

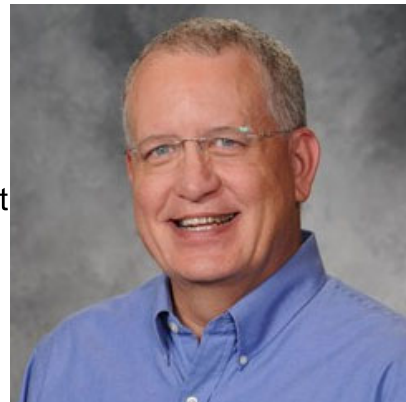


THE CONNECTION
February 2023
Newsletter

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Lent

I want to invite you to a special Ash Wednesday Service on Wednesday, February 22 at 6:30PM in the main Sanctuary. In the same way that Advent and Christmas are seasons of the church year where we focus on the power and the meaning that God came to us in human flesh (the Incarnation), Lent is the season of the cross- leading to our celebration on Resurrection Sunday. Ash Wednesday marks the start of the season of Lent.



Disaffiliation Vote: March 12, 2:30 (registration starts earlier)

Our Administrative Council has voted unanimously to move forward with disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church. The date for our church vote has been set for Sunday, March 12 and members will want to mark that date down so you can be present. Daylight Savings Time starts that day, so keep your clocks accurate.

If you have not done so, please go to the Disaffiliation page on our church website.

You can click here if reading this online: <https://fumcrestview.com/new-page-3>

I am inviting you to join me for 40 days of prayer and fasting as we seek God leading up to this important vote in our church. The 40 days officially runs Jan 25 - March 12.

Last Townhall Meeting: Feb 19 at 3 pm in the Main Sanctuary

I encourage everyone to attend our last Townhall gathering. The Long Range Planning Committee will: present a report on the financial plan (including the final Disaffiliation costs); present a report about new name and logo possibilities should disaffiliation pass. A vote will be taken by members to narrow the name choices down to two choices. All members are encouraged to participate so that you can have input into this important decision. Of course questions may be asked as well.

By February 1, we will send out a document electronically from the Long Range Planning Committee on their recommendations for potential future names for our church, if we disaffiliate. Paper copies will be available as well on Sunday Feb 5. This will give about 2-3 weeks for discussion and prayerful thought before the meeting on Feb 19th.

Membership

I said many months ago that only church members may vote on Disaffiliation and that there would come a time when we would pause membership additions. As of January 29, that time has come.

If you are a visitor and enjoy worshipping here, we hope you will consider exploring what it means to be a member in the future once we have moved through this process.

A Look Ahead

Resurrection Sunday this year is on April 9. There will be many worship and fellowship opportunities from April 2-9, including a citywide Easter sunrise service. More details to come.

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus blood and righteousness.

-Pastor Ronnie

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chili Cook-Off Winners

*****Congratulations To 2023's Chili Cook Off Winners*****

First Place- Calli McGraw

Second Place- Chris Woodward

Third Place- Ana McCrory

We had 13 entries and plenty of folks to finish them off at January's COMMUNITY Dinner.

Thank you to all our competitors- all the chili's were delicious!



Judge's Spotlight

Shout out to our 2023 Chili-Cook Off Judges: Wyatt Norris, Bill Crabill and Jody Woodward.

We couldn't have done it without you!

We prayed that their heart burns only for the Lord

and not the umpteen bowls of chili that they had to taste for us at January's CommUNITY Dinner.



40 Days of Prayer and Fasting

Join us for 40 days of prayer and fasting as we seek God leading up to this important disaffiliation vote in our church. The 40 days officially runs Jan 25 - March 12.



SOUP-er Bowl Sunday

Our Soup-er Bowl Sunday wagon will be rolling to all worship services on **Feb 12!** We'll be collecting all MEAL TYPE soups to stock our Benevolence Pantry which serves our Crestview community. Thank you for your continued support of this vital ministry!



FUMC Staff Retreat

It's that time of year again! The church office will be closed on Monday, **Feb 20** as our staff will be taking the day to work on filling in the calendar with all good things. We're excited about what the future holds for our church family! Please continue to lift our staff up in prayer as they plan out the year ahead.



YOUTH YARD SALE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25TH

7:30AM—2:00PM

YOUTH ROOM

DONATIONS OF ELECTRONICS, HOUSEHOLD ITEMS
AND FURNITURE ONLY MAY BE DROPPED OFF AT
THE CROSSROADS CENTER FROM 9AM—4PM ON
FEBRUARY 21, 22, 23.

