



THE CONNECTION
March 2022
Newsletter



A Note From Pastor Ronnie

A Pastor's Plan

I've been asked if I would provide some updates to the situation in our denomination. Someone noted: Ronnie, you haven't spoken about it hardly at all.

And that's true. The primary reason has been that I did not feel there was anything definite and certain to talk about. A proposal called the Protocol for Reconciliation and Grace through Separation (which I support) was made years ago to divide our United Methodist denomination into two denominations: one conservative/traditional and one liberal/progressive with pathways for each pastor and congregation to get where they want to be. But it's only a proposal, and that proposal was to be discussed in 2020 at General Conference. But COVID hit and the meeting of General Conference has

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

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 &
Family Discipleship Coordinator**
Angela Long
kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com

been delayed repeatedly ever since. As I write this, a decision will be made soon as to whether General Conference will be held this August.

The primary development that has happened in the last couple of weeks is that the largest church in our Conference has voted to leave (Frazer Church in Montgomery) as have a few others, but that leaving under current conditions comes at a significant cost in apportionment and pension liability payments. Some churches will have those resources, others will not.

In all of this time of uncertainty, I have a very definite and purposeful plan: To preach Jesus. To lift Him up as Savior and the hope for all who are broken from sin. To lift up the truth of the Word of God which is able to pierce our very hearts, to break chains, and provide light and guidance for our way. I plan to faithfully lead the church that I love which Bishop Graves has placed in my charge.

I believe our denomination has wonderful doctrine and covenants. It deeply saddens me that we have some who have rejected our historic positions and rejected their covenant.

When there is something specific to talk about in the future, then I will keep you informed. I'm sure that by our next Administrative Board Meeting in a few weeks, we will know if General Conference will meet or be delayed again. I'll report what I find.

These discussions on a Conference and a global scale are important. But let's not let them distract us from the call to make disciples for Jesus Christ. Let's follow and serve the Lord Jesus with all we have because there are so many people right in our area who need Jesus as Savior and people who need a church home.

-Pastor Ronnie

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

Wesleyan Child Care Center
Osa Bell / Director
wesleyanchildcare@gmail.com

Ministry Addresses

United Methodist Men /
Jody Woodward
ummcrestview@gmail.com

Women's Service Group /
Eileen Kurtz
wsgcrestview@mail.com

Soup Kitchen / Eileen Kurtz
soupkitchenfumc@gmail.com

From The Bottom of Our Hearts

To Crestview FUMC, thank you for the prayers, cards, flowers and plants and the outpouring of love and care for our family. We thank each of you. The dinner and food that was prepared is much appreciated by us all. Love and God bless, the family of Betty Stewart



Dear church members,

Thank you so much for your help with putting a blue tarp roof on my house. All of the people in the New Orleans area that you (and other church groups) have helped are very grateful that so many people have come to help us. I will always remember the help I received from Scott, Paul and Kyle. That did a GREAT job! May God bless them and your church for supporting them. Sincerely, Elaine D., Algiers, LA

We're Collecting Easter Egg Hunt Donations!

We are beginning to collect candy for our Easter Egg Hunt during our Palm Sunday Children's Festival on April 10. Stuffed eggs are always welcome! Please no chocolate or anything that will melt in our FL heat. Donations of candy and empty/stuffed eggs can be brought to Kid's Street, the church office, or Angela Long's office.



Ash Wednesday Service

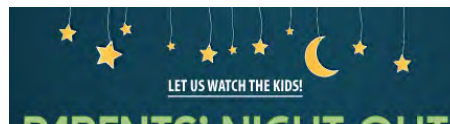
Please join us as we begin our journey through Lent together.

Main Sanctuary,
Wed, **March 2**, at 6:30PM.
Small groups will meet this evening and walk to service together.



Parents Night Out

We want to show our appreciation for parents by creating opportunities for you to have a night out to relax, go for dinner, or



enjoy a few hours to regroup for the week ahead.

Pre- Registration is required and available online at fumcrestview.com.

