



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of BELLA VISTA

The Good News

MAY 2026



Ladies Night Out

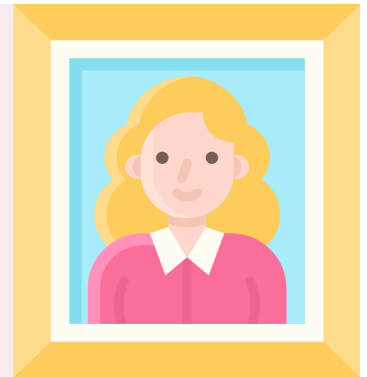
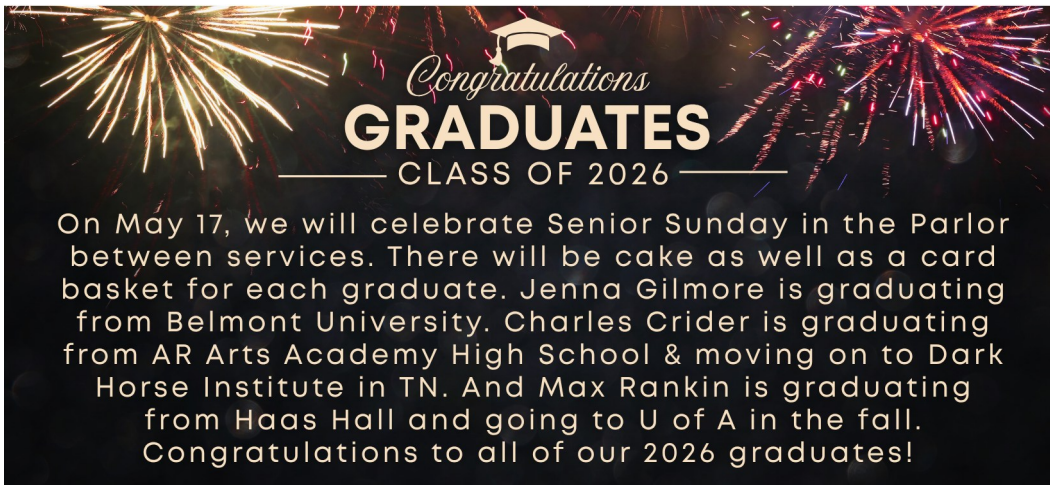
Wednesday, May 20, 2026 5:00 PM in Becker Hall

All ladies are invited! Your ticket is covered. If you haven't been invited directly, stop by the office to sign up. Everyone must register & purchase tickets by Sunday, May 10! Tickets are \$20 or \$120 per table. Dinner catered by Papa Mike's and entertainment provided by the Bella Vista Strings.

Mother's Day

IS MAY 10!

For Mother's Day, we're doing another slide show with photos of everyone's mom. We have previously submitted photos, but if you are new or didn't submit one before, please email yours to Andrea or drop it at the office by Wednesday, May 6, so she can scan it.

Congratulations
GRADUATES
CLASS OF 2026

On May 17, we will celebrate Senior Sunday in the Parlor between services. There will be cake as well as a card basket for each graduate. Jenna Gilmore is graduating from Belmont University. Charles Crider is graduating from AR Arts Academy High School & moving on to Dark Horse Institute in TN. And Max Rankin is graduating from Haas Hall and going to U of A in the fall. Congratulations to all of our 2026 graduates!

PENTECOST SUNDAY - MAY 24



WEAR YOUR REDS,
YELLOW, & ORANGES!



Pen from the Pulpit by Rev. Allen Crum

April did not end as many of us might have hoped. Even so, it is remarkable how God continues to show up in unexpected ways. Since my recent accident, I have been reminded—just as I shared in a recent sermon—that we can see resurrection unfolding around us, especially through the care and presence of community.

It would be difficult to name everyone, but I want to express my sincere gratitude for the many cards, prayers, and acts of kindness offered during my surgery and recovery. I am deeply thankful to be surrounded by such a compassionate and faithful congregation. It

is a blessing to serve alongside you.

I know it will take some time to return to a normal routine, but with God’s help, we will move through this temporary detour together. Life has a way of drawing our attention to the small, meaningful gifts we might otherwise overlook—even when they come alongside moments of pain and struggle.

