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Love God. Serve People. Make a Difference.

First United Methodist Church

The Flame

APRIL 2022

A word from our pastor

Rev. Dane Womack



Greetings Paragould FUMC, What a joy to be writing you as we begin the month of April! This is truly a wonderful time of the year as Spring begins and we celebrate Holy Week and Easter! Please join us in worship! Sunday, April 10, is Palm Sunday. April 14 is Maundy Thursday with services at noon & 6pm in the Sanctuary. April 15 is Good Friday, also with services at noon & 6pm in the Sanctuary. On April 16 we'll share in the Children's Easter Egg Hunt at

FUMC at 9am. On Easter Sunday, April 17, we will have four worship services: 7, 8, 9, and 11am! If you are a "regular" in worship, I want to encourage you to invite others to Holy Week and Easter services. Almost all new worshippers come because someone they trust invited them! That should be you!

I continue to share with you updates and plans around our "Next 100 Years Capital Campaign." The first worship services were held at the current location of Paragould First United Methodist Church in November 1926. Our church goes back many generations with deep Methodist roots in Northeast Arkansas. FUMC will celebrate worshiping at this location for 100 years in late 2026! Paragould FUMC has made a strategic decision to remain in downtown Paragould including doubling our square footage and renovating our older spaces. Our church is committed to being a faithful witness to Christ and the Methodist tradition from downtown Paragould and across our region for years to come! As we give thanks for our rich history we also imagine the worship, discipleship, and joy that will be shared at Paragould First United Methodist Church for Next 100 Years!

Our church is now sharing in a Capital Campaign titled "Next 100 Years"! This campaign has three primary emphases: (1) Debt Reduction; (2) Office Suite Renovation; and (3) Sanctuary Maintenance. This campaign will culminate in 2026 as we celebrate our centennial. The "More

Third Grade Bible Presentation

Third grade students were presented with Bibles April 3 during the 9 & 11:00 services.



Left to right: Kirby Poynor, Grayce Wood, Ben Kuenzel, and Emily Leone



Left to right: Gracie Weaver, Will Wyatt, Marion Hobbs, Rev. Dane

HOLY WEEK

APRIL 10 - PALM SUNDAY

**APRIL 14
MAUNDY THURSDAY
SANCTUARY - NOON & 6PM**

**APRIL 15
GOOD FRIDAY
SANCTUARY - NOON & 6PM**

**EGG HUNT
APRIL 16 - SATURDAY - 9AM
FUMC PLAYGROUND**

EASTER SUNDAY APRIL 17

**7AM - SUNRISE SANCTUARY
8AM - SANCTUARY
9AM - WORSHIP CENTER
10AM - SUNDAY SCHOOL
11AM - SANCTUARY**

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Join us for a light breakfast in the gym beginning at 9am. Then we will hunt eggs by ages/grades in areas surrounding the church. The egg hunt is for children birth-6th grade. The Easter Bunny will be joining us!

continued from page 1

Than Bricks” campaign began fundraising for the recent construction in 2016. We now owe ~\$3.19m on that ~\$7m project. With this latest campaign, we will also perform maintenance and technology upgrades in the Sanctuary (\$100k) as well as an Office Suite Renovation (\$200k) on the first floor. This brings our five-year fundraising goal to \$3.5m. Much more detailed information can be found in your March newsletter or by visiting fumcparagould.org/100years.

I have every confidence in our church and in this campaign effort. You have been very faithful in your giving across the last few years including during the pandemic. Our financial stability continues to be a strength. We need to continue to progress in paying down our debt as quickly as possible for the financial health of our church and our future ministry opportunities. Be in prayer about your giving. We will make commitments in worship on May 8.

On Sunday, April 3, we celebrated “Third Grade Bibles” as we gifted young disciples with their own copy of the Scriptures! Their names and images are included here in the newsletter. It was a joyous occasion and a reminder of why we commit ourselves to ministry in this church. Our budgets, our buildings, our worship, our service - these are all means to a particular end - growing more and new disciples who know and follow Jesus. Let us continue to be about the Lord’s work in all we do.

