



The Good News

JULY 2021

ARKANSAS UMC ANNUAL CONFERENCE RECAP

The Arkansas Annual Conference held the first ever known hybrid annual conference on June 2-4, 2021. About 300 people joined via zoom while another 400 gathered in the Bank of the OZKS Arena. Reverend Jeanne, Pastor Brenda, Judy Bilyeu, and Ken Swanson attended as our representatives with Rev. Jeanne attending in person while everyone else attended virtually. Amy Gilmore and David Williams attended as District At-Large Equalization Members. David also assisted in leading worship as part of the house band.



The Rev. Dr. Erin Beasley and Rev. Dr. F. Willis Johnson presented to the Annual Conference a discussion on racism and the church titled “Honoring Our Wesleyan Heritage through Racial Reconciliation.”

Business sessions consisted primarily of reports from various agencies and institutions. The Trustees Report included business from the 2019 Special General Conference that gives the Annual Conference discretion on how to handle the property of churches who choose to leave the connection at this time. This was perhaps the most contentious portion of business this year.

Two resolutions and one petition to General Conference were brought to the Conference. The resolutions were Project Transformation Arkansas’ Relationship to Arkansas Annual Conference, which passed; Regarding Decisions about Potential Separation, Departure, or Realignment as an Annual Conference, which passed; and a General Conference Petition to Clarify Deadlines in Paragraph 507 was presented by the Rev. Jim Polk. The purpose of the petition was to clarify the deadline for petitions to be sent to General Conference, considering the twice-delayed General Conference, which was set to occur in 2020, but has now been pushed back to 2022. That resolution passed by a vote of 465-46. The Petition was then asked for a Decision of Rule by the Bishop which means it now goes to Judicial Council for their ruling.

The Delegation to General Conference reported that not much has changed other than GC being delayed from 2020 to fall of 2022 because of the pandemic. Visas for those traveling from around the world are quite difficult to obtain. There is continued conversations among all opinions, but there is still not an overwhelming feeling of where the United Methodist Church is heading. We do know that whatever happens at GC 2022, it will take several years to implement.

From delegate Judy Bilyeu, “I came away with the knowledge that much has been done by the church, even through the epidemic. But also was left with great concern about how divided our conference is for the future. It was wonderful to see that even with this turmoil, we have men and women who are stepping forward to ministry.”

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Jeanne, Pastor Brenda, Judy Bilyeu, and Ken Swanson



Please join us Sunday, July 4th for one worship service at 10:30am in the Parking Lot. We will be live-streaming and FM broadcasting, so you can hear everything as you sit in your vehicle or bring lawn chairs or blanket. After the service, you are invited to stay for a time of patriotic music performed by Broc and other musical members, join in some family games, and enjoy with friends your bring-your-own picnic lunch.

We look forward to seeing you then!



Glimpses of Grace

Rev. Jeanne Williams, Senior Pastor

To everything there is a season, says Ecclesiastes 3. This is a common scripture choice for memorial services, so I've used it a lot in my career. And from time to time (pun intended) it makes me stop and reflect.

We have many seasons in life: childhood, youth, young adult, career, middle age, retiree.... or, seasons of joy and health, and seasons of grief and pain. I took some time in the last month to reflect, pray, and ask for direction from the Holy Spirit. Direction for me personally and for our church. I walked away from Annual Conference in June feeling heartsick for the glimpses of how the next few years seem like they are going to look in our denomination. It isn't going to be pretty. And then I started thinking about our church and our community and our mission from God.

We all have walked through a season of a pandemic. No, it's not over. We still need to be aware and cautious in certain situations. The new Delta variant is especially concerning; however, the season of quarantine and mandatory masks for everyone and washing our groceries (did we actually do that?!) seems to be in our rearview mirror. And as I emerge from that season, there are some things that I'm reflecting on that I think might ring true for some of you.

My priorities have shifted. What used to be super important to me pre-pandemic is not so much now. This shift has made me wonder where each of your priorities may have shifted, or even intensified. And, if, as I suspect, many of our priorities have shifted, where does the church fit into that? For some, the church building just doesn't hold as much meaning. "I can connect via zoom for meetings, Sunday school, and I can watch the sermon online anytime." Yet for others the ability to gather in the building has renewed their spiritual life.

