



Love God. Serve People. Make a Difference.

First United Methodist Church

The Flame

FEBRUARY 2022

A word from our pastor

Rev. Dane Womack



Greetings Paragould FUMC,

I hope you are doing well as you receive our February monthly newsletter from Paragould First United Methodist Church. I write on the heels of January which has been a strange month. The last few weeks have been met by surging covid cases which have caused ours and many churches to miss the momentum that often comes with a new year. I lament with you, particularly those who work in education and healthcare, the ways in which the pandemic continues to create challenges.

One recent highlight was our "Leadership Orientation" on January 5. I will share a few key points in this article for those who could not be present. First, I led the group in an overview of our 2021 attendance patterns. Since Labor Day, FUMC averaged 240 in-person worshippers per Sunday with some 51 households worshipping online. We have assumed households account for ~2.5 people meaning ~130 average worshippers online. Our in-person attendance tracks with covid cases. If local case numbers are high, in-person worshippers are fewer and online worshippers increase. And vice-versa. This leads me to conclude our congregation worships 340-400 people per week. Some people worship exclusively in-person, some exclusively online, and others choose based on the circumstances. Our number of online worshippers exceeds the size of many congregations. FUMC will need to grow our ministry with those who worship primarily online.

Second, I offered an overview of the current state of the United Methodist Church. The 2019 Special Session General Conference passed "Traditional Plan". While GC affirmed what was already in our Discipline regarding homosexuality, same-sex marriage, ordination of LGBTQ persons, many were disappointed more was not done to provide a meaningful way forward. Later in '19 a diverse group of UMC leaders began to meet together and procured the services of the esteemed lawyer and mediator Kenneth Fienberg to help to develop an apparatus for future divisions in the United Methodist Church. This work was largely celebrated across the UMC. Their agreement is known as

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Connect Wednesday Starting back February 16

Connect Wednesday will begin on February 16. Children's and youth programming, chancel choir, and an adult Bible study begin at 6:00pm and go until 7:00pm.

The schedule goes from February 16-May 2, with the exception of Ash Wednesday (March 2; we will offer a noon service, serve dinner at 5pm, and have a service at 6pm in the sanctuary) and Spring Break (March 23; no programming of any kind).

Wednesday nights start with the option of having dinner in the Fellowship Hall/gym. Cost is \$3 for children under 8, \$5 for adults. There is a \$15 maximum for families. Sign up by noon on Monday by calling the church office, signing up on the website or church center app, or by signing up in line the previous Wednesday night. Dinner is served from 5:00 until 6:00.

"The Protocol for Separation". It was the general consensus that "The Protocol" would pass at the 2020 GC, but that did not happen due to COVID. Nor was there a GC in '21. It's still unclear if there will be a GC in '22. Because of COVID, the future of the UMC has somewhat been put on the backburner. "The Global Methodist Church" (GMC) is being organized by a coalition of long-time traditionalists clergy, churches, institutions who are prepared and wanting to begin a different denomination. Many are expecting to remain in the UMC and are waiting to see how the denomination takes shape over the next couple of years. Concerns regarding Methodism's global future remain. The Protocol seems to have lost some of its initial momentum. The future timeline for the UMC is unknown. Currently I and our church are United Methodist. I assume that will continue to be the case for the foreseeable future. When and if more is known about possible GC dates and or legislation, I will let you know.

Lastly, I offered those gathered a snapshot of FUMC's ministries as I see them. (1) We celebrate our congregation prioritizing ministry & supporting FUMC over the last two years. (2) Different ministries have come through the last two years at different rates in different ways. Some for better. Some for worse. (3) FUMC is at its best where we have strong lay leadership. (4) FUMC needs to grow in areas where we currently lack strong lay leadership. Therefore, FUMC needs to grow more/new leaders in new areas. (5) "You get the church you want." The staff run the day-to-day operations of the church and oversee Sunday AM worship. But the real engaging ministry is done by and led by the lay members. A key theme here is growing lay leadership. I hope more and different people will learn to serve in and through FUMC.

A copy of the notes available that evening can be found at fumcparagould.org/resources.

Shifting gears somewhat, I hope you notice a slight change in the monthly newsletter including reports from other ministries. Second, join me in celebrating new members to FUMC including Wes & Sydney Watts and Roger, Shani, & Ryder Barnhill. At the same time, we mourn the passing of Roberta Parkinson as we continue to hold Gene in prayer.

