



THE CONNECTION
December 2021
Newsletter



A Note From Pastor Ronnie

End of Year Challenge

Many people like to plan their giving at the end of the year.

Some have required minimum distributions from their accounts which must be used. Some have assets to move. I've also known others that simply liked giving a "Christmas gift" to the church.

I'd like to issue a challenge for giving this year. Some will continue to give at their regular rate, but I believe others will want to do more.

Here is the plan of our Challenge. For our offerings through the end of 2021, we will distribute all undesignated gifts as follows:

1. We want to fully fund our budget. This is especially important since we are shifting over to a calendar year budget in January. Once our budgetary needs are met, then...

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

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

Staff Meetings
Mondays 9:30-11:30AM

Lunch
12:00-1:00PM

Office Closures
December 23-Jan 1
Reopens on Jan 2, 2022

Church Staff
Pastor
Pastor Ronnie Bearden
drronbearden@hotmail.com

Church Administrator
Angie Arnold
fumcrestview@gmail.com

Church Secretary
Cathrin Owens
office.fumcrestview@gmail.com

2. We will fund our Worship Technology with up to \$7,000. We have come so far in internet cameras and streaming in the last 18 months, but I have dreams of making continuing improvements- as well as replacing old or broken equipment. After that...

3. All gifts given above the other two items will be applied to the principle of our mortgage on the Crossroads Center. In the two and a half years I have been here, we have seen that debt shrink to about \$300,000 due to the generous gifts of people who share our passion to be rid of this debt (we recently had a \$50,000 gift). We love our wonderful building, but dream of the day when this financial burden will be lifted from us.

Of course, if someone designates a specific gift, it will be used for that purpose.

I'm thankful this plan was approved by our Finance Committee and the Administrative Council.

It will be exciting to see how God leads His people in their generosity as we wrap up 2021.

By the way, if you need help with less common gifts of stock, or a Required Minimum Distribution, please speak to me or Angie Woodward, our Finance Chair.

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

Housekeeping
Amy Lohr-Sticha

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

FUMC Christmas Schedule

Please make plans to join us throughout this Christmas season as we celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

Angel Tree:

Gifts are due in the CRC* on Sun, Dec 5 between worship services.

Children's Christmas Pageant:

Wed, Dec 8 at 6:30PM in the CRC*.

Happy Birthday Jesus celebration to follow!

We will also be hosting our Winter Study Book Fair this evening in the CRC* lobby.



Children's Gingerbread Party:

Sat, Dec 11 at 9:45AM in the CRC*.

Donations needed: Individually wrapped candy for our gift bags, icing, and candy to decorate the houses are all needed.

United Methodist Men's Christmas Party:

Mon, Dec 13 at 6:00PM in the CRC*. Tickets are \$10 each and can be purchased from the UMM representative as you exit any of our Sunday worship services, or you are welcome to stop by the church office during normal business hours.

Chancel Choir Cantata:

Sun, Dec 19 at 8:30AM & 11:00AM in the Main Sanctuary.
Preaching Service will be held at 9:45AM in the CRC*.

Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Services:

Fri, Dec 24 at 6:30PM & 11:00PM in the Main Sanctuary. These are family friendly services, therefore Kid's Street & nursery are unavailable.

CRC*: The Crossroads Center is located directly across the street from the Main Sanctuary.

'Through the Stained Glass' Mugs

Mug # 2 will be available on Sunday, December 5th for pickup between 9am-11am. Stop by the Crossroads Center lobby to pick up and pay for your mug.

If you did not get a chance to order mug #2, you can still do so. You may sign up to order mug #2 by emailing Angie at fumcrestview@gmail.com or notating on you grace note this Sunday "Order Mug #2" and how many you would like. A second order for mug # 2 will be placed on November 29th.

The second order of Mug #1 has been placed and will arrive soon.

Mugs are \$20.00 ea with all profits going to support Pastor Kris in Poland.

There are 6 mugs in this series, 3 depicting stained glass from Christ Chapel and 3 from the Main Sanctuary.

A new mug will be released every couple of months.



Wesleyan Child Care Center

Wesleyan Child Care students, parents and staff have gone over and beyond this Holiday Season. During the month of November, the students collected 2 wagons of non-perishable food for the FUMC Benevolence Food Pantry. During the month of December, every classroom here at Wesleyan has adopted a resident from the Angel Tree at the Crestview Manor. Teaching the students to love the Lord by showing love to those less fortunate is a wonderful thing. What a blessing they will bestow to others during this wonderful time of year.



-Osa Bell, WCCC Director

Greeter & Ushers Needed

We would love to have your smiling face at the the doors of our worship services ushering & greeting folks while handing out bulletins. Men and women are equally invited to usher & greet!

