



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of BELLA VISTA

The Good News

DECEMBER 2021



Your Church Staff. . .

*. . .wishes to express our Thanks to you, our Church Family!
We all feel very fortunate to serve a Congregation
of those who so graciously give of their time,
their talent, and their support to us.
Thank You, and have a blessed holiday!*

THE FINANCE COMMITTEE of FUMC BELLA VISTA
WOULD LIKE to INVITE YOU to

**CELEBRATE!
WITH US ON
DECEMBER 5TH**

PLEASE JOIN US BETWEEN 3-5 PM for HORS D'OEUVRES & MUSIC
RSVP in the CHURCH OFFICE



Place your
Poinsettia order
today!



Poinsettias are again available for decorating the church this Christmas season for you to order "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one. The cost is \$10. You can stop by the church office or call to place your order. The deadline to order and pay for your plant is Wednesday, December 15th.

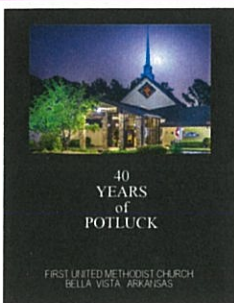
Please fill out a separate order form so that we have your correct information. We will print a special recognition booklet for the December 19th worship service with the information you give us and we will mail you a copy of the booklet. After Christmas, you may take your Poinsettia home.

We order our poinsettias through the Bella Vista Kiwanis Club, which purchases their plants from Matkins Nursery in Bentonville. 100% of Kiwanis' profit goes back to the children of Bella Vista.

Our Cookbooks will make a wonderful Christmas present!

There are 104 different contributors of about 400 recipes, most of which have been cooked for some event here at the church over the years. Find one that you have already tasted and thought "....mmmm...that was yummy - wish I had the recipe!" Now you can have it, and many more.

The books are \$15 each, and you can purchase one (or more!) in the office. Christmas is coming—would make a great gift, especially if you bake up and include a finished recipe!!





Glimpses of Grace

Rev. Jeanne Williams, Senior Pastor

Advent. Expectation. Waiting. Knowing what the end result is going to be and wanting so desperately to skip to the gift at the end. All of this is sometimes excruciating for us, but it is necessary. We need the time to prepare our hearts for the gift of Jesus.

It is becoming increasingly hard to wait. Christmas decorations and music began in mid-October. Just this week, Marcus (age 4) started asking, “where are the Christmas lights?” and is insisting that they need to be up NOW! (I know what we’ll be doing the day after Thanksgiving!) It’s hard to have delayed gratification, but we are to wait.

One of my favorite movies is *National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation*. It is a tradition in our house to watch this movie between Christmas Eve services. The tradition started when I was in high school, and we all still watch it! The movie is one of my favorites, despite some of the language, simply because it hits every single calamity, missed expectations, family issues, and is just so much a reflection of life that most of us can identify ourselves, and our families, in it. Over the years, I find myself identifying with different story lines, too. Funny how that happens. Kind of like how every year, I find myself identifying with a different story line in the Advent and Christmas narratives. At the end of the movie, despite all the mishaps and craziness, Clark Griswold is reminded that family is what matters the most, and even if they are crazy and don’t live up to our expectations, Christ is born.

I pray you will take the time to step away from all the busy-ness of the season to remember that Christ is born. I know I’m excited about all the things that we didn’t get to do last year, so I’m already finding myself cramming the calendar full. I’ve also set reminders in my calendar to “pause, breathe, and give thanks for Jesus.” I invite you to do something similar!

“All you who wait for the Lord, be strong and let your heart take courage.” Psalm 31:24

Advent Blessings,
Rev. Jeanne

Rev. Dr. Blake Bradford is Preaching Sunday, December 12th

Our new NW District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Blake Bradford, is joining us for worship on December 12. Blake Bradford is a District Superintendent in the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church and Dean of the Appointive Cabinet.

A co-author of *Mission Possible: A Simple Structure for Missional Effectiveness* and *IMPACT! Reclaiming the Call of Lay Ministry*, Blake has pastored churches of different sizes and contexts, including serving as executive pastor of a 3500-member congregation in Little Rock. Before his appointment to the Cabinet, Blake served the Arkansas Conference Center for Vitality as a congregational coach, consultant, and conflict transformation mediator.

Dr. Bradford, a graduate of Hendrix, Vanderbilt, Iliff School of Theology, and Perkins School of Theology at SMU, has taught at conferences and trainings across the country, including an annual role as a workshop leader at the Church of the Resurrection's Leadership Institute.

