



Love God. Serve People. Make a Difference.

First United Methodist Church

JULY 2022

A word from our pastor Rev. Dane Womack

The Flame



Greetings Paragould FUMC!

Grace and Peace to you in the name of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ! I write to you with great joy in my heart after one of the busiest and most uplifting months of ministry at FUMC! June began with the Arkansas Conference Annual Conference & Rev. Chase's ordination. We've celebrated confirmations both on June 5 and June 29 including the Wood family joining the church! FUMC hosted Ozark Mission Project and Ready Set Read. We just finished up an excellent week of

Vacation Bible School. This newsletter is filled with pictures and reflections from each of these ministries where you can see and read more details. What an encouraging few weeks serving Christ and our community together. FUMC's slogan is "Love God, Serve People, Make a Difference". I sense we have done that well this month of June. Thank you for your efforts and support surrounding these ministries!

I write to share a few administrative updates as well. With respect to facilities, this month marked the final stage in repairing and replacing the Sanctuary flat roofs. We continue to monitor trouble areas and make necessary repairs. There are still interior paint and plaster repairs pending. We continue to manage daily maintenance issues (HVAC, plumbing, etc.) but have not taken significant action on facilities in May or June.

The Next 100 Years Campaign culminated with commitments in worship on Sunday, June 5. We announced we have received 95 commitments with a total value of \$2.6million. I think these are wonderful totals both in commitments and dollar value. I remind you that our current total debt is ~\$3.2million and we need to do ~\$300k work in office suite remodel & sanctuary maintenance. If you have not made a commitment to this five-year Capital Campaign & Debt Reduction effort, I strongly encourage you to do so. More details about the campaign can be found at fumcparagould.org/100years. Following the campaign, the Finance

Mike Rutherford Joining Staff

Mike Rutherford joined the staff of FUMC as a part-time custodian on June 20. We are thrilled to have Mike in this position. Mike is a long-time member and has been a very active volunteer in caring for our facilities. This position is PT/20-25 hrs/week & includes Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings (seasonally). Other days/hours will vary depending on need and church schedule.

"Breaking Bonds" cleaning service/ministry cleans the entire first floor and sanctuary once/week. This custodian position is responsible for areas not addressed by Breaking Bonds and/or other needs that come up daily. Mike is taking the place of Greig Lynn, who recently retired. Please join us in welcoming Mike to this position!



YOUNG AT HEART

Committee gave their blessing to begin collecting quotes on the first-floor Office Suite Remodel.

Our finances continue to be strong. We are now seeing an uptick in giving toward the Next 100 Years Campaign. General giving is stronger this YTD compared to last year. Your giving is essential to our church's ministries including those celebrated this month. Summer giving sometimes slows due to travel and changing schedules, but so far we are doing well. Thank you for your giving!

FUMC will join in a called Charge Conference on Wednesday, July 13, 2022 at 6pm in the Sanctuary for the purpose of considering and voting to approve/decline a property gift and trust arrangement for a senior pastor parsonage. Many more details will be available that evening. Your questions and feedback are welcomed. Robert Thompson will be present to help explain the Trust. The meeting is public. All are welcome. The voting members of the Charge Conference are the current members of the Church Council.

Following this year's Annual Conference, I indicated we would offer an update later this summer on all things pertaining to the United Methodist Church. Mark your calendars for Monday, August 1 at 6pm. As many of you know, the UMC continues to face challenges in structure and vision with respect to matters around human sexuality. At this meeting I will attempt to update our church on the state of the United Methodist Church. I chose that day/time so as not to conflict with other ministries or personal/weekend travel. All are welcome. I would especially encourage those in church leadership to attend. No one should be or feel uninformed about these matters. Please bring your questions and concerns.

Looking further ahead, mark your calendars for Sunday, August 14. This will be our annual "Backpack Sunday" and Sunday School Promotion. Back-to-school season represents a change in schedules and patterns for many in our community as we regain our weekly rhythms. I hope the same is true for our church. Since the beginning of the pandemic, our lives and our church's ministries have been a little ... unstable? We will see big crowds for key holidays or special events. But sometimes struggle to get Sunday School classes together on an average Sunday. Things are (still) a little unsettled. My pastoral sense is that we need a return to more consistency and discipline in our lives and in our church. Church and Christianity cannot only be something we check in to on major holidays. We need weekly worship, weekly study and small groups, weekly giving, and weekly service. As you and your household prepare for a new school year, I want to challenge you to recommit yourself to the church and its ministries with consistency. That will be a focus of my preaching and teaching in the early fall. The life of faith is one of disciplined patterns of behavior. I am praying we might grow in that direction together this school year.

