



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of BELLA VISTA

The Good News

JANUARY 2025




WE ARE REBUILDING & REBRANDING OUR SHEPHERD GROUPS



We've been praying for little Harper, great-granddaughter of Therese Bivins' friend, for a while now, but most of us have never met her. Well, now you can put a face to the name. Continue to pray for her & her family as she will have another stem cell transplant on 12/27.



PRAY for HARPER

Harper Wagoner
has
Neuroblastoma Cancer & is at
St. Jude's Hospital in Memphis.



I'm fighting childhood cancer
With my family by my side.
It helps to know they're near
On this roller coaster ride.
Family sticks together ~ ~
I'm so very glad that's true.
It takes a lot of families
And, of course, that includes you!
Thank you for your prayers and gifts
That you have giv'n to help ~ ~
God and I are working hard
To finally get me well.

Harper



From Rev. Ron Hayes *"Gathering Groups/Life Groups" (Shepherd Groups of Bella Vista)*

Methodism started as small groups.

John Wesley and his brother, Charles, were 18th century Anglican priests, presbyters, and the founders of what became the Methodist Church. They developed the Holy Club, or small groups also called "classes" and "bands" to help people grow in their faith. Small gatherings - with no other purpose than to be together - speak in part to our fundamental need to connect with others in the human community. God created us to be in community with one another.

Matthew 18:20 "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I'm there with them." (CEB)

Hebrews 10:24-25 "And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds. Don't stop meeting together with other believers, which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encourage each other, especially as you see the day drawing near." (CEB)

Community is deeply grounded in the nature of God. It flows from whom God is. Because He is community, He creates community. It is His gift of Himself to humans. Therefore, the making of community may not be regarded as an optional decision for Christians. It is a compelling and irrevocable necessity, a binding divine mandate for all believers at all times.

When Jesus' ministry began, he called twelve disciples to be his primary relational and ministry community. Did Jesus need this motley crew to help him? Not really. But Jesus chose to love them, teach them, and pour himself into relationships with them, thereby creating the first "small group."

The apostles continued Jesus' model and formed a community of believers who loved God and loved one another. Despite incredible persecution and against all odds, this rag tag group of Jesus-followers launched small communities (i.e. churches) that proclaimed the gospel and changed the world forever.

God never intended for us to live the Christian life alone. How can we apply these "one another" references unless we are in intentional, close relationships with each other? God calls us to love, not in an abstract or superficial way, but in a deep, face-to-face, life-on-life, transformative way - which is difficult and inevitably messy.

In our modern culture, small groups are often viewed merely as a program or a fellowship ministry within the church. But for the New Testament church, it was a way of life, encompassing every area of their lives. Their relationships with one another were critical to their pursuit of Jesus, their growth in Christ, and their witness to the Good News. It would be impossible to experience biblical community apart from spiritually significant, intentional relationships with other believers. Relational structures like small groups, therefore, are an integral part of "being" the church and not just "doing" church.

It is in small groups that people can get close enough to know each other, to care and share, to challenge and support, to confide and confess, to forgive and be forgiven, to laugh and weep together, to be accountable to each other, to watch over each other and to grow together. Personal growth does not happen in isolation. It is the result of interactive relationships. Small groups are God's gift to foster changes in character and spiritual growth.

We live in an increasingly fragmented and disconnected world. Though social media and other technology have made our world seemingly more connected, people have fewer genuine friends than ever before. It feels scary and threatening to allow ourselves to be known or to invest in knowing someone else at a deep level. It is much easier and more convenient to stay on the surface. Yet when we take the risk of being authentic with a small group of people, we can experience God's grace and love coming through others, which leads to freedom and transformation.



Small Groups Are a Mission Beyond Themselves

Matthew 28:19-20 “Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to obey everything that I’ve commanded you. Look, I myself will be with you every day until the end of this present age” (CEB)

John 13:34-35 “I give you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, so you also must love each other. This is how everyone will know that you are my disciples, when you love each other.” (CEB)

The Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20 mandates that every follower of Christ is on a mission to “go and make disciples of all nations.” Jesus gave this instruction to all His followers, both as individuals and as the body of Christ. We, as a small group and as a church, bear collective witness to the good news of Jesus Christ.