Blake also holds a second-degree black belt, which he believes might have been his best training for ministry.





JOINING in the JOURNEY TOGETHER

Rev. Brenda Wideman, Associate Pastor

Alone

*Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed,
for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.*

(Joshua 1:9 NRSV)

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

(Isaiah 41:10 NIV)



For almost two years now we have been in the grips of the pandemic. It has worn us down, has left us feeling alone and afraid, left us feeling hopeless and helpless. We have endured illness, death, isolation, loss of jobs, loss of security, loss of relationships. There seems to be no solid rock any more on which we can stand. It seems as if our whole community has been experiencing these feelings throughout the long months, but we are especially feeling it as we are approaching the holidays. There may not be any 'Joy' in our hearts right now to sing 'to the World.' But Jesus said, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28 NRSV)

As we enter the holiday season, if your heart feels broken and alone, if you feel weary and heavy burdened, we invite you to give name to these feelings and then to look to our God for rest. Join with us in community for a special worship service to find comfort, hope, and healing in our God who sees, who hears, and who lovingly provides.

"The Longest Night: A Service of Comfort, Hope and Healing"

Tuesday, December 21, 2021, 6:30pm in our Sanctuary

This will be an in-person service with Scripture, song, shared stories, and opportunities to express personal grief. Food and fellowship (and probably even the offer of some friendly hugs) will immediately follow the service. Come join in the journey together as we lay down our burdens. Come receive the Hope, the Healing, and the Joy that only the Lord of Love, Light, and Life, the Lord who is with us, can provide.

Special Holiday Blessings, *Pastor Brenda*

Methodist Family Health

Share the Light. . .Share Your Light of Peace, Stability and Hope!

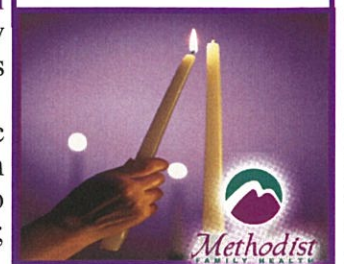
For the last month of the year, our mission focus will be on **Methodist Family Health** and their *Share the Light* Christmas campaign. You may remember Methodist Family Health from earlier this year where we collected toiletries, paper goods, and clothing items for the tenants of their facilities. This month we are collecting monetary donations.

Methodist Family Health offers programs and services such as inpatient psychiatric hospitalization, outpatient counseling clinics, grief counseling services, group homes, an emergency shelter for children, and more. Methodist Family Health receives no apportionment support from the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church; instead, they rely heavily on donations made through this special offering at Christmas.

Your contribution makes it possible for Methodist Family Health to continue their mission of giving the best possible care to children and families by treating the whole person; psychiatrically, behaviorally, emotionally, and spiritually.

To learn more about programs and services, please e-mail info@methodistfamily.org or call (501) 661-0720.

Our December Mission of the Month





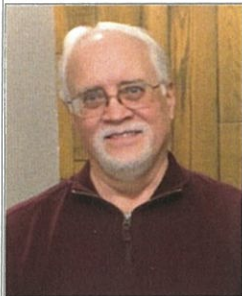
COMMUNITY LIFE

OUR FAMILY

Each month this space is used to tell about the people who are part of our church family. If you know of a graduation, community recognition, someone moving away or moving in, whatever the rest of the church might like to know to keep up with folks, let me know so I can include the information in these pages. Send your information to Brenda Wideman, Associate Pastor of Congregational Care at 479-855-1158 or brenda@fumcbellavista.com

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

Laraine Smirl joined our church family in the Contemporary service on October 24th. She is a clinical research nurse. She grew up in Little Rock and moved to NWA in 2001. Laraine loves big orchestral music and plays the piano. She also volunteers at Crystal Bridges in her spare time.



Gerald Hatley became a member of FUMCBV on Halloween. He is a visual artist who is retired. He designed the beautiful cover for our Advent bulletins and Booklets—the original has been framed and will be on display for all to see. He loves to read, to listen to '60s & '70s music, and to paint, paint, paint!

Cheryl Johnson is our newest member. She took early retirement from AT&T and is enjoying life. She has taken art classes for the past 10 years (prefers abstracts in acrylic and watercolor) and loves to read. She is from the KC area and has adopted a rescue kitty.



Please give a warm welcome to each of these new members when you see them.

Please remember to wear your name tags at all church events and activities. This will give our newer members an easier time of learning your name, and you theirs. If you see someone you do not know, introduce yourself and welcome them to FUMC Bella Vista!

