



THE CONNECTION

**May 2023
Newsletter**

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

May will be a big month for us!

We have moved through a wonderful time in Church Life with our big Palm Sunday gathering, Holy Week services, and our Resurrection Celebration.

Of course, May will be a big month for us.

We begin with National Day of Prayer week and we will have prayer stations set up again in the Main Sanctuary this year. The sanctuary is open for prayer Monday May 1 – 4 from 1 pm to 4 pm. The Day of prayer is Thursday, but many requested more time to pray. There are 14 stations for guided prayer if you wish to follow them. Prayer begins and ends at the front Altar rail.



Also in May, we have been approved for the final vote on Disaffiliation. The May 7 Special Session of Annual Conference will be streamed online at 4 pm and you can watch of you like (though it may be very long and a bit tedious since about 197 churches have been approved for a Disaffiliation vote). Each church will be called by name and we will probably go by Districts (we are in the Pensacola District).

If you want to watch, you may go to the Annual Conference webpage and look for the link on that day.

<https://www.awfumc.org/>

The meeting for delegates will be by zoom instead of in-person.

If approved, a lot of work will begin. Our Facilities Manager, Chris Woodward and our Church Administrator, Angie Arnold, have long to-do lists. Please check with them for ways to help.

Our final cost for the Disaffiliation fees to the Annual Conference is: \$193,850. We rejoice that we have already collected about \$65,000 toward the fees for Disaffiliation- and some folks have told me they still plan to make a gift. The more we collect, the less we will borrow. We have until about July 1 for payment to be made, but we will want to make that payment sooner rather than later. Almost certainly by the end of May. If you'd like to contribute, mark your checks "Disaffiliation."

Remember that on May 21, we will have a special Covenant Renewal Day with one combined service in the Main Sanctuary at 10:30 am. As we transition to the Global Methodist Church, members will all renew our membership vows. We will also have baptisms and new members join. My membership classes currently have about 23 people signed up. This will be a big day and I hope you will come and be a part of it. We are excited about the future.

Lastly for May, we always recognize those graduating. Watch the bulletin for more information.

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

-Pastor Ronnie

FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART

My deep appreciation to all who have offered encouragement, a hug, a prayer, and all the wonderful things that help a grieving heart heal. It has meant the world to me. My family and I thank you.
In Christian love,
-Judy Beard



ANNOUNCEMENTS

'National Day of Prayer' Week Long Observation

National Day of Prayer Observed May 1-4

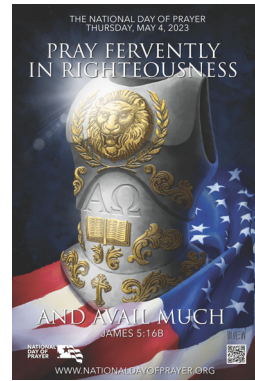
Save the dates!

Our Main Sanctuary will be open from 1:00-4:00PM

Mon-Thurs, **May 1 through May 4,**

for anyone who would like to come and spend time in prayer & reflection.

Each station around the sanctuary will have a different prayer prompt. Come and be blessed! .



CommUNITY Dinner

At the Crossroads Center on Wed, May 10!

Our FUMC Missions team will be serving holiday ham, real mashed potatoes, southern green beans and scrumptious rolls.

Please bring a dessert to share if you are able.

A donation box will be set out to help offset the cost of the meal.

A special silent auction for Pastor Kris will also be taking place.

All proceeds from dinner and the auction will go towards Pastor Kris.

Kids St, Youth and Chancel Choir will meet as usual.

Dinner will be served at 5:30PM.

Church Council will begin at 6:00PM.



Silent Auction Fundraiser for Pastor Kris

Join us for a special fundraiser for our brother in Poland, Pastor Kris, that will benefit his ministry, his 2 churches and his outreach toward Ukrainian refugees.

Auction will begin this Sunday, April 30 at the CRC. You may place bids on **April 30, May 3, May 7 and May 10**, so check back often!

Winners will be announced at the Community Dinner on May 10.

Dziękuję!

(That's thank you in the Polish language.)

Silent Auction For Pastor Kris

Place bids April 30, May 3, 7, 10 in the CRC. Winners announced at Community Dinner!

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.

Location: Kid's Street, First UMC

Ages: 6 months-5th grade

Time & Date: 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM / **Friday, May 12**

\$8.00 Per child/Max \$30 per family

Drop off begins at 4:50PM

Meal served at 5:45PM

Snack served at 6:15PM

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).



Graduation Sunday

Congrats to all our Grads!

We will be celebrating with all of our High School and College graduates on Sunday, **May 14** in all services. Please send your graduate's name, school and the service time of the worship service that they attend

to office.fumcrestview@gmail.com and we'll make sure to add them to our roster.



Pentecost Sunday

Wear

RED

for

Pentecost Sunday

on May 28!



