



The Good News

OCTOBER 2020



Glimpses of Grace

Rev. Jeanne Williams, Senior Pastor

Dear Friends,

The air is crisper, pumpkin spice is everywhere, it must be fall! And, in the church world, our last few months of the year are usually the busiest! I am excited that our staff met and planned programming, worship, and events through the end of the year with Plans A, B, and C depending on what restrictions we have in place. You'll see several of these events and information about them in the following pages.

We're hearing from several of you that you are frustrated we are not worshipping in person yet. The Relaunch and Leadership Teams are constantly monitoring the pandemic situation. We understand that many other churches have opened in varying degrees and you're wondering why we have not. We continue to adhere to the two principles that we began using back in March: "Love your neighbor as yourself," and "Do no harm." In that regard, we have been looking for a positivity rate below 5% for Benton County for 14 consecutive days. We get to about day 5 or 6, and we then have a spike for a few days. We wanted to monitor the schools reopening and the cases from Labor Day weekend. The Relaunch Team met this last Tuesday and decided to move forward with Small Groups being allowed in the building following the guidelines below, beginning October 1. We have set a date to slowly begin in-person worship and will send the entire congregation a letter about a week prior to that date with the protocols needed in order to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Small Group Indoor Guidelines

1. Designated group leader will be in charge of reserving the space with Janet Walton, taking attendance, room set-up, taking temperatures, and asking health questions.
2. All are required to wear a mask and maintain social distancing.
3. Limited to no more than 20 attendees.
4. Meeting to last no more than 30 minutes. This includes gathering and exiting.
5. Room must be sanitized after the meeting by leader or designated person.
6. At any time, the church may have to close the doors again if the community spread is in our area.

If you have any questions regarding these guidelines or the worship guidelines you will hopefully receive this month, please contact Amy Gilmore, Chair of the Relaunch Team, at amy@fumcbellavista.com or 479-855-1158.

Like many of you, I am conflicted. I miss you. I miss your hugs and warm smiles. I miss worshipping with you in the same room. I miss fellowshiping with one another. But I also love you too much to place you at risk or in harm's way. As one Relaunch Team member said, "I feel that we need to open to allow people to gather, but I won't be there." We, with the guidance from our Bishop, Governor, and the CDC, are praying that we will safely be able to begin gathering in the coming weeks. We will go slow and will stop if the risk seems too great, or if we have a positive case that has been in the building. In the meantime, I hope you will consider joining us for the many socially distant, outside events we also have planned!

Grace and Peace,



JOINING in the JOURNEY TOGETHER

Rev. Brenda Wideman, Associate Pastor

Finding that Still, Small Voice

Then He said, "Go out, and stand on the mountain before the LORD." And behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind tore into the mountains and broke the rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a still small voice. So it was, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood in the entrance of the cave. Suddenly the voice came to him...

(1 Kings 19:11-13)

How our times these days are like the chaos that is happening in this scripture: winds, earthquakes, fires! It swirls around us and we feel the anxiety that comes with all the chaos. Are you feeling this anxiety now? There are days when I feel it.

So what do we do? We step out and wait for the chaos to pass and for the arrival of that still, small voice. My mother recently had some outpatient kidney surgery. She has had kidney issues for decades, but it had finally developed into the need for surgery. I was a tumble of anxiety. The surgery went very well, but the chaos came during the recovery: high blood pressure readings, pain, nausea. What should have taken an hour in recovery stretched to more than three hours. After a long day which started early, I took her home, fed her, tucked her in, kissed her, and turned her care over to her CNA's for the next 48 hours. At home, I fell into bed exhausted. But I slept well that night. In the morning, I heard that still, small voice. It brought a peace which told me 'I am with you. Sit with me. All will be well.'

I often read my morning devotional from *Jesus Calling* by Sarah Young. One recent morning, the words brought this same kind of peace. Sarah Young writes, "Wait quietly in My Presence while My thoughts form silently in the depths of your being. I am the Creator of the entire universe, yet I choose to make My humble home in your heart. It is there where you know Me most intimately; it is there where I speak to you in holy whispers. Ask My Spirit to quiet your mind so that you can hear My still, small voice within you. I am speaking to you continually: words of Life...Peace...Love. Tune your heart to receive these messages of abundant blessing." (September 21, *Jesus Calling*)

Do you make a time to wait quietly in the Lord's Presence, that He may speak to you in holy whispers? In this crazy world where we live, you have to intentionally make this time, otherwise the chaos will take over. I pray you will find a way to join together with our Lord in this gentle journey, that you may hear that still, small voice beyond the mayhem and the madness of our world.

May you find and experience these Blessings, **Pastor Brenda**

Until we can meet again, Please join us for worship every Sunday right in your own home!

We will be Live - Broadcasting from the church every Sunday.

9:30am on our website at fumcbellavista.com or facebook.com/fumcbv or fumcbellavista.com/livestream or ustream.tv **OR ... 11:00am** on Sunday & Wednesday mornings you can catch a re-broadcast of the service on ATT U-Verse and Cox channel 222.



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.

JOYS



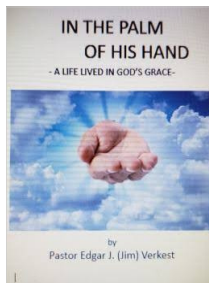
Mary Lee and Jack Snively – celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary on Friday, August 21st. Prayers for both of them in this wonderful milestone. Also prayers that they were separated that day because of Mary Lee's hospitalization.