*Amy's Anecdotes*

Amy Gilmore, Church Administrator

Calling all worship volunteers! If you are available to help during the month of December, please let me know as soon as possible.

We need greeters, acolytes, and scripture readers for both Sunday worship and Christmas Eve services.

It was great to be able to have Midweek Manna again this fall. We had a faithful group who came out every Wednesday for fellowship and study. Special thanks to all who helped in the kitchen and who helped facilitate studies.

We have scheduled to start back up in January, but we need people to help. We are looking for volunteers to prepare the meals and volunteers to lead studies. Please prayerfully consider if either of these is one of your spiritual gifts and let me know if you are willing to share them with our Wednesday night group.

THANK YOU

Dear Church Family, Thank You!

Thank you for the many cards, prayers, and calls the past few months. They came when I was getting discouraged and they lifted me up. My date for joint replacement surgery has been set for Monday, December 13th by Ozark Orthopedics at Siloam Springs Hospital. I will then move on to Everest Rehab in Rogers for a few days before I get to return home. Many blessings to all!

Phoebe Bader

Church Family, Thanks so much for all the cards, calls, visits, and Meals! We are so blessed by all of you. God Bless,

Jim & Paula Phillips



We Are so blessed as a Church Congregation. As you reflect on the wonder of this Holiday Season, please consider giving to our Staff Love Offering. We have an incredible Staff who give so much to us. Let them know how much they mean to you. Put "Staff Love Offering" in the memo of your check and include it with your regular offering. The Staff and your SPRC Committee thank you for your generosity.

SPRC Committee

COMMUNITY LIFE

FAITH FORMATION



Nextgen Newscast

Renee van Dyke, Nextgen Director



My goodness, the year has flown by! It was just about this time last year that I returned to the FUMC staff in my current capacity. What a year it's been!! No time to reflect on that now as we're moving full steam ahead. The Christmas train, or rather sleigh, will be sliding through before we know it. Truly friends, I must confess that without steel-gray winter skies, howling winds and mounting snowdrifts I still struggle to keep up with the calendar. It feels more like September to me than Turkey Time. Isn't there a saying that time stands still for no one? And so it goes.

Advent begins on November 28. I'll be sending "At-Home Advent" packets soon as well as Zoom Advent Sunday School packets. Please be watching for these. Zoom Sunday School for Children will now be online at 12:30PM on Sundays! We will be learning about the Grinch and "The Heart that Grew Three Sizes" for Advent. If your child is interested in participating, please contact me for the packet and Zoom link.

Caregiver's Day Out is scheduled for Saturday December 11 from 10am-2pm in Becker Hall. Since we are still observing Covid restrictions with our Cherubs, this event is only open to families of the church, not the community. **Pre-registration** is open for children age 12 and younger. You must pre-register so we can have the appropriate number of adults here and for lunch preparations. Youth are welcome to help with the event. There will be a link for pre-registration in the weekly emails.

"How the Grinch Found the Christ in Christmas", our pageant for this year, will be combined with worship on Sunday, December 19 at 11:00. Please note this is a change from the previous announcement. The youth and children have begun running lines, designing sets and have a great sense of excitement. All children of the church are welcome to participate. It'd be awesome to see a Whoville filled with Little Whos!

Youth will continue to meet on Wednesday evenings from 6:00-7:45PM at the church. **If you are willing to provide dinner for a meeting, please contact Ms. Renee.** We are not picky and the group is small.

On December 24, nursery care will be available for the noon service only. Families are encouraged to attend later services together. The services are at Noon, 5 pm (contemporary), and 7 pm.

On a closing note, many thanks to all who contributed to **Ingathering 2021**. Together we were able to gather and contribute 3 complete Flood Cleaning Buckets, 4 complete Hygiene Kits, 28 children's books and \$288.67. This surpassed our goal of 2 buckets, 20 books and \$200! All donations will specifically support disaster relief efforts and children in need in Northwest Arkansas. Extra supplies will be placed in the Blessings Box as appropriate.

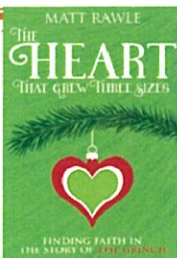
Thank you all for your support and prayers this past year, personally and professionally. I look forward to our continued journey as we care for the NextGen here at FUMC.

Christmas Blessings to all! *Ms. Renee*

ADVENT STUDY

Rev Jeanne and Pastor Brenda will be leading an Advent Study this year called "The Heart that Grew Three Sizes." It is a Matt Rawle study and he will explore faith themes in the movie "How the Grinch Stole Christmas!" This Advent season, look at a familiar classic through the lens of faith and see how Christ speaks to us through our culture.