May we continue to notice the signs of resurrection among us and give thanks for the many ways God is at work in every season. With gratitude for each of you and hope for the days to come.

Pastor Allen

SAVE THE DATE!

50TH

ANNIVERSARY
Celebration

SUNDAY, 6/7,
ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 AM
LUNCH 11:00 AM
IN BECKER HALL

METHODIST MEN’S GOLF

EVERY MONDAY, TUESDAY & THURSDAY THRU SUMMER

CALL ARTIE LAWLESS TO PLAY MONDAYS 479-212-4995 CALL JIM DOBEY TO PLAY TUESDAYS 402-651-9479 CALL DARRELL BOTTJEN TO PLAY THURSDAYS 479-876-1392

MAY TEE TIMES

MONDAY, 5/4 7:30 AM HIGHLANDS	MONDAY, 5/18 7:30 AM DOGWOOD
TUESDAY, 5/5 10:00 AM BV CTRY CLUB	TUESDAY, 5/19 10:00 AM HIGHLANDS
THURSDAY, 5/7 8:00 AM SCOTSDALE	THURSDAY, 5/21 8:00 AM BV CTRY CLUB
MONDAY, 5/11 7:30 AM SCOTSDALE	TUESDAY, 5/26 10:10 AM BERKSDALE
TUESDAY, 5/12 10:00 AM KINGSWOOD	THURSDAY, 4/30 8:00 AM HIGHLANDS
THURSDAY, 5/14 7:40 AM DOGWOOD	(ALL THURSDAY TEE TIMES EXCEPT MAY 7 ARE SHOTGUN)



Easter Sunday in Photos

From left to right, top to bottom, Sunrise Service, Easter Breakfast, the Sanctuary for Classic Service, the Great Easter Egg Hunt in the Atrium between services, Easter Fellowship & Coffee Hour, and Becker Hall all set up for Casual Service. It was a beautiful Easter Sunday that was well-attended. We thank all of you who made it possible and those who participated. *Photos courtesy of Conny Crum.*

Thank You

Thanking the church in this letter is the best way to reach everyone that sent me cards, helped me to get to the doctors' appointments, get to the grocery store, or pick up mail at the post office. These don't include the many prayers that I felt on a daily basis. Those prayers kept my spirits high and helped my healing process. I thank you and am blessed to be a part of this church family.

~ Barbara Brooks

THANK YOU

to Lamar, the choir and congregation for the opportunity to accompany our worship services on the piano. This act of worship has been pure joy for me! I trained as an organist in college (no...not anymore) then went on to ordained ministry instead. Accompaniment was my specialty beginning in junior high so this has been a treasured remembrance. I know you will enjoy hearing Lynn Wiggers play as I am going on an extended vacation. Prayers that all goes well with our trip to see our son, Sean Roth, and his family while he is in port. Peace and blessings!

~ CATHY LUCK



BVPS closes for the summer on May 20 and won't be back in session until August, so you won't be able to enter the building early downstairs without a key. The office staff appreciates your patience and understanding about our operating hours particularly over the next couple of months. The office opens at 9:00 am, so the church doors will be unlocked then unless arrangements are made ahead of time. Thank you for your help in spreading the word within your groups.



WB CHATTER BOX May Meetings



will meet at Rosita's on Saturday, 5/9, at 10:00 am.



will meet at BV Country Club on Monday, 5/11, at 11:30 am.



will meet in the Parlor for lunch on Thursday, 5/14, at 12:30 pm.



meet for appetizers & fellowship in Becker Hall on Thursday, 5/21, at 6:00pm.



meets at Hiwasse Hilton on Friday, 5/22, at 11:00 am. Call Loretta to RSVP: 586-9418.



WILL MEET AT THE HIXSONS' HOUSE FOR BREAKFAST ON WEDNESDAY, 5/27, AT 9:00 AM.



meets Thursday, 5/28, at 10:00 am to wash church windows & have pizza at Gusano's.



meet at Catfish John's on 102 in Rogers on Thursday, 5/28, at 5:30 pm for dinner.



