



First United Methodist Challenge

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

December 18, 2024

Our Vision is to be a Dynamic Community of Believers

From the Pastor . . .

Dear Church Family,

It is hard to believe that Christmas is next week! One of my favorite things about the Advent and Christmas seasons is singing some of my favorite hymns. Joy to the World is one of my all time favorites, and I am not alone: it is the most published hymn in America, appearing in 1,387 hymnals in North America alone. In some ways this is surprising because



Joy to the World is not a typical Christmas hymn. It says nothing about the shepherds, and wise men or Mary and Joseph, or even the baby Jesus. Instead, this hymn is more focused on the Kingship of Christ. It is based not on the Gospels but on Psalm 98:4-9, which says:

- ⁴ Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
- ⁵ Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the sound of melody.
- ⁶ With trumpets and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord.
- ⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world and those who live in it.
- ⁸ Let the floods clap their hands;
let the hills sing together for joy
- ⁹ at the presence of the Lord, for he is coming
to judge the earth.
- ¹⁰ He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.

Psalm 98 and the song Joy to the World sing of a time when the Kingdom of God is fully realized on earth and when all of creation, even the sea and the hills, break into song and praise God.

When we think of Christmas joy we think about that glorious event 2000 years ago when God came to us as one of us. This song reminds us that the Christmas story and God's story are not done. God is still working on us and working through us so that one day our joy will be complete through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Our Christmas Eve worship will be Tuesday, December 24 at 6:00 PM. This is a wonderful time of year to invite a friend, family member, or neighbor to worship with you. I encourage you to invite someone to worship with you this week. Sundays, December 22 and 29 we will have our regular worship times of 9:00 and 11:00 AM. I look forward to celebrating Christmas with you!

Blessings,
Pastor Katie

Advent and Christmas

Wednesday, December 11 at 5:30-PM Kids at the Oak 7 Cinema
watching The Best Little Christmas Pageant Ever

Wednesday, December 11 at 6:00 PM Youth Christmas Party

Saturday, December 14 at 6:00 PM Hot Chocolate at the Christmas Parade

Sunday, December 15 at 9:00 and 11:00 AM Christmas Cantata

Wednesday, December 24 at 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Worship

Join us Sundays at 9:00 and 11:00 AM

First United Methodist Church

615 East Main Street, Batesville, AR

Contributions can be taken at the church office
Before noon on December 31st

Enjoy the Cantata

On YouTube

FUMC Batesville, AR

and on

Facebook

**First United Methodist Church of
Batesville, AR**



December 24 - December 27

December 31 2:00 - January 2

Next Newsletter will be January 1st

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

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

- Bill Beller.....member
- Larry Bentley.....member
- Glenda Bowers.....member
- Ruby Curlmember
- Phil DaughertyJennifer Emery's father
- Ginger Davismember
- Emma Herringtonfriend of Abby & Lily Barker
- Bill Hess.....father of April Rice
- Starr Kent.....member
- Daniel King.....member
- Faith McClurg.....member
- Aline McCrackenmember
- Heather Pool.....niece of Jim & Kay Pool
- Mary Ellen Cadena Poolsister in law of Joe & Kay Pool
- Billy Prickett.....member
- Kervin Robinson.....Michael Robinson's father
- Alannette Rushingmember
- Banks Shaw.....Barbara & Ron Cheatham's
Great Grandson
- Belinda Turnerfriend of the Reynolds
- Lyndal Waitsmember

Our Prayers for Those in Hospitals

- MD Anderson - Houston, TX**
 Brent Bentley.....member

† Our Prayers for Those Who Mourn †

Our sympathy goes out to *Marti Ruiz and her family* in the death of her brother, **David Robins**, who passed away today Tuesday, December 17th.
 Service times are incomplete at this time.

Flower Calendar 2025

We invite you to provide flowers for the altar by signing up on the calendar near the office (or calling the office). You may donate \$50 or more, contact Signature Gifts to work with them, or create your own arrangement/work with a florist of your choice. The flowers are noted in the bulletin, and following Sunday worship, volunteers arrange them into individual vases and take them to members who our ill or homebound.
 Please take a moment to pick a Sunday where you can be a part of this wonderful ministry.

