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Love God. Serve People. Make a Difference.

First United Methodist Church

The Flame

MARCH 2022

A word from our pastor

Rev. Dane Womack



Greetings Paragould FUMC,
Happy March! What a joyous time of the year as we turn our attention toward warmer weather, outdoor activities, and Easter! After a cold and icy beginning to 2022, I am very excited about this change in seasons!

First, please join us for worship during Holy Week and Easter!. 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 4 worship services: 7, 8, 9, and 11am! It will be a wonderful season of worship and I hope for a chance to reconnect as pandemic anxieties lessen each week. If you are a "regular" in worship, I really want to encourage you to invite others to Holy Week and Easter services. Almost all new worshippers come because someone they trusted invited them! That should be you!

Second, I hope you are engaged with Connect Wednesday. The adult Luke Bible Study meets Wednesdays at 4 & 6pm and Thursdays at noon. Dinner is served at 5pm. Children's and youth activities are at 6pm. We are really enjoying our time of fellowship on Wednesday evenings and look forward to seeing you there. Connect Wednesday goes through May 4.

Third, our church is beginning a new capital campaign titled "Next 100 Years." The campaign has been researched and prepared over many months by Finance and Trustees committees and the Church Council, but we have been waiting for the best time to move forward, delayed primarily by the pandemic. We believe now is the time to move ahead and this newsletter offers a broad overview of the campaign. I hope these details are informative and motivating! Please read closely and reach out as needed!

Grace & Peace,
Rev. Dane

Our Turn- Next 100 Years

I look forward to the year 2026 and the day of celebration when FUMC Paragould celebrates the retirement of our building debt. Today is the time when we look back with amazement and thanksgiving at the forward looking commitments and dedication made by our people in the past one hundred years. There has been sacrifice, but great joy found in giving.

Now it is our turn ! With prayer from our people and desire to commit, we go forward taking on this responsibility. Looking back gives us faith and strength to move forward to meet this challenging opportunity.

I feel this is an important opportunity which I support. I encourage you to prayerfully consider your part. This is a blessed opportunity for us to work together.

Praise to the Father,
Susie Cook,
FUMC Lay Leader



Hello FUMC Friends!

It just seems like the January newsletter went out and now it's already the start of March! Time flies when you're having fun! We had a great start with Connect Wednesday! Our children's focus this semester in Connect Wednesday is the 'Fruit of the Spirit'. Our first lesson was on Love. Each week our children learn a memory verse. Our verse for love is "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mark 12:30). Loving God with every fiber of our being and putting Him first is an important lesson for all of us, not just our children. I encourage all of us to remember this verse as we look toward Lent. Let's get our hearts, souls, and minds prepared for the Cross. If you are a parent or guardian, thank you so much for getting your children to Connect Wednesdays and practicing our memory verses! These small things are so important in making disciples of Jesus Christ!

Don't forget that we offer Sunday School every Sunday at 10am, Connect Wednesday activities at 6pm, and will have an Egg Hunt April 16 at 9am!

Blessings!

Angela Newby

Director of Children's Ministries



It's MARCH!!!!

We have so much going on in the life of the church! Here are a few things to put on the calendar for youth events in March!

Sunday Morning Youth @ 10am in the Youth Room!

Sunday Events

13th: Serve Sunday!!!! 3pm-7pm @ Mission Outreach

1. We will be preparing the garden beds for the spring sowing.

2. We will be serving supper.

3. We will go eat supper at Larry's Pizza.

20th & 27th: NO YOUTH (Spring Break/Veritas)

Wednesday Evenings:

16th: JR - Youth Room; SR - Study Area @ Welcome Center

23rd: Spring Break

30th: JR - Youth Room; SR - Study Area @ Welcome Center

Other Notes:

Senior High Breakfast with Rev. Dane - 2nd Thursday of the Month @

6:30am @ Ironhorse

Register for OMP by March 18th

Seniors- Deadline to send in Senior Sunday Information is April 3rd!

