



First United Methodist Challenge

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

December 16, 2020

Our Vision is to be a Dynamic Community of Believers

From the Pastor . . .

As I write this letter, we are approaching 9 months since we closed our church building because of the danger of the COVID virus. This Sunday, we read from Luke 1:26-38 as we hear the words of an angel shared with Mary to tell her of the next nine months of her life.

It was not what she expected, and was not part of her plans, yet God has a way of doing amazing things in impossible ways.

What does that say to us this Advent? What does that say to us we watch the vaccines roll out across our country? Peace, Hope, Joy, and Love are our Sunday themes during Advent, and this Sunday's focus is on Love. The unexpected, impossible love God has for us.

Join us in worship as we gather in expectation, with peace, hope, joy, and love in our hearts for the new life we find in God, no matter what the season or circumstance.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Mark



CHRISTMAS EVE AT FUMC

Because our sanctuary renovations were delayed AND the virus count is peaking again, we are planning two outdoor worship services on Christmas Eve on the front steps of the sanctuary as well as a premier online service that evening.

On Thursday, December 24, we will gather on the front steps of the church for two services:

- 4:00 pm Christmas Carols and Communion (on the front steps of the sanctuary)
- 6:00 pm Carols, Communion, and Candles (on the front steps of the sanctuary AND streamed on Facebook Live)
- 8:00 pm Online Worship (premiered service similar to our Sunday morning services, on Facebook and YouTube)

We will live stream the 6:00 pm service on Facebook Live, and we will have "Online Christmas Worship Kits" available for you to use if you choose to worship online instead of in person. Those kits will include the brief order of worship, a candle, and communion elements. To arrange for a kit, please contact Teresa in the church office, and we will share how you can pick it up or we can have someone deliver it to your front door! Call (793-3803) or email (fumcbatesville@gmail.com) by Monday, December 21.

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

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

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

Batesville Unity Group Update

The **Batesville Unity Group (BUG)** is hosting a holiday meal and Zoom gathering on Saturday, Dec. 19th for anyone in the community who finds themselves without anyone to share the Christmas season. This is the 2nd annual Christmas dinner with food graciously prepared by Dylan Brackley and his team from The Savage Hippy. Meals will be take-out only this year due to COVID-19 restrictions and will be available for drive-thru pickup from 3pm to 5pm on December 19th at First United Methodist Church at 615 E Main Street. The Zoom Holiday Celebration will begin at 5:30pm. The Zoom link will be provided when the meals are picked up. If you would like to RSVP for the meal or you would like to participate in the Zoom Celebration without getting a meal, please email your request for either to miacmom2006@gmail.com or text at 870-834-8198.

BUG is still 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.

Toy Drive – BUG is also collecting new toys for Batesville Help and Hope to distribute over the holidays. Toys can be dropped off during the meal pick-up between 3pm and 5pm this Saturday the 19th at the church.

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.



Mid-Week Update
w/ Pastor Mark

WEDNESDAYS @NOON ON FACEBOOK



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.



**DRIVE-THROUGH
CHRISTMAS EVENT
FOR FIRST KIDS!**

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2020
5:30-6:30PM • FUMC BREEZEWAY**

Bring your kids to see Santa and receive a take home bag of materials to help you celebrate Christmas at home with your family. Supplies will be included for a Birthday Party for Jesus!

Happy Birthday Jesus

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 Holifield

Trustees Chair

Alex Roofe

Finance Chair

Tommy Newton

Our Presence

Daily Devotional Average.....35/day

Sunday Online Worship Service.....203

Weekly Update – Dec 8th 80 views

Our Gifts

Received in December

Received through

12/06/2020

Cash & Checks..... \$7,550.00

Online Giving.....\$553.44

Received through

12/13/2020

Cash & Checks..... \$6,530.00

Online Giving..... \$1,174.32

Amount needed weekly \$11,427.00

MEMORIALS

JIM SMYTHE

William & Louise Sandefur
The Harkey Family
Harry & Becky Crossett
John Ellis
The Chaney-Huddleston Class
Fran Troy
Timmy & Joan McKinney
Boris & Pamela Dover
Bill & Diana Waldrip
Charles M. McCain, Jr.
Larry & Judy Haile
Dr. W.H. & Mary Goodin
Blair & Paulette Arnold
The Barnett Family
Walter Rene Julian
Luther & Adelene Bearden

TROY KUCHLER

Bill & Diana Waldrip

Birthdays and Anniversaries

from UMMEN Calendar

December 21 Ken Davis
Evan McLean
Mandi Rowley
December 23 Micah Glover
December 24 Skipper Vinson
December 25 Sarah Bolin
Katie Vinson Wooldridge
December 26 Pat Collins
Shelby Moore
Chaney Taylor, III
Sophie Taylor
Ty Taylor

December 22 Bob & Susie Carter
Joel & Jeannie Wagoner
December 29 David & Kathy McKinney

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



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.

**Daily Devotionals
to
start your Day!**

Monday through Saturday 9 AM

www.facebook.com/fumcbatesville

Our Mailing Address is:
First United
Methodist Church
P.O. Box 2014
Batesville, AR 72503-2014

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

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
Troy Smythe.....son of Katy Smythe
Phyllis & Jim Terhune.....members
Carolyn Wilsonmember

Our Prayers for Those in Hospitals

Send cards to Dianne Taylor to:

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

Daily Devotionals to start your Day!

Monday through Saturday 9 AM

www.facebook.com/fumcbatesville

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

Brookdale Cary - Cary, NC

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 Waldrup
Lucille Maris member
Virginia 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

United Methodist Men
will be bringing you a
Birthday and Anniversary Calendar
for the Year 2021

all we need is your help.

Do fill out the form if:

You were not in last year's calendar

You need to add a new entry, remove one or correct one

Do Not fill out the form if:

You were in last year's calendar

No changes need to be made

The calendar will not show the year of your birthday or anniversary, but our church records will be more complete if you do give the year.

Please submit only FUMC members and immediate family

We intend for the 2021 calendar to be given free to all members of the church. The way we finance the printing is by advertising. The advertisers will be church member businesses or professional services. The type of space will be a standard business calling card. For \$100.00, an advertiser will appear at least three times in a year.

Deadline is December 29th

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RETURN THE COMPLETED FORM TO THE CHURCH OFFICE

NAME _____ BIRTH DATE _____

SPOUSE _____ BIRTH DATE _____

ANNIVERSARY DATE _____

CHILDREN

NAME _____ BIRTH DATE _____

NAME _____ BIRTH DATE _____

NAME _____ BIRTH DATE _____

NAME _____ BIRTH DATE _____

REMOVE A NAME

NAME _____ DATE _____

NAME _____ DATE _____

NAME _____ DATE _____



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

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 Org.
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 72501-4694
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Address Service Requested
 Want off the mailing list?
 Call 870-793-3803

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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



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FACEBOOK CONNECTIONS

[facebook.com/fumcbatesville](https://www.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 16th newsletter must be submitted by 3:00 pm Monday, December 14th to the church office or by email to Lyndal at lyndalwaits@sbcglobal.net.