



# The Good News

March 2020

*Worship Services and Activities through the Season of Lent*

**Each Wednesday at 12:00 Noon during Lent there will be a mid-day worship service, followed by a light lunch prepared and hosted by UMW and the various UMW Circles.**

**Lenten Sermon Series: "Conversations with Jesus!"**

2/26	Ash Wednesday Worship Services ~ 12:00 Noon & 6:30pm
3/1	Conversations with Jesus ~ Not Today, Satan
3/4	Worship Service ~ 12:00 Noon Luncheon served by Hope Circle
3/8	Conversations with Jesus ~ Hush—Hush
3/11	Worship Service ~ 12:00 Noon Luncheon served by Sarah Circle
3/15	Conversations with Jesus ~ Well, Actually. . .
3/18	Worship Service ~ 12:00 Noon Luncheon served by Evening/Naomi Circles
3/22	Conversations with Jesus ~ So Many Questions
3/25	Worship Service ~ 12:00 Noon UMW quarterly luncheon—all are invited
3/29	Conversations with Jesus ~ Too Little, Too Late?
4/1	Worship Service ~ 12:00 Noon Luncheon served by Martha Circle
4/5	Easter Egg Hunt ~ 10:15am
4/5	Palm Sunday ~ Conversations with Jesus ~ The Truth Hurts
4/9	Maundy Thursday Worship Services ~ 12:00 Noon & 6:30pm Lord's Last Supper will be celebrated
4/10	Good Friday Worship Service ~ 12:00 & 6:30pm
4/12	Easter Sunrise Service ~ 6:45am ~ Becker Hall Upper Deck
4/12	Easter Sunday ~ Conversations with Jesus ~ Spread the Word 8:00am ~ 9:30am ~ 10:45am Worship Services

MIDWEEK MANNA Wednesday evenings begin with a full supper at 5:30pm for everyone. Classes and activities for all ages begin at 6:30pm and end about 7:30/7:45. There will be NO MEAL, NO CLASSES, and NO EVENING ACTIVITIES on Wednesday, February 26th. Please join your church family in the Sanctuary that evening at 6:30pm for Ash Wednesday services.



## *Glimpses of Grace*

Rev. Jeanne Williams, Senior Pastor

Last month, we held our first *Town Hall* where the topic was the future of the UMC. About 50 people attended. Our Bishop recently released the following letter, and I share it with you in light of the anxiety we are experiencing with our uncertain future. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. Blessings! *Rev. Jeanne*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ of the United Methodist persuasion in Arkansas,

I have been with you, and tasked with leading you, for nearly eight years now. A great deal has taken place in our shared life together. God has been glorified through your work as individual disciples, congregations and the Arkansas Annual Conference. Healing has occurred, children have been fed, people have come to experience Jesus' love and lives have been transformed. And every step along the way, we have been blessed as we have caught glimpses of the Reign of God right here in our midst.

We are now at a critical juncture in our United Methodist Church because there is a proposal on the table that purports to solve our deep and abiding theological differences through separation. This brings much relief to many, both traditional and progressive. It also brings questions and uncertainty to others, both progressive and traditional. And, in the meantime, anxiety grows, tempers flare and polarization increases.

It is in the midst of this reality that I want to speak a word of truth in love.

You need to know that my heart breaks and, then, continues to break more. Not because of what may happen in the denomination, but because of what already has transpired and is even now continuing. Ugly words have been spoken. Hatred has been spewed. Relationships have been shattered. Put it all together and the conclusion is unavoidable: those of us who are the Body of Christ (Jesus' designation, not mine) have conducted ourselves in ways that should embarrass us at best, and shame us at worst.

Laity are unhappy with clergy. Clergy are unhappy with their leaders, especially the bishop. People feel disconnected from the Annual Conference. Almost everyone is demonizing someone. There is little joy, hope or experience of the Holy Spirit. There are few positive words, hardly any glory sightings about what God is doing and virtually zilch trust of others. We blame others, will do almost anything to avoid taking responsibility for changing our behavior, and act as if we are all victims of a broken system we rely on but despise. Almost daily I hear, "Clergy morale is low. Congregations feel disconnected. Trust is gone."

So here is my truth which I speak in love. Other people cannot change things. Not the bishop, your pastor, or even that person with whom you radically disagree about matters of human sexuality. Things will only change when you acknowledge that you are trapped in a spiritual crisis and then you choose to address it spiritually.

But we are not inevitably stuck in a "Groundhog Day" of despair. Things can change because God is doing a new thing, Jesus' resurrection is real and the Holy Spirit is at work in our midst.

"Things will only change when you acknowledge that you are trapped in a spiritual crisis and then you choose to address it spiritually."

- *Start with Jesus* ~ He is our Lord and Savior. He is the one who calls us to live the Jesus' way. He is the one who commands us (and even that is not a strong enough word) to love God with everything we've got and our neighbor as ourselves. Fall passionately in love with him again and more deeply than you ever have before.
- *Take a good hard honest look at yourself* ~ How many negative words do you speak about your brothers and sisters in Christ? How do you add to the toxicity of your church or annual conference environment? How are you harming others through your thoughts, words and deeds? Honestly confess – to God and others – what you have done.
- *Act differently* ~ Look at others like you actually believe that Jesus died for them. Stop starting by always judging others before you do anything else. Practice, practice, practice giving others the benefit of the doubt. Say something positive. Repent by behaving in new ways.
- *Do what Jesus says* ~ Share his grace. Love, really love, others; especially those you struggle most to love. Start practicing the Beatitudes. Live humbly. Act generously with others. Lift people up.

