



THE CONNECTION December 2020 Newsletter



From the Pastor's Desk

God's ancient words for a people hurting and in difficult times...

*For a child is born to us,
a son is given to us.
The government will rest on his shoulders.
And he will be called:
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*

Isaiah 9:6 (NLT)

So how will you rate 2020?

I cannot count the number of people that have said in my presence, "I'll be glad when 2020 is over." Maybe you have said something like that.

I understand the sentiment and I also have felt the challenges of this year. But my faith tells me to take a slightly different track. Whether this was a "good year" or a "bad year" is not the bottom line for me.

We can see things differently because the Word of God has made promises to you and me. Promises that God would not leave us or forsake us. That our Good Shepherd would walk with us even through the valley of the shadow of death (sounds like a rough place, doesn't it?). That our God is King and Lord of all.

And so for me, the power of God is not measured by how wonderful things are. Wonderful times are the times when we sense and feel His blessings easily.

But it's in the hard times, the challenging times, that we sense and feel God's power. It is there that we discover that His grace is sufficient. It is there where He often amazes us.

So yes, this has been a challenging year, but for me, it has been a good year because God's grace has gotten me through. And I have not been alone, because I have journeyed also with a wonderful church family.

Worship Times

Sunday Mornings

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

Traditions at 11:00AM
Main Sanctuary

Office Hours

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

Staff Meetings

Mondays 9:30-11:30AM

Lunch

12:00-1:00PM

Office Closures

Christmas Holiday:
Dec 23 at noon.
Reopens on Jan 3.

Church Staff

Pastor

Pastor Ronnie Bearden
drronbearden@hotmail.com

Church Administrator & Facilities Director

Angie Arnold
fumcrestview@gmail.com

Church Secretary

Cathrin Owens
office.fumcrestview@gmail.com

Children's Ministry

Angela Long
fumc.angelalong@gmail.com

Youth Ministry

Paul Adams
fumcrestviewyouth@gmail.com

Music, Contemporary

Nathan Hight

Music, Traditional

Kevin Lusk

Organist

Leon Curenton

Pianists

Pam Myers, Susan Smith

Housekeeping

Amy Lohr-Sticha

Sexton

Samuel Allen

Thank you for your faithfulness during these days.

Pastor Ronnie



4:00PM

Children's Christmas Pageant
at The Crossroads Center.
(Nursery provided up to age 4 for this service only.)

6:00PM & 11:00PM

Candlelight Service in the Main Sanctuary.

Hanging of the Greens

Here's how you can help us Hang The Greens at FUMC:

We are needing volunteers to help put together Christmas Trees on Sunday, **November 29** at 2pm.

We have 2 very large and 3 regular size trees. We also need a family to decorate the large tree in the Crossroads Center and the tree in the Main Sanctuary lobby.

If your family would like to help, please call the church office.

We will need volunteers to take down the decorations and trees the week of **January 4th, 2021**. If you can help, please call the church office.



Benevolence Ministry **Angel Tree Christmas Program**

Our Christmas Angel Tree program gifts will need to be tagged & bagged and brought to The Crossroads Center on **Sunday, Dec 6**.

They do not need to be wrapped because the Youth will have a Wrap Party on Wed, Dec 9.

Thank you for reaching out this Thanksgiving & Christmas season and making a difference in our church and community families!



Christmas Cards For Prisoners

We have rescheduled this event from Nov 19.

Signing Christmas Cards for Prisoners will now be held on **December 3** from **9am-noon** in the youth room at the Crossroads Center. Anyone may attend. Masks are highly encouraged for this event.

We are asking for donations of Christmas Cards and books of stamps. You may drop them off at the church office during normal business hours.



[Crestview Prayer Network](#)

Prayer Network luncheon **Dec 2 at 12PM.**
David's Catfish House restaurant by Winn Dixie.
Pray for our nation we are in a spiritual battle for our freedom.



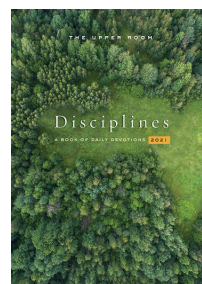
[Adult Sunday School & Small Groups](#)

We are nearing the end of our first Sunday school quarter since our reopen date. Adult Sunday school is in full swing with 5 classes still open. I want to make sure that everyone is aware of our schedule and that we have an online adult class that meets at 9:45 am each Sunday morning. Books have been ordered and distributed but it is not too late to join a class. Please let Angela Long know if you would like to join this online class or any of our in person classes (fumc.angelalong@gmail.com) More information will be announced soon about our Wednesday night bible studies. Check out our church website for additional details and upcoming events.



[Upper Room Disciplines Order](#)

We are taking pre-orders for the 2021 Upper Room Disciplines book. Sign up sheet is on the church office ledge or by emailing Angela Long at fumc.angelalong@gmail.com. The cost is \$11.00 per book. Orders need to be turned in and paid by **December 20, 2020**. Checks can be placed in the offering plate or noted on your Grace Note envelope (Please note Upper Room order so that we can make sure your book is ordered.)



