



First United Methodist Challenge

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

May 27, 2020

Our Vision is to be a Dynamic Community of Believers

From the Pastor. . .

This Sunday, we turn to our third gospel to discover the events that happened immediately after Jesus' resurrection. We've followed the appearance of Jesus in the gospels of John and Matthew, and this week, we will look to Mark 16:9-20.

This passage is one that is often avoided in Easter preaching, partly because it includes references to aspects that many would highly question today: faith healings, snake handling, and drinking poison! What are we to make of this, especially in this day and age which includes social distancing and protective equipment?

Join us at 9:00 (YouTube & Facebook) or 11:00 (103.3 FM) this Sunday as we consider the powerful word this speaks to us at this very moment!

In Christ,
Pastor Mark



Rev. Randy Seale!

Congratulations to Randy Seale for completing his "license to preach" school that was held over several weeks this Spring. Randy took classes and completed projects to learn new skills he will use as the local pastor appointed to Dasha and Jamestown UMC. We continue to hear great things from his churches, and celebrate with him as he takes this step in growth and training!

See inserts for:

When Will We Open?

Survey to Establish a Reopening Date
and

What is our "Launch Team"?

Join the Newsletter Email List

If you don't already receive the newsletter via email, we strongly encourage you to share your email with the church office.

Our email list allows you to receive information earlier, and we often share separate information with our email list to highlight important aspects of our ministries!

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



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

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

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).



Thank You For Your Prayers

On December 24, 2019, I was the accompanying Organist for the Christmas Eve service at our sister church at Greenwood, MS.

At the same time, 2 hours away, my son, Clif IV was being admitted to Baptist Hospital in Southaven, MS.

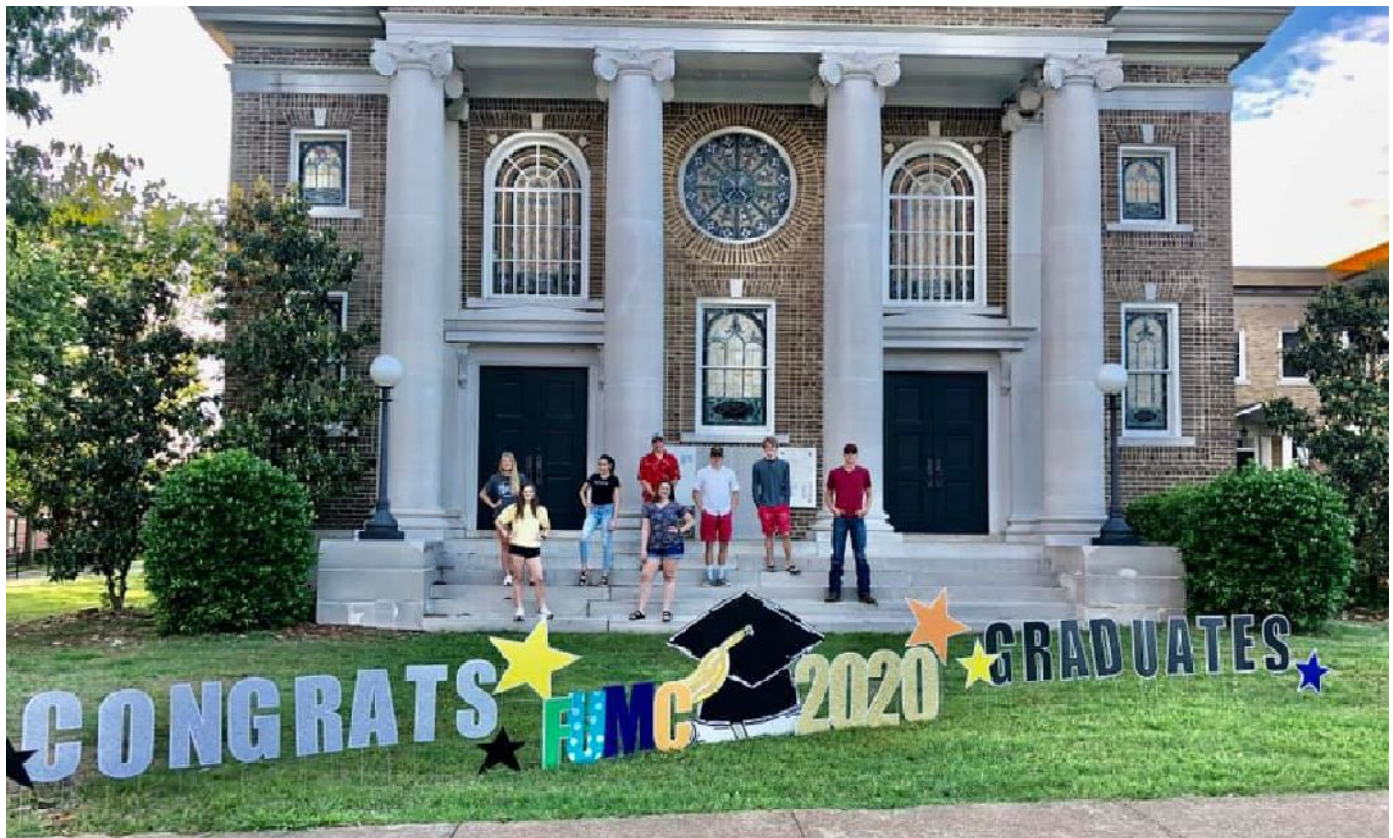
Upon admission, his body temp was 84; blood sugar near 1000. the E.R. chaplain offered last rites; my only flesh and blood was near death. I was 65; he was 36.