One of Jesus’ final instructions to His disciples is found in John 13:34-35. Note that Jesus did not say people will know we are Christians by how many churches we build, how many Bible studies we complete, how many prayers we say, or how many people come to our church. The litmus test is clear: people will know we are Christ-followers when we love each other the way Jesus does.

Theologian Francis Schaeffer asserted, “Our relationship with each other is the criterion the world uses to judge whether our message is truthful—Christian community is the final apologetic.” Our non-believing friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors are watching and deciding on the validity of the gospel message. We need others to help us live lives worthy of God’s calling so that people will see the power of God’s love in and through us.

Ultimately, small groups are a way of living out our purpose, both as individuals and as a collective group of believers—to be the church. We share a common foundation of faith, and God has called us to live out the implications of that faith in a relational community, in the context of small groups.

Small Groups Can Be Life Groups/Gathering Groups

The reality is we often gather but we need to do it intentionally. We need to focus at least two main facets of our “casual” gatherings into a more “Christian community” effort.

First, we must be aware of who is being left out. Who has not been invited? As already noted, it’s not about whether someone belongs, but whether we have made sure they feel truly invited as if they already belong.

Next, does the gathering group meet often enough on a regular basis to meet our fundamental need to connect with others in “life” – to develop that sense of community. Most of “life” occurs outside of the Sunday mornings in the church building so it is the connections outside of Sunday Worship that are so important. Gathering Groups are best when meeting weekly or at least monthly. That takes intentionality.

The good news is the gathering can be centered around so many different things like breaking bread together in a home or a rotating list of homes. Staying on the topic of food, meeting for brunch at a restaurant or gathering at a rotating list of various eateries are also options. Gathering could mean holding a monthly potluck at the church on a Saturday (bring a dish and two cans for the Blessing Box), or carpooling as a group to a movie or live theater show on a regular basis. A group may be defined by their homes being in close proximity. Maybe you share a common collegiate or professional fandom, so you gather to cheer together in a home (or stream on the church screens in Becker Hall). You could start a new game group or work together on an ongoing community cause. What connections already exist? If none, let’s create them because we are called to do just that.

And finally, it’s okay to be in more than one.

Peace and blessings,



For the **BLESSING BOX** this month, we could use some **PEANUT BUTTER & SHELF-STABLE MILK** (like Parmalat), **CANNED CHICKEN** (we have plenty of tuna), **SOUP, CHILI, STEW, & MICROWAVE MAC & CHEESE CUPS** (not the boxed kind). Medium-sized jars of peanut butter are best so they fit in the Blessing Box. Please drop off your donations in 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.**



A BIG THANK YOU GOES TO CHAPTER CX OF THE PEO, THE LOVELY PURCHASE CHAPTER OF DAR, AS WELL AS SHARI & BOB VERMETT (SEE BOB DELIVERING THEIRS AT LEFT) WHO RECENTLY SUPPLIED A MASSIVE AMOUNT OF FOOD FOR THOSE IN NEED. WE ALSO THANK ALL OF YOU WHO CONTINUE TO BRING IN FOOD AND MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE BLESSING BOX.



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.

(Yes, Missions Sunday is on December 29 and not in January, but this newsletter will be published before then.)

A Missions Team Update from 2025 Team Co-Lead, Ted Lasher

Earlier this year, the FUMCBV Missions Committee was brought back to active status under the leadership of Steve Terry, joined by numerous previous and new committee members.

Over the past months, your Missions Team identified and made donations to 3 primary recipients: Bella Vista Boys & Girls Club (\$5,000), Cooper K-4 School (\$4,735), and Saving Grace NWA (\$1,500 + \$2,000 approved for Jan. 2025). Additionally, designated funds were distributed to the Blessing Box (\$1,171), Snack Packs (\$2,947), Habitat for Humanity (\$1,800), NWA Women's Shelter (\$50), and the Heifer Project (\$84). Moreover, FUMCBV members donated \$3,350 to UMCOR and another \$3,900 locally for disaster relief associated with the storms of this past summer! We have also supported 2 additional UMC organizations: Methodist Family Health (\$1,450) and Ozark Missions Project (\$1,366). In total, \$29,353 will have been donated by January 2025.