*(continued on page 3)*



## JOINING in the JOURNEY TOGETHER

Rev. Brenda Wideman, Associate Pastor

### The Deep Waters of Grief

*But now thus says the LORD, the one who created you, O Jacob, the one who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. (Isaiah 43:1-3 NRSV)*

How often do we feel overwhelmed; how often do we feel as if we are drowning in the deep waters of life? We all have struggles, Goliaths that we face. One of those giants is called Grief. Grief can be an emotional roller coaster, a deep abyss where escape seems impossible, a whirlpool of raging water that will not let us go. Scriptures like the Isaiah 43 verses tell us that God is with us. But often we need a paddle to get us through the torrent; we need to talk through our feelings with another person; we need a listening ear; we need to hear a human voice; we need to feel a human hug; we need “God with skin on.”

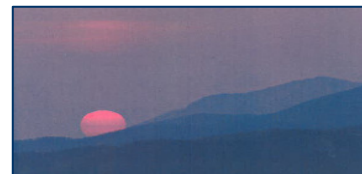
Beginning Tuesday, March 10, the grief support study, “When Mourning Dawns: Living your Way through the Seasons of Your Grief” will meet from 5:30-7pm. We meet for 9 weeks, in the comfort of our Chapel, with snacks and beverages, in a safe environment surrounded by and supported by caring folks who are also going through grief. We will explore the characteristics of grief, what grief is, how our culture views it, how it affects us, and how to journey through it. In listening and sharing, we join together in this journey, we discover that we are not alone in the flood. We discover that God **is** there as we pass through the waters; we find the current becomes easier to navigate; and we feel the healing hand of the God who created us begin to work in your lives.

If you are grieving a loss, whether it be a recent one or one from a long time ago, I invite you to prayerfully consider joining in the journey with us in this. In our shared story, we will grow closer to each other and to God, and we will all find healing, each in our own unique way, because of the experience. I pray you will join us!

Blessings, **Pastor Brenda**

### *When Mourning Dawns – Living your Way through the Seasons of Your Grief*

**Tuesdays, beginning March 10th, 5:30-7:00pm ~ In the Chapel  
Refreshments Provided**



*(continued from page 2)*

In case you haven't figured it out by now, I'll be as clear as I can: I'm weary. I'm worn out by our caving in to a culture of blame, demonization and polarization. I'm tired of our addiction to distrust. I'm exhausted by our desire to win rather than love. And I'm heartbroken by the way we have become a caricature of something Christian because of our lack of faith.

Yet I want you to know something that will never change. I love you. I respect you. I have hopes and dreams God has filled my heart about you. And I believe with every bit of grace given me by our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, that God's unconditional, saving and transforming love in him actually can transform us one disciple at a time.

It's time. It's time for me. It's time for our church. And I hope you sense the prompting of the Holy Spirit telling you that it's time for you as well. Let's be who Jesus has created us to be!

Bishop Gary E. Mueller

Resident Bishop of the Arkansas Annual Conference



## 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. Please send your information to Brenda Wideman, Associate Pastor of Congregational Care at [brenda@fumcbellavista.com](mailto:brenda@fumcbellavista.com) or call 855-1158.

### IN MEMORIUM

**Carolyn Butler** – passed away at Mercy Hospital on Tuesday, February 4, after a brief stay there. Carolyn has been a member of FUMC since 2007, but recently unable to attend worship with us because of failing health. Her service was held on Saturday, February 8, at 11:00 AM., in our sanctuary. Please keep her family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of Carolyn.



**Rochester “Bonesy” Scott** - brother of Jonathan Scott, passed away Sunday, January 19th, in Georgia. Please be in prayer for the Scott family as they celebrate Bonesy going home to be with his Lord.

**Jessie Allen**—grandfather of Ashdon Wilson, our Nextgen Children’s Director, passed away on Sunday, February 16th, in Batesville, AR. The service was held on Friday, February 21st at Calvary Baptist Church in Batesville. Please keep Jessie’s wife, Sallie Jo, Ashdon, and all of Jessie’s family in your prayers in this loss.

**Marjorie Wallace**—sister of Nita Wallace, passed away on Tuesday, February 18th, in Augusta, Kansas. Please keep Nita and her family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of Marjorie.

**Russell I Crabtree**—husband of Peggy Crabtree, a member of our Caregiver’s Support Group passed away Sunday, February 9. His memorial service will be Saturday, March 7, in our sanctuary. Pastor Brenda will officiate. Please keep ‘Russ’s’ family in your prayers in this loss.

**Jax Bottje** – 6-month old grandson of Walter and Sari Bottje, passed away February 7, after serious heart surgery in Arkansas Children’s Hospital in Little Rock. The Bottjes are friends of Pastor Brenda’s and Jax has been on our prayer list. Please keep Jax’s parents, Tyler and Kelsey, grandparents, and his entire family in your prayers as they mourn the passing of this precious little one.

**Paul Anthony Smith (Tony)** - 63-year-old son of long-time former member Janice Smith and brother to member Tim Smith, passed away February 21 in Lake Charles, LA. His celebration of life service will be held Monday, March 2 in Lake Charles. Cards may be sent to the family in care of Janice Smith, 1901 E. Rosedown Dr., Lake Charles, LA 70605

### GROUP ACTIVITIES

**FRIENDS of CHRIST** is a study group, loving and kind and welcoming to all. We meet the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, 1:30pm-3:00 pm in the Parlor. We were created as a group of believers called to develop a broader knowledge of the love that God offers to each of his children, and to develop a richer more personal relationship with Christ Jesus. Please know you are welcome to join us.

Peace and blessings, FOC

**SOLOS** will leave the church at 10:30 on Thursday, March 5th to journey to the Wooden Spoon in Gentry for lunch, and then stop at Day Spring Outlet in Siloam Springs and Little Debbie Bakery Outlet in Gentry on the way home.

### RELAX AND UNWIND YOGA

**Wednesdays at 10:30am in the Parlor** - Kenneth Wilson will lead a weekly relax & unwind yoga class to deepen your connection with your body and the Holy Spirit within you and others! The stretches can easily be modified, making it open to all ability levels!



