



**THE CONNECTION**  
**July 2022**  
**Newsletter**

**From the Pastor's Desk**

**To Be or Not to Be**

I feel like I'm living in Shakespeare's Hamlet. The identity of the Methodist church and our place in it is before us in the coming months. This was the dominant issue in our discussions at the recent Annual Conference in Montgomery in June.

I know some of you have become very interested and involved in learning more about the process of disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church. These issues have even made the national news- and will probably continue to do so for the next year and a half. Is it something good? Or not good? And what are all the uncertainties which go into this.



Over the last several weeks, I've encountered a LOT of questions- I answer each as best I can. I've also heard people express a range of emotions. Some are eager to move forward into a new future. Some like things the way they are and don't want them to change. Others are just very anxious about the uncertainty that fills the day and age in which we live. I also encounter still others who know virtually nothing about all of this - but want to know more.

I understand the feelings I've encountered and I feel them myself. Uncertainty and differences of opinion can be very difficult at times. But I'm of the opinion that differences, uncertainty, and challenges will be, and are already now, upon us – whether the church acts or does nothing.

Therefore, my position as a pastor of this great church is to help provide information so that you can make the best decision you can. We have some pastors in our conference who seem to be almost intentionally not sharing any of this information with their churches. I cannot speak for them- but as for me, I want you to make the best decision for your church here in Crestview in a spirit of transparency. As I have said for months- I want you to be informed.

Consequently, there will be a called meeting of the Administrative Council for Sunday afternoon, July 31 at 3 pm in the Main Sanctuary. The purpose of this meeting will be basic information on the decision and process before us. There is far too much misinformation and erroneous assumptions which people hold, and so it is important that people know what we need to know and to allow a space to ask questions.

Let me be absolutely clear: this meeting on July 31 is not to decide whether First United Methodist of Crestview is leaving or staying... so please do not come to this meeting thinking this will be decided. "IF" (and that is a key word)... If our church decides to pursue disaffiliation, it is a long process with many details, costs, and procedures. All we are doing at this meeting is learning about the issues, the procedures, the timeline, and the framework for what is before us. And then to answer any basic questions which people

have. My prayer is that this would be a loving and respectful meeting.

This issue is very involved, and there is a lot to explain, so please allow at least an hour (probably a bit more). The meeting will not be streamed on the internet. I wanted to have the meeting in the afternoon on a Sunday so that as many may attend as would like. The focus of this meeting is for the members of the Administrative Council since they are the only ones who can actually vote to begin this very involved process, but as always, the meeting is open for all who would like to attend.

Since my last Newsletter, we have had our Annual Conference and there will be some things for me to report- as well as any other events in the denomination.

In the last two newsletter articles, I listed many sources of information from all sides of this debate. Please use those resources. If you need reprints, please call the church office.

As always, please pray for our church. Pray for me as pastor. Pray for our Bishop (David Graves) and our District Superintendent (Jean Tippit). Continue to love and serve Jesus as we reach others with the Good News of the Gospel.

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

-Pastor Ronnie

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### **Mug Series Benefiting Pastor Kris**

Pastor Ronnie had the honor of speaking at our latest conference about our beautiful mugs that has benefited Pastor Kris in Poland.

Folks have expressed an interest in purchasing more!

If you'd like to reorder please contact the church office and we'll get them to you.



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### **Comm-UNITY Dinner**

#### **1950's Sock Hop** **Wednesday, July 13 at the CRC**

Time to get those pedal pushers out and dippity doo the hair because we are traveling back to the 1950's!

Diner food is on the menu - hotdogs, hamburgers and all the fixin's. We'll also be offering an ice cream float & sundae bar to belly up to, so no need to bring deserts! Come early to enjoy the vintage cars and selfie opportunities and to peruse the new studies being offered in the Fall.

Dinner will be served beginning at 5:30PM.  
Kid's St & Youth activities will begin at 6:00PM.  
Church Council begins at 6:30PM.

Please record your grace note with your intended attendance or email/call the office.



**COMMUNITY DINNER**  
**JULY 13 / 5:30PM**

A collection box will be in place to help offset the cost of the meal.

\*Our United Methodist Men will be cooking & hosting this CommUNITY Dinner! They will be the recipients of all proceeds which will assist them in their many ministry projects here at FUMC and our Crestview Community!

Thank you, gentlemen!

