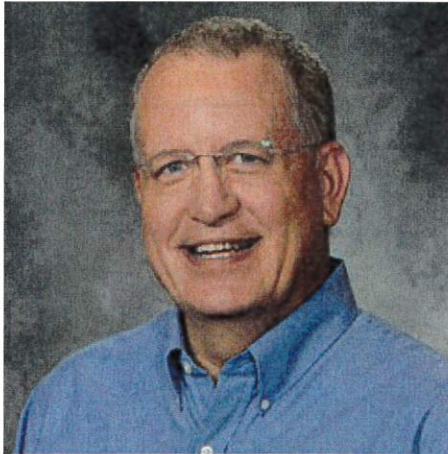




THE CONNECTION

January 2020



From a Thankful Pastor

As we begin a new year, my heart is overflowing!

Our life was turned up side down this year when I received the call that I would be appointed as the new pastor to the First United Methodist Church of Crestview.

But whatever natural stress we might have felt from the process of moving was melted away by warmth and love of such a great congregation.

Thank you for your support through these critical first few months. And Melanie and I would like to express our deep gratitude for all of your expression of love, cards, and gifts through this Christmas Season.

Recently, a visitor told me a wonderful testimony of how she came to our church. She said a member invited her and then said... "If you aren't loved on when you visit our church.... Then something is just wrong!"

I love that confidence and I share it. Not only have I been given a great reception.... But I also know that whenever I invite someone to come and experience worship at our church, I know they will be greeted, welcomed, met, spoken to, and..... well.... Loved on!

As we begin a new year.... (and a new decade!) ... I eagerly look forward to seeing where God will lead us as we seek to be the Church that He is calling us to be.

Worship Times

Sunday Mornings

Christ Chapel 8:30AM

The Well 9:45AM

Traditions 11:00AM

Office Hours

Mon - Thurs

9:00AM- 4:00PM

Staff Meetings

Mondays 9:30-11:30AM

Lunch

12:00-1:00PM

Church Staff

Pastor

Pastor Ronnie Bearden

drronbearden@hotmail.com

Church Administrator

Angie Arnold

fumcrestview@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant

Cathrin Owens

office.fumcrestview@gmail.com

Youth Ministry

Michael Milani

fumcrestviewyouth@gmail.com

Children's Ministry

Angela Long

fumc.angelalong@gmail.com

Director of Adult Discipleship & Congregational Care

April Hight

fumc.aprilhight@gmail.com

Music, Contemporary

Nathan Hight

Music, Traditional

Kevin Lusk

Housekeeping

-Pastor Ronnie

Amy Lohr-Sticha

Oh.... By the way: Please mark the dates for our new pictorial directory that will be coming in a few months. The photography dates are: Feb 27, 28, 29 and March 6, 7.

Maintenance

Devon Stoy

Organist

Leon Curenton

Pianists

Pam Myers, Susan Smith

Sexton

Samuel Allen

We want everyone to have a photo taken. And remember, the directory is for all those who worship here: both full members and those who are not. If you worship here, then we want you included!

This is a great tool to help us all better know each other.



Benevolence Holiday Report

Thank you very much to all who donated Christmas gifts, food, and money to the Benevolence Ministry to help share the love of Christ and brighten the holidays for so many families this season. Your generosity helped provide gifts for 40 children right here in this community. More than 100 families in your community received bags and boxes of food over the holiday season. In the last few weeks alone, 15 families received assistance to pay utility bills. Many of these families would have had to make a choice between food or utilities during the holidays, and their children



would have gone without gifts if it had not been for your generosity. I am so proud to be part of a church family that takes the time during this wonderful, busy season to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

-Vicky Anchor and Margaret Larson, Benevolence Team

CommUNITY Dinner, Book Fair & Church Council

Join us on Wednesday, January 8
at The Crossroads Center!

Dinner will be served at 5:30PM.

Menu will be pot roast, mashed potatoes, veggies, salad & roll.

Please bring a dessert to share if you are able.

A donation box will be set out to offset the cost of the meal.

Youth & children will gather at 6:00PM.

Book Fair for our winter study groups will be taking place also this evening! Meet the teachers and sign up.

Church Council will begin at 6:30PM.



New Round of Study Groups are Coming!

The next term of Wednesday Night Small Groups begins **January 15th!**
Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study resumes on **February 4th!**

Our Small Group Book Fair & Registration will be **Wednesday, January 8th @** the CommUNITY Dinner & **Sunday, January 12th** during all 3 worship services.

Register Online NOW: <http://fumcrestview.com/adultbiblestudyandgroups>

Check out our new classes!