I mentioned in a sermon a few weeks ago that I thought the pandemic ripped the proverbial band-aid off of Western Christianity and exposed a gaping wound of a mass movement of people who no longer "need" organized religion, especially Christianity. I've even heard from some of our members that the need to gather with others just simply isn't as important as their spiritual life increased when they worshiped at home or on their own.

So where does this leave us? Especially in Bella Vista? Do we wallow in the losses, or do we stop wallowing and talking and start doing? We're really good at talking, especially about the past and what we "could" do in the future, but what I've found in our beloved denomination is that we're really, really good at talking and very hesitant at the doing. So I feel after much prayer and holy conversation that this is where we need to go in the next few months:

- We need to identify our priorities as individuals, as a church community and in our community.
- We will utilize the Gospel Discipleship resources and have a tool for each of us to identify how we approach our discipleship and how to deepen it.
- We will hold some coffee chats/porch meetings this fall and hear from you what your priorities are for yourself, for our church, and our community.
- Finally, I want us to then discern with God how best we as First United Methodist Church, Bella Vista can make a difference in our community as we move outside of our walls and meet people where they are: the coffee shops, restaurants, golf courses, ball fields... wherever that may be.

As I have spent time reflecting and praying, I feel this is where the Holy Spirit is leading us. This work needs to be completed by the end of the year so that we can lean into where God is calling us. No, we won't have any denominational answers before November of 2022, but God is calling us to move in our community and share God's love regardless of what happens there.

How will God use us? How will God use you? Beloveds, for everything there is a season. We're in a season of discernment and growth as a church family. I invite you to please pray with me for God's guidance and wisdom in the next few months as we embark on this post-pandemic journey together.

Blessings!

Rev. Jeanne



JOINING in the JOURNEY TOGETHER

Rev. Brenda Wideman, Associate Pastor

We All are Called!

For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us. (Romans 12:4-6 NRSV)

Did you know as a child of God that you have been called? Did you know that you have been given gifts and graces and these make you who you are in service to God's people? The Apostle Paul wrote to the growing Christian community in Rome that God had measured out a portion of those gifts to each one of them. Paul confirmed that we are each unique in our gifts and that by combining our gifts, we are stronger and more complete together.

For the past four years, we have had a ministry that serves our church family and community in ways that care for them. This ministry is the Congregational Care Ministry (CCM). These are laity who have been called to serve our church family and to assist Rev. Jeanne and me by identifying and by ministering to those whose health and struggles in life make it difficult for them to be an active part of our faith community. Sometimes the struggle is temporary and other times, it is an ongoing difficulty. CCMs serve the least, the last, the lost, and the lonely. In 2017 we started with 4 CCMs and since then we have grown to a current total of 6 CCM's. On the weekend of August 27-28, we will host a training seminar in our Becker Hall to grow not only CCMs for our church, but also to expand that ministry in other churches in the state of Arkansas. If you are sensing a calling to be a part of this ministry, please come talk to me about this.

Paul told us that we have each been given unique gifts and graces, so it may not be that being a CCM is your calling. But, even if that is not the case, I do know that Jesus calls each of us to love one another. Each of us, regardless of our gifts, is called to know that the CCM ministry exists, who the CCMs in our church are, and when we know of our beloved friends and families who need this ministry, it is our calling to let the CCMs know of this. Those who are struggling should not have to struggle alone, and unfortunately, there are times when we have not yet been made aware there are those who need this ministry.

And, no doubt, we are each called to pray. I ask each of you in the coming months to pray for the hearts of those who are and will soon become CCMS, to pray for the success of this seminar, and to pray for the least, the last, the lost, and the lonely that they may be found and may find healing in their lives as they join in the journey of this ministry

Blessings, *Pastor Brenda*



Our CCMs — Left to Right:

Rev. Brenda Wideman

Connie Knauss

Dr. Maryann Johnson

Patricia Fox

Judy Kaufmann

David Broers

(not shown) Deaconess Kandi Mount



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

JOYS



Andrew, Alec, Karyss, Julia, Renee

Our OMP Campers

We had a team attending Ozark Mission Project in Northwest Arkansas from June 20-24 to help our neighbors with projects they are unable to do on their own. Youth campers were: Julia Forst, Karyss Bosch, Alec Gilmore and adults Andrew Smith and Renee van Dyke. They helped a neighbor in Rogers with a new wheelchair ramp and got to know her, as well. They were able to see God at work and were the hands and feet of Christ in this ministry.

