



THE CONNECTION
April 2022
Newsletter



Worship Times
Sunday Mornings

Morning Glory at 8:30AM
Christ Chapel

The Well / Contemporary at 9:45AM
The Crossroads Center / FB Live

Traditions at 11:00AM
Main Sanctuary / FB Live

From The Pastor's Desk

Calling All Stephen's Ministers!

I first became aware of the Stephen's Ministry early in my pastoral career. This ministry consists of training every day church folks how to do Christ centered caring ministry especially to those who are undergoing life's difficulties.

I have been blessed in previous churches to have Stephen's Ministers assist me with some aspect of what we often call "pastoral care." There are so many needs represented within a congregation that it can be overwhelming. An equipped group of loving church members who can assist in this task can be a tremendous blessing. If you listen to testimonies, you will know it can truly be life-changing.

I'm told First United Methodist Church had an active Stephen's Ministry at one time. Their work

Office Hours

Mon - Thurs
9:00AM- 4:00PM

Staff Meetings
Mondays 9:30-11:30AM

Lunch
12:00-1:00PM

Office Closure
Monday, April 18
Easter Monday

Church Staff

Pastor
Pastor Ronnie Bearden
drronbearden@hotmail.com

Church Administrator
Angie Arnold
fumcrestview@gmail.com

Church Secretary
Cathrin Owens
office.fumcrestview@gmail.com

touched the lives of many people. I'm not sure why that group became inactive- someone said it might possibly be that a former pastor was not interested in utilizing and supporting this ministry. Well, whether that was the case or not, this definitely does not describe me.

There is a tremendous need within our congregation which has become an opportunity. I have a goal of re-activating the Stephen's Ministry within our congregation, but the first step is identifying who we have on hand now. I know of possibly four (with one passing away a few months ago)- but I'm told there are more. These may be people in our congregation who went through the training and served at our church in the past.... and it may also include people who were active Stephen's Ministers at other congregations who have joined our church in recent years.

So, if you are a Stephen's Minister, would you let me know who you are? Please call the church office or email me (dronbearden@hotmail.com). I would like to put together a list, and then call a meeting so that I can hear your stories and then plan for the future.

As we look to the future, we will eventually be encouraging new people to enter into this caring ministry and receive the needed training.

If you want to know more about this wonderful ministry, you can go to their website.

<https://www.stephenministries.org>

Thus, in the future, there will be a call for new people, but right now, I'm hoping to discover those who are already trained Stephen's Ministers. I believe the time is ripe to resurrect this caring work.

-Pastor Ronnie

Children's Ministry &
Family Discipleship Coordinator
Angela Long
kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com

Youth Ministry
Paul Adams
fumcrestviewyouth@gmail.com

Facilities Manager
Chris Woodward
fumfacilities@gmail.com

Music, Contemporary
Nathan Hight

Music, Traditional
Kevin Lusk

Organist
Leon Curenton

Pianists
Pam Myers, Susan Smith

Wesleyan Child Care Center
Osa Bell / Director
wesleyanchildcare@gmail.com

Ministry Addresses

United Methodist Men /
Jody Woodward
ummcrestview@gmail.com

Women's Service Group /
Eileen Kurtz
wsgcrestview@mail.com

Soup Kitchen / Eileen Kurtz
soupkitchenfumc@gmail.com

Palm Sunday & Children's Festival
- April 10

One combined service at 10:30AM in the Main Sanctuary.

FB Livestreamed.

Adult Sunday school will meet from 9:30-10:30AM.

Kids' Street open at 9:15AM, 6 wks-5th grade.

Kids Sunday School-9:30 to 10:15AM.