Lloyd Muirhead – celebrated his 97th birthday on September 10th. He recently had a health scare, but came home to Village on the Park and celebrated his birthday there with his wife, Lynn. Cards may be sent to Lloyd % Village on the Park, 3800 S.W. Mt. Carmel Dr. #114, Bentonville, AR 72713



Rev. Jim Verkest – is still in Wisconsin with his wife, Mary, assisting their daughter, Mary Louise in her battle against cancer. He wants us to know that he has recently published a spiritual autobiography entitled '*In the Palm of His Hand: A Life Lived in God's*

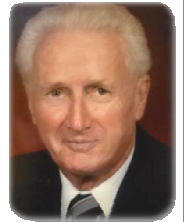
Grace.' The book is the story of his spiritual journey over nearly eight decades that took him from an unchurched home into pastoral ministry. It is a story detailing the challenges of growing in faith and service over a lifetime and how God's grace guided him through his successes and failures. The book is available through J & M Publishing, and the ISBN # is 1735601209, 9781735601205



Praise and thanksgiving for this good news!

IN MEMORIAM

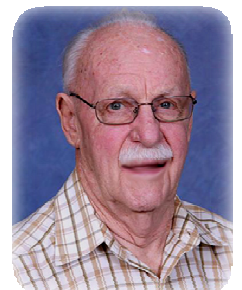
Ed Swanson – passed away Tuesday, September 8 after being placed in hospice at Highlands Healthcare Center from contracting COVID-19. Ed and his wife Lorraine have been members with us since April of 1990. They faithfully attended our Traditional services and only stopped once Ed's health prevented them from being with us. A private family memorial service was held Saturday, September 19 under our portico. Please keep Ed's family in prayers as they mourn his passing. Cards to express sympathy to Lorraine, their daughter Susan, and other family members may be sent to their home: Family of Ed Swanson, 27 Grier Drive, Bella Vista, AR 72715



Walt Wenger - passed away unexpectedly Sunday morning, September 13. Walt's breathing difficulties had been worsening since the death of his wife, Shirley, just three months ago, on June 18. Walt and Shirley joined our church family in September of 2013 and they were active in the Contemporary

Worship service. Walt volunteered at Helping Hands and enjoyed golfing. A small, private memorial service was held, Wednesday, September 16 under our portico. Condolences can be sent to the family through their son, Shane Wenger, 65632 E. 256th Road, Grove, OK 74344, Please keep this family in your prayers as they grieve the loss of both of their parents in only three months.

James Dean – who had been a member of our congregation since 2016, attending our 10:45 Traditional Service, passed away in Fayetteville on Tuesday, September 8th. Condolences may be sent to the family through his daughter, Jennifer Payton, 903 S. Baldwin Ave, Fayetteville, AR 72701. Please keep his family in your prayers.





**Drive-thru
Saturday, October 3
10:00—11:00am**



Please join us from 10 to 11 am Saturday, October 3rd for another fun Drive-thru. It is *Blessing of the Animals Day*, so pack up your pets and bring them along to be blessed by our pastors - or just drive thru to say "Hi" and then pick up your communion elements for *World Communion Sunday* the next day.



UMW will be holding a mini-Bazaar on the top level of the parking lot during the same time, featuring many new items and some of your old favorites (have your *scrubbies* worn out since last year?). See their article on page 6 for more information.



Care & Share trailer will be in our upper parking lot Monday, October 19th all day. Anything you donate to them (and they truly take "anything") goes to their Thrift Store in Gravette, and the profits of the store go directly to benefit those less fortunate in western Benton County.



I know this has been a year unlike any other. We have missed church, our pastors, staff, and our friends. But just because

we are not at church does not mean that the staff is not at church. They have been working overtime to bring a new and interesting experience to all of us through the media, both printed and on-line. This has not been easy on any of them. They have had to put in extra hours in order to be innovative in unique ways. The SPRC Committee is hoping that our congregation appreciates what they have been doing for us. We can show that appreciation by remembering them with our annual Love Offering. I know it is a little early to be thinking about Christmas but wouldn't it be nice to get a head start on our giving. Please prayerfully be considering what you would like to give to our dedicated staff this year. You may include your gift with your pledge or do it separately from your pledge. Make your check payable to the church and mark it as "Love Offering." Thank you so very much. God is at work in our church and in our lives.

Blessings to all of you from the SPRC Committee,
Lynn Prueitt, Chair

ALL-SAINTS SUNDAY is Sunday, November 1st, when we will remember those members who have passed away this past year. Please carefully look this list over, and let the office know if we have inadvertently missed someone.

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Carolyn Butler | Pat Pershing |
| Charles Danielson | Deb Saalfeld |
| *Orville Davidson | Jan Shaw |
| James Dean | Ed Swanson |
| Barbara Denson | Eunice Truman |
| Bergie Dyson | Paula Walker |
| *Helen Farris | Ron Walton |
| Vickee Fleming | Shirley Wenger |
| J.D Highfill | Walt Wenger |
| Beverly Johnson | (*Past member) |
| Sandra Mathieu | |



MISSIONS

Friends, it's around this time of the year that we start planning for the rest of the year. What will Thanksgiving look like? Whose house are we/can we go to for Thanksgiving? How can we give back to our community in this time so they too can have a nice holiday season?