Irresistible: Reclaiming the New that Jesus Unleashed for the World. Tuesday Mornings @ 9:30 AM.
Returns February 4th

REFIT: Christian Fitness for Women. *Time & Location TBA*

When to Walk Away: Finding Freedom from Toxic People.
Wednesday Nights @ 6 PM. *Returns January 15th*

James: Mercy Triumphs. Wednesday Nights @ 6 PM. *Returns January 15th*

Half Truths: God Helps Those Who Help Themselves and Other Things The Bible Doesn't Say.
Wednesday Evenings @ 6 PM. *Returns January 15th*

For more information, please see April Hight (fumc.aprilhight@gmail.com)

Mobile Library

WANTED: Christian Books, Audio Books, DVD's & CD's

April Hight is assembling a "mobile library" and looking for donations of gently used or new Christian books (for adults & children), audio books, DVD's or CD's. Current titles only please (published within the last 10 years or less). Like you, we have limited storage space. If you are cleaning off your bookshelves this season, consider donating them to us!

Please contact April Hight (fumc.aprilhight@gmail.com) for more information!

Children's Ministry

DETAILS and Important dates

We are so excited for 2020. We will kick off the new year with a Winter Retreat for our 3rd to 5th graders. Kids' Street has 9 children and 3 chaperones that will attend the retreat at Blue Lake this year. Keep each one in your prayers this month as they prepare for and attend this event. Dates are January 31 through

February 2: A big thank you to all who donated and sponsored children for this trip.

Thank you to so many parents and volunteers for making December a wonderful month full of memories. We had so many volunteers their time, energy and prayers to our children's program. From candy donations, to helping with the children's practice, costumes, gingerbread decorating and so much more.



Parents Night Out registration is open on our website at <http://fumcrestview.com/>

January 17 is our next night to show appreciation for our parents and have a great time with the FUMC Kids. This event will be a come and go for parents. Drop off begins at 4:00 and can happen until 6:00. Pick up will be at 7:00 pm. Details available on the website or email fumc.angelalong@gmail.com.

December Wednesday night schedule:

January 1, 2020 – No Kids' Street. New Years Day

January 8, 15, 22 and 29 – Kids' Street and Children Choir will meet as normal from 6:00 to 7:30 pm.

Youth Ministry
It's almost time!

We are finally here. January 2020. That, of course, can only mean one thing. MELTDOWN 2020 is upon us. We are so excited to get back to one of the most incredible experiences our youth ministry is blessed to be a part of after the tragedy last year of Hurricane Michael. We still have a few slots left at our "great deal" pricing so please see Mike Milani if you are interested in attending. This event is for students 6-12 grade and is the absolute best way to kick off our new year. We are looking forward to great 2020 here at FUMCrestview. Can't wait to see what God has in store.

- Mike Milani



Yarn Ministry

Happy New Year from your Yarnies!

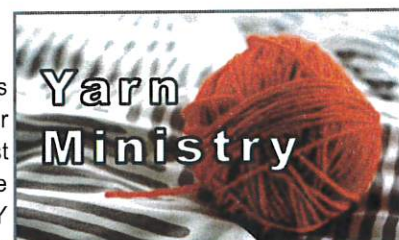
It was a sad turn of events when our Very Merry Yarnie Christmas party had to be rescheduled because of an armed suspect in our neighborhood, but the safety of our staff and members came first and we needed to cancel it. Being perpetual optimists (ask a Yarnie how hopeful they are when beginning a new project- VERY HOPEFUL!), we are turning that frown upside down and now are

planning a HAPPY YARNIE NEW YEAR PARTY on the first meeting of the New Year, Tuesday, Jan 14 at 6:00PM in room 213. Bring your gift to exchange, it's okay to have it wrapped all festive for Christmas- we understand! Also bring a dish of goodies to share. It will be a great time- I promise!

I already know that this year will bring more squishy lovelies from our little band of stitchers- shawls, lapghans, hats & blankets that will head out the door and into the world with all the blessings that they can hold. What a cheerful commission we have!

We're be back to our regularly scheduled meetings in January (14- New Year's Party & 28), so circle those days in red- I already can't wait!!!

-Cathrin Owens





Save the date



Be included in Our New Directory!

Watch for Appointment Scheduling Information in January

PHOTO DATES: Feb 27-29 & March 6-7!

Participating Families receive a Complimentary 8x10 & Free Directory

We need YOU to make this complete!

Lifetouch

January Greeters

Christ Chapel 8:30AM

Jan 5- Lowell & Mary Rose Scott

Jan 12- Debbie Watson

Jan 19- Gary Johnson

Jan 26- Kit Callahan

The Crossroads Center 9:45AM

Jan 5- Pat Dreaden, Judy Brinkley

Jan 12- Kim & Allen Bell

Jan 19- Deb Smith, Judy Martin, Cathy Thigpen

Jan 26- Jim & Aimee Keller

Traditions/Main Sanctuary 11:00AM

Jan 5- Elaine Mantle, Sam Field

Jan 12- Troy Thurman, Margaret Larson

Jan 19- Scott & Isabelle Sallberg

Jan 26- Linda Biondi, Mark Young

January Ushers

8:30 Christ Chapel- Robert Dabbs Jr and David Bloom

11:00 Traditions- Team 1

Leader: Mark Young

Darrell Smith, Bill Beard, Carli Owens

Important Dates In January

Jan 1- Happy New Year!

