FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF BELLA VISTA



The Good News

December, 2009



As a token of our gratitude, a love offering will be taken through December 20 for our pastors and church staff. You may place your gift in the offering plate on Sunday or bring contributions to the church office. Please note "Love Offering" on your check.

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Sara Says...

Have you noticed that we have new end of the world predictions? The latest is 2012. Movies, T.V. shows are plowing the air ways, and of course the spin off productions that show the pain of survival when catastrophes spin people into the aggressive animal behaviors. The end times are talked about in the Bible, called the apoplectic writings, which, of course, Revelations being one. Throughout history people have studied the Scripture in order to predict the exact time of the end of the world, as if some magic code was written there .

At this time in our Christian year, when we celebrate the birth of Jesus the Christ, we are reminded once again the specifics of God's calendar are crouched not in our linear way of thinking but in Christ's words "You will know neither the day or the hour." (Matthew 25:13)

As Christians, we have a different understanding of time. We (and also Jews and Muslims) believe that history is not aimless or unguided. History belongs to God. History, and therefore time, is God's Story: It's going somewhere. Believing that there is meaning and purpose and direction to history gives human life hope.

Also as Christians, we believe that God's hope took human form in the man of Jesus Christ. This month with all the celebrations, presents, smiles and giggles of children, let us become ever more aware ,whether people say they understand it or not, of the underling reality that actually propels the season: the *birth of human hope*.

Hear the carols, *remember the hope*; see the decorations—*remember the hope*; wrap the presents—*remember the hope*; cook the meals—*remember the hope*; come to the services—*remember the hope*; we are not , have not and will not ever be alone, and we are anything but aimless. *Share the hope!*



EVANGELISM

Webster's Dictionary defines Evangelism as "the winning or revival of personal commitments to Christ." So what is the Evangelism Ministry at FUMCBV? The goal of the Evangelism Ministry is "to attract new members to the First United Methodist Church, Bella Vista thereby making more disciples for Christ." Of course, we all know how important those member numbers are; however, I believe our main goal should always be making disciples for Christ. If those disciples join our church, that's icing on the cake!

Jesus' final command was to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matt. 28:19). This is known as the Great Commission, but some folks think of it as the Great Suggestion. How do we make disciples? By sharing the Good News! Every one of us has many opportunities throughout our busy days to share with someone how Jesus has changed our lives. It is my prayer that every member in this church is being an evangelist.

Now back to the goal of attracting new members. We get a lot of guests to FUMCBV— some of them are regular guests. What do you do when you notice a guest? Do you look for new faces on Sunday mornings and introduce yourself? Do you ask them if they have any questions, or see a young family and show them where the nursery or Sunday school is? Do you invite them to Becker Hall for a cup of coffee of snack? If we want visitors to be more than just visitors, we need to make them feel welcome, and let them know who we are and what we have to offer. We have many Evangelism Ministries that work toward this goal: Greeters, Guest Follow-Up, Doorstep Visits, Pizza with the Pastor, and First Friends are some of them.

Perhaps you committed to one or more of these on Commitment Sunday last month. If you haven't and would like to, or have any questions, please let me know and I will be happy to help you any way I can. I am looking forward to 2010 as I take on the new role of Evangelism Steward. I would like to investigate new ways that we can spread the Good News and attract people to our wonderful church. If you have an idea, I'd love to hear it.

God has blessed me in so many ways and it is my joy to serve Him. I am so thankful that he led Greg and me to FUMCBV to serve with you.

Peace-

Juaníta Franklín

You'll soon notice a major change to <u>LeadLearnLove.com</u>, the official website for FUMCBV. In addition to an improved visual design and organization of information, the new website will better reflect FUMCBV professionally as well as provide several functional enhancements for first-time and returning visitors. For example, the newsletter you're reading right now will be available online to read a few days before you receive your copy in the mail! Stay tuned for more information!



CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

December 6 - Sunday **"The Gloria" by Vivaldi** 8:00 and 10:45 a.m. A Christmas cantata of traditional music, composed by the famous 17th century Italian composer, Vivaldi, and performed by FUMC combined choirs

December 13 - Sunday **Children's Christmas Play** 3:30 p.m. Children come together to tell the story of Jesus in a play written

and directed by Jessica Mendoza. Reception to follow.

December 16 - Wednesday Lessons & Carols 6:30 p.m.