A large portion of these funds had been accumulated prior to this year. So now we need to identify ways to maintain Missions income so we can continue to support these organizations and programs here in our community. The Power of One (lengthwise folded bills in the weekly collections), and a designated monthly budget amount are our ongoing means of funding. Obviously, we will need to identify additional fundraising activities.

Missions Sunday, Dec. 29th, will be our first additional fundraiser for the Missions Committee. As Pastor Ron explained in the announcements, **ALL money received during that combined 11:00 service will go to Missions for next year's donations.** Please note that monthly auto-paid donations will not be received on the 29th and will not be included in the Missions Sunday funding. If you want to mail in a Missions donation, please indicate "Missions" on the check. Thank you in advance for any donations you make on the 29th. We also hope to identify additional Missions fund raisers during this next year.



SHOEBOX MINISTRY

Shoebox Ministry put together stacks and stacks of festive Christmas boxes filled with toiletries, necessities, and goodies for the folks at Salvation Armies in Bentonville & Fayetteville, & Seven Hills. James Forrest picked them up & delivered them.

Thank you, James!



THE CHURCH WAS DECORATED BEAUTIFULLY FOR CHRISTMAS



But all good things must come to an end. Sadly, it's time to remove the greens and put them away until next year. Come help out Monday, January 6, at 9:00am. Bring a snack to share, if you like.


**REMOVAL of
the GREENS
MONDAY, 1/6
9:00 AM
BRING A SNACK TO SHARE!**

THANKSGIVING POTLUCK 2024



Marilyn Pommerenke celebrated her 90th birthday in style on December 17!



SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY					
5	9:00 Classic Service - Sanctuary 10:00 Fellowship Time - Parlor 10:00 Children's Sunday School-LL 11:00 Casual Service - BH	6	9:00 REMOVAL OF THE GREENS 11:00 Staff Meeting - Rm 6 12:30 Women's Chorus - Music Rm 1:00 Frances H Bridge Grp-Parlor 5:00 Potluck/Games - Parlor 6:30 By the Book AA - Rm 28	7	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 6:00 Scouts - QR, BH, Rm 6, LL 6:30 Scouts (Girls) - Parlor 6:30 Men's Chorus - Music Rm	8	9:00 BV Quilters - Quilt Room 9:30 UWF Board Mtg - Parlor 10:00 Caring Friends - Becker Hall 3:00 Chancel Bells - Music Room 4:00 Chancel Choir - Music Room 6:00 SPRC Meeting - Rm 6	9	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 2:00 Praise Team Practice - BH 5:00 Rotary Club Meeting - Parlor 6:00 Evening Circle Mtg - Youth Rm	10	Office Closed	11	8:15 Young@Heart - Acropolis 8:30 Amp Big Book AA - Rm 28 10:00 Agape Shepherd Grp - Rosita's	3	OFFICE CLOSED Office Closed 11:30 BVPS Board Mtg - Rm 28	4	8:30 Amp Big Book AA - Rm 28
12	9:00 Classic Service - Sanctuary 10:00 Fellowship Time - Parlor 10:00 Children's Sunday School-LL 10:15 Sager Brown Info Mtg-Rm 6 11:00 Casual Service - BH	13	9:00 DAR - Parlor 11:00 Staff Mtg - Rm 6 12:30 Women's Chorus - Music Rm 1:00 Frances H Bridge Grp-Parlor 5:00 Potluck/Games - Parlor 6:30 By the Book AA - Rm 28	14	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 1:00 Sarah Circle Mtg - Parlor 3:00 MAPS Officers Mtg - Parlor 6:00 Scouts - QR, BH, Rm 6, LL 6:30 Scouts (Girls) - Parlor 6:30 Men's Chorus - Music Rm	15	9:00 BV Quilters - Quilt Room 9:30 Chapter CX PEO Mtg - Parlor 3:00 Chancel Bells - Music Room 4:00 Chancel Choir - Music Room 5:30 UMM Meeting & Meal - BH	16	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 2:00 Praise Team Practice - BH 5:00 Rotary Club Meeting - Parlor	17	Office Closed	18	8:30 Amp Big Book AA - Rm 28 9:30 MAPS Meeting - BH	24	Office Closed	25	8:30 Amp Big Book AA - Rm 28
19	9:00 Classic Service 10:00 Fellowship Time - Parlor 10:00 Children's Sunday School-LL 11:00 Casual Service - BH 12:15 Trustees Mtg - Parlor 1:30 CCM Meeting - Parlor	20	8:00 Care & Share Trailer 9:30 Martha Circle - Quilt Rm 11:00 Staff Mtg - Rm 6 12:30 Women's Chorus - Music Rm 1:00 Frances H Bridge Grp-Parlor 5:00 Potluck/Games - Parlor 6:00 HealingStrong - Room 6 6:30 By the Book AA - Rm 28	21	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 1:30 Naomi Circle Mtg - Parlor 3:00 Missions Team Mtg - Rm 6 6:00 Scouts - QR, BH, Rm 6, LL 6:30 Scouts (Girls) - Parlor 6:30 Men's Chorus - Music Rm	22	9:00 BV Quilters - Quilt Room 3:00 Chancel Bells - Music Room 4:00 Chancel Choir - Music Room	23	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 2:00 Praise Team Practice - BH 5:00 Rotary Club Meeting - Parlor	29	9:00 BV Quilters - Quilt Room 3:00 Chancel Bells - Music Room 4:00 Chancel Choir - Music Room	30	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 2:00 Praise Team Practice - BH 5:00 Rotary Club Meeting - Parlor	31	Office Closed		
26	9:00 Classic Service - Sanctuary 10:00 Fellowship Time - Parlor 10:00 Children's Sunday School-LL 11:00 Casual Service - BH	27	11:00 Staff Mtg - Rm 6 12:30 Women's Chorus - Music Rm 1:00 Frances H Bridge Grp-Parlor 5:00 Potluck/Games - Parlor 6:30 By the Book AA - Rm 28	28	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 6:00 Scouts - QR, BH, Rm 6, LL 6:30 Scouts (Girls) - Parlor 6:30 Men's Chorus - Music Rm	29	9:00 BV Quilters - Quilt Room 3:00 Chancel Bells - Music Room 4:00 Chancel Choir - Music Room	30	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 2:00 Praise Team Practice - BH 5:00 Rotary Club Meeting - Parlor								





JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1/01 Heath & Jennifer Lehmann 1/27 David & Marilyn Frisby
- 1/23 Rod & Arlene Alford 1/30 Gene Leonard & Andy Jackson
- 1/24 Rich & Jan Abbott 1/30 Joe & Judy Jackson

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1/01 Roger Justice 1/14 Ed Jenner 1/23 Marion Korns
- 1/04 Molly Woodard 1/15 Cynthia Augspurger 1/23 Jean Meadows
- 1/04 Bill Potts 1/15 Mary Jane Hammarstrom 1/24 Andrew Smith
- 1/06 Gladys Jutte 1/17 Doris Selley 1/25 Ivan Lantz
- 1/07 Andy Jackson 1/19 David George 1/25 Nita Wallace
- 1/07 Judi Shannon 1/20 Jan Kolbe 1/27 James Forrest
- 1/08 Dena Mayes 1/21 Ryker Mendoza 1/27 Troy Kizzire
- 1/09 Gene Aragon 1/21 Linda Richardson 1/31 Gary Grosnickle
- 1/10 Dr. Terry Augspurger 1/22 Billy Beverage 1/31 Anne Kelly
- 1/10 Marlene Clapp-Barron 1/23 Kevin Hight

January 2025 Newsletter Financial Data
information as of November 30, 2024

	2024 Actual	2024 Budget
Month of November Contributions (Income*)	\$ 39,166.58	\$ 45,916.66
Month of November Expenses	\$ 37,629.42	\$ 45,377.50
Difference	\$ 1,537.16	\$ 539.16
Year to Date Income Contributions Only	\$ 195,664.94	\$ 229,583.30
Year to Date Expenses	\$ 177,297.70	\$ 226,887.50
Difference	\$ 18,367.24	\$ 2,695.80

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



Look Who All Was in The Weekly Vista!