Looking to March, I draw your attention to Ash Wednesday on March 2. We will have services at 12noon and 6pm as we begin Lent together. And we will join together in a churchwide sermon series and study of the Apostles' Creed in Lent. Books will be available soon. Looking forward to learning more about the history of our faith as we grow to more faithfully follow Jesus together!

If you have any questions or concerns about any of these matters, reach out!

Grace & Peace,
Rev. Dane Womack
Senior Pastor



Greetings PFUMC Family and Friends!

What an interesting transition we all have experienced for the first part of this year! Thank you all for being adaptive while we navigated the first wave of winter weather and illnesses. In navigating such a time as this, we are still doing all we can to engage in activities here at the church to the best of our abilities. Here are a few things to put on your calendar!!! -Rev. Chase

Confirmation

Retreat to Mt. Eagle Friday-Sunday March 4th-6th
Sunday School Confirmation Class w/ Rev. Chase

March 13 @ 10am

April 3rd @ 10am

April 10th @ 10am

April 17 - No Sunday School (Easter Sunday)

April 24th @ 10am

May 1st @ 10am

Retreat No. 2 - Friday-Saturday May 6th-7th to Temple in Memphis *TBD

May 8th @ 10am

May 15th @ 10am

Retreat No. 3 - Friday-Saturday May 20th-21st to Mosque in Memphis *TBD

May 22nd @ 10am

Confirmation Sunday June 5th

Youth:7th-12th

Sunday School Hour is each week at 10am! We are working through the series "Re:Form." Each week, we are tackling head-scratching-faith questions as we engage in dialogue and activities provided by our anti-workbooks.

Sunday Nights: Each Sunday night the youth engage in discipleship, fellowship, and mission. Here is the tentative schedule for the next few weeks!

February

6th - Meal @ 5pm

Worship @ 5:30pm

13th - Super Bowl Super Potluck . 5pm until end of halftime show

Bring your favorite snack to share (let us know via instagram or during youth by 2/6/22).

20th - Meal @ 5pm

"Life-Giving Spirit" 1 Cor. 15:35-38;42-50; Devo & Dodgeball

27th - Meal @ 5pm;

Prayer Walk: Preparing for Lent (Join us as we take a journey through prayer stations as we prepare for Ash Wednesday!)

March

6th - Glow Party @ 5pm; "Light in the Darkness" Luke 11:33-36

13th - Serve Sunday: Service TBD Noon-till; Dinner @ Larry's Pizza

20th - NO YOUTH - Spring Break

27th - NO YOUTH- Veritas

April

3rd - Meal @ 5pm

Worship @ 5:30pm

10th - Crawfish Boil

Wednesday Nights: February 16th- March 16th; March 30th -April 4th;

*Ash Wed. March 2

5th & 6th Working with Miss Rena on a few projects, crafts, games, and fun.

Lessons in the 5th & 6th Room (2nd Floor)

7th-9th Chill N' Check-in w/ Pastor Chase in the Youth Room (2nd Floor)

10th-12th Student Led Check-in February 2nd- March 16th

Part II: Guest Talks April 30th - May 4th

Special Events:

SR High Breakfast Club - 2nd Thursdays of the Month @ 6:30am @ Ironhorse

Veritas (7th-12th) Friday- Sunday March 25th-27th

NEDCYM Retreat moved to May 6th-7th

What I Love About FUMC

We asked a few FUMC kids what they loved about their church. These are their responses.



*"Everyone who makes up the church."
-Reese Richardson*



*"What I love about my church is Sunday School."
-Evan Pearson*



"Probably everything about it." -Will Wyatt



*"I love everybody at my church."
-Edith Womack*

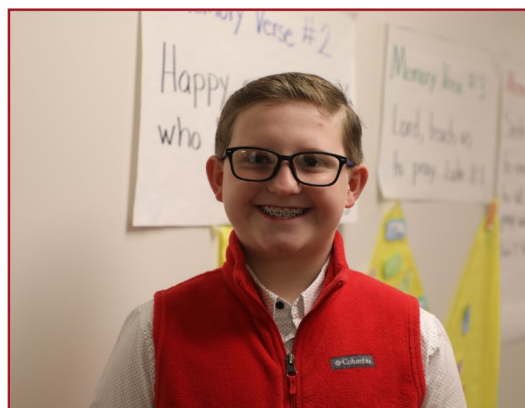


"I love my friends." -Piper Pearson

*"I love going to big church."
-Audrey Richardson*



*"I love learning about Jesus."
-Kensington DeMarco*



*"I love all the friends I can make here."
-Tate Gray*



"I love Sunday School." -Elliot Gray



"I love my mom being my (Sunday School) teacher." -Stella McMunn

Volunteer Spotlight

Mike Rutherford has long volunteered to do the more typical volunteer roles, like usher, or running soundboard, or working video, but Mike quietly does those things most people wouldn't notice, unless he wasn't doing them. He came by to water the new grass in front of the Welcome Center after construction was complete and new sod was put in, and then he kept