Blessing Box Food Collection

This month, we need EVERYTHING: SHELF-STABLE MILK (like Parmalat), CEREAL, POP TARTS, PEANUT BUTTER, CANNED CHICKEN, VIENNA SAUSAGES, SOUPS/STEWES, CANNED PASTA, HORMEL COMPLEATS, MAC AND CHEESE, CANNED VEGGIES, CANNED FRUIT OR FRUIT COCKTAIL. (Please get the medium-sized jars of peanut butter and boxes of cereal so they fit in the Blessing Box.)

We can always use more **SMALL BOTTLES OF LAUNDRY DETERGENT & PAPER PRODUCTS.** Please drop off your donations in Room 5 (the Blessing Box Room) or the office. **AND, AS ALWAYS, PLEASE NO EXPIRED, DENTED, OPENED, OR UNLABELED CANS.**



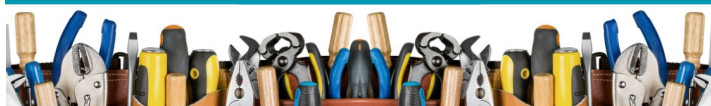
SHOEBOX MINISTRY

WE NEED PACKERS FOR THE NEXT PACKING DAY: TUESDAY, 5/12, 2:00 PM IN THE QUILT ROOM. KEEP THOSE SHOEBOXES & DONATIONS COMING!

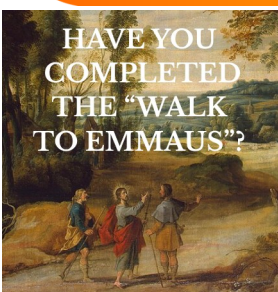
MISSIONS TEAM MEETING



TUESDAY, MAY 12, AT 3:00PM IN ROOM 6



TRUSTEES MEETING SUNDAY, 5/17, AT 12:15PM PARLOR



HAVE YOU COMPLETED THE "WALK TO EMMAUS"?

Starting in May, the Women's Emmaus Reunion Group will meet the 2nd & 4th Tuesdays at 10:00 am at Lani Hyslop's home.

The Men's Emmaus Group meets on Wednesdays at Cafe USA at 7:30 am.

National Music Week

Andante Music Club of Bella Vista presents

National Music Week CONCERT

Tuesday, May 5, 2026 6:30 p.m.

Mildred B. Cooper Memorial Chapel 504 Memorial Dr., Bella Vista

Public Invited, NO ADMISSION FEE

Featuring Classical to Jazz Music

THE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED MONDAY, 5/24 IN HONOR OF MEMORIAL DAY

BECKER HALL EXTERIOR DOORS WILL BE OPENED AT 9:00 AM FOR ACTIVITIES.



REMEMBER AND HONOR



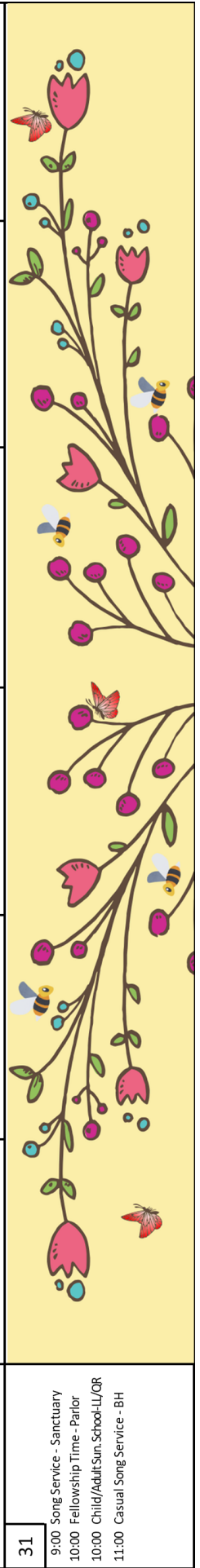
SNACK PACKS for BACK PACKS



Help us provide sacks of food each month for Cooper Elementary School kids in need. Your quarters help us accomplish that goal. Deposit them in the big, clear plastic Snack Packs tube located on the table in the Becker Hall hallway or the one in the narthex. Tube have been empty lately!



SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY																															
3	9:00 Classic Service - Sanctuary 10:00 Fellowship Time - Parlor 10:00 Child/Adult Sun.School-LU/OR 11:00 Casual Service - BH	4	7:30 Men's Golf - Highlands 8:00 TOPS - Room 28 10:30 Staff Meeting - Room 6 12:30 NWA Women's Chorus - MR 1:00 Frances H Bridge Grp - Parlor 5:00 Potluck/Games - Parlor 6:30 By the Book AA - Rm 28	5	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 10:00 Men's Golf - BV Country Club 6:00 Scouts - QR, BH, Rm 28, LL 6:30 Men's Chorus - Music Rm	6	7:30 Men's Emmaus Grp - Café USA 9:00 BV Quilters - Quilt Room 9:30 UWF Board Meeting - Parlor 3:00 Chancel Bells - Music Room 4:00 Chancel Choir - Sanctuary	7	8:00 MM Golf - Scotsdale (Shotgun) 9:00 UWF Bazaar Workshop - QR 9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 12:30 Caregivers Support Grp - Parlor 2:00 Praise Team Rehearsal - BH 5:00 Rotary Club Meeting - Parlor	8	Office Closed	9	8:30 Amp Big Book AA - Rm 28 10:00 Agape Shepherd - Rosita's	1	Office Closed 11:30 BVPS Preschool Board Mtg	2	8:30 Amp Big Book AA - Rm 28 9:30 MAPS Meeting - Becker Hall																										
10	MOTHER'S DAY 9:00 Classic Service - Sanctuary 10:00 Fellowship Time - Parlor 10:00 Child/Adult Sun.School-LU/OR 11:00 Casual Service - BH	11	7:30 Men's Golf - Scotsdale 8:00 TOPS - Room 28 9:00 DAR - Parlor 10:00 CBCO Blood Drive - BH 11:30 WB Acorns - BV Country Club 12:30 NWA Women's Chorus - MR 1:00 Frances H Bridge Grp - Parlor 5:00 Potluck/Games - Parlor 6:30 By the Book AA - Rm 28	12	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 10:00 Women's Reunion Grp-Hyslops 10:00 Men's Golf - Kingswood 1:00 Sarah Circle - Parlor 2:00 Shoebox Ministry Packing - QR 3:00 Missions Meeting - Room 6 6:00 Scouts - QR, BH, Rm 28, LL 6:30 Men's Chorus - Music Rm	13	7:30 Men's Emmaus Grp - Café USA 9:00 BV Quilters - Quilt Room 10:00 Caring Friends Respite Care - BH 3:00 Chancel Bells - Music Room 4:00 Chancel Choir - Sanctuary	14	7:40 Men's Golf - Dogwood 9:00 UWF Bazaar Workshop - QR 9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 12:30 WB Dreamers - Parlor 2:00 Praise Team Rehearsal - BH 5:00 Rotary Club Meeting - Parlor 6:00 Evening Circle - Room 6	15	Office Closed 8:00 BVPS Water Day on Playground	16	8:30 Amp Big Book AA - Rm 28	17	SENIOR SUNDAY 9:00 Classic Service - Sanctuary 10:00 Fellowship Time - Parlor 10:00 Child/Adult Sun.School-LU/OR 11:00 Casual Service - BH 12:15 Trustees Meeting - Parlor	18	7:30 Men's Golf - Dogwood 8:00 TOPS - Room 28 9:30 Martha Circle - QR 10:30 Staff Meeting - Room 6 12:30 NWA Women's Chorus - MR 1:00 Frances H Bridge Grp - Parlor 5:00 Potluck/Games - Parlor 6:30 By the Book AA - Rm 28	19	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 10:00 Men's Golf - Highlands 6:00 Scouts - QR, BH, Rm 28, LL, Parlor 6:30 Men's Chorus - Music Rm	20	BVPS LAST DAY OF SCHOOL 7:30 Men's Emmaus Grp - Café USA 9:00 BV Quilters - Quilt Room 9:30 Chapter CX PEO Mtg - Parlor 3:00 Chancel Bells - Music Room 4:00 Chancel Choir - Sanctuary 5:00 UMM Ladies Night Out - BH	21	8:00 Men's Golf - BVCC (Shotgun) 9:00 UWF Bazaar Workshop - QR 9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 2:00 Praise Team Rehearsal - BH 5:00 Rotary Club Meeting - Parlor 6:00 WB Searchers - Appetizers in BH	22	Office Closed 11:00 WB Amazing Grace - Hiwassee Hilton	23	8:30 Amp Big Book AA - Rm 28	24	PENTECOST SUNDAY 9:00 Classic Service - Sanctuary 10:00 Fellowship Time - Parlor 10:00 Child/Adult Sun.School-LU/OR 11:00 Casual Service - BH	25	MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED 8:00 TOPS - Room 28 12:30 NWA Women's Chorus - MR 1:00 Frances H Bridge Grp - Parlor 5:00 Potluck/Games - Parlor 6:30 By the Book AA - Rm 28	26	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 10:00 Women's Reunion Grp-Hyslops 10:10 Men's Golf - Berksdale 10:30 Calico Cut-ups - Becker Hall 10:30 Staff Mtg - Rm 6 6:00 Scouts - QR, BH, Rm 28, LL 6:30 Men's Chorus - Music Rm	27	7:30 Men's Emmaus Grp - Café USA 9:00 Shepherd Grp 1 - Hiksons' 9:00 BV Quilters - Quilt Room 3:00 Chancel Bells - Music Room 4:00 Chancel Choir - Sanctuary	28	8:00 MM Golf - Highlands (Shotgun) 9:00 UWF Bazaar Workshop - QR 9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 10:00 WB Chill - wash windows/Gusano's 2:00 Praise Team Rehearsal - BH 5:00 Rotary Club Meeting - Parlor 5:30 WB KIM - Catfish John's in Rogers	29	Office Closed	30	8:30 Amp Big Book AA - Rm 28	31	9:00 Song Service - Sanctuary 10:00 Fellowship Time - Parlor 10:00 Child/Adult Sun.School-LU/OR 11:00 Casual Song Service - BH