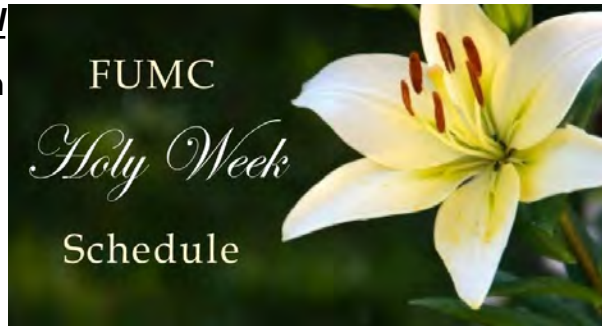
Kids will line up at 10:15AM in the Main Sanctuary for the procession of the Palms.

Children's Church-10:45 to 11:30AM.

Lunch Served at 11:40AM in the Crossroads Center.

Children's Festival begins at noon with games, face painting, bounce house & our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Bring your basket!

***Please note: Some of our roads will be blocked off so we can transition our children safely to and from each event. We will have Men's Group volunteers at the road blocks to direct you to your parking and to make sure those with special needs are allowed through to park in reserved parking spaces.



Wednesday, April 13

No evening activities scheduled.

Maundy Thursday Communion Service - April 14

6:30PM in the Main Sanctuary. FB Livestreamed.

Nursery unavailable.

Tenebrae / Good Friday Service - April 15

6:30PM in the Main Sanctuary. FB Livestreamed.

Nursery unavailable.

Easter Celebration - Sunday, April 17

8:30, 9:45 & 11:00AM services will be celebrating the resurrection of our Lord and Savior!

9:45 & 11:00AM Easter services will be FB Livestreamed.

Nursery open for Sunday School and all services.

Heartfelt Thanks!

Thank you United Methodist Men!
Thank you to the men's group for allowing the Children's Ministry team to be represented at your March meeting. It is such a blessing to have so many of you volunteer to help our children's program in so many ways. We thank you for all that you do and have plans to do for this ministry in 2022!!

-Angela Long, FUMC Children's Pastor



Palm Sunday Service & Children's Festival Schedule

Sunday, April 10

One Combined Service in the Main Sanctuary at 10:30AM!

Adult Sunday School 9:30 -10:15AM

Kids' Street opens at 9:15AM (6wks - 5th grade)

Kids Sunday School 9:30 - 10:15AM

Kids will line up at 10:15AM to carry the palms

into the Sanctuary.

Children's Church 10:45 to 11:30AM

Lunch Served at 11:40AM in The

Crossroads Center

Children's activities begin at noon with games, face painting, bounce house and our annual Easter Egg Hunt (bring your basket)!

All children are to be accompanied by a parent at all times during this event.



Life Line Screening

Sign up for a screening today!

Life Line will be on campus on **Thursday, April 28.**

Please visit

lifelinescreening.com/community-circle to sign up.



Mother's Day Tea

After a 3 year covid delay we are finally able to host our Ladies Tea again!

The date is **Saturday, May 14** from 11:00AM to 12:30PM. Please come join this wonderful event of delicious food, fellowship and enjoyment all provided on a beautifully set table!

Our theme this year is "GOING BEYOND."

Our theme scripture is Romans 15:13, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

Deb Lubas will be our guest speaker. We will have our silent auction and an opportunity for photos to remember all the fun. There will be a kids table with a pirate and mermaid theme, so our boys and girls have something just for them! As usual, all proceeds go to Pastor Kris Kopacz in Poland. You can expect many pictures of the new chapel in Siemiany and all that Pastor Kris is doing! It is a blessing to be a part of building the only Methodist church in Poland. All donations are welcome! Tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children.

It will be a joy to have this lovely event again!

Hostesses: Susan Hill, Glenda McMasters, Linda biondi, Deb Lubas, Angie Woodward, Anne Campbell, Mary rose Scott, Judi Smith, Karen Goode, Jamie Davis, Jennifer raiche and Sharon Steen. Hoping to find one more . Thanks so much!



'Through the Stained Glass' Mug #6

We're now debuting Mug #6, the last in our series collection that benefits Pastor Kris in Poland!

This mug features the beautiful Main Sanctuary's Christ window.