NO CLOTHING OR SHOES PLEASE

One Blood

One Blood's Big Red Bus will be on campus on Sunday, **Feb 26** from 8:00AM-1:00PM in the lot next to the Crossroads Center. All donors will receive a \$20 eGift card & a One Blood long sleeve T-shirt, plus, a wellness checkup including blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screening. Save a life and donate blood!



Discovery Weekend 2023

April 14-16 - Save the dates!!!!

Who's Invited? All current 5th through 12th graders
Volunteers needed? YES AND AMEN!

What is it?

Discovery Weekend is a spiritual formation retreat modeled after the Chrysalis and Emmaus retreats that many of you have attended at Blue Lake Methodist Camp. We are very excited that 2023 will be our 7th year hosting a Discovery Weekend! The retreat is hosted by our High School students (9th-12th graders)

for our current 5th through 8th graders at the Crossroads Center. Through skits, games, worship, personal testimonies, and leading discussion groups the High School students create and lead an experience where they and the Middle



School students can deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ and with each other. *Discovery Weekend invites the entire church family to live out its Baptismal covenant of "surrounding these children with a community of love and forgiveness so they may be established in the faith, and confirmed and strengthened in the way that leads to life eternal." We need your help!!!!*

Please connect with me if you would like to help in any way - we need adults on deck for prayers, set up, organization, meals, transportation, overnight chaperones, small group monitoring, & event clean up.

Blessing to you and yours,

Sara Fordyce

Volunteer Discovery Chairperson

850-217-7106

The4dyces@gmail.com

MINISTRY UPDATES

Wesleyan Child Care Center

Wesleyan would like to give a big shout out and thank you to the FUMC Men's Group! Our playground was hit hard at the beginning of December with heavy rains and some wind damage. The men's group stepped up in a big way for our school. They worked tirelessly over Christmas break beautifying our playground. They hauled in more dirt to cover exposed tree roots. They replenished the mulch in our large playset area. They built a fence to divide the playgroup and fence off the area under the trees. They also planted winter grass seeds to help keep the dirt in place for now. Over spring break, they plan on laying sod to help hold all the dirt in place when we get heavy rains. We recognize how hard they worked and we all appreciate them so much. Our students have enjoyed being back on the playground and having fun! Thank You FUMC Men's Group!



-Osa Bell, Wesleyan Child Care Center Director

Childrens Ministry

DETAILS and Important dates

Thank you to all of the 2022 leaders and volunteers! Please see Angela to get signed up for the 2023 Sunday School leader and Wednesday night programs. We can always use volunteers to rock babies, hand out snacks, sing, fellowship and mentor our children.



RE-FIT Schedule

Monday's and Friday's at 8:45 am (childcare available on Kids Street)
Wednesday's at 6:45 am (no childcare available) This class meets in the

Crossroads Center. Children can be dropped off on Kids Street. NOTE: REFIT ® is a workout you can feel good about! With powerful moves and positive music, you'll discover an inspiring workout that changes your body, mind and soul. This **cardio-focused class is effective and FUN -- perfect for beginners and challenging for fitness enthusiasts (which means it's a workout designed for everyBODY!)**

Parent's Night Out:

March 3rd is our next night to show appreciation for our parents and have a great time with the FUMC Kids. Register on our website or contact Angela Long at kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com for additional information. Keep in mind that all dates are tentative and pending the current community and safety precautions required.

Kids Street: January's Wednesday night schedule:

January 5 - 6:00 PM – Children's Choir followed by lesson at 6:30 PM
January 12 - 6:00 PM– Children's Choir Practice- Kids Street Activities
January 19 - 6:00 PM – Children's Choir Practice – Kid's Street Activities
January 26 – 6:00 PM – Children's Choir Practice – Kid's Street Activities

Please keep our children and volunteers in your prayers as they travel to Blue Lake Winter Retreat on February 3rd. They will return on February 5th between 11:00 am and 12:00 PM.

Mark your calendar:

Ash Wednesday: February 22 – Kids will attend the service and sit together or with their families. Nursery for children up to 4 years old will be available on Kids Street

Parents Night Out: March 3: 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Spring Break: March 20 - 24: Kids Street will not meet on March 22

Palm Sunday Event: April 2 - One church service to be followed by Easter Egg Hunt, a light meal, and activities. More details to be announced.

Parents Night Out: May 12: 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Vacation Bible School: June 19 –23 - Volunteers needed. Sign up to begin soon. Day program for Pre-school children. Evening for K to 5th Grade students.

