



MARCH/APRIL 2024

The Flame

A Word from Our Pastor

Greetings Paragould First United Methodist Church!

My heart is full!

What a wonderful and rich Holy Week and Easter celebration! A beautiful Easter Sunday filled with friends, fellowship, and powerful worship! This was one of the smoothest and most fun Easter celebrations in some time. We had a great attendance at our Holy Week services. Maybe our biggest Egg Hunt ever! And Easter Sunday was just perfect! Numbers are not everything, but holiday attendance is a strong indication of church involvement and health. Our total attendance on Easter Sunday was 606 (compared to 556 in 2023)! Awesome. Super encouraging!

Thank you to everyone including staff and volunteers who put in extra hours this past week and month. From Choir and Band and Handbells and Soloists. To candy donations and egg-stuffers and youth hiding eggs. To extra hospitality volunteers. Children and Youth leaders. Any one and every one who pitched in. THANK YOU! The Easter Celebration continues!

Easter-tide is a 50 day celebration of Easter! Continue to bring your Easter energy to worship the next few weeks!

Our spirit of celebration continued with Confirmation Sunday (April 7). Wow! What an awesome day of worship as we welcomed 13 Confirmands and new church members including five baptisms. Confirmation is a place where the young people discover who Jesus is to them and what faith looks like in their lives. Confirmation should be the foundation to a lifetime of discipleship. Students learn Christian theology, learn the nature of the church, and explore their faith commitments, but they also need to find ways to integrate all of it into their everyday lives. Confirmation and baptism are inextricably connected. Many confirmands are baptized as babies or young children. Each student baptized as a child who chooses to complete confirmation declares for herself or himself trust in Christ, thereby embracing God's promise of salvation made in baptism. Confirmands who were not already, are baptized as part of the Confirmation worship service.

You can see pictures and read the names of Confirmands included herein. Please continue to support these young people as they move into Youth in the coming year! What an awesome group of children and families. Thank you to everyone who supported Confirmation this year. We also welcomed new member Toni Bazzell and shared in her baptism on Sunday, April 7! Welcome, Toni!

We are experiencing a change of season at FUMC as we move from Lent to Spring and Summer. Connect Wednesday ends on April 24 - still time to join us. FUMC Memphis Organist Mrs. Phill Brown will offer a free recital on Sunday, April 21 at 3pm. Ladies' Tea Social is May 11 at 10am. Other key dates including summer youth and children's activities are in the newsletter. Check your family calendar with the church calendar as you



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make summer plans! Lots going on at FUMC the next few months!

The United Methodist Church will meet for General Conference April 23 through May 4 in Charlotte, North Carolina. The General Conference is our global gathering of equal numbers of United Methodist pastors and lay delegates (750+ total). General Conference meets every four years and is the governing body for the denomination. FUMC shared in an information session regarding General Conference Sunday, March 24. Copies of the handout are available in the church office. The Arkansas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church will meet June 19-21 in Hot Springs. Both pastors will attend alongside FUMC delegates Gene Weeks and Susie Cook. I anticipate a follow-up information session on the state of the UMC and Conference later this summer. Please hold our denomination and church in prayer now and all times.

Finally, I offer a brief reflection on our capital needs and future. We have done minimal work on the facility thus far in 2024 outside of the organ repairs. We give thanks for Colby Organs for making a few return trips to finalize all the details. The organ appears to be working (and sounding!) great! We replaced a small water heater on the first floor last month. We always have more we could be doing, but we are not tackling any significant projects on campus. With regard to finances, we are holding our own. General giving YTD is 225,533 (vs. 221,765 in 2023). Building/Next 100 YTD is 144,559 (vs. 165,401). Admittedly, we had a down February, but giving was strong in March and we are back to "normal" for the year. As always, I thank you for your consistent financial support of FUMC and its ministries. Youth pastors, staff, and Finance Cmte will continue to be careful and thorough in managing our financial resources and future in accordance with God's will for our church.

Again, this season of Easter and Confirmation brings such joy and energy to church! I am feeling so grateful for the shared work around this holy season including this year's Confirmation class. I sense a joyful presence of God's spirit at work at FUMC! And look forward to the upcoming season and this summer's ministries! May the Lord bless you and keep you!

Grace & Peace,
Rev. Dane Womack
Senior Pastor of Paragould FUMC



Above: Toni Bazzel during her baptism on April 7. We celebrate this moment with you and welcome you to FUMC!

UPCOMING SPRING & SUMMER 2024

April 7 Confirmation Sunday

April 8 Eclipse parking at FUMC

April 21 Organ Concert 3pm

May 11 Ladies' Tea 10am

May 19 Pentecost Sunday

May 26 One Service Sunday 10am

June 9-14 Youth @ Ozark Mission Project

June 23-27 Vacation Bible School

July 7 One Service Sunday 10am

July 22-26 Youth @ Assembly

July 22-26 Ready, Set, READ!