Join us for a time of traditional seasonal carols coupled with scripture readings that will illuminate the story of the birth of Christ.

December 19 - Saturday Parents' Day Out 10:00 a.m. till 4:00 p.m.

A fun time of crafts, movies, and games for kids while parents shop.

Lunch provided. (Call 855-1158 for reservation - no charge)

December 20 - Sunday **Twelve Days of Christmas** All Services Celebrating our rich heritage through an ancient song.

A light-hearted way to remember that Christ is in the symbols of the season.

December 20 - Sunday **Hope for the Holidays** 3:00 p.m. till 6:00 p.m.

For those who have difficulty getting through the holidays, a workshop will be led by Reverend Pamela Cicione, chaplain at Mercy Healthcare, followed by a light supper and ending with a time of worship and communion. (Call 855-1158 for meal reservation — no charge)

Christmas Eve Services December 24 — Thursday

Midday at the Manger

Noon

Join us for a 1/2 hour service in the Sanctuary featuring a medley of favorite Carols, an inspiring message, and Holy Communion for all.

Those who wish, may stay for a soup-and-sandwich luncheon in Becker Hall. (Call 855-1158 for lunch reservation — no charge)

Contemporary Carols & Communion

5:30 p.m.

Hear the story of the Christ child's birth and rejoice with familiar Christmas songs set to a contemporary beat. This service will feature praise music, drama and a story-time for children.

Candlelight Communion

7:30 p.m.

Familiar carols, special music, an inspiring message of hope and a sharing of the Lord's supper.



MISSIONS

MISSION OF THE MONTH



The United Methodist Children's Home has been serving families and children for more than 100 years. Initially created as an orphanage, now renamed Methodist Family Health, the

home has expanded its services to provide children and families with a continuum of care—an emergency shelter, therapeutic foster care, therapeutic pre-school day treatment, residential homes, psychiatric residential treatment centers, a counseling clinic, and the Methodist Behavioral Hospital.

The Methodist Family Health Mission Statement says it all: "With God's guidance and within the Wesleyan focused healing-and-caring tradition, we will express God's love by providing quality compassionate behavioral healthcare to those we serve."

PAK-A-SAK

A special thank you to everyone for your November Pak-A-Sak donations. The total item count for



November was 441 with a value of \$627.12. This is more than double the October donation. God Bless your generosity.

Sunday December 20 we will be collecting non-perishable food items for Northwestern Arkansas Children's Shelter. The shelter is a temporary home for children from infants thru the teen years. They are in need of all types of food, including canned fruits, cereal, milk, vegetables, and food for infants & toddlers. Thank you in advance for all your donations to the Pak-A-Sak Program that helps so many in Benton County. May you all have a Blessed Holiday Season.

We had a great turnout of workers from our Church for



our November 14 work day. (Someone must have told them hot soup was being served and other goodies.) Those working were Richard and Mable Ashline, Darrell and Verna Bottjen, Joe and Marge Bowen, George Brannon, Ed and Julie Fischer, Dorothea Hodgin, Jack Hollingworth, Pat Jenkins, Mary Carkeek, Carmen and Dorothy Phillips, Keith and Lynn Prueitt, B. J. Raney, Dennis Reed, Karen Schroll and Mickey Shank. Thank you ever so much.

Helping Hands reached a significant milestone in ten months this year by being able to funnel nearly \$1,200,000 back into the economic community that they serve.

For those of you who indicated on your Commitment Cards that you wished to help with this mission, there are three basic methods of helping — cash or donations of goods, volunteering your time on the two Saturdays each year our church is responsible or volunteering your time for one or more days a week. The staff at Helping Hands will provide onthe-job training for the latter two choices. B. J. Raney (855-7483) or Keith Prueitt (876-5753) can see that you get an application if you wish to work part time each week or you can go to Helping Hands for the application and, at the same time, take a tour of their facility and have your questions answered by these dedicated people.



All the Angel Tree cards were taken from the tree and we greatly appreciate your generosity. Please bring all the gifts to the church by December 4 so they can be distributed.

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SHOEBOX

Thank you to our volunteers!

Thank you to Martha Circle for filling "Sunshine Sacks" to be taken to Cooper Elementary at the end of November. These sacks are delivered by Katie Anderson each month.

