

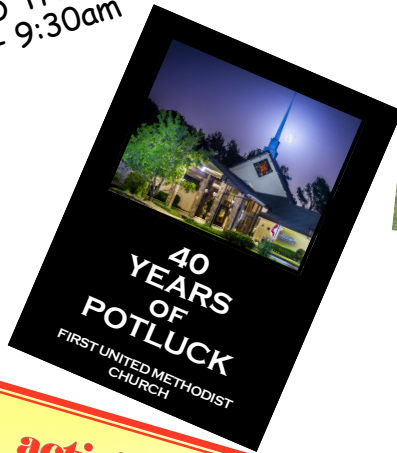


The Good News

February 2017





PACK SHACK ~ FEED THE FUNNEL
SATURDAY the 4TH - 9:30am



Midweek Manna activities for everyone
Wednesday Evenings
BEGINNING February 8th



Give 
because every drop tells a story

 Please help make a difference in
OUR community

BLOODMOBILE
Monday, January 30
9:00am ~ 1:00pm



FAITH WALK

Brother Jaimie J. Alexander, Senior Pastor

May I ask you?....

May I ask you to pray? I don't mean just about anything. I don't mean a prayer like, "God is great, God is good, now I thank you for this food". I mean, may I ask you to pray in a concerted effort of determined faith? May I ask you to pray daily for five minutes? May I ask you to invite five other people to join you in prayer? May I ask you to pray in a group with others? May I ask you to pray in your Sunday School Classes, UMW Circles, Bible Studies, Midweek Manna Classes, Prayer Groups, etc?

By now I bet you are saying, "Yes, but about what"? May I ask you to pray for "Spiritual Revival" for individuals, for our church, for the United Methodist Church, for our community, and for our culture? Bishop Gary Mueller of the Arkansas Conference has issued this prayer challenge saying, "We are joining together in this kind of concerted prayer effort for a very simple reason. We want to experience more of Jesus' love, we want others to experience the same love we have experienced. We want to be the kind of disciples who can't wait to pray for this to happen". In his 2016 Episcopal Address, Bishop Gary Mueller said, "Spiritual revival is our foundation." With that in mind, Bishop Mueller has set aside the month of February as a special time of intentional prayer. All Arkansas United Methodists are invited to pray for spiritual revival throughout the month of February. The invitation is to pray for five minutes a day for spiritual revival, to invite 5 friends to pray for 5 minutes a day, to gather in groups of 5 to pray together for 5 minutes a day, and to fast five times a week as the Spirit leads you - beginning on Wednesday, February 1 throughout the month.

Please do not let this privilege go undone. You are so important in sharing and offering prayers for spiritual revival! The blessing of prayer is given to you as well as others. Please to not neglect this privilege to pray for spiritual revival that will affect lives now and in the future!

Will you commit to:

- Praying for 5 minutes a day for spiritual revival?
- Inviting 5 people to also pray for 5 minutes a day for spiritual revival?
- Gathering with 5 other people once a week to pray 5 minutes for spiritual revival?
- Fasting 5 times during the week as the spirit leads you?

Thank you for saying, "Yes, I will!"

God is faithful!

Bro. Jaimie

Don't just come to church, Be the Church!



To the Church Family,

Thank you so much for your generosity to the staff through the 2016 Christmas Freewill Love Offering. You thoughtfully gave \$6,780 to be split among the 17 persons that make up the staff. This was the largest offering the staff has have ever received. As you know, the staff is a group of persons dedicated to following Christ. Each person seeks to fulfill the purpose of FUMCBV...to live, to learn, to lead and your gracious gift of appreciation is a gift of your love.

Thank you! Bro. Jaimie and the Church Staff



Listening with Ears of the Heart

Pastor Judy Rudd-Platt, Associate Pastor

Some people have the gift of gab. They seem to know when to speak, what to say and how to say what needs to be said. To be in a second career requiring the art of communication, I must confess that I am not always the best communicator. At times, I talk more than I listen, and I often say things that would be better left unsaid. Regularly, I find myself sticking my proverbial foot in my mouth, and if I'm particularly mindless, both feet land there!

The use of words can be life-giving or life-destroying. They can build up or they can tear down. They can restore and heal or they can poison and cripple. We are a people of words. Whether we are explaining a concept, providing instructions, expressing our opinions or sharing our experiences, we use words to convey information and emotions. The words that we choose to communicate matter. The tone, whether written or spoken, that we use to convey our words matters. In our world of instant communication through social media, text, and email, do we really consider the words and tone that we use? Do we say what we mean, and mean what we say without saying it mean? Do we consider whether it is true, kind or even *necessary*?

Twice lately I have been reminded of the words of James, the brother of Jesus, who admonished the followers of Christ to be cautious about the power of the tongue. In one of my readings I was reminded that it only takes one careless word. "A great forest can be set on fire by one tiny spark. And the tongue is a flame of fire. It is full of wickedness, and poisons every part of the body. And the tongue is set on fire by hell itself and can turn our whole lives into a blazing flame of destruction and disaster" James 3:5b-6. One word, one phrase spoken in haste and with spite can spark an inferno of pain, anger and retaliation that burns and smolders for days, months or even years. Ouch!

