



The Good News

MAY 2020

DISTRICT and ANNUAL CONFERENCE NEWS



LITTLE ROCK, ARK. (April 24, 2020) – In an effort to ensure the health and safety of voting members and visitors to the 2020 Arkansas Annual Conference amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference has made the decision to reschedule the May 27 – 30 gathering in Hot Springs, Arkansas, and move the business of the conference to an online Zoom meeting.

Bishop Gary Mueller commented, “Although Annual Conference has always been about being together, I am grateful for technology and our conference staff that are enabling us to adapt in a difficult season so we can still connect and carry out the essential business of the Arkansas Conference.”

In accordance with Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson’s [Executive Order #20-15](#), meetings such as Annual Conference via remote communication are allowed.

The rescheduled date for the Annual Conference business session will be Saturday, June 13 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. All clergy and lay voting members will be provided information to join the Zoom call, and guests will be able to view the meeting through a YouTube livestream. This session will consist only of items deemed essential.

The Clergy Session will be held on Wednesday, May 27 beginning at 1:30 – 2 p.m. on Zoom. Participants who will need to participate in this meeting include all who would normally attend the clergy session.

Additionally, on May 27 from 2:15 – 4 p.m., clergy voting members will participate in the clergy voting session via Zoom. clergy in full connection, clergy with voting rights, those presented for commissioning and ordination, and Board of Ministry lay members.

All District Conferences have been rescheduled to Zoom meetings, which will take place between May 16 – 19 and will last approximately one hour each. The new District Conference dates are as follows:

- **Southeast District** – Saturday, May 16, 10 a.m.
- **Southwest District** – Sunday, May 17, 2 p.m.
- **Northeast District** – Sunday, May 17, 4 p.m.
- **Northwest District** – Monday, May 18, 6:30 p.m.
- **Central District** – Tuesday, May 19, 6:30 p.m.

Participants for the District Conferences will include all district clergy; district laity who are members of Annual Conference by charge conference vote; district laity who are members re: Conference Standing Rules; and those selected to serve as lay-clergy equalization at-large members. The meetings will also be open to all guests for viewing through YouTube live stream.

In district sessions, the agenda will consist only of items that have been considered essential. For Lay equalization, due to the unique nature of circumstances, we will continue to use our current standing rules.

Those who may have trouble being part of the online sessions because of internet connectivity issues will be provided a place to participate in a safe manner consistent with current guidelines. Specific locations and safety precautions are being identified and will be announced soon.

To allow for in-person ordination, the Ordination Service has been rescheduled for Sunday, Aug. 30 beginning at 4:00 pm. A location has not yet been set, but plans are still in the works for the service to take place in a church setting.

For updated Annual Conference information, visit arumc.org/ac2020/. Also, please see Page 6 for further information on the conferences and church openings.



Glimpses of Grace

Rev. Jeanne Williams, Senior Pastor

Normally at this time of the year, I'm writing about school ending, graduations, upcoming weddings, Promotion Sunday, summer programming plans, Mother's Day, Ladies' Night Out.... And yet, here we are, still sitting, still self-isolating, still keeping our neighbors and ourselves safe. So I don't have these things to write about in the normal way. Nor do I have them to look forward to in the coming days. May is usually a whirlwind month that I LOVE! All of the celebrations! All of the fun things to do!

As I have been making calls to several of our members and friends, I had one person tell me this week, "Our good Lord is trying to tell us something. The entire world is shut down over a virus. We should be learning or hearing something from it." In the moment, I agreed and even suggested that I wish I had the ability to meet with someone who is living cloistered (a monk or nun type of person) with whom I could pick their brain concerning what God is trying to tell us. Since then, I have been meditating and ruminating on just what is God trying to tell us with this situation?

I have a few ideas. Perhaps God is reminding some of us to appreciate who and what we have instead of always looking for the next best thing. Maybe God is showing young families what it's like to eat several meals a day at the same table at the same time. Perhaps God is forcing us to heal Creation with less carbon emission. Shortly after one of the Chinese cities went into complete lock down, people reported hearing birds singing for the first time ever, and being able to clearly see through the sky and around the horizon because the haze had disappeared. With American beaches closed, there is that much less trash being dumped into the ocean by beachgoers. I've heard several parents say they'll be advocating for our schools – teachers and administrators – for being paid better with better benefits!

