First United Methodist Challenge

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

September 23, 2026

Our Vision is to be a Dynamic Community of Believers

From Pastor Jonathon. . .

After the 11am service Sunday, **Carey Robertson** shared something with me that blew me away. Of course it's about **the sermon on the Prodigal Son**, particularly concerning the elder brother wanting a young goat while the younger brother got the fattened calf. She pointed out how **a goat** can be raised and ready to eat after about **4 months**, but **a calf** needs at least **2 years** to be ready for eating! Talk about adding more nuance to that part of the Scripture and story.

Why don't I go ahead and share with you some **more that didn't make the sermon cut**.

1. I teased this but didn't fully explain it: older men back then didn't run because it was uncouth to show one's legs. What an odd detail foreign to us today!
2. In his book ***Stories With Intent***, **Klyne Snodgrass** says on page 140 "If God rejoices at the return of sinners, can God's people do less?" Let that answer set in.
3. The father tells the elder son in Luke 15:31 "You are always with me" and "All that is mine is yours." Get ready to have your world rocked by God's Word!

Let's start with **"All that is mine is yours."** That is quite **true for us as Christians today**. Check out **Ephesians 1:3** "God... has **blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places.**" Do you realize all that the Father has is now ours in Christ Jesus!? Verse 4 adds that this was done "in love" and verse 7 adds "according to the riches of his grace."

"You are always with me" is also true for us today, albeit in a spiritual sense like our spiritual blessings given to us already. **Ephesians 2:6** says God "raised us up with [Christ] and **seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus**." Verse 5 speaks of God being "rich in mercy" and verse 5 says "by grace" we have been saved! Amen, and **Amen!**

The CALL is a non-profit organization that mobilizes local churches to serve local children and youth placed in foster care.

Please join United Women in Faith in learning about **The Call** with Affiliate Director Ashley Beller.

We will meet on Oct 5th at 5 pm in the parlor.
All are welcome.

Cottage Meetings Dates

The last scheduled Cottage Meeting date is:.

Tuesday, October 6
Time: 5:30pm

If you could not attend any of the previous meetings, call the church office at 870-793-3803 and we will give you the information for the last scheduled date.

"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
Eddie Brock.....member
Winnell Calhoun.....member
Tom Curl.....member
Marva Hipp.....member
Starr Kent.....member
Charles Kibbe.....member
Ron Lewallen.....member
Aline McCracken.....member
Billy Prickett.....member
Florene Renfro.....member
Eleanor Royer.....member
Ken Rueter.....member
Alannette Rushing.....member
Laney Thompson.....member
Sarah Waits Conner.....niece of Lyndal & Shirley Waits
William Dalzell.....friend of members
Clay Hooper.....grandfather of Mallory Hooper
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 Who Mourn ✞

Our sympathy goes out to *Martha Lewallen and family* in the death of her cousin, **Ida Sue Hicks Luker**, who passed away on September 16th.

Funeral services were held at Central Avenue United Methodist Church on Friday, September 18th, with burial at Oaklawn Cemetery.

Obituary can be read at

https://www.rollerfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/Ida-Sue-Hicks-Luker?obId=49605923

Our Prayers for Our Community

UACCB Students and Staff

Our Prayers for Those in Health Care Centers and Retirement Homes

Cave City Nursing Home
Richard Ashcraft..... member

Eagle Mountain Assisted Living
Fran Shellenberger ..... member

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

Woodcrest Assisted Living
Ernestine Boyce ..... member
Mary Carol Smith..... friend of members

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 Vienna Sausages

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

In-Person Attendance September 20th

9:00 Service	31
11:00 Service	62
Total	93

Our Presence on Social Media
September 13th
Online Worship Views

9:00 Service(FB)	86
11:00 Service (YT 58 + FB 165)	223

Our Gifts

Received in September

Amount needed each week $10,519.15

Received through	9-06-2026
Total Giving	$6,294.57
Received through	9-13-2026
Total Giving	$6,955.48
Received through	9-20-2026
Total Giving	$9,435.91

Scripture for Sunday's Sermon

Grace Upon Grace: Luke 7:36-50

Our Service

for September 27th

ALTAR GUILD: Karen Holifield
Diana Waldrip
Joyce Prickett

ALTAR FLOWERS are placed to the glory of God *(need altar flowers this Sunday)*

GREETERS:
9:00 Joe Don Reynolds
11:00 Rob & Jennifer Emery

CHILDREN'S SERMON: Sandy West

LITURGIST: Racheal Roofe

USHERS: Ron Cheatham
John Ellis
David Smith

Birthdays and Anniversaries

September 27 - October 3

Sept 28	Jennifer Emery
	Robert Hill
	Mark Huddleston
	Morgan Presley
Sept 30	Diane Taylor Rix
Oct 1	Natalie Ives Howard
	Josh Walmsley
Oct 3	Alisha Carter
	Barbara Jones
	Buddy Vinson

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Sept 28	Joel & Alicia Williams
Oct 2	Lane & Gina Garrett

First United Methodist Church

A church alive in the grace of God,
offering Christ,
transforming lives,
and changing our world
through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Flower Calendar