Jan 2- Office reopens after the Holidays

Jan 3- Women's Service 9:00AM in Rm 213

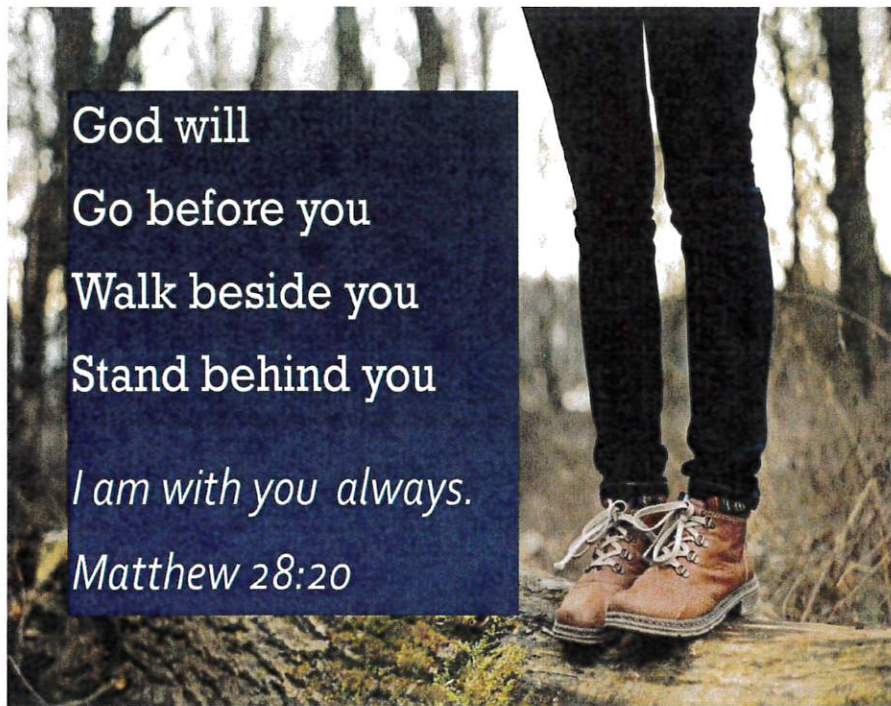
Jan 5- Trustees 4-5:00PM Conf Rm, Finance Committee 5:00PM Conf Rm

Jan 8- CommUNITY Dinner, Church Council, Study Group Book Fair 5:30PM CRC

Jan 12- Long Range Planning 5:30PM Conf Rm
Jan 13- United Methodist Men 6:00PM FH
Jan 14- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213- Happy Yarnie New Year's Party!
Jan 15- Small Groups Are Back!
Jan 17- Sr. Game Day 11:00AM-2:00PM FH
Parent's Night Out / Kid's Street
Jan 20- February Newsletter Deadline, Church Office Closed / Martin Luther King Jr Day
Jan 24 thru 26- Youth at Meltdown
Jan 28- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213
Jan 31- Happy Timers Senior Ministry lunch at Back Home Bakery on Main St. at 11:00AM
Jan 31 thru Feb 2- Blue Lake Kid's Retreat
**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 February

Feb 2- Blue Lake Kid's Retreat returns
Feb 4- Lifeline Screening
Feb 5- Worship Committee 5:00PM
Feb 7- Women's Service Group 9-11:00AM Rm 213
Feb 9- Children's Committee 12:00PM Conf Rm
Feb 10- United Methodist Men 6:00PM FH
Feb 11- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213
Feb 12- Youth Committee 6:00PM Youth Rm
Feb 14- Happy Valentine's Day! Jesus Loves you!
Feb 19- Youth Committee 6:30PM
Feb 21- Sr. Ministry Game Day 11:00AM-2:00PM FH
Feb 23- Missions 5:00PM Conf Rm
Feb 25- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213
Feb 27- Photo Directory 2-9:00PM
Feb 28- Photo Directory 2-9:00PM
Feb 29- Photo Directory 1-8:00PM
~~Feb 29- Mother's Day Tea~~
**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



Encouragement for a New Year

On the first day of a new year many of us wish each other a "Happy New Year!" But as we begin a new year, we need more than a hopeful greeting from the people around us. We need to listen to what God told Joshua about 3,400 years ago. As Joshua was about to lead God's people into the promised land, he had reason to be afraid. He had an enormous task ahead of him, and he was well aware of the dangers that he and the people would soon be facing. He needed God's encouragement. A new year brings lots of questions: Will our health hold? Will our marriage last? Will I be able to hang on to my job? Will I get into the right school? Will I live to see the end of this year? Will the economy improve? Will there be a terrorist attack or some natural disaster that takes me or my loved ones? The Creator of the universe comes to us and says, "Don't be afraid; don't be discouraged." What happens in this coming year is not left to chance. God is in charge, and he promises to stay close: "The LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Many years later, the Lord Jesus made the same promise when he said, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). That's the reason we can wish each other a "Happy New Year!"

Prayer

Father in heaven, thank you for the gift of a new year and for your promise to stay with us. We ask for your guidance and wisdom each day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

-Arthur Schoonveld

FUMC News

For all the latest from FUMC please visit:

CALENDAR: fumcrestview.com

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