With the help of our pre-packers Jan Abbott, Mildred Davidson, Carolyn Butler, Nancy DeVan, Carlene Jerman, Bedetta Valentine, we were ready for Tuesday November 17 to pack 200 shoeboxes for boys and girls. Packing was done by Joyce Horle, Chuck Hurl, Sally Peterson, Judy Packard, Mary Patrick and Diane Verville. Phoebe Bader and Berneita Dunham wrapped soap. Last but not least we packed baby boxes and want to thank Velda Berning and Karen Hansen (Vicki Schroeder's mother). Thank you so much for your hard work.

We delivered 444 shoeboxes in November. Deliveries were taken to Seven Hills, Salvation Army — Bentonville, and Salvation Army — Fayetteville by Ralph Johnson; Bud Henke delivered to Youth Bridge— Centerton; Dorothy Peters delivered to N.W. Arkansas Children's Shelter; and Sue Nebrig took boxes to Souls Harbor — Rogers.

Jan Abbott and Mabel Ashline were calling volunteers this month. We so seldom mention these ladies, and they are an equally important part of this ministry.

Participating Churches

The youth group at Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Bentonville chose filling baby boxes for us as their mission project. They delivered many filled boxes and extra baby supplies to us this month. God Bless all of you.

Highland Church continues to support our ministry through supplies.

Help Wanted

We need socks, socks and more socks. There are never enough children's socks it seems. Size large is the best. Also gallon-size zip-lock bags for Sunshine Sacks.

We counted a minimum of 31 people who need hugs, God Blesses and thanks to make Shoebox happen this month. God is truly great!

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year! As always, in His service, Cheryl Campbell Diane Cox Karen Roenfeld Vicki Schroeder

Looking for Holiday Gift Ideas???

The holidays are upon us and each of us is scrambling to find the "perfect" gift for the person in our life who has everything. Does Dad really need another sweater? Can Mom really use another bottle of perfume? Does your sister in Seattle really want another bird feeder?

This year, why not do something that will have an impact and make a statement?

Consider making a charitable contribution in the name of that difficult-to-buy-for-person in your life. Choose a charity they support and send them a card to let them know that you've made a contribution. Or if your not sure what charity they would appreciate — choose one you support. Heifer International, a local food bank, a school, a homeless shelter, their church, (your church!); the possibilities are endless.

Nearly every group has a website on the internet. If you are not "connected," contact any member of the Missions Team or contact the church office. We will be more than happy to help you find the perfect charity.

Save time, save gas and give a gift that has a lasting impact.



BECKER HALL

WOW! What a difference a few changes can make!

If you haven't stopped by Becker Hall to see the remodeled space, take a minute and have a look. The lowered stage area makes it much more usable and inviting. The new storage area is more accessible. We learned, at the first Contemporary Service in the new space, the new sound and video systems rock! Both systems will be more user-friendly for any group using the hall.

Thank you to Kevin Caldwell and his crew from Caldwell Sound and Video; Brian Mezzano with Quality Artisan's Services; Jim Prather, Steve Larsen and all the volunteers who put in long hours to make this remodeling possible.



The new sound board isn't as complicated as it looks.



Marc Engle training the new sound crew.



Laying out the set up for Contemporary Worship.



Board of Trustees President, BJ Raney, takes care of the paperwork.



New screens and video equipment offer many options during worship.



CHILDREN AND FAMILY

SECOND ANNUAL CHILDREN'S PAGEANT

Between now and the end of the year is a busy time for us all! That is no different in the Children's Ministry! We have some amazing things planned for the children. In the bulletin there have been announcements about the 2nd Annual Christmas Production. The practices are being held on Sundays in Becker hall from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. We still need lots of help from both the children and the "children at heart!" The performance will be held in Becker hall on December 13 at 3:30 p.m., with refreshments following.

PARENTS' DAY OUT

There will be a parents' day out being held on December 19 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. We will be doing crafts, watching movies and playing games. I am looking for volunteers to help shepherd the children that day. If you are interested in your child's having a part, or helping out yourself, please contact Carrie Drish at 479-381-3806 or cjdrish@gmail.com.

