First United Methodist Challenge

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

July 29, 2026

Our Vision is to be a Dynamic Community of Believers

From Pastor Jonathon. . .

Twice this week, someone has mentioned how pastors receive tough questions. You've probably asked these questions yourself and maybe even asked others, your pastor, and God.

Why or how would God allow this [insert bad or tragic event] to happen?

Where is God in the midst of all this [natural disasters, school shootings, etc.]?

When will God bring about justice for [insert an individual, family, or community]?

I think God is big enough to handle our tough questions, so ask and pray away! I believe our lives of faith are challenged and strengthened in this very process of wrestling with God. Did you know Israel means "we who wrestle with God?"

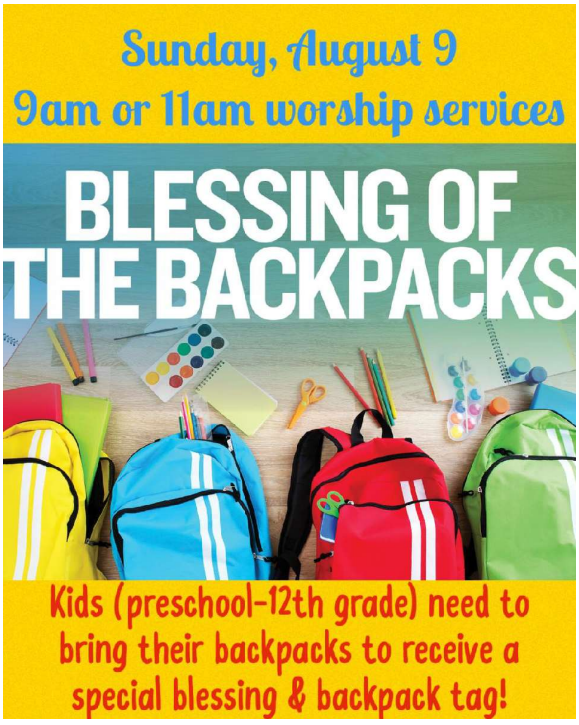
Are you willing to not settle for quick, easily justifiable yet unfulfilling answers? It will take time and effort to wait for God to respond to us out of this difficult and necessary faith work. But, it will be so worth the wait and effort. So, ask, pray, wait patiently, and pray some more!

What about being on the other side of these questions? Do you know it's okay to answer with "I don't know." It's also fine to pause before answering and even praying internally while giving space for the question to fill the space of compassion within us, as it should.

Many times, adequate words escape us. I firmly believe silence, listening, and compassion are necessary in receiving people's tough questions. That's how God responds to us.

Perhaps pray: "Holy Spirit, how do you want me to respond to them? What do you want to say to them? Comfort them even now as I hold their question with compassion. Grant me your love to be present to them in their pain behind this question."

Here's what I've found I can hang my hat on: "I don't know why... but I do know God loves you and wants to care for you through all of this. Can we pray right now?"



"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
Marva Hipp.....member
Starr Kent.....member
Ron Lewallen.....member
Aline McCracken.....member
Billy Prickett.....member
Eleanor Royer.....member
Alannette Rushing.....member
Wayne & Dawn Ashcraft.....friend of member
William Dalzell.....friend of members
Clay Hooper.....grandfather of Mallory Hooper
John Miller.....brother in law of Jennifer Emery
Jeff Allen Monnibnger.....friend of Pastor Tom
Tammie Murphree.....daughter of Linda Thompson
Everleen Phillips.....friend of members
Ruston Phillips.....friend of David & Pam Smith
Heather Pool.....niece of Joe & Kay Pool
Andy Rhodes.....friend of members
Kervin Robinson.....father of Michael Robinson
Tony Rushing.....husband of Alannette Rushing
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

Baptist Health Medical Center-Little Rock
Eddie Brock.....member
Ken Rueter.....member

New Pictorial Directory

FUMC is creating a new directory.

The directory will not be printed until our pastor appointment in July.

There is still time for you to submit your information.

Please electronically send in a family photo (jpg format) with your current phone number, email, mailing address, household birthdays and anniversaries to

fumcbatesville@gmail.com

Call the church office or send an email, if you have a question.

