



THE CONNECTION
February 2022
Newsletter



A Note From Pastor Ronnie

LOVE

Time for a love check up. With Valentine's Day and people thinking about love in general, this is a good time to take the test. It's not from a magazine or a counseling office. It's from the Bible.

Am I a loving person? Take the Bible test below, as found in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7! The test has 15 questions and requires honesty for a good evaluation. You can ask these questions in general. Or you can ask them directly related to others: like a spouse, or child, a neighbor, or a church member.

Here is the Love Test:

Am I patient?

Am I kind?

Am I envious?

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
Monday, Feb 21
President's day/ Staff Retreat

Church Staff
Pastor
Pastor Ronnie Bearden
drronbearden@hotmail.com

Church Administrator
Angie Arnold
fumcrestview@gmail.com

Church Secretary
Cathrin Owens
office.fumcrestview@gmail.com

Am I boastful?
Am I proud?
Do I dishonor others?
Am I self-seeking?
Am I easily angered?
Do I keep a record of wrongs?
Do I delight in good or evil?
Do I delight in the truth?
Do I protect?
Do I trust?
Do I hope?
Do I persevere?
The answers to those questions will lead you to the answer to the broader question: Am I loving?

-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

FUMC Farewell

We sadly say goodbye to Amy Lohr-Sticha as she is moving on to another adventure in her life. Amy has been a vital part of our staff for 10 years, taking care of our campus & jumping into all sorts of ministries as needed. She takes with her many prayers & well wishes for the good things God has in store for her next. Here we have Margaret Larson, SPRC rep, presenting Amy with a bouquet of appreciation. We will miss you, Amy!



Jelly Bowl Sunday

We will be celebrating Super Bowl Sunday the FUMC Benevolence way by calling it JELLY Bowl Sunday due to the abundance of peanut butter that has been donated to our Benevolence Pantry recently. Our Jelly Bowl Wagon will be visiting each worship service on **Sunday, Feb 13** to collect donations of jelly/jam and anything else you would like to donate.



Thank you so much for making this such a successful ministry here at FUMC as we continue to reach out to the hungry in our community.

Ash Wednesday Service

Please join us as we begin
our journey through Lent together.

Main Sanctuary
Wed, March 2
at 6:30PM.



Parents Night Out

We want to show our appreciation for parents by creating opportunities for you to have a night out to relax, go for dinner, or enjoy a few hours to regroup for the week ahead.

Pre- Registration is required and available online at fumcrestview.com.

Date: Friday, March 4, 2022

Location: Kid's Street First UMC

Ages: 6 months - 5 grade

Time: 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

\$5.00 Per child/Max \$20 per family

Drop off begins at 4:50 PM

Meal served at 5:45 PM

Snack served at 6:15 PM

Please bring a labeled snack and/or meal if your child has allergies or specific dietary needs. Notify our staff if there are any foods your child cannot be in contact with (i.e. peanuts, etc).



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.



Vacation Bible School Dates

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!!



'Through the Stained Glass' Mug #4

We're currently debuting beautiful Mug #4 in our series collection that benefits Pastor Kris in Poland!

This mug features 3 windows from our Christ Chapel.

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 #4 is Sunday, Feb 27. You can personally view the mugs in our history hutch located in the hospitality area in front of the church office.



Upper Room Devotionals UPDATE

We are excited to announce that we have been working with the Upper Room to streamline our ordering process.

We have switched to an annual account that appears to be more efficient and reliable but have been notified that their shipping has been significantly delayed due to effects of the current pandemic. They have thanked us for our patience and asked that we trust that they are working issues related to delays in shipping.



Childrens Ministry

Wednesday Night Activities: Please join us each Wednesday for our Kids Street programming from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. Children's Choir will meet from 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM. We have recently decided to move our location to the Chapel building for Children's Choir and to begin our lesson. The children have enjoyed the opportunity to sing and praise in the chapel and are much more engaged and focused. We hope to continue to grow this ministry and meet the needs of our younger and older children. The children will continue to check in and be picked up on Kids Street. Nursery is available during this time for volunteers and parents that participate in our Wednesday night small groups.



- Angela Long

Youth Ministry

We are off to a quick start of 2022!

With January already behind us, the youth committee, high school youth and I continue to plan and prepare for Discovery weekend in April. The youth had two nights of fellowship and fun to kick in the New Year, and the high school youth had an all-night lock-in to begin preparing for Discovery. We have also started back in our study of the Book of Genesis and are now halfway through!



This year, we have a lot planned. Thankfully, we are able to do so much more now that places are hosting events again!

Please keep in mind all of the important dates below and be sure to mark your calendars! 2022 is off to a great start for our youth and we are all excited about the many awesome events we have planned for this year!

