



First United Methodist Challenge

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

December 2, 2020

Our Vision is to be a Dynamic Community of Believers

From the Pastor . . .

I can't tell you how many times I have been in a conversation with someone else and we've shared a side effect of "corona fatigue" or "pandemic fatigue." We forget what day it is, what week it is, or don't realize we've totally passed by an event because we just lost track of time. Pandemic fatigue is actually one of several symptoms of the effect the pandemic is having on us emotionally. People complain about feeling anxious, depressed, lonely, or perhaps just tired and forgetful. They are ordinary responses to an extraordinary time.



The sermon this Sunday focuses on Isaiah 40:1-11, when God has a word for people who are experiencing similar struggles (that would be me...probably all of us!). After nine months of the pandemic, even the news of a vaccine is tempered by the news that it may be months before everyone gets it. It's enough to make us doubt if we will ever get back to normal. And it's enough to wear us down and wear us out.

God has an encouraging word for us this Sunday, however! God turns to the heavenly messengers to tell them to bring us *comfort*. The past is now the past, and the future is God's!

Join us this second Sunday of Advent as we consider the HOPE that God has for us today!

In Christ's love,
Mark

The Giving Tree is on page 2 in this newsletter.

Small Group Hosts Needed!

We continue to have multiple small groups that meet in person with clear safety precautions: approx. 10 people or less, wearing masks, with sign in for contact tracing. That has worked wonderfully, and we are actually seeing some new faces!

We are asking you to consider hosting a small group that meets online, outdoors, or indoors with these restrictions. The format and contact is up to you, and staff will help you with materials if you need them. We currently have nine groups meeting at the church, and you can reserve a safe space by contacting the church office.

If you are the leader of a Sunday School class or small group, please consider planning a small gathering with the "Three W's" – WEAR a mask, WASH your hands, and WATCH your distance. You can also start a new group – men's group, women's group, families, couples, singles – whatever you want!

This is absolutely the best way to stay connected with your church, and we are looking for new hosts and groups. All on-campus groups are by reservations only, but we are anxious to work with you to make it happen! Contact Pastor Mark or the church office to learn more.

Give to the Blessing Box

The blessing box is in need of non perishable items, especially:

- Pastas (ramen noodles, spaghetti, etc)
- Peanut butter
- Cereals
- Kid-friendly foods (snacks or easy to fix items)
- Canned proteins

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



Secret Pals

It is time to reveal yourself to your secret pal. Thank you to those who were a secret pal this past year. I know all the recipients enjoyed so much that they were not forgotten, and they appreciate everything from their secret pal.

God Bless all who volunteered to be a secret pal.

The **Batesville Unity Group (BUG)** is hosting a holiday meal and Zoom holiday gathering on Saturday, Dec. 19th for anyone in the community who finds themselves without others to share the Christmas season. The holidays can be an extremely lonely time which is especially true this year due to COVID-19 precautions. The meals will be provided as take out on Saturday afternoon (timeframe TBD). Later that day, a Zoom holiday gathering will be presented with music, games, and socialization for anyone who would like to participate. Details will be provided soon with the link.

In the meantime, BUG is collecting donations to pay for the meal. You can make a contribution by sending a check to the church (P.O. Box 2014, Batesville, AR 72503) or online by visiting the FUMC website (www.fumcbatesville.org) and click the "GIVE ONLINE" button on the right hand side of that page or give through the church's app. Please put **BUG Holiday Meal** on the memo line when making your contribution. You can email any questions or your willingness to volunteer on the 19th to miacmom2006@gmail.com

BUG Mission Statement: Christ came not to condemn the world, but to save it. Jesus calls us to love our neighbors as ourselves. In response to that call, the Batesville Unity Group welcomes, affirms, and celebrates all persons of every age, gender identity, racial and ethnic background, sexual orientation, marital status, socioeconomic status, nationality, physical and mental ability who are called to worship, discipleship, marriage, or ordained ministry in our local church and the United Methodist Church worldwide.



The Giving Tree

It is time for the annual Giving Tree Project sponsored by the LIFE Class. The Giving Tree Project covers children that have aged out of the Angel Tree Project.

This year, probably more than any other year, it is important to help these kids have the best Christmas possible! Due to the current Covid situation, we will be doing the majority of the project virtually instead of selecting ornaments off of the tree. If you would like to sponsor one or more children, please copy and paste the link and fill out the Giving Tree information form.