With multiple missions projects happening at the same time for the remainder of the year, if you wish to give to a particular mission, note that mission's name in the memo line of your check or in an additional note. If you just note "Missions", it will go into the general Missions fund.

Here are missions projects we have planned for the rest of the year:

OCTOBER

- We'll be collecting candy for our pandemic-safe Drive-Thru Trunk or Treat! There will be containers for collecting candy located under the portico, and they will be collected daily.

NOVEMBER

- InGathering: We will "Brown Bag" collect food items and monetary donations for InGathering through Friday, November 13th. The food items and donations will be delivered to an ARUMC collection site on November 14th. (See page 13)
- Monetary donations for Thanksgiving Dinner will be collected up to Wednesday, November 25th!
- Angel Tree – more details coming soon!

DECEMBER

- Every December, we shine a light on Methodist Family Health! Methodist Family Health is a mental health facility serving children and families in Arkansas. More details about MFH and ways to give will be in next month's newsletter.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

For the whole family, for the whole church

Build a Home with *Help Build Hope*

Volunteers Register Here:

<https://na.eventscloud.com/2020bv>

Arkansas Conference of United Methodist Church Disaster Response Ministries and Volunteers in Mission are partnering with several different organizations to rebuild a home. This home in Pine Bluff was destroyed in the wind storms that occurred on Easter Sunday this year.

This is a mission opportunity for the whole church. Anyone of any age may participate. (Youth under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult chaperone from their church in a 1:10/1:7 ratio, children under 12 must be accompanied by a parent.) All must adhere to COVID-19 guidelines.

Friday evening Oct. 16th, from 4pm-7pm, about 20 volunteers will meet in the parking lot of First United Methodist Church Conway to set up and cut lumber for each wall of the home. Saturday, Oct. 17th, from 8am-2pm, 70-100 volunteers will assemble the individual walls of the home. No experience is required and all tools will be provided. At a later date volunteers will transport the walls to the stand-up site. A group of volunteers from Christian Aid Ministries, a partner in Disaster Recovery, will install the roof system. Volunteers will be needed to complete the exterior and interior of the house over the next couple of months.



Shoebox sent out 150 boxes of hygiene necessities to Salvation Army in September. We are still operating, but at a slower pace than usual. Thank you for your continued support.



Schools are back in session!
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!
Send a check! Feed a Child!



UMW NEWS

BAZAAR 2020 UPDATE

Fall is upon us and we would usually be gearing up for our annual bazaar. Just another change due to Covid-19! After many discussions, pros & cons... We have decided to have a small Bazaar Sale during the Saturday, October 3rd Drive-thru, from 10:00 to 11:00am. We will have items members have been working on the past months while at home. We will stay until all of you have finished with the drive thru. We will take orders if all of the *scrubbies* or other items are gone before you get your chance!

We will set up in our upper church parking lot — and practice social distancing guidelines. Our members who will be working will also practice all guidelines for safety, wearing masks, gloves, etc.

SAFETY BEING OUR # 1 CONCERN... This will be for Church Members ONLY— NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

But, if you know someone interested in some of our items, you may purchase them and deliver the items to your neighbors & friends.

I am working on a current Bazaar inventory list, new items and leftovers from last year.

If you have made any items for the bazaar, please let me know and I can pick them up—call me (Darleen) at 281-781-3939. Or you can drop them off at the church, Monday – Friday, between 9:00am – 1:00pm. If you drop them off, please make sure to leave your name with them. We would like to have all items for the bazaar ASAP!

2020 RUMMAGE SALE

At this time the Rummage Sale is on hold until further notice.

Also, know that we are running out of storage space to take much more items at this time. We are asking for anyone who has items, to store them until further notice. Please contact Verna Bottjen @ 479-876-1392.