All mugs are 20\$ each and can be ordered on the clipboard outside of all Sunday services, email fumcrestview@gmail.com, call the office, or notate your grace note.

The deadline to order mug #6 is **Sunday, April 24.**

You can personally view the mugs in our history hutch located in the hospitality area in front of the church office.



Wesleyan Child Care Center

Thanks to the hard work, time, and extensive research, our Director, Ms Osa Bell, has led the way for our wonderful school to receive multiple grants this past year. The grants have helped our school in so many ways. Wesleyan has been able to purchase new toys, shelving, school supplies, new cap and gowns for graduation and new playground equipment. The grant has also enabled us to add an additional VPK classroom for next school year as well, which means we will have 5 VPK classrooms in August.. The students have enjoyed all our blessings, but especially love our new playground equipment. Thank you Ms Bell for all your hard work!

-Osa Bell, WCCC Director



Childrens Ministry

Palm Sunday Children's Festival & Easter Egg Hunt:

Don't forget... we have only one service on **April 10th.**

Please see the following announcement for where to take your children and the schedule of events! We will serve a light meal while we get our games and activities set up. This year we are planning for sack races, spoon/egg relays, a craft, and face painting. We have 1000's of eggs so hope to see you and a few friends. For those that can not attend the service and lunch:

You can drive at 12:00 for the games and to get ready for the Easter egg Hunt. Please note: Some of our roads will be blocked off so we can transition our children safely to and from each event. We will have Men's



Group volunteers at the road blocks to direct you to your parking and to make sure those with special needs are allowed through to park in reserved parking spaces.

Vacation Bible School: VBS dates have been set for **June 20 to June 24** of 2022. We will have an evening program for K-12 and preschool events during the day. Our schedule and more details will follow. Please add these dates to your calendar so you do not miss out on the fun! We are so excited and have already begun planning for an awesome week!! **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!** Please contact the church office or Angela at kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com to sign up. Registration will be open online soon!!!!

Wednesday Night Activities: 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM

Join us for Praise, Fellowship, and a lesson. We meet on Kids Street for welcome and opening prayer and transition to the chapel shortly after. Stopping for an outdoor game on our way back to Kid's Street is becoming a new favorite time of the day for the children. We would love to have your children join us! We also have a nursery available for parents attending the ReFit group or other on campus small groups.

-Angela Long

Small Group Reminders

Sunday School News: A reminder that Sunday school will meet at 9:30 AM on **April 10th** due to the Psalm Sunday activities. Church will be at 9:45 on this day. Please see the Psalm Sunday event activity and announcements in this newsletter for more details. Our nursery will open at 9:15 AM. Children should be picked up by 10:50 AM so that the nursery workers can help to set up for the afternoon events.



Spring Session Small Groups: Registration is now open for the Spring Session of Adult Small Groups. Groups will begin the week of **April 4, 2022**. Please visit our website for online registration or sign up in person at the small group table in the CRC lobby. We have so many opportunities coming for the Spring!

**God's Time (Moms Group): 'Am I Messing Up My Kids?' Mon, 10:00AM Rm 212 on the Breezeway*

**Refit (Women's Group): Mon & Fri 8:45AM CRC and also Wed, 6:00PM CRC*

Young Adult Group: 'Anxious: Fighting Anxiety with the Word of God' Wed,

10:00AM CRC

**'The Last Supper on the Moon' Wed, 6:00PM CRC*

**'The New Testament in Its World' Wed, 6:00PM Rm 212*

**Childcare provided! / CRC: The Crossroads Center*

Please contact Angela Long if you are interested in any of our small groups or are interested in leading a study.

Youth

2022 is sure moving along quickly which means that our biggest annual event is fast approaching...our 6th Annual Discovery Weekend!!!



Discovery Weekend is a 42-hour (yes, a 2 night lock-in) spiritual formation retreat for rising 6th through 8th graders, hosted by 9th through 12th graders. The retreat is modeled after the Chrysalis and Emmaus retreats that many of you have experienced at Blue Lake Camp. Every year we have the best one yet...and we need YOUR help to make sure our 6th annual event does not disappoint. There are several positions for adult volunteers...please contact Sara Fordyce or Paul Adams if you would like to help.