July 29-31 Ozark Mission Project 101

fumcparagould.org



April 21 at 3pm in the Sanctuary
Reception to follow

ORGAN RECITAL

Featuring Phil Brown of FUMC Memphis

Young at Heart Upcoming Events

- April 22 at 5:30 pm * Game Night in the welcome center
- April 25 at noon * Potluck Luncheon in the gym
- May 13 at 1pm * Movie Club in the 3rd floor movie room
- May 27 at 5:30 pm * Game Night in the welcome center
- May 30 at noon * Potluck Luncheon in the gym

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

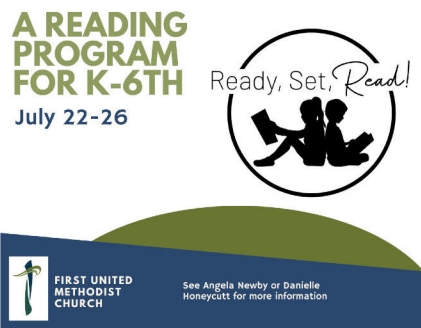
I don't know about you all, but I'm still celebrating Easter! I hope it's something I remember to do all year. Our risen Savior didn't just give us Holy Week. He's given us eternity! There is so much to celebrate in our church- especially in our children's ministry. Our Easter egg hunt was a huge success thanks to all of the parents, grandparents, and volunteers that made it happen. None of it would be possible without you! If you brought a child, stuffed an egg, brought and served food, hid eggs, brought eggs, brought candy, set up or cleaned up- THANK YOU!

We also celebrate Connect Wednesday as it nears an end this semester (last night is April 24). Students have sang songs, participated in mission projects, played games, created crafts, and learned memory verses. Thank you to the parents and guardians that have brought their children. Thank you to the

following volunteers and their servants' hearts that are so willing to lead these children in their faith journey: Shani Barnhill (music), Allie Robbins (crafts), Rena Jackson (mission moment), Briget Williams (storytelling), Jessica Brewer (games), and Jill Womack (games and storytelling). The following served as shepherds for our children: Brooke Lands, Elizabeth Newberry, Sally Ewing, Kelsey Matheney, Devon Jackson, Samantha LaHaie, and Kelly Wood. Now...it's on to summer plans!



Blessings,
Mrs. Angela, Director of Children's Ministries

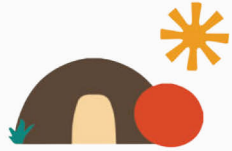


Above: photos of Youth Serve Day on March 10 where youth went to Pecan Grove and gave away books, read, and played with the children from the area who came to the event.

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

- Connect Wednesday Activities April 10, 17, 24
- Senior Recognition May 5
- Ozark Mission Project June 9-14
- Vacation Bible School June 23-27
- Ready, Set, READ July 22-26
- Assembly at Hendrix College July 22-26
- Backpack Sunday August 11

HE IS RISEN!



Confirmation Class

On April 7 we recognized and celebrated our 2024 Confirmation Class. Some were Confirmed and Baptized in both the 9am and 11am services. This has been a great group of Confirmands and families. We look forward to sharing in their faith commitment as they transition from children to youth and embrace the faith for themselves! Very exciting day for our church. This year's class includes:

- +Lizzy Kate Branch (daughter of Neely & Britt Camp and attends Crowley's Ridge Academy)
- +Barrett Herget (son of Nate & Kersten Herget and attends Greene County Tech Schools)
- +Charli Hinkle (daughter of Chase & Cori Hinkle and attends Paragould Schools)
- +Barrett Lawrence (son of Ryan & Dixie Lawrence and attends Greene County Tech Schools)
- +Evan Pearson (son of Brian & Andrea Pearson and attends Brookland Schools)
- +Reese Richardson (daughter of Kevin & Hayley Richardson and attends Crowley's Ridge Academy)
- +Dinah Sills (daughter of Adam & Joy Sills and attends Crowley's Ridge Academy)
- +Maralyn Weaver (granddaughter of Robin Patten & daughter of Emily Patten and attends Greene County Tech Schools)
- +Benjamin Williams (son of Caleb & Mallory Williams and attends Paragould Schools)
- +Lawson Wooldridge (son of Brock & Laura Wooldridge and attends Paragould Schools)
- +Korban Ellzey (son of Rev. Dennis & Pastor Sarah Ellzey and attends Paragould Schools)
- +Parker Watson (son of Heather & Andrew Watson and attends Paragould Schools)
- +Anna Alyse Horner (daughter of Chris & Tabitha Horner and attends Paragould Schools)



Pictured above back row from left to right: Pastor Sarah, Reese Richardson, Charli Hinkle, Evan Pearson, Barrett Lawrence, Barrett Herget, Korban Ellzey, Anna Alyse Horner, Rev. Dane.

Front row from left to right: Maralyn Weaver, Izzy Kate Branch, Dinah Sills, Lawson Wooldridge, Parker Watson, Benjamin Williams

Greetings to my community in faith and service!

