



THE CONNECTION **March 2021** **Newsletter**



A Note From Pastor Ronnie

My message this month is a blend of COVID report and Worship (as one effects the other).

As I shared in a recent message a couple of weeks ago, we are starting to move into phase 3 of our reopening. I have sensed that this is both a blessing and a frustration for some folks.

Those feeling frustration are tired of lock-downs, tired of masks, and tired of the whole hassle. They are also at the point where they wonder about our church programming.... "Now why are we doing this... but not that?"

And I understand those questions and feelings. My primary request is that people continue to be patient as we move through this time. For those who are possibly impatience with slowly getting back to full programming, let me remind you that within half an hour driving distance of our church, there are some churches that have still not opened yet (we've been open for in-person worship since June 1), and there are others that are so restrictive that you must make a reservation to attend worship. I spoke to a pastor yesterday in Alabama that has been holding

Worship Times

Sunday Mornings

Morning Glory at 8:15AM
(Begins Easter, April 4)
Main Sanctuary

The Well / Contemporary at 9:45AM
The Crossroads Center

Traditions at 11:00AM
Main Sanctuary

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

worship in the parking lot of his church for one solid year now.

So please be patient. We are not where we want to be, but we are moving in that direction.

The major change of the next step kicks in on Easter Sunday with adding a third worship service. This sadly means that we will not restore the huge events of Palm Sunday until next year.

Furthermore, I'll also do something online again this year for Maundy Thursday.

Last year, COVID 19 dramatically affected our worship since anything we did at that time was online (I have to admit to you that one of the emotionally hardest things I've ever done is celebrate an Easter Resurrection worship service in an empty sanctuary with only about 4 worship helpers- so I'm REALLY looking forward to this year).

This year, we invite you to a special Good Friday worship service on April 2 at 6:30 pm. It is technically called a "Tenebrae Service" which is a "service of shadows." It is a very moving worship service centered around the idea that Jesus is the Light of the World and that light died on the cross- thus the sanctuary is gradually darkened. The service revolves around a combination of music and scripture reading. I will also share a devotional message. In many ways the contrast of this service is such that those who attend are in a much better position to appreciate the celebration of Resurrection Sunday morning!

The Tenebrae service will be streamed online, and it will be a blessing to many. But it is honestly one of those services where you just have to "be there" to sense it's full impact.

Easter Sunday we will add an early worship service in the main Sanctuary at 8:15 am.

Let me remind you that Easter Sunday is one of the times in a year when people who do not attend worship are actually open to coming- particularly if invited. I want to encourage you to actively invite your friends, neighbors, and relatives to attend- especially if they are not actively attending a church right now. Your personal invitation may make all the difference in the world.

Pastor Ronnie

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& Facilities Director

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Nathan Hight

Music, Traditional

Kevin Lusk

Organist

Leon Curenton

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Pam Myers, Susan Smith

Housekeeping

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Sexton

Samuel Allen

Wesleyan Child Care Center

Osa Bell / Director

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday ~ March 28

Nursery & Kid's Street will be open this morning.
9:45AM in The Crossroads Center
*Children will gather near the Welcome Desk
prior to the service for the Palm Processional.
11:00AM in the Main Sanctuary



No evening activities scheduled for Wednesday, March 31

Maundy Thursday~ April 3

We do not have a service planned this year.

Service of Darkness / Tenebrae Service ~ Good Friday, April 2

6:30PM in the Main Sanctuary.
Nursery is unavailable for our Good Friday service.

Easter ~ Sunday, April 4

We're celebrating the resurrection of our Lord and Savior!
8:15- introducing our new Morning Glory service in the Main Sanctuary!
9:45- in The Crossroads Center
11:00AM in the Main Sanctuary
Nursery & Kid's Street will be open this morning.

Love Your Church Day

A family version of LOVE YOUR CHURCH DAY is
scheduled for **Saturday, March 6, 8:30-11:30AM.**

We will have service projects for all ages & abilities.

Lunch will be provided.

Sign up sheets will be available prior to the event so that
everyone will know what service opportunities are needed.

You may also sign up by emailing Angie Arnold at fumcrestview@gmail.com

Kids' Street Kids will be open for ages 4 and up and will have age appropriate cleaning to do along with
other activities.

(Rain date will be Saturday, March 13.)

Save the date & prepare to LOVE YOUR CHURCH!



