



**THE CONNECTION**  
**January 2023**  
**Newsletter**

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***FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK***

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**A Heart Overflowing with Gratitude**

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

The last two Christmas seasons have been challenging in my own life. In 2021, my mom passed away. This year, I had Covid. I'm thankful for the offers for assistance as well as the folks who helped out at church, especially in worship.

I am so thankful for such a great church family.



**At the Disaffiliation Crossroads: March 12**

Our Congregation became involved in the disaffiliation topic almost one year ago. We have spent a lot of time sharing with one another both in large Townhall gatherings and conversations in smaller groups. I hope by now, everyone is fully aware of all of the issues involved. 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>

Please note: there is new information that was published only a few weeks ago, so be sure and check out the three large boxes at the bottom of the document. I especially ask that you check out "The Post Jurisdictional Update on the United Methodist Church". Some of you will find the information shocking and disturbing.

From the first day this topic came up, I have encouraged you to be knowledgeable on this topic by doing research and participating. One of the most disappointing things that is happening all across the country is that some people are showing up for a final disaffiliation vote and they have attended no meetings and read nothing. Please don't do this. There is plenty of information on our website where you can explore reasons for and against disaffiliation.

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 you will want to mark that date down so you can be present. More information like the exact time of arrival, doors closed, procedures, etc will be shared in the future.

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

We will have one more Townhall gathering. The agenda includes the following. We will hear reports on the financial plan (including the final Disaffiliation costs). The Long Range Planning Committee will present their report about new name and logo possibilities should disaffiliation pass. We will take a vote at this meeting to narrow the name choices down and all members are encouraged to participate. Of course questions may be asked as well.

### A New Year

Begin this new year with a fresh dedication to the Lord. Ask God to help you reach others with the Gospel- sharing the truth of God's Word and loving them into the Kingdom.

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

-Pastor Ronnie

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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### Benevolence Ministry 12 Days of Christmas

Let's celebrate the 12 Days of Christmas and restock our Benevolence Pantry together!

If you'd like to participate, we're asking folks to gather one item a day from **Christmas Day, Dec 25 to Sun, Jan 8**. These are items that will stock our pantry for the New Year and assist our local Crestview community.

Please bring your donations to any of our 3 worship services altars on Sunday, Jan 8 for a special time of blessing.

We will have calendars available in our hospitality areas beginning Dec 18 and they will be handed out with bulletins at our 10:30AM Christmas Day worship service.



Thank you for your generosity.

-Your Benevolence Team,

Vicky Anchor, Margaret Larson, Kristen Sallberg and Peg Harkness

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### End of Year Giving

With the 2022 year end approaching, we want to remind you that any offerings should be turned into the church before **Dec 31, 2022**.



## **Christmas Break Office Closure**

We will reopen the office on **Tuesday, Jan 3, 2023**.  
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from your FUMC Staff!



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## **Kid's St & Youth Christmas Break Dates**

Youth programs will resume their Wed night programs on **Jan 4**. Kid's St. will kick off for the New Year on **Jan 11**. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from our FUMC kids and teens!



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## **CommUNITY Dinner**

Save the date!

Wed, Jan 11 in the CRC

Our 8th St Men will be hosting with a Chili Cook-Off!

Please have entries here by 5:00PM.

Dinner will be served beginning at 5:30PM.

Please bring a dessert to share if you are able.

Our Winter Book Fair will be taking place this evening.

Youth, Kid's Street and Nursery, and Chancel Choir will meet at their usual time.

Church Council will begin at 6:30PM.

Please sign up for the meal on your Grace Note. A donation box will be set up to help offset the cost of the meal.



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## **Discovery Weekend 2023**

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

**Who's Invited?** *All current 5<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders*  
**Volunteers needed?** *YES AND AMEN!*

**What is it?**

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

for our current 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:The4dyces@gmail.com)

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## **MINISTRY UPDATES**

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### **Wesleyan Child Care Center**

Wesleyan ended the year with blessings and good will. Our parents pulled together and donated both cat and dog food for our local animal shelters. They also donated blankets, towels and toys for the animals. 2 of our VPK classes put on a beautiful Christmas play that shared the good news of Jesus' birth. All of our classes celebrated Christmas by having Happy Birthday Jesus parties. 120 students learned that Jesus is the REASON FOR THE SEASON! What a blessing to be able to pour the gospel into our students, showing them daily, that God's love is the greatest gift.



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### **Childrens Ministry**

#### **Save the Date. Parents Night Out**

January 6, 2023 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. We want to show our appreciation for our parents. Take an evening to relax, go for dinner or just enjoy a time to regroup. Space is limited. Pre-Registration will open up in soon- keep a lookout. \$5.00 per child with no more than \$20 paid per family.



