Lane Garrett  
Randy & Linda Guthrie..... relatives of Glenda Bowers  
Alvetta Hatfield ..... mother of Karen Holifield  
Linda Hix ..... friend of John Ellis  
Mona Hobbs..... friend of Diane Tebbetts  
Kerry Jennings..... sister of member  
Mary Johnson ..... mother in law of Clifton Burrell  
Betty Jones ..... friend of Mary Slaughter  
Sharon Looney ..... friend of Jon Healey  
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..... husband of Jane Jameson  
Bob Spencer..... father of member  
Gladys Smith..... mother of David Smith  
Shirley Stuckey..... member

### Our Prayers for Those in Hospitals

Robert (Lit) Craig has moved to Fayetteville to live with Carol (his daughter) and Mike Jones. His new address is 888 E Ash St., Fayetteville, AR 72703.

Send him a note or card or call the church office for his telephone number.

### 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  
Stanley & Mary Jeanette Wood ..... members

#### Wood-Lawn Heights

Mildred Arnold ..... member  
Bobbye Sue Graves ..... mother of Diana Waldrip  
Troy Kuchler..... stepdad of member  
Lucille Maris ..... member  
Virgina Swetnam ..... mother of Lorrie McClure

#### Woodcrest Assisted Living

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 .....son 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 IN-PERSON ACTIVITIES SUSPENDED THROUGH AT LEAST MAY GOAL TO REOPEN WHEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS**

Dear Church Family,

Your Church Council met last week. We carefully and prayerfully discussed our ministries and worship services. Our discussion echoed Paul's letter to the Romans in chapter 6, verses 3 through 4. Paul wrote about our resurrection to a new life. We believe Jesus is leading us through this pandemic to a new life in our church. We have found new ways to worship from a distance while continuing to serve our community. Although we know our family deeply misses praising God together in person, our discipleship remains strong. Many of our small groups and ministries have resumed meeting virtually. And our staff continues to plan creative ways to worship and share God's love during this unusual time.

We unanimously decided that the buildings at FUMC Batesville should remain closed to in-person activities until we can reopen without restrictions. We are a diverse body that shakes hands, hugs, and sings together. We derive joy from seeing each others' faces. That is part of our witness and worship. Along with guidance from the Arkansas Conference and the State of Arkansas, the decision to continue our campus's closure is guided by John Wesley's rule to do no harm.

FUMC Batesville's buildings will remain closed to in-person gatherings through at least the end of May. The Church Council will meet again near the end of this month to review our plans for resuming in-person activities. I expect we will continue to meet virtually through at least some time in June, as our Bishop mentioned that time-frame in a recent letter. Some of our brother and sister UMC congregations around the State have already decided to close their buildings through the month of July. We do not yet know a date that is right for our church.

We plan for and look forward to gathering together again in person. Although none of us know yet when that will occur, please know your views are welcome at your Church Council's meetings.

Peace and love,

Barrett Moore  
Chair, Church Council



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 615 East Main St.  
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 Batesville, AR 72503-2014

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email us at [fumcbatesville@gmail.com](mailto:fumcbatesville@gmail.com)  
 Check out newsletters online!  
[www.fumcbatesville.org/](http://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 9:00 am

Listen to the Worship Service at 11:00 am on KWOZ FM 103.3 or on the internet [www.ar1033.com](http://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 our worship service Sunday at 9:00 am on our YouTube channel FUMC Batesville, AR [YouTube.com/c/FUMCBatesville.AR](https://www.youtube.com/c/FUMCBatesville.AR)

**Next Newsletter Deadline**

Articles for the May 20<sup>th</sup> newsletter must be submitted by 3:00 pm Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> to the church office or by email to Lyndal at [lyndalwaits@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lyndalwaits@sbcglobal.net).