# The Good News

## **DECEMBER 2024**

Tis the Season

12/03, 12/10, 12/17 ~ 9:30am: Seeking the Gift: An Advent Study in Room 6 12/07 ~ 2:00pm: Carols for All Ages/Potluck: caroling our homebound members 12/08 ~ 3:00pm: BV Men's Chorus Christmas Concert at BV Community Church 12/08 ~ 6:00pm: NWA Women's Chorus Christmas Concert in the Sanctuary 12/14 ~ 5:00pm: "A Christmas Carol" Movie & Popcorn in Becker Hall 12/15 ~ 9:00am: "A Christmas of Carols" Cantata in the Classic Service 12/15 ~ 11:00am: "Christ Is Born" Casual Christmas Musical Service 12/20 ~ 6:30pm: Longest Night Service in the Parlor 12/22 ~ 7:00pm: "A Sacred Christmas" Garth Smith Concert in Sanctuary 12/24 ~ 12:00pm: Carols & Candlelight Christmas Eve Service in the Sanctuary 12/24 ~ 5:00pm: Storytime & Carols Casual Christmas Eve Service Becker Hall 12/24 ~ 7:00pm: Carols & Candlelight Christmas Eve Service in the Sanctuary 12/24 ~ 12:00pm: Carols & Candlelight Christmas Eve Service In the Sanctuary 12/24 ~ 12:00pm: Carols & Candlelight Christmas Eve Service In the Sanctuary 12/24 ~ 12:00pm: Carols & Candlelight Christmas Eve Service In the Sanctuary 12/24 ~ 12:00pm: Carols & Candlelight Christmas Eve Service In the Sanctuary 12/24 ~ 12:00pm: Carols & Candlelight Christmas Eve Service In the Sanctuary 12/24 ~ 12:00pm: Carols & Candlelight Christmas Eve Service In the Sanctuary





## From Rev. Ron Hayes "Advent: Seeking the Gift"

We rejoice as the first Sunday of Advent has us tered not only by the disciplining of one's personal of the world. I am going to leave the Advent narra- one's behavior. The 'Methodist' was to train what she a daily, year-round, perspective in this article. In do- was this key insight that caused Wesley to structure ing so, it still is a way to better prepare ourselves for Methodism the way he did. Inward faith could be the birth of the Christ Child. After all, Advent is a sea- affected and nurtured through outward action. Wesson of preparations for all of us.

In 1729 while John Wesley was a student at Oxford, he started a club with his brother, Charles. It was soon mockingly dubbed, "The Holy Club," by some of his fellow collegians. The club members rigorously self-examined everyday by asking themselves 22 questions. The first list appeared in 1729 or 1730 in the preface to Wesley's second Oxford Diary. Similar questions appeared in his "A Collection of Forms of Prayer for Every Day in the Week" in 1733. As late as 1781, Wesley published a similar list of questions in The Arminian magazine.

Each day the early group, which never numbered more than 25, gathered and reviewed some or all these questions. Yes, every single day.

Here are a few of them:

- Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?
- Did the Bible live in me today? •
- Do I give it time to speak to me every day?
- Do I disobey God in anything?
- Am I defeated in any part of my life? •
- Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy, or distrustful?
- Am I proud?
- Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold resentment toward, or disregard? If so, what am I doing about it?
- Do I grumble or complain constantly?

A key Wesley insight was that spiritual growth is fos-

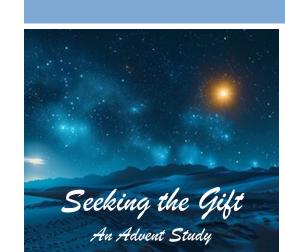
starting the preparations to receive a king, the Savior piety, but also by the equally important disciplining of tives to other sources and approach discipleship from or he did, in order to train what she or he believed. It ley, it seems, built his Methodist structure to manage not belief or even inward faith, but outward actions. The heart was quickened through hearing the word of God and experiencing God's grace directly, but it was in the disciplined management of the outward actions that this fledgling faith grew and matured. I pray that will be true for me also. Let's challenge ourselves with the 23<sup>rd</sup> question, "Am I truly seeking Christ this Christmas?".