Grace & Peace,
Rev. Dane



On May 1 we will recognize our high school seniors in all 3 worship services. Congratulations to:

- Peyton Brown
- Alex Grooms
- Logan Hickox
- Alexanne Kellett
- Kadence Lenderman
- Ryley McMains
- Taylor Runsick
- Karlie Thompson
- Kate Young
- Alexis Brewer
- Natalie Horner
- Noah Huffman

GIVING TO THE NEXT 100 YEARS CAMPAIGN

The More Than Bricks Campaign began in 2016 with the construction of additions (Worship Center & Fellowship Hall) and renovations (Children's & Youth Areas). More Than Bricks commitments varied in duration, though most were 3 to 5 years. Original commitments have largely expired. Many members have continued their giving beyond their initial commitments while some are giving toward lengthier commitments. The five-year Next 100 Years Campaign hopes to pay off the remaining debt at nearly the same rate as the last six years. The Next 100 Years campaign also includes Sanctuary maintenance & tech upgrades (\$100k) as well as an Office Suite Renovation (\$200k) on the first floor. **This brings our five-year fundraising goal to \$3.5m.**

SACRIFICIAL GIVING

The Biblical standard for giving to ministry is the tithe - 10% of our income. Capital Campaigns like The Next 100 Years are an effort in Sacrificial Giving. Everyone should be giving regularly to the church. Your Next 100 Years commitment is an additional offering over and above your regular giving. This will require a sacrifice. Study your household budget and pray how you might give. Consider the chart below. A \$15,000 five year commitment requires about \$8/day. How many of us could shift \$8/day away from frivolous spending toward the Next 100 Years campaign? For others, giving to the Next 100 Years means tapping into reserve funds that have grown to healthy levels. Some households may put off a significant purchase like a car so they can give more. Be praying about your giving to your church and the Next 100 Years campaign.

INITIAL GIFTS

Where possible, givers are encouraged to make initial gifts as soon as possible. The sanctuary maintenance and office suite renovation will require cash on hand to begin that work soon.

ADVANCED COMMITMENTS

Financial campaigns are paced by strong givers and their Advanced Commitments. Campaign leadership welcome key donors to share their commitment by **April 24** to help inspire others.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

On **Sunday, May 8** worshippers will make their Next 100 Years Campaign commitments. For some, this new commitment will be continuing or restarting of More Than Bricks commitments. Others will make new or larger commitments. For some worshippers this will be their first time to participate in a capital campaign. Commitments are 5 years in length beginning June 2022. We believe this will lead us to having our debts nearly paid off by our 2026 centennial celebration.



Christmas Eve Communion 2021

5 YEAR TOTAL	PER YEAR	PER MONTH	PER DAY	GIVING UNITS	TOTAL
\$300,000	\$60,000	\$5,000	\$167	2	\$600,000
\$200,000	\$40,000	\$3,333	\$111	3	\$600,000
\$100,000	\$20,000	\$1,667	\$56	4	\$400,000
\$50,000	\$10,000	\$833	\$28	5	\$250,000
\$40,000	\$8,000	\$667	\$22	10	\$400,000
\$30,000	\$6,000	\$500	\$17	15	\$450,000
\$15,000	\$3,000	\$250	\$8	20	\$300,000
\$10,000	\$2,000	\$167	\$6	30	\$300,000
\$5,000	\$1,000	\$83	\$3	40	\$200,000
				129	\$3,500,000

Campaign Giving Guide



Several of our youth and adults made it to VERITAS 2022!!!! I know it was an awesome experience for our students and adults from around our state! They had a great worship team leading them (MoveLove) and two amazing speakers (Shanterra McBride and Timothy Palmer). Two of our youth served on the ACCYM planning team that put this year's



Kate Young speaking at Veritas

event together (Kate Young - Veritas Planning Task Force; Karlie Thompson - Media Task Force). Kate Young also gave her testimony in

front of more than a thousand youth and adults from across the state during the closing worship session! Their worship experience concluded with Bishop Mueller leading worship and communion.

ACCYM News:

JR. & SR. HIGH ASSEMBLY will be July 24-28, 2022 @ Hendrix College (More Details to come).

Confirmation Class of 2022 - you are half-way through the material!!!! Our Confirmands and parents/guardians are doing a great job and tackling some difficult theological items each week. We have some great students in this cohort and I am looking forward to our remaining time together! Confirmands, parents/guardians, here is a look at our next sessions.

2022 Confirmation	
Temple@Memphis (April 29th 5:15p **3:15p)	
Mass@St.Marys (May 14th 6:00p **5:40p)	
April 3rd (8)	
April 10th (9)	
April 24th (10)	
May 1st (11)	
May 8th (12)	
May 15th (13)	
May 22nd (14) Lunch (15 & Closing)***	
Confirmation Sunday	

April						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

May						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

June						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Spring is here and we are springing into more and more opportunities of building relationships, growing in our faith, and engaging in the ministry of being the body of Christ for this world! #FirstStudents

-Rev. Chase Burns

Here's what's going on in APRIL and beginning of May!!!