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### **Blessing of the Backpacks**

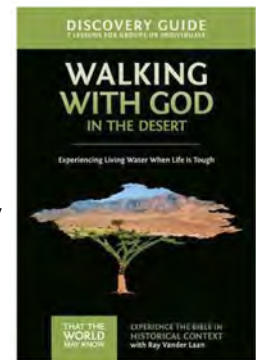
Blessing of the backpacks will be held in all services on **Sunday, August 7**. All students, no matter the age, and teachers are invited to bring their backpacks / totes to the service of their choice to be prayed over. We will also pray and bless our new school year.



### **New Sunday School Study Book**

The F.I.S.H (Friends In Service to Him), mixed age adults, will be starting a new study, led by Allen and Kim Bell, on **August 14**. We'll be in the room right across from the Youth Room at the Crossroads Center, at the 11:00AM Sunday School hour. The name of the study is *Walking With God in the Desert, Experiencing Living Water When Life is Tough*, by Ray Vander Laan. All are welcome!

-Kim Bell



### **UMCOR News**

It is looking "promising" that the Sager Brown campus will at last be open to volunteers soon. We have missed 2 years of going to Louisiana to work in the depot and are praying we can go this year.

We are committed to sending, a team of 12 to the UMCOR Sager Brown campus for our scheduled week of **October 2 – 7, 2022**. The time is now to sign up to go on this important mission trip which is vital to helping those in crisis caused by natural disasters.

If you like to have fun, meet new people from all over our nation, explore, and especially work for our Lord in a way that touches people in need, please contact team leader, Pam Hight at 850 758-8201. An informational meeting will be coming soon.



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### **Wesleyan Child Care Center**

Summertime is in full bloom here at Wesleyan!

With 3 classes and approximately 30 students for the summer, we have tried to pack as much fun in as we possibly can.

The students will have several special water days, 2 visits from the Snow Cone truck, a fun filled week of Vacation Bible School and a special visit from Smokey the Bear.

Our staff is also working very hard to prepare for the new school year.

Classes are moving rooms and themes are changing, and 2 additional VPK classes have been added for the new school year.

The office staff is busy preparing files, enrolling students and making sure all paperwork is ready and inputted into the Early Learning Coalition website.

There are many moving parts with running a school but thankfully, they all move together smoothly, like one well organized machine, thanks to the dedication from our entire staff here at Wesleyan!



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## **Childrens Ministry**

**Camp Baldwin** this summer from July 10 to July 14. You will receive a text and email soon if your child has already registered with details about what to bring to camp and our schedule of events.



**Blessing of the Backpacks** will be held in all services on August 7th. All children and teachers are invited to bring their backpacks to the service of their choice to be prayed over. We will also recognize our teachers in the community on this date and invite our Wesleyan Child Care Center children and families to attend.

**Save the Date:** Pumpkins for the pumpkins are scheduled to arrive on October 1, 2022 of this year. Please mark you calendars and plan to help us with the FULL truckload of pumpkins scheduled to arrive. If you can plan on volunteering about two days or evenings in the month of October it will help us make sure we get all of the customers taken care of. Some things we did with this years funds raised include funded the entire cost for travel and registration to Camp Baldwins Winter Retreat for 12 kids and chaperons, Ice Cream Truck and new items purchased for the Fall Festival, VBS T-Shirts, and miscellaneous items on Kids Street that helped with outreach and improvement to our Children's Program. Thank you to everyone who supported the patch and we look forward to seeing you again this year!

### **Kids Street 2021 Summer Fun Schedule**

**Registration for Kids Day will be located on line and in person on Kids Street**

9:00 AM - Kids' Day Out Drop off at scheduled location (rising 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)

12:30 PM – Pick Up at Scheduled location

5:45 pm – Kids Night Out Check In begins (ages rising K to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade)

6:00 pm - Games/Opening Prayer

6:30 pm - Summer Fun Time Activity

7:30 pm - Parent Pick-up on Kid's Street

**Note: Nursery is available in the evening for parents who are involved in a Bible Study**

**SUMMER FUN ACTIVITIES**

**Day Program**

**Evening Program**



July 6, 2022		Uno and Ice Cream Sundae Night
July 13, 2022– BOOK FAIR/Church Council	SUMMER CAMP WEEK (3 <sup>rd</sup> to 5 <sup>th</sup> grade)	Community Dinner- Book Fair- Craft Night for those not at camp (Asbury Room)
July 20, 2022	Kids Day –Emerald Coast Zoo Trip. Registration opens soon.	Favorite Music and Favorite Game
July 27, 2022		Back to School Bash- WATER FUN
August 3, 2022		1 <sup>st</sup> day of school 8/10

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

### **FUMC Youth**

It's hard to believe that we are already over halfway done with 2022, but it sure is flying by!

