



THE CONNECTION
March 2023
Newsletter

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Mission Statement

It was one year ago that we adopted a new Mission Statement. Do you know it? It's printed on our bulletin. Every person should be able to say it. Here it is:

Our Mission is to:

“Lead people to Jesus through God’s Word and equip them for discipleship.”

Our leaders developed this because: 1) it is Biblical, 2) it is clear, and 3) it is short and memorable (even for children).

Here are a few key concepts.

Jesus- He is the focus of what we do.

God’s Word- especially in this day and age of relativism, the Bible should be our foundation. A root issue in the chaos in many churches and denominations is an abandonment of Biblical truth.

Two tasks:

--**Leading people to Jesus** (evangelism, helping people to know Jesus as Savior).

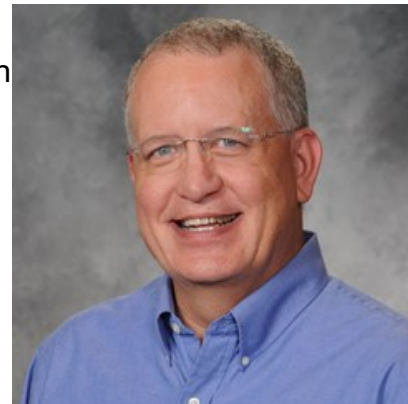
--**Equipping-** Our goal is not entertainment, but the transformation of people. We are called to make disciples and give people tools for making this happen.

All of our activities, one way or another, should somehow, some way tie into this Mission Statement. It identifies who we are, what we value, and where we should be expending our efforts.

Special Worship Services

Come join us for the special worship services leading up to our Resurrection Celebration.

April 2, Palm Sunday. We will have one combined worship service at 10:30. After church, we will have dinner on the grounds with lots of activities for children.



April 6, Maundy Thursday Service at 6:30. We will celebrate Holy Communion.

April 7, Good Friday Service at 6:30. This year, we will celebrate a Tenebrae service of shadows. I had planned to lead one last year- but I was sick and we had to re-organize. So I'm looking forward to this moving worship service this year.

April 9, Easter Sunday. We will hold our three regular worship services, and the ministerial association of Crestview will hold a sunrise service (more info next month).

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

-Pastor Ronnie

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Disaffiliation News

Our disaffiliation vote is scheduled for Sunday, **March 12** at 2:30PM. Doors will open at 1:30PM. Please bring a form of ID with you. This is also the first day of Daylight Savings time, so please plan accordingly.

If we do choose to disaffiliate then votes for new name and logo will take place directly afterwards. Please keep our church members, Pastor Ronnie & staff, and those on the Long Range Planning Committee in prayer as we move through this process.



In the Midst of 40 Days of Prayer and Fasting

Join us for 40 days of prayer and fasting as we seek God leading up to this important disaffiliation vote in our church. The 40 days officially runs through **March 12**.



Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday ~ April 2

One joint service at 10:30AM in the Main Sanctuary.

FB Livestreamed.*

Lunch & Children's Festival to follow.

**No evening activities
scheduled for Wednesday, April 5**

**Maundy Thursday Communion
Service ~ April 6**

6:30PM in the Main Sanctuary. FB
Livestreamed. *

**Tenebrae / Good Friday Service ~
April 7**

6:30PM in the Main Sanctuary. FB
Livestreamed. *

**Easter Celebration ~ Sunday, April
9**

8:30, 9:45 & 11:00AM services will
be celebrating the resurrection of our
Lord and Savior!

9:45 & 11:00AM services will be FB
Livestreamed. *



**Nursery available for children 6 weeks to age 4 for all Holy Week Services.*

One Blood

One Blood's Big Red Bus will be on campus on
Sunday, **Feb 26** from 8:00AM-1:00PM in the lot
next to the Crossroads Center.

All donors will receive a \$20 eGift card & a One
Blood long sleeve T-shirt, plus, a wellness checkup
including blood pressure, temperature, iron count,
pulse and cholesterol screening.
Save a life and donate blood!



