



**THE CONNECTION**  
**October 2022**  
**Newsletter**

*From the Pastor's Desk*

**Discernment**

On Oct 28, our Administrative Council voted to Explore Disaffiliation from the United Methodist Church. Therefore, this is a time in our church life which requires discernment.

I want to briefly repeat and expand upon my message last month.

- Seek Jesus. In all things. Seek His heart and His will. Spend time in the Word of God.
- Be Informed. Do a lot reading and researching. There is a lot of information on all sides of the Disaffiliation issue. I've provided resources and there are a whole lot more out there. I've been impressed by the research I have seen by some of our folks.
- Pray. Seeking Jesus and being informed will place you in a better position to pray. Pray for yourself. Pray for others in our church. Pray for attitudes in a time of disagreement.
- Envision. Based on what you are reading and seeing, where will the United Methodist Church be in 5 years or 10... or even 20? Where will our church be? Based on what you are discovering, will our church be more effective inside or outside the UMC? And most important, where does God want us to be?
- Attend Townhall meetings. That way you are a full part of what's going on and are much more aware of the issues and the thinking of our church members. In particular:

**Tuesday, Oct 4 at 6:30 pm. Led by the District Superintendent. Main Sanctuary.**

**Sunday, Oct 9 at 3 pm, Main Sanctuary.**

**Sunday, Oct 30 at 3 pm, Main Sanctuary.**

- 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

---

### **From The Bottom Of Our Hearts**

#### **Kid's Street**

**Thank you** to the Men's Group and volunteers for all of the preparations you are doing around campus to get ready for our Pumpkin Patch.

Chris Woodward has worked so hard to make sure we have plenty of pallets and is spreading the word to get people involved. Thank you to everyone who is planning to help and those that are already helping in so many ways.

-Angela Long, Children's Pastor



#### **Missions**

A big **THANK YOU** to all of our Ministry/Missions groups who strutted their stuff for the fair this past week. The tables looked great and hopefully your group was able to get new people to join you.

Also a huge thank you to Deb and Steve Lubus for their hard work in preparing the awesome meal for our CommUNITY Dinner. And to those who served, set up, and brought in those yummy desserts, you are awesome!  
Bless you all.

-Pam Hight, Missions Ministry Team

#### **Wesleyan Child Care Center**

To 'First United Methodist Church Men's Group',  
**Thank You!!**

For all your hard work on our beautiful entry way into the school. The children are having so much fun

playing and enjoying the new area. Also, thank you for painting our school bathrooms so that we can start the school year off with clean updated bathrooms.

Love,

-The staff and students of Wesleyan Child Care Center



---

### **Disaffiliation Meetings**

## **Tuesday, Oct 4**

Please make plans to join us for this very important meeting with District Superintendent Rev. Jean Tippit on Tues, Oct 4 at 6:30PM in the Main Sanctuary.

## **Sundays, Oct 9 & 30**

Both of these meetings will be held at 3:00PM in the Main Sanctuary.



---

## **October is Pastor Appreciation Month**

**HONK IF YOU LOVE YOUR PASTOR!**

**MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE!**

Let Pastor Ronnie know how much you appreciate him throughout the **month of October!** There will be baskets at the entrance to each worship service to drop cards letter, and gifts into. Let's let Pastor Ronnie know he is appreciated!



---

## **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.



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

[Tithe.ly giving](#)

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.

---

## **Wesleyan Child Care Center Announcement!**

### **GOD IS GOOD!**

#### **I am bursting with love and pride for our school and VPK Teachers!**

We received last year's VPK program provider kindergarten Readiness Rate. Our score is GREAT. I looked up all 54 private schools in Okaloosa County and we ranked in the **TOP 10 %!**

The calculated rate is based on what the school score is and how many VPK students we assessed. I am proud to say that our large group of VPK students scored an 87, putting us in the top scoring bracket for number of students assessed.

The Readiness Rate measures how well a VPK provider prepares four-year old's to be ready for kindergarten based upon Florida Division Learning and Development Standards: [www.vpkrates.floridaearlylearning.com](http://www.vpkrates.floridaearlylearning.com)

So again, I am beyond proud of my amazing teachers. Their hard work and dedication continue to make our school one of the BEST!

Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your child's early education.

-Ms. Osa Bell



*\*We will be celebrating 'WCCC Sunday' on **Oct 16** at the 9:45AM The Well service! Join us as we showcase Wesleyan Child Care Center and all that they mean to us. We're so proud!\**

---

## **Wesleyan Child Care Center Totes**

Wesleyan has had a wonderful start to the new school year. All classes are full and the teachers and students are settling into a good routine. As the school year started, Wesleyan decided that this school year's fundraiser would be eco-friendly grocery / beach bags. We are selling them for \$5.00 and all proceeds go towards extra supplies and educational toys for our wonderful center. The bags are for sale for anyone that would like to purchase them. We have them in our school office and would love for our church community to purchase a bag and promote our school as they are out and about in town.



---

## **Searching For Kids Street Volunteers**

**VOLUNTEERS FOR THE NURSERY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS ARE NEEDED!**

PLEASE CALL ANGELA OR email at [kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com](mailto:kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com) for more



information.



---

### **Special FUMC Project**

We would love to include a special slide show presentation for All Saints Day worship services. If you would like to tackle a power point project containing vintage FUMC photos please email the front office at [office.fumcrestview@gmail.com](mailto:office.fumcrestview@gmail.com) and we'll get you started!



---

### **The Pumpkins Are Coming!**

The pumpkin truck will be rolling in on **Sat, Oct 1** at 9:00AM and pumpkins will be ready to pick up by mid afternoon.

Let us be a part of your Fall traditions! Swing by to take your annual Fall photo and grab some pumpkins for your favorite pumpkin pie recipe and to decorate your front porches, tables and business entry ways. We're aiming to add some



lights and music to the event this year. Can't wait to see you!

**Volunteers Needed:** We need volunteers to help us with our pumpkin delivery that is scheduled for October 1, 2022 at 9:00AM. Sign up is located on Kids Street and located at each church entrance. We will also need volunteers for working the Pumpkin patch. Please see Angela Long to sign up to volunteer. We will need help with Story time, helping to load pumpkins for customers, helping to measure the pumpkins, great and point customers in the right direction, as well as a few to help with daily set up and take down of items we can not leave on site overnight. Thank you to everyone who has already signed up and those who have promised to help out on that day. Remember parents who sign up to help out will benefit with camp scholarships.

---

### **Fall Festival**

The annual Harvest Festival will be held Wed, **October 26**, 2022. The children will meet on Kid's Street at 6:00PM for some Fall Fun outdoors and then participate in crafts, snacks, trick or treating around campus to the small groups, choir, and youth groups. Bring a treat bag and wear your costume to make it even more fun! All children are asked to dress in



child friendly costumes or as their favorite book character.



---

### **One Blood**

The Big Red Bus will be pulling in on Sun, **Oct 30** from 8:00AM-1:00PM in the parking lot next to the CRC. Donate blood and save a life!



---

### **Childrens Ministry**

The annual **Harvest Festival** will be held October 26, 2022. The children will meet on Kid's Street at 6:00 for some Fall Fun outdoors and then participate in crafts, snacks, trick or treating around campus to the small groups, choir, and youth groups. Bring a treat bag and wear your costume to make it even more fun! All children are asked to dress in child friendly costumes or as their favorite book character.



**Pumpkin Patch volunteers** are needed throughout October. Please see Angela Long on Kids Street or by calling the church office to sign up. We need people to be onsite to greet customers, do crafts with the kids, and serve as an extra person to come in and give the workers who are there all day a break. Do a lot or do a little, every minute you volunteer helps. We ask that every parent on Kids Street try to volunteer at least two 3 hour shifts.

### **Save the Dates:**

Acolyte Training: November 13 at 9:45 AM. Ages 3rd grade to 5th grade. All children who have attended in the past are invited and encouraged to attend as a refresher. More details to come.

Children's Christmas Pageant December 10, 2022 at 6:00 PM: Practice has already begun for our upcoming event!! 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.

### **October Wednesday Night Kids Street Schedule**

5:45 pm – Check In begins (ages 6 weeks to 5<sup>th</sup> grade)

6:00 pm – Children's Choir (ages 5 years to 5<sup>th</sup> grade)

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

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

\*Note: Don't forget the Fall Harvest Festival on October 26

**VOLUNTEERS FOR THE NURSERY AND SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS ARE NEEDED.** PLEASE CALL ANGELA OR email at [kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com](mailto:kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com) for more information.

