



THE CONNECTION
January 2022
Newsletter



A Note From Pastor Ronnie

Heartfelt Gratitude

As we begin this New Year, I want to share my love and appreciation for my wonderful church family.

In these recent weeks, through both the holidays and through the death of my mother, Melanie and I have been overwhelmed by your expressions of kindness, your generosity, and your encouragement.

We know that we are loved because you have expressed it so powerfully and well. And if I have not adequately expressed my gratitude in the past, I want to do it now.

Thank you so much. Our lives are so

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

enriched because of you.

Pastor Ronnie and Melanie

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 Eve Schedule

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

Traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Services:

Celebrate all of the wonder of our Savior's birth at our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 6:30PM & 11:00PM in the Main Sanctuary.

The 6:30PM service will be FB Live-streamed.

Holy Communion will be celebrated.

All monetary donations given during the offertory will benefit Embrace Florida Kids unless designated otherwise.

These are family friendly services, therefore nursery & Kid's Street programs will not be available.

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



Church Office Christmas Schedule

Our church office will be closed beginning Thursday, Dec 23 for the Christmas holiday. We will reopen for the New Year on Monday, Jan 3.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your FUMC staff!

If you have an emergency and need office support or Pastor Ronnie while we are out of the office please email fumcrestview@gmail.com.



Church Council

Come see what's going on in the life of FUMC!

Our next Church Council meeting will be on Wed, Jan 12 at 6:30PM in the Main Sanctuary.

We will not have a CommUNITY Dinner this night.

Our new Bible Studies will have a meet & greet time this evening beginning at 6:00PM before Church Council.



'Through the Stained Glass' Mugs

Mug #3 can be ordered in January! The deadline is Jan 23.

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.

Please email fumcrestview@gmail.com to order a mug, call the office, or notate your grace note.



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



Childrens Ministry

Winter Retreat It is so exciting to see all of the children signed up for the Winter Retreat (February 4 to February 6) in February. Please get your registrations in during the first week of January so we can make sure everyone has a spot. Call Angela and look online for additional details.



God's Time Small Group: *As noted in our Family Discipleship section of this newsletter we will have a small group for moms of all ages with kids of all ages that will meet each Monday at 10:00 AM. We have child care and activities for preschool children during this time.*

Wednesday Kids Street in January:

We will return to our Wednesday night Kids Street program on Wednesday January 5th at 6:00 PM. The Winter Session will begin for adult small groups on January 12th so look forward to seeing you all!

Wednesday January 5

Wednesday January 12 Church Council

Wednesday January 19

Wednesday January 26

- Angela Long

Youth Ministry

Just like that, 2021 has come to an end! The youth have had so many good times and memories over this past year. God has blessed our time together and allowed us to grow closer to Him and one another during our Wednesday night meets and special events. I want to say thank you to every single one of our volunteers who help make our youth events and meetings happen. I also want to thank anyone who has donated or helped fund the youth ministry at First United Methodist Crestview. Without our adult volunteers, donations, and support, our youth program would not be even close to what it is. So again, if you are an individual who has helped out in our youth program in anyway, big or small, from the youth committee and me: Thank you. As we move into 2022, the youth committee and I have made big plans for new events that we are finally able to do post-Covid. For example, the youth will be taking a summer trip this year to Camp Blue Lake! The youth have not been on a church sponsored trip since the pandemic, so we are excited to be able to do things like this in 2022. We have many other events planned, and some are coming up soon! All of the dates and events listed below are important meets or volunteer opportunities that we want as many youth to be at as possible! So mark your calendars and get ready, because 2022 will be a huge year for our youth program, packed full of fun, fellowship, and a growing relationship with Christ.



Merry Christmas,

-Paul Adams, FUMC Youth Director

SAVE THE DATES!

We have so much to look forward to in the coming year!