I got on my knees at his bedside and prayed for a miracle and...asked God to take me instead...I was ready. to see Jesus...but sometimes, it "don't happen that way".

After 2 weeks in ICU, his body temp had climbed to 98; after diabetic ketoacidosis, he awoke from his coma, squeezing Norma's hand. We had several churches and a mountain of people praying for his recovery.

2 weeks later, he was released. The doctors lined his schedule with dialysis, tests and more tests. Our Miracle had been 'at work'; GOD was in charge; He is the Great Physician. The doctors cancelled his dialysis. By January 23, 2020, Clif was released. Thank ya'll for your prayer. There is power in prayer.

Clifton Burrell



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
May 17th - May 23rd 263

Sunday Online Worship Service..... 242
Weekly Update Views 203

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

Received through
05/18/2020
Cash & Checks..... \$3,435.00
Online Giving..... \$2,486.79

Received through
05/25/2020
Cash & Checks..... \$2,455.00
Online Giving..... \$2,791.73

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 31 Scott Davis
Griffin McCowan
Nell Tebbetts
Carolyn Wilson
June 1 Alexas Faith
Madison Janousek Owens
June 2 Kelli Swaim
June 4 Nick Yoder
June 5 Crystal Anderson

May 31 Matt & Candace Martin
June 3 Dale & Judy Altom
Jim & Katy Smythe
June 4 Ron & Martha Lewallen
June 5 Joe & Kathleen Reynolds
June 6 John & Starr Kent