doing it. He fixes communion every time we take it, helping to put the elements together, and then collecting communion cups after. Mike gets out the shop vac when we get heavy rain and gets to work collecting the water from the basement. He learned how to use the projector in the movie room and gets the movies going for Young at Heart each month. He stepped in to play the piano when Bernard was out for a rare Sunday, he and Matt Hobbs change out about 50 filters every 3 months in the new addition, he cooks barbeque for the Wednesday night meal, volunteers at the Witt House every Friday, and he got on the lift to put up banners in the old contemporary worship space. It's his lack of a fear of heights that probably makes him the best qualified for the most unique thing he does: switching out light bulbs in the sanctuary, a feat that requires a trip up a ladder on the 4th floor, and then through a small passageway, then walking on 2x4's over the sanctuary while holding the bulb. He has to be careful to walk on the studs, not knowing how well the flooring below will hold out. He estimates that he has changed 10-15 a year since the late 1970s when Bill Phillips asked him to help out. Bill and Red Jenkins had been switching out the bulbs and wanted someone younger to take over. Not an easy task and he admits he's dropped a few bulbs; there are about 40 lights in the sanctuary, all original and dating back to the mid-1920's. "If I see something that needs to be done, I just do it," he said.

Mike's hobbies are just as ambitious as he is. He makes stained glass after he took up a class while he living in Caruthersville ("It's tedious but it's fun"), once creating stained glass of 2 fish from a pattern he made. He does counted cross stitch, and picks out elaborate scenes that take him over a year to complete. He likes to cook, but prefers baking and even makes his own crust. He started off as a music major in college, playing both the organ and piano at the University of Missouri, dedicating 32 hours of practice a week to his craft. And at age 73, he went skydiving with his grandson Brandon, just because he asked him. At Brandon's graduation, he turned to Mike and said: "I want to go skydiving and I want

you to take me." "Are you sure?" was Mike's response. "Yes." So, when Brandon turned 19 (the minimum age of consent for skydiving in Alabama where he's from), they went. They both jumped in tandem with a partner. "I knew I was crazy enough to do it. It was an experience," he says.

Mike, now 77, is retired from First National Bank where he was the Chief Information Officer. He has been married to Betty for 55 years. The couple has two sons Kevin and Chad, and 4 grandchildren. "Gotta stay busy," he says. We're just thankful he says busy here.



Above, right: Mike in the sanctuary playing the piano. Bottom, left to right: Mike showing a bulb from the church sanctuary, a cross stitch he made, and the stained glass project he made from a pattern he created.

Blood Drive

Fellowship Hall
404 West Main Street
Monday, February 7
1:30pm-5:30 pm
1-800-RED CROSS for more
information

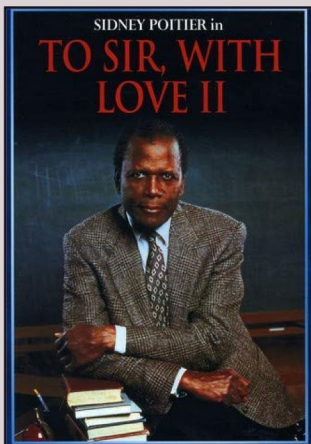


Welcome new members!

*Roger, Shani,
and Ryder
Barnhill who
joined January
30*



*Wes & Sydney
Watts, who
joined January
23.*



YOUNG AT HEART

Movie Club
Monday, February 14
1:00 pm 3rd floor movie room
We will be showing a Sidney
Poitier movie—"To Sir with
Love"
Popcorn and candy provided
(bring your own drink)

Hello FUMC Friends!

First, I just want to say thank you for welcoming me to the position of Children's Director. Since starting in the fall, it has been a whirlwind experience! I am so thankful that we were able to experience "normal" for a little while with Sunday School, Connect Wednesdays, Trunk-or-Treat, and our Christmas Pageant. I have loved every minute of it!