-Angela Long

## **FUMC Youth**

The fall season is officially here! We are so ready for the cooler weather and for the many fun activities we have planned for the end of 2022. The next big event we will have will be on Wednesday, **October 26th** from 6pm-7:30pm. This is our annual Harvest Festival. We will have pizza, candy, games, and encourage anyone that wants to dress up in church appropriate costumes. This is a night of fellowship for the youth and a great time for them to invite some friends!



On our normal Wednesday night meets, we have finally finished the book of Genesis. It took us a long time, reading every word in every chapter, but we made it through! Now we will move on to study the Gospel of John. This is a wonderful opportunity for the youth to learn in-depth about our savior and Lord Jesus Christ. We will walk through his life together, reading each chapter of John's gospel until we finish the book sometime towards the beginning of 2023.

Last but not least: Soup Kitchen! Our church's youth group volunteers to help at the soup kitchen every 5th Saturday of each month. This year, October has a 5th Saturday. That means we need all hands on deck to help serve spaghetti from 9am-12pm on Saturday, **October 29th**. We have recently started asking our youth to bring in a few items to help offset the cost of the food and to help the youth budget. We are currently accepting donations of spaghetti sauce, spaghetti noodles, cans of green beans, alfredo sauce, and canned chicken. All donations will be strictly used for 5th Saturdays when the youth hosts the soup kitchen. This not only teaches the kids the importance of donating to church, but also helps the youth program be able to afford more things for them throughout the year. After we are done serving on the 29th, we will all go to the youth room for an ice cream social! From 12-2pm, the youth will have a time of fellowship involving games and ice cream!

This year continues to fly by, but we are making the most out of each meeting we have together. We continue to uplift the name of Jesus and strive to grow closer to Him everyday. We stay in both the Word and in Prayer, and ask that you pray for our group as well. Please pray that God will continue to grow and prepare each and every youth in our church, while also bringing in new faces to become a part of our church family. Thank you to everyone at FUMC who supports our youth, whether through prayer or donations. That helps us so much, and we are truly thankful for you. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns dealing with FUMC Youth, please feel free to reach out through email at [fumcrestviewyouth@gmail.com](mailto:fumcrestviewyouth@gmail.com).

*-Paul Adams*

---

## **Adult & Family Ministry**

### **Pumpkin Patch Volunteers:**

Our Children's Ministry will be hosting a pumpkin patch in October. **We need volunteers to help unload the pumpkins on Saturday October 1 at 9:00 AM.** We also need interested persons to help man our pumpkin sale booth. Email [kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com](mailto:kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com) with any



questions.

Please see Angela for background check information and requirements if you plan to help out with Story Time or be at our childrens table/area.

### **Small Group Reminders:**

- ReFit Class: Refit continues to meet each Wednesday at 6:00 PM and on Monday's and Friday's at 8:45 AM. Childcare is provided.
- Candy for the Kids: The children will visit the choir and small group classes on October 26th during our annual Fall Harvest. Traditionally, each class will provide candy or a treat for the students and help to fill up their halloween bags! We look forward to seeing you all.
- The last day for our Fall Session Small Group is November 16th. We will announce our Winter Small Group opportunities soon and have the official sign up begin on November 9th in preparation for the session to begin in January. Please see Angela Long if you are interested in leading a small group or would like help in finding the group for you and your family

-Angela Long

Family Discipleship Coordinator, [kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com](mailto:kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com)  
[fumc.smallgroups@gmail.com](mailto:fumc.smallgroups@gmail.com)

---

### **Benevolence Ministry News / Christmas Program**

Wow! The holidays are just around the corner and will be here before you know it. Benevolence Ministry is gearing up to provide extra assistance to people in the community to help brighten up their holidays. We are hoping to reach out to people in our church and community who are homebound and unable to attend church services in person. If you know of anyone who is homebound (or in a nursing home) who could use some extra cheer to brighten up their holiday, please contact the church office to pass along their contact information.