### *Children's Chatter*

Ashdon Wilson, NextGen Chil-

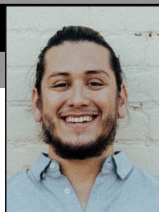
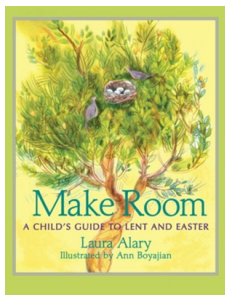
Many of you don't know this, but I grew up in the Baptist church. We didn't stick to the traditional church calendar, so I never observed Lent until early adulthood. I knew of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and of course I knew what Easter meant, but it wasn't until the third year of college that I participated in my very first Ash Wednesday service. I got ashes smeared on my face, I heard the "from ashes to ashes" sermon, and I decided to give up social media for 40 days of reflection and prayer.

Now, being a millennial, this was difficult for me in the first few days - as a teen, I remember when Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram were first created. I had accounts for all three and spent way too many hours of my day on my phone. After a few days, though, I started spending more time with my family, with my pets, and even with friends. I even started to crochet! I found that there were so many things around me that God had created that I had taken advantage of - the birds tweeting, the wind in the trees, ants carrying crumbs...

Since then, I have given up social media every year. I even look forward to it now!

I have a lot of exciting plans for our children during this Lenten season. I found a wonderful book called *Make Room: A Child's Guide to Lent and Easter* that explores the stories in the bible about wandering in the wilderness. It discusses the changing of the seasons, creating space for yourself and God, and themes of hospitality that echo Jesus' ministry of love. We will be studying the themes of the wilderness by crafting our own cacti, encouraging daily prayer with pretzels, and exploring sanctification by dyeing Easter eggs. I hope you will pray for me and our kiddos as we go through this Lenten journey together.

Peace & blessings, Ashdon



### *Young Whippersnappers*

Kenneth Wilson, NextGen Youth

Hey Church,

VERITAS is Here! From February 28 - March 1 we will be with over 1,400 youth and youth leaders as we come together for Veritas 2020 at the J Q Hammonds Center in Rogers to celebrate what it means to live a connected Christian life. Nationally-known speakers and musicians will headline this amazing experience, where young people will learn to encounter the Lord in new and deeper ways. Because of your generous donations, we are able to send eight youth and three adult chaperones. Look for a report on their experiences in the next newsletter. THANK YOU!! Peace and blessings, Kenneth



### **MEDIA MUSINGS**

Kacy Spears,  
Director of Communications

#### The Future of AV...

When I began working at the church a year and a half ago, I remember being amazed by the amount of willing volunteers! Through circumstance – negativity in the world and sometimes in our hearts, work commitments, travel, etc. – there are a few holes in our normal volunteer areas. It's completely understandable!

Fast-forward some months, and through prayer and willing hearts, I've seen a rise in AV volunteers over the last few weeks!

I'd like to thank and commend Izzie Mendoza, Zach Mendoza, Hope Markley, Natalie Williams, and Jenna Gilmore for stepping up to the plate this year to learn a new skill and help spread our mission to make disciples to the world!

A big thank you to AV volunteers that continue to serve and mentor the young ones that get excited about AV – Jon Mendoza, Sandy Fitch, Kenneth Wilson, Alec Gilmore, Janet Walton, and Jeremy Shafman! If you'd like to serve on the AV Team, we'd love to have you!

#### **\*\*\* Photographers Needed\*\*\***

Do you have a camera and love to take photos just for fun? We're looking for a few individuals to help photograph church events, worship services, baptisms, and all that we do here at the church!

If you're wanting to use your photography skills for the church, please contact me at [kacy@fumcbellavista.com](mailto:kacy@fumcbellavista.com).



### LAY LEADER'S MESSAGE

Lou Kaufmann

I had thought of a title for this month's article, *Rumors, Bloomers*, but then I couldn't think of a thing to write about. And so, for this month I am borrowing a devotional from *A Daybook of Grace*.

"In New York City during the Depression years, a little boy of ten was standing before a shoe store, barefoot, peering through the window, and shivering with cold. A lady approached the boy and said, "My little fellow, why are you looking so earnestly in that window?"

'I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes,' was his answer.

The lady took the boy by the hand and went into the store. After washing and drying his feet, she tucked them into a pair of socks and bought him a pair of shoes. As she turned to go, the incredulous boy caught her by the hand, and looking up at her with tears in his eyes, he asked: 'Are you God's Wife?'

No question, life is hard. But sometimes we lose sight of the truth that God is good, that it is in His nature to give. We can experience His goodness by thanking Him for it, and by reflecting His giving nature to others."

I really liked this story, and it is the way I feel. How about you?

"GOD, YOU HAVE MADE MY LIFE SO GOOD. HELP ME TO BRING SOME OF YOUR GOODNESS INTO THE LIVES OF OTHERS. AMEN."


Lou



UMM invites all men of the church to their monthly dinner meeting Wednesday, March 11th at 6:30pm in Becker Hall. Our Scheduled guest is Ray Brust, President of The Veterans Council of NWA, more commonly known as the "Wall of Honor" Ray will be discussing the expansion plans for the entire wall area starting in the spring. Dinner will be catered by Papa Mike's. Your reservation needs to be made no later than Noon, Monday March 9th by calling the church office (855-1158). Hope to see you there!

### UMW NEWS

#### 2020 Bazaar!



The 2020 Bazaar will be held on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. That will be here before we know it! **Workshops will start Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>** and continue every Thursday until the bazaar. What do we need? We need you! We especially need crafters and seamstresses with new, interesting ideas to bring to the workshops or to work on at home. With some projects like the scrubbies, we can use as many as can be crocheted. With many projects, bringing the idea to a workshop before getting started may be a good plan to ensure others are not making the same thing. Our workshops are going to be less structured this year, but we hope you will come to help or just to enjoy the fellowship. Bring a sack lunch or a snack and see what we can accomplish to have another successful bazaar to meet needs in NW AR!