MEMORIALS

KATHERINE TRIPP

David Diemer & Marilyn Diemer
Earnheart & families

DON GILCHRIST

KATHERINE TRIPP

Ron & Martha Lewallen

IN HONOR OF

EMMA BARKER

Ray & Amy Blaylock

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 Blockfather of Gina Garrett
Marcus & Glenda Bowersmembers
Clif Burrell, IVson of Clifton & Norma Burrell
Winnell Calhounmember
Doris Caspermember
Nancy Duncanfriend of Amanda Pickett.
Annebelle Fletcher.....friend of David Smith
Bella Floyd.....friend of members
Verlie Garrettgrandmother of Lane Garrett
Randy & Linda Guthrierelatives of Glenda Bowers
Alvetta Hatfieldmother of Karen Holifield
Linda Hixfriend of John Ellis
Mona Hobbsfriend of Diane Tebbetts
Kerry Jenningssister of member
Mary Johnsonmother in law of Clifton Burrell
Betty Jones.....friend of Mary Slaughter
Sharon Looney.....friend of Jon Healey
Anne Lustermember
Ruth Meyersaunt of member
Janice Murphy.....cousin of Sharan Pittser
Maria Paningua.....friend of member
Angela Panneckfriend of member
Traci Phillipsdaughter of George & Pat Collins
Terri Presley.....member
Judy Pridgenfriend of Glenda Martin
Pat & Rodney Rice.....family members of Rice Family
Sam Rigsbeerelative of member
Raye Rogersmember
Charlotte Rosemember
Tom Sellershusband of Jane Jameson
Bob Spencerfather of member
Gladys Smithmother of David Smith
Shirley Stuckey.....member

Our Prayers for Those in Hospitals

Knoxville, Tennessee Hospital

Steve Robertscousin of Pastor Mark

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

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
Bobbie 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 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

If you need pastoral assistance contact:

Pastor Mark McDonald - 501-650-0046

Associate Pastor Carl Hudson - 870-251-6227

When Will We Open?

We are asked this question more and more frequently, and there are two answers. One is simple, and the other is complicated.

The simple answer is: We never closed the church! Our building may be secure, but our church has continued to gather in worship, study, fellowship, growth, and outreach! We are acting more like the early church than ever before, when Christians didn't have buildings and shared the good news more effectively than many of our largest "churches" today!

The more complicated answer is that we are seeking to discern the time to begin to gradually reopen our building so we can use it for ourselves AND for our entire community!

There are at least three big questions we continue to ask about our building use in the United Methodist Church:

- **When?** The Board of Trustees is responsible for the care and maintenance of our building, and they are also responsible for the safety and liability we have through the use of our facilities. They are meeting regularly to determine when it is safe and practical to reopen the building, which includes legal liabilities, the cost of sanitizing our building between groups, and how we can staff our ministries when more is demanded of the building.
- **How?** Our Church Council is responsible for the vision and direction of our church, so they are focusing on working on our church's reopening with the governor's and bishop's recommendations. While our governor does allow churches to reopen – he never actually mandated their closing – he has expressed appreciation for the way churches consider the needs of our community as we continue in ministries with or without the use of our building. The council is meeting this Thursday night to discuss where we are, and because our Council meetings are open you can contact the church office to learn how to join us. It is a Zoom meeting (online only). Their responsibility, therefore, is determining "how" we reopen our building, while also how we do ministry before the building is reopened.
- **Why?** Our pastor works with our Trustees and Council to address the "why" question of our transition. You can see this in many ways through devotionals and sermons that remind us of our vision to "Love God, Love Others, and Serve the World." That vision has not wavered, and our call to "Love Others" and "Serve the World" remind us of the importance of caring enough for our neighbors to continue to demonstrate our love in tangible ways, such as wearing our masks as an example of Christ's love, continuing to support the ministries of the church with donations of money, food, and time!

These three questions are before us every day, and we watch with concern over crowds that gather in defiance of our limitations and with HOPE as we see people show great caution and wait for the day when we can find even newer ways to gather proudly as followers of Christ!

The direction of our bishop is clearly to move slowly back into group meetings, continuing to limit access to our buildings for a few more weeks until we can see the clear reduction (and ultimate elimination) of the threat of COVID-19 spread. He has reminded us of the clear limitations of the governor and health department that restricts the ways we gather. And he has recommended that we focus on safe, online, and/or outdoor opportunities to gather. To that end, our ministry coordinators have begun planning fun events that allow us to see each other from a safe distance:

- **June 3 (Wed)** - Crosses & Communion. We invite you to come to the campus on Wednesday between 6:00 and 7:00 pm, see some of the staff, and receive two gifts: (1) We will give each household a cross that you can take home and place in your yard. We will keep the crosses displayed at our homes until we are able to announce a day to return to the building, then we will invite you to return them to Main Street to announce our return! (2) We will hand out individually packaged communion elements to each individual who wants one. The pastor will bless these elements and share a short reading with you. You can take them home and receive communion immediately or keep them until the following Sunday and receive them when we offer a live communion service online.
- **June 10 (Wed)** - We are planning an "Ice Cream Social Distance" at Future Fuel Park! We will have ice cream for you to pick up within appropriate guidelines for the times (such as driving through or walking in family groups).
- **June 17 (Wed)** - We are planning a "Parking Lot Worship Service" so we can worship from our cars and lawn chairs at safe social distance for that time!