In the last few months there has been a tremendous increase in the amount of people needing assistance with basic needs such as food and toiletries. (You might have noticed the posts on the church Facebook page asking for more food donations recently.) Frequently we are putting the food directly into bags and handing it out as soon as it comes in. If you would like to donate food, donations can be brought to the church office during normal business hours or dropped off in the baskets at the entrance to each Sunday service.

Utility bills have been much higher and the amount of financial assistance needed to keep the power turned on for many families has increased. Your generosity has kept the lights on for many families in this community. Benevolence Ministry plans to continue to focus on helping as many people as possible with extra food, toiletries, and utility assistance throughout the holidays.



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

Thank you for supporting this ministry and choosing to share the love of Christ this way.

As a reminder, communion rail offerings are donated to our Benevolence Ministry which attends to the physical needs of the church & community.

*-Your Benevolence Team,  
Vicky Anchor, Margaret Larson, Kristen Sallberg and Peg Harkness*

---

### **Soup Kitchen News**

On the behalf of FUMC SOUPers, we wish to thank all of you for coming out to September's CommUNITY Dinner and sharing a homecooked meal and providing desserts with all our church friends, family, and neighbors.

With GOD's Blessing, your contribution to our Soup Kitchen Ministry makes the difference in providing nutritional meals for those IN NEED.

We'd also like to thank all the SOUPers for desserts and joining us in setup, serving, and teardown.

With GOD's Blessing, The Soup Kitchen Ministry fundraisers combined with yearly donations from church member and community provide the means. The Soup Kitchen Ministry volunteers make it all come true through their hard work and dedication.

Last year, the Soup Kitchen Ministry served over 3000 meals, including the day after Christmas and New Year's Day! In addition, through collaboration with the Woman's Service Group, Yarnies, and Men's Service Group we handed out over 500 winter hats and socks.

ALL of YOU, with GOD's grace allow this mission to continue. PLEASE carry on your support of this Mission to serve the community.

- Want to volunteer? Contact me at [soupkitchenfumc@gmail.com](mailto:soupkitchenfumc@gmail.com).
- Want to donate to FUMC Soup Kitchen? Contact the office at [office.fumcrestview@gmail.com](mailto:office.fumcrestview@gmail.com).
- Continue to follow us Facebook @FUMCrestview.

Respectfully,

*-Deb Lubas, FUMC SOUP Kitchen Coordinator*  
[soupkitchenfumc@gmail.com](mailto:soupkitchenfumc@gmail.com).

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

Well, we've made it through a few days of cooler weather and we are looking forward to EVEN MORE cozy weather to stitch up items for our next mission drive. Our Christmas mission is taking off and we're making scarves for the those traveling through Crestview over the holidays. These scarves get dropped off to local hotels inviting travelers to spend Christmas with us here at FUMC. It's one of our favorite ways to honor Jesus on his birthday!

We will meet on Tuesdays, **Oct 11 & 25** at 6:00PM in Rm 213. 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*

---



## A Friendly Reminder

This year the General Election for Governor & Lt Governor, U.S. House of Representatives, U.S. Senate, State Attorney General & State Commissioner of Agriculture will take place NOVEMBER 8, 2022. Elections matter! It is vital that Christians stand up and vote for candidates who will fight for the citizens of this country. During the August Primary in our county less than 30% of the registered voters participated.



Approximately 42,900 people made the decisions for the approximately 208,000 residents of Okaloosa County (only approximately 143,000 are even registered to vote.) If we have seen anything in the last few years WHO is in these offices is critical to the well-being of our local area--not just the nation. LOTS of out-of-state money is being poured into Florida to influence our state elections. Look into the candidates and look at how incumbents voted while in office...did they stand up for citizens or not? If a candidate is not an incumbent see what their careers have been...do they profess to be a Christian? Have they had a career where you can see what their values are?

If you do not know if you are registered you may check your status here: [Florida Online Voter Registration System \(registertovoteflorida.gov\)](https://registertovoteflorida.gov) . If you are NOT registered you may register at that same link or you may download a form to print and submit here: [Register to Vote \(govote-okaloosa.com\)](https://govote-okaloosa.com).

