



First United Methodist Challenge

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

February 25, 2026

Our Vision is to be a Dynamic Community of Believers

From the Pastor . . .

Praise him with a blast of the ram's horn; praise him with the lyre and harp! (Psalm 150:3)



Dear Church Family:

There are some great things happening here at our church. If you came to the Ash Wednesday service, you saw a few. Wasn't the choir great! Marc and Alisha are great musicians and music leaders. Music communicates in a way the spoken word may not. If you have a gift of music, voice or other instrument, let them know. And I think the visual arts can also communicate in a way the spoken word or sung word can not. We have big, grand Good News, and I'm all for communicating it any way we can.

Wednesday also revealed how many kids bless us with in our Wednesday programming. Usually, they are in the annex or upstairs, but they were all in church Wednesday night getting Ashes on their foreheads or hands. (Although one young man wanted his Ashes applied to his cheek.)

I am wholly optimistic about the future of our church. The Cabinet of the Arkansas Conference is meeting this week, and twice in March. The Cabinet makes the pastoral appointments. So please join me in praying for our District Superintendent, Rev. Zack Roberts, our Bishop Laura Merrill, and the rest of the Cabinet that the Holy Spirit may lead them to the best pastoral leadership for our church. I have been surprised by every appointment I've received; I've also been sure the Holy Spirit had a major influence on the decision.

Finally, the second Sunday of Lent finds us in the gospel of John. It's the famous verse you see on signs in the crowds at football games or painted under the eyes of the football players. (Or you might remember the rainbow wig guy.) If you don't know what I'm talking about, you can read the whole text **HERE**. It's pretty good news.

See you Sunday. It's never the same without you!

Tom

Keep our youth and adult leaders in your prayers as they travel to Veritas 2026 in Fort Smith this Friday through Sunday.



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



Handbell Choir

Ever wished your worship could come with a little sparkle... and a ring to it? We're exploring interest in reviving a handbell group, and we'd love to see who's curious! No experience needed—just a willingness to learn, laugh, and make some joyful noise together.

If you're intrigued, email marcsexton@me.com or contact the church office to let us know.

We're simply gathering interest and exploring options—come see if handbells might resonate with you?



Starting church mice 2026!

If you are interested in doing work for the church that includes cleaning, painting, moving stuff, etc. please consider being a church mouse.

Join the Church Mice by contacting Gayle Ross at 870-307-9757.

Next Church Mice workday
March 10th
9:00am - 3:00pm.

"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
- 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
- Laney Thompson member
- Sandy West member
- William Dalzell friend of members
- Robert Evans friend of members
- Bill Hess..... father of April Rice
- Clay Hooper..... grandfather of Mallory Hooper
- 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
- Louise Watson wife of Terry Watson
- Charles & Gina Williams friends of members

Our Prayers for Those in Hospitals

† Our Prayers for Those Who Mourn †

Our Sympathy goes out to *Charlotte Rose, Melanie Isaacs, and Lindley Hagar and families*, in the death of their husband and father, **Jerry Rose**, who passed away on Sunday, February 22nd.

A Celebration of Life will be held Thursday, February 26th, at 2:00pm at Roller-Crouch Funeral Home in Batesville with burial at Meadowbrook Memorial Gardens in Beebe. A visitation will be held one hour prior to the service from 1:00 - 2:00.

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

Mac & Cheese

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

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 15th Online Worship Views

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

9:00 Service(FB) 57

In-Person Attendance

February 22nd 116

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

Received through 2-22-2026

Total Giving..... \$40,181.00

Scripture for Sunday's Sermon

John 3:1-17

Our Service

for March 1st

ALTAR FLOWERS given to the honor and glory of God by the Choir.

ALTAR GUILD: Karen Holifield
Diana Waldrip
Joyce Prickett

GREETERS:

9:00 Joe Don Reynolds

11:00 Charles & Sue Kibbe

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Amanda Lucy

LITURGIST: Ken Rueter

USHERS: Need Ushers

Birthdays and Anniversaries

from UMMEN Calendar

March 2 Blair Arnold
Scott Ford
March 3 Julie Fidler
March 4 Sara Rogers
Deerick Smith
Kaley Waldrip
March 5 Henry Matinckek
March 7 Alan Adcox
Jordan Austin
Carmen McDonald

MEMORIALS

CHRISTEBBETTS

Bill & Anne Luster
Walter & Charlene Julian
Colleen Jackson
Thomas & Patricia Frase
Johnny & Starr Kent
Diana Waldrip
Ron & Martha Lewallen
Joan McKinney
Billie & Skip Rutherford
Phillip & Carol McMath
Alpha Class
Mark Huddleston & Liz Massey

INA BOLTON

Joe & Kay Pool
Raymond & Alice Simmons

ASAWHITAKER

Bill & Anne Luster

REBECCARICHMAN

Bill & Anne Luster

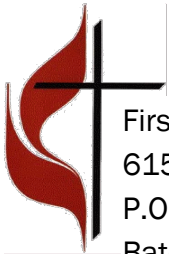
Flower Calendar 2026

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 homebound.

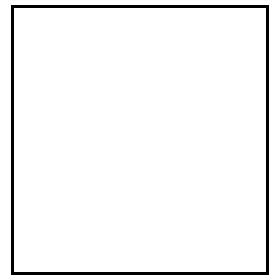
Please take a moment to pick a Sunday where you can be a part of this wonderful ministry.

Open Dates, March 8th & 29th

Sign up in the hallway by the office.



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 615 East Main St.
 P.O. Box 2014
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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 **March 2nd, 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 25th Lenten Luncheon - St. Mary's Catholic Church - noon
- BFUMC Kids - 6:00pm
- BFUMC Youth - 6:00pm
- Chancel Choir Practice - 6:00pm
- No Wednesday Night Bible Study - 6:00pm
- Feb 28th Community Breakfast - 8:30am - Fellowship Hall
- Mar 2nd Men's Bible Study - Grammer House - 6:00pm
- Mar 2nd United Women of Faith - Parlor - 5:00pm



Community Breakfast

Free
8:30 Every Saturday
FUMC Fellowship Hall

Next Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the **March 4th** newsletter must be submitted by 10:00 am Monday, **March 2nd**, 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