Another of my recent readings gave sound instruction from James on how to restrain the power of the tongue. "Dear brothers, don't ever forget that it is best to listen much, speak little, and not become angry . . . Anyone who says he is a Christian but doesn't control his sharp tongue is just fooling himself, and his religion isn't worth much" James 1:19, 26. When I was younger, I focused more on the being quiet part of this wisdom and neglected the need to listen and not grow angry. I thought that as long as I didn't say what I was thinking or feeling despite the simmering anger, I was being a good Christian. The problem was that my frustrations, disappointments and anger silently smoldered until one day the embers exploded into a raging fire.

Today, I understand that "listening much" first, helps me to better understand the heart, the fears, and the hurts of the other person. As I know and develop compassion for the other person, I can find the words and tone of voice to speak my truth in love without anger because the purpose of the words is no longer about being right, it is about loving one another. What will our communication sound like if our words are as much about loving one another (every person) as it is about being right? I believe it will sound a lot more like listening! *Pastor Judy*

Midweek Manna activities for everyone ~ Wednesday Evenings

BEGINNING February 8th

Meal ~ 5:30pm

(suggested cost: \$5 adult, \$3 child, \$15 family maximum)

Classes ~ 6:30pm-7:30/45pm

- Our United Methodist Footsteps
- Women's Bible Study
- The Bible ~ the Mini-Series
- Living Single with Confidence
- Bella Vista ~ My Hometown!
- Coloring Your Way to Calm
- Knitting for the Soul (beginners to experts)
- UMW Crafts

. . . and others—give your suggestions of classes you would like to see to Pastor Judy.

Classes also on Lower Level: *YouthLife* (7th grade-12th grade) ~ Youth Room
Children Pre-K thru 6th Grade ~ Room 20 Infants & Toddlers ~ Toddler Room



JOINING in the JOURNEY TOGETHER

Pastor Brenda Wideman, Minister of Congregational Care

And again Jesus said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." And Jesus replied, "Tend my sheep."

(John 21:16 NRSV)

Tending by Car, Tending by Bus

Last month I met with many of our Congregational Care Ministry Teams. These are teams which are in the "business" of tending the sheep of our congregation. We talked about the ways each team does their particular tending ministry; we talked about the strengths of each team and the ways we might strengthen the teams for 2017. I want to share with you some of the insights, about the beautiful ways in which our ministry teams see their calling.

We live in a mobile society, one in which the need for transportation to and from activities is just a part of how we live in today's world. We have two congregational care teams which tend the sheep of our church family in this way. The Auto Angels Team is one of them. Their purpose is to "provide rides to members who are unable to get themselves to doctor's appointments, to pick up medicines, or to church, as needed." The person who is the team leader, the overseer, of this team is Judy Bilyeu. There are currently about 18 Angels that help with this type of transportation on a rotating basis and provide rides as their schedules permit. They see the strength of this ministry as a way to build relationships within the church family, to make the church family stronger by extending relationships between more and more members of the family. They also felt a strong calling to assist folks to be able to stay in their own home longer. This may be appropriate for an individual who is fully able to stay at in their home with the only exception being the inability to drive. Although all transportation needs cannot be met by this team, their ability to help with some of the most crucial needs, trips to doctors, trips to pick up medication, and trips to worship, is part of their calling. When transportation needs are more extensive, other means, such as the Bella Vista Courtesy Van, neighbors, Shepherd Groups, and moving into assisted living communities may become necessary. The Auto Angels have a calling to "tend by car" and they strongly feel this calling as they extend the love of Jesus in this way. If you would like to become an Auto Angel, or you find yourself in need of this type of tending, even if only for a short time, feel free to contact Judy Bilyeu, Amy Gilmore, or me to let us know.

The second tending ministry that provides transportation is the Church Bus Team. The overseers of this team are Bob and Shirley Kennedy. There are currently a team of 9 individuals who, on a rotating basis, tend by providing bus transportation to our 10:45 worship service to folks who are in senior living communities in Bella Vista, and by request for other special events. This team has a calling to "tend by bus." They see their strength as allowing senior members who have relocated to our established senior communities to maintain their church family ties through worship with us. They see a strengthener to this care ministry to be the availability of more drivers, especially those who have not yet reached the age of 70. Younger drivers and more drivers will make this ministry stronger. If you are feeling led to serve in this way, please let us know. Contact Bob and Shirley, or Amy Gilmore, or me and we will be happy to visit with you about this.

Jesus asked Peter, "Do you love me?" and then after Peter responded from his heart, "Yes, Lord, you **know** that I do.", Jesus said, "Then tend my sheep." Jesus is asking each of us the same question. As disciples, our answer should be "Yes, Lord, you **know** that I do". Go ahead, put the love of Jesus in your heart. Join in the Journey with us as we tend the Lord's sheep together.

Blessings, *Pastor Brenda*



VISTA KIDS

Angie Rader
Director Children's Ministries

Welcome to 2017. I can't believe it is almost February.

Thanks for the Christmas wishes and gifts. I enjoyed them very much.

We are ready to start an exciting year. On February 4th, at 9:30am, our Church is hosting a Pack Shack *Feed the Funnel*. Everyone is invited and there is something to do for every age. The packed meals will go to local UMC food pantries.

On Sunday, the 5th, we will have a Children's Ministry Meeting downstairs at 11am.

On Wednesday, the 8th, WE will start Mid-week Manna. Dinner will be at 5:30 and classes start at 6:30. WE will have a class for children. If you are interested in helping, please let me know.