NEW CHECK-IN SYSTEM

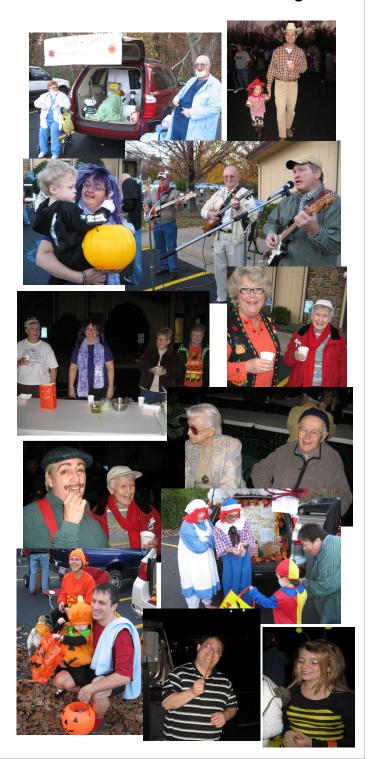
We have just installed a new check-in system for the children!! Right outside of Becker Hall you will notice a new computer with a scanner attached. I will be inputting every child's information and you will be given a key tag that you scan. This will print out a name tag for your child and a ticket for you. You will need this tag to pick up your child from Sunday school. I will have paperwork for everyone asap!

NURSERY/TODDLER AREA

We are bursting at the seams!!! We are so excited to announce that we are too big to be in just one room for the nursery/toddler area!! We will start to use the nursery side in the next few weeks! I would like to have the parents who use these areas help out by volunteering for a rotating schedule. You can call me 381-3806 or email me at cidrish@gmail.com to be added. I really need your help!

Carrie J. Drish
Director of Children's Ministries

Truck or Treat 2009 Provided Fun for Children of All Ages





THE BOOK NOOK

LARGE-PRINT FICTION:

HUNTING BADGER by Tony Hillerman (Donation) In 1998 three armed "survivalists" come out of the Four Corners canyons in a stolen truck, murder a policeman and elude an epic manhunt.

THE LOST SYMBOL by Dan Brown When Langdon's mentor, Peter Solomon, is kidnapped, Langdon realizes his only hope of saving Peter is to accept a mystical invitation and follow wherever it leads him.

92 PACIFIC BOULEVARD by Debbie Macomber Dear Reader, I'm not much of a letter writer. As the sheriff here, I'm used to writing incident reports not chatty letters. But my daughter told me I had to do this. So here goes.

THE UNFINISHED GIFT by Dan Walsh Set at Christmastime in 1943, this is the engaging story of a family in need of forgiveness.

SHADOW SONG by Terry Kay Amid the breathtaking beauty of the Catskill Mountains, Aurum Feldman listened to the haunting voice of Amelita Galli-Curri — a voice no one else could hear.

A THREAD OF TRUTH by Marie Bostwick At 27, having fled an abusive marriage with little more than her kids and the clothes on her back, Ivy Peterman figures she has no place to go but up. With a part-time job at the Cobbled Court Quilt Shop, Ivy feels hopeful for the first time in ages.

THE SCOOP by Fern Michaels Newly single, Toots is ready to taste life again and fate has just handed her the perfect opportunity.

FICTION:

THE COVENANT by Naomi Ragen (Donation) Living in terror-torn Jerusalem, Elise Marguilies fears for the safety of her loved ones. As she waits the return of her husband and daughter from a ballet recital she learns her worst fears have been realized.

NON-FICTION:

CHURCHES by Judith Dupre (Donation) (located in TALL book section)

Former Arkansas Bishop, Janice Huie, is included in this compilation of interviews and group dialogue. This book is dedicated to the first woman Bishop — Marjorie Matthews.

FINAL ROUNDS by James Dobson (Donation) (796.3)

This is a touching, often humorous, tribute to Dobson's father and the game they both loved.

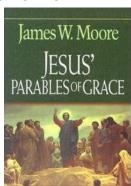
The following have been donated to the library: DVD Piano dedication concert. Recorded June 18, 2006.

DVD Organ dedication concert. Recorded Oct. 19, 2008. Organist: Dr. John Obetz.

CD Wesley Series of BVFUMC. Recorded Sept 11, 2009 featuring Deborah Lynn Cole.

GOLDEN LINKS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS JESUS' PARABLES OF GRACE

The class is starting a new study called <u>Jesus' Parables</u> of <u>Grace</u> by James Moore. The class has study materials written by Moore for several years and was fortunate to hear him speak at Mt. Sequoyah-Fayetteville, recently. He was outstanding speaker as he is a writer.



