



# First United Methodist Challenge

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

January 1, 2025

Our Vision is to be a Dynamic Community of Believers

## From the Pastor . . .

Dear Church Family,

For over 250 years, Methodists have celebrated the new year with Watch Night and Covenant Renewal worship services. We had a Covenant Renewal Service in 2023 when New Year's Day fell on a Sunday. While we will not have a full Covenant Renewal Service this year, I do encourage you to start the new year by praying the Wesley Covenant Prayer, included below.



This prayer reminds us that as baptized Christians we mold our lives to conform with Christ. It is a practical description of Jesus' direction when he said, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23). It is only possible to live this way in a community of faith that will support you, hold you accountable, and pray for you. If you do not already have such a group, like a Sunday School class, small group, or prayer circle, I encourage you to make it a priority in 2025 to find or start such a group, and I invite you to start 2025 with this prayer:

*"I am no longer my own, but thine.*

*Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.*

*Put me to doing, put me to suffering.*

*Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,  
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.*

*Let me be full, let me be empty.*

*Let me have all things, let me have nothing.*

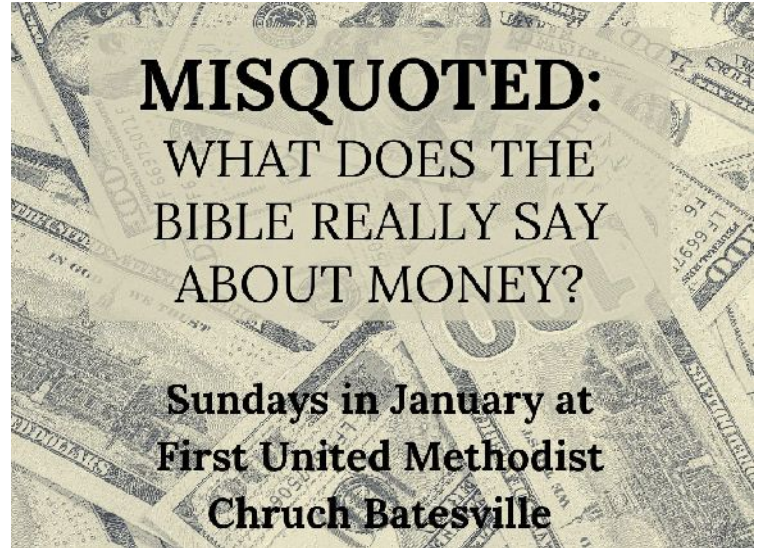
*I freely and heartily yield all things  
to thy pleasure and disposal.*

*And now, O glorious and blessed God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,*

*thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.*

*And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen."*

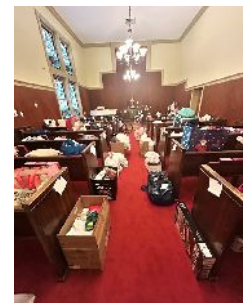
God bless you,  
Pastor Katie



Lighting of the Advent Wreath  
Christmas Eve Service



The Giving Tree provided gifts for 101 children in our community!



Office is Closed Wednesday-Friday this week.

*"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 Curl .....member
- Phil Daugherty .....Jennifer Emery's father
- Ginger Davis .....member
- Emma Herrington .....friend of Abby & Lily Barker
- Bill Hess.....father of April Rice
- Starr Kent.....member
- Daniel King.....member
- Faith McClurg.....member
- Aline McCracken .....member
- Katie McLean.....member
- Heather Pool.....niece of Jim & Kay Pool
- Mary Ellen Cadena Pool .....sister in law of Joe & Kay Pool
- Billy Prickett.....member
- Kervin Robinson .....Michael Robinson's father
- Alannette Rushing .....member
- Banks Shaw.....Barbara & Ron Cheatham's  
Great Grandson
- Belinda Turner .....friend of the Reynolds
- Lyndal Waits .....member

**Our Prayers for Those in Hospitals**

**MD Anderson - Houston, TX**

- Brent Bentley.....member



Our Warming Center at the Grammar House is open whenever the temperature reaches 25 degrees. **We are seeking volunteers to help staff the center, launder and reset the beds, and otherwise help restock the center with food.**

The Center opens around 6:00pm and closes around 9:30pm if no guests are present. Otherwise we close the following morning around 8:00am. We also welcome your prayers and support communicating this ministry to the community. Volunteers can contact the church office for more information.