Finance

2022 Budget \$1,269,130

Year End 2021

General Contributions: \$898,942

Building Contributions: \$412,838

February 2022

General Contributions: \$64,127

Building Contributions: \$8,495

Building Loan Balance: \$3,199,062

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

A Dollar A Week

2022: \$1,110

Memorials

Claire Jenkins by Bill & Pat Phillips, Joe & Maggie Crockett, John & Glenda Brownlee, Denise & Larry Chipman, Kay & Herb Bland, Janice Wilcox, Wilma Wheelis, Diane Blossom, Bob Branch, Dr. Jon & Ranae Collier, Bill & Anne Fisher, Charles & Donna Brazil, Bob & Debbie Bratton, Bob & Carolyne Childress, Donna Jones, Fred & Martha Jean Swindle, Phillip & Paige Wooldridge, Fred & Judy Workman, John & Angela Mazzola, Mary Ann Allen, John & Ann Honeycutt, Chancel Choir, Everett & Sandy Rogers, Rhonda Monroe, Robin Patten, Joe & Jackie Barnett, Sally Martin, Tim & Lani Mangrum, Crystal Williams

Bill Starling by Denise & Larry Chipman, Bob Branch, John & Carrie Cook

Roberta Parkinson by Marcia & Donald Moon, Neva Gressmen, Russell & Martha McCain, Rudy & Elizabeth Braman, Ronald Pigue Family, Beverly Crawford, Beth Pace, Millie Fleeman, Shirley Eliason, Dustin & Angela Finch, Diane Blossom, Melvin & Sandra Wamock, Fred & Judy Workman, Barry Harris Eye Clinic, Mr. & Mrs. Al Miller, Everett & Sandy Rogers, Joe & Jackie Barnett, Joe & Sandra Wallace, Alvin & Barbara Arnold

Vivian Wright by Russell & Martha McCain, Pairs & Spares Class

Richard Misenhimer by Mary Ann Stallcup

Ann Black by Mary Ann Stallcup



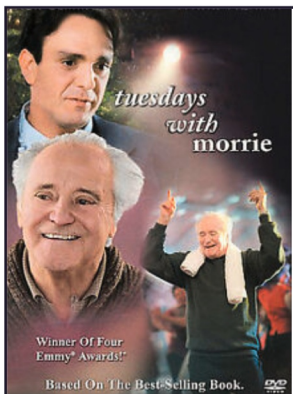
These are the grants given from the Dollar a Week program for the money collected in 2020 and 2021.

- \$500 to *Focus, Inc.* to purchase additional outside seating for the participants of the program.
 - \$750 to *BEES Senior Citizens, Inc.* to purchase a new sound system in their dining room
 - \$1,000 to *Greene County Tech* schools food programs
 - \$500 to the *Greene County Historical Society* to purchase ink cartridges for printing books, photos, quarterlies, newsletter, and other information.
 - \$500 to *Sound Expressions Music Outreach* to replace broken and worn musical instruments and equipment.
 - \$500 to *Arkansas Methodist Medical Center* to purchase gas gift cards to give to families who have loved ones that need to be transported out of town to another facility and do not have the means to purchase gas.
 - \$750 for the *Greene County Foster Parents Association* to buy Manna Meals—frozen, ready to heat meals to foster families when they receive a new foster placement in their home.
 - \$1,000 to *Paragould School District* for their backpack program.
 - \$750 to *Main Street Paragould* to purchase outdoor musical equipment to entertain people and spark creativity downtown.
 - \$500 to *Hope Found NEA* to help raise awareness about human trafficking throughout NEA.
 - \$1,660 to the *Witt House Food Pantry*.
- Gifts total \$8,410.
 Since the program began in 2011, \$104,419 has been to 26 organizations in the form of grants.

YOUNG AT HEART

Day Trip to Boyette's
 Thursday, March 10
 9am-3pm
 Trip to fellowship and eat at
 Reelfoot Lake

Movie Club
 Monday, March 14
 1:00 pm 3rd floor movie room
 "Tuesdays with Morrie"
 Popcorn and candy provided
 (bring your own drink)



Witt House Monthly Update

The pantry opened in 2011. Volunteers serve clients every Tuesday evening and Friday morning. Each family can come and get food once a month. The pantry is for anyone who needs food, but the emphasis is offering a food-choice selection to our neighbors in need. Each household is provided a menu of items to select from. These items include non-perishable items, canned items, an assortment of meats, a variety of bread, dairy along with fresh fruits and vegetables, and the occasional dessert items.