On Wednesday nights, we are still working through our deep dive of Genesis and will be for another 10 weeks. We were extremely blessed to have Pastor Ronnie host a 4 week Righteous Relationships Series (designed around questions from the students) which provided a scriptural perspective on healthy relationships (friendship, dating, marriage). Our students were very engaged and all soaked up wisdom and guidance from Pastor Ronnie.

Please take a moment to review our **Important Dates – UPCOMING EVENTS & SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES** below.

Important Dates – UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Discovery Weekend: Friday, April 29 – Sunday, May 1
 - o All rising 6th graders through 12th graders are invited! \$50 Registration due by April 15 - Text or email Sara Fordyce
- 2022 Senior Celebrations: Wednesday, May 18th @ 6pm during youth & Sunday, May 15th during the 9:45 service
- Mission Trip to Blue Lake Camp: Friday, July 8th – Sunday, July 10th
 - o All 6th through 12th graders (including recently graduated high school seniors) are invited! \$75 Registration due by June 20th - Email Paul Adams

Important Dates – SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:

- Palm Sunday Celebrations: Youth assisting with Kids Street festivities immediately following the 10:30am combined worship service.
- Soup Kitchen: Youth hosting Saturday, April 16th AND helping May 14th, 9am-Noon: We need at 8-10 youth who want to work hard and serve.
- Community Dinner: Youth hosting on Wednesday, May 11th, preparations begin at after school at 3:30pm

YOUTH MINISTRY CONTACT INFO: Paul Adams - fumcrestviewyouth@gmail.com

DISCOVERY WEEKEND CONTACT INFO: Sara Fordyce - 850-217-7106 or the4dyces@gmail.com

First Church Women's Service Group

Have you gotten your Dean's Cakes/Rada Cutlery



order in yet? Only a few weeks left! The Women's Service Group will be at every service through Sunday April 3 (Rada Cutlery deadline) and April 10 (Dean's Cakes deadline) with order forms and to collect your orders. Please see the weekly bulletin, website, FUMC app, and the FUMC FaceBook page for more details!



The Women's Service Group will be meeting **Friday, April 1**, in Room 212 on the breezeway. We'll gather at 9:00 for light refreshments, our meeting will begin at 9:30, and we'll be ready to enjoy the rest of our day around 11:00. Only a couple more meetings til we break for Summer, so come join us if you can! If you have any questions or want to know about how we support our church and our community, please feel free to call the church office, talk with me, or join us for the April meeting.

In His Name,
-Eileen Kurtz

1 Peter 4:10 - "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."

[Soup Kitchen](#)

Spring is here and the soup kitchen SOUPers are cooking up some good eats every Saturday! New volunteers have recently joined the teams, and with plenty of hands to fix the food, package up the sweets and water, and distribute bread, bread and more bread to our visitors, every Saturday is a joy-filled adventure of fun and fellowship with our peers and our community. Crestview Major JB Whitten even stopped by recently to chat with SOUPers and was provided an overview of our ministry and our outreach to the community. Hopefully he will help promote the soup kitchen ministry with other folks that he meets!



In His Name,
-Eileen Kurtz, Soup Kitchen Coordinator

Matthew 25:35 - "I was hungry and you gave me food to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

[Yarn Ministry](#)

Everyone is excited about Spring, isn't it WONDERFUL? Some folks think, well, it's getting warm and who in their right mind wants to work with a big blanket on their lap? We do! Living in the South with the AC cranked makes for a cool environment and the need for many shawls and blankets, especially for those hospitalized or living in assisted living. So we continue stitching on, making sure that those in need are snuggled up despite the warm temps outside. What a blessing!



We're currently working on items to donate to the Bob Hope Village's Hawthorn House for memory impaired, the Fisher House for recovering military folks and

families, and the Crestview Pregnancy Center.

