



First United Methodist Challenge

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

February 18, 2026

Our Vision is to be a Dynamic Community of Believers

From the Pastor . . .

Then Abraham spoke again. "Since I have begun, let me speak further to my Lord, even though I am but dust and ashes. (Genesis 18:27)

Dear Church Family,

It's time to get ready for Easter. And Ash Wednesday begins the Christian season of Lent that prepares us for Easter. Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, where we prepare ourselves for the triumphal celebration of the resurrection of Christ. This is our day of victory over sin and death. I can think of nothing more consequential than that victory.



I read something recently that jumped off the page for me. This seemed just a side remark from the author, but it seemed profound to me. He said: "In a world where consciousness of sin is waning due to the awareness of God disappearing, many people do not realize they desperately need God; they need a savior." (Ben Witherington III). Ash Wednesday takes us back to that starting place. As Abraham said while addressing God "I am but dust and ashes." We really do require savior.

Every Ash Wednesday service I have participated in has "An Invitation to the Observance of Lenten Discipline" to open the service. The words come from our church's Book of Worship. I'll quote the last paragraph as an invitation for all of us into this season of preparation:

"I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to observe a holy lent: by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's Holy Word."

I hope to see you Wednesday and Sunday. It's never the same without you. This Sunday we'll be looking at the temptations of Jesus in the wilderness. You can read the scripture passage here: **Matthew 4:1-11**.

Until then, may you have abundant blessings of grace and peace.

Tom

Ash Wednesday Worship

February 18
at 6:00pm
In The Sanctuary



There's a place for your voice here.

Singing in the choir isn't just about making music—it's about building community, deepening faith, and lifting hearts (including your own). Week by week, we breathe together, pray together, laugh together, and offer something beautiful back to God and to one another. You don't have to be a professional—just willing. If you can make a joyful noise and show up with an open heart, there's a seat waiting for you. Come sing with us—and discover how your voice can help carry the hope. FUMC Chancel Choir meets Wednesday evenings in the Sanctuary at 6pm.

Marc Sexton



**OUR YOUTH
MONTH**

"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

- Ruth Ashcraft..... member
- Bill Beller..... member
- Brent Bentley..... member
- Larry Bentley..... member
- Glenda Bowers..... member
- Winnell Calhoun member
- Ruby Curl member
- Starr Kent..... member
- Martha Lewallen..... member
- Aline McCracken member
- Billy Prickett..... member
- Eleanor Royer member
- Alannette Rushing member
- Brenda Sandage member
- Sandy West member
- Louise Watson wife of Terry Watson.
- William Dalzell friend of members
- Dawn Wilkins Eliason..... friend of a member
- Robert Evans friend of members
- Bill Hess..... father of April Rice
- Michele Howard friend of Joe & Kay Pool
- Kellyn Hylle..... great niece of Chaney & Leah Taylor
- Ida Sue Luker cousin of Martha Lewallen
- Tammie Murphree daughter of Linda Thompson
- Everleen Phillips..... friend of members
- Heather Pool..... niece of Joe & Kay Pool
- Andy Rhodes..... friend of members
- Kervin Robinson..... father of Michael Robinson
- Banks Shaw..... Barbara & Ron Cheatham's
Great Grandson
- Charles & Gina Williams..... friends of members

Our Prayers for Those in Hospitals

✠ Our Prayers for Those Who Mourn ✠

Our Sympathy goes out to *Terrell & Diane Tebbetts and family*, in the death of their son, **Christopher Tebbetts**, who passed away February 13th.

Visitation will be Saturday, February 21st, at 10:00am at FUMC in the Parlor, with the service following at 11:00am in the Sanctuary.

Our Prayers for Those in Health Care Centers and Retirement Homes

Cave City Nursing Home

Richard Ashcraft..... member

Eagle Mountain Assisted Living

Ruth Chesnutt..... mother of Gayle Ross

Wildwood Independent Living

Nelda Hackworth member
 Joe Don Reynolds..... member
 Dorace Williams member

Wood-Lawn Heights

Sally Allen..... mother of Vicki Reed
 Benolyn Kramer aunt of Sonya Massey

Woodcrest Assisted Living

Ernestine Boyce member
 Mary Carol Smith..... friend of members

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 Wheelercousin of member

Blessing Box

Collecting these items this week

Canned Fruit

Bring to church and put in the basket in front of the church office

If you need pastoral assistance contact:

