



THE CONNECTION **May 2021** **Newsletter**



A Note From Pastor Ronnie

Like Homecoming

I've pastored several churches with a tradition of Homecoming- a really large gathering of family, friends, and church folks who meet for a worship service and a meal.

One of the biggest parts of what made Homecoming so meaningful was seeing people you have not seen in a long time.

Well, I've been experiencing a kind of Homecoming at our church for the last few weeks! I cannot express my joy at seeing people that I have not seen in so long. With COVID cases drastically down and many people being vaccinated, there is a greater sense of hope within our community.

Worship Times

Sunday Mornings

Morning Glory at 8:15AM

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

Office Closure

Mon, May 31 / Memorial Day

Church Staff

Pastor

Pastor Ronnie Bearden

drronbearden@hotmail.com

Church Administrator

Angie Arnold

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Church Secretary

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Children's Ministry &

Family Discipleship Coordinator

Angela Long

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Youth Ministry

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Facilities Manager

Chris Woodward

fumfacilities@gmail.com

You know, that must be a tiny small glimpse of what Heaven will be like. We long to see Jesus- the author and finisher of our faith. But what a joy it will also be when we are reunited with family and friends.

Pastor Ronnie

Music, Contemporary

Nathan Hight

Music, Traditional

Kevin Lusk

Organist

Leon Curenton

Pianists

Pam Myers, Susan Smith

Housekeeping

Amy Lohr-Sticha

Sexton

Samuel Allen

Wesleyan Child Care Center

Osa Bell / Director

wesleyanchildcare@gmail.com

Thank You From the Bottom of our Hearts!

From a recipient of Christmas Cards for Prisoners Program:

I received a card from you around Christmas and had to respond back to first say thank you and why I am so thankful. This year was a bad year and around Christmas I was really thinking about ending my life. Why? Because I grew up in the system. Taken away from my parents at age 7 because of abuse. So all my life, this was I knew. Out of the blue, I received your card. I realized in that moment that you actually cared enough about me to take time out of your day to write in a card when you could have been doing anything else. Only Jesus' love through you touched my heart at that moment and I wanted to live again. I thank you for what you do. Only God could have made such amazing wonderful people like you. Know that I am forever grateful to you. May Jesus bless you.



From Pam Callahan:

I appreciate the prayers of my church during my ongoing recovery from two back surgeries in June and July. Due to nerve damage, requiring the 2nd surgery, the recuperation has been long and hard. Knowing my church family continues to support me in prayer has helped me heal to the point that I am ending the first month of physical therapy. Progress is slow, but with God's mercy and grace I am determined to be completely rehabilitated soon.

My mother, Ruth McNeil, needs prayer for healing of pain and weakness due to severe sciatica. At 91, another surgery isn't an option so she, too, is having physical therapy for balance and strength and is now going to pain management.

For nine months Kit has been our constant caregiver by meeting our physical and emotional needs. As my mother says, "I am glad we married Kit!" He continuously works inside, outside, is chauffeur, personal shopper and more for two households! I have loved him since we were freshmen in college together and that love grows stronger each passing day.

I love my church family and I am well blessed! God is good all the time. All the time God is good!

From Rosemary, Art, and the Luckie family:

To all our Crestview FUMC Church Family,

Words can't express the thankfulness we have for each of you. The love, support, and prayers were abundant, and it all made the loss of our baby grandson so much more bearable. We are grateful also for the cards, calls and meals provided for our family. God has blessed us with the best church family ever, and we love each of you so very much.

Blessing of the City of Crestview

CRESTVIEW — The city, its first responders, its leaders and its people received the combined and individual blessings from multiple area clergy members during a recent Blessing of the City, a worship service held in Spanish Trail Park to allow outdoor social distancing.



More than 20 cars, many containing multiple family members and friends, lined up to face the stage while the service was broadcast on the car radios. In lieu of “amens” when appropriate, worshipers were invited to toot their horns.

Held on the first day of spring, the March 20 event, sponsored by Destiny Worship Center, inspired Mayor JB Whitten’s opening remarks.