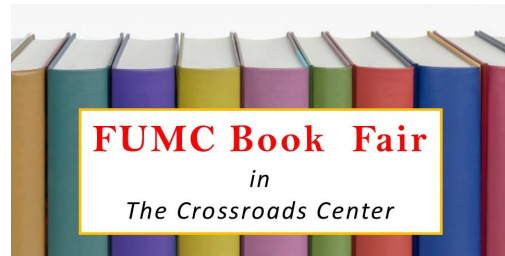
Church Council

The next FUMC Church Council will be on **Wednesday, March 10** at 6:30PM in the Main Sanctuary.



FUMC Book Fair

Our next Book Fair will begin **Wednesday, March 10** at 6:30PM in The Crossroads Center in conjunction with the Church Council meeting. We will have the tables set up for perusing & purchasing through Wednesday, April 7. For more info please see our article on Adult Discipleship below.



Women's Service Group

The Women's Service Group will be having our **Dean's Cake Sale** again for Easter along with **RADA Knives**. We will have many of your favorite cakes and cookies listed on the form, but if you know of a Dean Cake or cookies you like that is not listed please write it on the form and we will get it for you.



The sale starts on February 28th for both the cakes and knives and will go through March.

The Knife orders must be in by March 14th in order to get them to you by Easter.

The cake orders must be in by March 28th.

Pick up dates for the cakes and knives will be Saturday April 3rd between 11am and 2pm **or** Sunday, April 4th between services.

You can see any of the ladies in our group for cake order forms which list the cakes and cookies and also to look at the RADA Knife books for orders. They will be stationed outside the services on Sunday. You can also pick up an order form in the church office. If you are homebound you can email or call the office (office.fumcrestview@gmail.com 850-682-2018) and Kristen Sallberg will help you with your order.

Please be sure to turn your cake orders in to one of the members of our Women's Service Group or to the church office. Checks only (*made out to FUMC with 'Women's Service Group' on the memo line*). Do not call your order in to Dean's Cake House or you might not get your order for Easter.

Thank you for your help with this project.

-Sharon Wykle, President Women's Service Group 850-830-5536

Calling All Prayer Warriors!

Crestview First United Methodist

We have a group that meets weekly to pray for our congregation and prayer requests made via our grace notes and emails to the church. Please consider learning more about this group and joining in person or at home in prayer. We meet on Wednesday mornings at 9:00AM in the Conference Rm.

"For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst." -Matthew 18:20



[UMCOR / Sager Brown Depot Mission](#)

The Sager Brown campus is still closed because of COVID-19. Reopening will be evaluated again this month. The plan is still to go to Sager Brown as scheduled October 3 -8, 2021. For more information on the Sager Brown mission, contact Pam Hight at pjhight51@gmail.com or 850 758-8201.
- Pam Hight



[Adult Discipleship](#)

[IN THE SPOTLIGHT:](#)

[WEDNESDAY NIGHT SMALL GROUPS](#)

For those that are new to the church or just need a refresher we wanted to give you an overview of what our Wednesday night small group is all about.



Each Wednesday the Crestview FUMC Adult Discipleship Program hosts small group bible studies for our parents, families, and adults throughout the church. The program does break during the holiday season and occasionally to prepare for other activities but has a goal to consistently meet as scheduled. There are programs for children and youth, as well as a nursery for infants available during the small group sessions. We have taken a break from our Wednesday night programming for adults during the pandemic and are excited that it will be returning this spring.

Each bible study is kicked off with a **Book Fair** to learn more about the groups being offered, meet the leaders, and view the curriculum. This takes place during one of our regularly scheduled community dinner where we all come tighter for a meal. (Note: **Community Dinners** are on hold during the pandemic but we still have a book fair). Please see details about our next book fair and dates for our Wednesday night Small Group below.

MARCH BOOK FAIR: Our next Small Group Session is scheduled to begin on April 7, 2021. We will have our **Book Fair** to learn about the small group opportunities and kick off the Spring Session on Wednesday March 10, 2021. Please contact Angela Long at 334-488-2065 if you are interested in leading a small group or need additional information. (334-488-2065). Here is a sneak peak of a few classes that will be offered in our Spring Session: *Now That Faith Has Come: A Study of Galatians* by Beth Moore; *Stronger Together Weaker Apart* by Tony Evans; *Seven Words: Listening to Christ from the*

Cross by Susan G. Robb

Registration will be open soon online. You can sign up in person on March 10th in the Crossroads Center. Sign up will remain open until the end of March.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES: continue each week. Please let us know if you would like to join a class or participate from home. We can drop off materials to you if needed so you can study along with your class.