If you feel called to join this ministry please notate your grace note or email the office at office.fumcrestview@gmail.com.



Childrens Ministry

Blue Lake Winter Retreat:

February 4 -6. We are taking registrations now as the camp has limited availability. Please register by visiting www.fumcrestview.com or getting in touch with Angela Long for additional information. Cost will be covered by funds raised at our pumpkin patch.



Children's Christmas Pageant:

The children invite you to come out in December for our Children's Christmas Pageant, *The First Christmas*, on 8th at 6:30 PM. K-5 Children should arrive between 5:45 and 6:00 PM 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 manger scene. Following the program, we will begin our Happy Birthday Jesus celebration that will be kicked off by two songs from our children. We look forward to a wonderful Christmas season and hope this is a great time for all.

Christmas Pageant Practice Times:

Children's Choir practice will take place during Sunday morning Chapel Time and during the Wednesday night program as follows:

Sunday November 28: 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Wednesday December 1st: Dress Rehearsal 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Sunday December 5th Dress Rehearsal 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

FAMILY GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING:

Bring the family to our 4th annual "Family Gingerbread House Decorating Party", Saturday December 11th (9 am to 11 am) at the Crossroads Center. Come join us for Christmas music, decorating Gingerbread houses and a gift bag to take home. Donations needed: Individually wrapped candy for our gift bags, icing, and candy to decorate the houses are all needed.

- Angela Long

Youth Ministry

It's already December and Christmas is only a few weeks away!! It is hard to believe how time has flown by this year. At



the end of October, our youth had a blast at our “Fireside at the Fordyce’s” event. We had a huge turn out and all had hotdogs by a nice fire and ended the night with several games of man hunt. We have been continuing our Wednesday night study in the book of Genesis. Many of the youth frequently ask questions and stay deeply involved in our discussions! We are about halfway through the book and will likely move to our next book in March of 2022.

YOUTH

To celebrate thanksgiving, we held our first annual “Friendsgiving” event which was also a major success. Everyone brought their own homemade food dishes and we ate together as a youth family and all shared things we were thankful to God for. We will certainly be having this event in years to come and are excited to carry on this new tradition in the future. It is important to know that for Christmas break, the youth meets for Wednesday nights will be taking a break. We will halt meetings on December 15th, 22nd, and 29th. After December 8th, our next meet will not be until January 5th.

Lastly, we are asking our youth to volunteer for greeting on Sunday mornings for the first two weeks of December. We need about five youth to step up this month and help our church by greeting our guests! A sign up sheet will be provided in the youth room and will continue to be advertised throughout this month. The next Youth Soup Kitchen day is the last Saturday in January. We need many volunteers for this as possible as we will now be cooking and serving the food! Please plan for this and be sure to reach out if you have any questions or comments concerning any of the news above! Merry Christmas!

-Paul Adams

Small Group Reminders

Our Adult Sunday school classes begin the Winter Quarter on Sunday December 5th. Each class will begin a new lesson book, which makes it a perfect time for new members to join. Please see our website for class times and locations or ask an usher or greeter for more information on how to find the classes. Email Angela Long at fumc.smallgroups.com for additional information.



Small Group Registration is now open. We have a new class that is geared toward moms of all ages with kids of all ages. This group will meet on Monday mornings in room 212 at 10:00 am following Refit class. It is perfect chance for the to fellowship and study God's word. Vicky Anchor is the group leader and looks forward to seeing you at our first meeting on January 10th. Our Wednesday night small groups will begin on January 12th.

-Angela Long

Soup Kitchen News

Two “SOUP-er” announcements! First, please join me in welcoming Steve and Debra Lubas to the soup kitchen ministry as our new 4th Saturday team leads, starting Christmas Day! Second, are you looking for a volunteer opportunity this holiday season? **VOLUNTEER WITH THE SOUP**



KITCHEN! Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on Saturday's and we need 8-10 people each day signed up to help us provide warm meals to our community. For more information or to sign up, please talk with me (I'm at the 9:45 service).

-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."

First Church Women's Service Group

The Women's Service Group will not have a meeting in December but we will be back in January and ready for 2022! If you're looking for a great way to meet other ladies in the church, support our community, and serve our church family, this is a great way to do all of that! We meet the first Friday from September – May (excluding December) and we always enjoy having more ladies join the group. If you have any questions about the Women's Service Group, please feel free to talk with me or contact the church office.



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."

In His Name,
Eileen Kurtz- Women's Service Group President

Yarn Ministry

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

We're wrapping this year up with scarves for our local hotels, pet mats for Paws, and hats for our Soup Kitchen attendees.

Yarnies stitched & donated over 100 items in 2021.