Sunday mornings 10:05 with Pastor Brenda, starting on November 28th and Wednesday evenings, 7:00 via Zoom with Rev Jeanne, starting December 1st. You can sign up on our website or in the office.



Mystic Hearts Adult Sunday School Class

This class is hybrid, usually meeting in room 28 and on Zoom at 10 a.m. If you find yourself asking questions about the mystery of the divine, the purpose of life, the Universal Christ, or spiritual journeying inward to journey outward, this class is for you. Little or no homework necessary to participate. NO CLASS December 26 and January 2. During Advent, our topic will be "Born of A Woman" – what is the significance of this phrase symbolically and metaphorically in the stories of Jesus' birth and the anticipated second coming of Christ? For more information, contact facilitator Cathy Luck: 479-619-6063 (or) caluck88@gmail.com



COMMUNITY LIFE



LAY LEADER'S MESSAGE

Dave Broers, Lay Leader

How time flies! Is it really Advent, the season of waiting and preparing for Christmas already? There is so much to do at this time of year: decorating, baking, visiting and feasting, choosing the right gifts and wondering what gifts might be received.

In the midst of this flurry of activity, simple questions might pop into our heads: "Is this what it's all about?" or, "Is there something more?" Perhaps after the food is eaten and the gifts unwrapped, you ask yourself, "Is there a gift out there somewhere that would really satisfy me?" If we are honest with ourselves, that is what we want in life—something that can meet our needs, help us with our problems and decisions, bring comfort, happiness, peace.

The good news is that there is such a gift. It is custom made just for you and is given by someone who knows exactly what you need right now. It gives you more than anything money can buy. And it comes from someone special, who knows you and loves you deeply, and who wants only the best for you.

Does that sound like a great gift? Does it sound too good to be true? God, who created each one of us individually, perfectly and without any conditions attached, sent His only Son, Jesus, to live as an ordinary human being on earth. We celebrate His birth at Christmas.

In the bible the four gospels wrote the good news. They wrote about his life and what He did, his biography. What is not normal is they went on to tell how He was alive after He died! The event which Christians call the resurrection changed the world, the course of history, and can also change us if we accept the gift He offers.

Jesus is God's gift to us. As the Son of God, He can give us freedom from our fears and worries, forgiveness of our past, healing of our bodies, minds and relationships, and the assurance of God's unconditional love for us. We can be free, safe, and fully alive like never before. We don't need to do anything special to receive this gift from God; we simply have to accept this Gift. Unwrapping it involves learning about Jesus and learning how to follow Him. We call that "church" which is hanging out with a bunch of people who are also in various stages of their learning.

As we learn to trust Jesus we will come to the point where we want to give Him a gift—that is our lives as obedient followers.

I pray for each of you as you begin, and continue, following our Savior whose birth we are about to celebrate.

Peace and Blessings, *Dave*

Artie Lawless,
UMM President

Merry Christmas First United...

Hello Methodist Men!

Let's have some fun with odd Christmas Traditions. Ready...

- In Caracas, Venezuela. The congregation members Roller skate to service on Christmas day.
- Ukrainians use spider web decorations on their trees instead of Christmas ornaments. The tale is: Spiders took pity on an old poor woman who couldn't afford decorations and made webs for her tree that shimmered in the dew.
- In Japan, in 1974, Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC) started a campaign at Christmas time with a slogan "Kentucky for Christmas!" Although Christmas is not even considered a National Holiday in Japan families head out Christmas eve for a special KFC dinner.
- In Germany, Parents hide a pickle in the branches of the Christmas tree. The child that finds it gets a gift.
- In South Africa, instead of minced pie or Turkey, Children look forward to a plateful of fried caterpillars. The Pine Tree Emperor Moth or Christmas Caterpillar is covered in very festive hues. A sign of good luck in the coming year.
- Finally, in the Netherlands, In the days leading up to December 5th, Children leave their shoes by the fire in hopes that "Sinterklaas" will fill them with small gifts or treats. Instead of Milk and cookies, they leave Carrots for Sinterklaas's horse "Amerigo".

So, whether you feel like roller skating to church or heading to KFC on Christmas eve. Have fun this Christmas. Keep God in the center, for without him there is nothing. Maybe even start your own tradition... It's got to be better than some of these. 😊

P.S. Leave a carrot out for Amerigo, ok...