In this book we will examine six of Jesus' thoughtprovoking parables, parables of grace, to see if we can find ourselves and God's truth for us in these magnificent "truth-stores."

Everyone is invited to join us for one or all of these studies in room 27 following the first service at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings. The class is taught by Dixie Young and Tibbie Fitch.



CONGREATIONAL CARE

CARE

The CARE group will meet December 16 at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel. The program will be presented by Maryann Johnson. Please come and be a part of this group as we help each other journey through grief. The holiday season can be especially difficult and we are here to help you.

FALL FLING



The Fall Fling was extra special this year. We had some outstanding entertainment: Sharon Golaway played the piano, Delores Grosnickle sang, and a cat with a gorgeous long tale, Lee McDonald, was our story teller. We could not have asked for

more, but there were games, prizes, sing-a-longs, refreshments and the telling of lots of memories. We missed some of our friends who were sick or unable to come. We hope they will be with us next time.



AUTO ANGELS

Please be aware that between December 17 and December 27 Judy Bilyeu (876-2345) or the church office (855-1158) will be the contact for anyone needing Auto Angels' services.

UM MEN'S 9 HOLE GOLF

A sign-up sheet has been put on the bulletin board in Becker Hall to sign up for the UM Men's 9 Hole Golf for the 2010 Spring/Summer season. If you would like to sign up, please do so on the sheet or call Eldon Cox at 855-7245 or Alan Packard at 855-1168.

The <u>Sunshine and Metfield Methodist Shepherd</u> <u>Groups</u> will meet for supper on December 7 in Becker Hall at 6:00 p.m.

The Sunshine group will bring meat or main dish entrees. Metfield group will bring salads, vegetables or desserts.

Please remember to bring canned goods to donate to Helping Hands.

Metfield Methodist Shepherd Group Second Annual Farkle Competition

Nineteen Metfield Methodists gathered at the Metfield Clubhouse on November 12 for soup, sandwiches and Farkle. (If you haven't played this game yet, you don't know what fun they had.) High scorers were Janie Koonce and Ralph Johnson. Low score, known as the Farkle King, went to Chet Campbell.

Winners
Janie Koonce
& Ralph
Johnson flank
the Farkle
King, Chet
Campbell.





New members Jackie & Bill Evans catch on quickly.



Mona Johnson, Owen & Rose Jones are ready to roll.



UMW and **UMM**

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN December Luncheon

The United Methodist Women will have their next luncheon in Becker Hall on Wednesday December 2. The menu will be turkey tetrazzini, salad, roll and dessert. The cost will be \$7.00. The program will be given by a sextet and Sharon Golaway presenting Christmas music. Sign up for the luncheon at your next circle meeting. You will pay for the luncheon in the Narthex of the church on the day of the luncheon. There will be quiet time in the sanctuary at 11:45 a.m. with lunch at 12 noon. Reservations need to be made with your circle chairman or with Lynn Prueitt at 876-5753 by Tuesday, November 24. Circle chairmen: please turn in your names to Elaine Detlefsen, 876-5077, by Tuesday, November 24.

UNITED METHODIST MEN December Ladies' Night

The event will take place on Wednesday December 9. Those who attend the event will gather in the Sanctuary at 6 p.m. for entertainment provided by a barbershop quartet. The meal will be served in Becker Hall at 6:30 p.m. and consist of a stuffed chicken breast with green beans amandine and rosemary red potatoes, salad and dessert. The cost will be \$12 a person. After the meal, Troy Jorgensen will provide a sneak preview of the updated audio/ video system in Becker Hall. The new officers for 2010 will also be installed. Tickets will be available in the church office beginning Monday November 23. Ticket sales will also occur after each of the three worship services on Sunday's November 29 and December 6.

FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS!

Except that one where you're naked in church.

CIRCLE INFORMATION FOR DECEMBER 2009			
CIRCLE	MEETING DATE	TIME & PLACE	PROGRAM
Charity	Dec.8	10:00a.m. Metfield	Christmas Brunch
Hope	Dec. 10	11:00a.m. Carpool To River Grill	Lunch & talk by Samantha O'Mara
Martha	Dec. 21	?	To be determined
Naomi	Dec. 15	1:30 Chapel	Salad Lunch and Prayer Pal Gift Exchange
Sarah	Dec. 8	12:30 Chapel	Christmas Party
Evening	Dec 17	5:30 Myra Baker's hor	me Christmas Potluck

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THANK YOU

I want to thank all of you for the lovely Prayer Shawl that was presented to me by Rev. Sara and Jan Lowe at the early service on Sunday October 25.

