

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH of BELLA VISTA

The Good News

FEBRUARY 2023



Lent Events



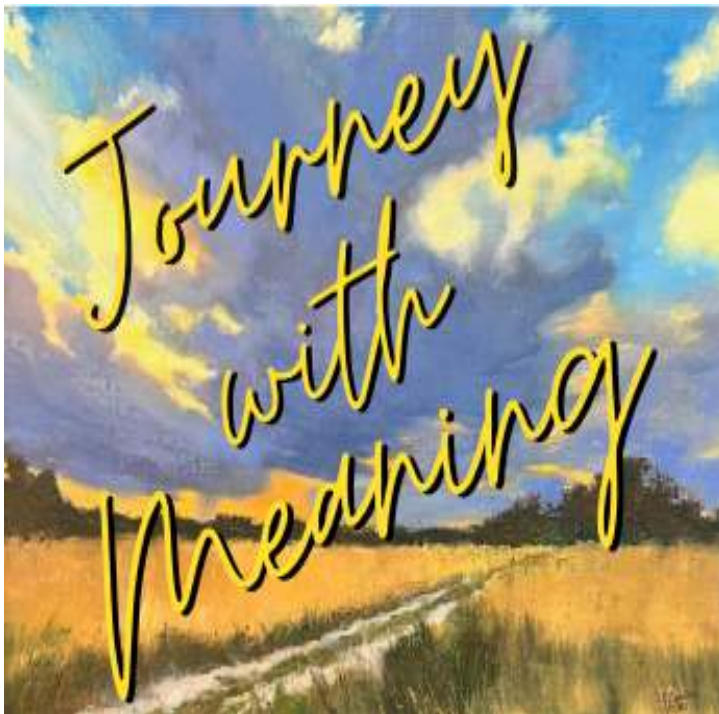
Pastor Ron will be performing a **Burning of the Palms** on Ash Wednesday morning, February 22nd, at 9:00 am in the parking lot.



Join us for a special **Ash Wednesday Service** on February 22nd at 6:30 pm. The ashes of the burned palm fronds from that morning will be used for the smudging.

SERMON SERIES:

Lenten Devotional Writers Needed



We are seeking 7 people to write one Lenten devotional a week for 7 weeks. Please sign up in the office, call, or email to let us know you would like to participate. Pastor Ron will provide the Scripture for your topics.



FYI: Lenten for 2023 begins Ash Wednesday, February 22nd, and ends Thursday, April 6th.



“Before Preparing the Soil”

“Look! I’m doing a new thing; now it sprouts up; don’t you recognize it? I’m making a way in the desert, paths in the wilderness.” Isaiah 43:19 (CEB)

People seem busier than ever, whether young, working, or retired, or trying to retire. Farmers are one of the busiest groups - always. Not only are they transitioning from winter to spring crops about now, but the demand for more beef, chicken (and eggs), and produce is on the rise. I find the parallels between life and nature fascinating. Right now, we are just a few weeks from springtime, and we should be amending our soil. The Merriam-Webster Dictionary says to amend is “to put right, to change or modify for the better”. Its synonym’s equivalent is to “improve”. While we are amending our soil, I am metaphorically reminded to amend my own...mainly in how I balance work and play, my faith and play, and my Christian Walk and play. It is worth asking ourselves how we can use this hard stop from yesterday to improve the soil of our faith lives tomorrow.

We celebrate a bountiful growing season, but it’s because we have ‘checked the soil’. It is usually easy to see that the soil levels have depleted with each growing season. All the healthy produce truly does pull the nutrients from the soil and needs amending. Just like our plants, we too need to amend the soil of our souls. Some of the happiest people I know are the ones who work hard and play hard. The key is in the balance of the two. When periodically assessing the soil of our lives, it is critical to take note of the ratio of work to play, essentials to non-essentials, what it means to truly worship, work, eat, and play together, or to be in nature or cook a meal together. Use this pause to bring balance and discover what truly nourishes you and those you love and brings both of you closer to Christ. This gives us hope that each Spring we are reminded that, when things seem the darkest, God is getting ready to renew and bring forth beauty again.