You can also scan the QR Code to access the form. Everyone that fills out the form will be assigned names to shop for. This information will be sent out via text and/or email. You may drop off gifts in the Kid's

Department December 5 & 6 from 2pm-4pm, or anytime during the day December 7 & 8. We need to have all gifts dropped off no later than December 8! Distribution of gifts will begin December 12. If you have any questions, have trouble accessing the Google Form, prefer to fill out a hard copy of the form, or would like to make a monetary donation to the Giving Tree Project, please contact Amanda Lucy at 805-8431. Thanks in advance for the continued support of this project. It truly is a blessing to be able to serve the community in this way.



Also, go to our Facebook page

First United Methodist Church of Batesville, AR

Giving Tree QR Code



Giving Tree Information Form (copy and paste)

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfs5CEkm3LWYgGe_zQLcJ-J50u5GBTPCKtdUd8v8rDjdtZ_vg/viewform

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

Lay Leader

Mike Wilson

Lay Servants/Ministers

Cyndi House
Kathy McKinney
Sandy West
Asa Whitaker

Church Council Chair

Barrett Moore

Staff/Parish Chair

Paul Holfield

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

Daily Devotional Average.....36/day
Sunday Online Worship Service.....544
Weekly Update – Nov 25th 43 views

Our Gifts

Received in November

Received through
11/01/2020
Cash & Checks..... \$6,930.00
Online Giving..... \$1,725.38
Received through
11/08/2020
Cash & Checks..... \$17,705.00
Online Giving.....\$443.44
Received through
11/15/2020
Cash & Checks..... \$6,705.00
Online Giving..... \$1,578.82
Received through
11/22/2020
Cash & Checks..... \$2,788.00
Online Giving..... \$3,242.04
Received through
11/29/2020
Cash & Checks..... \$5,040.00
Online Giving..... \$2,128.82
Amount needed weekly \$11,427.00

MEMORIALS

MARY WHITAKER

TROY KUCHLER

Harry & Becky Crossett

MARY JEANETTE WOOD

Ansel Rhodes Ponder



Mid-Week Update
w/ Pastor Mark
WEDNESDAYS @NOON ON FACEBOOK

Birthdays and Anniversaries

from UMMEN Calendar

December 6 Mildred Arnold
Larry Jackson, IV
Candice Martin
Linda Metcalf
Ashton Taylor Weaver
December 7 Gerry Bentz
Rhonda Wise
December 8 Stefanie Carpenter
Seth Kemp
Charlotte Rose
Stanley Wood
December 9 Christy Dodd
Richard Frasier
Daniel Griffin
December 10 Zeb Erick Anderson
Kathleen Reynolds
December 12 Marti Ruiz

December 9 Daniel & Ramona Shaffer

When we return to our usual activities,
please consider how you can be in ministry.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU!

Mission Trips: FUMC participates in several mission trips each year, some involving youth, some adults only, and some family inclusive. We are also working to include local, regional, and international missions for those who are interested. Please complete the tear off section to keep up!

Ramps. Our men's group has a team that builds ramps and does a few other repairs to help neighbors with disabilities.

ERT: We are seeking people interesting in training for early entry to disaster areas to help provide immediate relief and make scenes safe for people to begin to rebuild their lives. This training will be eight hours long and typically occurs on a Saturday.

Food Ministries: We always have opportunities for people to help with our Wednesday meals, Saturday breakfast, blessing box, backpacks, and warming/cooling center.

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

Della Mae Dortch Member
Terri Presley.....member
Jim Smythe.....member
Troy Smythe.....son of Jim & Katy Smythe
Phyllis & Jim Terhune.....members
Carolyn Wilson member

Our Prayers for Those in Hospitals

Wakemed Raleigh Hospital in Raleigh, NC

Dianne Taylor.....member

Send cards to Dianne Taylor to:

Diane Taylor Room # 3B
Clare Bridge at Brookdale
7870 Chapel Hill Rd.
Cary, NC 27513



EMAIL US!!!

Email us at 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.

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

Clare Bridge at Brookdale

Dianne Taylor..... member

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
Lucille Maris member
Virgina Swetnam mother of Lorrie McClure

Woodcrest Assisted Living

Marilyn Coffman..... member
Judy Murrah..... 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
Lt. Col. 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



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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**

FACEBOOK CONNECTIONS
facebook.com/fumcbatesville

"Mid-week Update" with the pastor Mark each Wednesday at noon on Facebook Live

"Daily Devotional" on Facebook & YouTube 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

Listen to the Worship Service at 11:00 am on KWOZ FM 103.3 or on the internet whiterivernow.com/ar1033/ and click Listen Live button
 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/FUMCBatesvilleAR

Next Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the December 9th newsletter must be submitted by 3:00 pm Monday, December 7th to the church office or by email to Lyndal at lyndalwaits@sbcglobal.net.