Vacation Bible School

VBS Registration is open!
Dates this year are **June 19 - June 23**.
We have a day program for the preschool
ages 3 to 5 years old
AND an evening program for K to rising 5th
graders!



MINISTRY UPDATES

Wesleyan Child Care Center

As the school year starts to wind down, our wonderful Wesleyan school, staff, and teachers, would like to take a moment and say "Thank you" to all the church volunteers that have helped to bless our school this past year.

First and foremost, we want to thank [Ms. Angela Long](#) for all the hard work she puts into our weekly chapel lessons. Thank you, Ms. Angela, for pouring into and loving on our wonderful students. Shepherding a child's heart is truly God's work.

Second, we would like to thank [Mr. Chris and all the members of the 8th Ave Men's Group](#). They have helped our school in many capacities over the last year, from our front entrance area, to painting and most recently, all the hard work on our playground. Our school/playground looks beautiful, and we truly appreciate all the hard work and time that they have invested.

Third, we would like to thank the [Boy Scout](#) group for their hard work building shelves and helping to organize our area in the Boy Scout Room.

Fourth, to the sweet ladies of the [Yarn Ministry](#) for donating and blessing us with extra blankets for our napping students.

Lastly, to every church member that has prayed over our school and students, to the volunteers that devote their time to the Wesleyan Board, and to the FUMC staff that help support and encourage our teachers and staff each week.

We say, **"Thank You!"**

-Osa Bell and WCCC Staff

"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen." - Peter 4:10-11



Childrens Ministry

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. for the Preschool session and K to 5th Grade session.

We are excited to announce that this year we will serve a light meal during our evening snack time to help out with the late night requests for a second meal when your children get home!



Parents Night Out - Friday May 12, 2023. Registration is open at fumcrestview@gmail.com

Last Day of School for Kids - May 29, 2023

Kids Day Out at the movies - May 31, 2023 - More details to follow.

Kids Street Summer Fun begins on May 31, 2023 - 6:30 PM

Promotion Sunday - June 4, 2023 9:45 AM Service

Children's Ministry Team: We would like to welcome Carrie Prescott and Tia Zandona to our team. They are already such an important part of Kids Street and we feel they will enhance and grow our current quality of care and programming. Many thanks to Crystal Boyles and Amy Downs who have stepped down from their roles this year. Amy Down will continue on as a volunteer on Kids Street Wednesday night and will join her two sons as a part of our Youth Ministry Team. We are so thankful for each member and all they do and pray that our ministry continues to grow over the next year.

-Angela Long / Family Discipleship Coordinator

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

Youth Ministry

Our 7th Discovery Weekend was a huge success! Together with 25 students(ages 5th-12th grade), we talked, walked, bonded, laughed, cried, testified, skit-ed and prayed our way to the cross. These students and all of our adult volunteers will forever be impacted by the time we spent deepening our relationships with each other and with Jesus. I would personally like to offer a humongous heart felt THANK YOU (and virtual hug) to the following people for helping make Discovery Weekend 2023 the best yet: Paul Adams, Jim Keller, Amy Downs, Luke Taylor, James King, Jody & Angie Woodward, Allen & Kim Bell, Erik Fordyce, Calli McGraw, Pastor Ronnie, Angie Arnold, Chris Woodward and Cathrin Owens. To our 2023 Youth planning team: Lauren Woodward, Allison Fordyce, Abigail Fordyce, Molly Keller, Kimmie Raiche, William King, Garrison King, Ryan Prescott and Thomas Raiche...we could not have accomplished such a great event without your faith examples, personal testimonies, creativity, great attitudes and devoted work ethic...THANK YOU!



As my children (Allison and Abigail) are Seniors and moving on to a new chapter this Fall, so will I. I have been serving as your Discovery Weekend Coordinator for 6 of the 7 years we have hosted the event. While I have loved every minute of my time in this role, alas, it is time for a new person with a fresh perspective to rise up and fill this role. As you may be aware, our Discovery Weekend retreat is held annually on the weekend following Easter. If you are reading this, please prayerfully consider coming forward to volunteer as a Coordinator or as Co-Chair role to help us continue this fantastic experience for many years to come. If you are not interested in helping lead the event but want to volunteer in some capacity, we would love to add your name to our contact list.

The planning for this event is ongoing and ramps up every January. If you feel led to serve, please connect with Paul Adams (fumcrestviewyouth@gmail.com) or the church office.

Many blessings to all,
-Sara Fordyce

Additional Youth Information

As the year moves forward, we continue to read through and discuss the New Testament during our 9:45am and 11am Sunday School time. We are also continuing to read in Exodus on Wednesday nights. The youth still ask lots of questions and have good discussions on what we read in scripture!



