



First United Methodist Challenge

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

August 19, 2020

Our Vision is to be a Dynamic Community of Believers

From the Pastor . . .

What, me worry?

Anyone else remember that? Alfred E. Neuman was the cartoon cover boy for MAD magazine, and he was well known for his cavalier, calm attitude no matter how crazy the world may seem. "What, me worry?" became a slogan that was well-recognized for keeping our cool in stressful situations. Did you know that for a single issue of MAD magazine, the slogan was changed to "Me worry!?" It was in response to the nuclear meltdown at Three Mile Island.



I suspect our current situation might qualify as the second time Alfred Neuman might say, "Yes, me worry!"

But Jesus said, "Do not worry." Really, Jesus? Could you possibly foresee what we are going through today? How can we not worry in the midst of a pandemic, in a nation that seems divided by partisan politics and racial unrest, even in the midst of a hot summer near-apocalyptic level weather?

Jesus does give us a solution, a secret to keeping our calm, in Matthew 6: 25-34. What is the secret?

Come and see! Join us this Sunday at 9:00 am on Facebook or YouTube to calm your anxiety with the words of our master!

In Christ's love,
Pastor Mark



Outdoor Worship in August!

While the COVID numbers have risen, we are making plans for some exciting outdoor worship times this month! Each service will be from 6:00 pm - 6:30 pm on Wednesdays:

August 19 in the 7th Street parking area: **SCHOOL BLESSING** worship (no matter what school may look like) with special school blessing gifts for students and teachers

August 26 at the Riverside Amphitheater: community worship time and possible Ice Cream Social Distance (depending on the COVID count)



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

Confirmation Worship Service



New Arrival

Lucy Ruth Castleberry



Are You a Fan or a Follower?

New worship series based on the Sermon on the Mount
July 26 - September 6

While all it takes to be a “Christian” is to believe, the name “Christian” is a modern description of the church. Jesus never stopped with the call simply to believe; he called for people who believed to follow him (often even before they fully believed!). Church is not a spectator sport, and Jesus' Sermon on the Mount is a call to be more than a fan of Jesus. Are you a "fan" or a "follower?"

August 23: "Don't be Anxious" (Matthew 6: 25-34)

August 30: "What Goes Around Comes Around" (Matthew 7:1-6)

September 6: "You Can Ask for Anything ... But Be Careful What You Ask For" (Matthew 7: 7-12)

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 Holfield

Trustees Chair

Alex Roofe

Finance Chair

Tommy Newton

Our Presence

Average Daily Devotional views
 Aug 10th- Aug 15th 34
 Sunday Online Worship Service..... 224
 Weekly Update - Aug 12th..... 78

Our Gifts

Received in August

Received through
 08/02/2020
 Cash & Checks..... \$8,690.00
 Online Giving..... \$1,385.28
 Received through
 08/09/2020
 Cash & Checks..... \$9,072.86
 Online Giving..... \$3,812.05
 Received through
 08/09/2020
 Cash & Checks..... \$7,870.00
 Online Giving..... \$755.55
 Amount needed weekly \$11,427.00

Birthdays and Anniversaries

from UMMEN Calendar

Aug 16 Matt McDonald
 Aug 17 Emily Tucker
 John Wise
 Aug 18 Marcella Langley
 Aug 21 Austin Carter
 George Dortch
 Johnny Kent

 Aug 16 Mike & Sandy West
 Aug 19 Paul & Pam Glover
 Bill & Diana Waldrip
 Aug 20 Steve & Rebecca Richman
 Shawn & Lisa Smith

MEMORIALS

MARY JEANETTE WOOD

Timmy & Joan McKinney
 Eleanor Royer
 Barrett & Sara Moore
 David & Sharan Pittser
 Max & Susan McElmurry
 Rocky & Laura Sutton
 Mr. & Mrs. Wesley J. Ketz, Jr.
 Bernice M. Marzella

JACKIE GOHEEN

Chaney- Huddleston Class

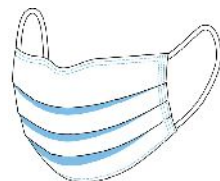
To the Senior
 Who is Starting
 Their Last Year of
 High School



FIRST
 → DAY OF
 senior year

Senior Sunday send
 off to senior year.
 20 Dundee Cove
 August 23 7:30 p.m.