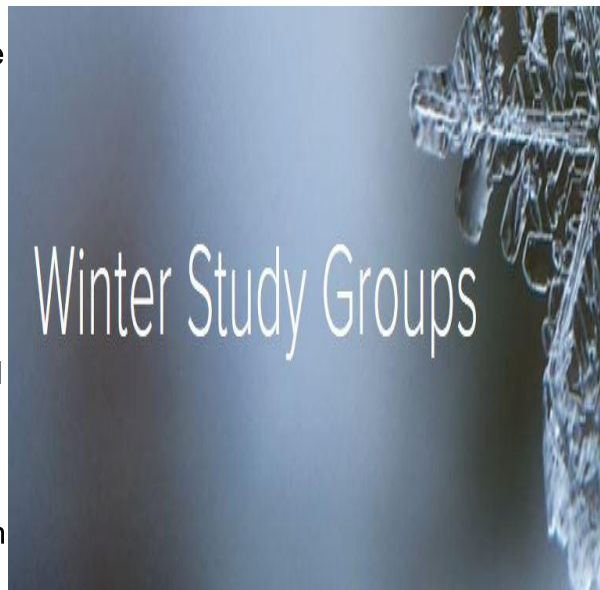
-Angela Long, Family Discipleship Coordinator  
[kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com](mailto:kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com) / [fumc.smallgroups@gmail.com](mailto:fumc.smallgroups@gmail.com)

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### **Adult & Family Ministry**

#### **Adult Wednesday Night Small Groups Schedule 2023**

Small Groups will begin the week of January 9th. Please see our website for all opportunities. We want to highlight our Wednesday night class that will focus on an important study that we feel will benefit young and old alike. **Proverbs & Parables: God's Wisdom for Living (Fisherman Bible Study guides)**. This study, led by Susan Hill, helps participants link the truths of the proverbs and the parables and apply them to contemporary living. The groups focus will involve finding answers to your questions about the parables and proverbs in the Bible with a flexible format for groups. Sign up is open online at [fumcrestview.com](http://fumcrestview.com) and in person at the crossroads center.



**Welcome to 2023 and all it holds in store for you all.**

I have included a few prayer suggestions as we ring in the new year. I found these online as I was looking for some motivation coming into the new year and hope they are helpful suggestions to you and yours.

***A prayer for the weary:*** Lord, the last few years have been filled with sickness, death, job loss, isolation, anxiety, fear, and division. We are weary. In our weariness, we confess our cynicism and our skepticism and we ask for your renewal. Give us eyes to see the kingdom life Christ has promised—and fill us with a hope that allows us to live each day with soberness, generosity, and joy.

***A prayer for our hands and feet:*** Lord, bless our hands to serve you more faithfully in the year to come. Guide our feet to walk in your steps, imitating the example you set for us during your time on earth. Help us to follow and obey you. Empower us by your Spirit to love one another in consistent and creative ways.

***A prayer for the lonely:*** Lord, you are the father of the fatherless, and you place the lonely in families. This year, help us join you in that work. Give us eyes to see those around us who may feel alone. Help us to notice the orphans, single parents, the elderly, the incarcerated, the homeless, and the refugees in our midst. Expand our capacity to be hospitable to those who desire belonging and family.

***A prayer for those suffering:*** Lord, bring to mind those in our lives who are suffering, and help us to be faithful in prayer for and service to them. We also ask that you strengthen your servants, scattered around the world, to be the hands and feet of Jesus—especially in places where war, violence, famine, and sickness are devastating families and communities.

-Angela Long

Family Discipleship Coordinator, [kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com](mailto:kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com)  
[fumc.smallgroups@gmail.com](mailto:fumc.smallgroups@gmail.com)

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## **Benevolence Christmas Report**

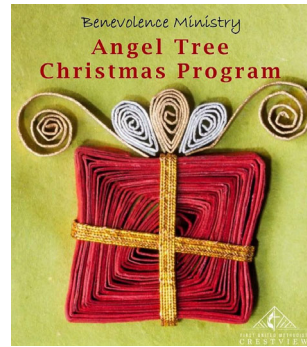
Thank you so much for your generosity during the Christmas season! You helped bring Christmas cheer and provide gifts for 21 children in this community and 12 homebound senior citizens that are part of our church family

as well as providing gifts and goody bags for 41 residents of Crestview Manor.

Your generosity made a difference to so many people this holiday season. Thank you for choosing to share the love of Christ this way!

Your Benevolence Team~

Vicky Anchor, Margaret Larson & Peg Harkness



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## **Soup Kitchen News**

Want to volunteer? Wish to help the community?

