



First Word Monthly

October 2016

First United Methodist Church | 200 North 15th Fort Smith,
Arkansas 72901 | 479.782.3068 | www.fsfumc.org

AMAZING OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT!

God is so good to us! God continues to give us opportunities to worship, serve, give, reach out and share the transformational love of Jesus with our families, our church, our community, and our world. If you're missing out, it's not because of the lack of opportunity!

This week, I will take a team of 5 staff and three laity to the Leadership Institute at Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City. Church of the Resurrection is led by Adam Hamilton, whose books we often use in classes in our church. It is one of the most dynamic congregations in the world, and their Leadership Institute is an incredible blend of speakers, workshops, and worship that draws people from all over. I believe we will come back with the fires of revival burning!

In the next few weeks, we will have opportunity again to make our financial commitments to the church for 2017. The way we handle our money is a spiritual issue, and our financial support of the church is an act of faith in and love for our Lord Jesus. With everything going so well at the church right now, I'm expecting great things from our stewardship campaign.

A huge opportunity is coming October 21-23 with our Encounter Spiritual Renewal Weekend. This will be worth clearing your calendars for; this will be worth inviting your family, friends and neighbors to come with you. The Encounter is based on the *ashram* model, a spiritual retreat that was adapted for Christianity by E. Stanley Jones, a Methodist missionary to India in the 20th century. It has been an effective tool for mission and evangelism for decades.

An incredible team has been assembled to come and share the love and grace of Jesus with us that weekend. Tom Albin is the dean of the Upper Room chapel. Wade

Paschal, preacher, and Hal Hamilton, youth leader, minister at First UMC in Tulsa. Peter VanderZaag is a Canadian potato farmer who has done mission work in 62 countries. Samuel Stanley Jones is a seminary student and worship leader from India. Anne Matthews Younes is a mission scholar and granddaughter of E. Stanley Jones himself! The others are equally awesome. Look on our website for complete info. This could be a game-changer!

Finally, we have an opportunity to grow our attendance by 10% this fall. Church leaders and I have challenged the church to grow 10% over our average last fall, which would be 550. So far we have started slowly, but the season is young. We have 13 more weekends between now and Christmas. Make every opportunity count. God is doing something good at Fort Smith FUMC --be a part of it as often and as deeply as you can!

Rev. Bud Reeves,
Senior Pastor
breeves@fsfumc.org



IN OUR PRAYERS

Eldon Pence in Sparks Hospital



ROOKIE YEAR

My time on staff with First United Methodist Church so far has been filled with loving welcomes and kind wishes. I want to thank the congregation for welcoming me home, and for all the prayers that have been lifted up for me as I transition into a new role at our church. I also want to thank the youth for their patience with me as I begin to find my place as the Director of Youth Ministries.

We have a long journey ahead of us at First Youth. There are no quick fixes or “easy buttons” in the process of establishing a thriving, sustainable youth ministry. Rebuilding the framework of First Youth will take dedication, patience, and downright hard work. It’s going to be messy. Yet, we lose the sight of all the mess when our eyes are fixed solely upon His Kingdom.

Recently, our students have had the opportunity to take ownership in the development of First Youth by signing up for various teams with specific duties. We have a drama team, a media team, a worship team, and a hospitality team. These teams are designed to be an outlet where students can use their God-given talents to build God’s Kingdom. You’ll hear more about these teams in the weeks to come!

I can’t express how grateful I am to be in a position to make disciples of the youth at our church and in our community. What a blessing it is to be here at First United Methodist Church! God has great things in store for us all!

Michael Mings
Director of Youth Ministries
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Welcome As We Grow



On Sunday, September 11 we welcomed the Robertson family into membership at FSFUMC during the Connexion service. Joshua & Nikki joined by transfer and Destiny & Noah were baptized. Joshua works in IT for the City of Fort Smith. Nikki is a full-time mom. Destiny is 8 and Noah is 2. Originally from Oklahoma, they moved to Fort Smith this summer. We are so happy they have made FSFUMC their church home!



On Sunday, September 25 we welcomed the Quinn family into membership at FSFUMC during the Connexion service. Neil joined by transfer while Brittany joined by baptism and profession of faith. Their daughter Adalyn and son Everett were also baptized. The Quinns recently moved to Ft. Smith from North Carolina; we are so happy they have made FSFUMC their church home!

THIS SUNDAY 10.2.16

Heroes of Faith: Peter “Get Out of the Boat!”
Matthew 14:22-33
By faith we can stand outside our comfort zone.