Agape Class - Room 212 9:45 AM

Biblical Pilgrims - Room 213 9:45 AM

Messengers - Fellowship Hall (Main Building) 9:45 AM

Vines & Branches - Asbury Room (Crossroads Center & **Online**) 9:45 AM

FISH - Asbury Room (Crossroads Center) 11:00 AM

Seekers - (Young Adult) Room 402 (Crossroads Center & **Online**) 11:00 AM

- Angela Long

Children's Ministry

Mark your calendars!

July 12 to July 16 - Vacation Bible School.

July 19 to July 22 - Summer Camp for upper elementary.

More details to follow soon.



March Wednesday night schedule-

March 3 - 6:00 PM – Children's Choir followed by lesson at 6:30 PM

March 10 - 6:00 PM– Children's Choir- Kids Street Activities (*Book Fair*: Parents please plan on going over to the Crossroads Center after you check your kids in to see all of the Small Group opportunities for the Spring Session)

March 17 - 6:00 PM – Children's Choir - Followed by Kids Street Activities - Happy St. Patricks Day!!

March 24 – 6:00 PM – Children's Choir Practice – Kid's Street Activities

March 30 - 6:00 PM Children's Choir Practice - Kids Street Activities

Volunteers are needed for Sunday School leaders and helpers. Please email kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com to sign up or become a volunteer.

REFIT Schedule - Monday's and Friday's at 8:45 am (childcare available on Kids Street) Wednesday's at 6:45 am (no childcare available) This class meets in the Crossroads Center. Children can be dropped off on Kids Street.

- Angela Long

Youth Ministry

Spring is here! The spring season has always been a major time period for our youth program. During this season, we will be hosting our annual Discovery Weekend! This event is not until April, but it is important to announce now since it is one of the biggest events our youth puts together for the entire year. We will be continuing to work on Discovery throughout the month of March. If you have any questions or ideas, please reach out to me or Sara Fordyce.

In regards to our weekly Bible studies, for the whole month of February, we spent our time in the Book of Esther. There was lots of great discussion and questions. To start off March, we will be having a game



night and pizza party on Wednesday the 3rd. The rest of the month we will be looking at one of Paul's most famous letters: Ephesians! In Sunday School, we continue to journey through the New Testament, striving to have read everything from Matthew to Revelation in one year! We are currently in 1 Corinthians and we continue to chug along every week with awesome discussion and reading of scripture. Finally, we plan to meet at the Fordyce's home on Sunday, March the 14th from 4pm-7pm to have a bonfire and time of fellowship. This event is tentative to the weather conditions and we hope and pray it will be a cool, non-rainy evening. As always, if you have any questions or ideas related to our church's youth program, please reach out to me at fumcrestviewyouth@gmail.com!

In Christ,

-Paul Adam

MORE YOUTH NEWS :

Youth Bonfire

**Youth Fellowship by Fireside:
Sunday, March 14th, 4:00pm-7:00pm**

All youth are invited to gather at the home of Erik and Sara Fordyce for an evening of food, fun and fellowship by fireside.

**in the event of bad weather, we will reschedule.*

Please contact Sara Fordyce(Call or Text: 850-217-7106) or Paul Adams(**Call or Text:** 850-781-8994) with any questions.



Youth Ministry DISCOVERY WEEKEND

6th Annual Discovery Weekend: April 9-11, 2021

Calling ALL rising 6th graders through 12th graders!

Our High School students are sooooo excited to host our Middle School students (including 5th graders, rising to 6th grade) for our 6th Annual Discovery Weekend Retreat!



Discovery Weekend is modeled after the Blue Lake Walk to Emmaus/Chrysalis experiences.

The event begins early evening on Friday, April 9th and adjourns at the completion of our youth led worship service at 9:45 on Sunday, April 11th.

***Due to Covid precautions, we WILL NOT be having the students stay overnight this year. Stay tuned for our final schedule to be published with drop off and pick up times for each day.

Please see Paul Adams or Sara Fordyce to register your student.

ALL High Schoolers are invited to help with planning and hosting the event.
ALL 5th-8th graders are invited to attend and participate!

Registration is \$25, due no later than April 1. Registration covers the cost of an event t-shirt and helps offset food costs.

*****High Schoolers**, please plan to attend the following planning workshops: March 7th, 14th and 21st (all of these Sunday workshops will be help from Noon-3:30pm in the youth room) and our final preparations session on Wednesday, April 7th. 3:00-6:00pm.

WE NEED ADULT VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST WITH EVENT.

Yarn Ministry

God has blessed the Yarnies by opening doors when those that are usually open have closed due to Covid.