- Youth Soup Kitchen - Saturday, January 29th, 9am - ALL Youth are invited and needed to make this a success! 9:00am in the Fellowship Hall...high schoolers, this is a GREAT community service opportunity for those log sheets you have to do!
- Confirmation Classes: 6 Sessions led by Pastor Ronnie:
 - Sundays @ 4:00pm - Feb 6,13,20,27 & March 6,13
 - More info to come soon!
- Righteous Relationships Study: Led by Pastor Ronnie, Pastor Paul & our Youth Team:
 - Wednesday during youth on February 9th, 16th & 23rd
- Another Fireside Fellowship at the Fordyce's
 - Saturday, March 5th, 4:00-8:00pm
- Discovery Weekend: Friday, April 22-Sunday, April 24th
 - We will be needing many adult volunteers for this event - please contact Sara Fordyce if you are interested.
 - Discovery Planning (this is for High Schoolers only) sessions:
 - Planning Retreat Lock-in: Sunday, January 16th
 - Sunday, February 6th, following the 11am service until 3pm-ish
 - Sunday, March 13th, following the 11am service until 3pm-ish
 - Sunday, April 3rd, following the 11am service until 3pm-ish
 - Wednesday, April 20th - Youth will be ONLY High Schoolers...it's our last prep push to get ready!
 - Thursday, April 21st - after school til we get done!
- Summer 2022-3 night trip to Blue Lake Camp...more details to come!

-Paul Adams

Small Group Reminders

Upper Room: Our January/February books are coming soon. We are so thankful to have these and appreciate your continued support by the donations received each month.

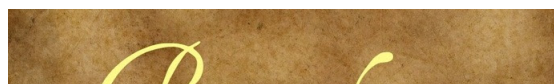


Small Group Registration is now open. We have a new class that is geared toward moms of all ages with kids of all ages. This group will meet on Monday mornings in room 212 at 10:00 am following Refit class. It is a perfect chance to fellowship and study God's word. Vicky Anchor is the group leader and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

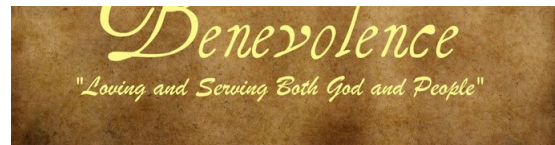
Wednesday night small groups will begin on January 12th. This is also the night of our January Council meeting so we are asking for groups to have a short meet & greet and then attend the council meeting together. A light snack will be provided for you in your small group.

-Angela Long

Benevolence End of Year Round-Up



Thanks to the outstanding generosity of our congregation the benevolence team was able to help 154 clients with their utility bills in 2021.



We paid out over \$56,000 for people behind on their payments.

We gave food to them, too.

We also gave food to many more hungry people that just stop by the church for help. In all we gave out 329 bags of food.

At the beginning of the school year in August we gave teachers in our congregation a \$50 gift card for them to use for supplies for the coming year.

We also gave the Wesley Child center platters of fruit, cheese and vegetables to start their new school year.

In November we gave out 30 boxes of food for Thanksgiving to clients that we had seen this year.

In December we are giving out presents from our Angel Tree to needy families with children. We were overwhelmed at the response to the angel tree. Every tag was taken the first day. When we put out a few more on the Sunday those were snatched up too. We ended up helping 31 families and the storage room with the presents is overflowing. Everyone that helped gave generously and many children in Crestview will have a very blessed Christmas because of you all.

- In Jesus name, your Benevolence team:

Margaret Larson, Vicky Anchor, Eileen Kurz, Kristen Sallberg, Peggy Harkness, Fay Juett

Soup Kitchen News

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to serve at the soup kitchen on Christmas Day and New Years Day! It was a fine mix of "seasoned SOUPers" showing first time volunteers the process of packing up sweets and beverages, as well as serving delicious warm meals to our community, all while enjoying some holiday fellowship. There's always an opportunity to help, so if you'd like to volunteer with the soup kitchen ministry, please talk with me or contact the church office. I would also like to express my sincerest appreciation to the FUMC family for your support of this ministry and to all of the soup kitchen volunteers who during 2021 dedicated their Saturday's to feeding so many people in our community. From collecting donated breads and sweets from Publix, Panera and Back Home Bakery; to preparing the meals; to spending time talking with our visitors; to cleaning up afterwards; and to taking extra meals, breads and sweets to Saving Grace Women's Home, Crestview Manor, and the fire house ... THANK YOU.