8:30 am - Roebuck Chapel - Rev. Bud Reeves
Offertory- “A Communion Invitation”
Rylee Norton, Soloist
Nancy W. Vernon, Organist

11:00 am - Sanctuary - Rev. Bud Reeves
Offertory Anthem
“Peter, Go Ring Them Bells”
Chancel Choir
Communion Anthem
“A Communion invitation”
Rylee Norton, Soloist
Gaye McClure, Chancel Choir Director
Nancy W. Vernon, Organist
Acolytes: Elizabeth Ivey, Hannah Schmidt, & Vivian Apple

11:00 am - Connexion FLC - Rev. Dane Womack
“God’s Not Dead” “Christ is Enough”
“One Thing Remains” “More Than Enough”
“Lead Me to the Cross” “Oceans”

ENCOUNTER

Spiritual Renewal Weekend

OCTOBER 21-23

Friday, October 21
6 pm Registration opens
7-8:45 pm Program
begins for all ages

Saturday, October 22
8:15 am Registration
opens
4:15 pm Blessing &
sending

Sunday, October 23
8:30 am Worship,
Roebuck Chapel
11 am Connexion
Worship & Traditional
Worship

GUEST SPEAKERS



Rev. Tom Albin
Coordinator



Rev. Hal Hamilton
Youth & College
Team Leader



Dr. R. Wade
Paschal, Jr.
Teacher &
Preacher



Rita Vutsinas
Children's Leader



Samuel Stanley
Jones
Special Music
& Witness



Dr. Peter
VanderZaag
Guest Speaker
to Youth &
Adults



Dr. Anne Mathews-
Younes
Guest Speaker



Tom Nisbett
Adult Coordinator

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
200 NORTH 15TH STREET / FORT SMITH, AR 72901
fsfumc.org / 479.782.5068

OCTOBER: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

October is Domestic Violence Awareness month. I'm delighted to begin my term serving on the advisory board of the Donald W. Reynolds Crisis Intervention right here in Fort Smith that serves as an emergency shelter for women and children, provides resources for survivors of sexual assault, and their mission is to "end domestic violence and sexual assault through services, education, and prevention programs which empower men, women, and their children to live free of fear and harm within their own families and the community." The Crisis Intervention Center fulfills a vital role in our community.

I first observed Domestic Violence in a church parking lot in 2011. I was shaken to my core to watch a male punch through the front windshield of his female partner's car, while the congregation gathered to sing the opening hymn. A few years later, at a national United Methodist Women's gathering over one third of the women at this meeting had shared that in some form--physical, mental, emotional, psychological, and financial--they have experience domestic abuse. Both of these experiences taught me that the church is not immune from domestic violence. In fact, one in four women will, at some point in their lives experience and survive domestic abuse in some form.

While discerning a call into ordained ministry, I spent some time working with the General Board of Church and Society, a United Methodist General Agency based in Washington D.C. that advocates on public policy issues including domestic violence. It was a pivotal time in which I came to learn that as the United Methodist Church, our

social principles affirm that, "family violence and abuse in all its forms verbal, psychological, physical, sexual is detrimental to the covenant of the human community. We encourage the Church to provide a safe environment, counsel, and support for the victim." (UMC Social Principles 161.G). Additionally, we as a United Methodist Church affirm that "sexual assault is wrong." (UMC Social Principles 161.O).

As a church, we are called to be in ministry to the community and world. In doing so, we are to share the good news that Jesus came to bring abundant life, life that is full, healthy, and whole. In our partnership with the Crisis Intervention Center, we've offered support in various avenues--prayer shawls, toys for children, meals at Thanksgiving, and love offerings.

This October, we'll have a chance to join together in prayer for and with victims and survivors of domestic violence during a community prayer service on the evening of Sunday, October 30th at 3pm in the Roebuck Chapel. I invite you to come and join in solidarity with those in our community and world who find themselves trapped in abusive situations and those who are struggling to find healing and wholeness as survivors. God's grace be with you.

Rev. Sara Bayles
Associate Pastor
sbayles@fsfumc.org



L to R. Emma Watts. JoAnn Gedosh, Moderator, Hania Al Shahrani, Myra Esquivel and Barbara Turner. A panel discussion on Faith and Race Justice was held on Sept. 20th during United Methodist Women's Unit meeting. The event had 60+ in attendance.

2016 Directories



The 2016 Directories are in and will be available to pick up this Sunday. If your picture is in the directory, each family receives one free copy. If your picture is not in the directory, there is a cost of \$10. There will be pickup stations outside of the Sanctuary, Narthex, & FLC. You can also stop in the church office during offices hours and pick up a copy. The Mobile Directory will be available soon!

