

THE CONNECTION November 2022 Newsletter

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Discernment

Speechless

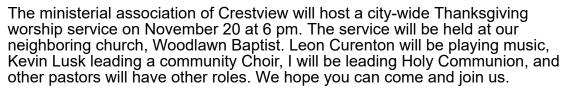
My dear church family,

Melanie and I have been overwhelmed by your generosity, your kindness and your expressions of love and support during Pastor Appreciation month.

Our cup is running over!

Thank you so much for your love and for being such a wonderful church family.







Our next Townhall will be held on Sunday, Oct. 30 at 3 pm in the Main Sanctuary. The Long Range Planning Committee has been given the task of proposing a plan should our church choose to disaffiliate from the UMC. That committee will lead this meeting and share their ideas, research and proposal as regards a future Methodist denomination.

Also remember, that our Long Range Planning Committee is soliciting suggestions from you, if we disaffiliate, as to what name our church should adopt and a new or revised logo. There are brown suggestion boxes located on the ledge at the main office and at the welcome center in the Crossroads Center. Several suggestions have been made (thank you). Please keep them coming.

I wanted to address an issue that has come up in various conversations and in our committee meeting. It seems there is some confusion as to the meaning of the word "denomination." We have discovered that when some folks here that "our church may possibly leave the United Methodist Church and join a new denomination", they fear we might become Baptist, for example (with all due respect to our Baptist friends whom we love). May I put your mind at ease. We have been Methodist since our founding over 100 years ago and I know of no one who is proposing that we cease being Methodist. It is who we are.



Disaffiliation is not about ceasing to be Methodist, it is about ceasing to be <u>United</u> Methodist. The only question our committee has been researching is to which new Methodist group should we join? The Long Range Planning Committee will share the results of their research on Oct 30.

I have also been asked to share the members of the committee because some people are very hesitant to speak in front of a large group in a Townhall. Thus, if you want to share ideas and opinions one-on-one, here is the committee: Aimee Keller, Angie Woodward, Bob Allen, Dan Taylor, Eileen Kurtz, Jennifer Raiche, Melanie Zick, Mike Roy, Mike Steen, Nell Sutherland, Sara Fordyce, Scott Salberg, Sharon Steen, Tifany Kruger, Viki Luster, and Walt Harkness.

This is a wonderful group representing a good cross-section of our church. I want to thank the committee for their many long hours that they have already put into this process.

Also, there is a lot of information related to Disaffiliation on our website. You can find info from our previous three Townhall meetings, as well as plenty of research both for and against Disaffiliation. Check it out at: https://fumcrestview.com/new-page-3

The October 30 Townhall should be our last Townhall meeting this year so I hope many of you will attend. The next should be sometime possibly in January.

And as always, remember:

- Listen. Each one who wants to share should be respected and heard. We should be patient with each other.
- Share. You yourself should consider sharing your views. You never know who else is thinking exactly as you. It is in the sharing that people get a sense of the overall leading of the congregation.
- Love. As has been pointed out in previous meetings, our church has had differences in the past. Our goal is to move through this time in a spirit of respectful love.

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

-Pastor Ronnie

HEARTFELT THANKS

Dear FUMC family,

Thank you so much to all who celebrated my 80th birthday with me, for all who brought food and organized the party.

It was lovely!

- Margaret Larson



Pumpkin Patch Volunteers!

I couldn't have done it without you. Our Kids Street program will be blessed immensely by your donations of time, energy, and love. It means so much to me.

-Angela Long

ANNOUNCEMENTS

8th Ave Men's Christmas Party

8th Ave Men, formerly UMM, are back with their annual Christmas party!

*Date: December 12

*Time: 6:00PM until 7:30(ish) Doors open at

5:30PM

*Ticket Price: \$12.50 each

*Tickets are on sale **Nov 6 through Dec 4.**

A UMM rep will be at all lobbies prior to Sunday worship services or pick up tickets at the church office during normal business hours.

*Meal: Turkey, Ham, mashed potatoes, stuffing, gravy, vegetables and dessert *Your evening will include: Music, good food, great friends, a year in review and awards. Come enjoy a great evening with your favorite men's group, 8th Ave. Methodist men!

*We are partnering with FUMC's Benevolence Ministry this evening by asking everyone to please bring a canned good or boxed meal to the dinner with your ticket.