#### 1st Quarter-Spring Luncheon

The spring luncheon of the UMW will be held Wed. March 25th. We encourage EVERYONE to attend the Lenten service at 12 o'clock in the sanctuary. Our luncheon with vegetable soup, chicken salad sandwich, dessert, and drink will be in Becker Hall following the Lenten service. Everyone is invited! Cost will be "free-will offering." Following the luncheon there will be a short business meeting for UMW members.

### Book Nook



There are many new books and audio books for your reading pleasure in our extensive Library. Check it out!!



## MARCH ANNIVERSARIES





















- 13  Don & Lois McMahon
- 14  LeRoy & JoAnn Handel
- 17  Roger & Allison Totten
- 17  Heath & Jeanne Williams
- 28  Hal Shope & Marianne Zotti
- 29  Carmen & Dorothy Phillips
- 30  Brian & Cathy Wilmoth

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2  Linda Davis
- 2  James Gilmore
- 2  Kathryn Kelley
- 2  Curt Olson
- 3  Layton Magee
- 3  Preston Magee
- 5  Tatum Potts
- 6  Emeree Hight
- 7  Frank Kostal
- 7  Wanda Williams
- 10  Linda Hyde
- 12  Brandt May

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

(cont)

- 12  Deb Saalfeld
- 16  Lora Burch
- 17  John Lindsey
- 17  Ralph Wallace
- 18  Devon Presley
- 20  Terry Davis
- 22  Dylen Lehmann
- 22  Candi Stickney
- 23  Donna Brown
- 23  Carmen Heck
- 24  Kimberly McGee
- 26  Naomi Hagan
- 26  Frances Temple
- 28  Tim Smith
- 28  Janelle Engle
- 28  Judy Knadle
- 28  Cheryl Meyer
- 29  Kim Davenport
- 29  Phyllis Robinson
- 29  Brenda Wideman
- 30  Marilyn Cox



*For where your treasure is, there also will be your heart.*

*Matthew 6:21*

This Lenten season, shift your focus to where your treasure is and what you can do to change someone's life. This year, our mission focus will be on Methodist Family Health, a holistic health facility that depends on donations. Methodist Family Health offers inpatient psychiatric hospitalization for children ages 3 to 17, outpatient counseling clinics, grief counseling services, therapeutic day treatment programs for kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> grade, and more. During their *Get Up & Give Drive*, they ask for necessities to keep their facilities running. Last year, we collected over 600 items for Methodist Family Health's *Get Up & Give Drive*! Let's see what we can do THIS year!? Thank you for your generosity and provision!

### Methodist Family Health Shopping List

#### **Household Items (Week 1 ~ Feb. 26)**

- Paper towels and napkins
- Small laundry baskets
- Laundry hampers with lids
- Plastic hangers and bins (shoebox size)

#### **Bath Items (Week 2 ~ Mar. 4)**

- White towels and wash cloths
- Individual shower caddies
- Body wash, shampoo and conditioner
- Shaving cream and disposable razors
- Deodorant (solid or non-aerosol spray)
- Toilet tissue and facial tissue (like Kleenex)

#### **Feminine Hygiene (Week 2 ~ Mar. 4)**

- Tampons and pads (all sizes)
- Panty liners

#### **Baby Care (Week 2 ~ Mar. 4)**

- Diapers for all sizes
- Baby wash
- Baby Tylenol
- A&D ointment and Vaseline (small jars)
- Infant nail clippers and nasal aspirators

#### **Books and Toys (Week 3 ~ Mar. 11)**

- Paperback books for young adults (of particular need for book series)
- Paperback Bible and devotionals – Please visit [MethodistFamily.org/Ways-to-Give](http://MethodistFamily.org/Ways-to-Give) for a list of those we use most often in our locations

## MISSIONS

#### **Books and Toys (Week 3 ~ Mar. 11) (continued)**

- Coloring books for adults
- Cards and board games
- Xbox and Playstation games
- Hot wheels cars and road mats
- Building blocks of all kinds (Legos, etc.)
- Basketballs, footballs, soccer balls, volleyballs

#### **Bedding (white/twin-size only) (Week 4~Mar. 18)**

- Sheets, pillow and pillow cases
- Mattress pads
- Comforter sets and bedspreads

#### **School Supplies (Week 5 ~ Mar. 25)**

- Backpacks in clear and solid colors
- Pens, pencils, pencil boxes, crayons
- Non-spiral and composition notebooks & journals
- Canvases, paintbrushes and art sets
- Perler beads, supplies, and kits

#### **Clothing (Week 6 ~ April 1)**

- Men and boys boxers and briefs in all sizes
- Women's panties in size 7-14
- Non-underwire bras in size 24-40 in cups B, C, D, and DD
- Socks in all adult sizes
- Sweatpants, sweatshirts (no hoods), t-shirts, pajamas, jackets and shorts for men and women in sizes small to 4XL
- Khaki pants and hunter green polo shirts in all child and adult sizes (used for school uniforms)
- Slip-on and Velcro tennis shoes (no laces) in adult sizes 5-14

#### **Gift Cards**

- Walmart, Visa, and Amazon in any amount

#### **Donate Funds**

- Online at [MethodistFamily.org/Donate](http://MethodistFamily.org/Donate)
- Text GUAG to 501-881-2258
- Call 501-906-4201 to donate using a debit or credit card
- Mail a check: Methodist Family Health Foundation, P.O. Box 56050, Little Rock, AR 72215

**Methodist Family Health requests that all donated items be new.**

**Please drop off your donations at the Missions Table across from the Library. Thank you for your generosity!**





## From the Organ Console

Broc Hite, Organist/Pianist



My next-door neighbor in the dorms at The Juilliard School was an actor who would sometimes practice word emphasis. It's a technique used when trying to wring the most out of a particular line of text, such as "I was glad". Emphasizing the pronoun says that it was deeply personal, something about me, not about you. If you emphasize was, you might be saying that you were glad until that jerk of a driver cut me off, putting you into a bad mood. Emphasizing glad would be the emphasis that most church musicians would identify. That simple text comprises the first three words of an anthem, extracted from Psalm 122, joined together with music by Hubert Parry to commemorate the coronation of Edward VII in 1902. The anthem is so well-liked that it celebrates many joyful events of the royal family, like anniversaries and royal weddings. You will hear it performed by the Chancel Choir at First UMC on May 31st for the first time in many years