Grace & Peace,
Rev. Dane



JULY

7/11 Movies in the movie room at 1pm

7/20 Wilson Cafe & Wilson History Museum, 10-3

7/25 Game Night in the Welcome Center at 5:30pm

PARAGOULD FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
WEDNESDAY | JULY 13, 2022 | 6pm

CHARGE CONFERENCE

This meeting is for the express and only purpose of considering and voting to approve/decline a property gift and trust arrangement for a senior pastor parsonage.

The meeting is public and all are welcome.
The voting members of the Charge Conference are the current members of the Church Council.



PARAGOULD FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
MONDAY, AUGUST 1ST, 6PM
FUMC SANCTUARY

INFORMATION SESSION

STATE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH & OUR CONGREGATION





Hello, FUMC Friends!

Whew! What a June! The past two weeks have been busy in FUMC Children’s Ministry! Ready, Set, READ and Vacation Bible School have brought close to 400 children, youth, volunteers, and community members to this church. That is a testament to the importance this church places on our future, not only the future of our church but in the children of our community. I am so thankful for that! July will be a little slower paced. However, there will be planning and organizing for upcoming fall activities. Please be in prayer for our children and leaders as we map out future activities and events. Also, mark your calendars for July 24. Our children will be singing VBS songs at both the 9 and 11:00am church services!

Blessings,
Angela, Director of Children’s Ministries



18-25ish years of age and looking for a place to plug in this summer? Here it is!!!! First Core!!! We had our first meeting and we are excited! Here is a look at what is going on!

First Core (18-25ish) Gatherings at church:
Sunday School @ 10am. We will gather in the Worship Center as we begin to work through the book “Shaping a Faithful Life.”

First Core (18-25ish) Gatherings Off-Campus :
Include time at The Social in Jonesboro and dinner and Locked Away. Sign up on the church center app or online at www.fumcparagould.org/register.

Follow us on Instagram @ firstcore.pfumc.



Summer registrations are open on Church App:

Escape Room July 31. Cost is \$25.

JR & SR High Assembly @ Hendrix (Event date July 24th-28th)

Assembly is a week of discipleship at Hendrix College featuring awesome worship, awesome people and one awesome God. United Methodist Youth from all over our state experience this week-long camp designed and led by their peers. Attendees are housed in the college dorms, share meals together in the dining hall, check-in with their youth group, meet up with their core group for devotion hour, games, and fun. Worship is held in the auditorium with a “Veritas” experience.

It is a great week of joining together with others your age to learn, grow, and laugh. It’s waking up and worshipping through word and song. It’s coming to an event and leaving with a “family”. It’s an opportunity to open up, to get real, to focus. It’s a chance to shift your thoughts, your actions, and your life from things of this world to the heart of Jesus. After all, true worship takes place when all people within a community seek the presence of God and are accepting of each other.

Other Summer Opportunities: Camp Tanako <https://www.tanako.org>. We will not be organizing a trip to Camp Tanako, but would like our members to be aware of the camp in case they would like to book separately.



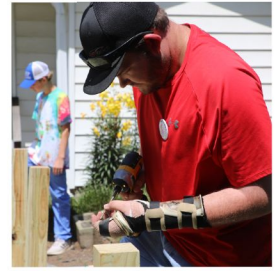
Our youth helping at Ready, Set, READ and Vacation Bible School

Ozark Mission Project

Thank you for the support of Ozark Mission Project at Paragould FUMC June 12-17. We had youth and adults from FUMC Paragould, Cornerstone UMC Jonesboro, Rector UMC, and Pulaski Heights UMC totaling 50 community builders. We worked together to build 4 wheelchair ramps, construct 2 decks/porches, paint 4 homes, repair/build multiple handrails and did yard work and power washing at 5 homes. It was a hot week, but we did important work for many in need. FUMC did so much to support this mission including donating time, money, and food. Between flower preparation, daily volunteers, kitchen crews, shower house hosts and others, we believe some 125 folks were involved in OMP last week! Wow! Thank you! What a great week for our church and our community. Ozark Mission Project is a wonderful ministry shared among Arkansas Methodists!



OMP Paragould 2022



*Transforming lives through worship, fellowship and
hands-on mission*



Ready, Set, READ!

Ready, Set, READ! came to a close and I'm just now able to wrap my mind around it all. It was full of BLESSINGS:

*Approximately 80 kids going into kindergarten through 6th grade joined us. We had kids from Paragould School District, Greene County Tech, St. Mary's, and Marmaduke Schools this year (YEA!).