Maybe God is also reminding us what's truly important; who we can truly count on; and where our hearts should actually live... and that's God. Psalm 46:1-3, 10-11 says,

"God is our refuge and strength, a help always near in times of great trouble. That's why we won't be afraid when the world falls apart, when the mountains crumble into the center of the sea, when its waters roar and rage, when the mountains shake because of its surging waves."

"That's enough! Now know that I am God! I am exalted among all nations; I am exalted throughout the world!" The Lord of heavenly forces is with us! The God of Jacob is our place of safety. *Selah*

Throughout this season, I am turning to the Psalms as a place of comfort. This particular Psalm continues to be one I regularly open to and I keep finding it pop up in other unrelated places! When this happens, I figure I should start paying attention because God is trying to tell me something. I tend to live in a state of anxiety and fear. (I'm working on it. My therapist is working on it. The whole family is working on it...) So, to truly hear God in this psalm means I have to submit to the fact that God is in control and I need to get over it. That exclamation of, "That's enough!" cuts to the core. I can just see God saying, "Hush! Get over it! I created you, this world, and all that is in it, I can handle this, too."

We have no way to make any plans at this point in time. We are continuing to be told, "not yet." We don't like it. We know it's the best thing, but that doesn't mean we have to like it. We are also to the point of worrying about our economy long-term and now there's talk of a food shortage coming. The world has been through worse things, just not in many of our lifetimes. We have no real idea of what's to come.

But I'll tell you of what I do know. God's got this. God's got you. God's got our family and friends. God is trying to tell us something here, are you listening?

Blessings, **Rev. Jeanne**

For pastoral emergencies, please call and leave a message at the office (479-855-1158). These are forwarded to the pastors.



JOINING in the JOURNEY TOGETHER

The Power of Touch

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

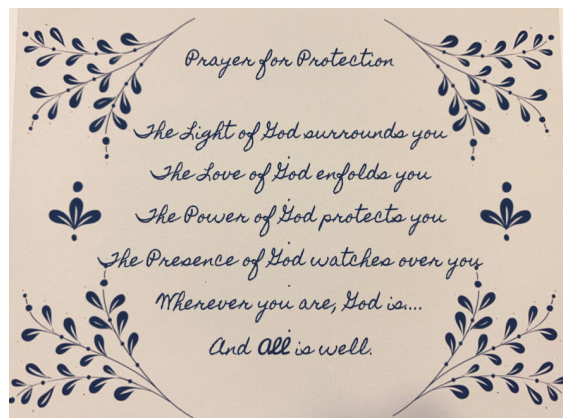
Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!" John 20:26-28 NRSV

The ability to touch makes a presence real. Touch lovingly given brings comfort, brings healing, and brings peace. In this time of isolation, it has been difficult when we could not touch in situations where we normally would; situations that beg for comfort and compassion. We can't put a hand on a shoulder; we can't hug; we can't even fist bump. We have resorted to 'virtual hugs' as we wrap our arms around ourselves to say 'I care' or 'I love you' to another.

And so it may be with our prayers. We often need to touch Christ, as Thomas did in our scripture, to feel Christ's Presence, Christ's reality and peace. Many folks use real touch while they pray. They may hold onto their Bible, a cross, prayer beads, or a prayer square. A prayer square is a tangible means of comfort and Presence while praying. These squares are part of the ministry of our Prayer Shawl team. Those who create them pray while **they** stitch. When held by another, the soft touch of the square helps **us** feel the Lord's Presence while **we** pray. As you can see in the image, sometimes the squares have a cross stitched into them, other times, the visual beauty and softness are all that is needed to provide the Presence. I want to share the image of this prayer square with you and also share a prayer that may be spoken as you pray with one of these. In this time of isolation, I invite you find the power of touch in new ways, to feel the Presence of our Lord as you spend time with Him in prayer.

Blessings, **Pastor Brenda**

PS. If you would like to have a prayer square at home, please contact me at brenda@fumcbellavilla.com. I will be happy to send you one.



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. You will find one included with this newsletter. 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 to those who have taking the time to do this and have sent them in.



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, Associate Pastor of Congregational Care at brenda@fumcbellavista.com or 479-855-1158.

BIRTHS

Camryn Marie Oliver—Rod and Arlene Alford's new great-granddaughter, was born on March 23rd to granddaughter, Lisa. Camryn had some problems at first but prayer and good doctors seem to have cleared the problems and she got to go home Friday night, March 27.

