



THE CONNECTION July 2020 Newsletter



One Year

It is hard to imagine that it was only one year ago that Bishop David Graves appointed me to be the pastor here at First United Methodist in Crestview.

And what a year it has been. Aside from the normal and typical challenges of a first year of ministry, there have been some unusual events.

I officially became pastor on July 1, 2019, but even before that, I was involved in the funeral of a beloved church member. Though a challenge during the transition period, it was such an honor to be involved.

The geothermal restoration project has been a challenge. We are believing and trusting that the worst is behind us with this equipment.

And then we've faced the COVID crisis (with which we are still dealing). We shifted to a lot of online work and have needed to adapt to the moment.

And through all of this, I've made a few discoveries.

– God is faithful. He has been so good to all of us. I'm grateful for His presence and His mercy.

– The First United Methodist Church is even more loving and gracious than I was told. Many positive things were spoken to me about this great church, but being told and experiencing it are two different things.

Worship Times

Sunday Mornings

The Well 9:45AM
Traditions 11:00AM

Office Hours (Opening July 6!)

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

Church Secretary

Cathrin Owens
office.fumcrestview@gmail.com

Children's Ministry

Angela Long
fumc.angelalong@gmail.com

Director of Adult Discipleship & Congregational Care

April Hight
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Music, Contemporary

Nathan Hight

Music, Traditional

Kevin Lusk

Housekeeping

-- God's people are so generous. This has been a challenging year- and our church, like so many others, has had many challenges lately. But your generosity and resilience are a testimony of faithfulness.

What a blessing and honor it is to serve with you. I look forward to seeing what God will do in our midst as we continue together on this journey of faith.

Pastor Ronnie

Amy Lohr-Sticha

Maintenance
Devon Stoy

Organist
Leon Curenton

Pianists
Pam Myers, Susan Smith

Sexton
Samuel Allen

Children's Ministry

Hello Kids Street Family and friends:

We miss you all so much and cannot wait until we can meet again. Although programming for children remains closed, our Children's Ministry Team and Nursery staff continue to meet and are working hard to make our reunion to children's programming special. Some ways you can still plug into Kids Street activities.



ONLINE SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday school lessons are available online on Facebook through the month of June. We will be sending out a Sunday school link in July to accommodate copyright restrictions that our curriculum provider is requiring beginning July 1, 2020. Packets are updated monthly and available for drop off or pick up. Located outside of each Sunday morning church service.

PROMOTION SUNDAY: (July 12th during the 9:45 AM service) The Children's Ministry Team had a goal to bring back Promotion Sunday this year and we plan to make this happen for our 2020.21 kids! It may look a little different for our first year back, but we don't want another year to pass without a Promotion Sunday and receipt of a promotion Bible. This year will consist of calling out the children's name and new class versus being called on stage. For those who do not attend in person worship, please watch our live service. Please contact Mrs. Angela if you would like to add your child to the promotion list.

ONLINE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: (July 28, 29, 30). Look out kids! Rocky Railroad VBS is coming to you online! Registration will open up next week by visiting our church application or website. <http://fumcrestview.com/>

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS: (August 9): Mark your calendar for August 9th. We will participate in our annual prayer over backpacks on August 9th. More information will come about this and what it will look like as we adjust to requirements and precautions deemed necessary.
-Angela Long

Congregational Care

Hello Church!

To say you are missed is an understatement!

Congregational care is still alive and well. Let us know how we can serve you best during this time. If you have a need, please be sure to reach out. Know someone who could use a bit of cheer or chat?

Share that with us too!

Even though we are still practicing responsible social distancing, it doesn't mean that we are far apart in heart. Praise God that we are still the church and our gracious Father still knows our every need.

Because we are back to in-person worship, many of our care team callers have discontinued weekly phone check-ins. We SO appreciate those of you who faithfully took time to make comfort calls. I know



that those who received them were blessed by the time you gave. THANK YOU!
Church - YOU ARE LOVED. I long for the day that we are able to worship together fully and freely once again. I know you do, too. I'm anxious to see your smiling faces and enjoy precious conversation about all God is doing in our midst.

Missing YOU!

Director of Congregational Care & Small Group Ministry

P.S...if you need me, please call or text me anytime! (850) 423 - 0458

-April Hight

Trustees

The Trustees new committee met and voted on the positions of the board. The Trustees Chair is Mike Steen and Vice-Chair is Jody Woodward. The Geothermal system repairs has been completed and we thank all those who made donations toward the cost of repairs. Without your support this could not have been possible.

-Angie Arnold



Benevolence

Benevolence Ministry has been actively distributing emergency groceries & financial assistance throughout the campus closure. Thank you for your generosity during this time, it meant reinstatement of health insurance for one family in desperate need of medication and keeping the power & water on for 5 families.

Over 20 families were able to fill their pantry with your food donations.

Our normally scheduled appointments will resume in July. Please keep our team in prayer as we continue to minister in the time of social distancing. Our FUMC Friday emails & FB posts will alert you to our pantry needs.