> I will keep a few copies of the full list of the Wesley 22 Questions on my desk. If you are so inclined, stop in and I will gladly share one. You can decide if you want to discuss your thoughts on any of the questions. I am not sure I will be ready to answer on my behalf, but I will try. Each day, I prayerfully strive to live a life that answers them in a way that shows the Christ that lives in me. May I learn from my mistakes, my shortcomings, to be made stronger each day to share the Good News. May I be better prepared to fully receive the greatest gift this Advent season - the Christ Child.

> > Peace and blessings,

Parton for

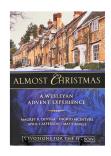




To all who wish to understand who we are as members of the First United Methodist Church of Bella Vista, I would like to offer a starting point defined by these three words: **We seek Christ.** 

We seek to learn of Him. To follow Him. To become more like Him. Every day throughout the year, we seek Him, but especially at this time of the year—Christmas, when we celebrate the birth of our beloved Savior—our hearts are ever more inclined to Him. As part of our preparations for celebrating Christmas, let us consider what we can do to be ready to welcome the arrival of the Savior - <u>again this Christmas</u>.

The class continues each Tuesday morning at 9:30AM in Room 6 through Tuesday, December 17th.



Pick up your copy of the new Advent devotional in the Narthex today. Please pay the \$5 requested donation in the office.



THE WESLEY SHEPHERD GROUP WILL MEET ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, AT 10:00AM IN BECKER HALL TO SORT CARDS, ENJOY SOME FOOD, & FELLOWSHIP.





FUMC Bella Vista can share our light with the thousands of Arkansas children and families that receive care from Methodist Family Health. We can share the light of peace, stability and hope with Arkansans who experience abandonment, abuse and neglect or struggle with psychiatric, behavioral and emotional issues. We will highlight this mission on Sunday, December 15th and hope you will consider sharing a blessing this season.

The holidays are right around the corner, and while that's exciting for some, it can make others feel blue. Join us for:

A Service of the Longest Night: A Night of Light & Hope

Fríday, December 20, 2024 6:30 PM in the Chapel







MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, AT 9:00 AM

We can use all the help we can get, so put on your work clothes and join us as we transform FUMCBV for the Advent Season. We need ladder-climbers, wreath-lifters, carriers, decorators and hangers. Anyone else who wants to join in the fellowship is welcome. If you would like, bring a snack to share.



### COME A-CAROLING WITH US!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH, AT 2:00PM HELP US SPREAD SOME CHRISTMAS CHEER TO SOME OF OUR HOMEBOUND MEMBERS. SIGN UP IN THE OFFICE. MEET IN NARTHEX. APPETIZER POTLUCK AT 4:30PM BRING YOUR FAVORITE APP TO SHARE.



All of the **Angel Tree** bags were taken! Be sure to **return your unwrapped presents in the large, clear bag that came with your list by Monday, 12/2, and place it under the tree.** Write the date you returned it on the list. Thank you to everyone who donated and shopped for these kids. You've certainly made their Christmases happier as a result!





SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14 STARTS AT 5:00PM

Let's create precious memories and enjoy the charm of this season with a family-favorite movie and popcorn in Becker Hall.







Room 5, the Blessing Box Room, or the office. **AS ALWAYS, PLEASE NO EXPIRED, DENTED, OPENED, OR UNLABELED CANS. IF YOU WOULDN'T EAT IT, WE DON'T NEED IT.** 

## S.O.L.O.S. meet again!

**SOLOS** gives single ladies the opportunity to go out to eat and socialize. The next meeting will be on Thursday, 12/12, at 11:30am at Chicken Salad Chick at 500 SE Walton Blvd in Bentonville. If you'd like to carpool from the church, please RSVP by 12/11 to either Nancy Spangler at 479-876-6751 or Ann Kelley at 479-367-9609 so they can ensure everyone has a seat. If you're a single lady (widowed, divorced, etc.) & would like to join this group, let them know. You don't have to be a church member to participate.





#### Helping Hands Work Day

Are you looking for a "hands-on" mission project? Our church is scheduled to work at the **Helping Hands Resale Shop** in Bentonville on **Saturday**, **December 14**. The indoor work is from **12:00pm to 4:00pm** and includes cashiering, bagging the customer's purchases, or roaming the sales floor to clean and tidy or perhaps put items out. (It's a great way to do a little Christmas shopping at the same time at half price!) If you're feeling strong they can always use help out

at half price!) If you're feeling strong, they can always use help out back receiving donations either in the morning or afternoon. For questions, speak to Verna Bottjen, 876-1392.