Date: Friday, **March 4, 2022**

Location: Kid's Street First UMC

Ages: 6 months - 5 grade

Time: 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM

\$5.00 Per child/Max \$20 per family

Drop off begins at 4:50 PM

Meal served at 5:45 PM

Snack served at 6:15 PM

Please bring a labeled snack and/or meal if your child has allergies or specific dietary needs. Notify our staff if there are any foods your child cannot be in contact with (i.e. peanuts, etc).



Youth Fireside Fellowship

The Fordyce family will be hosting this event at their home on

Friday, March 4th from 5-8pm.

For more info please see Paul Adams.



Comm-UNITY Dinner

Our next Comm-UNITY Dinner will be held on **Wed, March 9** in The Crossroads Center.

Dinner will be served beginning at 5:30PM. The UMM will be cooking us breakfast for dinner!

All proceeds from tonight's meal will go towards our Christmas Decoration Fund. Please bring a dessert to share if you are able.

Kid's Street & Nursery will be 6:00PM on Kid's Street.

Church Council will begin at 6:30PM.

Our Spring Book Fair will be taking place this evening as well as the Women's

Service Group's Dean's Cakes / Rada Cutlery fundraiser.

Please notate your intended attendance on your Sunday service grace note or email office.fumcrestview@gmail.com. See you there!



Love Your Church Day

Come have fun getting the campus gussied up for Easter!



We will meet at 8:30AM in The Crossroads Center on Saturday, **March 12**. We will have work will be for all ages and abilities!
Lunch will be served at 11:30 in the Youth Rm.
Rain date is Saturday, April 2.



One Blood

The Big Red Bus is scheduled to roll on in!
Location : The Crossroads Center side parking lot
Date : Sunday, **March 13**
Time: 8:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Promotion: All donors will receive a \$20 eGift card and a OneBlood St. Patrick T-shirt!
Plus, a wellness checkup including blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screening!
Let's roll up our sleeves and save a life!



Palm Sunday Service & Children's Festival Schedule

Sunday, April 10

One Combined Service in the Main Sanctuary at 10:30AM!

Adult Sunday School 9:30 -10:15AM
Kids' Street opens at 9:15AM (6wks - 5th grade)
Kids Sunday School 9:30 - 10:15AM
Kids will line up at 10:15AM to carry the palms into the Sanctuary.
Children's Church 10:45 to 11:30AM
Lunch Served at 11:40AM in The Crossroads Center
Children's activities begin at noon with games, face painting, bounce house and our annual Easter Egg Hunt (bring your basket)!
All children are to be accompanied by a parent at all times during this event.



Holy Week Schedule

April 10- Palm Sunday, One combined service in the Main Sanctuary at 10:30AM, Lunch in The Crossroads Center, Children's Festival & Egg Hunt.
April 14- Maundy Thursday
Communion service at 6:30PM in the



Main Sanctuary.

April 15- Good Friday Tenebrae Service at 6:30PM in the Main Sanctuary.

April 17- Easter Sunday, all services will worship at their usual time.

Schedule

Mother's Day Tea

After a 3 year covid delay we are finally able to host our Ladies Tea again!

The date is Saturday, **May 14** from 11:00AM to 12:30PM. Please come join this wonderful event of delicious food, fellowship and enjoyment all provided on a beautifully set table!

Our theme this year is "GOING BEYOND."

Our theme scripture is Romans 15:13, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope."

Deb Lubas will be our guest speaker. We will have our silent auction and an opportunity for photos to remember all the fun. There will be a kids table with a pirate and mermaid theme, so our boys and girls have something just for them! As usual, all proceeds go to Pastor Kris Kopacz in Poland. You can expect many pictures of the new chapel in Siemiany and all that Pastor Kris is doing! It is a blessing to be a part of building the only Methodist church in Poland. All donations are welcome! Tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children.

It will be a joy to have this lovely event again!

-Susan Hill



Vacation Bible School Dates

VBS dates have been set for **June 20 to June 24** of 2022. We will have an evening program for K-12 and preschool events during the day. Our schedule and more details will follow. Please add these dates to your calendar so you do not miss out on the fun! We are so excited and have already begun planning for an awesome week!!



'Through the Stained Glass' Mug #5

We're debuting on March 6 beautiful Mug #5 in our series collection that benefits Pastor Kris in Poland!

This mug features 3 Jesus windows from our Christ Chapel.