 **MAY ANNIVERSARIES** 

5/04 Lou & Judy Kaufmann 5/19 Billy & Sandra Beverage 5/24 Rex & Denise Waller
 5/08 Darrell & Verna Bottjen 5/19 Jon & Frances Holman 5/27 Terry & Cynthia Augspurger
 5/16 James & Amy Gilmore 5/22 Artie & Marian Lawless 5/31 Harry & Kandi Mount

 **MAY BIRTHDAYS** 

5/02 Kathy Easterling	5/09 Rick Mayes	5/19 Roy Vogel (95!) 🥳
5/04 Jack Dunn	5/11 Genie Schupp	5/20 Cheryl Campbell
5/04 Jon Holman	5/12 Max Rankin	5/21 John Justice
5/08 Jenna Gilmore	5/13 Kay Dunn	5/23 Lara Sandusky
5/08 Arlyn Richardson	5/15 Jessica Mendoza	5/23 Galen Thiele
5/08 Phyllis Widle (93!) 🎉	5/15 Nancy Spangler	5/25 Denise Waller
5/09 Ashley Antoine	5/16 Mary Hixson	5/27 Ev Weigel
5/09 David Frisby	5/18 Marian Lawless	5/31 Larry Marshall (92!) 🎉
5/09 Jean Justice	5/18 Diane Warren	

May 2026 Newsletter Financial Data
information as of March 31, 2026

	2026 Actual	2026 Budget
Month of March Contributions (Income*)	\$ 41,834.23	\$ 48,333.34
Month of March Expenses	\$ 39,754.95	\$ 48,368.34
Difference	\$ 2,079.28	\$ (35.00)
Year to Date Income Contributions Only	\$ 356,657.29	\$ 435,000.06
Year to Date Expenses	\$ 346,728.17	\$ 435,315.06
Difference	\$ 9,929.12	\$ (315.00)

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



United
Women
in Faith

GREETINGS FROM UNITED WOMEN OF FAITH!

We hope you are enjoying all the splendor of spring. The trees and bushes are so welcoming with their green colors. We still need more rain to keep everything looking beautiful.

This is the time of year where everyone is traveling for graduations and family get-togethers. Drive safely and enjoy yourselves.