One thing other pastors and I have experienced is the dramatic transformation that occurs simply by

changing the soil in which our congregations “grow”. By soil, I mainly mean the physical environment, the music, the paraments, the Order of Worship, the next sermon series and so on. A critical reason for development is the change in surroundings. When we amend or change the soil or physical environment, the grip on old behaviors is released and we can form new, happier, healthier, and more Christian behaviors and attitudes. It brings air and nutrients into our faith. Then we see ourselves and others are more at peace in this “new soil” and it is a great gift.

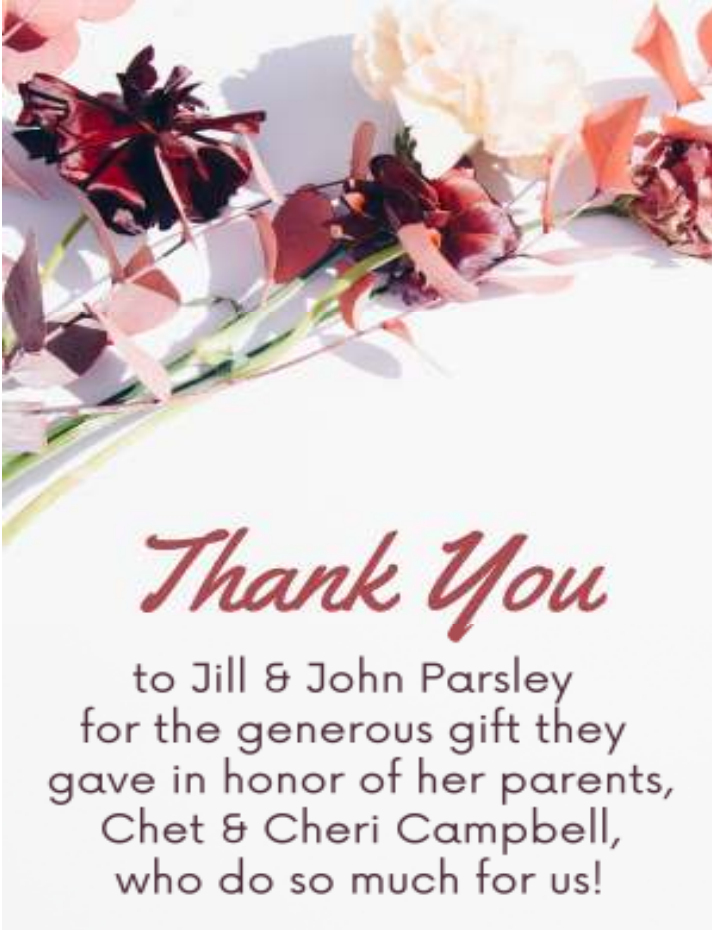
Having grown up in Iowa, Spring was synonymous with the planting season there. Yet in the Christian calendar, Spring is also aligned with Lent and Easter. Spring means it’s time to transplant the delicate seedlings. These are the seedlings that bring forth some of our favorite crops. You often hear the comment “if we don’t get to transplanting the seedlings from small starter trays to larger pots soon, they will become root-bound and die”. It took me awhile to process this, but it became acutely aware to me that if we humans don’t frequently change our environment, our habits, our soil, we too will become root-bound. Maybe we won’t die a physical death. but an emotional or spiritual one. Life presents constant opportunities for growth. Part of this growth requires expanding our “pots”, broadening our minds, becoming less sure of things, less critical of others, and more open to the possibilities in front of us. Holding tight to a goal or dream isn’t usually the problem, but holding too tightly to the path to get there can be akin to staying in a small pot too long. At first, the plant seems fine in its cozy, small pot but, with time, our healthy roots twist until they are choked and the plant (our dream or goal or faith) dies.

Don’t make the mistake of becoming root-bound. We need to ask others where we may have blind-spots preventing us from thriving. Ask yourself what other possibilities or change might just lead to a new, more expansive environment where you can, once again, thrive in your Christian Walk.