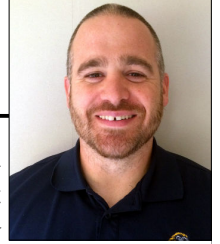
On Saturday, February 11th, we will have a cooking class for Children and Youth at 3 pm in Becker Hall. The Youth will then have a fundraiser dinner at 6 pm, feeding everyone with what they learned how to cook earlier in the day. Please plan on supporting our youth!

Thanks as always, for your love and support.

Miss Angie

YOUTH LIFE

Austin Curtis
Director, Youth Ministries



The youth at FUMC are off and running with the new year, and it looks to be an exciting and busy year for them! This year our focus will be on GROWTH. The youth will learn the 3 main areas of growth that is required;

1)Personal 2)Spiritual 3)Relational.

Within each of these areas we will focus on Servant Leadership, Discipleship, and Relationships. We have plans in the making of servant leadership within the church and the community, and will be updating in the coming months. Some of these plans consist of FUMC clean-up day, and a Bella Vista Volunteer Project. There will also be some date/movie nights in which the youth will serve dinner and cater to those attending. The youth group is also looking at doing some mission work in the upcoming months. Our verse for the year is Jeremiah 29:11-13 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord. "plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart." We look to the upcoming months and upcoming blessings.

Austin

When Mourning Dawns:

Living Your Way Fully through the Seasons of Your Grief

A 10-week journey through the experiences of grief, from the withering of Autumn to the hopeful new growth of Summer. Our group journey will begin Tuesday, March 14th and continue through May 16th. It will be held from 5:30-7:00pm in the Chapel. Come join us and bring a friend who would also benefit from this. A donation of \$10 for the materials is welcomed. Please sign up in the church office.





OUR FAMILY

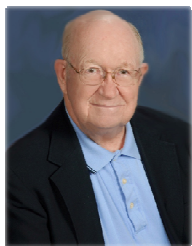
Each month this space is used to tell about the people who are part of our church family. If you know of a graduation, community recognition, someone moving away or moving in, whatever the rest of the church might like to know to keep up with folks, let me know so I can include the information in these pages. Send your information to Brenda Wideman, Congregational Care Minister at brenda@lovelearnlead.com, or call 855-1158.

BIRTHS

Holden Patrick Will—was born Wednesday, December 28th to Kimberly and Jacob Will. Holden is the 6th great-grandchild of Charles and Florence Hill.

DEATHS

Clyde Cheek - passed away on Thursday, January 5th at Circle of Life Hospice in Bentonville after a long battle with cancer. Clyde was 78 years old. His memorial service was held on Monday, January 9th at 2pm in our Sanctuary. Carol was surrounded by her wonderful family and many friends from Indiana as well. Please keep Carol and the family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of Clyde.



Howard Johnson — peacefully passed away on Friday, December 30th at Concordia Skilled Care Center with his wife Mary at his side. Howard was 83 years old and he and Mary had been married since May 1, 1985. His service was held Saturday, January 14th. Please keep Mary and the family in

your prayers as they mourn this loss.

Mary Ann Tompkins – passed away peacefully on Monday, January 16 at home. Her husband, George (Tommy), and her family were by her side; Mary Ann and George had been married 64 years. Mary Ann's life was celebrated with a Family Graveside Service on Saturday, January 22 at noon at Bella Vista Memorial Gardens Cemetery. The Tompkins attended the first service and are a part of the Wesley Shepherd Group. Please keep George and the family in your prayers as they grieve the loss of Mary Ann.

Patty Paulsen – mother of Lynn Broers, passed away on December 31st in Mason City, Iowa. Dave, Lynn, and their family gathered in Iowa for the memorial service which was held on Wednesday, January 4. Please keep the family in prayers during this difficult time of loss.

Leslie Fisher—brother of Rev. Albert Fisher, passed away on Wednesday, January 4th, in Pennsylvania. Leslie had not been well since he had had heart by-pass surgery in July. The memorial will be held at a later date. Please keep Albert and his family in your prayers as they grieve this loss. Leslie will be greatly missed.

Maxine Givens – oldest sister of Cheryl Campbell, died in her sleep on January 5th in Arkansas City, KS. She had just turned 90 on December 31st. Cheryl and Chet gathered with family the weekend of January 7th to celebrate the life of Maxine. Please keep them in your prayers.

Neoma Peterson – Sandy Fitch's 95 year old aunt, passed away in Cedar Falls, Iowa on Monday, January 9th. Although she was ready to "go home", please keep the family in your prayers at their loss of Neoma.

Helen Weaver – sister of Bob Schuster, passed away Wednesday, January 11 in Jacksonville, FL. She had recently been admitted to hospice. Please be in prayer for Bob & Dorothy and the Schuster family.

Shelley – cousin and dear friend of Cheryl Whiteside passed away in Kansas on Sunday, January 15. She had battled cancer for many years. The service was held in Kansas City on Wednesday, January 18th. Please keep Cheryl, Shelley's parents Sharon and Ronnie, and all of the family in your prayers during this difficult time.

Lauren Bilyeu – daughter-in-law of Jim and Judy Bilyeu, passed away on Friday, January 20 in New York City, where she has been undergoing cancer treatment. Lauren has been on our prayer list for quite some time. Her service was on Friday, January 27th, in her grandmother's church on Long Island. Please keep her husband Curt, Jim and Judy, and all of the family in your prayers in this difficult time.