CommUNITY Dinner

The 8th Ave Men (formally UMM) will be stirring up a spaghetti dinner complete with garlic bread & salad on Wed, Nov 9. A donation box will be set out to help cover the cost of the meal. All proceeds will go towards our Benevolence Ministry for the Christmas Angel Tree program.

Please bring a desert to share if you are



Plan on adopting a Christmas Angel and don't forget to bring an angel ornament (unbreakable) for the angel tree!

The CRC lobby will also hold our Winter Studies Book Fair, so come peruse our books and sign up for a study– we're saving you a seat. Youth, Kids St. and Chancel Choir will meet at usual.

Dinner will begin being served at 5:30PM,

the Church Council will begin at 6:30PM.

Angel Tree Christmas Program

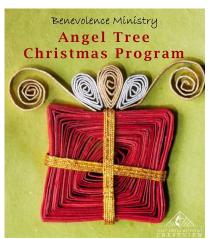
This year's Christmas program will kick off on Wed, Nov 9 at the CommUNITY Dinner. Our Benevolence team will be on hand to assist you in registering the tag that you choose off the angel tree located in the CRC lobby.

This year our angels consist of not only children but also those in our FUMC family that are home bound or living in assisted care facilities.

You can assist by purchasing gifts or by making a donation that the

Benevolence Ministry will use to purchase gifts. It's a beautiful way to share the love of Christ this Christmas!

(*If your family needs assistance, or if you know of a family in our church who needs help, please contact the church office.)





Angel Tree

We're asking everyone to please donate an angel ornament (unbreakable) to place on our Angel Tree in The Crossroad Center lobby starting on the CommUNITY Dinner evening on **Nov 9 through Epiphany Sunday.**

What a wonderful way to greet all who enter The CRC, with the good news of Jesus' birth!

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

Luke 2:13-14

<u> Acolyte Training</u>

Calling all interested children ages 3rd - 5th grade! We are holding an acolyte training session on **Sun**, **Nov 13** at 9:45AM. All children who have attended in the past are invited and encouraged to attend as a refresher.

Those who wish to attend should arrive on Kids Street by 9:45AM and we will walk together to the Main Sanctuary. If you arrive late, please meet us in the main church to join.



Poinsettias for Christmas

For the first time since Hurricane Michael decimated our local nurseries we will be collecting orders for poinsettias in honor or in memory of a loved one! Beginning **Nov 13 through Dec 11** you can place an order by completing a poinsettia envelope order form to include your payment. Envelopes will be placed at the entrance to each service. You can also download an order form from the website



at fumcrestview.com and return it to the church office.

A special Christmas day bulletin insert will list all who purchased a poinsettia and who is being honored/remembered.

Poinsettias will be ready to pick up after the Christmas Day worship service, which will be held at 10:30AM in the Main Sanctuary on Dec 25.

Poinsettias will be \$15 each and all proceeds will go to Pastor Kris in Poland to help with the completion of his new church.

Community Thanksgiving Service

Join our Crestview community as we worship our Lord and give thanks together!

This year's special service will be held at Woodlawn Baptist Church, 824 N Ferdon Blvd, on **Sunday, Nov 20** at 6:00PM.

Pastor Ronnie, Kevin Lusk and Leon Curenton will be assisting with the service. Hope to see you there!



New Church App & Electronic Giving

We are excited to announce that we are transitioning to a new online giving application... Tithe.ly. We are asking all our electronic givers to create an account and begin using the new Tithe.ly giving now. The current PushPay giving and church app will be disabled on December 8th and we will no longer have access to PushPay.



<u>Tithe.ly</u> is similar to our current giving site and is very easy to use. Click the button below to set up your new account with <u>Tithe.ly</u> today. If you need assistance, contact Angie Arnold at the church office.

<u>Tithe.ly giving</u>

*USE THIS LINK (or the link from fumcrestview.com)- do not go to tithely.com to register.

During this time of transition, you may continue to use the current giving with PushPay from our website and within the church app. However, we highly encourage you to set up your new account with **Tithe.ly** before December 8th.

We will be launching the new church app in the upcoming weeks. So be on the lookout for the new church app. You may continue using the current church app until December 8th.

We appreciate your patience during this transition time and thank you for your continued support through your giving. If you have any questions, contact Angie Arnold at the church office.

MINISTRY UPDATES

Wesleyan Child Care Center

Our Wesleyan students got to participate in FUMC Pumpkin Patch in October. They absolutely loved the experience. Miss Angela showed the kids all the different types of pumpkins. They got to touch and examine all the different colors, shapes, and sizes of the pumpkins. They were able to color a fun pumpkin page, play some games, and listen to a story. Thank you, Miss Angela, for creating such a wonderful experience for our Wesleyan students.