* 15-20 youth volunteers (7th - 12th graders) who gave up a week of their summer break to work with kids in classrooms, clean, read to kids, play with kids, and be excellent role models for the littles.

* Adult volunteers who taught classes, worked in small groups with kiddos, cleaned, set out lunch, read to a child, listened to a child read, played games with kids, crafted with kids, created lesson plans, drove vehicles or rode along to pick up kids, and everything in between.

* SROs who were the first to show up and some of the last to leave each day. They worked registration, helped with van routes, organized emergency vehicles and First Responder volunteers, interacted with the the little ones and all of our volunteers, and so much more.

* Community Readers who came to RSR each day to read a book and share a little about themselves with the students. We had guests from Miranda Reynolds of Discover Paragould, to firefighters and a sheriff's deputy, to Mayor Josh Agee.

—Danielle Honeycutt, co-founder of RSR.



VBS

FUMC hosted Vacation Bible School June 26-30. This year's theme was "Food Truck Party: On a Roll with God." It was centered around "Give us this day our daily bread" from Matthew 6:11. We discussed and celebrated all the ways that God provides for our needs. We had 77 students that registered, 19 youth volunteers, and 35 adult volunteers. We capped off the week with a REAL food truck. The children were challenged to collect food items for the Witt House food pantry and their reward was getting to see Mrs. Angela get pied in the face!



Confirmation/New Members



Above: We would like to welcome Travis, Kelly, and Grayce Wood, who joined yesterday at the same time Jaxon joined the church through baptism. Middle: Luke Wooldridge, Jaxon Wood, and Jack Branch being confirmed into the church in June. Bottom: Katie Jo Bolen, Kallie Jackson, Bennett Hobbs, Jackson Brown, Josalyn Jones, and Lola Smith being confirmed June 5, standing with Rev. Chase.

Witt House Stats for June

During the month of June, we served 285 households representing 881 individuals. We added 62 new households (highest number to date) representing 211 individuals and served 9 Emergency households representing 22 individuals. We are continuing to add a large number of new households each week. As a reminder, the Paragould School District deliveries (42 households - 210 individuals) have ceased for the summer. Year-to-date, the Witt House has served 1,677 households representing 5,361 individuals.

With the cost of food rising we are seeing an increase of those in need. Any donation to the food pantry is greatly appreciated. In June we received \$865 in monetary donations and had expenses of \$6,880 for food. Donations of peanut butter, carrots, and tuna would be greatly appreciated.

Witt House Statistics: June 2022	
Statistic Name	Total Served
# Households Served	285
# Households With One Person Employed	47
# New People Served	233
People	881
0-18 Years	299
19-59 Years	428
Age Over 60	132
Females	445
Males	414

Finance

2022 Budget \$1,269,130

June 2022

General Contributions: \$59,700

Building/100 Year Contributions: \$25,039

A Dollar A Week

\$3,782 to date

Memorials

In Memory of:

Jim Keith by Robin Patten, Jann Willcockson, John Wyatt, John & Ann Honeycutt, Ann Gregg & Brent

Gerald McPherson by Bob Branch, Larry & Denise Chipman

Dick Pace by John & Ann Honeycutt, Herb & Kay Bland, Larry & Denise Chipman

Gary Felty by Robin Patten, David & Shirley Wilson, Kay & Herb Bland, Phillip & Paige Wooldridge, Larry & Denise Chipman

Bob Peel by Bob Branch, Robin Patten, Larry & Denise Chipman

Terry Waits by Carolyn Samuel, Danny & Linda Futrell, Clifford & Beverly Gordon, Dave Joe & Rena Jackson, Alfred & Debbie Henson, Danny & Linda Davis, Rick & Sharon Black, Bill & Pat Phillips

Fred Swindle by Clifford & Beverly Gordon, Jimmy C Dodd, Jr., Dr Lawrence D Dodd, Mary Ann Allen

Dr. Jack Blackshear by Kay & Herb Bland

Norman Ness, Jr. by Jimmy C Dodd, Jr., Dr. Lawrence D Dodd, Staff at City Drug

Phil Herget on Father's Day by Nancy Wood

Marilyn Marlar by PHS Class of 1968

Almedia Stanton by PHS Class of 1968

Tommy Cox by PHS Class of 1968

Grady Cooper by PHS Class of 1968

In honor of:

Shani Barnhill by Bob Branch

Rev. Dane Womack by Bob Branch, Herb & Kay Bland

Rev. Chase Burns by Bob Branch, Herb & Kay Bland

Greig Lynn by Bob Branch

2022 Confirmands by Rena Jackson

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: Mike Rutherford

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(Fridays close at noon)

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8:30-noon Friday
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