That's a lot of stitchin' and lovin' in Jesus name, y'all.

We are so thankful and blessed to be able to do what we do.

May God bless each of you and your families this Holy Season and may He usher you into the New Year with joy in your heart for our Savior is born- HALLELUJAH!!!

-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

Candlelight Advent Readers



Morning Glory / Christ Chapel 8:30AM

Nov 28- Gary & Melanie Zick
Dec 5- Pam & Kit Callahan
Dec 12- Mike & Betsy Roy
Dec 19- Cantata

Contemporary / The Crossroads Center 9:45AM

Nov 28- Judi Smith & Wayne Ates
Dec 5- Deb & Steve Lubas
Dec 12- Gaye & Jun Ordiano
Dec 19- Marilyn Roach & Richard Bailey

Traditions / Main Sanctuary 11:00AM

Nov 28- Tom & Edie Giovinini
Dec 5- Viki & Terry Luster
Dec 12- Deb & Sam Renfroe
Dec 19- Cantata
Christmas Eve: Pastor Ronnie

December Greeters, Ushers, Liturgists

Morning Glory / Christ Chapel 8:30AM

Greeters:

Dec 5- Lowell & Maryrose Scott
Dec 12- John & Cynthia Leitschuck
Dec 19- **Cantata Sunday / Main Sanctuary** Deb Watson
Dec 26- Alesha & Robert Dabbs

Ushers:

Gary Johnson & Mike Roy

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:

Dec 5-F: Youth B. Darrell Smith
Dec 12-F: Youth B. Darrell Smith
Dec 19-**Cantata Sunday**
 F: Glenda McMasters, Cathrin Owens B. Darrell Smith
Dec 24-**Christmas Eve**
 6:30PM: Linda Bondi, Kit Callahan, Usher- Aimee Keller
 11:00PM: Margaret Larson, Usher- Melanie Zick
Dec 26-F: Viki & Terry Luster B. Darrell Smith

Ushers: Front- Dax Reeves, Terry Luster TBD

Back-Darrell Smith

Liturgists:

Dec 5- Luke Taylor
Dec 12- Lee Thigpen
Dec 26- Luke Taylor

Important Dates in December

Dec 1- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM at David's Catfish House
Dec 3- Women's Service Group 9-11:00AM Rm 212
Dec 8- Kid's Street Christmas Pageant 6:30PM CRC & Winter Book Fair
Dec 11- Kid's Street Gingerbread Event 9:45AM-11:00AM CRC
Dec 12- Youth Committee 12:15PM Conf Rm, Missions 5:00PM Rm 212
Dec 13- United Methodist Men Christmas Party 6:00PM CRC, January Newsletter Deadline
Dec 14- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213
Dec 17- Senior Ministry Game Day 11:00AM-2:00PM FH
Dec 19- Cantata in the Main Sanctuary (8:30AM & 11:00AM), Pastor Ronnie preaching at the 9:45AM service, January newsletter out
Dec 21- No Yarn Ministry
Dec 23- Office closure. **Merry Christmas!**
Dec 24- Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Services will be held at 6:30PM and 11:00PM in the Main Sanctuary.
Dec 25- Happy Birthday Jesus!

**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

Jan 2- Epiphany Sunday
Jan 3- Office reopens- **Happy New Year!**
Jan 4 - Worship Committee 5:30PM Rm 212
Jan 5- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM at David's Catfish House
Jan 7- Women's Service Group 9-11:00AM Rm 212
Jan 9- Trustees 3:00PM FH, Finance 5:00PM Rm 212
Jan 10- United Methodist Men 6:00PM FH
Jan 11- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213
Jan 12- CommUNITY Dinner & Church Council 5:30PM CRC
Jan 16- Children's Committee 12:15PM Kid's St.
Jan 18- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213
Jan 23- Long Range Planning 5:30PM Youth Rm
Jan 24- Feb newsletter deadline

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

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An Advent Examination

Advent is the perfect time to clear and prepare the Way.
Advent is a winter training camp for those who desire peace.

By reflection and prayer, by reading and meditation,
we can make our hearts a place where a blessing of peace
would desire to abide
and where the birth of the Prince of Peace might take place.

Daily we can make an Advent examination.

Are there any feelings of discrimination toward race, sex, or religion?
Is there a lingering resentment, an unforgiven injury living in our hearts?

Do we look down upon others of lesser social standing
or educational achievement?

Are we generous with the gifts that have been given to us,
seeing ourselves as their stewards and not their owners?

Are we reverent of others, their ideas and needs, and of creation?

These and other questions become Advent lights by which we may search the
deep, dark corners of our hearts.

-Edward Hays

First United Methodist Church

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