

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of BELLA VISTA

# The Good News

AUGUST 2023



The Rummage Sale is Here!

Come get your yummy orange rolls & cinnamon rolls! Enjoy a sloppy joe lunch, & SHOP, too!

Saturday, AUGUST 5th, from 8:00am-1:00pm

For questions, call Verna Bottjen 876-1392. THANKS !

*\*All proceeds go to further UWF mission efforts.*



United  
Women  
in Faith

## GREETINGS FROM UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH!

As we approach August, the ladies of our church are looking forward to our Rummage Sale on Saturday, August 5th, from 8 am to 1 pm. Anyone wishing to donate items may bring them to the church Monday, July 1st, thru Thursday, Aug. 3rd, BETWEEN 9 am and 4 pm. Ladies, we will be needing help all week to sort, set up, and get ready

for the sale on Saturday. Guys, we will need your help on Sunday, July 30th, to set up all the tables and help to take them down on Saturday, as well as getting Becker Hall ready for church service on Sunday. We will again have orange rolls and cinnamon rolls. Anyone wishing to place an order in advance, please call the church office. We will also serve Sloppy Joes and drinks for lunch.

Bazaar workshops are every Thursday from 9 am till 2 pm. Just a reminder: anyone making items at home for our Bazaar in Oct. may drop them off any Thursday in the Quilt room. We also have kits in the library for those who would like to do easy embroidery/stitching work for our Bazaar. Sign out as many as you like. We also have beautiful, hand-made cards by Sandy Larsen for our Bazaar for \$3.00 in the Library.

If you are making jams, jellies, salsa, etc., and you need jars, drop by on Thursday to pick them up.

**DATES TO REMEMBER:** Future Luncheons: **Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>** & **Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>**; **Aug. 5<sup>th</sup>** UWF Rummage sale; **Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>** UWF Board Meeting; **Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>** UWF Bazaar

Call President, Barbara Brooks at 876-5353 for questions or comments. All ladies are welcome to join one of our Circles & help make a difference in the lives of children, youth & ladies in our area, as well as in the country. **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

Circle  
Meetings  
on hiatus  
'til Sept.



## THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

### THE ARKANSAS CONFERENCE

#### Summer Message 2023

It's been three weeks since we gathered as the Arkansas Annual Conference in Hot Springs, and I am still reflecting on and giving God thanks for that event. As we move into full-on summer, I want to share some thoughts and information with you.

Conference staff and other leaders have already held multiple conversations to evaluate our work and to process the feedback that some of you have sent in. (You can still share your own evaluation [here](#).) We heard you say that you enjoyed the theme of "Come to the Table" and the way it was woven through the conference, including the round table format and time set aside for getting to know folks from other churches. We learned again the power of sharing our stories with one another, and we provided our own foretaste of how those conversations might go with new friends and partners in ministry. I have also heard of the inspirational spirit of the laity session, where folks were lined up at the microphones to share the good news of what God is doing in their churches and communities.

The movement from lament to hope was a healing one, and our worship was well-designed by the planners and powerfully executed by our musicians, both in the plenary and at First UMC Hot Springs. Many of you have expressed your appreciation for the musical setting of the communion liturgy we used in opening worship and have asked if it could be shared. The author of those lyrics has updated her work, which you can find [here](#). She does ask that you contact her to use the liturgy and that you share the attributions as indicated. I have enjoyed using this and other musical settings for holy communion for some time now, and it was delightful to share that celebration with you. Additionally, my Episcopal address can be found [here](#).

The ordination service was another high point. I will never forget the sound of that sanctuary, its very rafters ringing with the preaching and the sound of your voices raised in song. The Holy Spirit was running loose among us for sure! We also remembered those who have gone on to glory, with a good word of hope. We celebrated the faithfulness of our retirees and the joy of new clergy beginning their journey.