Flower Calendar 2026

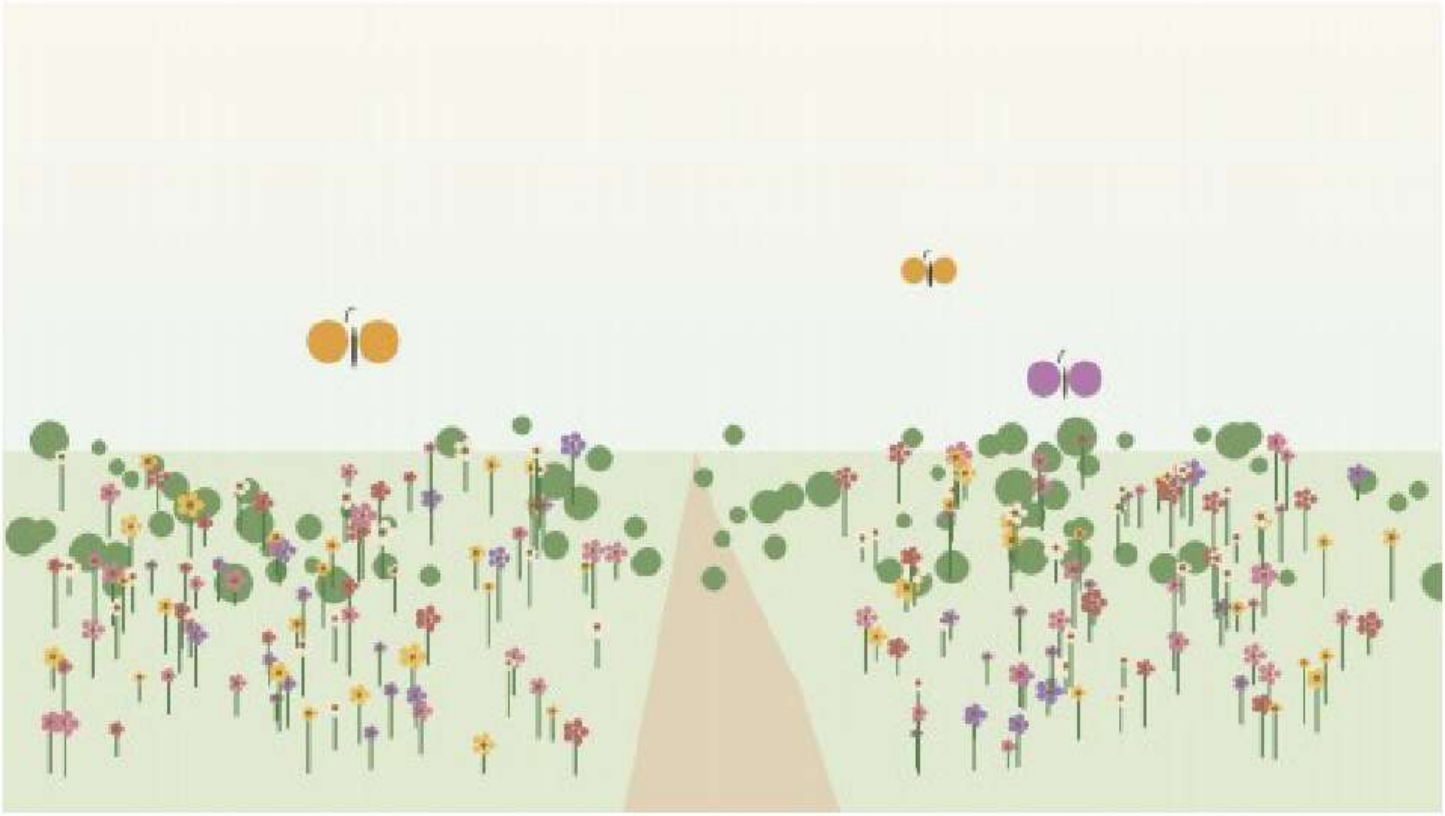
Please take a moment to pick a Sunday where you can be a part of this wonderful ministry.

Open Dates
September 27
Sign up in the hallway by the office.

THE MEMORY GARDEN

A Grief Support Gathering

Where love is remembered, stories are shared,
and no one grieves alone.



Beginning October 12 • 6:00 p.m. • Meeting Monthly

First United Methodist Church
Parlor Room • 615 East Main Street • Batesville, Arkansas

All are welcome. Come as you are.

Interested in attending?
Paul Kibby: 214-232-0674 • Theresa at the church office: 870-793-3803

A place for remembrance, connection, and hope.

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email us at fumcbatesville@gmail.com
Check out newsletters online!
www.fumcbatesville.org/

Contact the church office at 870-793-3803 if you would like to be a part of the Van Ministry.

The FUMC Challenge ***Page 4***

Join the **Monday Night Men's Bible Study Group** for food and fellowship on **September 28th, 6:00pm,** at the Grammer House. Bring your favorite food.

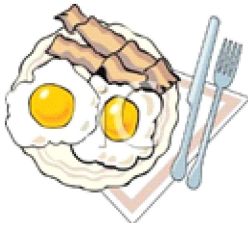
9:00 & 11:00 Worship Services
Livestream on
YouTube and on Facebook

SUNDAY MORNINGS

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

Announcements

Sept 23rd	BFUMC Kids - 6:00pm
	BFUMC Youth - 6:00pm
	Mark Bible Study 6:00pm in the Barnabas Room
Sept 26th	Community Breakfast - 8:30am - Fellowship Hall
Sept 29th	**Common Ground** a College & Career Group - 6:30pm
Oct 5th	United Women of Faith - 5:00pm in the Parlor Program - Learning about **The Call**



Community Breakfast

Free
8:30 Every Saturday
FUMC Fellowship Hall

Next Newsletter Deadline

Articles for the **Sept 30th** newsletter must be submitted by 10:00 am Monday, **Sept 28th,** to the church office or by email to fumcbatesville@gmail.com