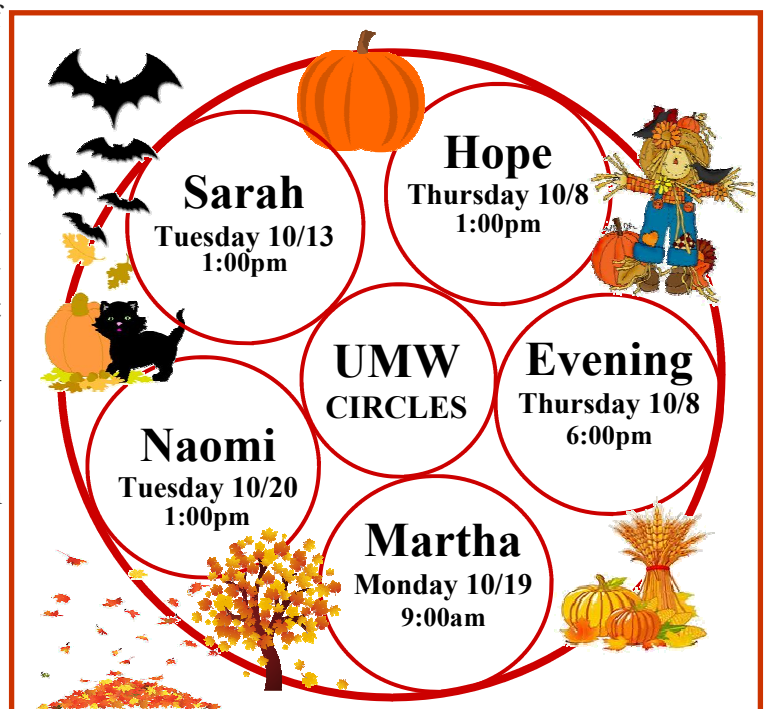
OTHER NEWS

We did still have our quarterly meeting in September and I hope all of you heard about it from your circle chairs. I am sorry we had not made final plans in time for the September newsletter so some of you may have missed our informative speaker from *Returning Home NWA*. If you would like to know more about that agency which helps men and women reenter society from prison, you can check out their website at www.returninghomenwa.org. At that meeting we encouraged members to write to our legislators about issues concerning each of us. The election of officers was also held and special recognition pins awarded.

Last year we had a program from *Hub of Hope* about sex trafficking here in NWA. There will be a virtual walk-a-thon to raise funds for that agency. If you would like to participate by walking with a friend or your family, or by donating to someone who is walking, check out their web site at www.hubofhopenwa.com. The actual walk is scheduled for September 27 – October 3, but I am sure they would appreciate a donation anytime!

Circles will meet at their usual times in October. Sites will be announced by each circle. Stay well!

Judy Bilyeu & Darleen O'Brien





Children's Chatter



From the Organ Console

Broc Hite, Organist/Pianist



Saturday, October 31
3:00pm — 5:00pm
in our parking lot

2020 can't take away Trunk or Treat!
 We're hosting a pandemic-safe
 Trunk or Treat this year!

Trunk-or-Treat is happening this year, folks! It will look a little different (surprise, surprise), but we will need your support for this outreach event! If you would like to contribute, please contact the church office for more information. If you would like to have a trunk, please contact Ashdon at ashdon@fumcbellavista.com for the form link.

Guidelines:

- Masks are required for everyone!
- Some candy provided for Trunk-havers
- Trunks will be every-other parking spot
- Treaters will stay in the cars with their families
- Socially-distant fun will be had by all!

* Kids of all ages are invited to drive thru the church parking lot to get treat bags!

* For the safety of those handing out candy, kids and guardians are asked to wear a mask inside their vehicle while driving from trunk to trunk.

Trunk hosts are invited to park in the church parking lot and distribute candy (while wearing a mask and using a grabber to hand out candy)

Trunk or Treat is one of our largest outreach events, giving children a safe place to collect candy and show off their costumes! Every year, we receive compliments upon compliments about how well we execute this event. We'll need your help to make this Trunk or Trunk as good as the last!

How you can help:

- Donate candy or give to missions in October! There'll be collection bins set up in the church portico to collect candy and quarantine it before Trunk or Treat.
- We need trunk hosts! Hosts will hand out candy to cars as they drive by. (Yup, it's that easy!)

This has not been a great year for anyone, but it's particularly hit hard people in the live music industry. As Covid-19 has been indiscriminate in its infecting adults of all ages and incomes, it has also affected the livelihood of performers of all styles and genres.

I count myself somewhat lucky. The church kept all salaried staff on at their full salary, and let us figure out a path forward. Instead of working with the Chancel Choir, I work with the soloists you hear in their place at the Sunday offertory. If you've watched the Wednesday evening service, you may notice that I also joined "The Band", as Kenneth calls us. I even recorded a bunch of music on my Weekly Acorn series that you can still find by going to my Website and clicking *Listen* under the Performing heading.

I was also blessed by my piano students. They all went online during the week that the church and schools closed, and stayed with me through the end of the spring semester. Over the summer, I did lose some students to relocation and online school fatigue. Those who did stay took more lessons than usual because they had nowhere to go on vacation.

Through some aggressive recruiting efforts, I now have 20 students this fall, which is quite a bit higher than I've had in past. I even have an online student who lives very close to the church. I'm still accepting students, if you know anyone who is interested!

That's where my luck ran out. Almost all of my occasional and seasonal work performance work evaporated. My biggest seasonal gig, playing semester-ending juries and a graduation ceremony at the University of Arkansas, went away as students were sent home in the spring and did all of their work online. The spring ballet exams I play for were also cancelled. Even here at the church, memorial services were conducted without me at the organ bench, except for one service where the organ music was amplified outside through the magic of Kacy Spears!

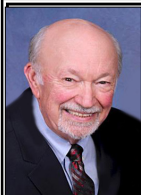
There was an event called the Red Alert Restart, #RedAlertRestart for those on Instagram. I missed the announcement for this September 1st event, focused on trying to get new legislation to help performing artists out of work, plus encourage those who enjoy live music to find a new way to support it. It got me thinking about the businesses that I've shunned since March, and I've tried to support them once again, while staying fully masked and not putting myself in harm's way.

What are some of the things that you used to enjoy pre-pandemic, that you haven't thought about since? If you like to go out to eat, can you try outdoor dining, take-out, or curbside pickup? If you like music, can you find an outdoor event to support? What are some ways that you can add little splurges back into you life in a safe-as-possible way? I'd love to hear your thoughts!

Broc

Please join me online!