Pat Alexander — Bro. Jaimie's aunt, passed away Wednesday, January 25th. She was admitted into a Hospice program earlier in the month, and had been on our prayer list for several months. Her service was Friday, January 27th in Heber Springs.. Please pray that the Lord may provide her family with comfort and strength in their loss.



OUR FAMILY

ABRAM SHEPHERD GROUP will meet the 2nd Monday of each month starting February 13th, at 5:30pm in the Chapel. This month Jan Lowe will be providing the meal, so, an RSVP would be appreciated, to ensure we have enough food. If anyone would like to bring a dessert, please let Darleen O'Brien know. We would like to see everyone to enjoy the fellowship and discuss any events in which we might like to participate.

SUNRISE SHEPHERD GROUP will meet on Saturday, February 4th at 9:30 a.m. to participate in the Pack Shack in Becker Hall. After the packing they will meet in the Chapel for a pot luck. Call Lynn if you have any questions.

METFIELD METHODIST SHEPHERD GROUP will also participate in Pack Shack, and after the Funnels are Fed, will go out to lunch together.

SOLOS will also participate in Pack Shack and after all the meals are packed and the clean-up is over, those who want to have lunch can join together at PaPa Mike's.

Sounds like a great party on February 4th!!!

"FRIENDS PLUS HEALTHY LIVING"

A friendly group gathering is starting on Wednesday, February 1 from 11:30 to 12:30 in Becker Hall. Our purpose is to have fun, encourage one another in ways to make us a better YOU in 2017. We will discuss and participate in exercise, healthy eating, positive thinking, etc. We would like those who would enjoy checking us out to come and, if possible, bring a healthy snack to share with each other, maybe a new recipe and ideas of what you would like to include in our discussions/participations. Hope to see you Feb. 1.



*Handmade
GREETING CARDS
are for sale
in the Church Library*

EOIM OPPORTUNITIES

One of our fabulous ministries is the **HEALTH AND WELLNESS MINISTRY**. A main function of this ministry is the monthly blood pressure checks. Janet Boblenz and Janice Lang have been faithfully taking the blood pressure of many of our members on the first Sunday of every month. If you are good at writing down names and numbers – they could use your help and you wouldn't even have to miss worship because it is all done before and after the early and mid service. They begin around 7:45 and are all finished up by the start of the 10:45 service. Having one extra person on hand to write down names and numbers would make the whole process smoother and assure that the correct information is being recorded. If you are interested in assisting these two wonderful ladies, please get in touch with Amy Gilmore (amy@lovelearnlead.com or 855-1158) or feel free to talk with one of them.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY...What is it?

The purpose of the Prayer Shawl Ministry is to combine prayer and knitting (or crocheting) to make prayer shawls to provide comfort and solace to those in need. They also have begun knitting prayer squares which are given out freely and are available to those who need a little bit extra comfort, and prayer cloths, which are bigger than the squares and given out by the pastors to those in need whom may already have a shawl. The group says prayers over everything they make and all of their projects are blessed by one of the pastors before given out. Anyone can contribute to this ministry, either by knitting (or crocheting) or by monetary donations. A very specific yarn is used for its softness and because it is machine washable. The cost of each shawl is approximately \$15. The knitters meet at 10:00 on Tuesday mornings for approximately one hour. These ladies stay busy. Over the last 2 ½ months, approximately 12 prayer shawls have been delivered and numerous cloths and squares have been shared, including during the "Bleak Mid-Winter" service.



OUR FAMILY



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 ♥♥ Dick & Genie Schupp
- 2 ♥♥ Hollis & Joan Evatt
- 17 ♥♥ Gary & Delores Grosnickle

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 ♥ Glen Hogue
- 2 ♥ Jane Potts
- 2 ♥ Bette Cummings
- 3 ♥ Lynn Dove
- 3 ♥ Bill Gagner
- 3 ♥ Keith Prueitt
- 4 ♥ David Patterson
- 4 ♥ Rose Taylor
- 5 ♥ Mabel Ashline
- 7 ♥ Chuck Hurl
- 8 ♥ Nita May
- 8 ♥ Dee Wresche
- 9 ♥ Leslie Magee
- 10 ♥ Lynn Johns
- 10 ♥ Tiffany May
- 10 ♥ Diane Rolph

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS (cont.)

- 11 ♥ Judy Kaufmann
- 11 ♥ Charlene Rayburn
- 13 ♥ Amy Gilmore
- 13 ♥ Jill Hale
- 14 ♥ Marilyn Frisby
- 15 ♥ Kelly Brooks
- 17 ♥ Bee Johnson
- 17 ♥ Gretchen Magee
- 17 ♥ Hunter Roath
- 18 ♥ Jan Shaw
- 19 ♥ Laney Baker
- 19 ♥ Jurl Hickey
- 20 ♥ Jerrie Gallamore
- 21 ♥ Matthew Sandusky
- 23 ♥ Phoebe Bader
- 24 ♥ Marcus Dale
- 24 ♥ Ted Ivy
- 25 ♥ J.R. Anderson
- 26 ♥ Peg (Margaret) Johnson
- 27 ♥ Rod Alford
- 27 ♥ Kathy Ayres
- 28 ♥ Sean Crider



MIDWEEK MANNA CLASSES PREVIEWED

Women's Bible Study ~ This small group is for women of all ages and backgrounds. As daughters, sisters, mothers, aunts and more, women experience the world and their faith in unique ways. Together, the women who gather for this small group will select a women's study that speaks to their Christian faith as women and disciples of Jesus Christ.