I came upon the anthem while searching for one to play for a master class organized by the Tulsa chapter of the American Guild of Organists, where I'm a member. I was only vaguely familiar with it. It's typically performed in large churches with large choirs. You would think it might be just Anglican ones, but one of the best YouTube recordings Larry and I found was by the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. If you want to familiarize yourself with the piece, that's a great choice since it is the version we will be performing. The vivats that hail the king or queen are typically removed when the royal family is not present. I played the score with few note errors, though my registrations were very generic and not fitting the many nuances contained in the score. I learned a lot, including some techniques that I can use in my general organ playing. It's sometimes difficult putting yourself out in a place to be critiqued, but I was glad [pun intended] to do so since I still have so much to learn about the organ.

Lent is no longer around the corner - it's here. I will be playing the entire Celebration Hymn Settings by Emma Lou Diemer on the Wednesday at Noon services. For Sunday services, I will be featuring postludes by three generations of Wesleys, beginning with Charles, brother to founder John, his son Samuel, often called "The English Mozart", and grandson Samuel Sebastian. I discovered all three of these in a volume of used scores that I periodically purchase to expand my repertoire.

Thank you to all who supported the Chopin Waltzes begun in the first installment of Piano Postludes last month. The second installment is in May.

Be curious, and please join me online!

On the Web: <https://brochite.com>

On Facebook and Instagram: @BrocKeysPedals

Broc

Washington Regional Trauma Program  
presents

## Fall Prevention Education

**Friday, March 6 ~ 12pm—1:00pm**  
**Lunch is Provided!**

Falls are the leading cause of injury for people over age 65. The presentation will discuss fall prevention topics such as home safety, safety in the community, talking with your physician, the significance of exercise, vision and medications. The



presentation is by Lily Braun, RN, Trauma Coordinator at Washington Regional. The event is free, but space is limited. Please RSVP by Monday,

March 2 by emailing [marketing@wregional.com](mailto:marketing@wregional.com) or calling 479-463-3125.

Schmieding Center for Senior Health & Education  
2422 N Thompson St, Springdale, AR 72764

family  
conversations



Arkansas

## Family Conversations

The purpose of these events is to allow all clergy and laity to come together in a safe space to learn a little about the legislation process of General Conference 2020 and to connect through conversation about the

present and future of our church.

This is not an opportunity for Q & A from the attendees. The only information shared regarding legislation will be directly from our Bishop via video. The rest of the time will be spent in prayer and connection.

The churches hosting these events have been strategically chosen for geographical reasons to allow more opportunities for people to attend an event. FUMCBV will host other churches Saturday, March 14 at 10:00am. We will have a second meeting strictly for our congregation on Sunday, March 15 at 3:00pm in Becker Hall. Please join us then, if you are curious about the General Conference meeting in May.

Each event will have a follow-up survey that will be shared with all clergy across the district to assist them with leading their congregation through the results of General Conference 2020. The survey results will also be shared with our delegation.

## Stewardship Corner

## The Heart and Soul of Christianity

by Rick Zell

### Introduction

Many philosophies for coping with life have been introduced. Most are more confusing than they are helpful. Interestingly, those that are clear enough to be understood usually end up focusing full attention on the individual. Consider a few of them:

Greece said, "Be wise; know yourself."

Epicureanism says, "Be sensuous, enjoy yourself."

Materialism says, "Be satisfied; please yourself."

Humanism says, "Be capable; believe in yourself."

Rome said, "Be strong, discipline yourself."

Psychology says, "Be confident; assert yourself."

Pride says, "Be superior, promote yourself."

But Christianity says, "Be a steward, give of yourself."

At the heart of Christianity is giving.

"For God so loved the world, he gave... (John 3:16). We are never more like God than when we give. Jesus said, "I did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give my life" (Matt. 20:28). The world's thought is to get all you can. But to be like Jesus, we must give.

Let's examine several basic principles of the New Testament.

### I. Giving begins with a cause

The disciples of Jesus gave up everything to follow Him. They left behind homes and jobs and security to follow this Nazarene Carpenter. Why would those men give up everything to follow an itinerant preacher? Because a cause captured them. The kingdom of God was at hand. The Son of God was in their midst. They wanted to be a part of a life-changing cause.

Such actions did not stop with the first followers of Jesus. The Book of Acts records men and women giving up houses, incomes, possessions, land, time, and talents to follow Christ. These people were persecuted, murdered, and endured suffering. Why would they endure such pain and torture? Because they saw themselves as a part of a great cause.

These early Christians saw giving as the means of Kingdom building. In giving what they could, the expansion of God's kingdom on earth would occur. We can selfishly live for ourselves, meagerly exist and eventually die. Or, we can give ourselves to the greatest cause of reaching people for Christ, therefore find life.

### II. Giving entails a sacrifice

Jesus said, "Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matt. 20:28, NIV). Since godly giving entails a sacrifice, does he expect anything less from us? Jesus observed a touching event when he watched people give contributions to the Temple. Many people gave considerable amounts. Then came a widow. She gave two coins amounting to less than a cent. Then Jesus used her action as an object lesson for His disciples. Jesus was saying to His disciples that the size of the gift does not matter as much as the size of the sacrifice. The woman could have kept one of the coins and everyone would have understood. But, she gave everything she had. She did not hold anything back.