BIRTHS

Julia May Mercereau – was born to Rick and Hannah Mercereau on May 29th, in Hawaii. Rick is the grandson of Dick and Karen Bacon. He has been on our prayer list for a long time as he is in the Army and stationed in Hawaii. Julia May is the Bacons' 3rd great-grandchild.

MILESTONES



Jack and Jan Kolbe – have celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 10. There were flowers in the sanctuary for the next Sunday's worship in their honor. We give thanks for them and for their many years together!

Juanita Clark – had her 90th birthday on June 10. Her daughter, Pam Hooker, said she is holding her own at Ashley Health Care Center in Rogers with the bladder cancer. Their policy is still no visitation other than family, but cards are always welcomed. Her address is: c/o Ashley Health Care Center, 2600 N. 22nd St. #217, Rogers, AR 72756.



RELOCATIONS

Juanita Prior – a member with us since March of 1996, but unable to regularly attend for health reasons, has moved to be closer to family. Her new address is: 780 W. Bay Area Blvd. #2202, Webster, TX 77598. She would love to hear from you as she goes through this transition!



Leah Tingblad – is now living in Wisconsin with her daughter, out in nature and in the beauty of that state. She is doing very well and sends her love to all of us. You can send cards of well wishes to her at: 214 185th St., Star Prairie, WI 54026



Dave Weber – moved to the assisted living wing of Village on the Park in Bentonville on Friday, June 18. He has sold his home and in this move will be close to his wife, Anny, who is in memory care there. His new address is Dave Weber, c/o Village on the Park, Apt. #117, 3800 SW Mt. Carmel Dr. Bentonville, AR 72713. Please keep Dave in your prayers in this transition.

COMMUNITY LIFE

MISSIONS



OUR FAMILY

IN MEMORIUM

Mary Louise Verkest – daughter of Rev. Jim and Mary Verkest, passed away after a long battle with colon cancer, on Thursday, June 10, in Wisconsin. Rev. Jim and Mary had been active members of our church and of the Wesley Group before moving to Wisconsin to be with Mary Louise. Rev. Jim is a retired Methodist minister. Cards can be sent to: 701 Clayton Ave., Stevens Point, WI 54481. Please keep the Verkestes in your prayers as they mourn the loss of Mary Louise.

***Nextgen Newscast***

Renee van Dyke, Nextgen Director

YOUTH NEWS ~ OMP

aka: OZARK MISSION PROJECT

After months of planning and fundraising, the time finally arrived for our Youth Group to embark upon a project we had been eagerly anticipating. On June 13, Rev. Brenda commissioned the small group of Alec Gilmore, Julia Forst, Karyss Bosch, Andrew Smith and Renee van Dyke to go forth and be the hands of Christ. We did just that. The evening of June 20, during worship, I received word we would be constructing a wheelchair ramp at a Neighbor's home in Avoca. We packed our vehicles with tools most of us had never used, threw in a set of sawhorses and off we went into the rainy morning.

As soon as we got there we saw why her project had been chosen. Her current ramp was nearly unusable. We consulted each other to make sure we were interpreting the plans correctly. We received a quick tutorial on proper tool usage from OMP staff and then we were left to figure it out. Just as we began to have faith in our ability to do this, our Neighbor seemed to lose faith in us! She wanted her old ramp back. We assured her we could do this, it would be ADA compliant, and it was coming along really well. Soon she started spending a little more time outside with us. She'd smile and tell us it was nice. And we played with her dog.

As we repeatedly turned to God to equip us for this project, He also increased our faith in ourselves. By doing so, it increased our Neighbor's faith in the entire process. As we bid her goodbye on the day we completed her ramp, she smiled brightly and passed out hugs. A gift we had made from scrap wood was prominently displayed in her kitchen. I brought her a bag of tomatoes from my garden and she thanked me, but not just me and not just for the tomatoes. She thanked all of us for making her life a little easier and her week much less lonely.

