



**THE CONNECTION**  
**October 2020**  
**Newsletter**



**From the Pastor's Desk**

**The Next Phase of Re-opening**

Dear Church Family,

It has been so very good to see a few more people each week come back to in-person worship. These have been challenging days, and I have truly missed you.

The COVID numbers for our county have been doing better. We had a spike in infections in July and partially into August. But that has dropped and has not spiked with school starting (one of our main concerns). Given these numbers, our leaders feel we can move to our next incremental phase.

Our COVID Task Force leaders have set October as the start date for resuming some in-person activities at the church. COVID precautions will still be in place.

I have a sense from some people that the concern for COVID should now be passed. While things are MUCH better than they were in March and April, the concern is still present—especially for older people and those with serious health issues.

Remember that Warrior Creek Missionary Baptist Church in north Alabama had a COVID crisis several weeks ago. The church normally worships with about 80-100. They held revival services during the pandemic and social distancing, shaking hands and masks were a bit loose in their practice. And as a result, 40 people came down from COVID at those church gatherings. This is exactly the kind of event we are trying to avoid.

We are trying to be wise. We have been open for worship since June, and we are trying to move forward incrementally as conditions warrant.

**Sunday School** resumes October 4 for those classes who wish to meet. We will still be practicing social distancing which means that some classes need to be moved to a larger room. Those assignments have not been made as of this writing and will go out by email and notices will be posted on the doors.

We know that some people may not feel comfortable returning, and we understand and support you.

It would be helpful for our office staff if we knew which classes will plan to meet, and which will

**Worship Times**

Sunday Mornings

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

**Church Staff**

Pastor  
Pastor Ronnie Bearden  
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Church Administrator  
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Children's Minister  
Angela Long  
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Director of Adult Discipleship  
& Congregational Care  
April Hight  
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Music, Contemporary  
Nathan Hight

Music, Traditional  
Kevin Lusk

Housekeeping  
Amy Lohr-Sticha

Maintenance  
Devon Stoy

Organist  
Leon Curenton

Pianists  
Pam Myers, Susan Smith

Sexton  
Samuel Allen

continue to delay.

**Wednesday Night Activities** will resume partially on Wednesday October 7. I say partially because the activities will be limited to children and youth for in-person meeting.

This means that adult small groups will start in-person meeting at a later date. And there's a reason for this.

Our thinking is that we want to move forward incrementally. Right now, the next phase to is have a full house on Sunday (with both Sunday School and Worship). But we do not want to jump to a full house two times a week. So getting our children and youth back to meeting is the higher priority.

A few larger weekly groups (outside of Wednesday) that have been unable to meet (like scouting) will now also resume.

**Items for a Future Phase** (not resuming at present)

**Small Groups on Wednesday** will resume later, as discussed above.

**Early Worship.** A lot of people have been asking about the 8:30 service. We are not resuming that service yet. I know that will be disappointing news to some, but we are trying to regulate our increase in activities incrementally. If you love Traditional worship, we encourage you to attend at 11 for now, as some are doing.

And let me say clearly again. I am committed to resuming early worship some day- and consider it an important part of our ministry.

**CommUNITY Dinners.** I look forward to seeing everyone when we can meet again for CommUNITY Dinners.

**Typical Funerals with Meals.** Around the country, funerals have been places where COVID is spread- there are many examples. Therefore, we will continue to use the same COVID restrictions for worship. Our church is also not providing a meal at this time.

We thus ask your continued patience and support as we move through these challenging days.

Thank you for your faithfulness and positive spirit during these days.

Pastor Ronnie

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### **Sunday School Is Resuming!**

On Sunday, October 4th we will be back to our regular Sunday School schedule. Below is the list of Sunday School classes and their NEW LOCATION for meeting to accommodate social distancing. Please notify your class attendees of this location change.



Agape--Room 212 at 9:45am  
Wesley Bible--Conference Room at 9:45am  
Biblical Pilgrims--Room 213 on the breezeway at 9:45am  
Messengers--Fellowship Hall at 9:45am  
Vines & Branches--Chapel at 9:45am  
Front Porch Family--Room 409 at 11am  
F.I.S.H--Wesley Hall at 11am

All classes have been arranged for social distancing and have a room capacity, so please do not rearrange the class or add any chairs. If your class becomes too large for this space, please let me know as soon as possible so that I can reassign you a new space.

If any classes are meeting online, please be in the classroom assigned to have your meeting online, as you may have guests that show up for the class in person.

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### Wednesday Night Children & Youth

Only Children & Youth will begin meeting on Wed, Oct 7.  
Stay tuned for more info on books, teachers, and locations for Small Group Studies.



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### Children's Ministry

Hello Kids' Street Parents and Families:

It's official!! Kids Street programming for Sunday School and Wednesday night will begin on October 4th. Our first night of Wednesday night fun will begin on October 7th. Please keep an eye out for announcements and more details about our schedule.



### Parents Night Out

Due to a lack of registrations we will hold off on the Parents Night Out event scheduled for October. We have so much planned that we are still excited and hopeful for our fall programming.