Parents Night Out

March 3 is our next night to show
appreciation for our parents and have a
great time with the FUMC Kids.

Register on our
website fumcrestview.com or contact Angela
Long at kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com for
additional information.

Keep in mind that all dates are tentative and
pending the current community and safety
precautions required.



Love Your Church Day

It is time for Spring cleaning in preparation for Easter! Love Your Church Day is Saturday, **March 4** from 8:30 - 11:15AM. We will have pizza for lunch at 11:30AM in the Crossroads Center.

A sign-up sheet and a list of small work projects will be found in the lobbies of each service. We encourage children to work alongside their parents but if you have a child between 6 weeks - 5 yrs old

and would like childcare please contact Angela Long at kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com to ensure we have staff on hand for you.



Community Dinner

Save the date! Our Women's Service Group will be cooking baked ziti, salad, garlic knots and also providing desserts for us on Wed, **March 8**. A donation box will be set up to help offset the cost of the meal. All proceeds will benefit our FUMC Children's Ministry.

Youth, Kid's Street and Nursery, and Chancel Choir will meet at their usual time. Church Council will begin at 6:30PM.



Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt Donations

Palm Sunday is coming soon, **April 2!** We are in need of candy and some plastic Easter Eggs to make this year's day better than ever. Turn in your donations to Angela Long. There will be a box outside of Angela's office for Palm Sunday Donations!



Discovery Weekend 2023

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

Who's Invited? All current 5th through 12th graders
Volunteers needed? YES AND AMEN!

What is it?

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

for our current 5th through 8th 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

MINISTRY UPDATES

Childrens Ministry

Reminder: Parents Night Out is scheduled for March 3rd, 2023. For all those registered, please check your email and/or the church website for all details.



Kids Street needs you! We would love to have more volunteers on Wednesday nights and for our special events. See Angela Long or any Children's Ministry Team Member for more information.

There will be no Wednesday night activities for the children on **March 22, 2023** due to Spring Break.

Save the Date: **VBS Dates are June 19 to June 23.** We will have a day session for preschool age children and evening session for K to 5th graders. Registration is now open at fumcrestview.com. More details coming soon.

PALM SUNDAY SERVICE AND EASTER EGG HUNT

April 2, 2023 we will celebrate Palm Sunday in a combined service at 10:30 AM and then have our annual Palm Sunday Event on Alabama Street and a light lunch.

The children will meet in the front of the church Sanctuary at 10:15 am for the procession of the palms. The following is a schedule of the days events and some announcements for all.

- Adult Sunday School 9:30am-10:15am
- Kids' Street open at 9:15am, 6wks—5th grade
- Kids Sunday School—9:30am to 10:15am
- Kids will line up at 10:15am to carry the palms into the Sanctuary.
- Children's Church—10:45am to 11:30am
- Lunch served at 11:40 am outside of the Christ Chapel (Alabama Street)

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/guardian at all times during this event.

-Angela Long / Family Discipleship Coordinator

kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com , fumc.smallgroups@gmail.com

[Youth Ministry](#)

2023 has already been an awesome year for our youth program!

We have finished the Gospel of John and began our studies in the book of Exodus! In February, we had our high-schoolers only Discovery Planning Lock-In. Most of the high-schoolers in our group spent the night at the church to plan out the most important parts of our annual **Discovery weekend which takes place April 14-16**. They got a lot done and had a great time of fellowship together.

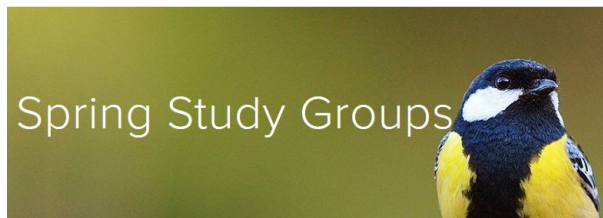
At the time of writing this, the Youth Yard sale has not taken place yet. However, so far many preparations have gone into making the yard sale successful, and we have already received so many gracious donations from the church. I hope and pray that it is a huge success and brings plenty of funds to the youth program. I will surely provide a full update on how the yard sale went in the April newsletter next month. Thank you to all who donated or helped in any way with this fundraiser! And as always, thanks to everyone who continues to pray for our youth and give to the program.