**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 Milum .....husband of Kaylea Milum
- Cmdr. Greg Tebbetts.....son of Diane & Terrell Tebbetts
- Ltc. Colonel John Tice .....nephew of Verona Bebow
- Major Joe Warren .....
- Lance Cpl. James Brantley Wheeler ..... cousin of member

**Blessing Box**

Collecting these items this week  
**Peanut Butter/Saltine Crackers**

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 15<sup>th</sup>

11:00 Service (YT 18 + FB 282) ..... 300

9:00 Service(FB) .....

December 22<sup>nd</sup>

11:00 Service (YT 12 + FB 163) ..... 175

9:00 Service(FB) ..... 312

December 24<sup>th</sup>

YT 26 + FB 230 = 256

## In-Person Attendance

December 22<sup>nd</sup> ..... 135

December 24<sup>th</sup> ..... 183

December 29<sup>th</sup> ..... 72

## 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

Received through ..... 12-22-2024

Total Giving ..... \$43,252.70

Received through ..... 12-31-2024

Total Giving ..... \$6,192.18

## Our Service

for January 5<sup>th</sup>

**ALTAR FLOWERS** given to the honor and glory of God by Cindy & Scott Kallsnick in memory of our fathers Bill Cullum, Frank Kallsnick & John Leonard

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

### GREETERS:

9:00 Joe Don Reynolds

11:00 Rob & Jennifer Emery

**CHILDREN'S SERMON:** Barrett Moore

**LITURGIST:** Roger Barker

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

from UMMEN Calendar

January 5 Daniel King

January 6 Sonja Massey Turner

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 5 Tim & Ronda Thompson

January 10 Phil & Laura Brissey

## Scripture for Sunday's Sermon

Matthew 2:1-12

## MEMORIALS

### MIKE WILSON

Mike & Sandy West  
Pete & Helen Musgrave  
Nancy Hoffman  
Buddy & Elaine Vinson

### KATHLEEN REYNOLDS, MARCUS BOWERS, MIKE WILSON, EDDIE HOUSE, DR. BILL WALDRIP

Winnell Calhoun

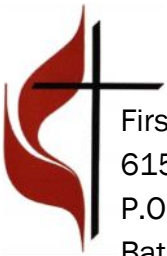
### DIANNE TAYLOR, JIMMIE ANNE MITCHUM, BILL WALDRIP, KATHLEEN REYNOLDS, CRYSTAL BRADLEY, MARCUS BOWERS, MIKE WILSON

Clark & Leanne Nail

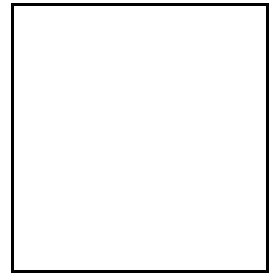
## Flower Calendar 2025

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.



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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](mailto:fumcbatesville@gmail.com)

Check out newsletters online!

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



**The FUMC Challenge**

Join the **Monday Night Men's Bible Study Group** for food and fellowship on **Jan 6<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**

- Jan 1<sup>st</sup> No Chancel Choir Practice
- No BFUMC Kids - 5:30pm (Returns Jan 15<sup>th</sup>)
- No BFUMC Youth - 6:30pm (Returns Jan 15<sup>th</sup>)
- No Wednesday Night Bible Study - 6:00pm (Returns Jan 15<sup>th</sup>)
- Jan 4<sup>th</sup> Community Breakfast - 8:30am - Fellowship Hall
- Jan 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Night Bible Study - Alpha Room - 5:00pm
- Jan 6<sup>th</sup> Men's Bible Study - Grammer House - 6:00pm
- Jan 13<sup>th</sup> Young Men's Group - Alpha Room - 6:30pm
- Jan 16<sup>th</sup> College Group - 6:30pm



**Community Breakfast**

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

**Next Newsletter Deadline**

Articles for the Jan 8<sup>th</sup> newsletter must be submitted by 10:00 am Monday, Jan <sup>th</sup>, to the church office or by email to Lyndal at [lyndalwaits@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lyndalwaits@sbcglobal.net).