



THE CONNECTION September 2020 Newsletter



Dear Church Family,

Here are few updates:

1. COVID trends and Plans

I watch the weekly statistics for our county, and after a spike in July and early August, the trends are leveled off or headed downward. This is good news, especially as our schools are opening up. Our tentative plan has been to re-start Sunday school, children's activities and youth meetings around the end of September. We will keep you posted as we near that time. Our decision will be based on watching the COVID stats and trends for our area.

2. Worship In-Person and Online

We continue to hold in-person worship at 9:45 and 11. Attendance at 9:45 is about 35-50, and the attendance is about 65-80. We continue to have over 100 people watching online each week- with more viewers watching a recording later.

Many people are not ready to return to in-person worship yet- and we understand and support you. Others are very glad we are meeting and appreciate "seeing and being seen."

As to the future, it is still too soon to know when we will "get back to normal." Some items in particular that are being delayed are a choir at 11 o'clock and resuming the 8:30 service. For those

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

Closed

September 7, 2020
Labor Day

Church Staff

Pastor

Pastor Ronnie Bearden
drronbearden@hotmail.com

Youth Minister

Paul Adams

Children's Minister

Angela Long
fumc.angelalong@gmail.com

who are feeling a bit of frustration, please remember that many churches, not only around the country, but even in our own area have not even opened up yet.

It is still months away, but our Christmas celebrations may look a little different this year. For example, the Christmas musical may be a bit different as well as the Christmas Eve service (since Christmas Eve is traditionally a very crowded service with 300-400 in the last few years, we are exploring doing two services this year).

Our Sunday online experience is better but still has some challenges. We have most of the issues worked out on our end, but we have been having some trouble with Facebook itself. For example, on August 23, we were streaming the 9:45 service and all was well. Then about 19 minutes in, just about as the sermon was starting, the connection to Facebook was lost. We had to re-connect and I know that was frustrating to viewers. Since churches all across the country are streaming at roughly the same time on Sunday mornings, we are wondering if Facebook is having bandwidth problems.

For those of you that watch online, we are exploring other streaming services hoping for better reliability. We will not do anything suddenly and will advertise well in advance if and when we make a change.

3. Youth Minister Search

I am happy to report that our church has hired a youth minister as of the day I'm writing this right at our newsletter deadline! It has been an extensive search with many applications and several people interviewed. It has been a time-consuming process and I'm grateful to all those involved in the interviewing and hiring process.

We welcome Paul Adams to our staff. I will introduce him on Sunday Aug 30. We will also be making a post to Facebook and sending out email. His official start date will be Monday, Aug 31.

We look forward to hearing more about and from Paul in the days ahead.

4. Online Devotions

First Light devotions continue with a weekday schedule. I've shortened them slightly. There are no plans at present to change this.

Into the Stained Glass is nearing the final stretch. Instead of a particular schedule, they are now "ready when they are ready" - meaning I work on them when I can. I hope to have episode 15 ready soon. In all, I've mapped out about 24 episodes in all. At the conclusion of this process, we also hope to produce a DVD with all 24 episodes as well as a printed booklet. We pray that all of this work is a blessing and brings to life our wonderful stained glass.

Director of Adult Discipleship
& Congregational Care

April Hight

fumc.aprilhight@gmail.com

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

Church Administrator

Angie Arnold

fumcrestview@gmail.com

Church Secretary

Cathrin Owens

office.fumcrestview@gmail.com

You can access both of these devotions in three ways: Facebook, our YouTube channel, and by the Church App.

5. Volunteers for Video ministry

There is still a need for volunteers to help us get the Internet stream out each Sunday for worship. We would be happy to train you. If you would like to help out, please contact me. My email is: drronbearden@hotmail.com.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Ronnie

Youth Ministry

Hello All! As you can imagine our Youth cannot wait to begin meeting again. We desperately miss our time of fellowship on Sundays and Wednesdays. We are following the Long Range Planning Committee's decision to delay Youth Sunday School and Wednesday night gatherings until our schools have been in session for 4 weeks. This means we are planning to have our first Wednesday night gathering on September 30th, if nothing changes. We'd love to have a great turnout for our first night back! So, please mark your calendars and plan to bring a friend! We will be playing games and have a special time of prayer and testimony. PLUS, we MIGHT have a new Youth Director by then. Exciting things are coming! If you'd like to volunteer with the youth group, please contact the church office.

Blessings, Sara Fordyce, Youth Committee Chairperson



Children's Ministry

Hello Kids Street Family and friends:

We are so excited about the possibility of returning to Sunday School on Kids' Street in October. We plan to make an official announcement soon and continue to monitor our local school system and area health safety requirements until that time. We will send out details about what check in and Sunday School time will look like for the children soon. We have a few new signs that will be seen on our first day back. These are made possible by a generous donation to our Kids' Street program.



Parents Night Out

We are reaching out to all of our families to see if there is an interest in an October Parent's Night Out on 10/09/2020. If you are interested, email Angela at fumc.angelalong@gmail.com for more details.

We have a need for teachers and volunteers to help out on Kids' Street. Contact Angela Long at fumc.angelalong@gmail.com if you would like to join our team.



A special **THANK YOU** to the large donation to our Vacation Bible School funds this year.

The donation allowed us to make our take home bags a gift to remember for Kids' Street children. The support of our congregation has been amazing over the past few months. Through helping to support our program in prayer, gifts, or your time, we have managed to continue virtual programming and online outreach to our children and families. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard to make this possible.

-Angela Long, Children's Minister



Small Group Ministry

Keep an eye out for updated information on new Fall term small groups. We are exploring both in person and online options. Details to come soon!