Mason Brewer – son of Brandon and Ashley Brewer, big brother of Caleb, and great-nephew of Pastor Brenda was born Saturday, April 4, in Centreville, Maryland. He weighed 7 lbs and was 19 ½ inches long. Everyone in the family is delighted and doing well!

Caroline Kasabian—born to (Grandson) Chris & Morgan Kasabian on Good Friday. She is the first great-grandchild of Wayne & Joanne Hubbert and we wish this wonderful family the very best.

RELOCATIONS



Larry and Charlene Marshall - moved to Concordia Independent Living on St. Patrick's Day and then unfortunately had to shelter in place. They look forward to being able to enjoy that community after this time of isolation is over. Their new address is #9 Bedwell Lane, BV 72715 and new phone is 715-6165.

Bette Cummings - moved north the week of April 19 to be closer to her family. Although she misses Bella Vista and friends here, she is happy to be close to family, especially grandchildren and their activities. Her new address is 6718 South 117th Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68137



Wanda Williams – also moved to Concordia Independent Living and looks forward to the end of quarantine as well. She moved in early April. Her new address is: 119 Concordia Dr., BV 72715.

Gene & Dixie Young- will be moving to Kansas in mid-May to be closer to family. Two sons live in the same town and a daughter only 30 miles away. What a wonderful reunion! Their new address will be: 2035 Danielle Ct., El Dorado, KS, 67042



Alan and Judie Packard - will be moving to be close to their son and Alan's sister's family on May 19th, right after closing on their home here in Bella Vista. They are excited about this move but are anxious to touch base with friends before leaving Bella Vista. Their new address will be:

KMH Retirement Community, Wichita, KS 67213
Their apartment number is not yet determined, but will be posted in the Prayer List as soon as it is known.

You are invited to connect with each of these folks, and wish them well in their transitions!

IN MEMORIUM

Bergie B. Dyson - one of the original 1976 charter members of our church, passed away at home on Palm Sunday, April 5. He had been ill for some time and unable to be in worship with us. A private memorial service will be held at a future date. Please keep his sons, Michael and Patrick, in your prayers as they mourn the passing of Bergie. Condolences may be sent to Michael's address: 2700 Sir Bedivere Lane, Lewisville, TX 75056.



Mary Jane Willman – grandmother of Kristin Crider passed away in Illinois on Monday, March 23. With the health crisis, family were not able to gather, however, Kristin's mother Deb Harford was able to be by her side. Please keep Kristin and her family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of Mary Jane.



OUR FAMILY



JD Highfill — passed away on Wednesday, April 8, in Fresno, CA, where he was living with his daughters. He had fallen, causing the need for hip surgery, which then led to heart difficulties and his death. JD and his late wife Syble, who passed away in December 2017, had been members with us since November 1993. They were active in the Young@Heart Shepherd Group, and JD sang in the Chancel Choir until he moved to California last July. Please keep his daughters, Sandra and Lynn in your prayers as they mourn the loss of JD. Cards may be sent to the family addressed to Sandra and Lynn Highfill, 1225 E. Santa Ana Ave., Fresno, CA 93704.

Jim E. Green – brother of Maryann Johnson, passed away on Friday March 27, in Show Low, AZ. Jim was not in good health and Maryann and other siblings visited him in early December. She had a nudge to call him a few days before he passed; she did, and for that she is grateful. Please lift Maryann and her family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of Jim.

Rollin Zimmerman - brother-in-law of Bob Kennedy (his sister Sandra's husband), passed away in Arkansas City, KS on Wednesday, April 8. The family held a limited memorial service there on Wednesday, April 15. Please keep Bob and his family in your prayers as they mourn the loss of Rollin.

David McGregor - very close friend of Jerilyn Gemberling for over 21 years, passed away in Jupiter, Florida on Friday, April 10. David was a commercial fisherman in southern Florida and when the social restrictions are lifted, a memorial service for David by his sister and Jerilyn will be held on the beach. Please keep Jerilyn in your prayers in this time of loss.

Wilma Jackson – passed away on April 20 in Springdale. Wilma is the grandmother of Julianne Darnell, a friend of Pastor Brenda. Wilma raised Julianne when her mother passed away while she was still a child. Please keep this family in prayers.

Please keep all of these families in your prayers, whether they are with praises or in transition or in mourning, during these difficult times for us all.