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



LAY LEADER'S MESSAGE

Lou Kaufmann, Lay Leader

HAD GREAT GOALS FOR 2020 AND THEN.....THE VIRUS

I am not sure what hit us eight, nine months ago but it is still with us. It has been a long fight and we will win, but it's not over yet. The country's economy has almost tanked and the stock market goes up and down and doesn't know where to stop. Our churches are closed and Christianity is under attack and lawsuits representing many churches all the way to the Supreme Court. We are faced with an election coming up that we have never seen before. Our country is in turmoil. Many people we know are just struggling with the everyday problems that we are faced with. Today we were notified by a friend of ours that his young wife had a heart attack, totally different than most types and in the hospital and he can only visit her thirty minutes at a time and no one else. Got an email the other day from a friend going back to the 1960's who had a stroke and unable to walk at this time.

What do you say to your friends? How do you relate to what we are faced with today? Let me share with you what we are doing. We still are setting our goals for next week, next month, next year and the rest of our lives. We pray daily and more as needed. We have faith that this will pass and our lives will be whole again. God is with us and with You. Believe it!

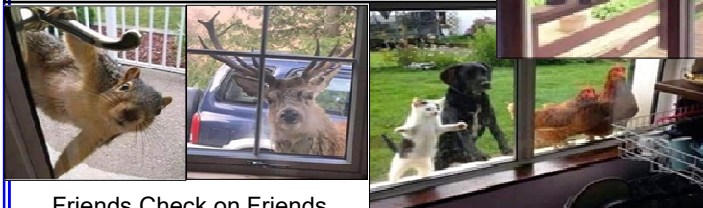
Wednesday Night Worship: A New Worship Experience

Wednesday Nights at 6:30pm
Facebook Live (or) [fumcbellavista.com](https://www.facebook.com/fumcbellavista.com)

This new worship service is led by our Praise Band and features new ways to worship with hands-on interaction and a different structure from any kind of worship service we've done before! Wednesday Night Worship is for all ages, and we hope you'll join us!



Artie Lawless,
UMM President



Friends Check on Friends

"A Message to a Friend"

Hello Methodist Men,

I hope everyone made it through September safe and healthy. I also want to say, "**Thank You**" to those who are able to answer the call for assistance at the church when I send out those last minute "We need help at the church" e-mails. Your willingness to respond is very much appreciated.

One of our brothers was called home this past month. He was a gentleman and a friend (and not a bad golfer either, in his day). I had an opportunity, about a year ago, to purchase Walt Wenger's truck and for a while the guys would ask me "How are you doing with Walt's truck, Artie"? I heard it many times. Even Walt would ask me, often, if it was running OK and tell me how much he missed that truck.

Every time I climb in it, I think about him. I rode in it the other day and I said out loud. "You're welcome to ride with me anytime, Walt". I could almost see him smiling in the shotgun seat. I couldn't ask for better company. May he find peace in heaven. You will be missed Walt, and don't you worry my friend. I'll take good care of your truck.

Friends, Life is too short. Look out for each other. Look for opportunities to have fun together even in the covid-19 world. There's a light at the end of this dark tunnel. That light is growing brighter every day.

We have to keep positive and move forward into that light, for it is God's light and he wants to bless us with his gift's, gifts of Grace, abundance, faith, friendship, love and most importantly, Victory. God is the light, Seek Him.

Blessings, **Artie**



OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Ivan & Merle Lantz
- 5 Terry & Linda Davis
- 11 Melanie & Sarah Bowers
- 12 Ken & Mary Jane Hammarstrom
- 21 Justin & Kelly Kelley
- 30 Lynn & Karen Dove

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Connie Danielson
- 2 Jean Swanson
- 3 Evelynn Antoine
- 3 Rob Whitesides
- 4 Don Jones
- 5 Carole Boyd
- 5 Darleen O'Brien
- 6 Allan Hagan
- 6 Malinda Hickey
- 6 Marianne Zotti
- 7 Connie Hinton
- 8 Gene Young
- 9 Bob Kennedy
- 11 Jim Prather
- 12 Sandra Beverage
- 12 Tom Harris
- 12 Bill Wilson

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS (Continued)

- 13 Richard Bacon
- 13 Kristin Crider
- 15 Mickey Shank
- 16 George Ann ("G") Billingsley
- 20 Arlene Alford
- 20 Drew Baker
- 20 Jeanette Horner
- 20 Kyle Murphy
- 20 Carolyn Sutton
- 20 Caleb Sweeney
- 21 Dave Broers
- 21 Justin Kelley
- 21 Bedetta Valentine
- 24 Bobby Billingsley
- 24 Michelle Forst
- 24 Weldon Hyde
- 24 Jocelyn Magee
- 25 Elaine Detlefsen
- 25 Dennis Reed
- 25 Maxine Ward
- 25 Cheryl Whitesides
- 28 Richard Abbott
- 30 Jack Storck

October 2020 Newsletter ~ August Financial Data

information as of August 31, 2020

	2020 Actual	2020 Budget
Month of August Contributions (Income*)	\$ 49,980.34	\$ 36,709.84
Month of August Expenses	\$ 45,188.15	\$ 47,130.83
Difference	\$ 4,792.19	\$ (10,420.99)
Year to Date Income (as of 8/31/20)	\$ 320,957.37	\$ 293,678.72
Year to Date Expenses (as of 8/31/20)	\$ 340,019.78	\$ 376,980.00
Difference	\$ (19,062.41)	\$ (83,301.28)
Year-to-Date Income including PPP loan	\$ 387,057.37	
Year to Date Expenses	\$ 340,019.78	
Difference	\$ 47,037.59	

*Income does not include Missions or Endowment Interest or PPP Loan

Amy Gilmore, Church Administrator





Stewardship Corner

Christian Stewardship: It's not Your Treasure to Bury by Regan Rose

I don't know about you, but there's only one place I've ever heard someone use the word "stewardship," and that's in church. It's not an exclusively Christian word, but if Oxford ever published a *Lexicon of Christianese*, "stewardship" would most certainly have an entry. Sadly, if this theoretical dictionary did exist, the definition for Christian stewardship would probably just say, "See tithe."