Many blessings, *Artie*

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 10 John & Carol Zurn
- 26 Wayne & Joanne Hubbert
- 28 Allen & Phyllis Janssen



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jo Ann Handel
- 1 Joe McGee
- 2 Doug Grant
- 2 Brittany May
- 3 Caitlyn Rowland
- 6 Isabelle Mendoza
- 8 Pat Wolter
- 9 Chris Klein
- 9 Heath Lehmann



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS (continued)

- 16 Phyllis Janssen
- 16 Shari Vermett
- 17 Jon Mendoza
- 17 Marilyn Pommerenke
- 21 Emma Kell
- 21 Shirley Newton
- 22 Madison Klein
- 22 Gil Temple
- 27 Ruth Ireland
- 28 Connie Wilson
- 28 Kenneth Wilson
- 29 Everly Hickman
- 31 Carly Engle



December 2021 Newsletter ~ October 2021 Financial Data

Information as of October 31, 2021

| | | 2021 Actual | 2021 Budget |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|------------------------|
| Month of October Contributions | Income* | \$ 41,378.58 | \$ 36,709.84 |
| Month of October | Expenses | \$ 42,529.50 | \$ 47,059.66 |
| | Difference | \$ (1,150.92) | \$ (10,349.82) |
| Year to Date Contributions | Income* | \$ 346,233.11 | \$ 367,098.40 |
| Year to Date | Expenses | \$ 410,954.56 | \$ 470,596.60 |
| | Difference | \$ (64,721.45) | \$ (103,498.20) |
| Special/Extra Gifts received to date | | \$ 3,900.00 | |
| Transferred from Restricted Fund | | \$ 19,041.68 | |
| | Total | \$ (41,779.77) | |

*Income does not include Missions or Endowment Interest

Amy Gilmore, Church Administrator



Bedtime Books and Blessings

Join Ms. Renee and her dog, Angel, on Facebook at **FUMC Bella Vista Families & Children** ~ Sunday evenings at 6:00 PM for storytime! Put on your jammies, grab your favorite stuffed animal and meet her on Facebook as she does a live reading from a wonderful book each week.

We hope you'll join us!





GENEROSITY

WORSHIP

Stewardship Corner

What is Financial Discipleship?

You will not find a definition for financial discipleship in a dictionary. That in itself is telling of how uncommon this phrase still is. So, to understand what it means, we must first look at the main word of this phrase, discipleship. If we know what discipleship is, we will have a better understanding of what financial discipleship is.

A disciple is a person who follows a teacher, leader, or philosopher, believing and adhering to that person's teaching and beliefs. Such a follower not only accepts but also assists in spreading their teacher's doctrines. Thus, Christians are called to be disciples of Jesus and engage in discipleship, assisting Him in spreading the gospel and teaching future disciples to adhere to everything Jesus taught.

Financial discipleship attempts to highlight one aspect of discipleship; the management of money and wealth as taught by Jesus and the Bible. Why is this important? Because money and wealth, when misunderstood and misused, pose a real danger to being a committee disciple. Money problems are rarely about money. Instead, money is a great revealer of the condition of a person's heart and to what they're genuinely committed to.

Adapted from Christian Stewardship Network, *Financial Discipleship: What is it? Who Should Be Teaching It?*

Ken Swanson, Finance Committee Chair

Congregational Care Ministry



If you are in need of a little extra TLC, there are those in the church who are trained to assist the pastors with helping you meet your need. Speak to someone with a blue name-tag, or contact Pastor Brenda for more information.

There is a called Charge Conference on December 12 at 3:30 PM, in Becker Hall, to vote on the Boy Scouts of America Bankruptcy Hearing. At this time, we have signed our charter over to the Bella Vista POA, and the West Ark BSA Council and FUMC Bella Vista have signed a Facilities Usage Agreement for the 2022 calendar year to allow the BSA to continue meeting at the church, but doesn't hold the church liable for many things. This vote pertains to the national case and the settlement given to the claimants on the case.

ADVENT WORSHIP Nov. 28-Dec. 26 The Journey: From Nazareth to Bethlehem

Journey. Our entire life – from birth to death – is a journey. It's a journey filled with many ups and downs, twists and turns, some boring times, and some exciting times. Within our journeys there are chapters, or seasons, perhaps. Major milestones along the way mark the course of our journey and are often what are remembered in our eulogy.

A journey can also be a trip we take. We often wish people well as they take long journeys in foreign countries or even across our own country. What journey are you taking? Where is your destination?

Several months ago, we were in a worship planning meeting when Larry suggested the theme of "Journey" for Advent. We later expanded the theme to "Journey – from Nazareth to Bethlehem," and then one of our newest members, Gerald Hatley, came to me asking how he could use his gift of painting for God and the church. I told him about our Advent theme and he came up with a beautiful painting of Mary and Joseph riding through the desert towards light.