MEDIA MUSINGS

Kacy Spears,
Director of Communications

I See Signs of Life

In a recent virtual staff meeting, Amy Gilmore shared a devotional from her year of devotionals book. In it, the writer reflects on the changing of seasons and how it is now spring - a much cheerier time than the grey winter. The writer said "I see signs of life...Brighter days are coming soon," as she watched winter turn to spring. This was written last year, before anyone knew of COVID-19 and the toll it would take on our loved ones, our souls, and our hope.

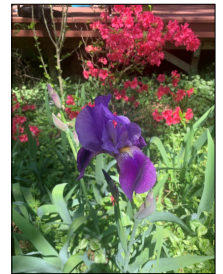
Looking out my window, I see signs of life and wonder how much sorrow would deepen if this pandemic were to leak into winter, where we may not see any signs of life. My prayer, like yours, is that this will end as quickly as possible. That we may continue seeing signs of life.

Inspired by that:

I see signs of life.
The lemon balm,
a kind gift from a friend,
Once naked and turned to twigs
Is now blooming with greenery
Once more



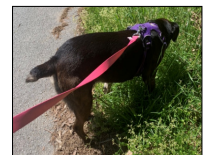
I see signs of life.
The irises in the front yard
Planted by a stranger's hands
Show me purple for the first time



I see signs of life.
With grass to mow
A blessing I never counted
Until I needed to

I see signs of life.
As I walk up and down the street
To breathe again
Neighbors wave and smile
I've never met them before.

(below) Kacy's dog,
Sweetie Pie
(also goes by Ms. Pie,
Missus Flopsy,
Chonky, & Spoiled)



I see signs of life.
As my phone rings for the twelfth time today
With friendly voices and "how are you's"
And notes of "thinking of you"

There are signs of life.
I see signs of life.



LAY LEADER'S MESSAGE

Lou Kaufmann

living in a unique time. A virus, a bug we is creating untold havoc in our country and As a child I lived through World War had air raids, blackouts, rationing and curfews. It was just Mom and me, my parents were divorced. My father was an Air Raid Warden in Staten Island and an airplane spotter on the coast and then he served in General Patton's Third Army in Europe and came home after the war. We lived through it. As a teenager in New Jersey, I lived through hurricanes with power outages, downed trees, damaged homes and wind and rain. We lived through it.

With a wife and two children at the time in Las Vegas, we beat the storm home and then standing under the most protective part of the house, heard the "freight train" go by. The tornado passed close to our home by about a quarter of a mile and we had power outages for three days and cooked over our barbbque grill. We lived through it.

Our country has survived tornado's, like the one we had in Joplin a few years back. Fires that destroyed communities in California in recent years. Floods that devastated cities like Houston and New Orleans recently. Earthquakes that felled cities like San Francisco. Volcano eruptions that blew tops off mountains like Mount St. Helens. We lived through it.

A now a bug we can't see, taking many lives. No damage to our homes and properties. Just our lungs. Common sense will prevail. Social distancing, constantly washing our hands, sanitizing as you can. Self quarantine. We will live through it.

I was brought up in the depression era. I remember family stories about how difficult it was to get by because there was no money. Who had five dollars? We lived through it. We will live through this. If anyone of us or someone you know needs food or other important needs, sorry no toilet paper, let us know. We just need to stick together, at least six feet apart.

This can be your best time at home, so set your goals, refine them, plan, create, organize, go work in the garden. We will live through it. Stay positive, wash your hands, and maintain social distancing. Plan for tomorrow. PRAY... We will live through it.

Blessings, **Lou**

Amy's Anecdotes



2020 1st Quarter statements have been mailed and they reflect only what was received through March. If you have sent something in since the end of March, please know I have most likely received it, but it is not reflected on the 2020 1st Quarter statement. Thank you for your continued faithfulness in your giving.

.. MORE CONFERENCE NEWS

(see more on Page 1)

We have received word that at the time of this printing, we will not be worshipping prior to May 24th, and word from the Conference is that we likely will be out until June. We have also been told that General Conference is postponed until 2021; our Annual Conference is postponed until the fall; and our District Conference will happen at a later date as well. The Bishop and Cabinet have also said that we are not to have any in-person activities until we are given the clearance by them, no matter what the state or governor says. To that end, our Bishop Mueller was also named to the Governor's Economic Task Force to Reopen the State, so I imagine we will have very good information on how and when to reopen.