RECENT MEMORIALS

In Memory of:

- Doug Udouj by Sally Ware
- Betty Purser by Carole & George Beattie
- Dona McCollom by Jack & Louanna Green and by Shirley Cothren
- Lynn Foster by Philip & Anna Brown
- Jennifer Crosby by Kyle & Renee Parker

In Honor of:

- Jeanne Starr by Mary Lee Kulin
- Mary Thompson by Mary Lee Kulin
- Charlie Reutzel by anonymous

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

UMW Circles Meeting October 11 at the following locations:

Hannah-Elizabeth will meet at the church in the Aldersgate Room

Ruth will meet at the church in FLC, Room 101

Naomi will meet at the home of Anna Brown 1515 N. 56th Terrace.

Deborah will meet at the church in the Narthex

Rebekah will meet at the home of Kay Aclin 3315 S. 27th

PACESETTERS

October meetings are at 10:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room in the FLC.

Fri. Oct. 7—Program will be given by Don Jones & his friends, "Flight Masters". We will meet at the church and then go to the Flight Masters Field to watch their radio-controlled airplanes, etc. We have 2 vans and the People Mover to go in so you won't have to drive. Will is preparing "sack lunches" for all & they have tables, chairs, & porta-potty's too. The CEC will sing before we leave.

Fri. Oct. 21— Weekday School children sing. Mr. Howard Porter, Director of Ft. Smith National Cemetery will report on the cemetery and has a video too.

Call 479-461-5209 with any questions. Everyone is welcome!

Tues. Oct. 25-Moses in Branson-Bring \$60 now.

Attendance: September 25

8:30am Roebuck Chapel	59
11:00am Family Life Center	112
11:00am Sanctuary	167
Nursery	19
Wednesday Communion (9/21)	78
5:00pm Youth (5pm)	34
Worship Total	435



Attendance average goal: 550
Average so far: 430

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, October 2

- 8:30am Worship, Roebuck Chapel
- 8:30am Holy Grounds, Narthex
- 9:45am Sunday School
- 11:00am Worship, Sanctuary
- 11:00am Worship, Family Life Center
- 5:00pm Youth Meal/Devo/Games, Loft

Monday, October 3

- 5:30pm Chorale Board, Conference Room
- 6:00pm Women's Bible Study, FLC Fireside Room
- 6:30pm Boy Scouts, 3rd Floor

Tuesday, October 4

- 8:45am BSF, 3rd Floor
- 9:30am Staff Meeting
- 6:30pm Guatemala Mission Team Meeting, FLC Fireside

Wednesday, October 5

- 9:15am Women's Bible Study, FLC Fireside Room
- 9:15am WDS & CEC Chapel Time, Roebuck
- 10:00am Prayer Group, Prayer Room, 2nd Floor
- 3:30pm Children's Choir, FLC Gym
- 4:30pm Early WNL Wesleyan Prayer, Conference Room
- 5:30pm Holy Communion, Roebuck Chapel
- 5:45pm WNL Dinner, FLC
- 6:00pm Wednesday Night Life Groups
- 7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, October 6

- 7:00am Youth Breakfast Club, Chick-fil-A
- 10:00am Knitters & Knotters/Mats that Matter, Narthex
- 12:00pm UMM (Men's) Bible Study/Lunch, Fireside Room

Friday, October 7

- 6:30am UMM (Men's) Bible Study/Breakfast, Fireside Room
- 10:00am Pacesetters, FLC Fireside Room

TINY CRACKS OF INACTIVITY

This past month, a fantastic essay by Andrew Sullivan has made its rounds on the internet (of all places). Sullivan admits to being an internet junkie. He was ahead of the internet curve, had all the latest computers and gadgets, and was even blogging every 30 minutes before most of us had heard of Facebook. He lived and breathed online. But it all came crashing down during something like a nervous collapse. His essay is titled, "I Used to Be a Human Being," with a much longer subtitle: "An endless bombardment of news and gossip and images has rendered us manic information addicts. It broke me. It might break you, too" (nymag.com, Sept. 18, 2016).

I realize the tone and thesis of this essay will not apply to everyone, but for those of us who are bombarded by online content, for families and youth who cannot seem to put their phones away even for a few minutes, Sullivan's words should strike a chord. In fact, this essay ought to be required reading for today's parents. The digital revolution that we have experienced brings many goods, but it might also be harming our souls. Our ability to be present in silence and prayer, our desire to be intimately involved in careful conversations with friends and family - these habits do not come easy and are only growing harder to cultivate. I can speak from experience - I, too, am addicted to my phone.

Consider this quote from Sullivan, "Silence in modernity became, over the centuries, an anachronism, even a symbol of the useless superstitions we had left behind. The smartphone revolution of the past decade can be seen in some ways simply as the final twist of this ratchet, in which those few remaining redoubts of quiet — the tiny cracks of inactivity in our lives — are being methodically filled with

more stimulus and noise. ... If the churches came to understand that the greatest threat to faith today is not hedonism but distraction, perhaps they might begin to appeal anew to a frazzled digital generation."