I have my own interpretation of the painting, but I invite you to make your own as we travel with Mary and Joseph this season.

- Nov. 28 – Begin at the End – Luke 21:25-36
- Dec. 5 – The Foretelling – Luke 3:1-6
- Dec. 12 – Upside Down Christmas – Luke 1:46-55 - We are excited to welcome our new District Superintendent, Rev. Dr. Blake Bradford in worship this Sunday. He will be preaching on the Magnificat. Please make plans to attend one of our services this day either online or in-person!
- Dec. 19 – Annual Christmas Music Sunday – Join us as the choir leads us in a Journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem through scripture and song at 9:00 and the Praise Band will lead us in Lessons and Carols at 11:00 with the Next Gen presenting "How the Grinch found the Christ in Christmas." There will be a cookie reception after both services!
- Dec. 24 – Coming Home - Luke 2:1-20 We will have Carols, Candlelight, and Communion at all three services, 12:00 (Traditional in Sanctuary), 5:00 (Family in Becker Hall), and 7:00 (Traditional in Sanctuary). Childcare is provided at the 12:00 PM service. We encourage families to worship together at all services.
- Dec. 26 – Back to Jerusalem – Luke 2:41-52 We will have only ONE service at 9:00 AM. Join us for a carol-sing!

Rev. Jeanne

PRAYER REQUESTS

As a church family we lift each other up in prayer for both our collective joys and our concerns. Prayer requests should be sent to Rev. Brenda Wideman at brenda@lovelearnlead.com or 855-1158. You may also complete a Prayer Request Card in the Narthex or Becker Hall and drop it in the Prayer Boxes there. They are checked daily.

WORSHIP



Musical Chairs

Dr. Larry Zehring, Director of Music Ministries

Thanks to lessening of Covid, musical opportunities are becoming more available here at FUMC, and we hope you will be able to participate with one of these groups if you love to sing or play an instrument.

The first two musical groups that are a part of the Traditional Worship Service in the Sanctuary at 9:00am on Sunday morning are:

Chancel Choir . . .

. . . rehearses Wednesday afternoons at 1:45 in the Sanctuary. This is a new day and time, and I hope it will be more convenient for those of you who might consider joining us.

Chancel Bells . . .

. . . meet Wednesday afternoons from 3:15 to 4:30p.m. Plan to play for one worship service each month. We practice in the Music Room.

The Praise Team . . .

. . . leads *The Well* Contemporary Worship Service each Sunday at 11:00am in Becker Hall. Contemporary Christian music is played and sung throughout the service and musicians are always welcome. Our drummer was in a band 40 years ago, and has recently picked up his sticks to join in; what can you do to add to the musical atmosphere? They rehearse on Friday mornings at 10:00am in Becker Hall.

Please contact Larry Zehring for information about the Chancel Choir or Chancel Bells, and contact David Williams for information about the Praise Team. We look forward to having you join us as we once again help lead our friends and families in worship with our music.

Larry



Keys and Pedals

Broc Hite, Organist/Pianist

Last month, I excitedly told you about the return of the Chancel Choir, after 20 months' absence. Although the choir is fewer in number, we have been warmly greeted by those in the congregation. If you enjoy singing, please consider joining us!

I don't want to linger on this note in a news letter called the Good News, but I do want to call your attention to a larger problem we face here at First Methodist. Clergy, staff, and programs are all threatened by lack of funds. The (hopefully) end of the pandemic has left us to rebuild from where we are, not where we were. What can we do?

I propose that each of us become a Superfan of one of the great programs at the church. Some of these include traditional worship, contemporary worship, next generation, adult formation, communications, grief/new hope, and of course, music. Find what you love most and become a Superfan. Build a connection with people in your chosen fandom. Make sure to spread the news.

If someone were to ask me how they could become my Superfan, here are the things I'd tell them: Stay for the postlude. Subscribe to my social media including the Curious Squirrel newsletter. Attend my Christmas piano recital on Sunday, December 12th at 2 pm. Tell your friends about the music we're doing here.

We shouldn't be discouraged, but we need to work on getting people inside the building. We have a large population turnover in our area, which is a curse and a blessing. Outreach spreads awareness, but it often doesn't bring people inside the building. We won't have a chance to continue our outreach if we don't tell folks what happens inside the church!

Broc

Superfans, here's how to join me online!