Recently named to the Governor's Economic Recovery Task Force to aid in the re-opening of the state, Bishop Mueller has also assembled an ARUMC task force that will be comprised of laity and clergy who represent a variety of ministries and vocations, including healthcare and legal entities. This task force will aid in the re-opening of local churches and Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson laid out his plan to slowly reopen the economy during the coronavirus crisis. As reported, a **decision** on when to open places of worship will happen May 4th. The May 4th date is when a decision will be made, NOT when places of worship can reopen.

For questions, please contact me at jeanne@fumcbellavista.com.

Blessings, **Rev. Jeanne**



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Lou & Judy Kaufmann
- 4 Johnny & Charlene Rayburn
- 6 Steve & Lara Sandusky
- 8 Darrell & Verna Bottjen
- 8 Wayne & Jeanette Horner
- 16 James & Amy Gilmore
- 17 Herb & Kathy Ayres
- 19 Billy & Sandra Beverage
- 20 Shelby & Kacy Spears
- 21 Kevin & India Hight
- 22 Artie & Marian Lawless
- 26 Tommy & Lynn Runnels
- 27 Terry & Cynthia Augspurger
- 27 Gene & Dixie Young
- 31 Harry & Kandi Mount

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Mary Johnson
- 6 Barbara Denson
- 8 Jenna Gilmore
- 8 Phyllis Widle
- 9 Jon Baker
- 9 David Frisby
- 9 Joyce Horle
- 9 Jean Justice
- 9 Rick Mayes
- 9 Janet Walton

MAY BIRTHDAYS (continued)

- 10 Richard Andersen
- 10 Sharon Andrews
- 10 Lynden Forst
- 10 Bill Miller
- 11 Keagan Magee
- 11 Genie Schupp
- 13 Eunice Truman (101)
- 15 Jessica Mendoza
- 15 Nancy Spangler
- 17 Marc Engle
- 18 Marian Lawless
- 19 Roy Vogel
- 20 Cheryl Campbell
- 21 John Justice
- 23 Lara Sandusky
- 27 Evelyn Weigel
- 28 Jeneda Mickelson
- 29 Don McMahon
- 30 Charlene Marshall
- 30 Mary Verkest
- 31 Larry Marshall

If your anniversary or birthday is in May and you are not listed here, please call the Office and leave a message, so we can add you to the list for next year.



May 2020 Newsletter ~ March 2020 Financial Data

		2020 Actual	2020 Budget
Month of March	Income	\$38,603.13	\$37,084.84
Month of March	Expenses	\$41,537.87	\$47,130.83
	Difference	(\$2,934.74)	(\$10,045.99)
Year to Date (as of 3/31/20)	Income	\$110,574.33	\$111,254.52
Year to Date (as of 3/31/20)	Expenses	\$129,746.26	\$141,359.17
	Difference	(\$19,181.93)	(\$30,104.65)

Income does not include Missions or Endowment Interest

Amy Gilmore, Church Administrator



From the Organ Console Broc Hite, Organist/Pianist

Adjusting to the new normal for me at First UMC means a change in plans! Preludes are now being included as the beginning of the service, versus starting before the service. While that might seem just a subtle change in wording, it really means that I have to choose shorter preludes in order to balance with the other parts of the abbreviated liturgy. Fortunately, there are lots of bite-sized organ works, like ones of Bach and Reger, which you'll hear during this month.

The length of the postlude is not as important. I would imagine that the same folks who exit at the beginning of my postlude will be the same ones to end the streaming video. It's okay. However, for those who like the piano more than the organ, this is your month! May marks the return to Piano Postludes, with several Chopin Waltzes from Op. 34 and 42 as I continue my complete traversal of these shorter gems.

The Curious Squirrel recital featuring organ works of Leo Sowerby will be pushed out until later this year. The organ deserves to be heard live, whenever possible. However, I will also broadcast it to the Internet so that my wider audience doesn't miss out.

