



First United Methodist Challenge

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

December 21, 2020

Our Vision is to be a Dynamic Community of Believers

From the Pastor . . .

This Sunday, we are going to talk about clothing. Many people will be receiving some form of clothing for Christmas, and there are some amazing options today! Gore-Tex is a fabric that keeps rain, sleet, and snow from going through the fabric, but allows sweat to be "wicked away" from your skin. Flannel is a dream in cold weather, and wool can even keep you warm if it gets wet. And cotton always feels good to the touch. Any of those could be wonderful gifts.



Isaiah 61:10-62:3 tells us about the gift of clothing that makes those pale in comparison. The God who gave his Son for you also wants to clothe you in righteousness. What does that mean for us today?

Join us and see: 9:00 am (Contemporary) and 11:00 am (Traditional) on Facebook or YouTube this Sunday, and 11:00 am on 103.3 FM!

In Christ's love,
Pastor Mark



The Giving Tree was a huge success!

This year we provided 85 children in our community with a wonderful Christmas. The LIFE Class would like to thank everyone who sponsored a child, shopped for Christmas gifts, or made a monetary donation to the Giving Tree. Being a part of this wonderful project during the time of COVID has truly been a blessing! It does the heart good to give to those who are less fortunate.

Merry Christmas
and God Bless!



Church Office Closed Next Week

The church office will be closed next week so our staff can have some time with family. If you need us, please text, email, or call the office and we will get back with you. If you would like to make a year end donation, please consider giving online, mailing your check, or dropping it in the slot near the main entrance.

Small groups will not be meeting at the church that week, either, and will resume meetings in the new year.

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.

2020 Contributions

All 2020 contributions must be in the office by Thursday December 31st before 10:00am.

You may drop your check off at the mail slot by the main entrance at the church. It is stored in a secure box, and we check that regularly.

See page 2 to see other ways to contribute. Don't wait too late if you want your contributions to be available for 2020 tax records!

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

Year End Giving

2020 has been a challenging year, and thanks to the leadership of our staff and officers, we have kept our expenses down. On top of that, so many have been generous and have continued to support the ministries of our church through this pandemic. We have received grants and donations that have helped us respond to the needs of our community in many, many ways. Our blessing box usage has increased dramatically, our community breakfast is serving record numbers of meals, and we have continued to work with the school to fill backpacks for children who need extra food at home.

This Christmas, as you consider fulfilling your commitment to the budget, we want to invite you to consider an extra gift to our improvements. The Trustees have worked for months to renovate the sanctuary, repair some damage, and build a new pavilion for us and our community – all to the glory of God! In total, we budgeted around \$75,000 in improvements, and used donations and memorials to accomplish this while the building has been closed. We have borrowed \$40,000 to complete this work, and invite you to help us eliminate that debt so we can continue our focus on other important ministries.

Please consider designating an extra Christmas offering to our Building Fund so we can eliminate our debt. You can give to our church in several ways as we close this year and begin a brand new year:

- Click the "**Give Online**" button at fumcbatesville.org, and you will have the option to give to our Building Fund or any other fund there.
- Use your **Bill Pay** feature through your financial institution.
- Mail a **check** to 615 E Main St. (or P.O. Box 2014), Batesville, AR. You can also drop your check off at the mail slot by the main entrance at the church. It is stored in a secure box, and we check that regularly.
- Give through our "**Give Plus**" App, which has the same options. Simply go to the App Store (for your Apple devices) or to Google Play (for your Android devices), search for "GivePlus Church" and download that App. You can search for our church by location and then it will ask you to set up your account (including your choice of giving by checking or credit/debit card). After that setup, you will not have to enter account information for subsequent donations, and you can return to the app anytime to view your giving history confidentially.
- **Text** the amount you want to give to 855-726-9179 and follow the prompts to set up your account. After that, you will be able to simply text the amount and confirmation donation. You will not be able to review previous donations via text, but we will include it on your church's giving statement.
- **Contact the church office** and we will help you in any way we are able!

Thank you for your generous support this year. We look forward to returning to our building soon and gathering in a newly refurbished sanctuary and a new pavilion! And eating food together, too!

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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..... /day
Sunday Online Worship Service.....
Weekly Update – Dec 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
Received through
12/20/2020
Cash & Checks.....
Online Giving.....
Amount needed weekly \$11,427.00

**Daily Devotionals
to
start your Day!**

Monday through Saturday 9 AM

www.facebook.com/fumcbatesville

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Birthdays and Anniversaries

from UMMEN Calendar

December 27 Mason Neaville
December 28 Sunny McKinney
December 29 Peyton Osborn
December 30 David Wilkerson
December 31 Emma Glover Barber
Paige Presley

December 29 David & Kathy McKinney

MEMORIALS

JIM SMYTHE

Barbara Nicholson
Charles & Ruby Schaaf
Barrett & Sara Moore
First Community Bank
Stan & Barbara Chapman
Beth Meacham
Friends at FCB
Alannette Rushing
Dale & Gayle Cole
Raymond & Alice Simmons

DIANATEBBETTS

LOWELLTEBBETTS

GEORGE BENTZ, SR.

JIM SMYTHE

FLOY MAE CROSSETT

MARYWHITAKER

Ron & Martha Lewallen

MARYWHITAKER

DI TEBBETTS

LOWELLTEBBETTS

TROY KUCHLER

Timmy & Joan McKinney



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



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.

† Our Prayers for Those Who Mourn †

Our sympathy goes out to Joyce Prickett in the death of her sister, **Donna Brown**, who passed away Monday, December 14, 2020.

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

.....
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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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 30th newsletter must be submitted by 3:00 pm Monday, December 28th to the church office or by email to Lyndal at lyndalwaits@sbcglobal.net.