I say that would be sad, not because stewardship has nothing to do with finances, but because such a narrow definition of Christian stewardship robs us of a full-fledged understanding of the matter of Christian stewardship. If you're trying to become a productive Christian, you need first to understand that everything, not just your money, belongs entirely to God. Your time, energy, resources—absolutely everything—belongs to God.

Such a holistic view of stewardship is precisely what the Scriptures teach. If we take this responsibility seriously, it will dramatically affect how productive we are with our lives. So, let's look at one of the key New Testaments texts on stewardship. Here are four observations about Christian stewardship from the Parable of the Talents.

The Heart of Christian Stewardship

In Matthew's account of the Parable of the Talents, Jesus, speaking of the Kingdom of Heaven, says, "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them this property. To one, he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away" (Matthew 25:14-15).

Those people charged to look after the man's things while he was away are stewards. A steward is someone who is charged with looking after something on behalf of someone else. In this story, the master charges his servants to look after various amounts of money while he is away.

Now, this may seem obvious, but it is key: Whatever it is, a steward has been charged to look after it does not belong to him. So, in the story, the master doles out money to three servants, "each according to his ability," then he leaves (15). The first two servants invest that which was entrusted to them and make a handy return. "He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also, he who had two talents made two talents more" (16-17). Excellent work, stewards! But what's wild is the servant who had been entrusted with one talent hoarded it like a crazy lady on a TLC special. "But he who had receive the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money" (18). The servant who buried the talent had no business doing so. It wasn't his money. He was supposed to invest those things which his master had entrusted to him. It was not his treasure to bury.

Here, then, is the heart of Christian stewardship: It doesn't belong to you, but you are responsible for making good use of it for the Master. That means whatever God has given you stewardship over, it is not yours to waste. If it belonged to you, then, of course, no one would have any right to tell you what to do with your resources. But it doesn't belong to you.

You can't bury your time in video games, bury your cash in frivolous purchases, or bury your energy in unworthy pursuits. Because it's not your time, it not your money, and it's not your energy—they all belong to the Lord. And He has entrusted them to you so that you might invest them and make a good return for Him until He returns. But what exactly has God given us to watch over?

The Domain of Christian Stewardship

The next important question is this: What does Christian stewardship encompass? What do the "talents" represent? What precisely am I responsible for looking after? One way to answer these questions is first to answer another question: What of mine belongs to God? The short answer is everything.

Your money belongs to God (Haggai 2:8)

Your soul belongs to God (Ezekiel 18:4)

Your life belongs to God (Romans 8:9)

Indeed, everything on earth belongs to God (Deuteronomy 10:14; 1 Chronicles 29:11; Psalms 24:1; 50:10; 12)

(continued on page 11)



(continued from page 10)

Money

Money, therefore, is to be used to sustain yourself and your family, but it is also to be used to care for suffering saints, promote the cause of gospel advancement, and provide support to your local church. These are eternal investments that, if we want to be faithful stewards, we need to get serious about.

Time

Similarly, the specific allotment of time you have been given on this earth is not a mistake; a random number generated on some heavenly computer. Psalm 139:15 says, “in your book were written, every one of them the days that were formed for me when as yet there was none of them.” Yet, so many live as though after being saved, the rest of life is simply a waiting room for heaven. So, they occupy themselves with aimless distractions instead of recognizing that these few short years, we also have talents which the Lord expects us to invest. It seems like when it comes to worthy activities with eternal benefit; we never have enough time. Yet, we always seem to be able to squeeze in one more episode, one more game, or a few more minutes for the things we really want to do.

Energy

The same is true for energy. In this age of laziness, some of us are far too careful about managing our energy levels. Don't want to overdo it! Got to be careful not to burn ourselves out! And while there are those who are prone to unhealthy levels of activity and refuse to rest, I think the majority of us use the specter of “burn-out” as an excuse to be slothful. We stay home from church Sunday morning because we had a big Saturday. We don't volunteer to help brothers and sisters in need because we had a big week.

Always in need of a mental break, we squander the allocation of energy which the Lord had entrusted to our stewardship on temporal pursuits. Not necessarily bad things, but energy is a limited resource, and a steward often needs to say “No” to otherwise good things so that he/she can say “Yes” to energy investments, which will yield higher returns for the master.

Other Resources

And the same is true for every other resource you have at your disposal. It's all God's. As the parable indicates, not all have been given more, some less. But all have some resources loaned to them by God. Perhaps it is your connections, your living situation, your job, or your abilities. These, too, should be invested for the glory of the King of Kings. Christian stewardship demands it. Our resources are not our treasure to bury.