Need credits for scholarships?

Includes training. Contact us

at [soupkitchenfumc@gmail.com](mailto:soupkitchenfumc@gmail.com).

Looking for volunteers for upcoming dates, 9:30am to noontime: 31 Dec 2022, New Year's Eve.

Wish to donate to FUMC Soup Kitchen? Contact

the office at [office.fumcrestview@gmail.com](mailto:office.fumcrestview@gmail.com).

Continue to Follow Us Facebook @FUMCrestview.



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.*

*Colossians 3:15-17 - Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.*

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## **Yarn Ministry**

**IT'S 2023!**

Here's to a New Year filled with possibilities for ministry and opportunities to love others in Jesus' name. It's so exciting to wonder what God has in store for us! We will continue to keep our eyes open for those God moments, for those pathways our Father is leading us to.

This may be the year you want to start a new hobby, make some new friends, plug into a fun ministry... that may be FUMC's Yarn Ministry! If God is leading you our way, please join us!



We will meet on Tues, Jan 10 & 24 at 6:00PM in Rm 213, and Jan 31 (5th Tues) at 6:00PM at Panera's.

-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*

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### **Crestview Prayer Network**

Prayer Network meets **Jan 4** 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



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## **CALENDARS**

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### **January Greeters, Ushers, Liturgists**

#### **Morning Glory / Christ Chapel 8:30AM**

Greeters:

Jan 1- Lowell and Maryrose Scott

Jan 8- Debbie Watson

Jan 15- Mike and Betsy Roy

Jan 22- Kit Callahan

Jan 29- Alesha and Robert Dabbs

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 & Ushers to be determined.

Liturgists:

Jan 1- Mike Steen

Jan 8- Mike Steen

Jan 15- Paul Adams

Jan 22- Jody Woodward

Jan 29- Claudia Creamer

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### **Important Dates In January**

Jan 3- Church office opened for the New Year!

Jan 4- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza

Jan 6- Women's Service Group 10:00AM Rm 212

Jan 8- 12 Days of Christmas Food Blessing in all services, Youth Committee 12:15PM Conf Rm, Trustees at 3:00PM in the FH, Finance at 5:00PM in Rm 212

Jan 9- 8th Ave Men 6:00PM CRC

Jan 10- Missions at 6:30PM in the Conf Rm, Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213

Jan 11- CommUNITY Dinner, Winter Small Groups begin, Kid' Street & Youth are back to regularly scheduled programs!

Jan 16- Church office closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr Day

Jan 22- Children's at 12:15PM on Kids St.

Jan 24- Worship at 5:30PM in the Conf Rm, Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213

Jan 29- Long Range Planning at 3:00PM in the Asbury Rm.

Jan 31- Yarnies at Panera's 6:00PM

*\*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

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### **Looking Ahead to February**

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

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

Feb 8- Small Groups Begin

Feb 12- Youth Committee 12:15PM Conf Rm

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

Feb 14- Happy Valentine's Day! God Loves you! No Yarn Ministry tonight.

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

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

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### ***A MOMENT FOR REFLECTION***

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## 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!"

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.

- by Arthur Schoonveld

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### FUMC INFO

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#### 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

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#### 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 from Dec 22 through January 2, 2023 for Christmas holiday.

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#### First United Methodist Church Contacts

##### **Staff**

Pastor - Pastor Ronnie Bearden

[drronbearden@hotmail.com](mailto:drronbearden@hotmail.com)  
Church Administrator - Angie Arnold  
[fumcrestview@gmail.com](mailto:fumcrestview@gmail.com)  
Church Secretary - Cathrin Owens  
[office.fumcrestview@gmail.com](mailto:office.fumcrestview@gmail.com)  
Children's Ministry & Family Discipleship Coordinator - Angela  
Long [kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com](mailto:kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com), [fumc.smallgroups@gmail.com](mailto:fumc.smallgroups@gmail.com)  
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Facilities Manager - Chris Woodward  
[fumfacilities@gmail.com](mailto:fumfacilities@gmail.com)  
Music, Contemporary - Calli McGraw  
[calli.mcgraw@gmail.com](mailto:calli.mcgraw@gmail.com)  
Music, Traditional - Kevin Lusk  
Organist - Leon Curenton  
Wesleyan Child Care Center - Osa Bell / Director  
[wesleyanchildcare@gmail.com](mailto:wesleyanchildcare@gmail.com)

**Ministry Addresses**

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United Methodist Men / Jody Woodward, [ummcrestview@gmail.com](mailto:ummcrestview@gmail.com)

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**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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