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

On Facebook: facebook.com/BrocKeysPedals

On Instagram: [@BrocKeysPedals](https://instagram.com/BrocKeysPedals)



Helping Hands Work Day

Saturday, December 4th

8-12 and/or 12-4

Our church's turn for working at the Helping Hands Resale Shop is this month. We like to have 4 men (or teens & gals) for the morning shift from 8:00 a.m. till noon to help carry in donations and move furniture. Then at least 4 (other) guys for afternoon shift from noon till 4:00 p.m. We can use ladies for the same shifts in the store for cashiering, bagging and tidying up the sales floor. Come join us in this "hands on" project helping others. You can sign up in the church office. Any questions, call Verna 876-1392.



November 14, 2021 ~ Chancel Choir
Our 1st week back after a 20-month absence.



COMMUNITY LIFE



What's the (Hi)Story?

Jill Hale, FUMC Historian

Last month we looked at the first two of the side stained-glass windows in our church Sanctuary. Here is information regarding two more

Holy Communion is the theme of the third window. Here one is reminded of the Last Supper, when Jesus took the bread and wine and gave it to the Disciples after they had finished their meal. The grapes at the top are symbols of the wine that Jesus shared. The sheaves of wheat in the middle represent the bread that Jesus broke and gave to his Disciples. The chalice and candle at the bottom are reminders of Jesus' being the Light of the World. This light is given to us anew each time we celebrate Jesus' life, death, and resurrection in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

On the opposite side of the Sanctuary, the fourth window tells of Jesus' crucifixion. The three crosses in the upper part of the window tell of Jesus' death between two thieves. The crown of thorns that caused such agony is represented in the central section. The spear that pierced his side, along with the sponge that was raised to his lips when he called out, "I thirst," are in the lower third of the window.

Next month, we will look at the last two of the side windows and take a look at the window at the back of the Sanctuary. We are so fortunate to be able to sit there surrounded by such beauty on every side!

The next time you are in the sanctuary, please take some time to look at these and the other beautiful stained-glass windows. Let me know if you have any information or memories about the selection and installation of the side

stained-glass windows by leaving items in the historian box in the church office or by contacting me at rjhale68@cox.net or 479-344-6074. Have a blessed Christmas!

Jill



UMW

Faith – Hope – Love in Action

In December, our Circles are having "Free Time" to celebrate the end of the year! Check with your Circle leader to find out when and where you will be meeting.

Reminders of the following:

- 1) January UMW Board Meeting is Wednesday, January 5th @ 9:30am
- 2) UMW Officer Training will be January 8th in Ft. Smith. Instructions from the district will be sent out as soon as we receive them.
- 3) Circle meetings in January = pledge month:
Sarah Circle - 2nd Tuesday @ 1:00pm
Evenings Circle - 2nd Thursday @ 6:00pm
Martha Circle - 3rd Monday @ 9:00am
Naomi Circle - 3rd Tuesday @ 1:00pm
- 4) Bazaar Items will still be for sale in the office (check it out!) Proceeds go to local community charities.

*The Ladies of UMW
 would like to wish EVERYONE
 a very MERRY CHRISTMAS
 and a HAPPY NEW YEAR!*

Circle & Shepherd Group News






Sarah Circle will have lunch at the Bella Vista Bar and Grill on December 14 at 12:30. We would love to have others join us that day. If you did not sign up at our November meeting, please call Judy B. by December 13.

Martha Circle will meet at the Church on Thursday, December 9 at 11:15 to carpool to Haven 55 in Pineville for luncheon. Please let Marian Lawless know if you will be going, so she can make reservations.

Naomi Circle will meet Tuesday, December 14 at 1:00pm in the Parlor for their annual Christmas Party.

Young at Heart Shepherd Group will meet Saturday, December 11 at Papa Mike's at 8:30am for fellowship and breakfast.