So, the domain of Christian stewardship extends beyond finances to all of life.

The last few paragraphs may have felt like a guilt trip, like I'm telling you that you must make some massive sacrifice of joy to be a good steward. But Christian stewardship is really an immense privilege.



VETERAN'S PHOTOS - If you are a veteran and have not previously turned in a military photo, please bring one to the church office no later than Sunday, November 1 so we can include you in our video salute to veterans. Please make sure we have your name, branch of military, service dates, and which service you attend on the back. Your photo will be returned.



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.



UMW CIRCLE NEWS

HOPE CIRCLE is meeting Thursday, October 8th at 1:00 PM in front of the church if the members are still not ready for indoor meetings. We will have the World Thank Offering program. All cautions will be observed.

Barbara Brooks

MARTHA CIRCLE met Monday Sept. 21st. on the lower patio at 9:30. They packed 50 Sunshine Hygiene bags for Cooper School for a Shoebox donation. They enjoyed their time together and hopefully by October will be able to get together inside.

Karen Roenfeld



The Bella Vista Recycling Center at 400 Pinion Bluff Drive (just north of T.H. Rogers) is open for business daily (except Sundays). Patrons are encouraged to practice social distancing and to sort items carefully to minimize the amount of resorting staff members will have to do. Thank you for your continued support.

John Justice, BV Recycle Board member

Blessing of the Animals
Saturday, October 3 from 10 to 11
See you at the Drive-thru



**OUR
AUTO ANGEL
MINISTRY
NEEDS YOU!!**

If you are able and willing, please consider becoming an Auto Angel. There are many in our church family who do not drive, or may be temporarily unable to drive. Taking them to local doctor visits or grocery shopping or other necessary trips would lighten their worry load. There are very few times during the year that you would be called upon, but our current Angel list is becoming short.

For more information, please contact Judy Bilyeu at 479-876-2345 (or) bvbilyeu@cox.net.



Children's Sabbath

Sunday, October 11

*Honoring our children and
leaders of Children's Ministry*

Devotionals

DEAR CHURCH FAMILY, in times such as these, taking time out of the day to listen to God and tune out the chaos makes all the difference. Our pastors have been recording devotionals each week and putting them on the church Facebook page at fumcbellavista.com. for you.



SUPPORT THE MISSION

BUILDING HOMES, BUILDING HOPE

Everyone can make a difference at Habitat for Humanity of Benton County. Read below to see how you can help build a home in partnership with a single mom and her two children. There is something for everyone to do to help change the lives of families in Northwest Arkansas.



In-Kind Donations

Donate new and gently used building materials, construction supplies, furnishings, housewares and more, to be sold in the ReStore. All profits go right back into the organization.



Volunteer

Volunteer in the ReStore Monday through Saturday, 9:00am to 5:00pm or in the admin offices Monday through Friday, 8:00am - 5:00pm. Choose your day and time frame!



Financial Donations

Every donation makes a huge difference, no matter the amount. Your donation brings the family one step closer to a safe and affordable home. Just \$5 purchases one 2x4 board.

Join us!

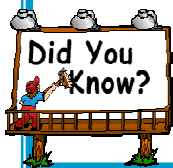
Ready to get involved or have questions? Contact us.

(479) 335-5970 / katie@habitatbentoncounty.org / habitatbentoncounty.org

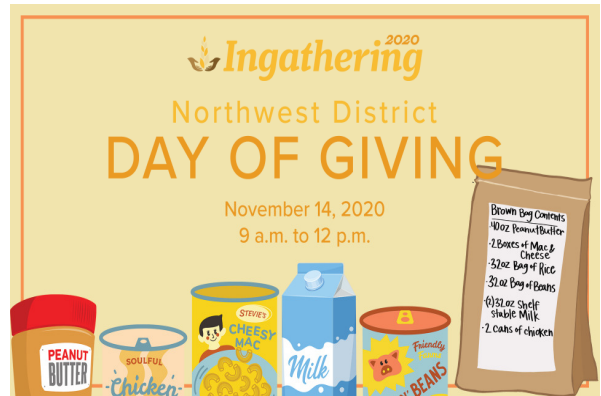
1212 N. Walton Blvd., Bentonville, AR 72712

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 Jan Walton (in the Office) know to get on the list.



INGATHERING is an annual conference-wide initiative to collect food items and monetary donations to support feeding ministries., UMCOR, and Arkansas Disaster Response. This year we will focus on feeding ministries around our district by collecting food and monetary donations for those ministries and UMCOR. We will collect donations through November 12th and deliver to an ARUMC collection site on November 14th. Unlike in years past, they are asking for specific foods to be collected (see the list below)

Brown Bag It for Ingathering!


Bag the following items (all items must be in a bag) and drop them off in the bin at the church portico:

- 1 - 40 oz. jar peanut butter
- 2 boxes of mac and cheese
- 32 oz. bag of rice
- 32 oz. bag of beans
- 2 cans of chicken
- (2)32 oz shelf stable milk (NOT powdered milk)


Each bag should contain all the items listed above. This is approximately \$15 worth of food items to be purchased and will weigh about 9 pounds. The bags of food may be placed in the collection bin in the Portico, which will be emptied every day. Thank you for feeding Northwest Arkansas!