Be curious, but stay safe. Please join me online!
On the Web: <https://brochite.com>
On Facebook and Instagram: @BrocKeysPedals

Broc



Artie Lawless, UMM President

Hello Everybody,

Hope all is well with you and yours. We're in very trying times, physical, mental and spiritual, but we walk with God at our side, protector and strength. This is just a couple of updates because of the CV situation. Obviously, with the Church inactive for activities, at this time, we will not have a Methodist Men Meeting in April. I'm going to ask the UMM Board and The Church staff to consider a new date, further down the line, for both our Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser and Ladies Night Out. I think it a safe move, due to the uncertainty of this Virus, moving forward. Also, there is a great deal of pre-event work that needs to be done and I don't think May will allow enough time to get either activity set up.

I also want to thank the UMM "Lawn & Garden Crew " that were able to give a few hours to help get the landscape around the Church looking nice again. Great job guys & Marian.



Everyone stay safe, and check on your fellow disciples from time to time. Please Reach out if you need anything.

Blessing to all, **Artie**

JUST CHECKING TO SEE



IF Y'ALL DOING ALRIGHT



MISSIONS

WOW! 576 items (see list to the right) and \$620 for gift cards?! Go church! Your generosity and kindness do not go unnoticed! Methodist Family Health is incredibly grateful for these items and thanks you for investing in the future of Arkansas youth and families in this way!

In addition to those gifts, we have also donated \$495 from the general mission fund to the Arkansas Tornado Relief Fund, our next mission focus.

NEXT MISSION FOCUS: Arkansas Tornado Relief

In an effort to support all tornado relief efforts, specifically Jonesboro, the Arkansas Conference Disaster Recovery is gathering financial gifts. Consider donating to the Tornado Relief Fund to help with the monetary burden of the Jonesboro tornado and future tornados in Arkansas. For more information, visit fumcbellavista.com/tornado.



Home

- Towels - 19
- Rags - 12
- Sheets - 2
- Hangers - 2
- Laundry baskets - 9
- Shower caddy - 1

Hygiene

- Razors - 40
- Lotion - 3
- Deodorant - 307
- Toothbrush - 2
- Shampoo - 5
- Body wash - 2
- Shaving cream - 87
- Face wash - 3
- Pads - 33
- Tampons - 7

Paper Products

- Kleenex - 2

- Toilet paper - 1
- Paper towels - 8

Baby

- Baby powder - 1
- Baby wash - 4
- Diapers - 3
- Toys - 4

- Nasal aspirator - 1
- Petroleum jelly - 1
- Baby wipes - 1
- Hats - 1

School Supplies

- Flash cards - 3
- Notebooks - 2
- Pencils/pens - 4
- Crayons - 2
- Coloring books - 4

TOTAL: 576 items



Musical Notes

Dear Friends, Here I am again with what I hope will be a note that you'll find helpful, hopeful and encouraging during our time apart.

In putting together today's message I found myself thinking about how our church's music program influences and inspires our worship. It took me back to our first trip to England when Annette and I went there for me to begin research for my dissertation. Sit back and relax, this is gonna take a while . . .

To give you some background: In 1980, St. Martin's Press issued a revised edition of The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians, a multi-volume reference work for just about anything having to do with music. I was examining the UMKC Conservatory Library's newly acquired copy of the M-N volume, not looking for anything in particular, just browsing, when I noticed the entry for "Minshall, Richard." Whether it was karma, serendipity or some other force that was at work I don't know, but it was a propitious moment. My mother's maiden name was Minshall and one of my contemporary Minshall cousins was named "Richard." Needless to say my curiosity was aroused so I read on.

I learned that the Richard Minshall whose name appeared in the New Grove was a mercer (cloth merchant) who lived from 1582-1637 in the English village of Nantwich, a small town which lies about 50 miles southeast of Liverpool, halfway between Chester and Stoke-on-Trent. He was also an amateur lutenist. Between the years 1595-1599 he somehow got hold of a blank notebook from the private library of Queen Elizabeth I and copied into it lute tablatures (fingering charts) for what amounted to a "top 40" of c. 1600. It included titles like "Greensleeves," "The Earl of Oxford's March," the "Vecchia Pavane" and other Elizabethan-era hits. Finally, and most interesting of all, on one of the last pages of the book is a draft of a personal letter from Robert Devereaux, the Earl of Essex (who many people believe was Elizabeth's paramour) to the Queen, written in Essex's hand, begging her to allow him to return to England following a disastrous military expedition in Ireland.

Well, I decided then and there what my dissertation topic would be and after I cleared it with my advisor, I began planning how to get as much information as I could about Richard Minshall, his hobby as a lutenist and his possible association with such high-powered people as the Earl of Essex and QE1 herself.