Below are Witt House statistics for February. We were open for six days during the month versus the normal eight. If this had not occurred, we would have surpassed the month of January. We served 229 households representing 788 people. We added 44 new households (including 2 Emergency) representing 171 new individuals. On February 8, we returned to our normal procedures for collecting this information. As people return, we will update their records.

Witt House Statistics: February 2022		Breakdown By Category		
Statistic Name	Total Served	Clients (Includes PSD)	New Clients	Emergency
# Households Served	229	185	42	2
# Households With One Person Employed	24	22	2	Unclassified
# New People Served	171	*****	161	10
People	788	778	Included with clients	10





Next 100 Years - The Paragould First United Methodist church Sanctuary cornerstone at Fourth & Main Streets is dated 1925. The first worship services were held at our current location in November 1926. Of course, FUMC's history extends well before 1925 including multiple other locations. Our church goes back many generations with deep Methodist roots in Northeast Arkansas. Paragould FUMC will celebrate worshipping at our current location for 100 years in late 2026. 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 beginning 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. Below are the details of this effort.

Debt - Paragould First United Methodist Church took a calculated and challenging leap of faith over the last 10+ years as it began planning and then executing a major facility expansion. This included acquiring necessary property, completing a significant addition, and renovating older facilities. The new Worship Center, gymnasium, kitchen, and meeting rooms are critical for FUMC and its ministries. The facilities are used weekly, if not daily, for various causes. The renovated Children's and Youth areas are just as important as our church prioritizes ministry with members of all ages. These facilities will be of great use this summer including hosting ministries like Vacation Bible School, Ready-Set-READ, and Ozark Mission Project.

This project cost nearly \$7 million. In late 2019, the construction loan closed at ~\$3.7 million. This means the church raised approximately half of the funds up front and during construction - which is great! Since the loan closed,

the church has been making monthly interest payments, annual principal payments, and additional principal payments when possible. At present, the debt owed is ~\$3.19 million. This is a healthy ratio of cost to debt for a church our size. The loan annual payment is ~\$270k for a 5-over-20 year note. If we make minimal interest and principal payments each year, we would pay back over \$5 million. As with any loan, FUMC recognizes the challenge debt creates for our church, especially paying interest over many years.

Sanctuary Maintenance - Our beautiful, historic Sanctuary has maintenance

needs including water leaks and damage. These repairs are not optional and have already begun. In the summer of '21, Roberts-McNutt Roofing & Waterproofing replaced the flat roof on the west side of the Sanctuary along with the interior plaster repair (complete & paid). In the coming weeks, they are doing the same on the east side of Sanctuary. They have also prepared a quote to do ground level water damage repairs. We sense there will be further work needed at the upper gables where water damage is also visible. This brings the pending quote total for water damage repairs to \$120k, though more work may be needed. Next, FUMC has received a quote from Soos Stained Glass (Little Rock) for replacing the exterior protective glass outside of our stained glass windows. Currently our stained glass is covered by dated plexiglass which has begun to calcify and is no longer transparent. Soos will custom build metal frames and pane glass to cover and protect our stained glass for years to come at a quote of \$75k. Lastly, we need to take steps to improve our audio/video quality in the sanctuary. If you compare our video feed from 9am & 11am services you will notice the Sanctuary feed is vastly inferior. Currently we are running multiple & different hardware/software systems in the Sanctuary & Worship Center which makes our work inefficient and challenging. In the long-term, we would prefer one "Streaming Production Studio" which could handle streaming from multiple spaces. We suspect this will begin by replacing our Sanctuary cameras and streaming hardware systems, though we are looking at multiple quotes (≤\$50k) and options. In preparing for the centennial, we ought to prioritize renovating the Sanctuary where necessary so that it may continue to be a faithful and historic place of worship. We give thanks for having already received donations from FUMC worshippers totaling \$142k for Sanctuary repairs and are drawing on those monies as needed.