**YOU MUST REGISTER by October 11th to vote on November 8th.** There is early voting that will available October 24th through November 5th. [Vote Early \(govote-okaloosa.com\)](https://govote-okaloosa.com) . And Vote by Mail is also an option in the State of Florida...you must request a Vote by Mail Ballot no later than October 29th.

Another big need for the election is a need for Poll Workers for the day of the election. Poll workers must attend one training class but there is a nominal payment for training and working the Election Day Polls. More information can be found here: [Poll Workers \(govote-okaloosa.com\)](https://govote-okaloosa.com) . If you have any questions and don't want to call the election office, call me!

If you have problems with any aspect of participating in the election please contact me!! I will find out how to help. If you have a problem getting to the polls contact me! I'll help you get there. We have a great Election Supervisor who runs a tight ship. If you have any questions call his office at 850-689-5600 or visit: [Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections > Home \(govote-okaloosa.com\)](http://Okaloosa County Supervisor of Elections > Home (govote-okaloosa.com)) . Or call me, at 505-553-9498. There are so many issues in our country right now...let's do our part to make sure we keep our small part of it the way we like it! May God Bless America. And May God Bless Florida.  
- Kristen Sallberg

---

### **Crestview Prayer Network**

Prayer Network meets **Oct 5** at Hideaway Pizza at 12 PM. Come meet and pray with us. All are invited!

-Kathleen Woodward



---

### **October Greeters, Ushers, Liturgists**

#### **Morning Glory / Christ Chapel 8:30AM**

##### **Greeters:**

October 2- Kit Callahan

October 9- Melanie and Gary Zick

October 16- Mike and Betsy Roy

October 23- Lowell and Maryrose Scott

October 30- John and Cynthia Leitschuck

Ushers- Robert Dabbs and Bill Myers

#### **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

Front

Oct 2: Tom Saunders, Viki & Terry Luster

Oct 9: Edie & Tom Giovanini

Oct 16: Corolla & Rollin Anderson

Oct 23: Gary Johnson & Glenda McMasters

Oct 30: Margaret Larson & Judy Beard

Back: Gary Johnson (2), Mark Owens (9) & (30), Margaret Larson (16), Terry Luster (23)

Ushers

Oct 2: Center Aisle / Edie & Tom Giovanni,

Side Aisles / Terry Luster & Viki Luster

Oct 9: Center Aisle / Viki & Terry Luster,

Side Aisles / Edie & Tom Giovanni

Oct 16: Center Aisle / Dax Reeves, Mark Young,

Side Aisles / Mike Steen & Tom Saunders

Oct 23: Center Aisle / Mark Owens, Mike Steen

Side Aisles / David Ordonez & Viki Luster

Oct 30: Center Aisle / Dax Reeves & David Ordonez  
Side Aisles / Margaret Larson and Judy Beard  
Usher for Choir: Jim Hight

Liturgists:

Mike Steen (Oct 2, 9, 30), Paul Adams (Oct 16), Lee Thigpen (Oct 23)

---

### **Important Dates In October**

Oct 1- **PUMPKINS ARRIVE!**

Oct 2- Called Admin Council 3:00PM Main Sanctuary

Oct 4- Town Hall Meeting on Disaffiliation with DS Jean Tippit 6:30PM Main Sanctuary

Oct 5- Crestview Prayer Network 12:00PM Hideaway Pizza

Oct 7- Women's Service Group 10:00AM Rm 212

Oct 9- Youth Committee 12:15PM Conf Rm, Town Hall Meeting on Disaffiliation 3:00PM MainSanctuary

Oct 10- United Methodist Men 6:00PM FH

Oct 11- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213

Oct 16- WCCC Sunday 9:45AM CRC

Oct 24- November Newsletter Deadline

Oct 25- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213

Oct 26- Fall Festival 6:00PM

Oct 30- One Blood's Big Red Bus / Blood Drive 8:00AM-1:00PM, Town Hall Meeting on Disaffiliation 3:00PM MainSanctuary

*\*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 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 Location TBA

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- United Methodist 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

---



*The First United Methodist Chancel Choir circa 1959 directed by Otis Ferdon.*

### **An All Saints Day Devotion**

**"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us."  
Hebrews 12:1**

#### ***Those To Glory Gone***

All Saints Day is an opportunity to give thanks for those who have gone before us in the faith. It is a time to celebrate our history, what United Methodists call the tradition of the church.