In Christ,

-Paul Adams, Director of First United Methodist Crestview Youth

- Discovery Weekend Planning Lock-in(High School Only): Sunday, January 16 @ 3pm - Monday, January 17 @ 8am
- Righteous Relationships(led by Pastor Ronnie): Wednesdays at Youth in February (9th, 16th, 23rd)
- Confirmation Classes(led by Pastor Ronnie): Sundays: February 6, 13, 20, 27, March 6, 13; 4:00pm
- Fireside Fellowship @ The Fordyce's house: Saturday, March 5th, 4:00-8:00pm
- Discovery Weekend Planning Sessions (High School Only): Feb 6, March 13, April 3, April 20, April 21
- Discovery Weekend: Friday, April 22 - Sunday, April 24
- Youth hosting Community Dinner: Wednesday, May 11
- Blue Lake Mission Trip: Friday, July 8 - Sunday, July 10
- Senior Night: Wednesday, May 18 @ Youth
- Welcome Night for 6th graders: Wednesday, June 1 @ Youth
- Harvest Festival: Wednesday, October 26 @ Youth
- Friendsgiving Celebration: Wednesday, November 16 @ Youth
- Christmas Project & Celebration: Wednesday, December 14 @ Youth
- Soup Kitchen 5th Saturdays: January 29, April 30, July 30, October 29, December 31

Small Group Reminders

Small Groups: Our Winter Small group is now in session. Please contact Angela Long if you are interested in any of our small groups or would like to know more about our Monday morning bible study. We will begin our Spring Session small group sign up in March so please think about joining us then. The Spring session is much shorter and many groups take a break for summer. This would be a perfect time to check a group out and see if it is for you!



Sunday School in the news: We are currently in need of a Sunday school leader for our young adults group. Please contact Angela Long if you are interested in taking on this role. In other news, our 11:00 Sunday school class will soon be trying out a new curriculum. We are so excited to see our groups trying new things and working to meet the needs of their members. We would love for you to join our Sunday school groups to help you in your walk with God and having an additional way to Fellowship as a church family. Sunday school classes meet at 9:45 AM and 11:00 AM. Please see our church website or email fumc.smallgroups@gmail.com for additional information.

-Angela Long

Soup Kitchen News

WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS for the 1st and 4th Saturday Soup Kitchen teams! A meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 20 at 2:00pm in the Fellowship Hall for all current volunteers and anyone else interested in becoming part of this community service ministry.



Some folks are currently volunteering on both the 1st and 4th Saturdays, to make sure we have enough people, but the goal is to have sufficient team members each Saturday so nobody has to take up any slack.

If you're interested in joining this worthwhile and fun ministry, please talk with me or come to the meeting on February 20. No cooking experience needed, just a heart to serve! Please see me at the 9:45 service or contact the church office.

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

Happy February! The Women's Service Group will be meeting Friday, February 4, 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. Our guest speaker this month is from Embrace FL Kids. I look forward to our time together and we always enjoy having more ladies join the group. In fact, just last month, four more ladies joined the Women's Service Group! 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 February 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."

UMCOR Sager Brown

UMCOR Sager Brown—We still have no opening date for the Sager Brown campus. However, I am looking forward to getting our team established for October's trip. By then we are praying the campus will be open and back to normal business. I will be sharing more information as it become available. Until then, please continue to keep our mission in your prayers and think about becoming a team member.



Bless you.

-Pam Hight

Yarn Ministry

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



Well, we're off! We're praying for another fruitful year of ministry for us Yarnies. Our fingers and hands are stretched out to catch the blessing God showers us with and to strengthen our hold on the yarn and hooks we use to shower blessings on others. Every once in a while we are given a donation of yarn that goes into immediate circulation or placed in our many bins to be used as soon as we get to them. So... THANK YOU! We're thrilled to get new supplies and put them to use. Our Yarnies do their best to give to others as to the Lord and are always delighted to accept donations of yarn that is new, odor free and clean. Any donations of yarn can be brought to front office during normal business hours or dropped off in our Benevolence baskets at the entrance to each service and they will be promptly delivered to Yarnia (what we affectionately call Rm 213).

-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

Crestview Prayer Network

Prayer Network meeting February 2 at David's Catfish House 12 PM. Come be apart of our prayer group, praying for our community, state and nation. Everyone is welcome.
-Kathleen Woodward



Greeters, Ushers, Liturgists

Morning Glory / Christ Chapel 8:30AM

Greeters:

Feb 6- Gary & Melanie Zick
Feb 13- Mike & Betsy Roy
Feb 20- Debbie Watson
Feb 27- John & Cynthia Leitschuck

Ushers: Gary & Melanie Zick

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:

Feb 6- Glenda Mc Masters & Jamie Davis
Feb 13- Margaret Larson & Dax Reeves
Feb 20- Corolla & Rollin Anderson
Feb 27- Tiffany & Michael Kruger

Greeter/Usher Back: Darrell Smith

Ushers: Front - Dax Reeves, Terry Luster

Liturgists: Lee Thigpen: Jan 13 & 27, Luke Taylor: Jan 20

Important Dates in February

Feb 2- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM at David's Catfish House
Feb 4- Women's Service Group 9-11:00AM Rm 212
Feb 8- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213
Feb 13- Jelly Bowl Sunday, Youth Committee 12:15PM Conf Rm, Missions 5:00PM Rm 213
Feb 15- United Methodist Men 6:00PM FH (**DATE CHANGE!**)
Feb 15 - Worship Committee 5:30PM Rm 212
Feb 18- Sr. Ministry Game Day 11:00AM-2:00PM FH
Feb 20- Soup Kitchen 2:00PM FH- all interested are welcome!
Feb 21- Presidents' Day, FUMC Staff Retreat (Church Office Closed), March Newsletter Deadline
Feb 22-Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213
Feb 27- Boy Scout Centennial Event

*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 March

March 2- Ash Wednesday Service 6:30PM Main Sanctuary, Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM at David's Catfish House

March 4- Women's Service Group 9-11:00AM Rm 212, Parents Night Out on Kids' St.