The ladies of the church don't take much time off as they are still meeting every Thursday from 9:00 -2:00 for Bazaar workshops downstairs at the church. Come join in and help make items to be sold at the Fall Bazaar. It's a great time to meet new friends. Come when you can, stay as long as you can, bring a sandwich, and have lunch with the group!

ITEMS NEEDED FOR BAZAAR:

Large-mouth quart and pint jars

½-pint jars

Lids and rings for the jars

For questions or comments, call President Judy Bilyeu at 479-876-2345 or 721-9460.

Dates to Remember:

May 6th UWF Board Meeting 9:30 am in Parlor

August 1st Annual Rummage Sale 8:00 am - 1:00 pm



**May
UWF Circle
Meetings**

Sarah
Tuesday, 5/12,
at 1:00pm in
the Parlor
TBA

Evening
Thursday, 5/14,
at 6:00pm in
Room 6
TBA

Martha
Monday, 5/18,
at 9:30am in
the Quilt Room
Shoebox
Ministry

**Naomi
is not
meeting
in May**



**Saturday, AUGUST 1,
8:00am-1:00pm**

DO YOU HAVE TOO MUCH STUFF ?

***Begin Now To Set Aside Your Usable Discards for the Rummage Sale.
If you don't have room to store your donations, call Verna Bottjen
876-1392 to see if we have space available. No Clothes, TV's, or
heavy furniture, and please have it in clean and working order.***



MISSIONS

Missions Committee Update

We are now in the 4th quarter of the church fiscal year. Here is a look at what we have accomplished at this point with your support.

- ❖ First fiscal quarter (July – September): With proceeds from a spaghetti dinner plus existing funds and designated donations, we provided a total of **\$5,600** to [Saving Grace](#) that was matched by another Saving Grace benefactor, so the FUMCBV total impact was **\$11,200!**
- ❖ Second fiscal quarter (October – December): Using *Power-of-One* donations plus existing funds for our “Adopt-a-Classroom” initiative to compensate teachers spending their own money on their individual classrooms; we provided [Cooper Elementary School](#) a total of **\$5,100** which equates to **\$150** for each of Cooper’s **34** classrooms!
- ❖ Third fiscal quarter (January – March): We were able to use existing funds, *Power-of-One* donations and designated donations to make contributions to the following 3 regional UMC organizations:
 - [Methodist Family Health](#) - **\$2,587**
 - [Camp Aldersgate](#) - **\$1,500**
 - [Ozark Missions Project](#) - **\$1,500**
- ❖ Fourth fiscal quarter (April – June): Mission of the Quarter is the [Boys and Girls Club – Bella Vista](#). Already this fiscal year, we have provided the club with **\$1,230** for an air-hockey game at the start of their school year and for the tuition of a child who lost their father suddenly and unexpectedly. (Please note that UWF also provided funds for this student so together FUMCBV covered their tuition for the remainder of the school year.)
 - This quarter, we hope to provide the Bella Vista B&G Club with funds for summer scholarships & possibly new coated metal table/bench assemblies for outdoor activities.
- ❖ Designated Donations through March:
 - (Cooper School) [Weekend Snack Packs](#) - **\$4,800** for food
 - ◆ FUMCBV will again provide food for Cooper Elem. [Summer Snack Packs](#).
 - [Blessing Box](#) - **\$1,101** spent in addition to MANY donated items (plus **\$1,220+** spent on construction of the new Blessing Box located at the corner of the office parking lot).
 - [Shoebox Ministry](#) (hygiene items for homeless shelters) - **\$2,783**
 - [UMCOR](#) - **\$4,660** collected for Texas flooding relief
- ❖ Other Giving:
 - **\$1,365** for [Sager Brown](#) “disaster buckets” and half of FUMCBV attendees’ costs.
 - **\$1,377** for Church T-shirts (being offset by shirt sales)

❖ THAT IS TOTAL GIVING OF **\$34,823** OVER THE PAST 9 MONTHS

So where does this funding come from? In a word, [YOU](#). We receive support in several different ways:

- \$500/month from the church operating budget
- Some incredible Missions donations from members
- Special collections (such as for Texas flood relief this past year)
- Designated donations including (but not limited to):
 - Snack-Packs, Blessing Box (funds PLUS physical items), Shoebox Ministry
- Power-of-One donations (those bills folded lengthwise in Sundays’ collections)
- Attending the occasional fundraiser

We do our best to make a real impact within our immediate community and help UMC causes within our region of the country. It is your Missions Committee’s hope that you can be proud of how we have used your support. Your feedback is always appreciated. **THANK YOU!**



Look Who Was in The Weekly Vista!