The heart of Christianity says that you haven't given God anything until you have given God everything. At 30, Florence Nightingale wrote in her diary, "I am thirty years of age, the age at which Christ began his mission. Now no more childish things, no more vain things. Now, Lord, let me think only of Thy will." Years later, near the end, she was asked for her life's secret, and she replied, "Well, I have kept nothing back from God."

### III. Giving leads to life

In the Holy Land, fresh water comes from a brook and fills the Sea of Galilee. This body of water has always been fruitful in fish. And then the Sea of Galilee takes that water and gives it to the Jordan River. That famous river uses its water to turn the desert into a rose and make it the land of milk and honey.

The Jordan River spills into the Dead Sea. The Dead Sea does not have an outlet. It takes the water in but does not give any away. That produces the saline problem, which makes it salty and dead. Nothing lives in the Dead Sea.

This is a universal principle: One has to give to live. "Give, and it will be given to you," Jesus said. Karl Menninger said, "Our capacity to give is one of the best indications of mental health. I have known very few generous people who were mentally ill." The fact remains, abundant living begins with abundant giving.

### IV. Giving produces joy

You've heard it said, "Give until it hurts." That's not true. People don't give because it hurts. They give because it feels good. Again Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35, NIV). The happiest people on earth are givers. They have discovered the joy of giving.

Author Thomas Carlyle tells how, when he was a boy, a beggar came to his door. His parents were out, and he was alone in the house. On a boyish impulse, he broke into his own savings bank and gave the beggar all that was in it. He said that never before or since did he know such sheer joy in giving.

### Conclusion

When we give of ourselves, our heart is changed. And the heart of our Christ shows through.



# GET YOUR RID OF STUFF!

Begin Now To Set  
Aside Your Usable  
Discards For the

UMW  
RUMMAGE  
SALE

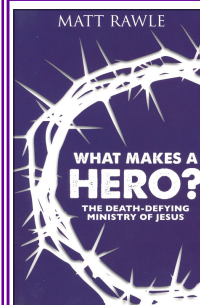


Saturday, AUGUST 1st

If you don't have room to store  
your donations, we do have  
some limited space available—  
call Verna Bottjen 876-1392

No Clothes, TVs or  
Furniture ~ please have it  
clean and in working order.

THANKS !



## What Makes a Hero?

6-Week Lenten Bible Study  
Wednesday mornings at 9:30  
Beginning March 4th

Rev. Jeanne will lead a weekly Bible study during Lent as an opportunity for you to possibly fulfill a Lenten discipline or grow in your walk with Christ this Lenten season.

*What Makes a Hero?* offers us an image of what it looks like to be victorious over trials and temptations. Looking at pop culture heroes and others through the lens of faith, Matt Rawle (the author) shows how Jesus turned the concept of hero on its head. In keeping with his theme, "Pop in Culture," the book examines how good vs. evil, right vs. wrong, and overcoming adversity are fundamental to how Christians understand salvation. Heroes help us discern the good, fight for what's right, define identity, execute justice, spark revolution, and save lives.

Sign up for the study in the office or learn more at <http://fumcbellavista.com/bible-study/>



## SHOEBOX NEWS

Things are changing in Shoebox Ministry. Diane Cox, who has been a very devoted and active member of FUMCBV since 2002, has sold her home and will soon be moving to the Oklahoma City area to be near family. Diane has been instrumental in the success of Shoebox for many years. She orders supplies, contacts local agencies and shelters to find their needs, organizes deliveries, has been our financial wizard in stretching our funds, and has tried to find other areas where we can be of assistance. She will be missed!

We are in need of volunteers to help fill the void of Diane's leaving. If you would like to help deliver shoeboxes to one of our shelters, or would like more information about this very worthwhile mission project, PLEASE give Karen Roenfeld (712-249-2521) or Cheryl Campbell (876-5172) a call.

Blessings to You! Diane & Karen & Cheryl



*Amy's Anecdotes*

Amy Gilmore, Church Administrator



**Midweek Manna updates**

- Starting March 11<sup>th</sup>, Jean Meadows will be leading the video series "Is Genesis History?" Six days or millions of years? Take a journey with scientists and scholars who present evidence for the creation & a global flood.
- Starting March 18<sup>th</sup>, the Women's Bible Study – led by Michelle Forst, will watch *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood* over a couple of class periods, then discuss it.
- Starting on April 15<sup>th</sup>, Maryann Johnson will show a couple of videos. The first one is "The Power of Faith". Phil Robertson makes a compelling argument on the absurdity of life without God. The second video is "I am Israel." An epic journey through the Land of the Bible and follows the stories of Jewish men and women who are part of the rebirth of the nation of Israel.
- On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will have representatives from Edward Jones give a presentation.

Thank you! Amy

**The Souper Bowl was a Success!**



We collected cans of soup and other foods on Sunday, February 2nd and 9th to celebrate the Super Bowl. 79 cans of soup, 2 bags of soup mix, 14 other canned goods, and a \$100 check were collected. Kacy and Amy made deliveries to BV United Lutheran Church and St. Bernard Catholic Church for their local food pantries. Thank you to everyone who donated so generously.



**Please don't forget about our ongoing mission project!**  
**SNACK PACKS for BACK PACKS**

... Our on-going commitment to provide 20 snack packs per week for students of Cooper Elementary who are in need of food for the week-end. We need your help!

**Bring your quarters !**  
**Fill the Banks !**  
**Feed a Child !**

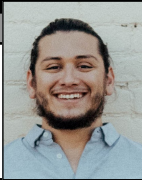




***In the Belly of the Well***

Kenneth Wilson

*The Well* Contemporary Worship Leader



Hey Church,

If you or anyone you know would like to join The Well band (every week or just once in a while), then let me know! We can always use more friends to make a joyful noise. If you have an instrument to play, or love to sing, then you can also do special music (solo or with the band) during the offering.

Also, if you ever have a hymn or contemporary song you'd like us to play, we take requests.