This month we go on our trip to Camp Blue Lake. The youth have not been able to have an over-night trip anywhere for over 2 years due to the pandemic. So needless to say, we are all extremely excited about this!

We had so many church members offer to donate money for scholarships so that every youth in our program has the opportunity to go. From

everyone of our youth, the youth committee, and myself, thank you so much to all who offered to help out financially for this trip. We will be leaving from the church on **Friday, July 8th at 12:00pm and returning Sunday, July 10th** at 12:00pm. We have 18 youth who will be attending and 6 chaperones. Please pray that this is a wonderful experience for all of us and most importantly that lives are touched and brought closer to Christ.

This year has been one full of laughs and tears as we have had to say goodbye to our seniors who have been in the youth program for many years and are now headed to the next chapter of their lives. While it is surely difficult to see so many talented leaders and young Christians "leave the nest" so to speak, it is also a part of life and we hope that each one of them will bring the knowledge of scripture and love of Christ to wherever they go or end up. Please pray for their well-being and spiritual growth as many of them embark on their journey to college and living away from home for the first time in their lives. Though we had 7 seniors graduate out of the program this year, we have had the pleasure of welcoming 3 new youth to our group who have just graduated from Kid's Street! God is so good!

Lastly, I wanted to provide an update on our current lessons. When our youth goes through a book of the bible, we read every word of scripture and discuss what we have read as a group. This is true both for Wednesday night youth meets and Sunday School. Because of this, it has taken us a long time to fully complete the book of Genesis (50 chapters long) on our Wednesday night meetings. But, we are finally closing in on the end of the book. And once we wrap up Genesis, our next book will be the Gospel of John. Our time in Genesis has been enlightening, and the kids have had so many good questions about what we've read. So we can't wait to embark on our next book that deals strictly with the life of Christ and the things he did while on this Earth.



Please take a moment to review our  
**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**-Mission Trip to Camp Blue Lake:**

**Friday, July 8 – Sunday, July 10**

All 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders (including recently graduated high school seniors) are invited!  
Registration was \$100 and was due on June 15th.

**SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES:**

**-Serve & Swim**

**Saturday, July 30** is FUMC Youth's turn to host the Soup Kitchen.

We will serve in Fellowship Hall from 9am-12pm and then head over to Kim and Allen Bell's house for an afternoon of swimming!

YOUTH MINISTRY CONTACT INFO: Paul Adams 850-781-8994 or  
[fumcrestviewyouth@gmail.com](mailto:fumcrestviewyouth@gmail.com)

In Christ,

*-Evan John "Paul" Adams, Youth Director*

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**Adult Ministry**

**Wednesday Night Small Groups:** July 13 will be our next Book Fair and a chance to sign up for our Fall Session Bible Study Groups. The Fall Session will kick off on August 17, 2022 and run through November 16, 2022. July will be a chance to see what studies are available, mark your calendar and give us a chance to get all books and classes scheduled. We will announce our classes soon. Please contact the church office or Angela Long if you are interested in leading a class.



**Thank you** for all of the donations and help at our Vacation Bible School in June. We appreciate you all and hope that you had as much fun as we did. We know so many contributed by prayers and want to make sure you know that continued prayer is needed as we work on making sure we take care of the fruits of our work as a result of VBS week.

*-Angela Long*

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**Soup Kitchen News**

The Summer heat is here and the SOUPers are steady cookin' up some good eats! Something tells me burgers and hot dogs are going to be on the menu over the next few months, and nothing says Summer like grilled burgers and hot dogs! If it weren't for the incredible support of the FUMC family and the hard work and dedication of the great team of SOUPers we have, this ministry would not be as successful as it is. Not only do we have fun preparing the meals and serving our visitors, but we are also blessed to simply be able to talk with members of our community, pray with them, and engage in friendly conversation while also offering information about other soup kitchens in the area on other days of the week.

If you're interested in learning more or volunteering with the Soup Kitchen, please contact the church office or talk with me at the 9:45 service.