In Christ,
-Paul Adams, fumcrestviewyouth@gmail.com



[Adult & Family Ministry](#)

Our Fall Small Group Session is coming to an end and we will be hosting another Book Fair and Sign up for the Spring Session beginning on **March 8, 2023** at our Community Dinner. We are still in need of a few more study leaders. Contact Angela Long for more details or to sign up to lead or assist with leading a small group class.



Our Sunday School classes are all diving into the new curriculum in Spring! Check out our website to find a class that fits into your Sunday schedule and feel free to join a class. It is a perfect time. New Curriculum. Spring. Fun & Fellowship!

We are in need of Vacation Bible School Leaders and volunteers. Keep a watch for our sign up table and that will be up in the Crossroads Center in March. We will be putting out our needs list as well

-Angela Long, Family Discipleship Coordinator
kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com
fumc.smallgroups@gmail.com

[Soup Kitchen News](#)

Are you interested in serving the hungry in our community the first Saturday of every month? Our Soup Kitchen is looking for a 1st Saturday leader!

For more info please contact our Soup Kitchen Coordinator, Deb Lubas, at 401-742-4898.

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.



Yarn Ministry

Spring has sprung!

All of the beautiful colors of flowers and trees (this is not the place to bring up pollen because we're trying to be cheerful here) remind me of all the colors of our yarn stash!

If you've ever been in Yarnia, aka Rm 213, you would first notice our 'wall o' yarn!' Our shelves take up a lot of space filled with tubs that hold a LOT of COLORFUL yarn- much like our Spring landscape today.

We encourage our Yarnies to take advantage of available stash to provide supplies for items they will make to donate. All clean yarn donations are gratefully accepted. You can drop donations off at the church office during normal business hours- thank you!

We will meet on Tues, March 14 & 28 at 6:00PM in Rm 213.

-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



Crestview Prayer Network

Did you know that Crestview is home to over 60 churches? And in North Okaloosa County there are over 150 churches? The Crestview Prayer Network (CPN) is working to synergize all faiths working together in our area. The first Wednesday of each month representatives from these churches meet for fellowship and sharing at Hideaway Pizza in Downtown Crestview.

Here are some highlights from the last meeting in February:

- Easter! Plans are in the works for a Community Easter Sunrise service in April. Be on the lookout for announcements!

- Prayer Focus: Every month the CPN has a prayer focus and this month is "Harmony in our Community." How wonderful and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony! (Psalms 133:1). Please keep our community in your prayers!



Prayer Network will meet on **March 1** at Hideaway Pizza at 12 PM. Come meet

and pray with us. Everyone is invited to come be a part of our group.

CALENDARS

March Greeters, Ushers, Liturgists

Morning Glory / Christ Chapel 8:30AM

Greeters:

March 5- Mike & Betsy Roy
March 12- Kit Callahan
March 19- Robert & Alesha Dabbs
March 26- Gary & Melanie Zick
Ushers- Robert & Alesha Dabbs

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 5- Sam & Debbie Renfroe
March 12- Corolla & Rollin Anderson
March 19- Glenda McMasters & Judy Beard
March 26- Margaret Larson & Connie Stapp
March Office door: 5- Connie Stapp, 12- Margaret Larson, 19- Bill Beard, 26- Gary Johnson

Ushers

March 5- Tom Giovanini & Tom Saunders
March 12- Mark Owens & Mark Young / side aisle ushers- Julie Fields & Eileen Kurtz
March 19- David Ordonez & Tom Giovanini
March 26- Mark Owens & Dax Reeves
Choir Jim Hight

Liturgists:

March 5- Mike Steen
March 12- Jody Woodward
March 19- Paul Adams
March 26- Claudia Creamer