Our next Soup Kitchen is in July, the same month we are taking our summer trip to Camp Baldwin. The trip will be from July 27th - July 30th, where we will be going to a Christian camp in Elberta, Alabama to grow closer to the Lord and have a wonderful time of fellowship with one another. The 8th Ave. Methodist men have graciously swapped soup kitchen days with us, so we will instead be doing our Soup Kitchen duties on Saturday, July 15th.

Also, we will not be meeting on the following dates: Wednesday: June 21st, Wednesday: June 28th, and Wednesday: July 5th. All youth are encouraged to be a part of and help with VBS in anyway they can, which is Monday, June 19th - Friday, June 23rd. But we will not have youth that week or the two weeks following.

Discovery Weekend was a blessing to be a part of. I am so thankful for this group of young people and so thankful to see how God is working in their lives. Please be in prayer for our seniors as they are about to graduate and move on to the next chapter that God has in store for them. Pray specifically that they are able to find churches wherever they move to for college, and that they stay strong in the Word and their prayer life during these years to come.

-Paul Adams
fumcrestviewyouth@gmail.com

Adult & Family Ministry

Thank you to everyone who helped out and joined us for our Palm Sunday Celebration in April. We wanted this to be a wonderful day for you and your family as we headed into Holy Week and a time to say thank you from the Children's Ministry Team. Most of our event is funded by proceeds from our Pumpkin Patch as an outreach to our community and building our program. So many of you supported the pumpkin patch in various ways and this is just one way we like to say thank you to you on such a very special day. Thank you, thank you, **thank you!**



We need volunteers for **Vacation Bible School**, June 19 to June 23, 2023. You can help us by leading an activity or a group, helping out in the kitchen, preparing crafts and activities prior to the big day, or volunteering to prepare or sponsor a light meal for the children. Contact Angela Long to sign up or for more details. Kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com

Our **Summer quarter of Sunday School begins on June 4th**. If you have been waiting to join a Sunday School class this would be the perfect time. Check out our webpage on fumcrestview.com for all small group and Sunday School opportunities.

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

Soup Kitchen

Soup Kitchen Mission: Feeding Hungry Families
Home Cooked Meals Mission

The Soup Kitchen Mission should really be called Feeding Hungry Families Home Cooked Meals Mission. We prepare full course meals each Saturday, every week, each year. No Soup! Are you interested in serving the hungry in our community? This is such a rewarding opportunity to witness thankful people with families, while you give them food and bless their day. The joy it provides simply makes me tearful to have this opportunity to offer these suffering people relief with our nutritious meals. Join us to help relieve some of their pain with our meals made with loving hands. New volunteers are always welcome. We need your support to continue helping the hungry in our community.

For more information, please contact our Coordinator, Deb at 401-742-4898. Donations, please contact the front office.

Bless you all, FUMC Soup Kitchen Coordinator

Mathew 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

Prayer Shawl Prayer

Dear Lord;

Bless my hands as I create today.

Grant me patience as I work through this shawl stitch by stitch.

May each twist of the yarn guide me to create a pattern that reflects the Spirit of who You are.

Bless my handiwork as it travels to bring comfort to someone in need of your warming embrace.

I pray that each mistake and imperfection that lies within my work is a gentle reminder that life is not without blemish, they are but a reminder to wholly trust the Perfect One who loves us beyond all measure.

May the one who receives this shawl be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in mercy.

I pray that they will be able to know that You are with them and that they are



never alone, that they are cared and prayed for.

Blessed Be!

Amen and Amen

We end each meeting with devotion and prayer. We pray over needs in our group, our church, our community and bless the items lovingly made, that they will find their way to those who are in need. Amen, indeed!

Yarnies will meet on Tuesdays, **May 9 & 23** at 6:00PM in Rm 213 and **May 30** at Panera's (fifth Tuesday)!

-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

The Crestview Prayer Network meets the first Wednesday of each month to share fellowship and goings-on in the different churches in the North Okaloosa Area.



The next meeting for the Crestview Prayer Network will be Wednesday, **May 3**, at noon, at Hideaway Pizza downtown...all are welcome!

CALENDARS

May Greeters, Ushers, Liturgists

Morning Glory / Christ Chapel 8:30AM

Greeters:

May 7- Alesha and Robert Dabbs

May 14- Melanie and Gary Zick

May 21- John & Cynthia Leitschuck

May 28- Lowell and Maryrose Scott

Ushers:

May- Mike Roy 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

May 7- Tom & Edie Giovanini

May 14- Rollin & Corolla Anderson

May 21- John & Cynthia Leitschuck

May 28- Steve and Kathy Fowler

Office Door Greeters

May 7- Gary Johnson

May 14- Margaret Larson
May 21- Mark Owens
May 28- Connie Stapp

Ushers

May 7- David Ordonez & Tom Saunders
May 14- Dax Reeves & Tom Giovanini
May 21- Tom Giovanini & Rollin Anderson
May 28- Tom Saunders & Dax Reeves