In our daily worship time, we always shared what the day had meant to us or where we saw God at work. On that final day, most of us just sighed and smiled. We had indeed served as the hands of Christ. Mission accomplished! (see page 11 for pictures)

Blessings, *Ms. Renee***Ms. Renee will be out of the office from July 6-17.**

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – TAKE 2;
Knights of the North Castle VIRTUAL REALITY**

Due to very low pre-registration, in-person VBS was canceled to maintain good stewardship practices. That doesn't mean we can't have VBS fun, though!! Virtual VBS will be held July 18th through the 22nd. Ms. Renee is in the process of working out the details. If you are interested, please register through the church website fumcbellavista.com. Even if you registered for in-person and are still interested, please register again. This will help us know what supplies are needed. Watch for further details coming very soon!

Huzzah!!



COMMUNITY LIFE

**LAY LEADER'S MESSAGE**

Dave Broers, Lay Leader

“Welcome!” or “Welcome Back!”

These words are heard in the fall of the year as churches and schools enter a new season. However, it's been over a year since most of us have been in church physically. So you'll hear it now at the beginning of summer.

Whether it's a new class, a new church season with a new sermon series or small groups forming, or simply returning to “normal” after a pandemic. “Welcome” to something new. “Welcome Back” to the familiar with a new perspective.

I like the way Paul relates his continuing work in ministry, not resting upon the past: *“Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal: but I press on to make it my own...This one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.”* Philippians 3:12-14

As I think about our conference, our leaders and our churches, I'm reminded of this message to “press on,” building upon the past and moving forward into the opportunities of the present and future as God leads. I hope that you're also reminded to “press on” in your activities this summer.

Peace and blessings. . . *Dave*



There is a quarterly Church Council meeting scheduled for Sunday, July 18th at 3:00pm in Becker Hall. This meeting is open to the church congregation to attend. However, any business conducted or voting taken is for the council members to decide.



Artie Lawless,
UMM President

**Friends Check on Friends**

Hello Methodist Men!

What comes to mind when we think of the month of July? Vacations, Hot Weather, Fireworks, Pools, Parades, Cookouts, and family fun. But, a few hundred plus years ago the month of July meant something much different.

Freedom, both personal and religious, Independence, and Hope. We enjoy the thoughts of today because of the bold visions of yesterday. Our fledgling country was just being born. The founding fathers based our new nation on rock solid principals.

Truth, Justice, Faith and The Bible. Of the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence nearly half (24) held Seminary or Bible School degrees. These were men of deep religious convictions and faith in Jesus Christ. Here are a few quotes from some genuinely great men.

“The Bible...is a book worth more than all the other books ever printed”. Patrick Henry – Ratifier of the US Constitution

“The Gospel of Jesus Christ prescribes the wisest rules for just conduct in every situation of life. Happy are they who are enabled to obey them in all situations”. Benjamin Rush – Signer of the Declaration of independence.

“A watchful eye must be kept on ourselves lest while we are building ideal monuments of renown and bliss here, we neglect to have our names enrolled in the annals of heaven”. James Madison – 4th US president

Finally, *“Here is my Creed. I believe in God the creator of the Universe...that the most acceptable service we render to him is in doing good to his other children”* ... Benjamin Franklin – Signer of the Declaration of Independence and the US Constitution.

So, as you stroll along the beach or have that second hotdog take a minute to thank the great men from two hundred and forty-five years ago that made us truly: One Nation under God.

Many blessings, *Artie*

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!



JULY ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 Mike Roth & Cathy Luck
- 2 Jon & Jessica Mendoza
- 8 Bill & Jane Potts
- 13 Rev. Jim & Mary Verkest
- 20 Stan & Melodee Neukircher
- 22 Sean & Kristin Crider
- 25 Ed & Barbara Jenner
- 27 Dick & Karen Bacon
- 30 Rick & Dena Mayes
- 31 Bill & Connie Wilson

JULY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Sue Nebrig
- 1 Allan Ward
- 3 Jacqueline Beahm
- 3 Wanda Holliday
- 3 Mary Ann Kennedy
- 4 Earl Kennedy
- 5 Sandy Fitch
- 5 Pat Fox
- 5 Lou Kaufmann
- 6 Judith McVickers
- 7 LaVon Fryer
- 7 Allison Totten
- 8 Chet Campbell
- 8 Helen McBride