If you'd like to donate yarn, we'd sure love to put it to good use! You may drop off donations at the church office.

We will meet on **Tuesdays, April 12 & 26** at 6:00PM in Rm 213. All interested are welcome!

-Cathrin Owens

"May the kindness of the Lord our God be upon us; And confirm for us the work of our hands; Yes, confirm the work of our hands." Psalm 90:17

"We look for wool and linen, And work with our hands in delight." Proverbs 31:13

Crestview Prayer Network

Prayer Network meets April 6 at David's Catfish House 12 PM. Come meet and pray with us. All are invited!



-Kathleen Woodward

Greeters, Ushers, Liturgists

Maundy Thursday Communion Service, April 14 / Main Sanctuary 6:30PM

Greeters: Kristin Sallberg & Kit Callahan

Usher: Aimee Keller

Good Friday Tenebrae Service, April 15 / Main Sanctuary 6:30PM

Greeters: Melanie & Gary Zick

Usher: Aimee Keller

Morning Glory / Christ Chapel 8:30AM

Greeters:

April 3: Mike & Betsy Roy

April 10: Alesha & Robert Dabbs

April 17: John and Cynthia Leitschuck

April 24: Debbie Watson

Ushers: Bill Myers & Robert Dabbs

Contemporary / The Crossroads Center 9:45AM

Greeters & Ushers: Aimee Keller & Dan Taylor

Liturgists (In Sunday order): 1. Allen Bell 2. Dan Taylor 3. Nell Sutherland 4. Ronnie Bearden 5. Dan Taylor

Traditions / Main Sanctuary 11:00AM

Greeters:

April 3: Corolla & Rollin Anderson

April 10: Margaret Larson & Dax Reeves

April 17: Edie & Tom Giovanini

April 24: Gary Johnson & Glenda McMasters

Greeter/Usher Back: Darrell Smith

Ushers: Front - Dax Reeves, Terry Luster

Important Dates In April

April 1- Women's Service Group 9-11:00AM Rm 212
April 3- Youth Committee 12:15PM Conf Rm
April 4- Spring Small Groups begin this week!
April 6- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM at David's Catfish House
April 10- **Palm Sunday**, One Combined Service in the Main Sanctuary at 10:30AM, Lunch in the CRC, Festival & Egg Hunt on the Grounds, Missions 5:00PM Rm 212
April 11- United Methodist Men 6:00PM FH
April 12- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213
April 14- **Maundy Thursday** Service 6:30PM Main Sanctuary
April 15- **Good Friday** Tenebrae Service 6:30PM Main Sanctuary, Sr. Ministry Game Day 11:00AM-2:00PM FH
April 17- **Resurrection Sunday, Happy Easter!**
April 18- **Easter Monday** Church Office is Closed, May Newsletter Deadline
April 26- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213
April 29 through May 1- Youth Discovery
May 1- Youth Discovery Sunday 9:45AM CRC (special service), 8:30AM & 11:00AM services as normal

**FH- Fellowship Hall, Conf Rm- Conference Room, CRC- The Crossroads Center, Youth Rm- Youth Room*

Please see <http://fumcrestview.com/calendar-1> for any updates or changes

Looking Ahead To May

May 1- Youth Discovery Sunday 9:45AM CRC (special service) 8:30AM & 11:00AM services as normal, Trustees 3:00PM FH, Finance 5:00PM Rm 212
May 3- Worship 5:30PM Conf Rm
May 4- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM at David's Catfish House
May 5- National Day of Prayer / Prayer Stations in the Main Sanctuary
May 6- Women's Service Group 9-11:00AM Rm 212, Parent's Night Out 5-8:00PM Kids Street
May 9- United Methodist Men 6:00PM FH
May 10- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213
May 11- CommUNITY Dinner 5:30PM CRC, Church Council 6:30PM CRC
May 14 Mother's Day Tea 11-12:30PM CRC
May 15- Graduation Sunday
May 22- Dana Clah/ Reboot Recovery special guest in all worship services, Children's Committee 12:15PM Kids Street
May 23- June Newsletter Deadline
May 24- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213
May 30- Office is closed for Easter Monday

**FH- Fellowship Hall, Conf Rm- Conference Room, CRC- The Crossroads Center, Youth Rm- Youth Room*

Please see <http://fumcrestview.com/calendar-1> for any updates or changes



A Prayer for Easter

When everything was dark
and it seemed that the sun would never shine again,
your love broke through.