“Spring reminds us of the eternal cycle of death and rebirth and renewed life,” he said. “During springtime, we look for the leading of God in new activities, and ventures into new opportunities. This lines up well here in Crestview as we are ‘raising the bar’ as we pursue these new challenges.”

“Raising the bar” is the city’s 2021 motto.

The service opened with an invocation by the Rev. Mark Broadhead of the First Presbyterian Church of Crestview, followed by a scripture lesson from 2 Chronicles, 7:14 — “if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land” — from City Manager Tim Bolduc.

Then pastors representing some of Crestview’s many churches offered their respective prayers.

- Pastor Dr. Ronnie Beardon, First United Methodist Church, prayed for healing from the COVID pandemic and for medical professionals;
- Pastor Ray Beasley, Destiny Worship Center, prayed for the Crestview Police Department, peace in city neighborhoods, “an end to senseless shootings and an end to human trafficking”;
- Pastor Clint Nelson, Lifepoint Church, prayed for unity among neighbors, the faith community and for racial reconciliation;
- Pastor Jerry Nelson, Live Oak Baptist Church, prayed for federal, state, county and city elected officials and Godly influence on their decision making;
- Apostle Dr. Darlene Haynes-Scheuermann, senior pastor of Kingdom Life Worship and Training Center, prayed for the homeless, unemployed and those in poverty in our community; and,
- Pastor Sanford Hayes, New Life Missionary Baptist Church, prayed for our military, firefighters, city workers and businesses in our city.

Two musical interludes were performed by Leah Bolduc, a local student and member of the Destiny Worship Center’s worship band. Many of the pastors and worshipers who stood near the front of the gathering, sang along with “God keep You and Bless You.”

During his benediction, Chaplain Robb Suggs, reminded the gathering that “God begins in the home. God works from the bottom up, not the top down. We need to seize that again. We need to start again in our own hearts, our own families and our own city.”

“What a great city we live in where we can have pastors from across the spectrum praying for our community,” Mayor Whitten said during his dismissal at the service’s end.

A chorus of car horn toots heralded the successful conclusion of what the mayor and the city’s faith

community leaders hope will become an annual event.

Looking for Audio/Visual Minded Volunteers!

Interested in learning the sound board & all things camera techy? We're looking for volunteers to work the audio/visual equipment for the 8:15AM Morning Glory service and the 11:00AM Traditions service. It isn't difficult to learn and you get prime seating. Call the front office if this is your thing!



Food Drop Dates

Scheduled Crestview Food Distributions at Spanish Trail Park:

May 1st at 7am

May 15th at 7am

Our next Feeding the Gulf Coast Food Distribution (or as we say...the Food Drop) is happening on May 1 at Spanish Trail Park Amphitheater. We start at 7am and are usually done by 11am if all goes well...if you can only make a portion of the time that is great too. We will definitely need parking lot helpers, people to help with registration (go car to car and fill out paperwork), and a few people to help with bagging any miscellaneous bakery items that arrive, car loaders and then traffic control. Please contact Kristen at sallbergs@yahoo.com if you can make it or if you have any questions!

Please help get the word out to your neighbors, friends and family for anyone who might have a need!

-Kristen Sallberg

**Drive-Up
Food
Distribution**



One Blood Visit

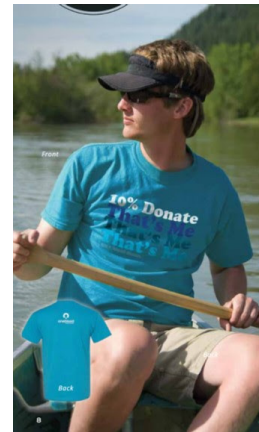
Calling all blood donors!

Location : Parking lot across from The Crossroads Center

Date : Sunday, May 16

Time: 9:00AM-1:00PM

Promotion: All donors will receive OneBlood T-shirt and a \$10 eGift card. Plus, a wellness checkup including COVID-19 antibody test, blood pressure, temperature, iron count, pulse and cholesterol screening!



Pentecost Sunday

Pentecost Sunday will be on **May 23**.

WEAR RED on PENTECOST SUNDAY!

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." -Acts 1:8



Senior Recognition Sunday

If you are a high school or college senior and are graduating, CONGRATS- we want to celebrate your accomplishment with you!