Pastor Tom Frase at the church office (870) 793-3803

Church Leadership

Senior Pastor

Reverend Thomas Frase
thomas.frase@arumc.org

Church Administrator

Teresa Brown

Minister to Children & Family Ministries

Katie McLean

Director of Youth, Young Adults, and Welcome

Lorrie McClure

Director of Traditional Worship

Marc Sexton

Worship Leader

Alicia Williams

Treasurer

Ruby Curl

Custodian

Joe Johnson

Lay Leader

Dr. Terrell Tebbetts

Lay Servants/Ministers

Sandy West
Asa Whitaker

Church Council Chair

Barrett Moore

Finance Chair

Ron Lewallen

Staff/Parish Chair

Rikki Painter

Trustees Chair

Jim McSpadden

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

Our Presence

February 8th
Online Worship Views

11:00 Service (YT 37 + FB).....

9:00 Service(FB) 235

In-Person Attendance

February 15th 98

Our Gifts

Received in February

Received through 2-01-2026

Total Giving \$12,331.00

Received through 2-08-2026

Total Giving \$9,206.57

Received through 2-15-2026

Total Giving \$8,640.86

Scripture for Sunday's Sermon

John 3:1-17

Our Service

for February 22nd

ALTAR FLOWERS given to the honor and glory of God
(need altar flowers this Sunday)

ALTAR GUILD: Karen Holifield
Diana Waldrip
Joyce Prickett

GREETERS:

9:00 Maggie Beshears

11:00 Jim & Merry McSpadden

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Amanda Roberts

LITURGIST: Lilly Barker

USHERS: Need Ushers

Birthdays and Anniversaries

from UMMEN Calendar

February 23 Samuel Cooke
February 24 Jennifer Faith
Nicholas Guyette
February 27 Jake Painter
Blake Smith

MEMORIALS

CHRISTEBBETTS

Harry & Becky Crossett

INA BOLTON

Winnell Calhoun
Eleanor Royer

ASA WHITAKER

Joe & Kay Pool
Colleen Jackson
Harry & Becky Crossett

REBECCARICHMAN

Winnell Calhoun
Nancy Hoffman
Saturday Breakfast Bunch
Harry & Becky Crossett



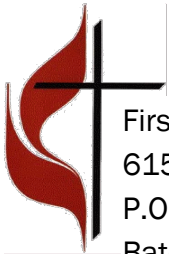
Flower Calendar 2026

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 are ill or home-bound.

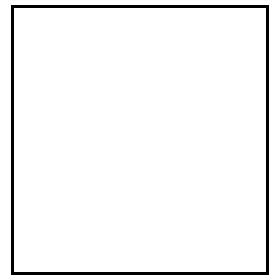
Please take a moment to pick a Sunday where you can be a part of this wonderful ministry.

Open Dates, Feb 15, 22

Sign up in the hallway by the office.



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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/



ASH WEDNESDAY
 FEBRUARY 18
 AT 6:00PM
 IN THE SANCTUARY
 No Adult Bible Study that night.

The FUMC Challenge **Page 4**

Join the **Monday Night Men's Bible Study Group** for food and fellowship on **Feb 23rd, 6:00pm**, at the Grammer House. Bring your favorite food.

9:00 & 11:00 Worship Services
 Livestream on
 YouTube and on Facebook

SUNDAYMORNINGS
 9:00am Contemporary Service—Fellowship Hall
 Kids Sunday School 9:30am
 Adults Sunday School 10:00am
 11:00am Traditional Service—Sanctuary

Announcements
 Feb 18th BFUMC Kids - 6:00pm
 BFUMC Youth - 6:00pm
 Chancel Choir Practice - 6:00pm
 No Wednesday Night Bible Study - 6:00pm
 Ash Wednesday Service - 6:00pm
 Feb 21st Community Breakfast - 8:30am - Fellowship Hall
 Feb 23rd Men's Bible Study - Grammer House - 6:00pm



Community Breakfast

Free

8:30 Every Saturday

FUMC Fellowship Hall

Next Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the **February 25th** newsletter must be submitted by 10:00 am Monday, **February 23rd**, to the church office or by email to fumcbatesville@gmail.com

LENTEN LUNCHESES

*Soup lunch and devotional
Wednesdays at noon*

**FEB
25**

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
Devotional by Rev. Maggie Alsup
of Lyon College

**MAR
4**

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

**MAR
11**

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Devotional by Rev. Carolyne Adhola
of St. Paul's Episcopal Church

**MAR
18**

LYON COLLEGE
Devotional by Rev. Tom Frase
of First United Methodist Church

**MAR
25**

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Devotional by Rev. Dr. Jim Freeman
of First Presbyterian Church