JULY BIRTHDAYS *(continued)*

- 9 Jennifer Lehmann
- 9 Carmen Phillips
- 9 Mike Roth
- 10 Layne Anderson
- 10 Carol Pennington
- 10 Ashdon Wilson
- 11 Leota Rowison
- 13 Stan Neukircher
- 13 Juanita Prior
- 14 Bergie Dyson
- 15 Merle Lantz
- 15 Tommy Runnels
- 16 Ken Hammarstrom
- 17 Dorothy Phillips
- 17 Carol Zurn
- 18 Verle Shoemaker
- 19 Noah Pittman
- 24 Allen Janssen
- 24 Rachel Smith
- 25 M.J. Rhein
- 27 Jack Kolbe
- 27 Jamey Rowland
- 27 Katrina Sparlin
- 30 Melodee Neukircher
- 31 Pamela Pittman

July 2021 Newsletter ~ May 2021 Financial Data

		2021 Actual	2021 Budget
Month of May Contributions	*Income	\$35,674.08	\$36,709.76
Month of May	Expenses	\$40,487.16	\$47,059.66
	Difference	(\$4,813.08)	(\$10,349.90)
Year to Date (as of 5/31/21)	*Income	\$169,388.40	\$183,549.20
Year to Date (as of 5/31/21)	Expenses	\$210,104.40	\$235,298.30
	Difference	(\$40,716.00)	(\$51,749.10)

* Income does not include Missions or Endowment Interest

Amy Gilmore, Church Administrator



GENEROSITY

MISSIONS

Stewardship Corner

Four Principles of Biblical Stewardship

Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already.

C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Bill Peel wrote an excellent essay entitled *Leadership is Stewardship*. In it, he suggests that there are four important principles about biblical stewardship we must understand.

➤ Principle number one: the **Principle of Ownership**.

The psalmist begins the 24th psalm with, *The earth is the LORD's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.*

In the beginning, God creates everything and puts Adam in the Garden to work it and to take care of it. It is clear the man was created to work, and the work is the stewardship of all the creation that God has given him.

This is the fundamental principle of biblical stewardship. God owns everything, and we are simply managers acting on his behalf.

Therefore, stewardship expresses our obedience regarding the management of everything God has placed under our control, which is all-encompassing. Stewardship is the commitment of oneself and possessions to God's service, recognizing that we do not have the right of control over our property or ourselves.

Echoing Deuteronomy 8:17, we might say: "My power and the strength of my hands produced this wealth for me." But Deuteronomy 8:18 counsels us to think otherwise: *Remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth.*

Adapted from *Four Principles of Biblical Steward* by Hugh Whelchel.

Ken Swanson, Finance Committee Chair

JULY Mission of the Month School Supplies for Cooper Elementary School

Although schools have just been dismissed for this year, in no time at all a new school year will begin. Our **July Mission of the Month** is to collect supplies for classrooms at Cooper Elementary School. Please watch for supplies lists and collection bins soon!

SHOEBOX MINISTRY sent out 100 boxes to Fayetteville Salvation Army last month. We had a difficult time reaching them as leadership had changed, but thanks to Maryann's persistence, contact was finally made and they picked the boxes up early in June. Cheryl has been trying to reach other Shelters to see what their needs are so we can buy some bulk items for them, also. In September, Martha Circle will continue to pack Sunshine Bags for Cooper School. Thank you for your continued support of the Shoe Box Ministry.

Maryann, Cheryl & Karen

WANTED!

A Good Home for GYPSY

Deanna Ballinger, a faithful member of our FUMCBV church family since 2009, is moving to South Dakota and is unable to take her dog Gypsy with her. She is looking for a good home for Gypsy. Gypsy is a very lovable, sweet-natured dog. She is house broken, and crate-trained. She is a shepherd mix and weighs about 80 pounds. She was abandoned and Deanna had taken her in. She has been spayed and is about seven years old. She is still very active and loves people and loves her belly rubs. If interested, please contact Deanna's daughter Lori Ballinger at (479) 899-7082. Please leave a message.



CARE and SHARE Gravette, AR



The Care and Share trailer will be in our upper parking lot on **Monday, July 19th** from 7:00am 'til about 5:00pm. What is sold in the Care and Share Thrift Store and Food Pantry in Gravette is all donated items, and the profits go to support those in need in western Benton County. They take donations of all kinds. Please help!


WORSHIP

Musical Chairs

Dr. Larry Zehring, Director of Music Ministries


From the Organ Console
 Broc Hite, Organist/Pianist

Hear ye! Hear ye! Hear ye!