Peace and blessings,



OUR FAMILY



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 pastor with helping you meet your need. Speak to someone with a blue nametag, or contact Judy Kaufmann for more information. You may send a private message through the CCM email address to ccm@fumcbellavista.com. Messages are confidential and will be answered as soon as possible.

**Your CCM Team
is here for you!**



Pastor Ron will be leading a **CCM training class** for those interested in becoming **Congregational Care Ministers**. The training will be on **Sunday, 2/25, from 9:00am-4:00pm**. If you are interested, please call or email the church office to let us know.



Lay Leader's Message

Dave Broers, Lay Leader

Being There

Have you ever wanted to be in two places at once? Or even three places? Most of us who serve in leadership positions feel that way a lot. Multiple demands, opportunities, and emergencies create the need to choose which one we will handle at that time, and which ones we will let go. We all feel the need to “be there”, along with the disappointment when we can’t. This is especially true for church leaders who work full-time outside the church—for many of us laity.

A few weeks ago, I scheduled one of those schedule conflicts and was not able to be at the church to hear the sermon, but I heard from several people who said it was really good. And, I did listen to his sermon on our church’s website which is good, but it’s not the same as being there. I missed it.

You know the feeling. That sense of over commitment and tension when you have to say “No” to a really good event/meeting because it conflicts with a prior commitment. And the sense of missing something special, even if it was unavoidable.

As I look back over the years and countless schedule conflicts, I’m thankful for the times I was able to be there—special times with my family, countless memories of my children growing up, customer visits, fishing and golfing with family and friends. And many of the church meetings I’ve attended were very helpful. There’s just no substitute for being there. Did I miss anything along the way? Certainly.

I know there will be many more conflicts ahead, and I pray that God will guide my thinking and focus my attention upon the things that are most important, those that really require me being there and not someone else.

Scripture provides helpful guidelines for making

choices when schedule conflicts arise. I recall noting many years ago Matthew 6:33, where Jesus says “seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.” Seek FIRST God’s kingdom. I’ve got to admit that I don’t always do that well.

John Wesley had some advice on being a good steward of time, and his model of discipline is amazing. And the apostle, Paul, agonizing over his inability to “be there”, wrote instructional letters that still inspire us today. Leaders have always struggled with schedule conflicts.

Ok, so the next time I want to “be there” in two or three places, I’ll remember Jesus’ words to seek first God’s kingdom and what that means for my priorities. Easier said than done. So I pray that God will clear my thoughts and focus to His greater purpose anyway, taking care of things whether I’m there or not.

Blessings and Peace to YOU in leading through multiple demands. And THANKS for all you do to “Be There” for those who count on you!

Dave Broers,
Lay Leader



*Acts of the
Apostles*

*Join us in
Room 6*

*Bible Study:
Mondays - 6:00pm
led by
Pastor Ron Hayes*



What's the (Hi)Story? Jill Hale, FUMC Historian

It seems right to have a love story in February. This month we hear from Judy Kaufmann on behalf of both her and Lou:

Our church has had a significant role in mine and Lou's lives! From the time my Methodist parents moved to Bella Vista in 1980 until 2001 when I moved here, FUMCBV was the only church in my turbulent life. For Lou, who had been an active Episcopalian, no church was in his life out west from 1990 when his first wife died, until after we met at the end of 2004.

At that time (2004), I was living with and caring for my parents (Nevin and Evelyn Ellis). When Mother expressed that she wanted to have Christmas dinner at the church, I was all for it! On Christmas Day, we were seated at a table with their longtime friends, Edith and Glen Baker. After the meal, Edith pulled me aside and said she knew "a gentleman" I might like to meet. Well, the rest is personal history, but suffice it to say Lou and I were married (by Rev. Wayne Bartruff) four months later! We joined the church shortly after.

At this time, we had progressed from being "unchurched" to being "pew sitters," and that held for several years. I guess, with a business to run and aging parents to care for, we felt justified in ignoring any commitment beyond fairly regular church attendance.