What do Masks and Cookies Have in Common?



We are looking for volunteers to make both to package and give away as gifts from our church! The ministry coordinators are working on ways that we can help people in our community, especially those who put themselves at risk or need help with facemasks. We are looking for volunteers to make cookies that can be packaged and delivered to front line workers, and we are also looking for volunteers to make or purchase masks that we can give away to help our neighbors abide by the governors new mandate.

We hope to package all of these with an invitation to our church (online or for any other events that are appropriate). Please let the church office know if you're able to help us with either or both!



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 2 weeks.
At the end of 2 weeks to continue the name, please call the church office.

Our Prayers for Those at Home

Regan & Matt Dobbins.....friends of member
Jane Jamesonmember
Traci Phillipsdaughter of George & Pat Collins
Terri Presley.....member
Tom Sellershusband of Jane Jameson
Shirley Stuckey.....member
Carolyn Wilsonmember

Share Your Joys and Concerns!

We are taking our prayers in a new direction!

We are asking you to submit your prayers (joys and concerns) with the following guidelines:

- Prayers can be submitted by call the church office (793-3803), emailing the church (fumcbatesville@gmail.com), or through our prayer concern form at fumcbatesville.org.

- You MUST have permission of the person named to share their name publically.

- Each submission will be included in the newsletter and worship for two weeks, then it will be removed from the list. You can resubmit the prayers to continue them for additional time.

Our Prayers for Those in Hospitals

NICU - Little Rock

Oliver Dobbinsfriend of member

The Springs of Batesville

George Bentz, Sr

White River Medical Center

Sherry Everettmember

Arch Jonesfriend of members

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
Carol Robertson member
Barbara Stevenson member
Stanley Wood..... member

Wood-Lawn Heights

Mildred Arnold member
Bobbie Sue Graves..... mother of Diana Waldrip
Troy Kuchler..... stepdad of member
Lucille Maris member
Virginia 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.....
Sergeant 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

Leadership Update

During the last 5 months, our church leadership has met regularly to deal with the administration of the church so we can support our ministries. I want to thank all our leaders for giving of their time, and I am writing to share a brief summary of what we've been up to behind the videos, parking lot services, and small groups.

Launch Team

Our ministry coordinators have been meeting weekly for several months to discuss what we can do during our building closure, as well as what we need to do to be prepared to open when the time is right. They are the coordinators of all the ways we are working to stay connected to God and one another during our building closure, and they have worked together to support all our ministries, including online worship, devotionals, parking lot worship, shepherd groups, cottage meetings, small groups, outreach, and home connections.

Church Council

This is the official leadership team for our church. They have met monthly to assess our needs and coordinate with the Trustees and ministry coordinators to consider when we can reopen our ministries inside the building. They will begin preparation for our annual Charge Conference soon, which will be held through Zoom on Tuesday, October 20 at 6:00 pm.

Trustees

This is the group in our church that oversees building care and insurance. During this time, they have met monthly to deal with all the normal concerns such as fire inspections, several A/C outages, a leak from an attic A/C unit (and the subsequent insurance claim and repairs), and how to best sanitize the building. Members of this board have been at the church virtually every week meeting with contractors, trimming hedges, assessing needs, and walking the building.

Finance

This team manages the day to day finances of our church, and they have met regularly to review our finances and consider any adjustments we have needed in our spending, and volunteers meeting weekly to make deposits and pay bills. They have also had a task force meeting many times to revamp our policies and procedures.