[Children's Ministry](#)

The children invite you to come out in December for our **Children's Christmas Pageant, The First Christmas**, on **December 24 at 4:00 PM**. K-5 Children should arrive between 3:15 and 3:30 for dress and warm up. Many of our preschool students will be involved with the presentation and toddlers will be invited on stage during a song so they can participate at the manager scene. The message will be delivered by Pastor Ronnie Bearden following the performance. We ask that families plan on attending only one service this evening. Please check our church newsletter and website for details and additional information.



Christmas Cantata Practice:

December 6, 13, 20 at 11:00 am (We will hold a dress rehearsal on December 20th)

December Wednesday night schedule:

December 2 - 6:00 PM – Children's Choir practice for the Pageant

December 9 - 4:00 PM – Children's Choir Christmas Pageant

December 16, 23, & 30 – No Wed night program for the holiday season.

FAMILY GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING: Bring the family to our 3rd annual "Family Gingerbread House Decorating Party", **Saturday December 12th** (9 am to 11 am) in the Crossroads Center. This year will look different but be just as fun. Christmas music, decorating Gingerbread houses and a gift bag to take home.

NOTE: Due to restrictions related to the current pandemic the gingerbread houses will be in the form of a craft verses edible candy. We are asking for you to RSVP on our church website to help us plan for the event. Social distancing and wearing a mask will be encouraged. Donations needed: Individually wrapped candy for our gift bags are welcome.

Parents Night Out is coming soon! **January 15th** is our next night to show appreciation for our parents and have a great time with the FUMC Kids. We will have registration up in December to see how many are interested. Keep in mind that all dates are tentative and pending the current community and safety precautions required.

-Angela Long, Children's Minister

[Youth Ministry](#)

Christmas is right around the corner! Our youth have already been meeting again for two months! Time sure does fly! In this time we have completely gone through the book of Philippians and the book of Job in our Wednesday nights meetings. As for Sunday School, we have just completed the book of Matthew and will be starting the book of Mark next. Our average



attendance for Sunday School has been 5-10 youth every Sunday, and our average attendance for Wednesday nights has ranged between 10-15 youth. We are hoping that as we continue to move past COVID, we will be able to have more activities and more growth within our youth ministry.

On Wednesday, **December 9th**, our youth group will be having a **Christmas Gift-Wrapping Party** that will include pizza, wrapping gifts, decorating the youth room Christmas tree and more! Be sure to wear your favorite Christmas sweater! Also, please be aware that our youth will NOT be meeting on Wednesday, December 23rd and Wednesday, December 30th due to the Christmas holidays and no school. We have learned a lot out of the Old and New Testament in the past couple of months and are excited to continue to dive into God's word this Christmas and New Years season! For any information on our youth ministry or youth related events, contact Paul Adams at fumcrestviewyouth@gmail.com.

In Christ,
Paul Adams

Women's Service Group

Our FUMC Women's Service Group has been busy prettifying up the Prayer Garden and making hygiene bags for homeless students!

Way to be the blessing, ladies!
Their next meeting will be on

Friday, Dec 4 from 9-11:00AM.

All women of the church are invited!



UMCOR

Hello from Sager Brown!

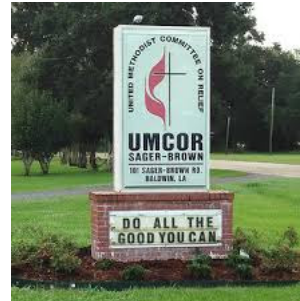
We are missing our volunteers this week due to our closed campus.

Thankfully, Sager Brown didn't receive any damage from Hurricane Delta, although at least one staff member is still waiting on electricity to be restored. Thanks for your thoughts and prayers. We look forward to the time when volunteers are able to return to campus.

UMOCR Relief Supply Kits help provide care for the most vulnerable during times of crisis. Just in the month of September 2020, our Network has responded to 21 requests. We met the request for relief-supply kits to areas in the aftermath of Hurricane Laura, Hurricane Sally, and serve wildfires in eastern United States, to name a few. We shipped 4,824 Hygiene Kits, 2,768 School Kits, and over 8,500 Cleaning Kits. With the help of volunteers and donors our ministry is possible. We sincerely thank you for your continuous support!

For any more info, please see Pam Hight who is our UMCOR Sager Brown Depot Liaison

[New FB Page: UMCOR Sager Brown Depot](#)



Yarn Ministry

Well, we are wrapping up this year and can you even believe it? What a year it's been, but our Yarnies have persevered with hooks in hands and hearts listening to the calling of God's passions for His people, those who are hurt, sad, recovering, and those needing a little happy in their lives. What a joy to GIVE, and give we do.

We will be celebrating our Very Yarnie Christmas on Tues, Dec 8 at 6:00PM. Please bring a gift, no more than 15\$, to exchange. We'll be tackling a festive ornament pattern for our trees and sharing in the joy and spirit of the season of our Savior's birth.

