



# First United Methodist Challenge

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

February 21, 2024

Our Vision is to be a Dynamic Community of Believers

## From the Pastor . . .

Dear Church Family,

Lent is the 40-day long season of preparation before Easter. If you were to count from Ash Wednesday to Easter, you would notice there are more than 40 days. That is because every Sunday we celebrate the resurrection, so Sundays are not counted in the season of Lent. In the early church Lent was a time when those who were going to join the church would fast and prepare for baptism. It was also a time when those who had committed major sins, such as renouncing Christ during times of persecution, would enter into a time of penance and on Easter they would be welcomed back into the fold. This year during the Lent and Easter season I will be meeting with our confirmation students, and we will celebrate confirmation on Pentecost Sunday. I still look back on my confirmation class as a very formative faith experience. I am excited to get to teach these students our beliefs, practices, and history and share why I am a United Methodist Christian. Please be in prayer for our confirmands during this season.



This Sunday we will continue in the worship series Signs and Wonder with the story of Jesus quieting the storm from Mark 4:35-41. I encourage you to read the scripture in advance to prepare for worship.

God Bless,  
Pastor Katie

## Lenten Luncheons



### 2024 Lenten Lunch Schedule

Wednesday's at noon.

See the insert for the speakers.

February 21—St. Mary's Catholic Church

February 28—St. Paul's Episcopal Church

March 6—Lyon College

March 13—First United Methodist Church

March 20—First Presbyterian Church



## Church Group Survival Flight

The applications and renewal for Group Survival Flight applications and renewals are due back here in the office by Feb 23<sup>rd</sup>. They will pick them up Monday the 26<sup>th</sup>.



## Supporters and Friends of the Warming Center:

You are invited to join us for dinner on Saturday,  
**February 24, 2024**

Beginning at 5pm at First United Methodist Church's Fellowship hall. We want to thank you for your support, answer questions for persons who might want to volunteer again, and offer a walk through of our facility to our friends and supporters. If you can join us, please RSVP to [fumcbatesville@gmail.com](mailto:fumcbatesville@gmail.com) or by calling 870-793-3803 so we can provide sufficient food.



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

## Our Prayers for Those at Home

## Our Prayers for Those in Hospitals

## February 20, 2024

## 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 February 11<sup>th</sup>

11:00 Service (YT 7 + FB 66) ..... 73  
9:00 Service(FB) ..... 202  
Ash Wednesday(FB) ..... 52

### In-Person Attendance

February 18<sup>th</sup> ..... 123  
Ash Wednesday ..... 132

## Our Gifts

### Received in February

Received through ..... 02-04-2024  
Total Giving ..... \$34,397.00  
Received through ..... 02-11-2024  
Total Giving ..... \$8,092.58  
Received through ..... 02-18-2024  
Total Giving ..... \$6,649.37

## Scripture for Sunday's Sermon

Mark 4:35-41

## Our Service

### for February 25<sup>th</sup>

**ALTAR FLOWERS** given to the honor and glory of God by Colleen Jackson & family, in memory of her mother Janice Bollman.

**ALTAR GUILD:** Karen Holifield  
Diana Waldrip  
Joyce Prickett

### GREETERS:

9:00 Michael Robinson  
11:00 Mike Wilson

### CHILDREN'S SERMON:

Amanda Lucy

**LITURGIST:** Brayden Johnson

**USHERS:** Need Ushers

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

from UMMEN Calendar

February 27 Jake Painter  
Blake Smith  
March 2 Blair Arnold  
Scott Ford

## MEMORIALS

### JOSEPHINE RAYE ROGERS

Suzanne & Robert Evans  
Katy Smythe  
Terry & Mary Lou Rasco  
Meadors, Adams & Lee Ins. Co.  
Karen & Edward Shaw  
Boris & Pamela Dover  
Walter Rene Julian  
Virginia Buttry  
Tom & Pam Lasiter  
Everett & Rebecca Tucker  
Billie & Skip Rutherford  
Isabel & John Ed Anthony  
James F. Kyser, MD  
Harry Austin Grimes  
Halbert Pipe & Steel Co. Inc.

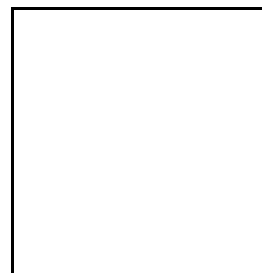


## Flower Calendar 2024

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



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](mailto:fumcbatesville@gmail.com)

Check out newsletters online!

[www.fumcbatesville.org/](http://www.fumcbatesville.org/)

### The FUMC Challenge

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Join the **Monday Night Men's Bible Study Group** for food and fellowship on **February 26<sup>th</sup>, 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

Feb 21<sup>st</sup> St. Mary's Catholic Church - Soup Lunch - noon  
Feb 21<sup>st</sup> Chancel Choir Practice  
BFUMC Kids - 5:30pm  
BFUMC Youth - 6:30pm  
Feb 24<sup>th</sup> Community Breakfast - 8:30am - Fellowship Hall  
Feb 26<sup>th</sup> Men's Bible Study - 6:00pm



### Community Breakfast

**Free**  
**8:30 Every Saturday**  
**FUMC Fellowship Hall**

### Next Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the February 28<sup>th</sup> newsletter must be submitted by 10:00 am Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, to the church office or by email to Lyndal at [lyndalwaits@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lyndalwaits@sbcglobal.net).