Staff Parish Relations

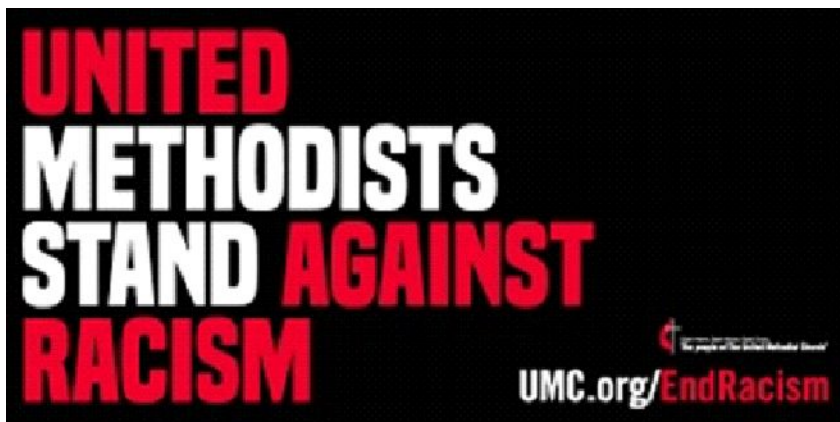
This committee has met via Zoom, email, and in person as needed to deal with the Payroll Protection Program, any staffing issues, and they are currently reviewing our personnel policies and procedures.

Nominations

This team is responsible for filling the vacant positions of the leadership during the year, and they are also charged with nominating officers for 2021. They will most likely ask the current leaders to continue (as advised by conference leadership), but there will be some vacancies to fill that they will present to the Church Council for approval at the Charge Conference in October.

Thank you to all the leaders who have been serving faithfully behind the scenes to keep the wheels of the church moving!

Pastor Mark



Why get involved in social issues?

Why must the church get involved in issues like **racism**?

Aren't these issues just divisive?

What does the Bible say?

“The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed.” Psalm 103:6 NIV

“Happy are those who observe justice, who do righteousness at all times.” Psalm 106:3 NRSV

“The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern.” Proverbs 29:7

“This is what the Lord says: ‘Maintain justice and do what is right, for my salvation is close at hand and my righteousness will soon be revealed.’” Isaiah 56:1 NIV

“This is what the Lord Almighty said: ‘Administer true justice; show mercy and compassion to one another. Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.’” Zechariah 7:9-10 NIV

Matthew applies Isaiah’s words to Jesus:

“Here is my servant whom I have chosen,
the one I love, in whom I delight;

I will put my Spirit on him,

and he will **proclaim justice** to the nations.

He will not quarrel or cry out;

no one will hear his voice in the streets.

A bruised reed he will not break,

and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out,

till he has brought justice through to victory.” Matthew 12:18-20

Jesus calls out the religious leaders of his day:

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—**justice, mercy and faithfulness**. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former.” Matthew 23:23

What does our United Methodist Heritage have to say?

“For Wesley there is no religion but social religion, no holiness but social holiness.” Book of Discipline 2000, p.48

The following are lists of books and other media resources from United Methodist Women and Cokesbury to expand our awareness and give tools to become part of the work to dismantle racism.

Book Lists

www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/racialjusticeresourcelist

<https://issuu.com/cokesbury/docs/smallgroupfallwinter2020?fr=sZGEyMTE0MjkyMw&spMailingID=5847333&spUserID=Mzk4NjU4NjkyS0&spJobID=1080610541&spReportId=MTA4MDYxMDU0MQS2>. See p.18-23 for racial justice titles

Again I ask that you contact me with resources that you have found helpful, comments, or if you would like to start a dialog about race and where, we as a church, might go from here to dismantle racism.

In God’s peace,

Kathy McKinney

mckinney.kathy9@gmail.com



First United Methodist Church
 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**

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 & YouTube 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 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 August 26th newsletter must be submitted by 3:00 pm Monday, August 24th to the church office or by email to Lyndal at lyndalwaits@sbcglobal.net.