Jerry and I felt very lucky to have been members of Bella Vista First United Methodist Church for 14 years. I will always remember it as a special time of my life. As I move now to be closer to my family, you will go with me in my thoughts and prayers.

God Bless You All Margaret Phillips

Thank you, friends of First UMC for your support and encouragement during the time of Melvon's illness and since his death. Especially thanks to the Auto Angels who were so faithful to transport him to his dialysis appointments until he required ambulance service.

I love you all. Ruth Ireland

After my extensive reconstructive back surgery at Mercy Hospital in Oklahoma City and Rehab at Health South in Fayetteville, I'm now convalescing at home along with rehab at Trinity in Bella Vista. Many thanks to Pastor Sara for her up lifting visit and telephone calls; Rev.Verle for his delivering the special prayer shawl to Health South; the greatest members and our very special Shepherd group for the many calls, cards, goodies and visits from the wonderful Church on the hill at #20 Boyce Drive.

GOD BLESS TO ALL for Sincerely Caring, Roy SJan Vogel

For being there for me when I had surgery! It meant so much to me to have all the prayers, especially when Rev. Bainbridge and Rev. Shoemaker came to see me. Then all the support I was given by others...my sister Joan Humphrey especially and Betty Harris who saw to it that I got to my appointments and saw to my needs by going on many errands .The visits by many others helped me get through the long hours in the hospital, ICU and rehab facilities. I am blessed with caring friends and relatives who made my recovery quicker and easier.

May God be with you all!

Jean Nordmeyer

Steve and Sandy Larsen may be familiar to you. They moved back to Bella Vista from Iowa in August

and previously lived here for eight years. Steve worked as an Electrical Engineer in the power industry and is now involved with Habitat for Humanity and Church. He likes to golf, read and travel. Sandy created Simply Sandy, a wholesale



manufacturing company and sold all over the United States. She likes interior decorating, yard work, creating cards and golf. Steve and Sandy have one daughter, Lisa, and one son, John, four granddaughters, one grandson, and T. K., our Westie, who is often seen with Steve at the church.

Welcome Steve and Sandy back to FUMCBV when you see them.

New Golaway CD on Sale Now

.....

Our own Sharon Golaway has a new CD available for purchase through the church office. This CD contains songs composed by her friend

Jeanie Mitchem, directly from the Word of God and you'll find the music very soothing.

If you enjoyed the CD that Sharon produced in 2007, you will surely enjoy this new one. Stop by the church office where you may purchase either CD for just \$12 each. These will make great Christmas gifts!



If you have any questions, please call Sharon at 696-4956.

We're Here to Serve You



Senior Pastor - Rev. Sara Bainbridge Associate Pastor - Rev. Verle Shoemaker Associate Pastor - Rev. Doris Schlessman Asst. to Sr. Pastor & Dir. of Lay Ministries - Jan Lowe

Director of Children's Ministry - Carrie Drish
Director of Youth Ministry - Danette Baker
Dir. of Music Ministries - Dr. Lawrence Zehring
Handbell Director - Dawn Thompson
Organist/Pianist - Roiselle Grim
Praise Team Leader - Shannon Wicker
Worship Leader - Garrett Greer
Treasurer - Al Yanik
Financial Secretary - Marge Smith
Office Secretary - Brenda Jorgensen

Phone: (479) 855-1158
Fax: (479) 855-0850
E-mail: fumcbv@cox-internet.com
www.LeadLearnLove.com
Newsletter Deadline: 15th of the month

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

To the Home of ...

Christmas Potluck

December 25 - 11:30 a.m.

The meat will be provided. Bring a covered dish to share.

Contact the church office 855-1158 by December 18 (so we know how many to expect)

Contact co-hosts Angie Rader (616-0575) or Sandy Patterson (876-1319) if you'd like to help or for more information.

Poinsettias to grace the church during the Christmas season



Plants available for you to purchase in honor of or in memory of a loved one.

\$10 per plant

Come by the church office to order yours. Take with you after Christmas Eve Service, or designate them to be given to others.