-Osa Bell, Wesleyan Child Care Center Director



Wesleyan Child Care Center Totes

What's in your WCCC tote?

Support our Wesleyan Child Care Center by purchasing a cheery red tote with the WCCC logo printed on it for \$5. Pop into the WCCC or church office during normal business hours to grab a tote!

All proceeds benefit WCCC programs.

We would love for our church community to purchase a bag and promote our school as they are out and about in town!



Childrens Ministry

Acolyte Training

November 13 at 9:45 AM. Ages 3rd - 5th grade. All children who have attended in the past are invited and encouraged to attend as a refresher. Those who wish to attend should arrive on Kids Street by 9:45AM and we will walk together to the church. If you arrive late, please meet us in the main church to join



Children's Christmas Pageant

December 10 at 6:00PM: The children invite you all to come out in December for our Children's Christmas Pageant, we are doing an all new play this year and think you will love it. We will follow the event with our annual **Happy Birthday Jesus party.**

November Wednesday Night Kids Street Schedule

5:45 pm - Check In begins (ages 6 weeks to 5th grade)

6:00 pm - Children's Choir (ages 5 years to 5th grade)

6:30 pm - Kids' Street Bible Lesson/Activity followed with Fellowship Time

7:30 pm - Parent Pick-up on Kid's Street

Important Dates for Kids Street Kids

November 2 - Christmas Program Rehearsal (We will begin going over the speaking parts)

November 9 - Christmas Program Rehearsal

November 16 - Christmas Program Rehearsal

November 23 - No Kids Street - Thanksgiving week

November 30 - Christmas Program Rehearsal

*Note - We will also be rehearsing for the Christmas Program each Sunday at 11:00AM for anyone that cannot make it on Wednesday evening. We will need to confirm those participating in the play by November 16th. Thank you so much.

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE NURSERY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS ARE NEEDED. Please call Angela or email at kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com for more information.

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

FUMC Youth

Even though 2022 has flown by, the youth have enjoyed every moment that we have gotten to spend together throughout the year. At the end of September, we hosted a Friday-night Lock-in where almost all of our youth gathered to play games, eat pizza, and celebrate our Lord. We ended the night by watching The Chosen, a beautiful show about the life of Jesus Christ.



In the past month, we have transitioned from our weekly readings in Genesis to the Gospel of John. We are already one-third of the way through and expect to be finished sometime in February. The youth are asking many good questions and are staying focused on the scripture. It warms my heart to see a group of kids so interested and in tune with the Word of God!

November is a huge month for our youth program! Here are some important dates this month that you do not want to miss out on:

On November 16th, our youth will be having our second annual Friendsgiving event. This is a big potluck that we host in the youth room for all of the youth and parents in our program. We ask each youth or family to bring in one dish of their choice. After everyone has arrived with their dish, we all stack our plates up with food and have a thanksgiving-style meal at long, family-like table in the youth room. Last year was a huge success and I hope this year will be just as good! That will be from 5:30-7:30pm in the youth room on Wednesday, November 16th.

The following Wednesday, November 23rd, we will not be meeting due to Thanksgiving break. And the week after that, Wednesday, November 30th, is our Christmas Celebration. We will be decorating our Christmas tree, celebrating, playing games, and most importantly: wrapping gifts and working on our Christmas project!! We need all the youth we can get for help! It has been an awesome year and I know that there will be many more great memories made before it ends! Thanks as always to everyone in this church who supports our youth. Many of you support through prayers, and some through giving and service. Please don't forget how valuable that is to our program and how much the youth and youth committee appreciate what you do!!!

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns dealing with FUMC Youth, please feel free to reach out through email at fumcrestviewyouth@gmail.com.
-Paul Adams

<u>Adult & Family Ministry</u>

We're looking for a few good shepherds that love sharing the Good News with others! If leading Small Groups is your jam (or you think it might be!) give us a heads up and we'll get you started. There are SO MANY good studies out there and our winter program will kick off Wed, Jan 11, so we've got lots of time to prepare.