Living Single with Confidence ~ Living confidently as a single person can be challenging at times. Who do you trust for repairs or to assist you with financial or technology questions? Where are the recipes for a single person or transportation when the car is in the shop? Join us for answers to some of these and other questions, as together, we embrace living single with confidence.

The Bible – The Mini-Series ~ Are you interested in learning more about the Bible but don't have the time or energy to commit to an extended Bible study? Have you been reluctant to attend a Bible study because of your limited knowledge? If you answered yes to either of these questions, consider joining us for and encore of *The Bible – The Miniseries*. Each week an episode is viewed containing several stories of the Bible as depicted in this TV mini-series. Participants then discuss the stories and life lessons.

In Our United Methodist Footsteps ~ Whether your roots are in another denomination or you have a long history in the United Methodist church, this small group will provide you with an opportunity to learn about the life and faith of John Wesley, the founder of Methodism, and how it influences our living out the gospel of Jesus Christ today. Wesley believed that being a disciple of Jesus is a "both/and" faith of the head and the heart. You will gain a better understanding of our United Methodist beliefs and how you can live those beliefs in your daily life.

Bella Vista – My Hometown! ~ Presenters from the Bella Vista Historical Museum and other organizations will speak with this group about the intriguing history, animals and features of our beautiful Bella Vista community.

Coloring Your Way to Calm ~ Join this enthusiastic group of adults as they share their stories, creativity and faith while coloring their way to calm.

Knitting for the Soul ~ From the beginner to the experienced knitter, this small group welcomes all men and women who want to learn more about the art of knitting and share their talents with others.

UMW Crafts ~ Join with others to work on one or more Bazaar crafts that will be led by a UMW Workshop Leader. Materials will be provided.

UNITED METHODIST



UMM PLANS for the FUTURE

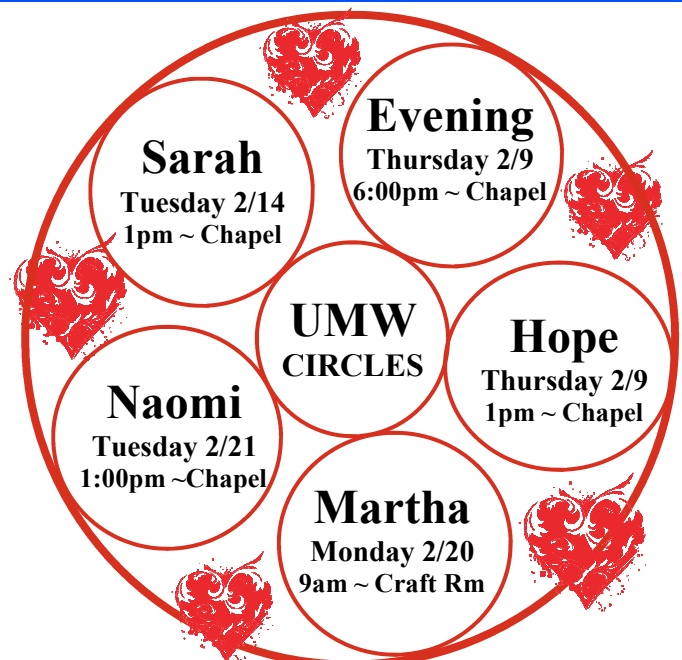
The first 2017 meeting of UMM was held January 11 with nineteen members in attendance. Dinner was served by Rhythm & Q Bar B Que and everyone there was very well pleased with the menu. Really good food!

Jerry Melot, our speaker for the evening, shared some of his experiences as a Chaplain for Hospice. He talked about the difference between spirituality and religion and how asking for God's forgiveness in one's last hours is an eye-opening experience. He really gave us a lot to think about.

ALL MEN of the church are considered to be members of UMM and are cordially invited to this month's meeting where the program will be Mike Frost sharing about Navigating the Seasons of Life, Financial Peace, end of life preparation, and rules and trusts. It will touch on many things that all of us really need to think about in our lives. Dinner is catered by Rhythm & Q and will be Chicken Parmesan, Baked Penne, Saute'd Vegetables, Salad, Garlic Bread and Desert.

We will have a calling committee instead of the Phone tree, and when they call you, just say "yes" and we will see you at the meeting, Wednesday, February 8th at 6:30 in Becker Hall.

Lou Kaufmann, President, UMM





MISSIONS



SHOEBOX MINISTRY

We have been busy with deliveries to various shelters in the area. The cold weather has caused a large

increase in those using the shelters and our supplies have grown very low.

We NEED your Help. We will be packing men's boxes in the near future. Possibly women's, and boy's and girl's boxes will be needed also. The demand has exceeded the boxes being packed for us by other churches.

NEEDS:

We currently need travel size lotion, shampoo, socks, toothpaste, and quart size zip-lock bags, and reading material, such as Reader's Digest, Daily Bread, or Upper Room that will fit in a shoebox. Seven Hills has also requested denture cream.