Then things began to change. The Holy Spirit must have been at work! Lou began attending UMM meetings, and before you knew it, he was president. Before his term as president was up, he was also asked to serve as Lay Leader. Around this time, one Sunday I watched and

listened with interest at the commissioning of the first Congregational Care Ministers. When I expressed this curiosity to Pastor Brenda... well, I was now on my way to learning the fulfillment of service!


Through FUMCBV, we have received SO many blessings over the years. In addition to giving us each other, we have made numerous friends and, more importantly, have found the joy in loving and serving our Lord.

Thank you, Judy, for a beautiful piece of our church's history. We know there are many more fascinating stories about our members and how they came to be congregants at FUMCBV. Please, take a few minutes to let me know if you are willing to write your story by telephone at 479-344-6074 or 928-710-3612 or by email at rjhale68@cox.net, or just stop me between services at church.

Jill Hale,
Historian



FUMCBV ~ FEBRUARY 2023

SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
 <p><i>Happy Valentine's Day</i></p>													
5	HOLY COMMUNION 9:00 Classic Service 10:00 Fellowship Time - Parlor 10:00 Children's S. School 11:00 Casual Service - BH 2:00 Kristen Crider Shower-Pr	6	9:30 UWF Board - Rim 28 10:30 Staff Mtg - Rim 6 12:30 Womens' Chorus - MR 5:00 Potluck/Games - Parlor 5:30 MM Shepherd Sp/Gms-BH 6:00 Book of Acts Study - Rim 6 6:30 By the Book AA - Rim 28	7	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 1:00 Sarah Circle - Parlor 4:00 Finding My Way - Parlor 6:00 Scouts - Quilt Rm & BH 6:30 Men's Chorus - Music Rm 6:30 Scouts (Girls) - Parlor 6:30 SPRC Mtg - Rim 6 & Zoom	8	9:00 BV Quilters - Quilt Rm 3:00 Chancel Bells - Music Rm 4:30 Chancel Choir - Sanctuary	9	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 1:30 Friends of Christ - Parlor 2:00 Praise Team Practice 6:00 Evening Circle - Youth Rm	10	Offices closed	11	8:15 Young@Heart - PM 8:30 Amp Big Book AA - Rim 28 9:00 Andante Festival - BH/MR
12	9:00 Classic Service 10:00 Fellowship Time - Parlor 10:00 Children's S. School 11:00 Casual Service - BH 12:15 Finance Mtg - Parlor	13	9:30 DAR - Parlor 10:30 Staff Mtg - Rim 6 11:00 BVPS - Parlor 12:30 Womens' Chorus - MR 5:00 Potluck/Games - Parlor 6:00 Book of Acts Study - Rim 6 6:30 By the Book AA - Rim 28	14	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 1:30 Sarah Circle - Parlor 4:00 Finding My Way - Parlor 6:00 Scouts - Quilt Rm & BH 6:30 Men's Chorus - Music Rm 6:30 Scouts (Girls) - Parlor	15	9:00 BV Quilters - Quilt Rm 3:00 Chancel Bells - Music Rm 4:30 Chancel Choir - Sanctuary 5:30 UMM - Papa Mike's	16	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 2:00 Praise Team Practice 6:30 Cancer Support - Parlor	17	Offices closed	18	8:30 Amp Big Book AA - Rim 28
19	9:00 Classic Service 10:00 Fellowship Time - Parlor 10:00 Children's S. School 11:00 Casual Service - BH 1:30 CCM Meeting - Parlor	20	PRESIDENT'S DAY Offices Closed 9:30 Martha Circle - Quilt Rm 12:30 Womens' Chorus - MR 5:00 Potluck/Games - Parlor 6:00 Book of Acts Study - Rim 6 6:30 By the Book AA - Rim 28	21	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 10:30 Staff Mtg - Rim 6 1:30 Naomi Circle - Parlor 4:00 Finding My Way - Parlor 6:00 Scouts - Quilt Rm & BH 6:30 Men's Chorus - Music Rm 6:30 Scouts (Girls) - Parlor	22	ASH WEDNESDAY 9:00 Burning of the Palms 9:00 BV Quilters - Quilt Rm 3:00 Chancel Bells - Music Rm 4:30 Chancel Choir - Sanctuary 6:30 Ash Wednesday Service	23	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 10:30 BVPS Lunch - Parlor 1:30 Friends of Christ - Parlor 2:00 Praise Team Practice	24	Offices closed	25	8:30 Amp Big Book AA - Rim 28 9:00 CCM Training - Parlor
26	9:00 Classic Service 10:00 Fellowship Time - Parlor 10:00 Children's S. School 11:00 Casual Service - BH	27	10:30 Staff Mtg - Rim 6 12:30 Womens' Chorus - MR 5:00 Potluck/Games - Parlor 6:00 Book of Acts Study - Rim 6 6:30 By the Book AA - Rim 28	28	9:30 Yoga - Becker Hall 4:00 Finding My Way - Parlor 6:00 Scouts - Quilt Rm & BH 6:30 Men's Chorus - Music Rm 6:30 Scouts (Girls) - Parlor	<p>PLEASE WEAR YOUR NAME TAG</p> <p>Please remember to wear your name tag at all church events and activities. This will give our newer members an easier time of learning your name, and you theirs. Please let the office know if your name tag is AWOL and you need a new one. If you see someone you do not know, introduce yourself and welcome them to FUMCBV!</p>							