Peace and Blessings, *Kenneth*



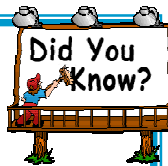
**VETERANS WALL of HONOR**

The Veterans Council of NWA, who maintains and upgrades the Veterans Wall of Honor in Bella Vista, is now expanding space in order to accommodate additional memorializing and the recording of veteran names. If you have not yet visited the wall, please make a point to do so in the near future. It is a tribute to all veterans (either living or deceased) who have given so much for the freedoms we enjoy today.

There are brochures in the Narthex giving information on how you will be able to help in the expansion of the wall. Please pick one up, and visit the wall soon.

Ray Brust, President of The Veterans Council of NWA, more commonly known as the “Wall of Honor”, will be our guest speaker at the March UMM Dinner Meeting, Wednesday, March 11th. Please join us! Call the office by Monday, March 9th for reservations.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH BUSINESS REFERRAL PROGRAM**



There are various businesses and individuals who are members of our church who would like to offer their services to our congregation. For referrals to them, and completed business from church members, they will contribute up to 25% of their profits back to the church. In some cases, this can be quite significant. We have some Realtors who are members: Carolyn Sutton ~ Doug Grant ~ Lou Kaufmann. They will donate 25% back to the church, on any commission earned. Also, Dr. Gretchen Magee is a business owner who also gives back to the church.

Any business member or individual of the church who would like to participate, please let Janet Walton (in the Office) know to get on the list.

**JOB BOOK**



Have you seen a burned-out bulb somewhere, or a faucet leaking, or any other “something that needs to be fixed”? There is a JOB BOOK in the office where you can fill out a job request form. The Trustees check this book frequently, and try to fix whatever needs to be fixed—but if they don't know about it, it won't get done! Everyone can be the eyes and ears of the church. Thanks!

**ATTENTION SUNDAY COFFEE DRINKERS/SNACK MUNCHERS!!**



Coffee and Sunday snacks are not in our budget—so if you are one who drinks coffee/hot chocolate and/or has a Danish or brownie (or your kids do!), please consider contributing to this fund by dropping \$\$ in the fund jar available at each coffee station.

We can always use help in setting up the coffee stations and the snack table. . . A few minutes once in a while on Sunday is all it takes. See Amy.



*Please join us for our second, semi-annual*

**INTERFAITH PRAYER BREAKFAST**

Let's pray and work together to end homelessness.



MARCH 13, 2020 AT 7:30 AM

THE HOUSE

2323 W Chestnut St.

Rogers, AR 72756

Please RSVP to Katie.

(479) 335-5970 or [katie@habitatbentoncounty.org](mailto:katie@habitatbentoncounty.org)

**THANK YOU**

Thank you so very much to the Wesley Shepherd Group for the many signed Christmas Cards from our congregation. Thank you, also, to Shepherd Group One for your beautiful caroling visit. Both of these made Christmas so much more special. Blessings to you all,

*Helen McBride*

We are so very appreciative of the many sympathy cards, phone calls, gifts and expressions of love this church family gave us during the loss of our beloved son, William Douglas. The memorial reception held in the Parlor was lovely. We feel so blessed to have a loving church family. Please continue to pray for our family as we make another long journey to Kahoka, Mo for another interment service March 7th. Thank you all, *Bill & Jane Potts*

**EMERGENCY VITAL INFORMATION FORMS** are available in the office. There have been several instances where it was necessary for the church to contact family members and we had no contact information. **PLEASE** fill out one of these forms and return it to the office. The information will be kept on file for the use of the pastors only. If we already have your information but it has not been updated lately, please fill out a new form to make sure what we have is current. Thank you for taking the time to do this.

**Giving Made Easy** - Scan the QR code with your smartphone to make an electronic gift to your church! This is a one-time gift. If you would like to set up a recurring gift, see Amy Gilmore in the church office.



**March 2020 Newsletter ~ January 2020 Financial Data**

		2020 Actual	2020 Budget
Month of January	Income	\$33,223.28	\$37,084.84
Month of January	Expenses	\$42,237.17	\$47,114.17
	Difference	<b>-\$9,013.89</b>	<b>-\$10,029.33</b>
Year to Date (as of 1/31/20)	Income	\$33,223.28	\$37,084.84
Year to Date (as of 1/31/20)	Expenses	\$42,237.17	\$47,114.17
	Difference	<b>-\$9,013.89</b>	<b>-\$10,029.33</b>

*Income does not include Missions or Endowment Interest*  
 Amy Gilmore, Church Administrator