Senior Recognition Sunday will be held on **May 23**.

Please send your name, school you are graduating from and degree to office.fumcrestview@gmail.com.



Soup Kitchen News

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, the first three months of 2021 have been very successful. A total of 1,045 hot meals were served between January 2 and March 27, with an average of 8 volunteers working each Saturday. Generous donations to the soup kitchen in memory of Sam Field will help offset the cost of supplies and some food items, and we recently received donations of plastic bags for packaging the Grab-n-Go meals every Saturday.

We can always use more volunteers, and students who are looking for community hours are certainly welcome to help out, as well. If you're interested in joining us, please see me or contact the church office. Thank you for your support!

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."



Chris's Corner

Greetings to all and God's richest blessings to each of you. This past month has been a whirlwind, along with Holy week preparations, scheduled maintenance, painting, staining and completing a couple small projects, it went by really fast. I've received a lot of feedback from many of you about how nice the church campus is looking and I appreciate the feedback, encouragement and the help I receive from many of you. I look forward to the many challenges ahead in keeping our beautiful Church campus ...Beautiful!

Your friend in Christ,

-Chris Woodward, Facilities Manager



FUMC Missions

The Missions Committee met on April 11 th . The Soup Kitchen is still going strong delivering over 1,000 meals already this year and Eileen Kurtz is



working to keep the schedule of volunteers stable. This month we assisted in distributing 10,000 pounds of donated food to local community members in need. There will be 2 more food drops like this on May 1 st and May 15 th at Spanish Trail Park. Sager Brown is not yet open but hope is that an October 2021 trip may happen. Our Benevolence Ministry is serving fewer people this month than previously but there is still many in need in the community. Our mission work with Lima, Peru may be ending as the only person on the Peru staff is retiring this year and may not be replaced.

-Scott Sallberg, Missions Coordinator



Adult Discipleship

Small groups are back in full swing and many activities are going on here at the church. While many of us are physically back at church, we realize some have chosen to stay away for a while longer. Please know that we certainly understand the desire to stay safe as we continue to go through this unprecedented pandemic. Please let us know if there is any way we can reach you at home or if you are interested in any Sunday School class or Wednesday night class to be offered to you remotely. We do have several options for participating via Zoom and would love to help you connect if you need help learning how to connect. Please email. fumc.smallgroups@gmail.com if you would like more information on getting connected online.



Sunday School: Our Spring Quarter will end on Sunday May 30th bringing the start of our Summer Quarter on June 6th. For those thinking about rejoining a Sunday school class, this is a great time. Visit our church website for more information about our Sunday school classes.

Young Adult Group: Don't forget about our Young Adult Sunday school group. Those away at college are welcome to join via zoom or drop by when you are in town visiting. The class meets each Sunday at 11:00 am in the Crossroads building. The class will begin a new study soon and we would love for you to join us!

Adult Volunteers are needed for Vacation Bible School and Summer Activities. Email kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com to find out ways you can help.

- Angela Long

Children's Ministry

Kids Street Highlights:

Vacation Bible School is coming soon!!! July 12 to July 16 from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM Ages PreK 4 to 5th grade. Vacation Bible School. Registration is open. Please contact Angela Long if you are interested in an option for toddlers during the day.

Children's Moment with Pastor Ronnie:

If you are coming to the 11:00 Sunday, we want to make sure you know that we have resumed our Children's Moment during this service. Children are welcome to come with you to the service and walk over to Kids Street with our staff and volunteers after Children's Moment.