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES



- 2/02 ♥♥ Dick & Genie Schupp
- 2/12 ♥♥ Steve & Therese Bivins
- 2/17 ♥♥ Gary & Delores Grosnickle
- 2/22 ♥♥ Ralph & Nita Wallace



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2/01 ♥ Jane Potts | 2/11 ♥ Charlene Rayburn |
| 2/02 ♥ Bette Cummings | 2/13 ♥ Amy Gilmore |
| 2/03 ♥ Lynn Dove | 2/13 ♥ Jill Hale |
| 2/04 ♥ Rose Taylor | 2/14 ♥ Marilyn Frisby |
| 2/05 ♥ Mabel Ashline | 2/16 ♥ Mike Meyers |
| 2/07 ♥ Chuck Hurl | 2/17 ♥ Gretchen Magee |
| 2/08 ♥ Nita May | 2/23 ♥ Phoebe Bader |
| 2/08 ♥ Dee Wresche | 2/25 ♥ David Williams |
| 2/09 ♥ Leslie Magee | 2/27 ♥ Rod Alford |
| 2/10 ♥ Tiffany May | 2/27 ♥ Kathy Ayres |
| 2/11 ♥ Judy Kaufmann | 2/28 ♥ Sean Crider |



THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU

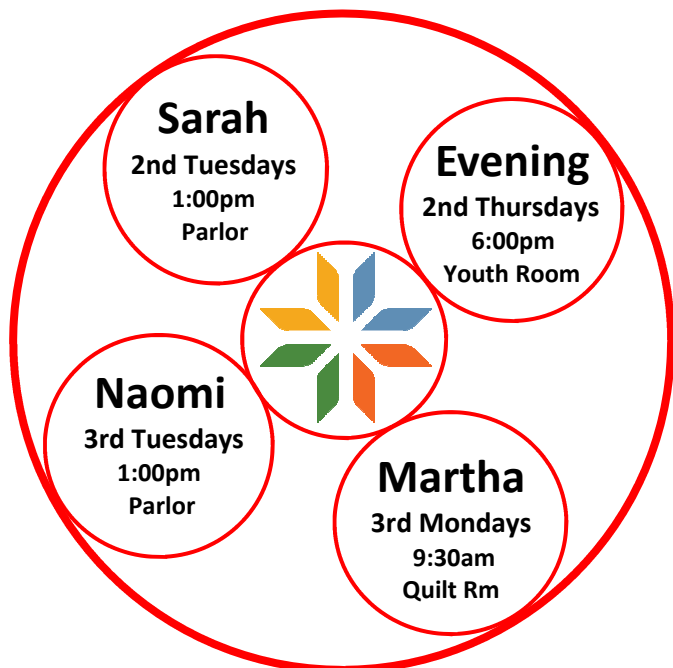


~ Karen, Maryann, Cheryl ~
Your Shoebox Ministry Team



United Women in Faith - Circles

If you do not belong to a Circle, please consider joining any one of the UWF Circles below. The fellowship, fun, and mission give you a sense of belonging with a sisterhood of Christ-centered women in our church family.