Remember that in the 1980's there were few if any on-line research facilities, so I decided to do on-site research in England, planning to spend about two weeks there, first in London and then in Richard Minshall's old stomping grounds of Nantwich, to get as much reference material as I could in the time allowed. Before going, I wrote to the archivist at the British Library in London and arranged to look through some of the Library's vast collection of Elizabethan and Jacobean-era manuscripts. I also made arrangements to meet Eric Garton, the author of several books on the history of the village of Nantwich. With those plans set in order Annette and I were off to England.

OK, so that's all background for where I'm actually going with this.

After arriving in London, I spent eight hours a day for six straight days in a small windowless room in the bowels of the old British Library, in self-imposed isolation, sifting through 300-500 year-old books – church registers, music manuscripts, Royal warrants, anything-looking for mention of Richard Minshall, Robert Devereaux, any evidence at all that I could use to connect either one of them with the other.

After all that time, I felt I really needed a break from the writer's cramp and eyestrain I was having, so one afternoon I thought it'd be a good idea to come out into the light and visit Westminster Abbey. Annette and I arrived just as they were about to begin their daily evensong service. Understand that in addition to being a major tourist attraction, the Abbey continues its daily functions as a working church. When there's a service, the vergers shoo away the tourists from the chancel and altar areas, rope it off and seat those who wish to worship in the choir stalls. Then they proceed with the service while the non-worshippers continue their tours throughout the Abbey staying outside the roped-off enclosure. So there we were, sitting as close to the director of the Westminster Abbey choir as we are to each other in our choir loft on a Sunday morning. When the organ prelude began, there was a sudden hush in all the babble of voices and a cessation of the popping of photo flashes from the crowds that filled the outer aisles and the nave of the Abbey. This hush continued as the choir processed singing the first hymn. Once the spoken portion of the service began - the scriptures and the prayers - the hubbub resumed and continued until the choir sang the Psalms and the anthem. Then, as suddenly as it had begun, the extraneous noise of the crowds outside the chancel/altar area subsided until the anthem was over, then it ramped up again. It went on through the homily and only stopped when the recessional hymn was being sung and throughout the organ postlude. I remember saying to Annette, "That tells you something about the power of music in worship."

The point I want to make is that whether we realize it or not, what we do as musicians in worship has a profound effect on people. Whether it's in Westminster Abbey or the First United Methodist Church of Bella Vista, Arkansas, the music of worship has the capacity to transport people beyond the limits and confines of the ordinary and the routine and, while the music lasts, causes them to become focused on something greater than themselves, something richer and deeper than they can experience in any other circumstance.

"Music of worship has the capacity to transport people beyond the limits and confines of the ordinary and the routine."

It also alters our perspectives as musicians. Idly humming a tuneless melody can subconsciously lighten the burden of an everyday chore, singing along with an "ear worm" that gets stuck in our minds, working out a tricky passage in choir practice – going over it again and again – until it's right or providing musical inspiration for our congregation as we sing our responses and anthems on a Sunday morning; it all works to lift our spirits, strengthen our faith and give glory to God. And if I might paraphrase a portion of a verse from a well-known hymn: "What a privilege to carry everything to God in *song*."

I hope you're all staying safe and happy; practicing social distancing, heeding the advice of the medical professionals and that you will, of course, keep on singing.

Blessings, **Larry**



**GET
RID OF
YOUR
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 !

In the Belly of the Well

Kenneth Wilson
The Well Contemporary Worship Leader
& NextGen Director



Howdy y'all,

I hope and pray that you are staying safe. Take care of yourselves and take care of each other... physically, emotionally, spiritually, etc.

I have a challenge for you ... think of a type/genre/kind of music that you HATE... I'd be willing to bet that someone you know LOVES that music. Now, text/call/email them and ask what one of their favorite songs are ... and listen to it ... actually listen to it. Try to appreciate it, see it from their point-of-view, and maybe find something you like in the song. You don't have to like the whole song, but maybe there is at least a little something you can find in it. Here is my recommendation (you may text/email/facebook message/etc. me your own recommendations and I will listen to them) ... *Black Thumbnail* by Kings of Leon.

Peace and Love, **Kenneth**

501-827-9223 kenneth@fumcbellavista.com

GOD is always around you; you just have to become more aware of GOD's presence.