\*\*\*We continue to have a need for teachers and volunteers to help out on Kids' Street. We have several new babies and young children so even if all you want to do is rock a baby... that counts and we welcome you to become a part of the Children's Ministry volunteers! Contact Angela Long at [atfmc.angelalong@gmail.com](mailto:atfmc.angelalong@gmail.com) if you would like to join our team. \*\*\*

**I want to wish you all a safe year and know that we are praying for those of you choosing to stay at home. It is my commitment, with the support of the Children's Ministry team, to continue to provide programming that meets your needs as well. We will continue with online Sunday school and take home sheets and delivery of special events items to those at home. Please let me know if you need a Sunday School bag personally delivered to your house or have any needs.**

-Angela Long, Children's Minister

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### Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry Update: On August 31st, Paul Adams was hired as our new Youth Minister! He is the grandson of Barbara Sue Adams, who was a devout member of this church for most of her life. Paul is excited to grow our youth program and looks forward to meeting more of you over the next few weeks. If you would like to reach out, his office hours are Monday and Wednesday from 9am-4pm, and his email is [fumcrestviewyouth@gmail.com](mailto:fumcrestviewyouth@gmail.com). Our first youth meeting is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, October 7th.



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### UMCOR / Sager Brown Depot Mission Trip

Sager-Brown Mission Team Update!

Sadly, our UMCOR Sager Brown team trip for this year has been cancelled. We are so disappointed in not being able to go and do our service for the Lord there. COVID is still striking and causing havoc in our lives whether it is here at home or in doing missions elsewhere. However, we are taking the positive action and are already scheduled for next year! We thank you again for your support. The donations received will be used for next year's trip. Bless you, Pam Hight.

For more info on the Sager Brown Mission please contact Pam Hight at 850 758-8201 or [pjhight51@gmail.com](mailto:pjhight51@gmail.com).



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### Yarn Ministry

What a banner month September was! We had a huge Yarn Blessing and then the Yarnies stepped up to assist with the Pastor Kris fundraiser that helped make up the difference from the cancellation of the Mother's Day Tea. We covered the CRC hospitality area and we were quite amazed at the amount of items that we were selling on Pastor Kris' behalf.

Also, we donated a blanket and prayer shawl to Blue Lake for their silent auction. How wonderful to be able to support all of these wonderful ministries with YARN! Thank you, Jesus, for the opportunity to further your kingdom one stitch at a time! Our meetings this month will be held on Tuesdays, Oct 13 & 27 at 6:00PM in room 213. All interested in this great ministry are welcome!

-Cathrin Owens



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### September Greeters & Ushers

**Contemporary/The Crossroads Center 9:45AM**  
Aimee Keller & Dan Taylor

**Traditions/Main Sanctuary 11:00AM**  
Oct 4: Melanie Zick, Sam Field, Carli Owens  
Oct 11: Eliza & Linda Biondi, Dan Bradford  
Oct 18: Margaret Larson, Jim Hight, Isabelle Sallberg

Oct 25: Elaine Mantle, Mike Steen, Sam Field

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### **Important Dates In October**

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

Oct 2- Women's Service Group 9-11:00AM Rm 213  
Oct 4- SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION AT FUMC!!!  
Oct 7- YOUTH & CHILDREN ARE BACK IN SESSION AT FUMC!!!  
Oct 9- Parent's Night Out 4-7:00PM Kid's Street  
Oct 12- United Methodist Men 6:00PM FH  
Oct 13- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213  
Oct 16- Sr. Ministry Game Day 11:00AM-2:00PM FH (tentative)  
Oct 18- Missions 5:00PM Rm 212  
Oct 20- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213  
Oct 27- WCCC Committee 6:00PM Rm 212  
Oct 28- Kid's Fall Festival

*\*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

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### **Looking Ahead To November**

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

Nov 3- Women's Service Group 9-11:00AM Rm 213 (tentative)  
Nov 8- Trustees 3:00PM FH, Finance 5:15PM Rm 212  
Nov 9- United Methodist Men at 6:00PM CRC  
Nov 10- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213  
Nov 11- Church Office closed in observance of Veterans Day  
Nov 15- One Blood 8:30AM-1:00PM  
Nov 16- Dec Newsletter Deadline  
Nov 18- CommUNITY Dinner (tentative) at 5:30PM CRC, Church Council 6:30PM CRC  
Nov 20- Sr. Ministry Game Day 11:00AM-2:00PM FH  
Nov 22- Community Thanksgiving Service & Meal 5:00PM CRC  
Nov 24- No Yarn Ministry Meeting  
Nov 25- Church office closes at noon  
Nov 26- HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

*\*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

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During the month of October, two colors dominate offices and stores—orange and black. In every store you are bombarded by displays of candy and almost any type of costume that you can think of. Whether or not you will put out candy for the superheroes and goblins ringing your doorbell is a matter of personal opinion.

But October 31 is more than just candy and princess costumes; it is also Reformation Day, a day that celebrates the reformation movement that brought to light the authority of Scripture and salvation by God's grace alone, through faith alone. The Bible, the inspired Word of God, tells us: "It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast" ([Ephesians 2:8,9](#)).

For many centuries believers had been held in fear and guilt their whole lives because they had been taught that their relationship with God depended at least in part on their good works. The biblical truth that the reformation movement rediscovered and proclaimed centers on *grace*, the unbelievably good news that Jesus Christ has paid all our debts, forgiven all our sins, and even gives us to the Holy Spirit to help us believe it.

When the little ghosts and witches come to your door, their implied threat is "treat or trick." Because of Jesus Christ, you can enjoy the ultimate treat—forgiveness of your sins and eternal life. No tricks. It's his gift!

-Pastor Mark Jeske

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**FUMC News**

For all the latest from FUMC please visit:

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