*-Angela Long - Family Discipleship Coordinator
kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com
fumc.smallgroups@gmail.com*

Youth Ministry

It's hard to believe, but we are already over halfway done with the 22-23 school year! Our youth committee has many exciting events planned between now and senior graduation in May.

For starters, this month, the youth will be hosting a church-wide Yard Sale. We are encouraging church members to bring in household items such as furniture, appliances and electronics to the youth room from February 22nd to February 24th. **Saturday, February 25** we will have those items displayed in the youth room and CRC for people to purchase! This is an event to bring extra finances to the youth program so that we can afford to do more fun things for our youth throughout the year! Discovery Weekend is the biggest event our youth has every year. This year the weekend will be from **April 14th to April 16th**. Discovery is a weekend-



long event held at the church for 2 days and 2 nights. It is a time that all of our high school students lead our middle school students through a spiritual journey that is all designed to bring everyone involved closer to God. Please be in prayer about this weekend. Please pray lives are touched and people are brought closer to Christ! Any high schoolers that are interested in leading this event must attend the Discovery Planning Lock-In on **Saturday, February 18th** starting at 4pm. If you have any questions about Discovery Weekend in April, the Lock-In in February, or the Youth Yard Sale, please reach out to me, Paul Adams, through email at fumcrestviewyouth@gmail.com. Thank you for all of your prayers and support!

In Christ,
-Paul Adams

Adult & Family Ministry

Small Groups are back in full swing! It is not too late to join if you are interested! Please see our website or contact Angela Long at kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com for questions if you are in need of additional information.

Please consider volunteering for our children's ministry or leading a small group. We have many new members looking for a place to plug in and can use all of the support available to help our ministry grow. We are in specific need of Wednesday night Children's Choir volunteers, VBS and Small Groups leaders. Thank you to all that are currently serving in this role and for your continued faithfulness. Our Sunday School classes are all exploring curriculum options and taking a look at several study group topics. Now is the perfect time to join a Sunday School class and have some input to our study focus. We are interested in creating as many learning opportunities as possible to meet the needs of our church family.



-Angela Long, Family Discipleship Coordinator
kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com
fumc.smallgroups@gmail.com

Soup Kitchen News

Are you interested in serving the hungry in our community the first Saturday of every month? Our Soup Kitchen is looking for a 1st Saturday leader! For more info please contact our Soup Kitchen Coordinator, Deb Lubas, at 401-742-4898.

Respectfully,
-Deb Lubas, FUMC 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

Happy Valentine's Day!

What we do for love! For starters, that's where it all begins...

that is to say that we do what we do in Yarn Ministry because we want to share the LOVE of Christ with others, we just happen to do it with yarn!

It's always our hope that folks will feel the love the of God when they receive items that God has commissioned us to make. We pray while stitching, we pray over them at our meetings, they are prayed over at our Yarn Blessings, and with something that prayed over and loved from beginning to end whoever the recipient is will surely feel **LOVE** as soon as their hands touch it. That is our prayer.

We will meet on Tues, Feb 14 (A Valentiney Yarnie Party) & Feb 28 at 6:00PM in 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

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



Crestview Prayer Network

Prayer Network meets **Feb 1** at Hideaway Pizza at 12 PM. Come meet and pray with us. Everyone is invited to come be a part of our group.

-Kathleen Woodward



CALENDARS

February Greeters, Ushers, Liturgists

Morning Glory / Christ Chapel 8:30AM

Greeters:

Feb 5- Gary & Melanie Zick

Feb 12- John & Cynthia Leitschuck

Feb 19- Debbie Watson
Feb 26- Lowell & Maryrose Scott
Ushers- Bob McCrory and Bill Myers

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. 5- Edie Giovanni & Connie Stapp

Feb. 12- Corolla & Rollin Anderson

Feb. 19- Margaret Larson & Judy Beard

Feb. 26- Glenda McMasters & Jamie Davis

Office door: 5- Gary Johnson, 12- Tom Saunders, 19- Bill Beard, 26- Mark Owens

Ushers:

Feb. 5- Tom Giovanni & David Ordonez

Feb. 12- Dax Reeves & Mark Owens / side aisles: Tom Saunders & Eileen Kurtz

Feb. 19- Mark Young & Tom Giovanni

Feb. 26- Viki & Terry Luster / side aisles: Julie Fields & Susie Wingate

Choir- Jim Hight

Liturgists:

Feb - Mike Steen

Feb 12- Jody Woodward

Feb 19- Paul Adams

Feb 26- Claudia Creamer

Important Dates In February

Feb 1- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza

Feb 3- Women's Service Group 10:00AM Rm 212

Feb 12- SOUP-er Bowl Sunday, Youth Committee 12:15PM Conf Rm, Finance at 3:00PM in Rm 212

Feb 13- 8th Ave Men 6:00PM FH

Feb 14- Happy Valentine's Day! God Loves you! Yarn Ministry WILL meet tonight at 6:00PM in Rm 213.