Some of you may have heard about the Paycheck Protection Program. This is a government backed loan for small businesses as well as non-profits, which includes churches. Church Council did meet via Zoom and approved this loan for FUMC Bella Vista. We received the money and will use it for salaries and utilities. The staff has continued to be paid since shelter in place began and this loan will certainly relieve some of the financial stress I and the finance committee have been feeling.

Thank you for continuing to make your pledges via Paypal, USPS, on-line banking, in between the doors, or however else . . they do matter.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."
2 Corinthians 9:7

Amy Gilmore

Church Administrator



Stewardship Corner

Speaking Positively about Generosity During COVID-19

Article from *Christianity Today* By Todd McMichen

Pastors are beginning to see what may be in the future when it comes to resourcing vision. Even those churches that are debt-free with months of expenses in liquid cash reserves are concerned about their financial futures.

Generosity is biblical.

We are not fundraisers. One of the most encouraging giving stories in the Bible for me personally is the very first family. Think about it for just a minute. The very first activity recorded in the Bible of the very first family is a prioritization of connecting with God through generosity.

Generosity failures are normal.

In Exodus 32, we find God’s people at a point of national crisis. Even though God had demonstrated great power in their recent past by delivering them from Egypt, fear quickly grabbed their lives. Self-motivation arises, and the children of Israel take what little they have in their hands and petition their leader to sculpt a golden calf to worship.

Using our resources in the wrong ways to feel spiritually secure has always been a human trap. Generosity is critical to our souls. We will settle down emotionally when we begin to turn our eyes from fear to purpose. God gives us resources to share, and sharing feels great.

Generosity is more powerful when God moves.

I think tithing is overrated. Now I tithe as well as give above and beyond my tithe. Both have been my practice since I was a teenager and had a lawn mowing business.

However, I give best when God moves me. He always asks me to give at times when my pastor is not around, and in ways, my pastor doesn’t know to solicit. This is biblical. There are many stories in Scripture where people give far beyond a tithe in response to God’s moving. Just read Exodus 35:21 as an example.

Generosity can transform a city.

While no one wants to be in this crisis, it is creating tremendous opportunity for the church. Everything is shutting down, but we are brightening up. Social media feeds and the internet are even struggling to keep up with the active presence of the church. We may have even experienced the highest worship attendance ever for the church in the U.S. as churches of all sizes are going viral.

Acts 4:34 describes a day when the church lived generously. Nothing was off the table. The people and leaders were on the same page, and a social need was eradicated from a community. In my opinion, the local church should be the most generous organization in your city. We need to unleash giving today.

Generosity reveals Jesus.

For God so loved the world that he gave. Jesus came to serve and not be served, giving his life for all. We are taught that when we do, for the least we do for Jesus. God is a generous God, and we are created in his image. When his generosity is released to advance the kingdom, it is a revelation of God’s love and grace. 2 Corinthians 8 even speaks about giving as grace.

MAY 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

This page is normally reserved for the Calendar of the Month. However, because the powers-that-be have mandated no large gatherings through the month of May, our church will abide by this and hold no meetings or gathering until at least the end of May. At this writing, there is much uncertainty as to when the world will return to a normalcy. Our hearts and prayers go out to the many thousands of people for whom COVID-19 has changed lives. The world we knew six months ago will never, ever be the same. Please remember, the staff of FUMCBV is here for you, and please don’t hesitate to contact us with any concerns or needs you may have.

Janet

THANK YOUs

Dear Church Staff & Church Family,
Thank you so much for all you did to make Frank’s *Surprise 90th Birthday Celebration* a huge success. Our family enjoyed meeting many of you and we all thank you for your presence, cards, and birthday wishes (especially the “Shhhhhh! Don’t Tell”)!
With Love, **the Frank Kostal Family**

Tell a Pastor

Need to tell a pastor something?

Joys, concerns, health updates?

fumcbellavista.com/tellapastor



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

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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
www.fumcbellavista.com
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Newsletter Deadline: 20th of the month

Return Service requested

To the Home of ...



STAY CALM
&
REMEMBER to
WASH YOUR HANDS
several times a day,
drink plenty of fluids,
and disinfect frequently-
used surfaces.

STAY HOME
if at all possible.

STAY IN TOUCH
with family and friends
and others who may be alone,
with a quick phone call,
text, e-mail, or send a card.

STAY SAFE!
Remember, You are loved!