



# First United Methodist Challenge

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

March 4, 2026

Our Vision is to be a Dynamic Community of Believers

## From the Pastor . . .

*For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. (Ecclesiastes 3:1)*

Dear church family,

I guess the author of Ecclesiastes speaks the truth. There's even a time to change your time. That's the season we call Daylight Savings Time which begins at 2 AM on March 8th. (Or March 7th when you go to bed unless you're really a night owl.)

Personally, I don't care for changing my clock twice a year. I'd be in favor of standard time all the time. But most of the folks I know would prefer Daylight Savings Time all the time. And I'm sure that there is a contingent that feels changing the clocks twice a year is wonderful and greatly enhances our lives. Regardless of how I or you feel, please set your clocks forward one hour this weekend so that you get to church on time.

This Sunday we'll be talking about John's story of Jesus and the Woman at the Well. Many of the stories in John's gospel are long. This one goes for 42 verses in chapter 4. We will not read the whole thing, but a pretty good chunk of it. But inquiring minds will want to read it all and you can find it **HERE**. As one commentary said: "The story has a shocking opening, a shocking middle, and an equally shocking conclusion." My kind of read.

Please remember to pray for your church. Pray we are faithful to our callings to be disciples of Jesus in the world. Please pray that we are Spirit led and Spirit filled as we do the work of our church. Pray we see the world, and the people around us as Jesus sees them. Pray that we are part of bringing the Kingdom of God upon the earth. Pray that we love, genuinely love, everyone we encounter. Pray we rely more on God than ourselves in these endeavors.

Hope to see you at church this Sunday. No kidding. It's never the same without you.

Tom



## 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

## VERITAS 2026 is in the books



*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](mailto: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?

*"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
- Jeff Allen Monnibnger..... friend of Pastor Tom
- 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
- Jordan Wheeler ..... friend of member
- Charles & Gina Williams ..... friends of members

**Our Prayers for Those in Hospitals**



**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 10<sup>th</sup>  
9:00am – 3:00pm.

**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

Ida Sue Luker ..... cousin of Martha Lewallen

**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 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 and Saltine Crackers**

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 22<sup>nd</sup>

### Online Worship Views

11:00 Service (YT 21 + FB 194) ..... 215

9:00 Service(FB) ..... 238

### In-Person Attendance

March 1<sup>st</sup> ..... 117

## Our Gifts

### Received in March

Received through ..... 3-01-2026

Total Giving ..... \$12,925.48

## Scripture for Sunday's Sermon

John 4:5-35

## Our Service

for March 8<sup>th</sup>

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

ALTAR GUILD: Karen Holifield  
Diana Waldrip  
Joyce Prickett

### GREETERS:

9:00 Jay & Dee Dee Sweat

11:00 Joel & Jeannie Wagoner

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Rikki Painter

LITURGIST: Alex Roofe

USHERS: Need Ushers

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

from UMMEN Calendar

March 9 Grace Metcalf  
March 10 Mark Faith  
Christopher Tucker  
March 11 Tracy King McClurg  
Kathy McSpadden  
Vicki Reed  
Aaron Wynn  
March 12 Mia Johnson  
Sara Johnson  
Saoirse Moore  
March 13 Anna Grace Fraiser  
Brenda Sandage  
Jim Wann

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March 11 Larry & Martha Bentley

## MEMORIALS

### CHRISTEBBETTS

Robb & Amanda Roberts  
Winnell Calhoun  
Allen & Vicky Crouch  
Nancy Hoffman  
First Community Bank  
Alice Witterman  
Clifford & Kathleen Ramsey  
Boris & Pamela Dover  
Rick & Margaret Elumbaugh  
Lyndal & Shirley Waits  
Steve & Glenda Bell

### JERRY ROSE, REBECCA RICHMAN

CHRIS TEBBETTS, ASA WHITAKER  
Buddy & Elaine Vinson

### CHRISTOPHER TEBBETTS, INA BOLTON

JERRY ROSE  
Ron & Barbara Cheatham

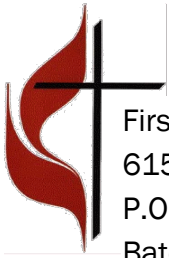
### CHRISTOPHER TEBBETTS, REBECCA RICHMAN, INA BOLTON, ASA WHITAKER

Bruce & Sherry Hankins

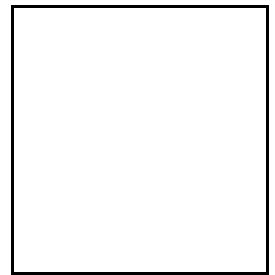
## Flower Calendar 2026

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

Open Dates, March 8<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>  
Sign up in the hallway by the office.



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 615 East Main St.  
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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 **March 9<sup>th</sup>, 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**

- Mar 4<sup>th</sup> Lenten Luncheon - First Presbyterian Church - noon
- BFUMC Kids - 6:00pm
- BFUMC Youth - 6:00pm
- Chancel Choir Practice - 6:00pm
- No Wednesday Night Bible Study - 6:00pm
- Mar 14<sup>th</sup> Community Breakfast - 8:30am - Fellowship Hall
- Mar 9<sup>th</sup> Men's Bible Study - Grammer House - 6:00pm
- Mar 10<sup>th</sup> Church Mice Workday - 9:00am - 3:00pm
- Mar 17<sup>th</sup> Belles & Beaus - Fellowship Hall - Noon



**Community Breakfast**

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

**Next Newsletter Deadline**

Articles for the **March 11<sup>th</sup>** newsletter must be submitted by 10:00 am Monday, **March 9<sup>th</sup>** to the church office or by email to [fumcbatesville@gmail.com](mailto: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