Thank You

My family and I want to thank you all for the wonderful expressions of love, calls, and cards sent to me during Ralph's illness and passing. Also to Pastor Ron, Lamar, Andrea, and Amy. What a wonderful church family you all are!



Thank you TO LYNNE PENNER FOR PROVIDING THE ALTAR FLOWERS ON SUNDAY. NOVEMBER 3, IN MEMORY OF DUANE. THEY WERE JUST **BEAUTIFUL!** FUMCBV Family

11 SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 9:00 HANGING OF THE GREENS	3	4	5	9	7
9:00 Classic Service - Sanctuary	11:00 Staff Meeting- Rm 6	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall	9:00 BV Quilters - Quilt Room	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall	Office Closed	8:30 Amp Big Book AA - Rm 28
10:00 Fellowship Time - Parlor	12:30 Women's Chorus- Music Rm	9:30 Advent Study - Room 6	9:30 UWF Board Mtg - Parlor	12:30 Caregivers Support - Parlor	11:30 BVPS Board Mtg - Rm 28	10:00 Wesley Shepherd Group Card
10:00 Children's Sunday School-LL	1:00 Frances H Bridge Grp-Parlor	6:00 Scouts - QR, BH, Rm 6, LL	11:30 UWF Luncheon - BH	2:00 Praise Team Practice - BH		Fellowship - BH
11:00 Casual Service - BH	2:00 Grief Support Grp - Rm 6	6:30 Scouts (Girls) - Parlor	3:00 Chancel Bells - Music Room	5:00 Rotary Club Meeting - Parlor		2:00 Caroling for All Ages
	5:00 Potluck/Games - Parlor	6:30 Men's Chorus-Music Rm	4:00 Chancel Choir - Music Room			4:30 Caroling Potluck - BH
	6:30 By the Book AA - Rm 28		6:00 Church Council Meeting - BH			
8 9:00 Classic Service - Sanctuary	6	10	11	12	13	14
10:00 Fellowship Time - Parlor	9:00 DAR - Parlor	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall	9:00 BV Quilters - Quilt Room	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall	Office Closed	8:15 Young@Heart - Acropolis
10:00 Children's Sunday School-LL	11:00 Staff Meeting- Rm 6	9:30 Advent Study - Room 6	10:00 Caring Friends - Becker Hall	11:30 Martha Circle-Bella's Table		8:30 Amp Big Book AA - Rm 28
11:00 Casual Service - BH	11:00 DAR Luncheon - BH	10:00 Sarah Circle - Wooden Spoon	3:00 Chancel Bells - Music Room	11:30 SOLOS - Chicken Salad Chick		10:00 Agape Shepherd Grp - Rosita's
12:15 Finance Meeting - Parlor		6:00 Scouts - QR, BH, Rm 6, LL	4:00 Chancel Choir - Music Room	2:00 Praise Team Practice - BH		12:00 Helping Hands Workday - HH
3:00 Men's Concert-BV Comm Ch		6:30 Scouts (Girls) - Parlor		5:00 Rotary Club Meeting - Parlor		5:00 "A Christmas Carol" Movie-BH
6:00 Women's Concert - Sanctuary	6:30 By the Book AA - Rm 28	6:30 Men's Chorus-Music Rm	-	6:00 Evening Circle Mtg - Youth Rm	_	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:00 Christmas Cantata - Sanctuary	11:00 Staff Mtg - Rm 6	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall	9:00 BV Quilters - Quilt Room	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall	Office Closed	8:30 Amp Big Book AA - Rm 28
10:00 Fellowship Time - Parlor	1:00 Frances H Bridge Grp-Parlor	9:30 Advent Study - Room 6	9:30 Chapter CX PEO Mtg - Parlor	11:30 Staff Christmas Lunch - Table	6:30 Longest Night Service - Chapel	9:30 MAPS Meeting - BH
10:00 Children's Sunday School-LL 11:00 Casual Musical Service - BH	5:00 Potluck/Games - Parlor 6:00 HealingStrong - Room 6	1:30 Naomi Circle Mtg - Parlor 6:00 Scouts - OR BH Rm 6 11	3:00 Chancel Bells - Music Koom 4:00 Chancel Choir - Music Room	at Hickory Inn 2-00 Praise Team Practice - BH		
1:30 CCM Meeting - Parlor	6:30 By the Book AA - Rm 28	6:30 Scouts (Girls) - Parlor	5:30 UMM Meeting & Meal - BH			
22	23	2.4 CHRISTMAS EVE	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28
;	}	- OFFICE CLOSED			_	2
9:00 Classic Service	11:00 Staff Mtg - Rm 6	12:00 Carols & Candlelight Service-Sanctuary	y 12:00 Christmas Day Potluck - BH			8:30 Amp Big Book AA - Rm 28
10:00 Fellowship Time - Parlor	6:30 By the Book AA - Rm 28	5:00 Storytime & Carols Service-BH				
10:00 Children's Sunday School-LL 11:00 Casual Service - BH		7:00 Carols & Candlelight Service-Sanctuary	٨			
7:00 GarthSmith Concert-Sanctuary						
29 MISSIONS SUNDAY	30 OFFICE CLOSED	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE OFFICE CLOSED				
10:00 Fellowship Time - Parlor	6:30 By the Book AA - Rm 28	]				
10:00 Children's Sunday School-LL 11:00 Unified Service - BH						