We no longer use prescription bottles. If you recycle please take them to the AARP recycle center.

We thank you for all that you do for this ministry. There are so many who benefit from your generosity.

As always in His service,

The Shoebox Ministry Team

PAK A SAK

Restoration Village will be the recipient of our collection of food on Sunday, February 19. This is a home for women and their children in crisis. Restoration Village provides a Christian environment to help them get their lives back to a safer and better place. The home RECEIVES NO FEDERAL FUNDS and depends on the generosity of supporters in Benton County. They are in need of all types of food especially cereal, canned fruits, coffee, peanut butter, juices, and soup. Make sure all items are within "USE BY DATE".

Just remember, you can drop off your donations any time at the church - please leave them on the Missions table in the narthex.



**Habitat
for Humanity®**

MISSION of the MONTH

Habitat for Humanity of Benton County, Inc. is a non-denominational Christian housing ministry with the objective of eliminating poverty housing from within Benton County and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience as well as action. In addition to building houses, Habitat for Humanity helps to build relationships with families and the community that result in a sense of belonging to the community for the new homeowner.

In 2013 Habitat saw its biggest change in recent years through its transition into a 14,000 sq. ft. facility that houses both the Habitat offices and ReStore! This new facility has been instrumental in helping Habitat to build more homes in the years to come and impact more lives in Benton County.

By the end of 2015, Benton County Habitat has built 68 homes in Benton County and refurbished several others.

Our FUMCBV family has a dedicated group of volunteers who are involved in nearly every Benton County Habitat project. Their specialty is building a shed for each family. All skill levels are needed for a Habitat build. If you can run a paint brush, a hammer or saw or shovel, cook a meal – you can be involved with a build. If you have a few hours available, you can volunteer at the Habitat ReStore or in the office, located at 1212 N. Walton Blvd (across from the "new" Harps).

Your support of this Mission of the Month will allow a family to move from dependence to independence.



BOOK FOCUS

UMW

BOOKS IN SERIES:

AMISH INN MYSTERIES:

BOOK 5: *TO LOVE AND TO VANISH*
by Tara Randel

TEAROOM MYSTERIES:

BOOK 5: *BURNING SECRETS*
by Rebecca Adams

SUGARCREEK AMISH MYSTERIES:

BOOK 11: *WHEN THERE'S A WILL*
by Elizabeth Adams

FICTION:

***PRINCE OF FIRE* by Daniel Silva**
Gabriel faces his most determined enemy and his greatest challenge.

BIOGRAPHY:

***QUEEN VICTORIA'S MYSTERIOUS DAUGHTER* by Lucinda Hawksley**
A biography of Princess Louise.

From the Organ Console

Broc Hite, Organist-Assoc Dir. Of Music



Since Lent does not start until March 1st, there's a full month to explore some wonderful music not necessarily tied to a Christian season. I will continue my cycle of playing through all 46 short pieces in J.S. Bach's *Orgelbüchlein*, as well as continue playing from the wonderful compilation of Pachelbel works I started in January. I will also play at least a couple of the *Songs Without Words* by Felix Mendelssohn on the piano, something I mentioned last fall but didn't carry through at the time.

I close with a pun from the master himself, Larry Zehring: "I don't know Buxtehude, but I do know Bach's Toccata."

Broc

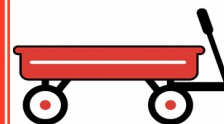
UMW BAZAAR

CRAFT WORKSHOPS - Just a note to remind all crafters, willing-to-be crafters, and wanna-be crafters that the UMW Bazaar Workshops will begin meeting on March 9th from 9:00a.m. to 2:00p.m., and will continue meeting every Thursday until the October 7th Bazaar. Bring a sack lunch along if you can stay past the noon hour. We will need gluers, stuffers, hand and machine sew-ers, ironers, cutters, crocheters and knitters, embroiderers, and more. This will be a great time for meeting new friends and sharing your talents, no matter how big or little. Please contact Jan Lowe (531-0381) or Darleen O'Brien (281-781-3838) to share your ideas for new projects for the Bazaar.

WORKSHOP LEADER MEETING - If you are planning to or are willing to lead or co-lead a Bazaar workshop in 2017, please plan to attend a meeting on Thursday, February 2nd, at 9 am in the Craft Room. We will begin scheduling leaders and crafts for the designated months leading up to the Bazaar.

Jan Lowe is new to her position as Bazaar Chair for this year. She is anxious to hear your ideas for new crafts, new people, and "outside the box" ways of bringing the best to this year's Bazaar.

Naomi Circle will feature Pastor Judy's presentation of her trip to the Holy Land at their Tuesday, February 21st meeting at 1:00pm in the Chapel. If you missed her at the UMM meeting last year, this is another chance. Everyone is welcome!



HOPE CIRCLE

presents

"HAVE BOOKS WILL TRAVEL"

Our program on Thursday, February 9th will be **BELLA VISTA LIBRARY** on their new **Homebound Traveling Library Program**. This program provides books for people confined to their homes or convalescent centers. **ALL WHO ARE INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM** are invited to attend our meeting at 1:00 P.M. in the chapel.