While the fall was a busy blessing, I am thankful for the quiet of January. It's been a month of planning and preparing for the upcoming year. January is a fresh start as it brings a new year. Connect Wednesdays will soon resume. We'll begin preparing for Easter, VBS, and Ready, Set, Read. As you make your resolutions and plans for the new year, I encourage you to remember our children at FUMC and think about how God is calling you to serve in this area. We have a place for you! A servant's heart is the only thing required! You don't even need a child in children's ministry to serve! Please contact me if you'd like to help out in Sunday School or with any of the programs mentioned. Most importantly, pray for our children's ministry. Pray for our parents, their children, and all of those that serve in this area. They truly are the future of our church.

These are just a few of the many ways you can serve in children's ministry:

Pray!

Provide extra hands in Sunday School

Be a substitute teacher for Sunday School (lessons are provided)

Be a greeter for the Children's Area on Sunday mornings or for special events

Serve during Connect Wednesdays either by teaching or being a shepherd

Vacation Bible School- MANY areas available

Ready, Set, READ- MANY areas available! No teaching experience required!

Share your musical or artistic talents during a special lesson or on a regular basis

Organize and prepare crafts for Sunday mornings

Like decorating? We can always use volunteers to spruce up the Children's Area with seasonal decor and cute bulletin boards!

Provide snacks for Sunday School

Again if you feel led to help, please contact me (870-450-3138).

Blessings,
Angela

"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6



Find us as Paragould First United Methodist Church on Facebook and Paragould FUMC on Instagram



In February we turn our hearts toward love so it seemed fitting to include photos of couples who got married in our beautiful church!



*Davey Joe & Rena Jackson
March 8, 1975*



*Seth & Alexis Dearing
February 2, 2019*



*Jeremy & April Biggs
April 16, 2005*



*Frank & Mary Ann Schreit
July 29, 1951*



*Skip & Anna Schreit
December 6, 1986*



*Chase & Cory Hinkle
December 15, 2007*



*Fred & Janice Wilcox
December 16, 1967*



*Logan & Brooke Lands
May 31, 2014*



*Matthew & Whitney Weeks Miller
June 1, 2013*



*Nathan & Angela Newby
June 10, 2000*



*Josh & Sarah Barnhill
September 18, 2021*



*Josh & Baylie Tabor Sisler
April 17, 2021*



*Jake & Natalie Bland
June 7, 2008*

Finance

2022 Budget \$1,269,130

Year End 2021

General Contributions: \$898,942

Building Contributions: \$412,838

January 2022

General Contributions: \$70,542

Building Contributions: \$412,838

Building Loan Balance: \$3,199,062

(since December 2020, we have paid \$536,551 to principal)

A Dollar A Week

2021: \$4,631 2022: \$ 590

Memorials

Terry Boone by Bob Branch, Cloyce & Frances Boone

Debbie Randleman by Larry & Denise Chipman, Tommy & Jennifer Arant, Joe & Jackie Barnett, Theresa & Kristin Kirk, Charles & Donna Brazil, George & Susie Cook

Roberta Parkinson by Bill & Judy Dacus, Bob Branch, Janice Wilcox, Larry & Denise Chipman, Alfred & Debbie Henson, Kay & Herb Bland, George & Susie Cook, Sylvia & Donald Roland, Bebo & Noelle McDaniel, Chris & Andrea McDaniel, Robin Patten, Brenda Anderson, Larry & Carol Elmore, Dane & Jill Womack, Donna Jones, Karen Mosley

Loren Risker by George & Susie Cook, Larry & Denise Chipman

Vivian Wright by Bob Branch

Honorariums

Dixie Lawrence by Bob Branch

Bill Phillips on his Birthday by Bill & Ann Fisher

Charles Brazil on his Birthday by Bill & Ann Fisher



*Brock & Laura Wooldridge
March 19, 2005*



*Chris & Tracy Brengard
July 21, 1990*



*Gene & Jamie McIlvoy
July 6, 1996*



*Dennis & Debbie Brown
September 18, 1999*



*George & Susie Williams Cook
November 26, 1966*



*Luke & Jame Cook
September 25, 1999*



*Forrest & Lou Tripod
May 6, 1956*



*Mike & Robin Patten
January 22, 1977*

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
(eaglebandguy2@gmail.com)
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)

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8:30-noon Friday
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