March 5- Youth Fireside Fellowship 4-8:00PM at the Fordyce home

March 6- Trustees 3:00PM FH, Finance 5:00PM Rm 212

March 8- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213

March 9- CommUNITY Dinner 5:50PM CRC, Church Council 6:30PM CRC

March 13- Children's Ministry 12:15PM Kid's St.

March 14- United Methodist Men 6:00PM FH

March 20- Long Range Planning 5:30PM Youth Rm

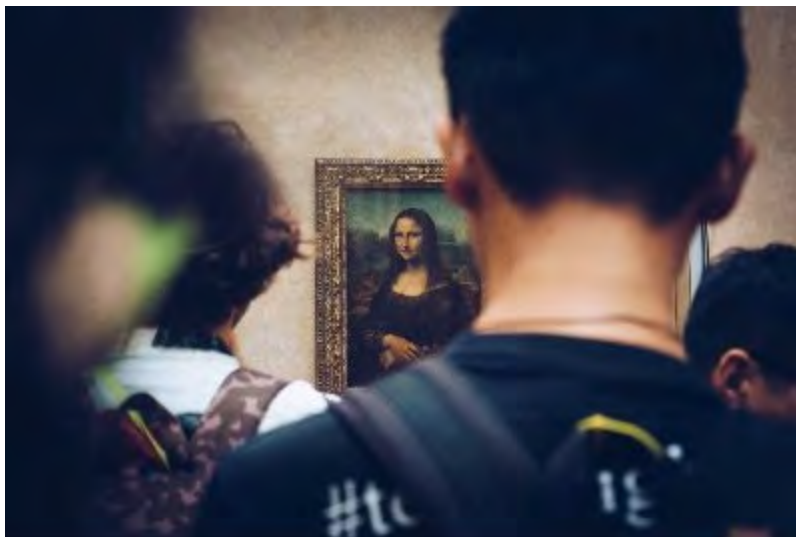
March 21- April Newsletter Deadline

March 22- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213

March 29- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Paneras (5th Tues!)

*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



You Are God's Masterpiece!

“The Lord will work out his plans for my life --- for your faithful love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not abandon me, the works of your hands.” - Psalm 138:8

I love the idea that God, through the work of His own mighty hands, created me and only me once. Like paintings by a world-renown artist – there’s something unique about the first one. Anything else after the first one, are copies and replicas.

How beautiful to know that we were worth the work the first time. God threw away the mold because one of us is enough for Him. We are enough. We are a sacred painting, the original piece. And God has made us for our own unique purpose.

Today's scripture verse reminds us that he will never abandon us, His beautiful creation, His "*masterpiece – His workmanship.*" (Ephesians 2:10) He won't abandon the work He created.

Yes, He will work out His plans for our life. He didn't just create us and then leave us. Oh no, He created us with intention, His very own masterpiece.

Whatever God has called you to, He will equip you for it. He will work His plans for your life. You might not feel ready, or feel you have the tools or the skills to do what you feel God calling you to do. But if He's called you to it, you better believe He's also equipped you for it.

You are his work of art, created by Him for a purpose of doing good works for His kingdom. He didn't create you for nothing. You were beautifully created for a purpose, a one of kind, unique purpose. He will accomplish what he started by the work of His own hands.

Rest in the promise today that He will work out all that He planned to work out for you. Rest in the knowledge that He is our faithful God, and you "*can be confident, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until it is finally finished on the day that Christ Jesus returns.*" (Philippians 1:6)

Dear Lord,

Thank you that your love is so personal, that you created me, and that there is only one of me. You set your eyes on me from the beginning. You created me with a purpose and you promise to work out all the plans you have for my life.

Thank you that you are a faithful God. That all throughout Scripture, time, and time again, you showed your faithful love to your people. Lord, remind me in moments of doubt, that you will never abandon me, for I am your unique workmanship. I am yours. I am your creation.

Lord, help me to not compare myself to others. You created me, just as I am, and you view me as your masterpiece. Help me to see myself the way that you see me, not as the world sees me. Remind me that you have given me everything I need to work out the plans you have set before me. Help me remember that if you have called me to it, you have also

equipped me for it.

Thank you for your Word as my guide, the “*lamp unto my feet*” (Psalm 119:105), and for the Holy Spirit as my “*Helper*” (John 14:26). Allow us to rest in the confidence that you will finish what you began in us. We worship you, Lord, praising you for your everlasting love for us.

In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

-Alisha Headley

First United Methodist Church

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