If you prefer to give monetary donations: The Northwest District will be taking ONLY CASH DONATIONS for UMCOR Relief Supplies. The money raised will purchase needed supplies taken from kits because of the pandemic as well as supplies needed for kits.





**Now testing blood donations
for COVID-19 antibodies**



GIVE BLOOD



You can make a difference.

First United Methodist Church
Thursday, October 22
1:30 ~ 5:30pm
Becker Hall

**Call the office to schedule an
appointment (855-1158)**



Book Nook



BOOKS IN SERIES:

SEASONS OF THE HEART by Janette Oke

1. ONCE UPON A SUMMER
2. THE WINDS OF AUTUMN
3. WINTER IS NOT FOREVER
4. SPRING'S GENTLE PROMISE

A CHURCH HISTORY by David A. Todd

1. ADAM OF JERUSALEM
2. DOCTOR LUKE'S ASSISTANT
3. PRESERVE THE REVELATION

Mark Your Calendars!

We have a lot of exciting things happening in October!

October 3 - Drive-Thru Blessing of the Animals | 10:00am-11:00am in the church parking lot

October 4 - World Communion Sunday - an ecumenical celebration of communion! Pick up communion elements on Saturday, October 3rd at the drive-thru!

October 10 - NextGen Family Night | Outdoor Movie

October 11 - Children's Sabbath - Children will lead virtual worship!

October 19 - Care & Share Trailer will be parked at the church

October 22 - Red Cross Blood Drive

October 31 - Drive-Thru Trunk or Treat!
Help us host a pandemic-safe Trunk or Treat by [hosting a trunk!](#)

WESLEY SHEPHERD GROUP will begin their 5th annual **CHRISTMAS CARD PROJECT** for our homebound members Monday, October 5. The cards will be delivered the first week of December.



We are having to do things a little differently this year, rather than signing a card each time you pass the card tables in the Narthex and Becker Hall.

They are asking for each family to please fill out a box of cards with each of your name(s) on each card and leave them in the Christmas box and put them in the labeled bin in the Portico.

Please do not seal the envelopes. We will need to see inside each card so they can be divided between all the persons receiving them without them receiving duplicate cards.

Thank you for your participation in this needed mission for our homebound during this time of isolation for many of them.



THE ANGEL TREE will be up in the hallway at the end of October. There will be cards for 45 needy girls and boys. Let's help these children have a nice Christmas by taking all the cards from the tree. Shepherd Groups, Circles, and other groups are invited to go together to fulfill the wishes of a child. Watch notices from the church for more information!



Saturday, October 10th ~ 6:00pm

Grab your family and come for a pandemic-safe outdoor movie! Bring your own snacks and lawn chairs; We'll provide the big screen! We'll be watching a certain animated movie about a cowboy and an astronaut. Social distance guidelines will be in place. Please wear a mask when you're not enjoying snacks. Create an awesome cardboard box car to make it seem like a real drive-in movie! Prizes will be given to the best car!



THANK YOU

Thank You for the prayers, cards, and calls when I had my dental surgery. All was greatly appreciated!! The surgery and recovery went very well, and I am so thankful for that.

Blessings to all.

Phoebe Bader



THANK YOU to all my church family for the cards and phone calls I received after my recent surgery. They brighten my days.



THANKSGIVING DINNER

Normally, we'd be planning a big Thanksgiving dinner for all of us to sit down together and enjoy in Becker Hall on Thanksgiving Day. This year, we're doing something different – we're using Thanksgiving Dinner as a way to feed our community! On November 25th, the day before Thanksgiving, we'll be handing out pre-packaged plates of Thanksgiving food to anyone who reserves a spot, free of charge! To make sure our community has a warm Thanksgiving meal, we'll need your help!



Thank you for being a caring, supportive, and loving church Family. You have again donated over and beyond to help provide school supplies to the children of Cooper Elementary School.

Roger & Allison Totten

The following are the final results of your giving:

- Masks: 132 fabric, 100 disposable
- Colored Pencils: 81 Boxes
- Composition Books: 90
- Rulers: 3
- Zippered Pencil Bags: 47
- Crayons: 110 Boxes
- Bottled Glue: 47
- Individual Glue Sticks: 68
- Scissors: 32
- Individual Pink Erasers: 80
- Pencils: 45 boxes (ranging from 10 to 40 per box)
- 3 Ring Notebooks: 32
- Dry Erase Markers: 17 (ranging from 3 to 8 in each box)
- Folders with brads: 73
- Pencil Boxes: 13
- Markers: 26 Boxes. (Ranging from 10 to 20 per box)
- Eraser Caps: 25 Boxes (ranging from 10 to 20 per box)
- Loose Leaf Paper: 4 packages
- Clip Boards for the school library: 24
- Highlighters: 17
- Gel pens: 2
- Cash donations from members



Thank You, Roger and Allison, for so diligently collecting and delivering these needed supplies.



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

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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BENTONVILLE, AR 72712

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
facebook.com/fumcbv

Newsletter Deadline: 20th of the month

Return Service requested

To the Home of ...

THIS IS MORE THAN
A GENTLE REMINDER!!
It's not over yet!! Stay Aware!

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!

PLEASE DON'T BECOME COMPLACENT
or WANT TO HURRY THINGS!!
WE WILL GET THROUGH THIS TOGETHER!