12/10 John & Carol Zurn 12/20 Steve & Amy Terry



12/01 Joann Handel	12/12 Frances Holman	12/24 Cherise George
12/02 Brittany May	12/16 Shari Vermett	12/24 Betty Starr
12/03 Curtis Willoughby	12/17 Jon Mendoza	12/25 Julie Hayes
12/05 Lynne Penner	12/17 Marilyn Pommerenke	12/27 Ruth Ireland
12/06 Isabelle Mendoza	12/18 Larry Zehring	12/28 Ruth Richardson
12/09 Chris Klein	12/22 Madison Klein	
12/09 Heath Lehmann	12/22 Gil Temple	

December 2024 Newsletter Financial Data					
information as of October 31, 2024			2024		2024
			Actual		Budget
Month of October Contributions (Income*)		\$	40,885.55	\$	45,916.66
Month of October Expenses		\$	35,691.71	\$	45,377.50
	Difference	\$	5,193.84	\$	539.16
Year to Date Income Contributions Only		\$	156,498.36	\$	183,666.54
Year to Date Expenses		\$	139,668.28	\$	181,510.00
	Difference	\$	16,830.08	\$	2,156.64
*Income does not include Missions or Endowment Interest (Eiscal Veer started July 1)					

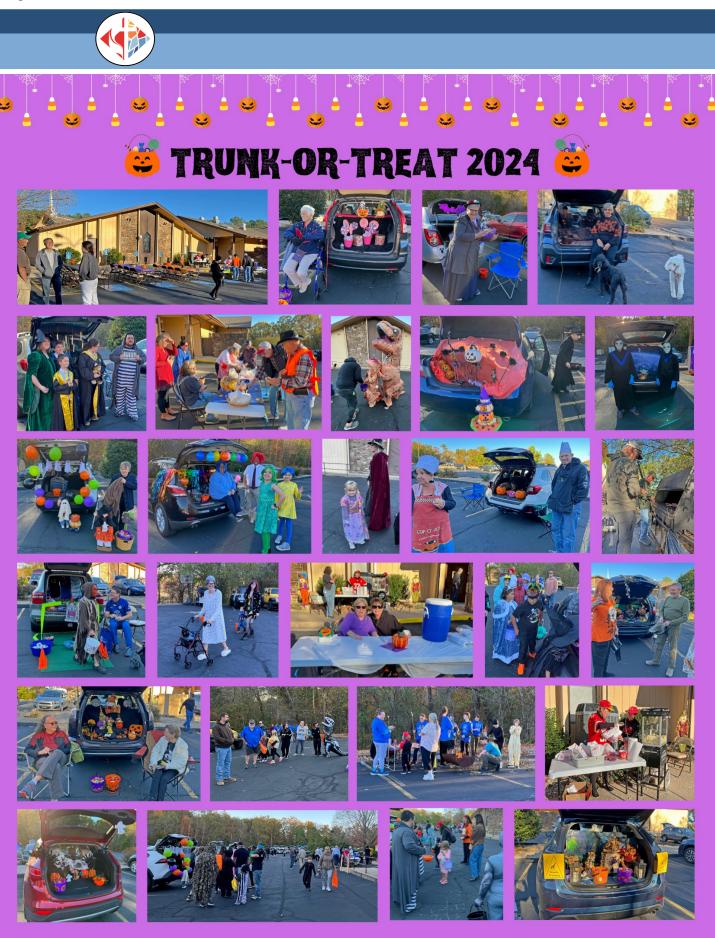
\*Income does not include Missions or Endowment Interest (Fiscal Year started July 1.)