In addition to the work of worship and reclaiming our common identity, we tended to the business of the conference. We held plenary discussions about conference resources and how they can best be used to strengthen and equip ministry in local settings. We examined the nature of our link with and support of the general level of our denomination. And we pointed toward the need for strategic conversations in the year to come, as the transition of disaffiliation continues and the newest chapter of our journey in mission emerges.

Since coming home from Hot Springs, I have passed my six-month anniversary here in Arkansas. I continue to delight in traveling around the state, getting to know you, and growing in appreciation for your ministry. I give God thanks and praise for the stories of churches impacted by disaffiliation who are making new, vital, hopeful strides forward. Congregations are busy with creative takes on Vacation Bible School and feeding ministries of every sort, with enormous impact. Our youth have served on mission trips, kids have gone to camp, and adults young and old have tutored children in reading. To be clear, busyness is not the point, but connecting and serving is. There is no doubt that God is inviting us to do good work, and the people of the Arkansas Annual Conference are responding to that holy invitation!

"Come to the Table" is a real thing—it is indeed God's call to us, God's welcome to us, and ours then to pass along, so that all might have the chance to meet Christ at that table. We are healing, we are growing, we are sharing, and now God is urging us to scoot over and make more room! I pray your summer brings rest at some point and a change of pace. May God bless you and your churches in your ministry!

Grace and peace,

Bishop Laura Merrill

*\*Shared from an email dated July 15, 2023.*





## Lay Leader's Message

Dave Broers, Lay Leader

America is facing an epidemic of loneliness. That was a conclusion I read awhile back in an article. At any given moment, about one out of every two Americans is experiencing measurable levels of loneliness. It doesn't matter if you are an extrovert or introvert, rich or poor, young or old, we all are vulnerable.

Loneliness and isolation have grave consequences for our mental health, physical health, and collective well-being. This includes anxiety, depression, heart disease, stroke, dementia, and obesity on a personal level. In addition, the loss of social connection leads to reduced productivity in the workplace, worsening performance in school, and diminished civic engagement on the societal level.

Loneliness was not unknown in Wesley's eighteenth century. It was a time of massive social dislocation, with people being forced out of rural areas into cities and coal mining areas where they found themselves alone.

Methodists formed Societies to provide assistance and counter their isolation. This is only one instance of Wesley's insistence that Methodists befriend people experiencing poverty. Methodism itself was an antidote to loneliness. Wesley's movement was not a church, but a

connection of larger societies and smaller groups formed to renew the church. Small groups like class meetings served many purposes, such as weekly accountability for faithfully practicing spiritual disciplines, but they also brought people closer together.

As Wesley said, "Participants now happily experienced that Christian fellowship of which they had not so much an idea before. They began to "bear one another's burdens" and naturally to "care for each other." As they had a more intimate acquaintance daily, they had a more endeared affection for each other.

Yet even in the absence of human company, there is One whose presence we can always rely upon. Wesley believed that since Pentecost, the Holy Spirit brings the presence of God to all people and indwells who have faith in Christ. God is close, not far away, and will be there when all else fails. On his deathbed, John Wesley found the strength to say, "The best of all is God with us." He would agree with Paul in Romans 8 that nothing, not even death itself, can take us from the love of God.

Peace and Blessings,  
Dave Broers  
Lay Leader

**ARE YOU SHARING THE FLAME YET?**  
Have you filled out your **Catch Fire** brochure yet? There are many ways to **Share the Flame**. Which ones will you choose?  
Turn yours into Amy or the office.

**CATCH FIRE**





## What's the (Hi)Story?

### Jill Hale, FUMC Historian

With your indulgence, let's back track just a little in order to pick up some additional items that were contributed or events that occurred prior to September 1996 when the 20-year anniversary was celebrated. Some items were highlighted in previous history articles and will not be included here. I have been reading with gratitude, "A History of First United Methodist Church, Bella Vista, from 1976 through 2003" which was painstakingly compiled by now-deceased member, Bill Detlefsen. The following information is contained in that history.