(or more to the point-)

Ring/Sing ye! Ring/Sing ye! Ring/Sing ye!
That's right! After almost a year-and-a-half off,
Handbell & Choir Practices will resume on
Wednesday, September 1st*
3:00 p.m. – Handbells ~ 4:45 p.m. – Choir

*There will be a few new – hopefully temporary - rules that we must follow as we come out of the shadow of the pandemic. They are:

- Everyone must be fully vaccinated for covid.
- We will observe the health and safety guidelines recommended by the CDC and the Arkansas Methodist Conference.
- We will continue to wear masks and practice modified social distancing, e.g., there must be a 9 square foot “bubble” around every person.
- We will rehearse in spaces where there is adequate ventilation with hand sanitizers and cleaning materials available.
- Rehearsals will last no longer than one hour for the time being.

With these guidelines and protocols in place, I believe it will be safe for us to begin the process of returning to a “normal” routine of rehearsing and providing in-person, “live” music for our worship services. If there are any questions that any of you have about this proposed schedule, please let me know and I will do my best to address your concerns.

 Blessings, *Larry*
Worship Services for the Month of July:

July 4 – 10:30 AM Parking Lot Service (No other services this Sunday) – Faithfulness, Part 2 – Mark 6:1-13

***Fun Fellowship with Patriotic Concert following worship. Bring your own picnic lunch, we'll provide some games.

July 11–25 – Worship Series on *Priorities* – When we were given time to pause during the pandemic, we were forced to re-examine what is important in our lives. What are your priorities these days? What are our church's? Our community's? We will take time to see how some people in the Bible have handled shifting priorities.

I hope you'll be able to join us in our outdoor Fourth of July concert. It will feature a variety of music, from patriotic to folk. It will be a great chance to highlight the talent that we have in our church. Even if you've been away for a while, most of us have continued to make music behind locked doors in front of the camera. Now that the doors are open again, it's time to join us again!

I'm so happy to get back to the organ, now that people can actually enjoy it. We're no longer under strict Covid guidance to escort people quickly out of the sanctuary following morning worship. You're always free to escape, but you can also stay if you wish!

In case you missed it, our Casavant is celebrating the 50th birthday of its 1971 installation. We'll probably push some of the anniversary celebrations out to 2022 to maximize the chance to celebrate our wonderful instrument. That will include a notable guest recitalist and my own mini-recitals under the Curious Squirrel banner.

This July marks one year as the pianist in our Praise Band. Certainly, the best way to experience the sound of Contemporary Christian Music (CCM) is to attend our 11 am service. We're also going to be featuring our favorite praise songs through a favorites contest, similar to what we did with traditional hymns several years ago.

Each week, you'll select your favorite of two songs, with links to hear them played by professional artists. After the knockout round is over, we'll go to a final four and then the grand finale. It's a great chance for you to listen to CCM at your leisure. Whether or not it is your cup of tea, please tell your friends about the great music that we're offering in both traditional and CCM genres.

Next month features the middle set of four Spanish Dances by Enrique Granados. I'll be recording the first four at some point this month, and may even include them in an in-person recital. We'll see!

Please join me online!

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

On Facebook and Instagram: @BrocKeysPedals

Broc

COMMUNITY LIFE



What's the (Hi)Story?

Jill Hale, FUMC Historian

There was no response to the historian message last month asking for memories about the stained-glass window in the Chapel/Parlor. In culling through historical information, I was able to determine that the window was installed when the "Chapel/Lounge" was renovated in 1992. The Chapel had previously been the fellowship hall for the church and was updated when Becker Hall was completed as the new fellowship hall. The window was given by Mary Kraska.



From stained-glass window explanations I found: "The design of the Chapel window is based on Luke 3:16, 'He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.' The Holy Spirit appears as a descending dove with tri-radiant nimbus indicating that it is a member of the Triune God. The dove is the Biblical symbol of the Spirit as it first appeared in this form at the baptism of Jesus.

"The tri-radiant nimbus about the head of the dove coincides with the arms of the cross and the Circle of Eternity at the center of the cross. Below the dove are seven tongues of fire which have a downward and outward motion, as at Pentecost. Seven flames are used as a number associated with the Spirit reminding us of the seven gifts of the Spirit."

For August, we will move back into the Sanctuary and for a look at the history of the Casavant pipe organ. Please send me any memories you have about the selection and installation of the organ.

My contact information is rjhale68@cox.net or 479-344-6074.