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."

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### Women's Service Group

If you hear crickets right now, that's okay! The Women's Service Group is taking a break from our monthly meetings over the Summer but we are still working to support our community and the needs of children, women and senior citizens. On June 10 we had the pleasure of taking snacks to the residents of Crestview Manor, toured the Manor and presented the staff with a \$200 check toward a resident room renovation. In support of April Hight's recent presentation to the church on the foster care program, the Women's Service Group would soon like to start a donation campaign for pajamas, socks and underwear for children in foster care, from infant to young teens. More details to come on that, so stay tuned! In the meantime, look for us at the ice cream station at the July 13 CommUNITY dinner and if you have any questions about the Women's Service Group, please feel free to call the church office or talk with me at the 9:45 service.



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."

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### Yarn Ministry

Hello church family!  
Just a happy thank you to folks that have donated yarn to us recently! It's a wonderful thing to be able to have access to supplies when needed and turning those supplies into sweet blessings!

We will not meet June 28.

We will meet on Tuesdays, **July 12 & 26** at 6:00PM in Rm 213.  
All interested are welcome!

-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 **July 6** at David's Catfish House 12 PM.  
Come meet and pray with us.



All are invited!  
-Kathleen Woodward



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**July Greeters, Ushers, Liturgists**

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

Greeters:

July 3: Debbie Watson  
July 10: Alesha and Robert Dabbs  
July 17: Melanie and Gary Zick  
July 24: Mike and Betsy Roy  
July 31: John and Cynthia Leitschuck  
Ushers: Skipper Kemp & Debbie Watson

**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**

Front:

July 3: Viki & Terry Luster  
July 10: Glenda McMasters & Gary Johnson  
July 17: Edie & Tom Giovanini  
July 24: Margaret Larson & Judy Beard  
July 31: Viki & Terry Luster

Ushers: Front - Dax Reeves, Terry Luster

Greeter/Usher - Back: Darrell Smith

Liturgists- July: 10- Mike Steen, 17- Paul Adams, 31- Lee Thigpen

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### *Important Dates In July*

July 2- The Well Service Team 1:00PM CRC  
July 6- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM David's Catfish House  
July 4- Church closed in observance of Independence Day  
July 5- Worship Committee 5:30PM Conf Rm  
July 6- No Children or Youth activities  
July 8 through 10- Youth at Blue Lake Mission Summer Camp  
July 10- Camp Meeting Month begins! Blood Drive 8:00AM-1:00PM, Trustees 3:00PM FH, Finance 5:15PM Rm 212  
July 10 through July 14- Children at Baldwin Summer Camp  
July 11- United Methodist Men 6:00PM FH  
July 12- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213  
July 13- CommUNITY Dinner 1950's Sock Hop 5:30PM CRC, 6:30PM Church Council  
June 17- Children's Committee 12:15 Kid's St, Youth Committee 12:15PM Conf Rm, Long Range Planning 3:00PM CRC  
July 19- Missions 6:30PM Conf Rm  
July 25- August Newsletter Deadline  
July 26- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213  
July 27- Back to School Bash for Children

*\*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 August*

Aug 3- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM David's Catfish House  
Aug 6- The Well's Service Team 1:00PM CRC  
Aug 7- Blessing of the Backpacks in all services!  
Aug 8- United Methodist Men 6:00PM FH  
Aug 9- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213  
Aug 14- Youth Committee 12:15PM Conf Rm  
Aug 17- Fall Small Groups begin!  
Aug 22- September 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

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### **We Pray For Our Country**

We pray for your great healing on our land.  
Shine your face on us dear God.  
We need you now, more than ever before.  
Our times are in your hands.  
Thank you that you are rich in mercy and full of grace.  
Thank you that you are forgiving and merciful.  
Thank you that you are strong and mighty.  
Thank you that you are for us and  
that you fight for us still today.  
Bring honor to your Name,  
Oh Lord, for You alone are worthy.  
Amen and amen.

- *Debbie McDaniel*

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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

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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  
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Facilities Manager / Chris Woodward  
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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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Soup Kitchen / Eileen Kurtz [soupkitchenfumc@gmail.com](mailto:soupkitchenfumc@gmail.com)

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## **First United Methodist Church**

599 Eighth Ave, Crestview, FL 32536  
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*For all the latest from FUMC please visit:*

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