-Angela Long
Family Discipleship
Coordinator, <u>kidsstreetcrestview@g</u>
<u>mail.com</u>
fumc.smallgroups@gmail.com

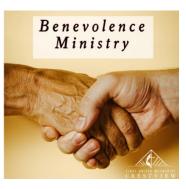


Benevolence Ministry News / Christmas Program

Living Our Faith Through Benevolence

Please join us at the community dinner on **November 9**, to see how you can help share the love of Christ with others in our community during the holiday season. Many people are struggling to make ends meet with the recent increases in the costs of food, gas, and utilities and could use some extra assistance to brighten up their Christmas.

Our angel tree will also be up at the dinner. It will have



a few new types of angels on it this year. In addition to reaching out to offer assistance to some families with Christmas gifts for their children, we are hoping to help brighten the holidays for church family members who are home bound or living in assisted care facilities. Tags for these angels will be available on the angel tree at the community dinner. If you or your Sunday school class or small group would like to share your blessings by adopting a child or a home bound senior for Christmas through our Benevolence Ministry, please contact the front office at 850- 682-2018. You can assist by purchasing gifts or by making a donation that the Benevolence Ministry will use to purchase gifts. It's a beautiful way to share the love of Christ this Christmas!

If your family needs assistance, or if you know of a family in our church who needs help, please contact the church office.

This year we will also have a reverse advent calendar available to pick up at the CommUNITY dinner. Come find out what it is and how you can use it to help people right here in your community via the Benevolence Ministry pantry. If you miss the dinner, the calendars will also be available to pick up at the church services and in the church office. The Reverse Advent Calendar collection will take place from Christmas to Epiphany Sunday, Jan 8, when we will have a special blessing at all three services for items donated.

Thank you for your generosity.
-Your Benevolence Team,
Vicky Anchor, Margaret Larson, Kristen Sallberg and Peg Harkness

Greeter & Usher Ministry

We are in need of greeters & ushers for the 11:00AM Traditions service! If you are interested in serving please see Viki Luster, notate your grace note, or call the front office. Thank you so much!



Soup Kitchen News

The FUMC SOUPers have been busy creating homecooked meals for our community in need. The numbers of those in need have been going up steadily. With the colder months ahead of us, these warm nutritious meals are being consumed with huge gratitude. Meals are supplemented with delicious bread and dessert donations from local businesses.

Santa and the elves have been serving new recipes to mix it up with the tried and true, loved traditions.

ALL of YOU, with GOD's grace allow this mission to continue. PLEASE carry on your support of this Mission to serve our community. Along with increased people in need, food, water, and container costs have increased 40%, despite our frugal measures.

- Want to volunteer? Contact me at soupkitchenfumc@gmail.com.
- Want to donate to FUMC Soup Kitchen? Contact the office at office.fumcrestview@gmail.com.
- Continue to Follow Us Facebook @FUMCrestview.



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

Happy Birthday Yarnies!

We're turning 8 and we're so excited!

Miles of yarn later and many friendships made, we are celebrating this milestone with a birthday party on Tuesday, **Nov 8** and a Yarn Blessing on Sunday, **Nov 13**.



A big thank you to our church for the support and the yarn donors- we couldn't do it without you. To God be the glory, now and always.

We will not meet on Tues, Nov 22 due to Thanksgiving week.

A Very Yarnie Christmas Party is slated for Tues, **Dec 13**. We will have a gift exchange (15\$ or less) and a cookie exchange (bring 2 dozen).

We will not meet on Tues, Dec 27 due to Christmas holiday.

All interested in this fun ministry are welcome!

-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

<u>Crestview Prayer Network</u>

Prayer Network meets **Nov 2** at Hideaway Pizza at 12 PM. Come meet and pray with us. All are invited!

-Kathleen Woodward



CALENDARS

November Greeters, Ushers, Liturgists

Morning Glory / Christ Chapel 8:30AM

Greeters:

Nov 6- Deb Watson

Nov 13- Alesha & Robert Dabbs

Nov 20- Melanie and Gary Zick

Nov 27- Kit Callahan

Ushers- Bob McCrory and Mike Roy

Contemporary / The Crossroads Center 9:45AM

Greeters & Ushers: Aimee Keller & Dan Taylor

<u>Liturgists (In Sunday order):</u> 1. Allen Bell 2. Dan Taylor 3. Nell Sutherland 4.