-Margaret Larson, Vicky Anchor, Cathrin Owens



Yarn Ministry

Oh MY! The yarn that was used during our campus closure would probably stretch from here to the moon three times over! We have been so busy, meeting every week via Zoom on the internet which included weekly devotionals, checking in with each other, praying for each other, encouraging each other and also weekly giveaways of crochet & knitting supplies to keep things interesting and bring a little cheer when I delivered the goods to the weekly winner!

We've been finishing up loads of projects and tackling some new ones that we finally had time to concentrate on. I'm so very proud of our Yarnies! Never once did they waver in the work of their hands, keeping on and finishing strong.

Our July initiative will be a mat (suggested 18"x24") or blanket for an animal currently housed at PAWS- our local animal shelter. We'll get them delivered to the facility in Laurel Hill. If anyone would like to donate animal supplies, too, please bring them to the July meetings and they will be included.

We will resume our meetings, July 14 & 28 in room 213. There is plenty of room and tables to spread out. We will have a yarn blessing soon with all of the gorgeous makes and donations from the last few months. "Yarn is not just our past time, but our life line!" Thank you, Lord, for all of the blessings you have brought through such a trying time.

-Cathrin Owens



July Greeters & Ushers

Contemporary/The Crossroads Center 9:45AM

Aimee Keller & Dan Taylor

Traditions/Main Sanctuary 11:00AM

Leader: Mike Steen

July 5- Margaret Larson, Melanie Zick

July 12- Sam Field, Dax Reeves

July 19- Elaine Mantle, Suzanne Long

July 26- Linda Biondi, Mark Young

Important Dates in July

July 4- HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA!

July 5- FUMC Office officially opens! Sager Brown Mission Trip fundraiser begins.

July 12- Promotion Sunday at 9:45AM worship service CRC, Trustees 3:00PM Conf Rm, Finance 5:15PM Conf Rm

July 13- United Methodist Men at 6:00PM CRC

July 14- Yarn Ministry at 6:00PM RM 213

July 15- Church Council (members only- will be notified via email) at 6:30PM in the Main Sanctuary

July 19- Long range Planning 5:30PM Conf Rm

July 28- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213

July 28 through July 30- Virtual VBS (please see Children's Ministry article above for more details!)

**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 August

Aug 2- Children's Committee 12:00PM Conf Rm

Aug 7- Women's Service Group 9-11:00AM Rm 213 (tentative)

Aug 9- Blessing of the Backpacks in all services

Aug 10- United Methodist Men 6:00PM CRC

Aug 11- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213

Aug 12- Worship Ministry 4:30PM Conf Rm

Aug 16- One Blood's Big Red Bus is coming! They'll be in the parking lot on the corner of Texas & 8th from 8:00AM-1:00PM, Missions 5:00PM Conf RM

Aug 21- Sr. Ministry Game Day 11:00AM-2:00PM FH (tentative)

Aug 25- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213

Aug 30- Trustees 3:00PM Conf Rm, Finance 5:15PM Conf Rm

**FH- Fellowship Hall, Conf Rm- Conference Room, CRC- The Crossroads Center, Youth Rm- Youth Room*

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How To Pray For America

- Pray that God will turn people's hearts toward Himself, and that He will be glorified in the outcome of the upcoming general election.
- Pray that God's people will demonstrate a spirit of repentance and prayer—individually and corporately. (2 Chron. 7:14)
- Pray that God will raise up righteous leaders who will model integrity and authenticity. (Eph. 4:1-2; Prov. 14:34)
- Pray that Americans will see their spiritual poverty; that our nation's citizens will awaken to their great spiritual need. (Joel 3:12)
- Pray that godly men and women will be placed in positions of authority so that God's people can rejoice. (Prov. 29:2)
- Pray that leaders we elect will be just, fear God rather than men, and depart from evil. (2 Sam. 23:3; Prov. 1:7; 14:26; 16:6)
- Pray that citizens will seek wise leaders who listen to biblical counsel. (Prov. 1:3-5)
- Pray that citizens will vote with wisdom and discretion. (Prov. 3:21b)
- Pray that people will be able to see truth (Ps. 86:11), that error will be exposed, and that people with wicked agendas will be made weak. (Prov. 25:5)
- Pray that Christians will speak the truth, but in love, concerning those running for office. (Eph. 4:15)
- Pray that Christians will avoid negativity, fault-finding, and contentiousness, but instead, will stand out as God's loving, pure children. (Phil. 2:14-15)
- Pray for truth in the media. (Prov. 12:22) • Pray that Christians will put their confidence in God, rather than any political candidate. (Ps. 118:8-9)
- Pray that Christians will look to God to overcome the enemies of truth and righteousness. (Ps. 60:11-12)
- Pray that those who love righteousness and truth will fulfill their responsibility to vote. (Matt. 22:21)
- Pray that God will work through leaders to keep the doors open for His Gospel to be proclaimed. (Col. 4:3a)
- Pray for God's will to be accomplished in the elections. (Ps. 33:11; 103:19; 115:3)

"I believe if our people across this nation will get on their knees and repent, not only of their own sin but the sins of the nation, and cry out to God for His mercy on this upcoming election, that He will hear our prayers and answer them."

-Shirley Dobson

FUMC News

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