Feb 18- Youth Sr. Lock-In

Feb 19- Town Hall Meeting on Disaffiliation 3:00PM Main Sanctuary

Feb 20- Office Closed for Staff Retreat

Feb 21 through 23- Youth Yard Sale Donations Drop Off at CRC 9:00AM-4:00PM

Feb 22- Ash Wednesday service at 6:30PM in the Main Sanctuary

Feb 25- Youth Yard Sale 7:30AM-2:00PM in the Youth Rm

Feb 26- One Blood 8:00AM-1:00PM

Feb 28- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213

*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 1- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza, Small Groups end
March 3- Women's Service Group 10:00AM Rm 212, Parent's Night Out on Kids St.
March 5- Youth Committee 12:15PM Conf Rm, Trustees 3:00PM FH, Finance 5:00PM Rm 212
March 6- 8th Ave Men 6:00PM FH
March 7- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213.
March 8- CommUNITY Dinner
March 12- Daylight Savings Time (Set your clocks ahead one hour Saturday night!), 40 Days of Prayer ends, Disaffiliation Vote 2:30PM
March 19- Children's 12:15PM Kids St
March 21- Worship 5:30PM Conf Rm, Missions 6:30PM Rm 213
March 26- Long Range Planning 3:00PM Asbury Rm
March 28- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213

*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 MOMENT OF REFLECTION



***"Call to Me, and I will answer you,
and show you great and mighty things
which you do not know." -Jeremiah 33:3.***

During this time in history, Jeremiah was God's Prophet and the children of Israel were in Babylonian captivity due to sin and disobedience to God. They are now living the promised punishment that was prophesy to them year in and year out for their continual sin, idolatry and disobedience against the Lord their God.

Jeremiah had been preaching and warning God's people for years but instead of heeding what thus says the Lord, they instead rejected his message and imprisoned him.

In jail, behind prison walls is where God speaks to His Prophet Jeremiah and invites him to pray to His God.

Prayer is God's phone number. It is His line of communication. Prayer is how we reach and connect with God the Father, Prayer is our invitation to direct access to our God in heaven.

People of God, through prayer, God promises to work in a mighty way on our behalf.

What I have learned about seeking God through prayer is the fact that it MUST become a habit day in and day out and all throughout the day. Prayer does not have to be loud and boisterous, just a whisper is good.

Do you need strength and wisdom? Ask God who gives freely to all who ask. Do you need to draw closer to God on today? Whatever you stand in need of on today the invitation is for you to come and when you do, God promises to not only hear and answer, but He promises to show you great and mighty things you have never seen before in your life.

Today is the day and now is the time to get connected to God through "PRAYER"!

God bless.

-Debra Aiken

FUMC INFO

Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

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

First United Methodist Office Schedule

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

Staff Meetings Mondays 9:30-11:30AM

Lunch 12:00-1:00PM

The office will be closed Monday, Feb 20 for Staff Planning Retreat.

First United Methodist Church Contacts

Staff

Pastor - Pastor Ronnie Bearden

drronbearden@hotmail.com

Church Administrator - Angie Arnold

fumcrestview@gmail.com

Church Secretary - Cathrin Owens

office.fumcrestview@gmail.com

Children's Ministry & Family Discipleship Coordinator - Angela

Long kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com, fumc.smallgroups@gmail.com

Youth Ministry - Paul Adams

fumcrestviewyouth@gmail.com

Facilities Manager - Chris Woodward

fumfacilities@gmail.com

Music, Contemporary - Calli McGraw
calli.mcgraw@gmail.com
Music, Traditional - Kevin Lusk
Organist - Leon Curenton
Wesleyan Child Care Center - Osa Bell / Director
wesleyanchildcare@gmail.com

Ministry Addresses

Soup Kitchen / Deb Lubas, soupkitchenfumc@gmail.com
United Methodist Men / Jody Woodward, ummcrestview@gmail.com

First United Methodist Church

599 Eighth Ave, Crestview, FL 32536
850-682-8994

For all the latest from FUMC please visit:

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