Office Suite Renovation - The original plans for expansion of FUMC facilities included renovating the first floor into an office suite. These are the former pre-k, kindergarten, and nursery rooms. When the Welcome Center was added to FUMC, a doorway was created to connect to this future office suite. FUMC has met multiple times with Ramsons Construction to

prepare plans to remodel this area into offices, a work room, and a conference room. Included is an image of the current drawings. This project is fairly simple in that it does not require major construction. The plans include installing and rearranging interior walls, new carpet, ceiling, lighting, etc. An office suite will provide more unity and safety by having everyone working near one another on the first floor. Ramsons believes they can do this work for ~\$200k.

Is it odd to be spending money (sanctuary maintenance and office suite renovation) alongside paying down debt? It can be helpful in debt reduction efforts to complete a small project to serve as an impetus for debt reduction. Imagine renovating your kitchen while still owing 10 years on your home loan. Occasionally work needs to be done while simultaneously paying down debt, and you feel a little better about your home loan payments and while enjoying that new kitchen!

Caring for our Sanctuary is a must. Roofing and water concerns have been a long-time issue, but we have no choice but to correct them as quickly as possible or the damage will only worsen. The new office suite will mean the entire first floor of FUMC's facilities have been updated and renovated to serve the church and staff for years to come.

In many ways the Next 100 Years Campaign is a completion of the "More Than Bricks" effort that began in 2015 when additional and renovated facilities were just images on foam board. Admittedly, debt reduction is not as exciting as a new Worship Center or Children's area. But paying down our debts on those facilities is just as necessary as building them was to begin with. We are putting our facilities to great use for the sake of disciples who follow Jesus in and through First United Methodist Church. Let us continue to maintain and improve our facilities while paying down our debts as quickly as possible!

As a young girl, I remember sitting in our sanctuary. To me, it seemed like the most beautiful room in our little town. I would stare at the stained glass windows, most times the sun shining through them casting light. Have you ever studied the intricate woodwork? If those walls could talk! I was married in that room. Even though we didn't live in Paragould at the time, I made the effort to have my children baptized in that room so my family could be present. I said goodbye to my dad there, along with many other dear friends and church family. There are so many memories of services, celebrations and beautiful music.