Looking back at 2016... The many seasons of FUMCBV





FINANCE

Dear Church Family,

The Finance Committee is composed of members of our Church Family. For 2017 our Church Family, like many families are facing a budget shortfall, so we need to talk about finances. In most families there are 1 or 2 bread winners. Our Church Family has one main bread winner, which is the pledges the members make each year. Thankfully, each year we get some additional funds not pledged. As can be seen below, both the number of pledges and total giving has gone down.

For 2015 we had 210 pledges for	\$525,000	Actual Received	\$518,000
Projected Funds not pledged	\$127,000	Actual Received	\$162,000
Total	\$652,000		\$680,000

For 2016 we had 208 pledges for	\$514,000	Actual Received	\$466,000
Projected Funds not pledged	\$138,000	Actual Received	\$175,000
Total	\$652,000		\$641,000

For 2017 we have 191 pledges for	\$467,000		
Projected Funds not pledged	\$135,000		
Total	\$602,000		

The expenses to run the Church are also like your expenses; they go up every year. The Church has been very frugal in the use of your donations and setting the projected expenses. Last year the expenses were projected to be \$649,000 but only \$627,000 was spent. The expenses for 2017 is projected to be reduced again to \$640,000. Notice that the pledges have dropped by \$47,000 from last year, which causes a projected shortfall of \$38,000.

The Finance Committee approved this budget based on the faith that our Family will respond and help cover this deficit. We need to pray to discover a way for our Family to increase our pledges by any amount, so we can continue to be the Church Family GOD wants us to be and not just be members of an ordinary Church.

Newsletter December 2016 Financial Data

		2016	2016	Compare	2016
		Actual	Budget	2015	Year-end
				Actual	Budget
Month to date (as of 12/31/16)	Actual Receipts	\$57,048	\$54,326	\$56,483	
Month to date (as of 12/31/16)	Actual Expense	\$54,813	\$54,326	\$54,814	
	Balance	\$2,235		\$1,669	
Year to Date	Actual Receipts	\$630,350	\$651,915	\$669,219	\$651,915
Year to Date	Actual Expense	\$626,535	\$651,915	\$646,811	\$651,915
	Balance	\$3,815		\$22,408	

Operating Account Balance 12/31/16 **\$10,548**

The RED box shows where we should be according to budget by the end of DECEMBER 2016.

We are short of our income goal by \$21,565 while our expenses have remained low at \$25,380 below goal.

Patsy Attaway, Treasurer



THANK YOU

My family and I are at a loss of the right words to express our heartfelt thanks to the church family for all the wonderful things they did for us in the past difficult days. Our sadness was cushioned by your thoughtfulness.

Carol Cheek and sons, Dan, Ken & Jim and extended families

Thank you!

Thanks to everyone for the prayers for healing during my recent surgery and recovery. Thanks for the cards and well wishes. Thanks to Nona Storck and the Midweek Manna team for the delicious meals. Thanks to Marion Kornes and Katrina Sparlin for being my drivers. And thanks Sandy Schmidt for getting me out when cabin fever was about to take me over the edge. I appreciate all of your concern and love.

Sandy Fitch

Words cannot express how I feel about the members of the congregations of FUMCBV. As I start into my seventh year as your church secretary, I am so blessed to know each and every one of you. I watch how you care for one another in the good times and the bad, and how you step up to the plate when asked to fill in anywhere there is a need. I have never been turned down when I have called and asked for volunteers or assistance in any way. I also thank you so very much for your generous love offering this year. It is much needed and will be put to good use!

You truly are my second family and I love you all.

Blessings to you, **Janet Walton**

Dear Church Family,

What a blessing you all are to us! I thank you so very much for the very generous Christmas Gift Love Offering. It warmed my heart and it will warm my body, for I am going to go shopping and buy some new outfits, anything my heart desires, what fun it will be!

Thank you again, and many blessings on each of you, **Pastor Brenda**

Brother Jaimie, and the entire congregation:

I thank each and every one of you for the most generous love offering that I received as a member of the staff of First United Methodist Church, Bella Vista. Although my first inclination was to ask that the money allocated for my job be redistributed to all of the other staff members (my needs are well provided for by my retirement), I read the daily devotional of The Upper Room the morning I received my check. I concluded that my acceptance of your gift was accepting of your love. It was more than two years ago when I began to experience the love of this church. It is boundless. It is powerful. It is God-centered. As I have come to know you, the blessings of the Lord are many and evident in all that is done here. Thank you for your generosity and your love. **Alan Yount**

Last Christmas Glen had a swollen foot and was unable to drive. Carmen Phillips volunteered to drive us to church each Sunday for a number of weeks (and we live almost 30 miles away) Then Allison and Roger Totten brought two bright wool afghans and a packet of well-wishing Christmas cards which many church members has written to us.

This was a big reminder to us of the many friends we have at FUMCBV. Thank you!


We appreciate your prayers and good wishes for us. **Glen & Martha Hogue**

Dear Family and Friends of FUMCBV,

I miss my friends in beautiful Bella Vista, but it was time for a change. I am settling in slowly in my home—still have pictures to hang and boxes to go through, but there is no rush. I miss Crystal Bridges, but have the Denver Art Museum. Miss my church, but there is a lovely one close by. Miss my friends, but will make new ones and I have my Wendy, Rob & David here. I have many things to be thankful for this year. Please keep in touch.