Important Dates In March

March 1- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza, Small Groups end
March 3- Women's Service Group 10:00AM Rm 212, Parent's Night Out on Kids St.
March 4- Love Your Church Day 8:30-11:30AM
March 5- Youth Committee 12:15PM Conf Rm, Trustees 3:00PM FH, Finance 5:00PM Rm 212
March 7- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213.
March 8- CommUNITY Dinner hosted by Women's Service Group

March 12- Daylight Savings Time (Set your clocks ahead one hour Saturday night!), 40 Days of Prayer ends, Disaffiliation Vote 2:30PM
March 13- 8th Ave Men 6:00PM FH
March 19- Children's 12:15PM Kids St
March 20 through 24- Spring Break
March 20- April Newsletter Deadline
March 21- Worship 5:30PM Conf Rm, Missions 6:30PM Rm 213
March 22- Kid's St & Youth will not meet due to Spring Break
March 26- Long Range Planning 3:00PM Asbury Rm
March 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

Looking Ahead To April

April 2-April 9 is Holy Week!

April 2- **Palm Sunday Combined Service**- 10:30AM in the Main Sanctuary, Lunch & Children's Festival (begins directly after lunch)

April 5- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza, No Kid's St. or Youth activities this week

April 6- **Maundy Thursday Service** at 6:30PM in the Main Sanctuary

April 7- Women's Service Group 10:00AM Rm 212, **Good Friday Tenebrae Service** at 6:30PM in the Main Sanctuary

April 9- **He is risen indeed! Easter Services** at all 3 regular worship times

April 10- Easter Monday- church office will be closed, 8th Ave Men 6:00PM FH

April 11- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213.

April 16- Youth Discovery at 9:45AM worship service

April 24- May Newsletter Deadline

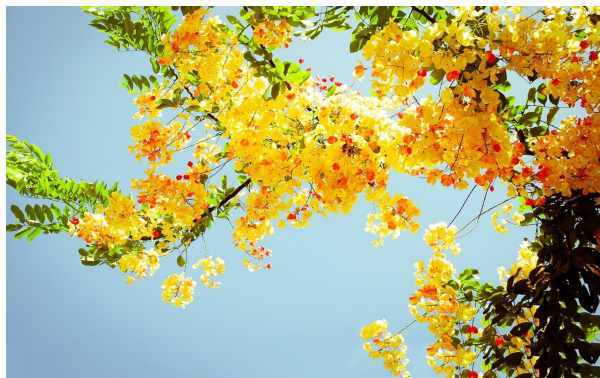
April 25- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213

April 29- Youth Soup Kitchen & Ice Cream Social

**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 MOMENT OF REFLECTION



***“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace;
the mountains and the hills
before you shall break forth into singing,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.”
-Isaiah 55:12***

For Flowers That Bloom

For flowers that bloom about our feet;
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;
For song of bird, and hum of bee;
For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

For blue of stream and blue of sky;
For pleasant shade of branches high;
For fragrant air and cooling breeze;
For beauty of the blooming trees,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

FUMC INFO

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

First United Methodist Office Schedule

Mon - Thurs 9:00AM- 4:00PM
Staff Meetings Mondays 9:30-11:30AM
Lunch 12:00-1:00PM

First United Methodist Church Contacts

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, fumc.smallgroups@gmail.com
Youth Ministry - Paul Adams
fumcrestviewyouth@gmail.com
Facilities Manager - Chris Woodward
fumfacilities@gmail.com
Music, Contemporary - Calli McGraw
calli.mcgraw@gmail.com
Music, Traditional - Kevin Lusk
Organist - Leon Curenton
Wesleyan Child Care Center - Osa Bell / Director
wesleyanchildcare@gmail.com

Ministry Addresses

Soup Kitchen / Deb Lubas, soupkitchenfumc@gmail.com
United Methodist Men / Jody Woodward, ummcrestview@gmail.com

First United Methodist Church

599 Eighth Ave, Crestview, FL 32536, 850-682-8994
For all the latest from FUMC please visit:
Website & calendar: fumcrestview.com
App store: FUMCrestview



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