All mugs are 20\$ each and can be ordered on the clipboard outside of all Sunday services, email fumcrestview@gmail.com, call the office, or notate your grace note.



The deadline to order mug #5 is Sunday, March 28. You can personally view the mugs in our history hutch located in the hospitality area in front of the church office.



Pumpkin Patch Honorable Mention

Our church was recently awarded the 2021 Pumpkin Patch Fundraisers Patch Appeal Contest Honorable Mention. 851 churches, boy scout troops and other non profit organizations hosted pumpkin patches in 43 states in 2021. Appeal included more than the way our patch looked. The judging team looked at how the church worked together and reached out to the community. It is our hope that this patch will continue to attract our community to purchase their pumpkins and also serves as a light showing God in action!

We were told that there was a record number of entries to win the Patch Appeal Award this year. Although we did not win, we are so excited for our Honorable Mention. The award included \$75.00 that will be used toward outreach and enhancing our future patches. The Children's Ministry Team would like to thank all of those that volunteered their time and efforts to make our patch a success. Thank you again and mark your calendar for volunteering at the patch in October!

-Angela Long



Wesleyan Child Care Center

Here at Wesleyan, our teachers are always working on ways to further their education. Through the teach scholarship, our beloved teacher, Ms Amy Brubacher was able to advance her education, complete her schooling, and be awarded her Florida Child Care Professional Credential (FCCPC). We are so proud and blessed to have a teacher like her at Wesleyan!



"Commit your actions to the Lord & your plan will succeed." Proverbs 16:3

Childrens Ministry

Wednesday Night Activities: Please join us each Wednesday for our Kids Street programming from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM. The Children's Choir will meet from 6:00 PM to 6:30 PM. We have recently decided to move our location to the



Chapel building for Children's Choir and to begin our lesson. The children have enjoyed the opportunity to sing and praise in the chapel and are much more engaged and focused. We hope to continue to grow this ministry and meet the needs of our younger and older children. The children will continue to check in and be picked up on Kids Street. Nursery is available during this time for volunteers and parents that participate in our Wednesday night small groups.

-Angela Long

Small Group Reminders

Sunday School News:

The FISH Sunday school class will begin a six week study, **Witness at the Cross**, on Sunday March 6, 11:00am in the Crossroad Center, Asbury Room. If you would like to participate, please email Cathy Thigpen, caleejo@cox.net so materials may be ordered. All are welcome.

Witness at the Cross by Amy-Jill Levine

"Place yourself as a witness of the cross and determine what your own testimony will be! Experience Holy Friday from the perspective of those who watched Jesus die: Mary his mother; the Beloved Disciple from the Gospel of John; Mary Magdalene and the other women from Galilee; the two men, usually identified as thieves, crucified with Jesus; the centurion and the soldiers; Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Jews and Romans, friends and strangers, the powerful and the powerless, the hopeful and the despairing."
Abingdon Press Room:



Spring Session Small Groups: To kick off our Spring Session we will have our Book Fair on March 10, 2022. We look forward to our bible studies continuing through the Spring and hope you take an opportunity to come and hear about the study opportunities on this night as you attend our community dinner. Please contact Angela Long if you are interested in any of our small groups or are interested in leading a study.

-Angela Long

First Church Women's Service Group

Easter is approaching which means the Women's Service Group is gearing up for a Dean's Cakes/Rada Cutlery fundraiser starting March 9 at the CommUNITY dinner! More details will be provided soon but in the meantime, all ladies are invited to our next meeting on Friday March 4, in Room 212 on the breezeway. We'll gather at 9:00 for light refreshments, our meeting will begin at 9:30, and we'll be ready to enjoy the rest of our day around 11:00. Our guest speaker organization will be SaveOne. If you have any questions or want to know about how we support our church and our community, please feel free to call the church office, talk with me, or join us for the March meeting.

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."



[Yarn Ministry](#)

"We look for wool and linen, And work with our hands in delight." Proverbs 31:13



We had one special community request come in from the Crestview Pregnancy Center for baby boy blankets and that is one project that we are currently helping them out with. Each new Mom receives a beautiful basket filled with baby needs and includes a sweet homemade blanket. We're excited to partner up with the Pregnancy Center to complete these baskets!