In 1990, Rev. Harold Fitch was named "Second Associate Minister." I did not see his name in the other historical compilations I have been reviewing and wanted to make sure this information is included.

Moving along, on June 16, 1992, the church Trustees accepted two handmade gifts. The first gift was a needlepoint picture of The Last Supper, stitched and presented by Yvonne Wright for the Chapel (still there; check it out). The second gift was a portrait of Georgia and Vernon Becker, painted by Carol Peters, and presented by Carol and Joe Peters. That painting was hung in Becker Hall, and is still there. Also in 1992, a "flowing fountain" was placed in the atrium as part of the "Lethem Memorial."

There are a couple of items to add for 1993. Approval was given for Jocelyn Bernholdt to be affirmed as Diaconal Minister. The courtyard between the old and new parts of the building (the atrium) was named the "Walt Lethem Prayer Garden," planted and decorated by Elaine Lethem and her family. This is the peaceful area where one can sit in the shade of dogwood trees, listen to the water in the fountain, and watch bluebirds around their little house. Let me know if any of you have the date when the bluebird house was installed.

That will save me hours of culling through minutes and newsletters and would be much appreciated.

Do you remember when the church had 29 Shepherd Groups? Oh my! In 1993, that number was reduced from 29 to 21. Up until that time, the groups had simply been numbered, so I assume that is why we still have a "Shepherd Group One." When the number was reduced, a decision was made to rename the groups after the books of the Bible, using male names only, in order to prevent confusion with Circle names. That obviously changed later and is a story for another day.

The big news in 1994 was that a number of areas at the church and the parsonage were in need of updating and repair. Some money was borrowed and a fund-raising campaign was started in order to refurbish the parsonage, repair the parking lots, update various systems, and refurbish pews and wood paneling. This shows how quickly things can deteriorate and the ongoing need for funds for repairs.

In 1995, Albert and Janice Condra gave to the church a framed crocheted rendering of the Lord's Prayer, later hung in the Chapel/Parlor.

We will stop here for this month. Hopefully, you haven't fallen asleep reading this. If you wish that I would not continue with this recitation of historical events, you are welcome to provide your story of how you came to the church. You KNOW that I would be thrilled to publish your story! Please do let me know if you have a tale to tell or information to add. Call me at 479-344-6074 or 928-710-3612, or you can send an email to [rjhale68@cox.net](mailto:rjhale68@cox.net).

Jill Hale,  
Historian



# What's the (Hi)Story? Continued, in pictures



The elaborate Last Supper needlepoint made by Yvonne Wright that was also donated in 1992 and is now hanging in the Chapel/Parlor.



The Carol Peters painting of Georgia and Vernon Becker she donated in 1992 which currently hangs in Becker Hall.



These are current photos of the Walt Lethem Prayer Garden (atrium) and fountain dedicated in 1993.


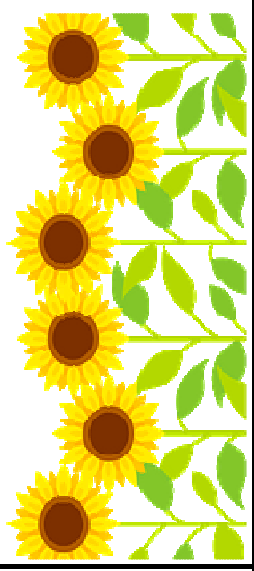


Albert and Janice Condra donated this crocheted Lord's Prayer in 1995.

## JOB BOOK

Have you seen a burned-out bulb somewhere, a faucet leaking, or anything else that needs to be fixed"? There is a JOB BOOK in the office where you can fill out a job request form. The Trustees 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!



SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY			
		6	9:00 Classic Service 10:00 Fellowship Time - Parlor 10:00 Children's Sun. School-LL 11:00 Casual Service - BH	7	10:30 Staff Mtgng - Rm 6 5:00 Potluck/Games - Parlor 6:30 By the Book AA - Rm 2B	8	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 6:00 Scouts - Quilt Rm & BH 6:30 Scouts (Girls) - Parlor 6:30 Men's Chorus - Music Rm	9	9:00 BV Quilters - Quilt Rm 9:30 Chapter CXPEO Mtg - Par. 9:00 Chancel Bells - Music Rm 4:30 Chancel Choir - Sanctuary	10	9:00 Bazaar Wkshop - Quilt Rm 9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 1:30 Friends of Christ - Parlor 2:00 Praise Team Practice	11	Office Closed	12	8:15 Young@Heart - PM 8:30 Amp Big Book AA - Rm 2B 10:30 Agape Shepherd-Papa Mike's 5:00 By the Book AA Dinner
		13	9:00 Children's Promotion 9:00 Classic Service 10:00 Fellowship Time - Parlor 10:00 Children's Sun. School-LL 11:00 Casual Service - BH 12:15 Finance Meeting - Parlor	14	10:30 Staff Mtgng - Rm 6 5:00 Potluck/Games - Parlor 6:30 By the Book AA - Rm 2B	15	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 6:00 Scouts - Quilt Rm & BH 6:30 Scouts (Girls) - Parlor 6:30 Men's Chorus - Music Rm	16	9:00 BV Quilters - Quilt Rm 9:00 Chancel Bells - Music Rm 4:30 Chancel Choir - Sanctuary 6:30 Grief Suppt Grp - Parlor	17	9:00 Bazaar Wkshop - Quilt Rm 9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 2:00 Praise Team Practice 6:30 Cancer Suppt Grp - Parlor	18	Office Closed	19	8:30 Amp Big Book AA - Rm 2B
20	9:00 Classic Service 10:00 Fellowship Time - Parlor 10:00 Children's Sun. School-LL 11:00 Casual Service - BH 1:30 COM Meeting - Parlor	21	10:30 Staff Mtgng - Rm 6 12:30 Women's Chorus - MR 5:00 Potluck/Games - Parlor 6:30 By the Book AA - Rm 2B	22	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 11:30 Angel Lunch-BV Cry Club 2:00 Bereavement Group- Parlor 6:00 Scouts - Quilt Rm & BH 6:30 Scouts (Girls) - Parlor 6:30 Men's Chorus - Music Rm	23	9:00 BV Quilters - Quilt Rm 9:00 Chancel Bells - Music Rm 4:30 Chancel Choir - Sanctuary	24	9:00 Bazaar Wkshop - Quilt Rm 9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 1:30 Friends of Christ - Parlor 2:00 Praise Team Practice	25	Office Closed	26	8:30 Amp Big Book AA - Rm 2B		
27	9:00 Classic Service 10:00 Fellowship Time - Parlor 10:00 Children's Sun. School-LL 11:00 Casual Service - BH	28	10:30 Staff Mtgng - Rm 6 12:30 Women's Chorus - MR 5:00 Potluck/Games - Parlor 6:30 By the Book AA - Rm 2B	29	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 6:00 Scouts - Quilt Rm & BH 6:30 Scouts (Girls) - Parlor 6:30 Men's Chorus - Music Rm	30	9:00 BV Quilters - Quilt Rm 9:00 Chancel Bells - Music Rm 4:30 Chancel Choir - Sanctuary	31	9:00 Bazaar Wkshop - Quilt Rm 9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 2:00 Praise Team Practice						



## AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES



- 8/04 Weldon & Linda Hyde
- 8/06 Chet & Cheryl Campbell
- 8/06 Earl & Mary Ann Kennedy
- 8/14 Chris & Elaine Klein
- 8/23 Jim & Judy Bilyeu