Summary of Proposed Plans

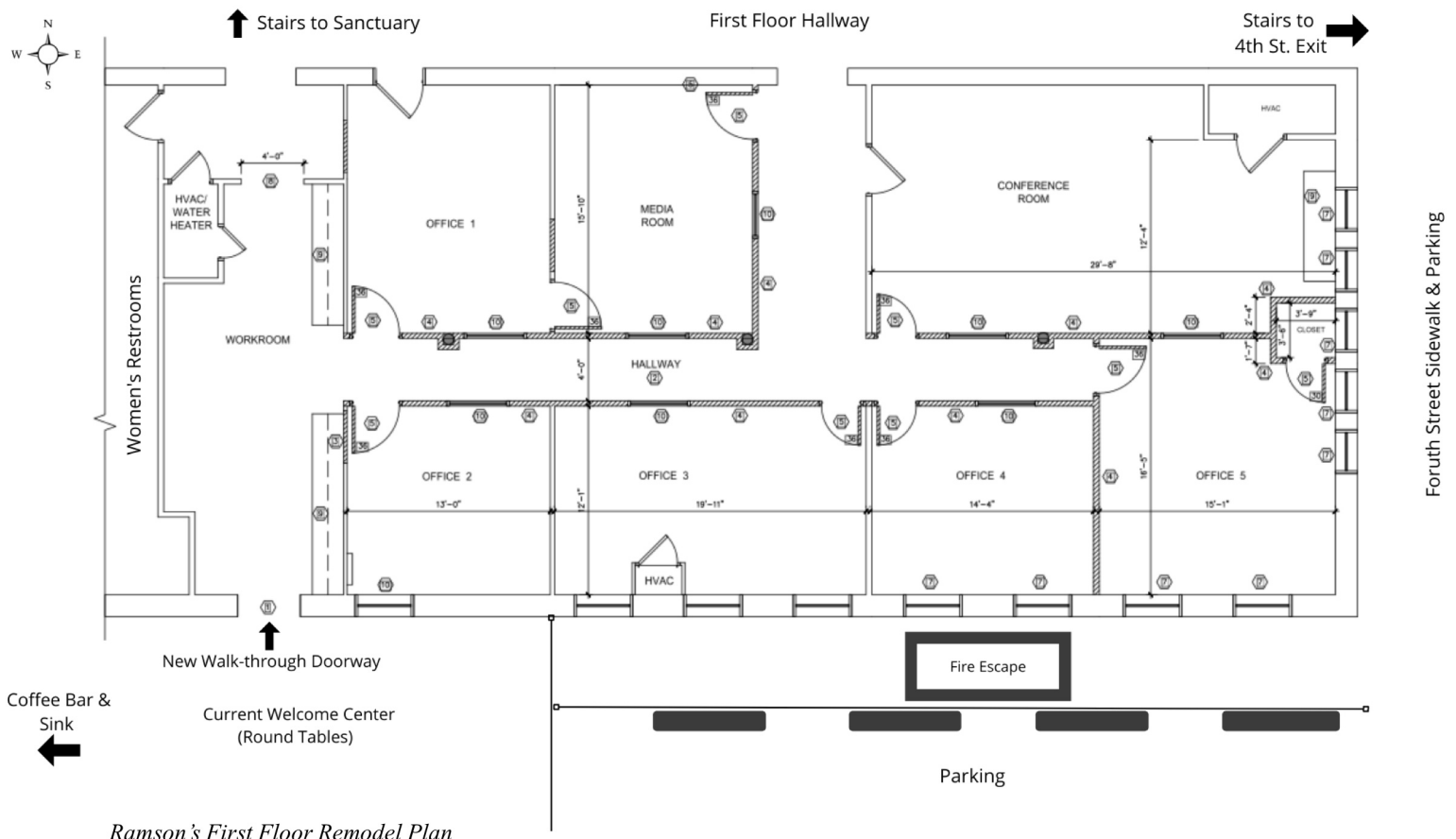
SANCTUARY MAINTENANCE		
Roberts-McNutt - East Side Flat Roof & Paint/Plaster	\$60,000.00	Spring '22
Roberts-McNutt - Ground Level Water Damage & Concrete Repair	\$60,000.00	TBD
Soos Stained Glass - New Frames & Protective Glass	\$75,000.00	TBD
Current Funds Designated for Sanctuary Upkeep & Repair	-\$142,000.00	
OFFICE SUITE - RAMSONS CONSTRUCTION		
FIRST FLOOR OFFICE SUITE Walk-through workroom, 4 offices, media room, conference room; Carpet squares; Suspended acoustical ceiling; LED light fixtures; cabinets; new doors w/ glass inserts; internet/data access points; Windows in hallway/office walls to encourage transparency/safety POSSIBLE OTHER WORK - TBD LED ceiling light fixtures throughout first floor; Rework handicap access into Sanctuary on Main Street w/ motorized auto-open door and remove old exterior doors from sanctuary and replace with smaller, wood interior doors; Install new handrails at both staircases going to Sanctuary; Paint metal doors & window trim between sanctuary & chapel.		
	\$200,000.00	Summer '22
SANCTUARY TECHNOLOGIES	\$50,000.00	TBD
TOTAL	\$303,000.00	

Campaign Goal - We aim to pay down the \$3.19 million in debt and raise ~\$300k in support of sanctuary maintenance & technologies and the office suite renovation. This brings the total fundraising goal to \$3.5 million by the end of 2026.

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As we approach the 100th anniversary of worshiping on the site of 4th and Main, the history is not lost on me. From the beginning our church family has been faithful to maintain and preserve our sanctuary and facilities, along with building new additions through the years--most recently our wonderful new worship center and fellowship hall. After much discussion and planning, Reverend Dane and the church leadership have announced a plan looking forward to the next 100 years at FUMC. In general, we are asking for support to pay down our debt, maintain and improve the sanctuary, and renovate the former nursery area into an office suite/workroom. Coming soon we will have opportunities for you to learn specifically how you can help accomplish these goals. Chris and I are excited to be a part of this capital campaign and I encourage you all to get involved and support these efforts. Feel free to contact me or any other member of the leadership team with questions. There is always a time to look back with prayer and thanksgiving. We must also look forward! There are many more services, celebrations and beautiful music to be made in our church. Our actions now will affect the generations to come.