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Need some Christmas ideas? Well, we have a TON of our church cookbooks from a few years ago, <u>40 Years of Potluck</u>, available and on sale for only \$10. It's chock full of really yummy recipes! In addition, we also have Jean Alexis Smith's "Bach Piano Transcriptions" CD's that you can pick up for a mere \$5. If you'd like either one, come to the office and we'll get some names crossed off of that Christmas gift list of yours.

**DECEMBER 2024** 







## Look Who Was on the Cover of The Weekly Vista!

## P.E.O. holding holiday fundraiser through Nov. 25



Rachel Dickerson/The Weekly Vista Submitted photo P.E.O. members Linda Hyde (left) and Phyllis Leckey are work- Jean Sanders, she said. ing on the Holiday Greens fundraiser.

through Nov. 25.

Spokesperson Julie Jensen said the Another Golden Girl, Phyliss Leckey, Contact Care Butler for an order year anniversary.

made of fresh evergreens and ber- said she is a very dynamic person.

women.

in 1869 by seven students at Iowa products. Members also help with Wesleyan College in Mount Pleas- food and snacks for the workers, ant, Iowa. The organization now has Jensen said. On average, 83 to 88 197,000 members with a focus on percent of the chapter's members providing educational opportunities contribute to the project, she said, worldwide for women, including and it raises an average of \$3,800, loans, grants and scholarships. The with 100% going toward P.E.O. pro-P.E.O. also supports Cottey College, jects. a women's college in Nevada, Mo.

Jensen said she brought the Holiday ple and a pretty inexpensive gift at Greens project to the local chapter \$20," Jensen said. after learning about it from a chapter in Tennessee. It was started in The organization will start gathering Tellico Village, Tenn., in 2012 by berries and greens Thanksgiving

The Bella Vista P.E.O. (Philanthropic that, 50 years ago, Sanders present- is Monday, Nov. 25. The cost for Education Organization) Chapter BR ed Jensen for membership in the either item is \$20 each. The cost is holding its annual Holiday Greens organization. This year Jensen be- includes free delivery and installafundraiser with orders accepted came a "Golden Girl" with 50 years tion on Dec. 3-4 for locations in Belof membership.

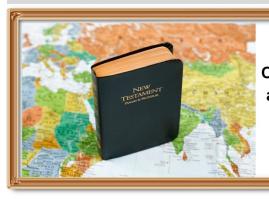
chapter started holding the fund- creates the bows for the mailbox form by emailing her at carebutraiser in 2019, and this is the five- toppers and swags. She formerly ler@aol.com. had her own florist shop and now directs the creation of the greens, To send a donation only, make Through the effort, residents may Jensen said. She also credited Care checks payable to P.E.O. Chapter BR purchase mailbox toppers or swags Butler as director of the project and and mail to: Vicki Forrest, 36 Villas

ries. Proceeds will support higher The chapter's 39 members and its education financial assistance for BILs (brothers-in-law) help with gathering the greens, berries and pine cones as well as painting, as-Jensen said the P.E.O. was founded sembling and delivering the finished

"It's a great way to gift to other peo-

weekend and put the mailbox toppers and swags together the follow-One special aspect for Jensen is ing weekend. The deadline to order la Vista.

Way, Bella Vista, AR, 72715.



## MISSIONS SUNDAY

On Sunday, December 29, we will have a Unified Service at 11:00am in Becker Hall. It will be a mix of Classic and Casual music. All of the offerings collected during this service will go to the General Missions Fund which we use throughout the year to help local worthy causes.



#### **GREETINGS FROM UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH!**

United As we approach the Celebration of the Birth of Jesus on Christmas Day, the Women United Women of Faith are very thankful for the outstanding year we have had and for being able to help many non-profits in Benton County and, in Faith hopefully helping to make the lives of women, children, and youth of these organization better.