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
Fran Shellenberger..... friend of members

Wildwood Independent Living
Nelda Hackworth..... member
Joe Don Reynolds..... member
Dorace Williams..... member

Wood-Lawn Heights
Sally Allen..... mother of Vicki Reed
Patricia Glass..... mother of Teresa Brown
Benolyn Kramer..... aunt of Sonya Massey
Jerry Millspaugh..... uncle of Elaine Vinson

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

Canned Pasta

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

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

Church Leadership

Senior Pastor
Reverend Jonathon Bevil
jonathon.bevil@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

Organist
Charlie Stanley

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
July 19th
Online Worship Views
9:00 Service(FB) 244
11:00 Service (YT 32 + FB 155) 187
In-Person Attendance July 26th
9:00 Service..... 36
11:00 Service 65
Total..... 101

Our Gifts

Received in July

Received through 7-05-2026
Total Giving $9,404.57

Received through 7-12-2026
Total Giving $17,066.81

Received through 7-18-2026
Total Giving $13,137.48

Received through 7-26-2026
Total Giving $5,661.27

Scripture for Sunday's Sermon

Go to Scriptures: John 3:11-21

Our Service

for August 2nd

ALTAR GUILD: Karen Holifield
Diana Waldrip Joyce Prickett

ALTAR FLOWERS given in honor and glory of God by Lyndal & Shirley Waits celebrating 51 years of marriage.

GREETERS:
9:00 Louise Sandefur
11:00 Pam Smith

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Tommy Newton

COMMUNION STEWARDS:
Linda Thompson & Alannette Rushing

LITURGIST: Pete Roulier

USHERS: Ron Cheatham
John Ellis David Smith

Birthdays and Anniversaries

from UMMEN Calendar

Aug 2 Robin Brock
Aug 3 Megan Holifield Roulier
Larry Weaver
Aug 4 Mark Davis
Chaney Taylor, Jr
Madison Grace Taylor
Aug 6 Mack Boyce
Kenny Bowren
Aug 7 Raymond Simmons
Sandy Taylor

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Aug 2 Lyndal & Shirley Waits
Aug 5 Stephen & Rikki Painter
Jerry & Charlotte Rose
Aug 8 Paul & Karen Holifield

Family Night Trivia & Potluck

Saturday, August 8
6:00pm-8:00pm

Dessert & Casserole Auction
benefiting FUMC Kitchen Renovation
Bring your best dessert or casserole
to be auctioned.
Casseroles may be brought frozen.

Meat will be provided by the Chaney class.
Bring a side dish for dessert
for the potluck.

Trivia & Auction to be hosted by
Tommy Newton!

Silver Belles & Beaus
We will not meet June, July & August,
We will start back Sept. 15th.

Flower Calendar 2026

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

Open Dates
August 9th, 23rd
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/

Join the **Monday Night Men's Bible Study Group** for food and fellowship on **August 3rd, 6:00pm,** at the Grammer House. Bring your favorite food.

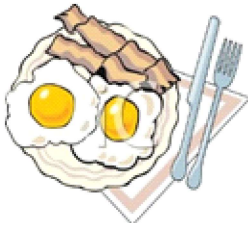
9:00 & 11:00 Worship Services
Livestream on
YouTube and on Facebook

SUNDAY MORNINGS

9:00am Contemporary Service—Fellowship Hall
Kids Sunday School—K-4th grade 9:30am
Adults Sunday School 10:00am
11:00am Traditional Service—Sanctuary

Announcements

July 29th	BFUMC Kids - 6:00pm
	BFUMC Youth - 6:00pm
	Wednesday Night Bible Study - 6:00pm
Aug 1st	Community Breakfast - 8:30am - Fellowship Hall
Aug 4th	Common Ground a College & Career Group - 6:30pm
Aug 8th	Family Night Trivia & Potluck - 6:00pm-8:00pm
Aug 9th	Blessing of the Backpacks - both worship services
	Silver Belles & Beaus will not meet this month



Community Breakfast

Free
8:30 Every Saturday
FUMC Fellowship Hall

Next Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the **Aug 5th** newsletter must be submitted by 10:00 am Monday, **Aug 3rd,** to the church office or by email to fumcbatesville@gmail.com