ARFIL 10
CRAWFISH BOIL
 For Youth
 5pm –Playground area

Youth Holy Week Schedule

- April 10th: Palm Sunday 9am/11am : Crawfish 5pm
- April 13th: Connect Wednesday (Meal @5pm; Connect @6pm)
- April 14th: Maundy Thursday @ 6pm (Sanctuary)
- April 15th: Good Friday @ 6pm (Sanctuary)
- April 16th: Egg Hunt Set-up @ 8am (Breakfast @ WH following)
- April 17th: EASTER!!!!!! (no evening event)

Setting up Easter Eggs
 Saturday April 16, 2022
 8am Set-up
 Breakfast @ Waffle House

Sunday April 24th: Connection Event @ Social Jonesboro (Vans departing church at 4:15p)

Sunday Night May 1, 2022 5pm
 Youth Council Meeting
 Who: Parents, Guardians, & Students!
 What: Planning Summer Events!!!!!!



Ready, Set, READ

A Ready, Set, READ event took place at Griffin Memorial UMC on Saturday, April 2. Several children attended this event and got to go home with three books each, thanks to the Paragould Kiwanis Club who donated \$800 toward the books. The Ready, Set, READ program at FUMC for kids entering Kindergarten through 6th grade will be held June 19-24.

“Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.” Galatians 6:9 NIV

March Madness is a term that is normally associated with the NCAA basketball tournaments. Even as I'm writing this the women's final is on television. However, when I think of March Madness, it brings to mind our children's ministry! We have had a busy and exciting month. Connect Wednesdays have been going strong as we are learning new songs, memory verses, and the Fruit of the Spirit. Behind the scenes we have been ordering material and planning for VBS which will be held June 26-30. We have been organizing and planning the Easter egg hunt which will be April 16. On April 2nd, we held a Kindergarten registration and Ready, Set, READ event with Griffin Memorial that had been in the planning stages for several months. It was a huge success! God continues to show up and show out for our FUMC kids and the kids of our community!

As we begin April, it will continue to be just as busy, so please be aware of the following events. As always, if you are willing to serve in any area of children's ministry, please contact me! There are numerous opportunities! Ask anyone that has helped, it is truly a blessing.

Upcoming events:

April 10- Palm Sunday! **The children will enter with palms and sing two of our songs we've learned in Sunday School and Connect Wednesdays.

April 13-Connect Wednesday

April 16-Easter Egg hunt at 9:00! **We still need candy and eggs! Please have them at church by April 14.

April 17-Easter Sunday! He is Risen!

April 20-Connect Wednesday

April 27-Connect Wednesday

Blessings!

Angela, Director of Children's Ministries



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

VERITAS



Jonathan Peel is one of those quiet, unassuming volunteers that we don't know what we would do without. He comes in with a great attitude and a smile on his face, tackling every task with grace.

Jonathan keeps busy with his work at FUMC, serving as an usher for special church services, and running lights in the 9:00 am service as a member of the media team. He has also led the music for the 8:00 am service.

In addition to his work at the church, Jonathan regularly visits people in nursing homes. "I have visited the elderly for about 3 years now and like sharing God's love with them and seeing the joy on their faces as we talk about Jesus one on one together and about what all our Lord has done in their lives."

Jonathan has been a part of the church for about a decade. "I love the FUMC family. They show God's love to one another by giving and volunteering for anything that needs to be done at the church, as well as the community. FUMC is a caring and loving church that looks out for one another. We, as Methodists, are connected to one another from what I have learned in my lay servant course of study, that we as a church body reach out globally when it comes to tornado disasters and our situation with Ukraine that we are having to deal with. We are always there for the clean up and the last ones to leave and that's what I love about our church."

In his spare time, Jonathan enjoys spending time with his dog Bella, going out to the parks and taking walks downtown and in the neighborhood. He also likes to spend time with family and go to the movies and outings at downtown activities and events at the Collins Theater.

"I spend a lot of time in my home office reading scripture and spending time with God and seeing which direction He wants me to go in life." He is employed by the Greene County Tech Middle School where he works in the custodial department. He hopes someday to be appointed to a church to share the gospel. In the meantime, he continues to minister to others at his job and in the community and has, in fact, completed the Lay Servant Ministries Course (he is shown holding his certificate in the photo above).