# MARCH 2020

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
1	8:00 Youth to Veritas 8:00 Blood Pressure Ch 8:00 Traditional Service 9:30 "The Well" Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Traditional Service	2	10:30 Staff Meeting 12:30 Women's Chorus 6:00 Disciple II 6:30 By the Book AA 6:30 Men's Chorus	3	<b>PLEASE VOTE!!</b> 8:30 Calico Quilts Valor 10:41 Men's Golf-Kingswood 6:00 Scouts	4	8:00 Quilters 8:30 Men's Emmaus 9:00 Disciple III 9:30 UMW Board Meeting 9:30 Bible Study 11:00 Yoga 12:00 Worship Service 3:15 Chancel Bells 4:45 Chancel Choir 5:30 Youth 5:30 Manna Dinner & Class	5	9:00 1st Bazaar Wrkshp 9:00 Calico Project 10:07 Men's Golf-Scottsdale 10:30 SOLO Lunch 12:00 Caregivers Support 1:00 Calico Scholarship 6:00 Worship Band Reh 6:30 Scouts	6	10:00 Prayer Shawl	7	8:30 Amp Big Book 11:00 Crabtree Service 1:00 Private Party
8	<b>DAYLIGHT SAVINGS</b> 8:00 Traditional Service 9:30 "The Well" Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Traditional Service 3:00 Trustees 4:00 Grandparents Spprt	9	10:30 Staff Meeting 12:30 Women's Chorus 1:00 Calico Board 1:30 Friends of Christ 5:30 Abram SG 5:50 Girl Scouts 6:00 Disciple II 6:30 Men's Chorus 6:30 By the Book AA	10	9:00 PEO-BR 9:33 Men's Golf-Scottsdale 11:30 Office Angel Lunch 1:00 Sarah Circle 5:30 Grief Support 6:00 Scouts 6:30 SPRC	11	8:00 Quilters 8:30 Men's Emmaus 9:00 Calico Friends 9:30 Bible Study-Heroes 10:30 Yoga 12:00 Worship Service 3:15 Chancel Bells 4:45 Chancel Choir 5:30 Youth 5:30 Manna Dinner 6:30 Manna Classes 6:30 UMM Dinner	12	9:00 Bazaar Wrkshp 12:14 Men's Golf Kingswood 1:00 Hope Circle 4:00 Small Grp Leaders 6:00 Evening Circle 6:00 Worship Band Reh 6:30 Scouts	13	10:00 Prayer Shawl 11:30 PreSchool Board	14	8:30 Amp Big Book 1:00 Family Conversatic 6:00 Broc rehearse
15	7:05 Handbell Practice 8:00 Traditional Service 9:30 "The Well" Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Children's Council 10:45 Traditional Service 12:30 CMM Meeting 2:00 Finance team 3:00 Family Conversations	16	9:00 Martha Circle 10:30 Staff Meeting 11:00 PEO-CD 12:30 Women's Chorus 6:00 Disciple II 6:30 Cub Scout Board 6:30 By the Book AA 6:30 Men's Chorus	17	10:41 Men's Golf-BVCC 1:00 Naomi Circle 5:30 Grief Support 6:00 Scouts	18	8:00 Quilters 8:30 Men's Emmaus 9:00 Calico Dog Beds 9:30 Bible Study-Heroes 10:30 Yoga 12:00 Worship Service 3:15 Chancel Bells 4:45 Chancel Choir 5:30 Youth 5:30 Manna Dinner 6:30 Manna Classes 6:30 Broc Rehearse	19	9:00 Bazaar Wrkshp 10:07 Men's Golf-Scottsd 1:00 Vac Rentis annual 2:30 Emmaus Beautiful CI 6:00 Worship Band Reh 6:30 Scouts	20	10:00 Prayer Shawl 11:00 Paula Walker Svc	21	8:30 Amp Big Book 10:00 SAR 6:00 Broc Rehearsal
<b>SPRING BREAK ALL WEEK</b>													
22	8:00 Traditional Service 9:30 "The Well" Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Traditional Srv 4:00 Grandparents Spprt	23	9:00 Calico Cut-ups 10:30 Staff Meeting 12:00 Men's Support Grou 12:30 Women's Chorus 1:30 Friends of Christ 5:50 Girls Scouts 6:00 Disciple II 6:30 By the Book AA 6:30 Men's Chorus	24	9:15 Men's Golf-Dogwood 3:00 BV Library Board 5:30 Grief Support 6:00 Scouts	25	8:00 Quilters 8:30 Men's Emmaus 9:30 Bible Study-Heroes 12:00 Worship Service 12:45 UMW Luncheon 3:15 Chancel Bells 4:45 Chancel Choir 5:30 Youth 5:30 Manna Dinner 6:30 Manna Classes	26	9:00 Bazaar Wrkshp 10:06 Men's Golf-Highlan 12:00 Quilters on the Go 4:00 Sml Grp Ldrs Bible St 6:00 Worship Band Reh 6:30 Scouts	27	10:00 Prayer Shawl	28	8:30 Amplified Big Boo 6:00 Broc Rehearsal
29	8:00 8:00 Tradition Serv 9:30 The "Well" Service 9:30 Sunday School 10:45 Traditional Service	30	10:30 Staff Meeting 12:30 Women's Chorus 6:00 Disciple II 6:30 Men's Chorus 6:30 By the Book AA	31	9:32 Men's Golf-Highlinds 5:30 Grief Support 6:00 Scouts								



**First United Methodist Church**  
20 Boyce Drive,  
Bella Vista, AR 72715

## ***We're Here to Serve You***

Senior Pastor - Rev. Jeanne Williams  
Associate Pastor - Rev. Brenda Wideman  
Church Administrator - Amy Gilmore  
Church Secretary - Janet Walton  
Communications Director - Kacy Spears  
NextGen Youth - Kenneth Wilson  
NextGen Children ~ Ashdon Wilson  
Children's Staff ~ Anne Miner  
Music Ministries Director - Dr. Lawrence Zehring  
Handbell Director - Dawn Thompson  
Organist/Pianist - Broc Hite  
Contemporary Worship Leader ~ Kenneth Wilson

**Phone: (479) 855-1158**

**Fax: (479) 855-0850**

**www.fumcbellavista.com**

**facebook.com/fumcbv**

**Newsletter Deadline: 20th of the month**

## ***To the Home of ...***

**DON'T FORGET!!!**

**Daylight Savings Time  
begins**



**Spring  
Forward**

**Sunday,  
March 8th**



Our Mission emphasis for Lent is the Methodist Family Health *Get Up & Give* campaign. Please see page 8 for a full description of articles needed by this very worthy organization. Last year we collected over 600 items during the campaign. We have divided their shopping list into the 6 weeks of Lent. If you choose to donate, please bring your items during your specified week and deposit them at the Mission table across from our Library. Below is how the weeks are divided.

### **Get Up and Give Collection Schedule**

Feb. 26 / Week 1 – Household items  
March 4/Week 2 – Bath & hygiene items  
March 11/ Week 3 – Books/games/toys  
March 18/Week 4- Bedding  
March 25/Week 5- School supplies  
April 1/Week 6-Clothing

If you would like to donate but are unable to go shopping, please feel free to give a monetary donation. Just make the check to the church and mark "Get up and Give" in the memo line. All donations will be forwarded to Methodist Family Health. Thank you for your continued generosity to our mission organizations in need.