# Lenten Lunches

## Soup Lunch and Devotional

**Wednesdays during Lent at Noon**

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**February**

**21**

***St. Mary's Catholic  
Church***

Devotional by Rev. Elizabeth  
Brinegar of First Presbyterian  
Church

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**February**

**28**

***St. Paul's Episcopal  
Church***

Devotional by Rev. Jesse James  
of Central Ave. United Methodist  
Church.

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**March**

**6**

***Lyon College***

Devotional by Rev. Katie Pearce  
of First United Methodist Church

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**March**

**13**

***First United  
Methodist Church***

Devotional by Chaplain Maggie  
Alsup of Lyon College.

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**March**

**20**

***First Presbyterian  
Church***

Devotional by Father Jon Miskin  
of St. Mary's Catholic Church



# Lent

February 14 - March 31, 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			February 14 Attend an Ash Wednesday service.	15 Make a copy - print or digital - of this calendar, and share with a friend!	16 Fast from social media.	17 Visit a shut-in and deliver a meal or special treat.
18 1st Sunday in Lent Read Mark 1:9-15	19 Pray for the children in your neighborhood.	20 Say "thank you" to a store clerk, server, and/or delivery person.	21 Repent of your sins. Ask God for forgiveness.	22 Be humble.	23 Share an online post from your church with friends and family.	24 Commit to a new, healthy habit.
25 2nd Sunday in Lent Read Mark 8:31-38	26 Pray for people affected by war and conflict around the globe.	27 Send an encouraging letter or email to someone.	28 Skip a meal and give your savings to a favorite charity in your community.	29 Today is Leap Day! Do something fun. Play!	March 1 Read the words of Charles Wesley's hymn "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"	2 Make a list of the blessings you have received in life.
3 3rd Sunday in Lent Read John 2:13-22	4 Pray for God's blessing on The United Methodist Church	5 Pray for God's blessing on those affiliated with other denominations.	6 Reach out to someone who is difficult to get to know.	7 Seek to be led by God.	8 Open your heart to someone you disagree with.	9 Ask God to reveal your spiritual gifts to you and use them.
10 4 th Sunday in Lent Read John 3:14-21	11 Pray for your immediate family members.	12 Be a witness for Christ.	13 Forgive those who have wronged you.	14 Remember and give thanks for those who have guided your faith and disciplined you.	15 Support a local business.	16 Go on a walk and listen to the sounds of nature.
17 4th Sunday in Lent Read John 12:20-33	18 Pray for someone in your extended family.	19 Fast from electronics.	20 Ask God to help you reconcile a broken relationship.	21 Text someone you haven't heard from recently and ask how they're doing.	22 Invite someone to join you for next week's Easter service.	23 Plant flowers or garden seeds. (Start seedlings inside if needed.)
24 Palm Sunday Read Mark 14:1 - 15:47	25 Holy Week Read John 12:1-11	26 Holy Week Read John 12:20-36	27 Holy Week Read John 13:21-32	28 Maundy Thursday Read John 13:1-17, 31b-35	29 Good Friday Read John 18:1 - 19:42	30 Holy Saturday Read John 19:38-42

**31 EASTER**  
Christ the Lord  
is risen today!  
Hallelujah!  
Read John 20:1-18



UMHEF.ORG | 800-811-8110

Consider a gift to UMHEF as part of your 2024 Lenten commitment.  
Visit [umhf.org/give](http://umhf.org/give), use the enclosed envelope, or call 1-800-811-8110.

# It's almost Lent.

Lent is an important time in the Christian calendar to prepare our hearts and minds for Jesus. The 40 days\* of Lent 2024 begin on February 14, Ash Wednesday, and end on March 30, the Saturday before Easter. This time represents the forty days Jesus suffered in the wilderness, enduring temptations and remaining close to God through fasting and prayer. This unimaginable time of trials and suffering is what prepared Jesus to carry out His ministry.

Through prayer, introspection, and service, you can also set aside the days of Lent to deepen your spiritual life and discern what God asks of you. On the other side of this page, you will find a special Lenten calendar, a gift from the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation. We invite you to use the daily prompts to help you pause, focus on God, and find renewal in Christ.

*Prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed. Like obedient children, do not be conformed to the desires that you formerly had in ignorance. Instead, as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct, for it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."*

1 Peter 1: 13-16, NRSV



The grand vision of the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation is that it be economically possible for any qualified United Methodist student to be educated at a United Methodist-related institution of higher education.

UMHEF supports United Methodist students attending one of the 119 UM-related schools, colleges, universities, and seminaries. Our partnerships with local UM churches, schools, annual conference foundations, and donors allow over 1,000 students to receive more than \$2 million in vital scholarship support every year.

\*The 40 days of Lent do not include Sundays.

Visit [UMHEF.ORG/GIVE](https://umhef.org/give) If you would like to support the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation as part of your Lenten commitment. You can also donate by mail by using the enclosed envelope or by phone by calling 1-800-811-8110.

"Lent is a favorable time for letting Christ serve us so that we in turn may become more like him."

POPE FRANCIS