-April Hight



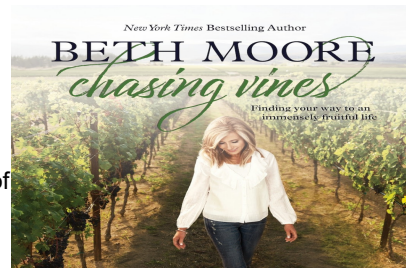
'Chasing Vines' Small Group

Elaine Mantle and Cathy Thigpen will facilitate a 10 week study on Beth Moore's latest "*Chasing Vines*".

"Beth is convinced from Scripture that every person who knows Jesus is meant to thrive in fruitfulness."

We hope you will join us on the journey of discovering the delights of bearing fruit and fully embrace God's brilliant design for us to live a fruitful, abundant, meaningful life.

The group will meet beginning Sept 16 on Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm (on Zoom until we can meet in person). If interested, contact Elaine Mantle, 970-218-4836 or Cathy Thigpen, 850-259-5323. Group Experience books are \$12.



Congregational Care

Hi Friends!

Please email or call the church office with any contact or mailing address updates! One challenge we have run across is outdated or missing info. We want to stay in contact with you - most especially now. YOU are important to us!

-April Hight



Benevolence Ministry

Thank you to everyone who has donated so generously to the Benevolence Ministry. Your continued generosity during the pandemic has blessed many people in this community during very difficult times. We have recently assisted 20 families with utility bills and assembled sixty bags of groceries to give out to people in need of assistance with food. Your gifts also assisted Richbourg School in purchasing needed trash cans and provided gift cards to twelve



teachers in your church family to help them purchase supplies to make their classes safer for students returning to school. Thank you for choosing to share the love of Christ with others in this way.

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased."

Hebrews 13:16

- Margaret Larson & Vicky Anchor

UMCOR / Sager Brown Depot Mission Trip

UMCOR Sager Brown – God is Good!!! And our church family and friends are wonderfully generous!!! Our Sager Brown team cannot thank you enough for your generosity in helping us raise the additional funds needed to cover the cost of kits and travel for our trip in September. Bless you!

Our team has grown too! We now have 13 team members, and am happy to say 8 are first time volunteers. We love it when new folks join our team and can experience the special ministries that happen at Sager Brown.

Please continue to pray for our team and the trip. There are delays in opening the campus for volunteers while the protocols necessary to make our stay safe because of the Covid 19 virus are still being worked out.

For more info on the Sager Brown Mission please contact Pam Hight at 850 758-8201 or orpjhight51@gmail.com.



Yarn Ministry

WHO'S READY FOR A YARN BLESSING???

Join us on Sunday, Aug 30 when both altars will be filled with beautiful handmade items.

After our Covid Quarantine we found ourselves up to our eyeballs in shawls, lapghans, blankets, scarves, hats and baby items. There's one thing that you could count on every Yarnie doing while we were on lockdown... STITCHING, and boy howdy, we made good use of our time!

We've had over 100 items donated since April and they have been prayed over and now blessed and ready to head out the FUMC doors. May each item be a blessing to the one who receives it and the one who made it, and may it further God's kingdom one stitch at a time.

-Cathrin Owens



Wesleyan Child Care Center

We are so excited to be getting back into the swing of things for school and chapel!

We are ready to see where this year takes us!

We will also be holding a food drive for the FUMC Benevolence Ministry Pantry from Sept 14th - 18th.

Welcome back to school!

-Osa Bell, WCCC Director



September Greeters & Ushers

Contemporary/The Crossroads Center 9:45AM

Aimee Keller & Dan Taylor

Traditions/Main Sanctuary 11:00AM

Sept 6- Sam Field, Carli Owens, Mike Steen
Sept 13- Melanie Zick, Margaret Larson, Isabelle Sallberg
Sept 20- Linda Biondi., Gary Johnson, Glenda McMasters
Sept 27- Sam Field, Elaine Mantle, Suzanne Long

Important Dates In September

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

Sept 4- Women's Service Group 9-11:00AM Rm 213 (tentative)
Sept 7- FUMC Office closed for Labor Day.
Sept 8- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM RM 213
Sept 9- Church Council 6:30 Main Sanctuary
Sept 13- Long Range Planning 5:30PM Youth Room
Sept 14- United Methodist Men at 6:00PM CRC
Sept 18- Sr. Ministry Game Day 11:00AM-2:00PM FH
Sept 20- UMCOR Sager Brown Mission Team Commissioning 11:00AM service
Sept 27 through Oct 1- UMCOR Sager Brown Mission Team to Louisiana
Sept 28- Oct newsletter deadline
Sept 29- Yarn Ministry 6:00PM Rm 213 (make-up meeting for Sept 22)

**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 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- October Newsletter Out
Oct 7- Youth Ministry Committee 6:00PM Youth Rm
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



"Teach me good judgment and knowledge, for I believe in your commandments." - Psalm 119:66

How teachable are you?

In my lifetime I have been unteachable at times for various reasons. The main one was that I thought I already knew everything (that was when I was about 16 – you know, all that rich life experience!)

There have been other reasons . . . too tired, too much to do already, the way I've always done it is just fine and the ever popular, "Who do you think you are to tell me what to do?"

Of course, I would never say any of those things to God – not out loud. But I become aware at times that I am acting that way. I'm not fully open to His Word when I'm studying in the morning or I don't listen well when my brothers and sisters in Christ share their wisdom. Sometimes I don't listen to Him well (or at all) when I'm praying.

So, again, how teachable are you?

Lord, give us open hearts, eyes, ears and arms to receive You in all the ways You pour Yourself into and upon our lives. Amen.

-Paula Barney

<https://www.livinglord.org/post/september-2-2019-daily-devotion>

FUMC News

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