We look forward to seeing you soon as we continue to open our minds, hearts, and lives to each other, no matter what the limitations on our building or physical distancing.

Survey to Establish a Reopening Date

1. What service do you normally attend?

8:30

9:45

11:00

I do not attend any of these service

2. Under which of the following situations would you feel comfortable in resuming face-to-face worship within the church?

In compliance with the Governor's and the Bishop's recommendations for reopening

Everyone is wearing a mask and practicing social distancing

Availability of reliable testing

Not until there is a vaccine

3. Which of the following conditions would prevent you from worshipping face-to-face

No singing

No nursery

50 people maximum in the building

Seating every other pew with family members only in the sanctuary

Seating by family members only in the fellowship hall

Other (please specify)

4. Are you comfortable opening the church if certain groups are excluded? These might include, but would not be limited to "at risk" persons, families needing nursery facilities, people arriving after the cut-off number is reached.

Yes

No

5. As we reopen the church for worship, would you be willing to consider having 2 distinct worship services and a Sunday School time that does not overlap with any worship service?

Yes

No

6. As we begin to plan for reopening the church building, this is an ideal time to evaluate the best and most efficient way to manage our Sunday morning schedule. Understanding that this is all in the "talking stage", please select the option that you would be most likely to support.

8:30 Traditional Service, 9:30 Sunday School, 10:30 Contemporary Service

9:00 Traditional Service, 10:00 Sunday School, 11:00 Contemporary Service

9:00 Traditional Service, 9:45 Sunday School, 10:30 Contemporary Service

What Is our "Launch Team"

Our Launch Team is a group of ministry coordinators (elected by the Charge Conference and voting members of the Church Council) who have been asked by our pastor to coordinate our efforts:

(1) to stay connected during this time of physical separation

(2) consider the state and conference recommendations as they affect our church

(3) coordinate all our ministries when it is time to reopen the buildings. This group is meeting weekly online to discuss and consider our options. They include:

Jennifer Emery, Nurture Coordinator

Asa Whitaker, Outreach Coordinator

Shelby Dobbs, Witness Coordinator

Sandy West, Worship Coordinator

Lorrie McClure, Youth ministries

katie McLean, Children's ministries

Bennie Burks, Senior Care

They have planned the events that are highlighted in the pastor's letter in this newsletter, new "Shepherding Groups" to keep our families connected to each other, and how our ministries would work if we reopened in different ways (while following the governor's and bishop's recommendations).

As part of that discussion, they are asking you to complete a short survey as we consider what you are comfortable with in our current climate. It was emailed out to the newsletter distribution list and is included in this newsletter for your convenience.

We ask that you complete it online or return your answer this week by email (admin@fumcbatesville.org) or by mail (P.O. Box 2014, 72503). We welcome your comments in all these areas, and any recommendations for dates and changes will come back to the Church Council.

7. Is there any "deal breaker" that would impact when you return to face-to-face worship?



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

Non-Profit
 Org.
 U. S. Postage
 PAID
 Batesville, AR
 72501-4694
 Permit No. 398

Address Service Requested
 Want off the mailing list?
 Call 870-793-3803

Inside This Issue!

- From Pastor Mark - page 1
- Note From Clifton - page 2
- Stewardship - page 3
- When Will We Open? - insert
- Survey to Establish a Reopening Date - insert



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](https://www.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

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

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 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 June 3rd newsletter must be submitted by 3:00 pm Monday, June 1st to the church office or by email to Lyndal at lyndalwaits@sbcglobal.net.