The December 4th Unit Meeting and Luncheon will be in Becker Hall at 11:30. Our entertainment will be Perfect Harmony. The lunch menu consists of Hot Turkey Salad, green salad, fruit, and dessert. Reservations should be made by Sunday Dec. 1st. We will also be installing the officers for 2025-2026. The budget for 2025 will also be adopted. We will have many Christmas items from our Bazaar available for sale to help with everyone's gift shopping. The Unit will also be handing out the awards that we received this year.

There are 15 new books in the Library that our unit has purchased, so drop in and check them out. Also we are still collecting Best Choice bar codes that can be left in the Library.

ITEMS NEEDED: We continue to collect BEST CHOICE BAR CODES (like the one here). For every 1000 we collect, the unit receives \$60.00. Just drop the bar codes in the box in the library. We still have a large selection of beautiful cards for all occasions handmade by Sandy Larsen in the Library. The cards are \$3.50 and can be paid for in the office. All proceeds go to UWF missions.



#### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**December 4**<sup>th</sup> Unit Meeting & Luncheon with Installation of Officers in Becker Hall January 8<sup>th</sup> UWF Board Meeting & planning for 2025 9:30am in the Parlor

For guestions or comments, call: UWF President Barbara Brooks at 876-5353.

You too can become a member of UWF and make a difference in someone's life.

#### HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS SEASON!



Sarah Tuesday, 12/10, Leave church at 10:00am for The Wooden Spoon Lunch Out

Martha Thursday, 12/12, at 11:30am at Bella's Table Christmas Lunch Out

Evening Thursday, 12/12, at 6:00pm in the Youth Room Christmas Gathering

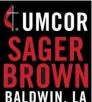
Naomi Tuesday, 12/17, at 11:30am in the Parlor Christmas Potluck

## **UWF UNIT MEETING & QUARTERLY LUNCHEON**

The UWF Unit Meeting & Quarterly Luncheon will be Wednesday, December 4, at 11:30 am in Becker Hall. Perfect Harmony Women's Barbershop Chorus will sing Christmas music for us. The menu will be hot turkey salad, fruit, roll, and dessert for \$7.50. Reservations & cancellations need to be made by Sunday, December 1, through your circle or call the church office at 855-1158. Childcare will be available with prior notification.



## What is Sager Brown?



Sager Brown is an UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) sponsored depot in UMCOR Baldwin, LA, that is a center for relief supply operations. After being shut down for a few years because of COVID, they are up and operating again, shipping out approxi-mately \$4 million in supplies in response to disasters in the US. They also reach out to the local Baldwin community through housing rehabilitation, food distribution, and edu-cational programs. The many volunteers who come to Sager Brown each year make this all possible. It is a mission experience for all ages, capabilities, skill sets, and de-

sires to support God's children who have undergone a disaster in their lives.

Our church sent teams through 2019, and we are wondering if there is any interest in doing it again. It does involve some personal expenses for lodging and meals provided on the 25-acre cam-pus. Work consists primarily of assembling the 4 different relief kits, but there is also a wide variety of work opportunities allowing for different physical abilities on campus and in the community.

If there is enough interest, we will try to schedule a trip sometime later in 2025. We will meet briefly on Sunday, January 12, in between services at 10:15am in Room 6 to discuss this mission.

If you have any questions, see their Newsletter on the Missions Bulletin Board by Becker Hall or call Verna Bottjen at 876-1392.





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

#### We're Here to Serve You

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

> > Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:00am-4:00pm

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: MONDAY, DEC. 16** 

A SACRED CHRISTMAS 2024 Multimedia concert featuring the "A Sacred Christmas" Choir and Orchestra bresenting traditional Christmas carols and covers of contemporary Christian artists.

**Pianist Garth Smith presents:** 

#### SUNDAY, DEC 22nd, 2024 **7:00 PM**

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 20 Boyce Drive Bella Vista, AR 72715

#### **A FEW WAYS WE SUPPORT EACH OTHER:**



## **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: <u>ron.hayes@arumc.org</u> or call him: (479) 366-9725. You can also call the church office (479) 855-1158, email our secretary, Andrea, at: <u>andrea@fumcbellavista.com</u> 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.