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS



- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| 8/02 Artie Lawless   | 8/13 Ted Lasher      |
| 8/02 Marcus Williams | 8/13 Hope Markley    |
| 8/03 Peggy Gamble    | 8/15 Alec Gilmore    |
| 8/06 Barbara Jenner  | 8/15 Loretta Tidwell |
| 8/08 Carolyn Roach   | 8/18 James Phillips  |
| 8/11 Lois McMahon    | 8/20 Florence Hill   |
| 8/11 Paula Phillips  | 8/26 Julia Forst     |
| 8/11 Kolby Williams  | 8/29 Friskey Kennedy |

**August 2023 Newsletter Financial Data**  
*information as of June 30, 2023*

	2023 Actual	2023 Budget
Month of June Contributions (Income*)	\$ 31,273.14	\$ 31,340.33
Month of June Expenses	\$ 34,119.40	\$ 34,649.57
Difference	\$ (2,846.26)	\$ (3,309.24)
Year to Date Income Contributions Only	\$ 400,073.34	\$ 376,084.00
Year to Date Expenses	\$ 393,918.37	\$ 412,451.62
Difference	\$ 6,154.97	\$ (36,367.62)

*\*Income does not include Missions or Endowment Interest*



# OUR FAMILY

Verle Shoemaker turned 90 on July 18th and his son brought two birthday cakes! We helped him celebrate on Sunday, July 16, during the Fellowship hour between services.



*Thank you!*

Thank you for all the cards, phone calls, prayers, and concerns during my hospital stay, surgery, and recovery.

~Layne Anderson



Jim Bilyeu & Weldon Hyde can often be found working tirelessly around the church. Most recently, they redid the deck out back. Here they are power washing the walls and the concrete floor! Thanks, guys!



**The First United Methodist Church of Blue Springs , MO, Youth Group during Their stay at the church.**





## OUR FAMILY

### MEET OUR NEW MEMBER, LORETTA TIDWELL!



We welcomed Loretta to the FUMCBV family on July 19, when she joined the church. She is a retired Interior Designer who owned her own company in Houston. Loretta was recently widowed and is relearning how to be single. She has a son, daughter-in-law, and 3 grandchildren in Rogers. Loretta has been helping the UWF prepare for the Bazaar on Thursdays in the Quilt Room. She also plans to join Naomi Circle in the fall. She likes to split her time between family, church, friends, and neighbors. Be sure to welcome Loretta when you see her!

### S.O.L.O.S.

**SOLOS** is a fellowship group for single ladies who simply want to go out and eat every so often. If you are a single woman & would like to join this group, please email Lora Burch at [loraburch126@gmail.com](mailto:loraburch126@gmail.com) or call her at 417-770-0719. Lora accepts suggestions for places to go. Anyone is welcome! You don't have to be a church member to participate.



Chet Campbell turned 80 on July 8th and his cake had a golf course on it! We helped him celebrate on Sunday, July 9, during Fellowship between services.



# Blessing Box Food Collection

This month, we need more *canned meat and cereal*. Don't forget that Medium sizes are best so they fit in the box. Also, we have a surplus of boxed mac and cheese, as well as bags of pasta right now, so please no more pasta. **PLEASE NO EXPIRED, DENTED, OPENED, or UNLABELED cans.** You

may drop off your donation to the church office or place them in Room 5, the **Blessing Box Room**.



## GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP (GSG)

*Grief isn't a journey you have to make alone.* The GSG will meet the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. The first meeting will be **August 2 at 6:30pm** in the Parlor. Facilitated by Pastor Ron.

The **Agape Shepherd Group** is meeting again the **2nd Saturday** of the month at **10:30am**. The first meeting is **August 12th** at **Papa Mike's**.

## BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Tuesday, 8/22  
2-3:30pm  
in the Parlor

Deaconess Kandi Mount will facilitate this group as they explore the many faces of grief.