Love, **Kitty Polich**

FEBRUARY 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 Quilters Disciple I 9:30 UMW Board 11:30 Healthy Living 1:00 Disciple III 3:30 Chancel Bells 4:45 Prayer Meeting 5:30 Dinner (BH) 6:00 Small Grp Ldrs 6:30 YouthLife	2 9:00 Old Sew and Sews 9:00 Bazaar Planning 11:06 Golf-Kingsdale 2:00 Small Grp Ldrs 4:00 Chancel Choir 6:00 Organ Practice	3 9:00 Jesus in Gospel	4 8:30 Young at Heart 9:00 Amp Big Book AA 9:30 PACK SHACK 11:00 Sunrise SG
5 BP ✓ between services 7:30 Praise Tm rehrl 8:00 Traditional Service 9:30 "The Well" Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Traditional Service 11:00 Children's Ministry	6 9:00 Calico Spec Proj 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:45 Women's Chorus 6:30 By the Book AA 6:30 Men's Chorus 7:00 Big Band Rehrrsal	7 8:30 Men's Emmaus 9:00 Workshop Prep 10:00 Caregivers Supprt 10:00 Prayer Shawl 10:30 Golf- Brittany 3:30 Cong. Care Min.	8 Quilters Disciple I 9:00 Calico Spec Proj 9:30 Missions Meeting 11:30 Healthy Living 1:00 Disciple III 3:30 Chancel Bells 4:45 Prayer Meeting 5:30 Midweek Mana 6:30 UMM Dinner 6:30 YouthLife	9 9:00 Bazaar Wkshp 11:06 Golf- Dogwood 1:00 Hope Circle 4:00 Chancel Choir 6:00 Organ Practice 6:30 Evening Circle	10 9:00 Jesus in Gospel 11:30 Pre-School Brd	11 9:00 Amp Big Book 3:00 C/Y Cooking Clss 6:00 Yth Fndrsr Dinnr
12 7:30 Praise Tm rehrl 8:00 Traditional Service 9:30 "The Well" Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Traditional Service	13 9:00 DAR 10:00 Calico C-Ups Brd 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:45 Women's Chorus 4:00 Guest Follow Up 5:30 Abram Shep Grp 6:00 Finance Committee 6:30 By the Book AA 6:30 Men's Chorus	14 8:30 Men's Emmaus 9:00 Workshop Prep 9:00 PEO-BR 10:00 Prayer Shawl 10:30 Golf - Brittany 1:00 Sarah Circle 3:30 Cong. Care Min.	15 Quilters Disciple I 10:00 Calico Anytime 11:30 Healthy Living 1:00 Disciple III 3:30 Chancel Bells 4:45 Prayer Mtng 5:30 Midweek Mana 6:30 YouthLife	16 9:00 Bazaar Wkshp 11:06 Golf-Berksdale 2:30 Beautiful Colors 4:00 Chancel Choir 6:00 Organ Practice	17 9:00 Jesus in Gospel	18 9:00 Amp Big Book
19 PAK A SAK 7:05 Hndbls Practice 7:30 Praise Tm rehrl 8:00 Traditional Service 9:30 "The Well" Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Traditional Service	20 9:00 Marth Circle 10:00 Staff Meeting 11:00 PEO-CD 12:45 Women's Chorus 6:30 By the Book AA 6:30 Men's Chorus	21 8:30 Men's Emmaus 9:00 Workshop Prep 9:00 Caregivers Supprt 10:00 Prayer Shawl 10:24 Golf - Scotsdale 1:00 Naomi Circle 1:00 BV Book Club 3:30 Cong. Care Min.	22 8:00 Quilters 9:00 Calico Dog Beds 9:00 Disciple I 11:30 Healthy Living 1:00 Disciple III 3:30 Chancel Bells 4:45 Prayer Mtng 5:30 Midweek Mana 6:30 Youth Life	23 9:00 Bazaar Wkshp 11:06 Golf - Scotsdale 4:00 Chancel Choir 5:30 Travel Club 6:00 Organ Practice	24 9:00 Jesus in Gospel	25 9:00 Amp Big Book 9:00 Junior Festival
26 7:30 Praise Tm rehrl 8:00 Traditional Service 9:30 "The Well" Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Traditional Service	27 9:00 Calico Cut-ups 10:00 Staff Meeting 12:45 Women's Chorus 6:30 By the Book AA 6:30 Men's Chorus	28 8:30 Men's Emmaus 9:00 Workshop Prep 10:00 Prayer Shawl 10:41 Golf-Highlands 3:00 BV Library Brd 3:30 Cong. Care Min.				

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Senior Pastor ~ Rev. Jaimie J. Alexander
Associate Pastor ~ Rev. Judy Rudd-Platt
Associate Pastor ~ Rev. Brenda Wideman
Church Secretary ~ Janet Walton
Church Treasurer ~ Patsy Attaway
Financial Secretary ~ Marge Smith
Deaconess ~ Kandi Mount

Dir. of Community Life & Connections ~ Amy Gilmore
Director of Music Ministries ~ Dr. Lawrence Zehring
Director of Media Ministries ~ Troy Jorgensen
Coordinator of Sound/Visual Arts ~ Alan Yount
Director of Youth Ministries ~ Austin Curtis
Director of Children's Ministries ~ Angie Rader
Organist / Pianist ~ Broc Hite
Handbell Director ~ Dawn Thompson
Praise Team Director ~ Shannon Wicker
Worship Leader ~ Garrett Greer

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