The Crestview Animal Shelter will soon open and the donations that we were going to take to the PAWS Laurel Hill site at Christmas (they have closed) have all been rolled into a donation that will welcome our new community facility and animal control officers. Pet blankets will be distributed to the animals and will be able to go to their new homes with them. Another partnership in our community! God is good and continues to bless us with new opportunities to love others with YARN in His wonderful name.

-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](#)

Prayer Network meets March 2 at David's Catfish House 12 PM. Come meet and pray with us. All are invited!

-Kathleen Woodward



[Greeters, Ushers, Liturgists](#)

Ash Wednesday, March 2 / Main Sanctuary 6:30PM
Corolla & Rollin Anderson

Morning Glory / Christ Chapel 8:30AM

Greeters:

March 6: Kit Callahan

March 13: Alesha & Robert Dabbs

March 20: Melanie & Gary Zick

March 27: Debbie Watson

Ushers: David Bloom and Walt Harkness

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:

March 6: Youth

March 13: Youth
March 20: Margaret Larson & Glenda McMasters
March 27: Viki & Terry Luster
Greeter/Usher Back: Darrell Smith
Ushers: Front - Dax Reeves, Terry Luster

Important Dates in March

March 2- Ash Wednesday Service 6:30PM Main Sanctuary, Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM at David's Catfish House
March 4- Women's Service Group 9-11:00AM Rm 212, Parents Night Out on Kids' St., Youth Fireside Fellowship 5-8:00PM at the Fordyce home
March 6- Trustees 3:00PM FH, Finance 5:00PM Rm 212
March 8- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213
March 9- CommUNITY Dinner 5:50PM CRC, Church Council 6:30PM CRC
March 12- Love Your Church Day 8:30-12:30 (rain date is April 2)
March 13- Daylight Savings Time begins, One Blood 8:00AM-1:00PM, Children's Ministry 12:15PM Kid's St., Youth Committee 12:15PM Conf Rm, Missions 5:00PM Rm 212
March 14- United Methodist Men 6:00PM FH
March 18- Sr. Ministry Game Day 11:00AM-2:00PM FH
March 20- Kid's St Spring Break Kick-Off 12:00PM, Long Range Planning 5:30PM Youth Rm
March 21- April Newsletter Deadline
March 22- Worship Committee 5:30PM Conf Rm, Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213
March 23- No Youth tonight!
March 29- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Paneras (5th Tues!)

**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

April 1- Women's Service Group 9-11:00AM Rm 212
April 3- Youth Committee 12:15PM Conf Rm
April 6- Spring Small Groups Begin, Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM at David's Catfish House
April 10- **Palm Sunday**, One Combined Service in the Main Sanctuary at 10:30AM, Lunch in the CRC, Festival & Egg Hunt on the Grounds, Missions 5:00PM Rm 212
April 11- United Methodist Men 6:00PM FH
April 12- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213
April 14- **Maunder Thursday** Service 6:30PM Main Sanctuary
April 15- **Good Friday** Tenebrae Service 6:30PM Main Sanctuary, Sr. Ministry Game Day 11:00AM-2:00PM FH
April 17- **Easter**, Pastor Ronnie's Birthday
April 18- **Easter Monday** Church Office is Closed, May Newsletter Deadline
April 22 through 24- Youth Discovery Weekend
April 26- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213
April 29 through May 1- Youth Discovery
May 1- Youth Discovery Sunday 9:45AM CRC (special service), 8:30AM & 11:00AM services as normal

*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



A Prayer for Ash Wednesday

We forget sometimes that ashes come from fire,
That this soft black powder was once a firm green frond,
Bright and vibrant before it became dry and brittle,
Stiff and fibrous before a flame transformed it into dust.

Every living thing submits to change.

Let's not fear it.

From seed to plant, palm to ash,
This bit of the earth smudged on our foreheads today
Was carried lovingly in the hands of the Creator.

What fires will we step into this Lent?

What new forms will our souls take
When we encounter the holy blaze of the Living God?

We are—it is true—ash to ash and dust to dust,
But whether in youth or in old age, in life or in death,

Let us be assured,

We are held, and we are God's.

Amen.

- Cameron Bellm

850-682-8994

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