Side Aisle Ushers

May 7- Glenda McMasters & Edie Giovanini
May 14- Margaret Larson & Rollin Anderson
May 21- John & Cynthia Leitschuck
May 28- Steve and Kathy Fowler

Choir - Jim Hight

Liturgists:

May 7- Mike Steen
May 14- Jody Woodward
May 21- Paul Adams
May 28- Claudia Creamer

Important Dates In May

May 1 through May 4- National Day of Prayer week long observation in Main Sanctuary from 1:00-4:00PM.
May 3- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza, Senior High Schoolers night at Youth
May 5- Women's Service Group 10:00AM Asbury Rm / CRC, Parent's Night Out on Kids St.
May 7- Youth Committee 12:15PM Conf Rm, Trustees 3:00PM FH, Finance 5:00PM Rm 212
May 8- 8th Ave Men 6:00PM FH
May 9- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213
May 10- CommUNITY Dinner to benefit Pastor Kris in Poland
May 12- Parents Night Out 5-8:00PM
May 14- Senior Recognition Sunday
May 16- Missions 6:30PM Rm 213
May 21- New Covenant Day- combined service at 10:30AM in the Main Sanctuary, Children's Committee 12:15PM Kids St
May 22- June Newsletter Deadline
May 23- Worship Committee 5:30PM Conf Rm, Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213
May 25- Spring Session of Bible Studies end
May 26- ***Pastor Ronnie's Birthday***
May 28- Pentecost Sunday **WEAR RED!**
May 29- Memorial Day / Church Office Closed
May 30- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Panera's
May 31- Choir On Summer Hiatus until Wed, Aug 9

*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

June 2- Women's Service Group on hiatus until September 1
June 7- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza
June 12- 8th Ave Men 6:00PM FH

June 13- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213
June 12 thru 15- VBS Decorating Week
June 19 thru 23- VBS Week
June 21- Kids St & Youth at VBS
June 25- VBS Sunday at our 9:45AM The Well worship service
June 19- June Newsletter Deadline
June 27- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213
June 28- No Youth

*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 I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." -Jeremiah 29:11

New Beginnings In Life

How did it feel the first time we started a new habit or hobby, the first hour we started a more challenging workout regimen, the first day we worked somewhere different, the first month of marriage, or the first year living in a new country?

New beginnings can feel both exciting and fear-inducing. Whenever we try something new, be it a new job or a new neighborhood or even just a new routine for starting our day, we may have questioned why we even decided to do it in the first place and a brief moment where we're tempted to go back to our comfort zone, to return to how things have always been before we dipped our toes outside it.

Whatever our fresh start may be, and no matter how 'big' or 'small' it is, a change in our normal routine can be difficult, and there will be many, many times when we want to make a U-turn. However, remember that if we do that, we may have returned to our comfort zone...but will that choice change and improve our lives in the future? Will we let ourselves be stuck in the same routine for a long time, never able to see how amazing of a person we can actually be if we just put in a little more courage and perseverance?

Remember to let go of limiting beliefs by sharing all our worries with the Lord.

Prayer For New Beginnings

Heavenly Father,

I kneel before Your presence in awe and reverence. You are the King of kings, the Lord of lords, the God of all gods, yet here You are, sparing me all the time in the world just to listen to my woes and give me peace and comfort.

There have been many trials in my life, and You were with me through all of them. In times of joy and abundance, there are times when I eagerly celebrate myself but forget to celebrate and thank You, the One who has turned all my successes into fortune. In times of hardship, I can sometimes be quick to blame You or question Your plans for me. For all these sins, my Lord, I am deeply sorry. My sinfulness does not deserve to be in the presence of Your glory, and yet You still patiently encourage me to correct my wrongs. For that, I am grateful.

Thank You for every door You have opened for me. Thank You for the gifts of education, of career, a healthy body and a positive support system, all of which have provided me with opportunities for growth and self-improvement. Thank You for every year that brings endless possibilities and for every new beginning that allowed me to drop the pain of the past and start anew, stronger and better. Through Jesus Christ, You gave humanity a chance to start afresh and be saved while inspiring others.

Lord, I pray to You with a hopeful heart. I open a new chapter in my life. There are new things ahead of me, and while I am eager to know what You have planned for me, I still feel anxious and unsure. As I slowly take baby steps while adjusting to this fresh start, please continue to make Your presence known in my life. I cannot predict the future, nor can I fully comprehend Your great plans for me, but I am at ease as long as I feel Your loving presence. Light a spark of hope in my heart, and help me grow that flame into a fire of excitement as I learn to see the new route ahead of me not as a detour toward a dark forest but as a highway to brighter opportunities.

These I ask in Your Most Precious Name,

Amen.

-AvePray

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
Office Closure Monday, May 29 for Memorial Day

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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