DECEMBER 2021

| SUNDAY | | MONDAY | | TUESDAY | | WEDNESDAY | | THURSDAY | | FRIDAY | | SATURDAY | |
|---|---|--------|--|---------|---|-----------|--|----------|--|--------|--|----------|--|
| 28 | | 29 | DECORATE THE CHURCH 8:30AM-12:00PM  | 30 | BLOOD DRIVE 12 - 5pm BECKER HALL  | 1 | 9:00 BV Quilters 9:30 UMW Board 11:30 UMW Luncheon 1:45 Chancel Choir 3:15 Chancel Bells 6:30 YouthLife | 2 | 9:00 Yoga - BH 11:00 Concordia Service 12:00 Caregivers Support | 3 | Offices closed 10:00 The Well - rehearsal | 4 | 8:30 Amp Big Book HELPING HANDS 8:00 - 4:00  |
| 5 | 9:00 Traditional Service 10:00 All SS classes 11:00 Well Wrshp- cntmp 12:00 Broc Organ Rehersl 12:30 Zoom Snday School 3:00 Open House | 6 | 9:30 Staff Meeting 6:00 Disciple IV 6:30 By the Book AA | 7 | 9:00 Yoga - BH 6:00 Scouts | 8 | 9:00 BV Quilters 1:45 Chancel Choir 3:15 Chancel Bells 6:30 YouthLife | 9 | 9:00 Yoga - BH 11:00 Concordia Service 6:00 Evening Circle | 10 | Offices closed 10:00 The Well - rehearsal 11:30 PreSchool Brd | 11 | 8:30 Amp Big Book 8:30 Young@Heart ShpGp 10:00 Parent's Day Out |
| 12 | 9:00 Traditional Service 10:00 All SS classes 11:00 Well Wrshp- cntmp 12:00 Broc Organ Rehersl 12:30 Zoom Snday School 2:00 Broc Hite Recital 2:30 Finance Team 3:00 Charge Conf | 13 | 9:30 DAR 9:30 Staff Mtng 12:00 Trustees 6:00 Disciple IV 6:30 By the Book AA | 14 | 9:00 Yoga - BH 12:30 Sarah Circle-BV B&G 1:00 Naomi Circle 6:00 Scouts | 15 | 9:00 BV Quilters 1:45 Chancel Choir 3:15 Chancel Bells 6:30 UMMI Dinner | 16 | 9:00 Yoga - BH 11:00 Concordia Service 2:30 Emmaus Btfl Clrs 7:00 BHS Orchestra | 17 | Offices closed 10:00 The Well - rehearsal | 18 | 8:30 Amp Big Book |
| 19 | 9:00 Traditional Service 10:00 All SS classes 11:00 <i>Christms Pageant</i> 12:00 Broc Organ Rehersl 12:30 Zoom Snday School 1:30 CCM meeting | 20 | 9:00 Martha Circle 9:30 Staff Meeting 6:00 Disciple IV 6:30 By the Book AA | 21 | 6:00 Scouts 6:30 Longest Night Servc | 22 | 9:00 BV Quilters 1:45 Chancel Choir 3:15 Chancel Bells 6:30 YouthLife | 23 | 11:00 Concordia Service | 24 | Offices closed 12:00 Worship Service 5:00 Contemporary Service 7:00 Worship Service | 25 |  |
| CHURCH and PRE-SCHOOL CLOSED THROUGH JANUARY 3RD | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 26 | 9:00 One Service Carol Sing-a-Long | 27 | | 28 | | 29 | | 30 | | 31 | | 1 | WELCOME to the NEW YEAR 2022  |



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

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 PERMIT NO. 176
 BENTONVILLE, AR 72712

Return Service requested

We're Here to Serve You

Senior Pastor - Rev. Jeanne Williams
 Associate Pastor - Rev. Brenda Wideman
 Church Administrator - Amy Gilmore
 Church Secretary - Jan Walton
 Communications Director - Kaitie Bewley
 NextGen Director - Renee van Dyke
 Music Ministries Director - Dr. Lawrence Zehring
 Organist/Pianist - Broc Hite
 Contemporary Worship Leader - David Williams

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

Newsletter Deadline: 20th of the month

To the Home of ...



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

If you are able and willing, please consider becoming an Auto Angel. There are many in our church family who do not drive, or may be temporarily unable to drive. Taking them to local doctor visits or grocery shopping or other necessary trips would lighten their worry load. There are very few times during the year that you would be called upon, but our current Angel list is becoming very short. For more information, please contact Pastor Brenda at 479-855-1158



**Blessing Box
 Food
 Collection**

**The 6th ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS CARD PROJECT
 sponsored by
 WESLEY SHEPHERD GROUP**



Again, this year we are having to do things a little differently. Cards WILL NOT BE on card tables in the Narthex and Becker Hall for you to sign.

We ask each family member to please sign every card in a box of Christmas cards you supply. DO NOT put the cards in the envelopes or seal them. Leave the envelopes in the bottom of the box with the signed cards on top. Your Christmas box (es) may be left in the labeled bin in the Portico. **The deadline to bring the SIGNED cards to the church is Friday, December 10th!** Our hope is that each of our homebound members will enjoy viewing several cards from their church family during the holiday season.

Thank you for your participation in this much-appreciated mission for our homebound members during this time of isolation for many of them.