



First United Methodist Challenge

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

January 3, 2024

Our Vision is to be a Dynamic Community of Believers

From the Pastor . . .

Dear Church Family,

Happy New Year! Although New Year's Eve and New Year's Day are not originally Christian holidays, they have been celebrated in the church in significant ways. In 1755 John Wesley held the first Covenant Renewal Service. The Covenant Renewal Service has become an important Methodist tradition; it is a time to remember the past year, reflect on its accomplishments and its failures, and give thanks for the new year with promise and hope. In the Covenant Renewal Service Wesley's Covenant Prayer is recited; that prayer is included in the newsletter today for you to pray.



Over 100 years after the first Covenant Renewal Service, on December 31, 1862, many African-American Christians gathered in churches across the United States for Watch Night Services to celebrate that the Emancipation Proclamation would go into effect on January 1, 1863. That night came to be known as "Freedom's Eve" as people awaited midnight when slaves would be freed across the Confederate States. Ever since then, many churches have celebrated New Year's Eve with Watch Night Services and Covenant Renewal Services, often combining the two.

At our church we begin each Church Council meeting by praying the Covenant Prayer to remind ourselves that we are there to be God's instruments of grace and service. I encourage you to pray this prayer regularly as a reminder of who you are and of whose you are.

The new year is a good time to reflect on the past and plan for the future. This January we will be talking about stewardship in worship. You will hear more information about this in the coming weeks, but I encourage you to begin to be in prayer and conversation about how you and your family can be good stewards of all that God has given you. This week's scripture is Matthew 2:1-12. We are returning to our normal worship times this Sunday, January 7. I look forward to worshipping with you!

Blessings,
Pastor Katie



Wesley Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but yours.
Put me to what you will, place me with whom you will.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be put to work for you or set aside for you,
Praised for you or criticized for you.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and fully surrender all things to your glory and service.
And now, O wonderful and holy God,
Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,
you are mine, and I am yours.
So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
Let it also be made in heaven. Amen.

Mark your Calender now
Return of
United Women in Faith aka UMW
Annual Soup Luncheon
Sunday, January 21, 2024



Take out will be available at 10:00
From kitchen
or
Join us in the Fellowship Hall at
At Noon
To sample and enjoy fellowship
Donations received will fund
Women of Faith Missions

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

Church Leadership

Senior Pastor

Reverend Katie Pearce
katie.pearce@arumc.org

Church Administrator

Teresa Brown

Minister to Children & Family Ministries

Katie McLean

Director of Youth, Young Adults, and Welcome

Michael Robinson

Director of Traditional Worship

Marc Sexton

Worship Leader

Alicia Williams

Treasurer

Ruby Curl

Custodian

Joe Johnson

Lay Leader

Mike Wilson

Lay Servants/Ministers

Sandy West
Asa Whitaker

Church Council Chair

Barrett Moore

Finance Chair

Robb Roberts

Staff/Parish Chair

Rikki Painter

Trustees Chair

Joyce Prickett

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

Our Presence

Online Worship Views December 17th

11:00 Service (YT 28 + FB 78) 106
9:00 Service(FB) 111

In-Person Attendance

December 24th(10:00) 144
Christmas Eve 202

Online Worship Views December 24th

10:00 Service (YT 19 + FB 69)..... 88
Christmas Eve Service (YT 27 + FB 81) .108

In-Person Attendance

December 31th(10:00) 105

Scripture for Sunday's Sermon

Matthew 2:1-12

Our Service

for January 7th

ALTAR FLOWERS given to the honor and glory of God by

ALTAR GUILD: Karen Holifield
Diana Waldrip
Joyce Prickett

GREETERS:

9:00
11:00

CHILDREN'S SERMON:

Rikki Painter

LITURGIST: Terrell Tebbetts

USHERS: Need Ushers

Birthdays and Anniversaries

from UMMEN Calendar

January 7 April McSpadden
January 8 Joel Wagoner
Shea Wilkerson Ade
January 9 Katie Pearce
January 10 Virginia Gray Patterson
Chad Wann
January 11 R.L. Carpenter
January 12 Shawn Smith

January 10 Phil & Laura Brissey

Our Gifts

Received in December

Received through 12-03-2023
Total Giving \$7,379.00
Received through 12-10-2023
Total Giving \$23,911.92
Received through 12-17-2023
Total Giving \$5,914.38
Received through 12-24-2023
Total Giving \$34,752.35
Received through 12-31-2023
Total Giving \$16,844.38

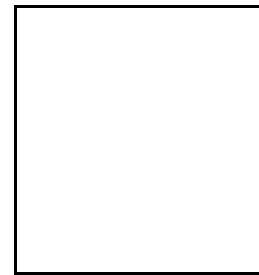


Flower Calendar 2024

2024 is open!
Come pick your special Sunday to do the altarflowers!



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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/



SILVER BELLES & BEAUS

Silver Bells and Beaus will meet Tuesday January 16 at Noon in the Fellowship Hall. Soup will be the menu of the day. I need 6 people to bring a pot of soup and others can bring crackers, cornbread or dessert if you would like. If you are willing to bring soup please let me know or call the church office. Ted Hall from White River Area Agency on Aging will present our program on the services that are offered through this agency. Hope to see you then.

Ruby

The FUMC Challenge

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Join the **Monday Night Men's Bible Study Group** for food and fellowship on **January 8th, 6:00pm**, at the Grammer House. Bring your favorite food.

11:00 Worship Service
 Livestream on
 YouTube and on Facebook

SUNDAYMORNINGS

9:00am Contemporary Service—Fellowship Hall
 10:00am Sunday School
 11:00am Traditional Service—Sanctuary

Announcements

- Jan 3rd** Chancel Choir Practice
 BFUMC Kids Return January 17th
 BFUMC Youth Return January 17th
- Jan 6th** Community Breakfast - 8:30am - Fellowship Hall
- Jan 8th** Men's Bible Study - 6:00pm
- Jan 8th** United Women in Faith - Parlor - 5:00pm
- Jan 16th** Silver Bells and Beaus - Fellowship Hall - noon



Community Breakfast

Free
8:30 Every Saturday
FUMC Fellowship Hall

Next Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the January 10th newsletter must be submitted by 10:00 am Monday, January 8th, to the church office or by email to Lyndal at lyndalwaits@sbcglobal.net.