Hatley's watercolor paintings are inspired by nature



Rachel Dickerson/The Weekly Vista
Gerald Hatley is shown with some of his watercolor paintings at the Wishing Spring Gallery on West McNelly Road.

Gerald Hatley's passion for his art is like a burning fire and a pursuit that won't let him sleep until he has satisfied it.

A watercolorist with paintings on display at the Wishing Spring Gallery on West McNelly Road, Hatley said he began painting as a child and won his first art contest in the first grade. He earned a bachelor of arts from Oklahoma Christian College (now Oklahoma Christian University) and a master's in arts education from Central State University in Edmond, Okla., (now the University of Central Oklahoma). He taught studio art at Freed-Hardeman College (now Freed-Hardeman University) in Henderson, Tenn., for a while after earning his degrees.

Then he went into business and "life got in the way," Hatley said.

He worked away from the arts for 30 years in the Dallas area. When he retired, he relocated to Bella Vista immediately. He grew up in Muskogee, Okla., and when he was a child his family would canoe on the Buffalo River or Illinois River.

"I knew I wanted to move back to the trees, hills, rivers and creeks that they don't have in Dallas, Texas," he said.

Hatley has a daughter in Kansas City and a son in Oklahoma City, so he mapped it out and Bella Vista was almost exactly in the middle, he said.

"I moved here so both of them could come see me. My grandkids seem to love the wilderness as much as I do," he said.

Hatley is primarily a watercolorist drawn to landscapes, although he will venture into the occasional still life and change up media and work with oils at times and paint florals. He said sometimes he gets stymied and needs to recharge, start over and clear his head, and that is when he tries different things.

He is a member of the Plein Air Painters of the Ozarks and paints on site but likes to take a photo of the image because the light and shadows change, and he rarely

finishes a painting in one sitting but takes it back to his studio and completes it, he said.

Hatley has been with the gallery for five years. He has also sold his paintings in Florida, California, Europe and other places around the country and around the world.

"I've been blessed to have that opportunity in selling them," he said.

He is inspired by nature.

"I did a series of waterfalls and a series of rivers. Lately I've been mystified by trees," he said.

Hatley teaches watercolor classes sometimes in Rogers at Artists of Northwest Arkansas and has some classes coming up in Muskogee in March.

After being away from art for so many years during his business career, getting back into painting was something that made him happy.

"I knew I had to get back in it. It was a burning fire. I'm happier here than I've ever been in my life. I love to paint. I live to paint. If I don't paint every day, I feel like the day is not complete, so if I go to bed and I haven't painted, I have to get up and go paint," he said.



Siek an Auxiliary member for 70 years

Submitted photo **Linda Richardson** (left), Treasurer of the American Legion Post 341 Auxiliary in Bella Vista, presents a membership card to Byrdine Siek of Bella Vista. Siek, 92, has been an Auxiliary member for 70 years, starting in her hometown of Blairstown, Iowa shortly after her husband began serving in the Korean War. While he was in Korea, she lived in Seattle, Washington. They moved back to Blairstown and remained there until relocating to Bella Vista in 2000.