From the early days of Christianity, there is a sense that the Church consists of not only all living believers, but also all who have gone before us. For example, in Hebrews 12 the author encourages Christians to remember that a "great cloud of witnesses" surrounds us encouraging us, cheering us on.

Charles Wesley, John's brother, picks up on this theme in his hymn that appears in our United Methodist Hymnal as "Come, Let Us Join our Friends Above," #709. In the first verse, he offers a wonderful image of the Church through the ages:

Let saints on earth unite to sing, with those to glory gone,  
for all the servants of our King in earth and heaven, are one.

On All Saints Day we can remember all those who are part of the "communion of saints" we confess whenever we recite The Apostles' Creed. We share stories of those "to glory gone."

Retelling these stories grounds us in our history. These memories teach us how God has

provided for us through the generosity and sacrifice of those who have come before us. The stories of the saints encourage us to be all God has created us to be.

### ***Saints On Earth***

Charles Wesley's hymn tells us those "to glory gone" are joined by the "saints on earth." We think of the inspirational people with whom we worship on Sunday, and those across the world we will never meet. We celebrate fellow United Methodists who inspire us, and those of other denominations whose lives encourage us. We give thanks for those with whom we agree, as well as those whose views we do not share.

Additionally, we remember and pray for our sisters and brothers in Christ who faithfully follow Jesus in places where being labeled a Christian puts them in harm's way.

### ***One Song***

On All Saints Day, we recognize that we are part of a giant choir singing the same song. It is the song Jesus taught his disciples; a tune that has resonated for more than 2,000 years; a melody sung in glory and on the earth. Our great privilege is to add our voices to this chorus.

The last verse of "Come, Let Us Join our Friends Above" encourages us to sing faithfully while on earth, so we might join the heavenly chorus one day.

Our spirits too shall quickly join, like theirs with glory crowned,  
and shout to see our Captain's sign, to hear His trumpet sound.

O that we now might grasp our Guide! O that the word were given!  
Come, Lord of Hosts, the waves divide, and land us all in heaven.

On All Saints Day, let us give thanks for both the saints in glory and those on earth, who have led us to Jesus. As they have shared the gospel with us, may we add our voices so someone else may hear about the grace and love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God for the lives of his saints.

-*UMC.org*

---

### ***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](mailto:drronbearden@hotmail.com)  
Church Administrator - Angie Arnold  
[fumcrestview@gmail.com](mailto:fumcrestview@gmail.com)  
Church Secretary - Cathrin Owens  
[office.fumcrestview@gmail.com](mailto:office.fumcrestview@gmail.com)  
Children's Ministry & Family Discipleship Coordinator - Angela Long  
[kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com](mailto:kidsstreetcrestview@gmail.com), [fumc.smallgroups@gmail.com](mailto:fumc.smallgroups@gmail.com)  
Youth Ministry - Paul Adams  
[fumcrestviewyouth@gmail.com](mailto:fumcrestviewyouth@gmail.com)  
Facilities Manager - Chris Woodward  
[fumfacilities@gmail.com](mailto:fumfacilities@gmail.com)  
Music, Traditional - Kevin Lusk  
Organist - Leon Curenton  
Wesleyan Child Care Center - Osa Bell / Director  
[wesleyanchildcare@gmail.com](mailto:wesleyanchildcare@gmail.com)

### **Ministry Addresses**

Soup Kitchen / Steve & Deb Lubas, [soupkitchenfumc@gmail.com](mailto:soupkitchenfumc@gmail.com)  
United Methodist Men / Jody Woodward, [ummcrestview@gmail.com](mailto:ummcrestview@gmail.com)

---

## **First United Methodist Church**

599 Eighth Ave, Crestview, FL 32536  
850-682-8994

*For all the latest from FUMC please visit:*

CALENDAR: [fumcrestview.com](http://fumcrestview.com) / On the web: [fumcrestview.com](http://fumcrestview.com)

Via email: [fumcrestview.com/contact](http://fumcrestview.com/contact) and enter your email address to subscribe

On Facebook: [www.facebook.com/FUMCrestview](http://www.facebook.com/FUMCrestview)

APP: Crestview Methodist