Jill



Our UMW Unit has been invited to participate in this program sponsored by the FUMC Bentonville UMW. Reservations for the 6:30 event are not required but if you wish to attend the meal, \$10/person, you need to make a reservation through Judy Bilyeu, 876-2345.

The program will also be available live on their Facebook page. We plan to host a viewing group at 6:15 PM in our chapel. The talk will not go past 7:30. Please let Judy know if you plan to attend this viewing to be sure we can abide by the current Covid 19 guidelines. The event will also be recorded so it can be viewed later on their church's Facebook page.

As Director of the Gender Studies Program and Affiliate Faculty in African American Studies and Latin American and Latino Studies at the University of Arkansas, Dr. Corrigan is well qualified to lead the program. She has written the books "Prison Power: How Prison Politics Influenced the Movement for Black Liberation" and also "Black Feelings: Race and Affect in the Long Sixties".

We will hear specifically of classifications of people in Arkansas and how they affect the feelings of hope, love, sadness, anger, and action surrounding those in the black community. In addition, we will hear of specific policies in Arkansas and Benton County that exist due to experiences like the school-to-prison pipeline. The hope is for more people to hear and apply ways white communities can advocate and take actionable steps toward change.

This program will be a good prelude to our September program when our UMW Conference Social Action Chair Brenda Gullett will present our program on the school-to-prison pipeline.

Please try to attend!



As usual, there will be no Circle meetings or Board meetings during the months of July and August.



**While
Mama Hen
was away,
the
baby chicks
played
during Staff
meeting!**

COMMUNITY LIFE



Book Hook



Please look around your home for any FUMCBV Library books you may have checked out. We have many that were checked out as long as two years ago. If you are through reading, please return them to the Library or the tub under the Portico, so that others may check them out to enjoy .

Attention all UMW Reading Program participants: August 11th is the last day I can accept the information as to what program you completed (I, II, III, or IV). You can leave this information in the shoebox in the church library, email me jdvbellavista@yahoo.com or call me at 479-876-1676. Thank you. *Diane Verville*

THANK YOU

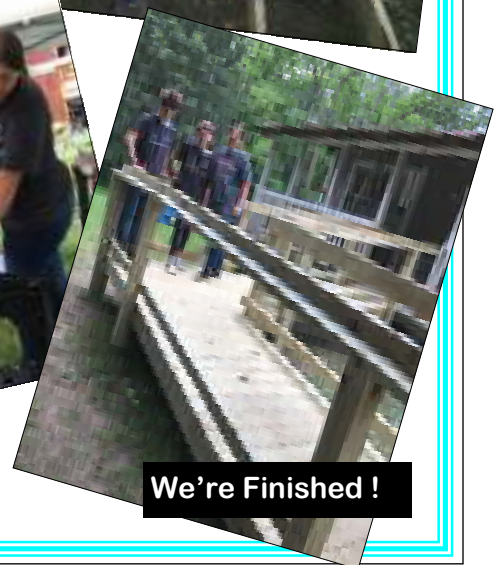
Thanks so much to everyone who sent me cards or inquired through Amy about me after my fall. Prayers really do work and I appreciate all who included me in theirs. Hoping to see you soon.
Wanda Williams

Dear Friends in Christ,
Thank you for the beautiful card and your many prayers. Our daughter, Mary Louise, is with her Lord now and we celebrate her life, even though she is lost to us here. May God bless you all and your ministry. With deep appreciation,
Rev. Jim & Mary Verkest

MISSIONS ~ Ozark Mission Project 2021
See page 5 for the stories of our week!



and the Project begins. . . .



We're Finished !



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

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We're Here to Serve You

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

Phone: (479) 855-1158
www.fumcbellavista.com
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Newsletter Deadline: 20th of the month

To the Home of ...



Please help keep our
Blessing Box (in the East Parking Lot)
stocked with non-perishable food
items, so that those in our
community who are in need can
replenish themselves here.
The Blessing Box really is a
blessing to those in need.



Red Cross Blood Drive
FUMC BELLA VISTA
20 Boyce Drive, Bella Vista
Becker Hall

Thursday, July 22, 2021
1:30pm to 5:30pm

Please call 1-800-REDCROSS
(1-800-733-2767)
or visit RedCrossBlood.org
and enter: FUMCBV
to schedule an appointment