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



Pictured left to right (standing): Honorary Regent Frances Thomson, Honorary Regent Jody Rogers, Marilyn Patton, Barbara Hart, Honorary Regent Carol Miles, Ann Rutledge, Betsey Kensinger, Jeanne Hogan, Julie Fischer, Dorothy Nies, Nancy Hacking, Judy Davis, Robyn Holler, Honorary Regent Mary Wynne, Jan King; (seated): Historian Michelle Williamson, Honorary Regent Sue Lynn Hanson, Vice Regent Cassandra Dagley, Honorary Regent Jean Justice, Regent Lynn Wiggers, Recording Secretary Lee Ann Ward, Treasurer Susan Bellinski, Donna Williams and Registrar Barbara Gray. (Submitted photo)

The Lovely Purchase Chapter, National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution, located in Bella Vista, hosted its 40th anniversary Christmas luncheon on Monday, Dec. 9 at the First United Methodist Church of Bella Vista.

Luncheon attendance included 21 members of the local chapter, two members pending national approval of their applications, one prospective member, one former chapter regent, three Arkansas state officers, two Osage District officers and

two regents of other chapters in the Osage District.

The chapter was founded in 1984, by Organizing Regent Mrs. Wayne Packer with 19 charter members. The official charter document was displayed and minutes of the first meeting were read. Currently the chapter has 53 members, two pending members, one prospective member with application mailed, one prospective member with application nearing completion, and 13 additional prospective members.

The chapter meets in Bella Vista on the second Monday morning of each month with the exclusion of January, July and August. Additional activities include luncheons on the fourth Tuesday afternoon, and quarterly field trips, but most importantly a service project in most months. The luncheon menu consisted of turkey, turkey gravy, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce, green bean casserole, yeast rolls, and the chapter regent's great grandmother's original recipe for cornbread dressing, all homemade. Leftovers were donated to three fire stations.

DAR is a nonprofit, nonpolitical volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history and securing America's future through better education and consists of over 190,000 members in 3,000 chapters across the world Any woman 18 years or older who can prove lineal, bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American independence is eligible to join the DAR.

A member workshop will be held in February to assist prospective members in meeting the requirements. Anyone interested in joining is welcome to contact the Lovely Purchase Chapter through its website, Facebook page, or the national website's join page.

Thank You

Thank you so much for all the cards, calls, emails and prayers since my knee replacement. Each and every one was appreciated.

Sincerely,
Bob Vermett

Thank You

To my fellow parishioners: A huge thank you for the Christmas cards signed by so many of you. May your Christmas stockings be filled with Christ's love & blessings.

~Dave Weber



Thank You

Thanks to all the beautiful people of FUMCBV for the wonderful cards I received that the Wesley Shepherd Group prepared for me including the staff. It touched me beyond words. I miss my church but am unable to attend now. I am going through the Golden Years.

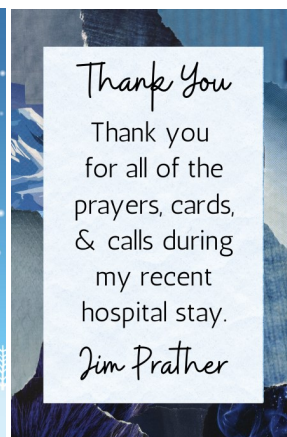
Love,
Connie Clark



Thank You

Thank you for all of the prayers, cards, & calls during my recent hospital stay.

Jim Prather





United Women in Faith

GREETINGS FROM UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH!

As we approach the New Year, we are very Thankful for a VERY good 2024 and we are looking forward to helping more women, children, and youth in Benton County, the USA, and Globally in 2025.

At our Unit Meeting, the new Officers for 2025 and 2026 were installed by Pastor Ron. Our unit received several awards including Diamond Unit, 5 Star Women Unit, the Elizabeth Thornburn Award, Mission Study Unit, Camp Aldersgate Unit, Miles of Pennies, Mi Watch Unit, and several women received UWF Reading Program Certificates.

In January, all Circles will have their Pledge Services that help UWF missions in the State, Country, and the World.