-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 is ready to take on 2022! Guest speaker community outreach organizations for 2022 so far include Embrace Florida Kids, the Okaloosa County Council on Aging, and SaveOne. If you're looking for a new opportunity to get involved and get to know other ladies at church, come check us out! We meet the first Friday at 9am in room 212 on the breezeway. 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



HELLO 2022! Can you even believe it?

We are bringing in this New Year with hooks and needles ready, yarn stash stacked and inspiration overflowing.

ONE LAST NOTE TO CLOSE OUT 2021: We officially hit over 1,700 items donated as of Dec 14, 2021. That's 1,700 folks that received an item from our Yarn Ministry that has been blessed and prayed over and it's always a prayer of ours that they will be blessed as we have been blessed to create something so squishy and beautiful in His name. Can I get a HALLELUJAH?

Our Christmas donations included 21 baby hats to the Crestview Pregnancy Center, 80 hats to our FUMC Soup Kitchen, and 21 blankets to Eglin's Fisher House.

We're constantly looking for new avenues to bless others so if you know of an organization that could use blankets or hats please let us know. God knows what's in store for our little group of prolific stitchers and we can't wait to see what He has planned!

-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

January 5, 2022, 12pm at David's Catfish House for Prayer Network. Happy New Year everyone. See you there.

-Kathleen Woodward



Candlelight Advent Readers

Morning Glory / Christ Chapel 8:30AM

Dec 19/ Cantata- The Dabb's family

Contemporary / The Crossroads Center 9:45AM

Dec 19- Marilyn Roach & Richard Bailey

Traditions / Main Sanctuary 11:00AM

Dec 19/ Cantata- Lee & Cathy Thigpen

Christmas Eve: Pastor Ronnie

Greeters, Ushers, Liturgists

Morning Glory / Christ Chapel 8:30AM

Greeters:

Dec 19- **Cantata Sunday / Main Sanctuary** Deb Watson
Dec 26- Alesha & Robert Dabbs
Jan 2- Lowell & Maryrose Scott
Jan 9- Debbie Watson
Jan 16- Mike & Betsy Roy
Jan 23- Kit Callahan
Jan 30- Robert & Alesha Dabbs

Ushers:

Dec- Gary Johnson and Mike Roy
Jan- Stephen Piner and Warren Caruso

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 19-*Cantata Sunday*

Front: Glenda McMasters, Betty Stewart Back: Darrell Smith

Dec 24-*Christmas Eve*

6:30PM: Linda Bondi, Kit Callahan, Usher- Aimee Keller

11:00PM: Margaret Larson, Usher- Melanie Zick

Dec 26: Viki & Terry Luster

January 2: Tom & Edie Giovanini

January 9: Margaret Larson & Dax Reeves

January 16: Betty Stewart & Glenda McMasters

January 23: Corolla & Rollin Anderson

January 30: Viki & Terry Luster

Ushers: Front - Dax Reeves, Terry Luster

Greeter/Usher Back Darrell Smith

Ushers: Back-Darrell Smith

Front- Dax Reeves, Terry Luster TBD

Liturgists:

Dec 26- Luke Taylor, Jan 9 & 30- Lee Thigpen

Important Dates in December

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 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- Church Council 6:30PM Main Sanctuary
Jan 16- Children's Committee 12:15PM Kid's St.
Jan 18- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213
Jan 21- Sr. Ministry Game Day 11:00AM-2:00PM FH
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*

Please see <http://fumcrestview.com/calendar-1> for any updates or changes

Looking Ahead To 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- Youth Committee 12:15PM Conf Rm, Missions 5:00PM Rm 213
Feb 14- United Methodist Men 6:00PM FH
Feb 15 - Worship Committee 5:30PM Rm 212
Feb 18- Sr. Ministry Game Day 11:00AM-2:00PM FH
Feb 21- 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*

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Prayer For Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds

by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that, as the Scriptures are read
and we prepare to welcome the new year,
we may hear what you say to us,
and respond with thanksgiving
as your faithful people.
Amen.

First United Methodist Church

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

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