Free yoga class meets twice weekly at FUMC

April 1, 2026 by Rachel Dickerson



A free yoga class led by volunteers is held at 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays in Becker Hall at First United Methodist Church.

The class is called "Best Yoga in BV." The five instructors are Carolan Weaver, Sherry Hughes, Shellie Thill, Nancy Keesling and Carrie Wilson.

Weaver said she moved to Bella Vista in 2005 from Illinois, where she had been practicing yoga, and she started looking for a class. She found a free class that met at Riordan Hall, which is now the Bella Vista Recreation Center. In time, the volunteers teaching the class retired, and four members of the class stepped up to teach, she said. That carried on until the covid-19 pandemic in 2020, and then Riordan Hall closed from March 2020 until September 2021, she said. When it reopened, they were told there were no plans to hold the class going forward, for various reasons, she said.

"The four of us felt we could still offer something to the community," she said. "We went to different locations. This church was extremely welcoming, offered this room free of charge."

She said they started in September 2021 offering the free class at Becker Hall. The instructors have a "pay it forward" mindset, she said.

"I think all of us feel like yoga has had an impact on our lives."

Since then another instructor has joined, and they rotate and fill in as needed.

Sherry Hughes said she has been doing yoga for more than 50 years. She was introduced to it by her sister-in-law when she was living in Kansas City, and she took classes at the West Port Community Center and became certified through Johnson County Parks and Recreation, where she served as a substitute yoga instructor, she said. "It brings me peace," she said. "I feel calmer; peace and calm."

Weaver said, "I have a bad back. It's beneficial mentally and physically, knowing you're doing something good for yourself."

Hughes said she had both knees replaced and the doctors and nurses were amazed at how quickly she recovered, thanks to practicing yoga.

The two women said there are several men in the class, as well as younger people. Hughes said the class averages about 40 members, although at this time many are out enjoying the nice weather. In the winter, as many as 60 have attended.

Instructor Shellie Thill said, "I love it. It's a very warm, inviting group of people, like family. Besides the great strength training, we're like family."

Class member Hue Bonneau said, "I miss it if I skip a day. It's very healthful. You feel lots of energy. Over 70 or 60 your body is changing so much. When you're moving, the blood circulation is so much better. I can never have enough of it."

Steve McAuley has been coming to the class three or four years.

"I like the way it makes me feel when I'm done," he said. "Getting there is half the battle, like most exercise. You're glad that you got up and made the effort. It makes your whole day go better."

Ron Phillips has been in the class for two years.

"I enjoy it immensely," he said. "I like that there's five girls that rotate and all have different teaching styles, so it's not boring. It helps with balance, movement, energy, stretching."

Donations are accepted, but they are given to the church. The instructors are all volunteers. The church is at 20 Boyce Drive.



Questers move forward

March 18, 2026 by Steve Andrews



Standing in front of the old log cabin at the Bella Vista Historical Museum, are Questers state president Betsy Mertz (left), international treasurer and state webmaster Gary Mertz, and longtime member Nancy Noyes.

When he joined the Questers organization four years ago, Gary Mertz was on a mission to keep history alive. Now, the retired Minnesota native is hoping to keep the historical organization's presence on the forefront.

The Questers is an international organization dedicated to keeping history alive through education, preservation of meaningful places, and funding restoration projects. There are eight chapters in Arkansas, including one in Rogers and the Butterfield Trail Chapter in Bella Vista. There are 434 total chapters throughout the United States and Canada, with more than 4,500 members.

Mertz followed his wife Betsy into the organization, after she had become president of the local chapter. "I attended all of the meetings and supported her in her role as chapter president, particularly the technology side of things, with presentations," he said. "Finally she said, 'You ought to join'. So I joined about four years ago. "I could see the value of what Questers was doing and I really enjoyed it. I finally joined and ever since then, I have gotten more and more involved."