Jonathan is the son of Bob and Judy and brother to Allen.



Jonathan working the lights in the 9:00 service, and holding his dog, Bella, at the Blessing of the Animals event in October

Several youth, along with their parents, were able to attend Veritas. Here are a few of their favorite parts:

"My favorite part was spending time in fellowship with my brothers and sisters in Christ." - Logan Hickox

"My favorite part of Veritas was hearing Kate share her testimony and spending time with all the youth." -Mary Hickox

"My favorite part of Veritas 2022 was hearing Shantera McBride speak again. She is AWESOME." -Debbie Brown

"My favorite part of Veritas was watching Ryder Barnhill come out of his shell and enjoy spending time with all his fellow friends. He was an excellent golfer at Top Golf. Way to go Ryder and good luck to all the seniors." -Jeani Wallace



Scenes from Veritas in March. Veritas is an annual event that is youth-focused and features worship music, speaking, and testimonies.



We share our congratulations with Witt and Isabel Broadway in celebrating their wedding. They were wed March 19 in the FUMC Sanctuary. Congratulations!



With, KU's victory, Jim Jackson won the FUMC Bracket Challenge! Congrats! In his honor, \$130 will be given to the Witt House.

Witt House Stats for March

We served 279 households representing 858 people. We added 60 new households to our client base during the month and served 9 Emergency households.

Year-to-date we have served 773 households representing 2,527 individuals.

Witt House Statistics: March 2022		Breakdown By Category		
Statistic Name	Total Served	Clients (Includes PSD)	New Clients	Emergency
# Households Served	279	210	60	9
# Households With One Person Employed	20	18	2	Unclassified
# New People Served	192	****	170	22
People	858	836	Included with clients	22
0-18 Years	317	317	Included with clients	Unclassified
19-59 Years	383	383	Included with clients	Unclassified
Age Over 60	132	132	Included with clients	Unclassified
Females	437	437	Included with clients	Unclassified
Males	395	395	Included with clients	Unclassified

Finance

2022 Budget \$1,269,130

March 2022

General Contributions: \$80,688

Building Contributions: \$51,680

Building Loan Balance: \$3,199,062

A Dollar A Week

\$1,821

Memorials

Claire Jenkins by Ann Gregg, Theresa & Kristin Kirk, Terry & Alice Lee, Debbie DeVault, Mike & Beth Gibson, Gary & Beverly Biggs, Beth Pace, Jann Willcockson

Randall & Claire Jenkins by Donis & Bonnie Hamilton, Dr. Gary Black, John & Joyce Bland Families

Chris Stidham by John & Joyce Bland Families

Tommy Cox by Paragould High School Class of 1968

Honorariums

Bob Branch by Connie Whitman

George & Susie Cook by Connie Whitman

Church Girls by Connie Whitman

LOOKING AHEAD

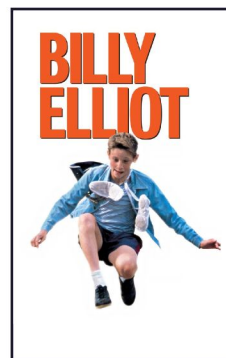


Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, May 2

1:30 pm – 5:30 pm

First United Methodist Paragould



YOUNG AT HEART

Movie Club

Monday, April 11

1:00 pm 3rd floor movie room

Popcorn and candy provided

(bring your own drink)

Spring Rally for youth coming in May at FUMC Beebe.



Bishop Gary E. Mueller
District Superintendent John Fleming
Pastors Dane Womack
(william.womack@arumc.org),
Chase Burns (chase.burns@arumc.org)
Music Director Brian Pearson
(brian.pearson@fumcparagould.org)
Director of Children's Ministries
Angela Newby
(angela.newby@fumcparagould.org)
Dir. of Media/Communications Karoline Risker
(karoline.risker@fumcparagould.org)
Organist Bernard Raley
Church Administrator Denise Chipman
(denise.chipman@fumcparagould.org)
Custodian: Greig Lynn

Office Phone 870-239-8541
Office Hours: 8:30-am- 4:30 pm
(Fridays close at noon)

First United Methodist Church
404 West Main Street, Paragould, AR 72450
info@fumcparagould.org 870.239.8541
Office Hours: 8:30-4:30 Monday-Thursday
8:30-noon Friday
www.fumcparagould.org



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