Kids Street Sunday Schedule: The nursery has returned to our traditional schedule. We are now open at 8:15 am to accommodate the return of our early service. Sunday School begins at 9:45 AM each Sunday with Chapel Time activities during the 11:00 AM Service. T



May Wednesday Night Schedule:

- May 5: 6:00 PM – Children's Choir Practice - Kids Street Activities
- May 12: 6:00 PM – Children's Choir - Followed by Kids Street Activities
- May 19: – 6:00 PM – Children's Choir Practice - Kids Street Activities
- May 26: - 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) and Wednesday Nights at 6:00 PM

- Angela Long



Yarn Ministry

Yarnies are just like every other crafter... sometimes we get caught up in the size of our yarn stash just like other hobby folks get caught up in the amassing of supplies and accoutrements. We look at our yarn stash and see the possibilities- OH the shawls, blankets, and hats that will come out of this ginormous pile of squish! We are quick to remind each other at each meeting who we are making these items for, to pray for the receivers, and to graciously receive the blessings from what God has commissioned us to do. It is a never ending circle of love and we ask God to be in the center of it all. This month's meetings will be held **Tuesdays, May 11 & 25** at 6:00PM in Rm 213. Please join us and get caught up in all the Yarnie fun!



May Greeters, Ushers, Liturgists

Morning Glory / Main Sanctuary 8:15AM

Greeters

May 2- F: Debbie Watson

May 9- F: Kit Callahan

May 16- F: Melanie Zick B: Gary Zick

May 23- F: Viki Luster B: Terry Luster

May 30- F: Maryrose Scott B: Lowell Scott

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

Ushers

Mike Roy & Melanie Zick

Contemporary / The Crossroads Center 9:45AM

Greeters & Ushers: Aimee Keller & Dan Taylor

Liturgists: Nell Sutherland- May 2, 16 (First & Third Sundays), Dan Taylor- May 9, 23, 30 (Second & Fourth Sundays)

Traditions / Main Sanctuary 11:00AM

Greeters:

May 2- F: Linda Biondi & Margaret Larson B: Darrell Smith

May 9- F: Mike & Sharon Steen B: Darrell Smith

May 16- F: Tom & Edie Giovinini B: Darrell Smith

May 23- F: Dax Reeves & Carli Owens B: Darrell Smith

May 30-F: Mark Young & Mike Steen B: Darrell Smith

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

Ushers:

Back (office): Darrell Smith

Front (narthex/foyer): First Sun/ May 2- Mark Young, Second Sun/ May 9 - Jim Hight, Third Sun/ May 16- Mike Steen, Fourth Sun/ May 23- Carli Owens, Fifth Sun/ May 30- Dax Reeves

Liturgists:

Lee Thigpen- May 2, 9, 23.

Paul Adams- May 16 (Third Sun)

Mike Steen- May 30

Important Dates In May

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

May 1- Food Drop at Spanish Trail Park

May 2- Trustees 3:00PM FH, Finance 5:00PM Rm 212

May 5- Worship Committee 5:30PM Rm 212

May 7- Women's Service Group 9:00-11:00AM Rm 213

May 9- Mother's Day

May 10- United Methodist Men 6:00PM FH

May 11- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213

May 12- Charge Conference (DS Tim Trent's last one with us- he's retiring!) 6:30PM Main Sanctuary

May 15- Food Drop at Old Spanish Trail

May 16- Blood Drive 9:00AM-1:00PM, Children's Committies 12:15PM Kid's Street, Missions 5:00PM Rm

212, Long Range Planning 5:30PM Youth Room
May 23- Pentecost. **Wear RED for PENTECOST Sunday!** Senior Recognition Sunday
May 24- June Newsletter Deadline
May 25- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213
May 26- **Pastor Ronnie's Birthday!**, Small Groups End
May 31- Memorial Day / Church Office is Closed

**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 June

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

June 4- Women's Service Group 9:00-11:00AM Rm 213
June 8- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213+
June 13- Youth Committee 12:00PM Youth Rm, Missions 5:00PM in Rm 212
June 14- United Methodist Men 6:00PM FH
June 20- Father's Day
June 21- July Newsletter Deadline
June 22- 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



*"Whoever says he abides in Him ought to walk
in the same way in which He walked." 1 John 2:6*

My Daily Creed

Let me be a little kinder,
Let me be a little blinder
To the faults of those about me;
Let me praise a little more;
Let me be, when I am weary,
Just a little bit more cheery;
Let me serve a little better
Those that I am striving for.
Let me be a little braver
When temptation bids me waver;
Let me strive a little harder
To be all that I should be;
Let me be a little meeker
With the brother that is weaker;
Let me think more of my neighbor
And a little less of me.

- Unknown

FUMC News

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