Betsy is now the state president, as Gary has become the state's webmaster, while also becoming the treasurer of the international organization.

"We like to keep history alive, is what our mission is," said Gary Mertz. "Through preservation, restoration and education of historical sites and objects. It can be the education of the civil war, revolutionary war, or the restoring of a historic building and the history behind it."

"The organization started in 1944. It was formed on a desire to maintain antique collections, and it's grown into the phil-

anthropic organization to preserve history."

The Questers also fund several preservation and restoration projects, as well as college scholarships. They offer a Masters student at the University of Columbia a two-year scholarship and they also fund a 3-year fellowship at the University of Delaware.

"We try to help and support these students, who are studying in the realm of our mission," Mertz said. "It has to be inside our discipline of restoration and preservation."

Mertz is one of the few male members of the organization, but is hoping to get more men involved. "It's predominantly women," he said. "The men are starting to slowly get into it. I would like to see more men get involved in what we do."

The local chapters are commissioned to go out and find historical reservation, preservation and educational projects. They can request state grants or international grants to go out and preserve some historical site or building. To date, \$1,521, 136 has been awarded in preservation and restoration grants by the Questers since 1986.

Mertz called the organization a "well-kept secret" as far as what it offers to historians.

"One of the things that I am looking forward to is taking the Questers organization and moving it forward into the future of what we do and how we do it," he said. "So, part of my emphasis is trying to bring Questers out of the dark and take it to more of a national presence. And bring light to all of the historical things that we need to maintain for future generations. I think it's a worthwhile goal to maintain some of the things that our kids don't know about. "Our members are great members and they are really the lifeblood of our organization."

The Questers are open to receiving donations or grants from different parties, which help fund the projects. Mertz has also taken on the leadership role as the international treasurer.

"That's what makes me more excited about it, is seeing how we can bring this more to the forefront to help us garner more donations to help us support our projects," he said. "It's a role that allows me to express some of the things that I'd like to see us move towards. It has me into more of a leadership position where I can maybe make a difference in bringing more attention to the Questers."

The Questers meet on the fourth Monday of each month at 12:30 p.m. at the museum. Every meeting incorporates a lecture or presentation that is informational to the members. For more information on the organization, go to Questers1944.org.



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

We're Here to Serve You

Senior Pastor - Rev. Allen Crum
 allen.crum@arumc.org (479) 445-0968
 Church Administrator - Amy Gilmore
 Church Secretary - Andrea Fobes
 Music Ministries Director - Lamar Puckett

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

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

*****NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:
 MONDAY, 5/18*****



Volunteers are needed to drive those unable to drive themselves to appointments, to the store, & to worship on an as-needed basis. If you can help, call Sue Nebrig at 372-7247.

GIVE & GO... have fun!

ONLY 9 PEOPLE ARE SIGNED UP! C'MON FOLKS!

Fun Pass
 Visit all 4 attractions!

FREE T-shirt & Fun Pass worth over \$245!
 FOR DONORS
While supplies last. Scan QR code for more info. www.cbco.org/giveandgo

GIVE BLOOD

Donors receive a **FREE t-shirt & a Fun Pass** while supplies last!

COMMUNITY BLOOD CENTER OF THE OZARKS BLOOD DRIVE **MONDAY, MAY 11 10 AM-3 PM BECKER HALL**

Visit donor.cbco.org to make an appt or call the office for help in doing so.

A FEW WAYS WE SUPPORT EACH OTHER:



CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

MEET THIS MONTH ON THURSDAY, 4/2, AT 12:30 PM IN THE PARLOR
 *NO RESPITE CARE THIS WEEK

CARING friends

meets this month on Wednesday, 4/8, from 10:00am-2:00pm in Becker Hall.

S.O.L.O.S.

SOLOS gives single ladies the opportunity to get out and socialize. They don't meet in May, but if you'd like to join them for lunch in the future, call Nancy Spangler at 876-6751. All single (widowed, divorced, etc.) ladies are welcome! You don't have to be a church member to participate.



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 Allen at his email: allen.crum@arumc.org or call him: **(479) 445-0968**.

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.