-Tracy Brengard, Chair of Trustees & Co-Chair Next 100 Years Campaign



Ramson's First Floor Remodel Plan

Affinity Group Meetings - Soon the Campaign Team will announce dates and locations for Next 100 Years Campaign Affinity Group gatherings. We will have small group meetings at various locations and time for snacks, fellowship, and conversation. Clergy and campaign chairpersons will be available to discuss campaign details and answer questions. Any FUMC member is welcome at any Affinity Group gathering. All are welcome. We will ask people to RSVP ahead of time so hosts can appropriately prepare.

Prayer Team - The FUMC Prayer Team meets Thursdays at 10am in the Community Room to pray for our church, its members, and the needs of our community and world. This ministry is entirely lay-led and is one of the most important at our church. The Prayer Team will give the Next 100 Years Campaign special attention over the next few months. They welcome you to join them Thursdays at 10am or to be praying on your own schedule. During the last week of the campaign (May 2-6), the Prayer Team will guide us in a churchwide prayer emphasis.

Advanced Commitments - Most financial campaigns are built on the foundation of significant initial gifts and advanced commitments. Campaign leadership will be seeking FUMC members who can soon make initial gifts and/or an "advanced commitment" to the Next 100 Years campaign by April 24. If you believe that might include you, do not hesitate to reach out to clergy or campaign chairpersons. No one should be overlooked.

Commitment Sunday - On Sunday, May 8, FUMC Members will make a five year financial commitment to the Next 100

Years Campaign. We expect this strategy will bring us near to being debt-free by our centennial celebration in late 2026. This financial commitment is expected to be over and above regular tithes/offerings. Please be in prayer about supporting your church through the Next 100 Years campaign.

NEXT 100 YEARS CAMPAIGN TEAM

CHAIRPERSONS: Tori & Robert Thompson; Chris & Tracy Brengard

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM: Jessica & Matt Fouts; Linda Faulkner; Gene Weeks

PRAYER TEAM: Betty Rutherford & Thursday Prayer Group

AFFINITY GROUPS TEAM: Susie & George Cook; Gene & Jamie McIlvoy; Rusty & Pam McAllister

CELEBRATION TEAM: Ryan & Dixie Lawrence

FUMC Clergy & Staff: Rev. Womack, Rev. Burns, Denise Chipman, Karoline Risker, Brian Pearson, Angela Newby.

100 years

A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN NEXT 100 YEARS



IN THE SPRING OF 2022
PARAGOULD FUMC WILL SHARE IN A
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN IN SUPPORT OF
FACILITY MAINTENANCE & DEBT
REDUCTION



SCHEDULE

March-April / PRAYER TEAM
March-April / AFFINITY GROUPS
April 24 / ADVANCED COMMITMENTS
May 1 / CELEBRATION SUNDAY
May 8 / COMMITMENT SUNDAY



GOAL: \$3.5 MILLION

\$50,000 SANCTUARY MAINTENANCE
\$50,000 SANCTUARY TECHNOLOGY
\$200,000 OFFICE SUITE
\$3.19m CONSTRUCTION DEBT



2026 & 100 YEARS

THIS FIVE-YEAR CAMPAIGN WILL
CULMINATE IN 2026 WHEN FUMC
CELEBRATES WORSHIPPING AT OUR
CURRENT LOCATION FOR 100 YEARS!
WE HOPE ALSO TO BE DEBT-FREE!



ADVANCED COMMITMENTS

COMMITMENT SUNDAY IS MAY 8.
PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING AN
ADVANCED COMMITMENT AND/OR
INITIAL GIFT BY APRIL 24 TO LAY
THE GROUNDWORK FOR A
SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN AND INSPIRE
OTHERS IN THEIR GIVING.



LENT

**MARCH 2 - ASH WEDNESDAY -
SANCTUARY - NOON & 6PM**

**MARCH 6 - APRIL 10
"I BELIEVE" APOSTLES' CREED
SERMON SERIES
SUNDAY SCHOOL / BOOK STUDY**

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**

**EASTER
SUNDAY**

**APRIL 17
7/8/9/11AM**

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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)

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8:30-noon Friday
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