Ronnie Bearden 5. Dan Taylor

Traditions / Main Sanctuary 11:00AM

Greeters

November Front:

Nov. 13: Terry & Viki Luster

Nov. 20: Tom Saunders, Margaret Larson

Nov. 27: Tom & Edie Giovanni

Back: Judy Beard (6), Mark Owens (13), Gary Johnson (20), Margaret Larson (27)

Ushers:

Nov. 6: Tom & Edie Giovanni / side aisles: Terry & Viki Luster

Nov. 13: Mark Young & Mike Steen / side aisles: David Ordonez & Mark Owens

Nov. 20: Dax Reeves & David Ordonez / side aisles: Tom Saunders & Margaret Larson

Nov. 27: Mark Owens & Mark Young / side aisles: Tom & Edie Giovanni

Choir: Jim Hight

Liturgists:

Mike Steen (Nov 6), Lee Thigpen (Nov 13), Paul Adams (Nov 20)

Important Dates In November

Nov 1- Worship Committee 5:30PM Conf Rm

Nov 2- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza

Nov 4- Women's Service Group 10:00AM Rm 212

Nov 5- Youth Fireside Fellowship 5-8:00PM CANCELLED

Nov 6- Daylight Savings Time ends, All Saints Sunday, Trustees 3:00PM FH, Finance 5:00PM Rm 212

Nov 8- Happy Birthday Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213 (8 yrs old!)

Nov 9- CommUNITY Holiday Dinner, Angel Tree, Book Fair 5:30PM CRC

Nov 10- Office Closed for Veterans Day

Nov 13- Acolyte Training 9:45AM Main Sanctuary, Children's Committee 12:15PM Kid's St, Youth 12:15PM Conf Rm, Long Range Planning 3:00PM CRC

Nov 14-8th Ave Men 6:00PM FH

Nov 15- Missions 6:30PM Conf Rm

Nov 16- Youth Friendsgiving 5:30PM Youth Rm, Small Groups end

Nov 20- Thanksgiving Joint Service at Woodlawn Baptist 6:00PM

Nov 21- December Newsletter Deadline

Nov 22- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213

Nov 24- Office Closed, Happy Thanksgiving!

Nov 27- First Sunday of Advent

Nov 30- Youth Christmas Party 5:30PM Youth Rm

*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 December

Dec 2- Women's Service Group 10:00AM Rm 212

Dec 7- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza, Kids St Christmas

Pageant 6:00PM CRC

Dec 10- Kids St Gingerbread & Chrismon event

Dec 11- Youth Committee 12:15PM Conf Rm

Dec 12-8th Ave Men's Christmas Party 6:00PM CRC

Dec 13- A Very Yarnie Christmas Party 6:00PM Rm 213

Dec 18- Christmas Cantata in the Main Sanctuary at 8:30AM & 11:00AM

Dec 19- January Newsletter Deadline

Dec 22 through Jan 3- Office closed for Christmas holiday

Dec 24- Christmas Eve Services at 6:30PM & 11:00PM Main Sanctuary

Dec 25- Christmas Day Sunday Service 10:30AM Main Sanctuary

*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

MOMENT OF REFLECTION



We Thank Thee

For flowers that bloom about our feet, Father, we thank Thee. For tender grass so fresh, so sweet, Father, we thank Thee. For the 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, Father, we thank Thee. For pleasant shade of branches high, Father, we thank Thee. For fragrant air and cooling breeze, for beauty of the blooming trees, Father in heaven, we thank Thee.

For this new morning with its light, Father, we thank Thee. For rest and shelter of the night, Father, we thank Thee for health and food, for love and friends, for everything Thy goodness sends, Father in heaven, we thank Thee.

- Ralph Waldo Emmerson

FUMC INFO

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

The office will be closed on Thursday, Nov 10 in observance of Veterans Day, and Thursday, Nov 24 for Thanksgiving Day.

First United Methodist Church Contacts

Staff

<u>Pastor</u> - Pastor Ronnie Bearden drronbearden@hotmail.com <u>Church Administrator</u> - Angie Arnold fumcrestview@gmail.com <u>Church Secretary</u> - Cathrin Owens <u>office.fumcrestview@gmail.com</u>

<u>Children's Ministry & Family Discipleship Coordinator</u> - Angela Long kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com, fumc.smallgroups@gmail.com

Youth Ministry - Paul Adams fumcrestviewyouth@gmail.com
Facilities Manager - Chris Woodward fumfacilities@gmail.com
Music, Traditional - Kevin Lusk
Organist - Leon Curenton

<u>Wesleyan Child Care Center</u> - Osa Bell / Director wesleyanchildcare@gmail.com

Ministry Addresses

<u>Soup Kitchen</u> / Deb Lubas, soupkitchenfumc@gmail.com <u>United Methodist Men</u> /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:

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