As my own faith and pastoral sensibilities continue to develop, I sense Sullivan is right. I am becoming more and more convinced that the church, specifically our church, is being called to model an alternative way of being. We are not just here to challenge people to clean living, we are creating opportunities that compete for your very souls. But we are not competing on the same terms. Instead of more distractions and engagement, the church is offering you *less*. As Sullivan calls it, the church is in the business of producing those "tiny cracks of inactivity" in our shared lives. Our church programming is probably not as exciting and certainly not as entertaining as your other callings - even the call to glance at your phone (again). Our church cannot offer you the sizzle and pizzazz of your many other opportunities. But I think maybe that's the point. The church *can* offer you something else. Come to church and unplug. Come to church to regain your humanity. Make a point to be present at Wednesday Night LIFE and ENCOUNTER and Sunday worship. Come to church for *not* more of the same. Come to church for depth, silence, prayer, conversation and sharing in Scripture. Allow yourself to be physically present so as to "be still" and know God (Ps 46:10). "For what does it profit someone to gain the whole world and forfeit their soul?" (Mk 8:36)

Dane Womack
Executive Associate Pastor
dwomack@fsfumc.org



FIRST KIDS NEWS

This Church has a wonderful tradition of presenting the new Third Graders with a Deep Blue Kids Bible in a special worship service. These Bibles will be given on October 9th, in the Sanctuary service.

There will be two fun filled and informative classes to teach the children how to use their new Bible on October 9th and 16th, following 11:00 worship services.

The Weekday School and Children's Day Out programs will be having their Taco/Nacho night Wednesday, October 19th, in the Family Life Center. This is their BIG fundraiser for the school year. The congregation is invited to attend that evening. Please join us for delicious Mexican food, and then make your way to the Great Room and bid on fantastic gift baskets. All the proceeds will benefit these wonderful

programs. The meal will cost \$6 for adults and \$4 for kids in advance and \$7 for adults and \$5 for kids the night of the event! Remember this is a FUND RAISER!

The Weekday School is celebrating their 60th year! Over the years we have had great directors, teachers, and staff, as well as awesome families who have trusted us with their children. This wonderful school has been a blessing to all!

Sally Ware
Children's Ministries Director
sware@fsfumc.org





FUMC UNITED METHODIST WOMEN
PRESENTS

AUCTION FOR MISSIONS

TUES. OCT. 18 @ 9:00 AM
FAMILY LIFE CENTER
ALL ARE WELCOME

- 9:00 am Fellowship, Breakfast Snacks, View Items
- 9:30 am Food Gift Sale and Silent Bidding
- 10:00 am Live Auction

Auction items will include many gift baskets, baked goods, jellies, food items, gift certificates, books, home decor and much more. There will be a chance at door prizes too!

Items to sell may be dropped off in the Family Life Center Oct. 16, 9:30 am-11 am and Monday Oct. 17, 10 am-4 pm. If you are unable to drop off during these times your items may be picked up by calling Cheryl at 479-651-2360 or Jeanne at 479-650-2183.

COME HELP SUPPORT MISSIONS



200 N. 15TH ST, FT SMITH AR 72901 479.782.5068
(PARK ON 16TH STREET PARKING LOT)

BUILDERS CLASS LEARNS AND SERVES TOGETHER FOR 68 YEARS

In 1948, Dr. Fred Roebuck asked Bob Jones, an attorney, to start a new Sunday School class for young adults. Mr. Jones organized the Builders Class and taught it for 50 years. After Rev. Bill Cheyne retired as a United Methodist pastor and returned to Fort Smith, Bob Jones asked Bill if he would be a substitute teacher for the Builders. Bill had been a member of the class when he was an associate for Dr. Roebuck. Bill agreed, and after Bob passed away, Bill took over as the full time teacher.

As the years passed, most of the class members also passed away. So in September, the class disbanded, with the remaining members joining other classes. For 68 years, the Builders Class was an important part of many members' lives. The class has contributed financially to several church and community missions projects, including Food at First, the Community Rescue Mission, and the Good Samaritan Fund.

Thank you, Builders, for your legacy of study and service to the church and to God!



BUILDERS CLASS IN 2012

TACO N' NACHO NIGHT FUNDRAISER

Wednesday, October 19th in our Family Life Center from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.
Each year the Weekday School and Children's Day out host an annual fundraiser meal provided by El Zarape & a themed basket silent auction. All proceeds will go to support the Scholarship & Toy Fund for our two children's programs. Advance tickets are \$6/adults and \$4/kids. At the door tickets are \$7/adults & \$5/kids. Please contact Christie Jacobs at 782-8855 or Tiffany Null at 782-0310 for advance tickets.
Come join us for great food & fellowship!!!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIFE

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN IN ON THE FUN! CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE OR REGISTER ONLINE.
479-782-5068 FSFUMC.ORG