# SNACK PACKS for BACK PACKS

We received a generous donation from the Bella Vista Recycling Center for Snack Packs for Back Packs recently! A big thank you to them for their gift. It will be put toward providing 30 snacks per week for Cooper Elementary kids in need. Your quarters go toward the same goal. Deposit them in the Snack Packs tube located in the Becker Hall hallway.





## Mission of the Month: AUGUST



*Every time a child sits in our interview room to speak with one of our forensic interviewers, the conversation is recorded. The hope is to prevent the child from having to re-tell their story to mitigate the effects of trauma.*

### Through the Lens of a Forensic Interviewer

Earlier this spring, Kallie, one of our forensic interviewers, sat with a child during a forensic interview as they told their story. We recognize the power of collaboration and the strength of a multi-disciplinary team and one crucial component of this approach is the invaluable presence of a prosecutor during these times. With their deep understanding of the legal system and commitment to justice, prosecutors bring a unique perspective to the multi-disciplinary team approach. In this particular instance, their involvement ensured the legal aspects were carefully considered, minimizing the opportunity for this child to have to re-tell their story and lessening the chances for re-traumatization. Together, our team is breaking the cycle of abuse and building resilient families.



In 2022, 45% of the cases we heard were sexual abuse.



We see all ages from infancy to young adult with allegations of child maltreatment.



90% of children seen know their offender.

### Save the Dates



Our Development and Community Relations teams work with community partners, sponsors, and donors to restore lives impacted by trauma through events. We are kicking off our fall event season on September 7th with our Restoring Lives: Evening of Impact. Events raise critical funds to keep mission moments like the one you just read happening each day at our center.

**Volunteer:** We are looking for event volunteers to help us set up for our Restoring Lives: Evening of Impact and In It to End It events. Additionally, we'll be needing volunteers to work the concessions with us at the LPGA Tour the last weekend of September.

**Fill Our Wishlist:** We have a few urgent needs for both our acute clients and restorative residents: **\*Diapers: all sizes** **\*Pull-Ups: all sizes** **\*Non-perishable food items**



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

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Lead Pastor - Rev. Ron Hayes  
 ron.hayes@arumc.org (479) 366-9725  
 Church Administrator - Amy Gilmore  
 Church Secretary - Andrea Fobes  
 Music Ministries Director - Dr. Lawrence Zehring  
 Organist/Accompanist - Lamar Puckett  
 Praise Band Leaders - Rick & Gloria Atha

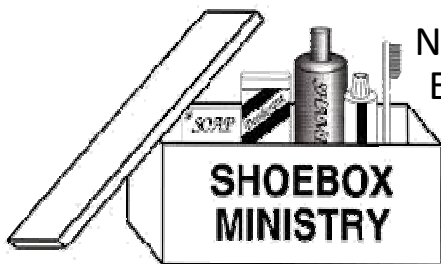
Phone: (479) 855-1158  
 www.fumcbellavista.com  
 facebook.com/fumcbv

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

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



**Cancer Support Group**  
**6:30pm, Thursday, 8/17,**  
**in the Parlor**



Next month, we will again start our packs for Cooper Elementary School. We are always in need of small bottles of shampoo and lotion, smaller size soaps, child's toothbrushes, tubes of toothpaste, combs, small packs of tissues, normal-size Band-aids, children's (boys and girls) socks and underwear. Thank you all for helping us with the items needed to help those less fortunate.

~ Cheryl, MaryAnn, and Karen

**PRAISE REPORTS & PRAYER REQUESTS**

As a church family, we lift each other up in prayer for both our joys and our concerns. **Send your Praises and Prayer requests to Pastor Ron** at his email: **ron.hayes@arumc.org** or call him: **(479) 366-9725**.

You can also call the church office **(479) 855-1158**, email our secretary, Andrea, at: **andrea@fumcbellavista.com** or stop by **20 Boyce Dr.**

You may also complete a **Prayer Request Card** in the Narthex or Becker Hall and drop them in the Prayer Boxes there. They are checked during office hours.