Merry Christmas from the bottom of our yarn stash... I mean heart!!!

-Cathrin Owens



Wesleyan Child Care Center

We had so much fun trick or treating with all of our friends during our Harvest Parties! Each student loved getting to dress up as a character, as well as, gathering candy from our church staff members and Pastor Ronnie!

Thank you for all you guys do!

We had so much fun at our Thanksgiving Feast! We talked about everything we are thankful for, got to play some fun games, and even ate some yummy food!!



One Blood Honor Roll

"Thank you for hosting a blood drive and sharing your power to save lives!

We value our partnership with First United Methodist Church of Crestview and thank you for all you do as the chairperson to help make the blood drive a success.

We are pleased to share with you that the recent blood drive on Nov 15 resulted in 7 units of blood. Remember, each donation can save up to three lives so that means 21 patients could benefit from the lifesaving efforts of blood donors at First United Methodist Church of Crestview. We encourage you to share the drive results with the rest of your team and please pass along our gratitude for their lifesaving efforts.

The blood donated at your blood drive will likely be transfused into a patient within 48 to 72 hours. The turnaround is that fast and is that constant.

Our next blood drive will be **Sunday, Feb 21 from 9:00AM-1:00PM.**"

-One Blood

Blood Donor Honor Roll:

Amber Sticha, Amy Lohr-Sticha, Angie Woodward, James Taylor, Jody Woodward, Mary Morris, Michael Morris and Kit Callahan. Thank you!



December Greeters & Ushers

Contemporary / The Crossroads Center 9:45AM

Aimee Keller & Dan Taylor

Traditions / Main Sanctuary 11:00AM

Terry & Vicki Luster, Elaine Mantle

Dec 24- Christmas Eve

4:00PM The Cross Roads Center: Eileen Kurtz, Margaret Larson

6:00PM Sanctuary: Darrell Pritt, Melanie Zick

11:00PM Sanctuary: Sam & Julie Field, Margaret Larson

Advent Readers

Contemporary / The Crossroads Center 9:45AM

Nov 29-Dan Taylor

Dec 6- Hill family

Dec 13- Smith family

Dec 20- Keller family

Traditions / Main Sanctuary 11:00AM

Nov 29- Sallberg family

Dec 6- Eileen Kurtz & Margaret Larson

Dec 13- Zick family

Dec 20- Valerius family

Christmas Eve / Main Sanctuary

6:00PM- Scott family

11:00PM- Sutherland family

Important Dates In December

Some of the meeting locations have changed due to social distancing guidelines that affect our room capacity limits!

Dec 4- Women's Service Group 9:00-11:00AM Rm 213

Dec 6- Drop off Angel Tree Gifts in the CRC Sunday morning, Children's Committee 12:00PM Kid's Street, Youth Committee 12:30PM Youth Rm

Dec 8- 'It's a Very Yarnie Christmas' Party 6:00PM RM 213

Dec 9- Youth 'Christmas Wrap' Party

Dec 12- Gingerbread Building Party 9-11:00AM CRC

Dec 13- Missions Committee 5:00PM Rm 212

Dec 14- United Methodist Men at 6:00PM CRC

Dec 21- January Newsletter Deadline

Dec 23- No Youth or Children's programs, Church Office closes at noon

Dec 24- Children's Christmas Pageant 4:00PM CRC, Christmas Candlelight Eve Service 6:00PM & 11:00PM in the Main Sanctuary
Dec 25- Happy Birthday Baby Jesus! Merry Christmas from your FUMC family!
Dec 27- January Newsletter Out, 'Read the Bible In a Year' Kicks Off
Dec 28 to Dec 31- Church Office Is Closed for Christmas Holiday
Jan 1- Happy New Year!
Jan 3- Church Office reopens for 2021.

*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 January

Some of the meeting locations have changed due to social distancing guidelines that affect our room capacity limits!

Jan 4- Office reopens for 2021! HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Jan 4 through 7- Christmas tucked away until next season.
Jan 10- Trustees 3:00PM FH, Finance 5:15PM Rm 212
Jan 11- United Methodist Men at 6:00PM CRC
Jan 12- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213
Jan 13- Church Council 6:30PM
Jan 15- Parent's Night Out
Jan 20- Worship Committee 5:30PM Rm 212
Jan 25- February Newsletter Deadline
Jan 26- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213
Jan 31- Children's Committee 12:00PM Kid's Street, Long Range Planning 5:30PM Youth Rm

*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

*What Child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
While shepherds watch are keeping?*

Chorus:

*This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!*



*Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading. [Chorus]*

*So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him. [Chorus]*

"What Child is This?" was written in 1865 by Englishman William Chatterton Dix, who underwent a spiritual renewal during a severe illness. Each stanza is a progression – the words start by asking about the divinity of baby Jesus and finish by praising his name.

"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:11-14

FUMC News

For all the latest from FUMC please visit:

CALENDAR: fumcrestview.com

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