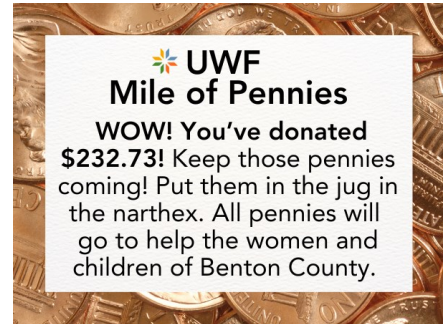
DATE TO REMEMBER:

January 8th UWF Board Meeting & planning for 2025 9:30am in the Parlor

January is Pledge Month for all Circles!

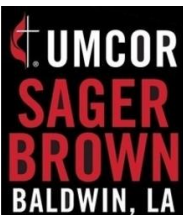
For questions or comments, call Judy Bilyeu 876-2345 or 721-9460.

You too can become a member of UWF and make a difference in someone's life. **HAVE A VERY HEALTH AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



January UWF Circle Meetings	Evening Thursday, 1/9, at 6:00pm in the Youth Room Pledge Service	Martha Monday, 1/20, at 9:30am in the Quilt Room Pledge Service	Sarah Tuesday, 1/14, at 1:00pm in the Parlor Pledge Service	Naomi Tuesday, 1/21, at 1:30pm in the Parlor Pledge Service
------------------------------------	--	--	--	--

What is Sager Brown?



Sager Brown is an UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) sponsored depot in 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 approximately \$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 educational 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 desires 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 campus. 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.



UWF DECEMBER MEETING & LUNCHEON



2024 Lifetime Achievement Awards

UMM, the ministry of men in the local church is defined as a core group of men who partner with their pastors to invite and initiate spiritual growth opportunities for all men of the church. Everyone has different gifts, graces, and areas of interest. Therefore, opportunities for participation include diverse ministries of the church, such as prayer groups, missions locally, around the country and across the globe. It should include Bible studies, retreats, workshops/seminars, small groups in the Wesleyan tradition, leading and participating on committees, teaching Sunday School classes, scouting, mentoring, and assisting in leading worship service. The focus is not inward, concentrating only on those who attend a set meeting, but outward to all men, assisting them to engage the process of spiritual growth. Here at FUMCBV, it even includes the collecting and selling of golf balls, car shows, and pancake breakfasts with lots of coffee. Our pathway, the pathway of UMM, is a lifelong commitment to spiritual growth to maturity as Christ followers. Our spiritual formation is marked by spiritual reproduction, as our faith passes on - in others, for generations.

On Sunday, December 8, Pastor Ron, UMM president Ken Swanson, and Rex Waller, the incoming president, had the honor of awarding two of our members with Lifetime Achievement Awards.

Dr. Jim Bilyeu first came to FUMCBV more than 18 years ago. He came to BV to assist the Kolbe brothers with the remodeling of his and Judy's future home. Serving several terms on SPRC and also serving as chief-assistant to anyone working on maintaining the facilities, Jim continues to serve by singing, working, and caring for each person that worships with us.



Lou Kaufmann came here a year or so before Jim. Starting by volunteering as a Lay Leader, he quickly got involved in many other areas. He served on many committees and often as chair. Most of all, he was involved in UMM. As a key part of the leadership of UMM the second year he was here, he was president the third year and got the Lifetime Achievement award recognitions restarted. Then, the "productions" began, namely the appreciation dinner for all the work the women do, "Ladies Night Out," was created which brought dinner and entertainment to Becker Hall in a way that it had never experienced before. Lou, thank you!



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, JAN. 19

CARING friends CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION



*Together
 We Can Make
 a Difference!*

You can enlarge these photos online to see them better.

A FEW WAYS WE SUPPORT EACH OTHER:



The next **UMM** meeting is **Wednesday, 1/15**. Dinner is at **5:30pm** in **Becker Hall**. The meeting will follow at **6:00pm**.



CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP MEETING
 -NO MEETING IN JANUARY-
 MEETINGS RESUME THURSDAY, 2/6,
 AT 12:30 PM IN THE PARLOR
 *RESPIRE CARE IN BECKER HALL

CARING friends

The next **Respite Care Ministry** social engagement is **Wednesday, 1/8**, from **10:00am-2:00pm** in **Becker Hall**.

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.