We couldn't deliver hats to the Cancer Center, but Watchmen of the Street accepted them with open arms.

We couldn't deliver baby items to the NICU in Pensacola, but our Crvw Pregnancy Center oohed and aahed over every baby item we donated.

We couldn't deliver to Hospice, but Eglin's Fisher House stepped in and asked if they could put an item of ours in each of the baskets that a family receives when they arrive for a stay while they receive care at the base.

God is good! All the time! All the time! God is good!

Until we can once again plug into our usual outlets, God has been directing us to those that CAN receive and we are so thankful. May everyone who receives an item from the Yarn Ministry feel blessed & loved by our Father and may those hands who have faithfully made & prayed while they worked be blessed also.

This month's meetings will be held **Tuesdays, March 9 & 23** at 6:00PM in Rm 213 and we have a 5TH **TUESDAY- March 30-** which means we will meet at Panera's at 6:00PM for an off campus outreach.

All interested in this fun ministry are welcome!

-Cathrin Owens



March Greeters, Ushers, Liturgists

Contemporary / The Crossroads Center 9:45AM

Greeters & Ushers: Aimee Keller & Dan Taylor

Liturgists: Nell Sutherland- First & Third Sundays, Dan Taylor- Second & Fourth Sundays

Traditions / Main Sanctuary 11:00AM

Greeters:

March 7- F: Youth, B: Youth

March 14- Scouting Sunday- they will pass out bulletins

March 21- F: Youth, B: Youth

March 28- F: Youth, B: Youth

*F: Front (narthex), B: Back (office)

Ushers:

1 Sun- Darrell Smith, 2 Sun- Jim Hight, 3 Sun- Mike Steen, 4 Sun- Carli Owens, 5 Sun- Darrell Smith

Liturgists:

Lee Thigpen- March 7 & 14 , Paul Adams- March 18 (Third Sundays)

Important Dates In March

Some of the meeting locations have changed due to social distancing guidelines that affect our room capacity limits!

March 5- Women's Service Group 9:00-11:00AM Rm 213

March 8- United Methodist Men 6:00PM FH

March 9- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213

March 10- Church Council 6:30PM Main Sanctuary

March 14- Time Change- *Spring Forward 1 Hour!*

March 21- Children's Committee 12:00PM Kid's Street, Long Range Planning 5:30PM Youth Room

March 22- February Newsletter Deadline

March 23- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213

March 28- Palm Sunday, April newsletter out

*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 April

Some of the meeting locations have changed due to social distancing guidelines that affect our room capacity limits!

April 1- Maundy Thursday (no service planned)

April 2- Women's Service Group 9:00-11:00AM Rm 213, Good Friday Service 6:30PM Main Sanctuary

April 3- Cake Pick Up at CRC

April 4- **EASTER**- He is risen indeed! Morning Glory service begins at 8:15AM in the Main Sanctuary

April 5- Easter Monday / church office is closed

April 7- Small Groups begin

April 9-10- Youth Discovery Weekend

April 11- Youth Sunday & Communion, Youth Committee 12:00PM Youth Rm, Missions 5:00PM Rm 212
April 12- United Methodist Men 6:00PM FH
April 13- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213
April 19- April Newsletter Deadline
April 19-23 Spring Break!
April 21- No activities for Kid's Street or Youth Group
April 25- WCCC Preschool Appreciation Celebration 9:45AM service
April 27- 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



RETURN, O WANDERER, RETURN

Return, O wanderer, return,
And seek an injured Father's face;
Those warm desires that in thee burn
Were kindled by reclaiming grace.

Return, O wanderer, return,
And seek a Father's melting heart,
Whose pitying eyes thy grief discern,
Whose hand can heal thine inward smart.

Return, O wanderer, return,
He heard thy deep repentant sigh,
He saw thy softened spirit mourn
When no intruding ear was nigh.

Return, O wanderer, return,
Thy Savior bids thy spirit live;
Go to His bleeding feet, and learn
How freely Jesus can forgive.

Return, O wanderer, return,
And wipe away the falling tear;
'Tis God who says, "No longer mourn,"
'Tis mercy's voice invites thee near.

Written by William Collyer.

William Bengo Collyer was born at Blackheath Hill, in 1782, and studied at Homerton College. Before completing his twentieth year he became pastor of a Congregational society at Peckham, continuing in that position through his life. He died in 1854.

He received the degree of D.D. from the University of Edinburgh in 1808.

For many years he was one of the most popular Dissenting ministers in London.

He published many hymns and some works on theology.

--Annotations of the Hymnal, Charles Hutchins, M.A. 1872.

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