Your love was too strong,
too wide,
too deep
for death to hold.

The sparks cast by your love
dance and spread
and burst forth
with resurrection light.

Gracious God,
We praise you for the light of new life
made possible through Jesus.
We praise you for the light of new life
that shone on the first witnesses of resurrection.
We praise you for the light of new life
that continues to shine in our hearts today.

We pray that the Easter light of life, hope and joy,
will live in us each day;
and that we will be bearers of that light
into the lives of others.
Amen.

Rev. Michaela Youngson, the Methodist Church of Britain.



Special Offering for Roof Repair

From Pastor Ronnie

March 22, 2022

Dear Friends,

Our Administrative Council has begun a campaign to raise extra funds to work on the flat roofs on the main campus (in other words, not the main sanctuary).

I would like to set a goal of \$25,000. The more we raise the better. That is not the total cost of the project- which is about \$125,000 (the Trustees are still finalizing what needs to be done). Let me explain.

Over 18 years ago, the roof on the Breezeway/Fellowship Hall and the Children's wing were improved at a cost of \$164,000. The roof is now in need of repair. To replace it and start over would cost over \$300,000 today, but we are seeking to make repairs to our existing roof and treat the roof with a 15 year warranty. That treatment could be renewed in the future.

We currently do not have any leaks- which is a praise report. However, there are many worn spots and the edges have separated enough that if we do not make repairs now, a strong storm could rip up the edges and then we would be looking at a much higher repair.

The other challenge is that construction costs are seeing massive increases as part of our current inflationary economy. So for all these reasons, the Trustees want to act soon.

We do already have most of the funds available (isn't that a great praise report?). Our endowment often produces revenue growth and last year our giving was sufficient so that we did not need to draw on those funds for our general operations. That turned out to be a tremendous blessing since we now have about \$67,000 (\$15,000 of that was designated for our general budget for this year). We also have a cash reserve thanks to your faithful giving- especially during the COVID crisis and the good budgeting our finance leaders have employed. Those two funds combined would almost cover the cost of this repair - which is tremendously good news! The difficulty is that we don't want to deplete our cash reserve to zero for month to month operating expenses. Thus, if we raise at least \$25,000, then we would be in a better month to month position when this huge repair is completed.

So please consider a special gift above and beyond your regular giving. Please mark your gifts "Roof Project". If you use PushPay online giving, there will be a category added under that name. Or you can scan this QR code at the bottom with your smart phone. It will take you directly to online giving.

This is a good moment for me to do two things.

1. Thank you for your continued support for the great work that God is doing through the ministry of our church. Words cannot express my gratitude for this wonderful congregation.

2. Have you considered leaving something for the church in your will? Our endowment was created by many faithful people in the past. It currently stands at \$400,000 and the original goal was to reach \$600,000. The vision was that the fund would be available during some truly disastrous need (like a hurricane), and barring such an extreme need, the interest/growth would provide for the year to year needs of the church. The fact that this investment produced \$67,000 over the last two years is a testament to their vision. We are benefiting from their generosity! Tapping into the principle of that fund and spending it down only reduces its earning power dramatically in the future.

So please consider adding the church to your will so that we may grow this endowment such that the growth will continue to provide for the needs of this church for generations to come.

In Christ,



Pastor Ronnie Bearden



FUMC Crestview
Roof Project 2022
<https://ppay.co/Ywyc1KZtllM>

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For all the latest from FUMC please visit:

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