S.O.L.O.S.

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



GREETINGS FROM UWF

All the circles during January had their Pledge Services and are looking forward to the many ways we will be able to champion for women, children, and youth in our area, state, country, and the world in the new year.

As we are now in February, we as a unit are anticipating **Ash Wednesday Service on February 22nd**. All the circles will have their regular meeting during the month, Our **First Unit meeting of 2023** will be on **March 22nd**. The menu will be choice of soup, salad, and dessert for \$5.00. The Program will be brought by Sally Carroll, who is the Public Relations and Events Coordinator of our Bella Vista Public Library.

DATE TO REMEMBER:

**Executive Board Meeting
February 6th at 9:30 AM**

Phone # for questions or comments:
President, Barbara Brooks 876-5353

YOU CAN BECOME A MEMBER AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN SOMEONE'S LIFE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE METHODIST CHURCH. ALL ARE WELCOME!



The MM Shepherd Group will meet for games and beans and ham soup on Monday,

February 6th, at 5:30pm in Becker Hall.

Bring ALL your quarters for the Snack Packs!



BVFD New Lock Box Program for Home Access During an Emergency



The Bella Vista Fire Department is offering secure lock boxes for residents wishing to store a house key outside their home for exclusive use by the Fire Department EMS in case of an emergency. There are 100 available for purchase for \$40. Installation costs \$43.40 making the total \$83.40. Residents can also install the boxes themselves if they so choose. If you live alone, this sounds like a smart way to ensure your safety in the event you are unable to open the door yourself. To purchase a lock-box, call 479-855-4454 and ask for Rachel Davison.

FINDING MY WAY
Grief Support
Every Tuesday
4p.m.-6p.m.
in the Parlor

The **Potluck and Games** group meets every **Monday at 5:00 pm** in the parlor. We encourage you to come and join us in games such as *Mexican Train, Pinochle, Sequence, Golf, Canasta, 3 to 13*, and others. We will find a game for you or teach you a new game. Bring a dish to share and table service, and come enjoy the fellowship and fun. **All are welcome!**



Cancer Support Group: 6:30pm
Thursday, February 16th - Parlor

Friends of Christ

The **Friends of Christ** meet in the **Parlor** on the **2nd & 4th Thursday of each month from 1:30-3:30 pm.**

This group shares and discusses books, videos, or personal glimpses of Christ in their lives. They enrich their faith and love of Jesus as they grow in faith. Everyone one is welcome! **For questions, please call Kandi Mount at 479-402-5200.**



Book Nook Church Library

UMW 2023 READING PROGRAM BOOKS

Education for Missions: Category I

Phoebe by Paula Gooder

The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek

by Kim Michele Richardson

Pachinko by Min Jin Lee

Being Sheela by Adithi Rao

Nurturing for Community: Category II

Together by Vivek H. Murthy, MD

Fire Keeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley

The Prodigal Prophet by Timothy Keller

The Land is Not Empty by Sarah Augustine

Social Action: Category III

The Four Winds by Kristin Hannah

Cousins by Betty Kilby Baldwin

Spiritual Growth: Category IV

I'm Still Here by Austin Channing Brown

Leadership and Development: Category V

Ida B., the Queen by Michelle Duster

A Knock at Midnight by Brittany K. Barnett

All We Can Save by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson

Pioneer Black Clergy Women by Josephine White-Fields

Books in Series:

The Uncharted Series by Keely Brooke Keith

Book 3: Uncharted Inheritance

Book 4: Christmas With the Colburns

Book 5: Uncharted Hope

Book 6: Uncharted Journey

Book 7: Uncharted Destiny

Book 8: Uncharted Promises

Book 9: Uncharted Freedom

Book 10: Uncharted Courage

Non-Fiction:

Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things the Bible Doesn't Say

by Adam Hamilton (200.7)

IN THE OFFICE



Have you met our new Church Secretary yet? Andrea Fobes started in the office on Monday, January 16. She is a long-time Bella Vista resident who came here by way of Northern Virginia 12 1/2 years ago. Before that, she grew up in Texas. She has a love of all things technological (computers) thanks to her dad who taught her how to program when she was 10. Although she only dabbles in that department these days, she can still find her way around most machines with relative ease. Andrea is quite the foodie and an avid baker, too. She also has plenty of experience in a church office having served at another church for almost 10 years. Andrea has been taking care of her ailing parents for more than a decade, and her mother, Laura, lives with her here in Bella Vista. The rest of her family lives in Arkansas. She loves the Lord, and is overjoyed to be working at FUMC and appreciates the opportunity! If you haven't already, come by the office and introduce yourself.



Helping Hands Work Day Schedule for 2023

Next work day: **Saturday, March 25**

Are you looking for a "hands-on" mission project? Our church is once again scheduled to work at the Helping Hands Resale Shop on the following 3 Saturdays this year: **March 15, July 8, and October 28**. The indoor work is from noon to 4pm and includes cashiering, bagging the customer's purchases, or roaming the sales floor to clean and tidy or perhaps put items out. (It's a great way to do a little shopping at the same time - at half price!) If you're feeling strong, they can always use help out back receiving donations either in the morning or afternoon. For questions, speak to Verna Bottjen, 876-1392. They also need volunteers throughout the week.

February 2023 Newsletter Financial Data

information as of December 31, 2022

	2022 Actual	2022 Budget
Month of December Contributions (Income*)	\$ 34,433.03	\$ 30,639.08
Month of December Expenses	\$ 32,846.31	\$ 34,649.57
Difference	\$ 1,586.72	\$ (4,010.49)
Year to Date Income Contributions Only	\$ 131,734.27	\$ 122,556.32
Year to Date Expenses	\$ 122,819.86	\$ 134,000.81
Difference	\$ 8,914.41	\$ (11,444.49)
Transferred from Restricted Fund Year to date		
Total	\$ 8,914.41	

**Income does not include Missions or Endowment Interest*

JOB BOOK

Have you seen a burned-out bulb somewhere, or a faucet leaking, or any other "something that needs to be fixed"? There is a JOB BOOK in the office where you can fill out a job request form. The Trustees check this book frequently, and try to fix whatever needs to be fixed - but if they don't know about it, it won't get done! Everyone can be the eyes and ears of the church. Thanks!





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

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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 BENTONVILLE, AR 72712

Return Service requested

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
 Communications Director - Kaitie Bewley
 Music Ministries Director - Dr. Lawrence Zehring
 Praise Band Leaders - Rick & Gloria Atha

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

To the Home of ...



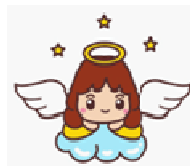
**Please don't forget about our ongoing mission project!
 SNACK PACKS for BACK PACKS...**

is our on-going commitment to provide 30 snack packs per week for students of Cooper Elementary who are in need of food for the weekend. Now that school has started up again for the year,
WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Bring your quarters ! Write a check ! Feed a Child !

Office Angels Still Needed!

Our new secretary LOVES the Office Angels and all the help they have provided while she's still learning the ropes! Join those who help out in the office. If you are interested, please call or sign the sheet outside of the main office. For a few hours a week you can answer the phone and perform simple tasks.



The rewards are "heavenly".

PRAISE REPORTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

As a church family, we lift each other up in prayer for both our collective joys and our concerns.

Praises and Prayer requests should be sent to Pastor Ron Hayes at his email: ron.hayes@arumc.org or call [(479) 366-9725] or call the church office (479) 855-1158 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.