Our Prayers for Those in Health Care Centers and Retirement Homes

- Eagle Mountain Assisted Living**
 Ruth Chesnutt..... mother of Gayle Ross
 Connie Crafton sister of Joel Wagoner
 Asa Whitaker member

- Wildwood Independent Living**
 Nelda Hackworth..... member

- Wood-Lawn Heights**
 Sally Allen..... mother of Vicki Reed
 Benodlyn Kramer..... aunt of Sonya Massey
 Gayle Stobaugh..... friend of members

- Woodcrest Assisted Living**
 Ernestine Boyce member

- The Springs of Searcy Health & Rehabilitation**
 Judy Murrah..... member

Our Prayers for Those in U.S. Military Service

Those who have listed family in military service, please review and update the status of your service member.

- Staff Sergeant Cole Long.....Great Nephew of Verona Bebow
- Trent McDonald.....cousin of member
- Lt. Col. Shannon McLoughlin..daughter of Cecilia Vinson
- Capt. Chris Milumhusband of Kaylea Milum
- Cmdr. Greg Tebbetts.....son of Diane & Terrell Tebbetts
- Ltc. Colonel John Ticenephew of Verona Bebow
- Major Joe Warren
- Lance Cpl. James Brantley Wheeler cousin of member

Blessing Box
 Collecting these items this week
Canned Tuna, Vienna Sausage
 Bring to church and put in the basket in front of the church office

If you need pastoral assistance contact:
 Pastor Katie Pearce at the church office (870) 793-3803

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

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 8th

11:00 Service (YT 21 + FB 166) 187
9:00 Service(FB) 202

In-Person Attendance

December 15th 168

Our Gifts

Received in December

Received through 12-01-2024
Total Giving \$18,762.48
Received through 12-08-2024
Total Giving \$2,132.00
Received through 12-15-2024
Total Giving \$32,071.95

Our Service

for December 22nd

ALTAR FLOWERS given to the honor and glory of God by Robb & Amanda Roberts in memory of Roger Roberts.

ALTAR GUILD: Karen Holifield
Diana Waldrip
Joyce Prickett

ADVENT READERS:

9:00 Kelli & Brent Swaim
11:00
Deann, Lindsey, and Lucy Castleberry

GREETERS:

9:00 Michael Robinson
11:00 Charles and Sue Kibbe

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Barrett Moore

LITURGIST: Terrell Tebbetts

USHERS: Need Ushers

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 27 Mason Neaville
December 28 Sunny McKinney

December 29 David & Kathy McKinney

Scripture for Sunday's Sermon

Micah 5:2-5 and Matthew 2:1-6

MEMORIALS

MIKE WILSON

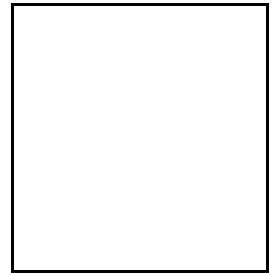
Diana Waldrip
Barrett & Sara Moore
David & Sharan Pittser
Blair & Paulette Arnold
John Ellis
Colleen Jackson
Paul & Karen Holifield
David & Kathy McKinney
Bill & Louise Sandefur
Harry & Becky Crossett

MARCUS BOWERS

Blair & Paulette Arnold
John Ellis
Colleen Jackson
Paul & Karen Holifield
Joan McKinney
Diana Waldrip
Barrett & Sara Moore
Scott & Myra Wood
Phil & Laura Brissey and their families



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email us at fumcbatesville@gmail.com

Check out newsletters online!

www.fumcbatesville.org/



The FUMC Challenge

Join the **Monday Night Men's Bible Study Group** for food and fellowship on **Dec 30th, 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

- Dec 18th No Chancel Choir Practice
- No BFUMC Kids - 5:30pm
- No BFUMC Youth - 6:30pm
- No Wednesday Night Bible Study - 6:00pm
- Dec 21st Community Breakfast - 8:30am - Fellowship Hall
- Dec 22nd Sunday Night Bible Study - Alpha Room - 5:00pm
- Dec 24th Christmas Eve Worship Service - 6:00pm
- Dec 30th Men's Bible Study - Grammer House - 6:00pm
- Jan 13th Young Men's Group - Alpha Room - 6:30pm
- Jan 16th College Group - 6:30pm



Community Breakfast

Free
8:30 Every Saturday
FUMC Fellowship Hall

Next Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the Jan 1st newsletter must be submitted by 10:00 am Monday, Dec 30th, to the church office or by email to Lyndal at lyndalwaits@sbcglobal.net.