As I write this, we are in the week after observing Holy Week and celebrating Easter. The joy of Easter catches my breath every year, and boy does PFUMC know how to celebrate! I am thankful for all of the extra work our staff and volunteers did during the Lent and Holy week, from hosting “Soup and Sermon” to the Easter Egg hunt and the worship services on Easter Morning. Not Lent or Easter related, but I also enjoyed getting to be a participant in the Galentine’s Brunch and book swap back in February. I had no idea when I came as your guest speaker in February 2023 that I’d be living and working here full time one year later!

In the “Real Good Class” I teach during the Sunday School hour, we are winding down our “Hop, Skip, and Jump Through the Bible” and starting a new book “Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again”. If you’re looking for a class to join, now’s a good time

If you’re looking for a place to serve, have fun, and build community with our neighbors, we’d love to have you come out and see what God’s doing at the Pecan Grove apartment complex. We’ll be going out that way again on Sunday April 28th - meet at the church at 2:00.

As we ease (or catapult) through Spring and into Summer, I pray you’ll know that the grace and peace of God is always with you, whether you are gathering with us here at the Church, or scattered out into the many places life takes you. May you always know, on your best days and your worst, that you are welcome at our church and in the Kingdom of God.

Pastor Sarah

A NOTE FROM Pastor Sarah



Women's Ministry

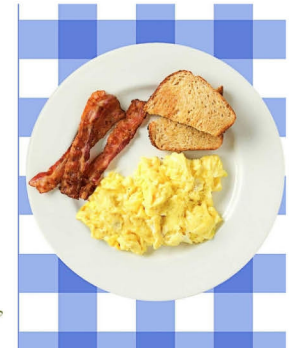


Our women’s ministry is preparing for our annual Ladies Tea which will be held on Saturday, May 11 beginning at 10am. This is a free event for our ladies and girls. You are encouraged to dress up a bit and wear a hat if you are so inclined. Relatives and friends are welcome to join. See Andrea Pearson for more information. You can sign up in the church center app to better help us plan.

Men's Ministry

**METHODIST
MEN'S BREAKFAST**
2024 | 1ST & 3RD THURSDAYS
NEXT:
APRIL 18, MAY 2, MAY 16
6AM @ IRONHORSE BBQ
ALL ARE WELCOME
FELLOWSHIP & DEVO

Paragould First United
Methodist Church



Take Note

**One
Church
Service** **Sunday
May 26**

AT 10AM IN THE SANCTUARY

Dollar Per Week Grants

Since 2011, Paragould FUMC has designated all \$1 offerings to be used in support of local nonprofits via the "Dollar Per Week" Grant Program. Paragould FUMC seeks to support community partners as we work together for the common good.

In that spirit, FUMC has raised and given away more than \$100,000 since it began. From dollar bills given in 2023, we gave away \$8,000 to organizations as follows:

Focus, Inc.-\$600
Meals on Wheels (Senior Bees)-\$750
Paragould School District-\$500
Greene County School District-\$500
Greene County Historical Society-\$500
Sound Expressions Music Outreach-\$1,000
Arkansas Methodist Medical Foundation-\$500
Together We Foster-\$800
Main Street Paragould-\$500
Arisa (MidSouth) Health-\$500
Veterans/Memorial Day-\$350
Options in Paragould-\$500
Arkansas Pilots for Christ-\$500
Greene County Mental Health & Substance Abuse Coalition-\$500



A grant recipient telling the congregation during a church service what their grant will be used for



Representatives from five different organizations receiving grants on March 17



A photo submitted by Focus, Inc. to show when speaking about the organization during their presentation

Financial Report

JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH

General Contributions:

January: \$71,558
February: \$53,568
March \$100,407

Building/100 Year Contributions:

January: \$106,620
February: \$20,149
March \$17,790

Dollar Per Week to date: \$2,222

Building Loan Principal Payment in February: \$362,000

Principal Payment Loan Balance: \$2,416,365

In Memory of:

Martha Chiles by Larry & Denise Chipman, Mary Ann Allen, Bob Branch, John Eden, Melvin & Sandra Wamock, Linda Black, Charles & Donna Brazil, Kay & Herb Bland, Bonita Crabtree, Chester & Nancy Key, Virginia Walls, Jerry & Joy Miller, David & Shirley Wilson, Dave & Rena Jackson, Martha Jean Swindle, Donna & David Jones

Clyde Ford by Larry & Denise Chipman, Mary Ann Allen, Charles & Donna Brazil, Bob Branch, Kay & Herb Bland

Jim Mugford by Davey & Rena Jackson, Bob Branch, Dr. John & Ann Honeycutt, John Eden, Larry & Denise Chipman, Dane & Jill Womack, Beverly Gordon, Mike & Betty Rutherford, Joe & Jackie Barnett

Hettye Sue Bridger by Dane & Jill Womack, Larry & Denise Chipman, Robin Patten, Kay & Herb Bland

Debbie Clary Lowery by Davey & Rena Jackson, Robin Patten, John Smalling/PHS Class of 1971, Melvin & Sandra Wamock

Curtis Williams by Dane & Jill Womack, Bob Branch, Kay & Herb Bland

Joy Faith Smith by Scott & Rose Gramling, Casey & Bridgette Horner, Dannelle Rogers, Janice Wilcox, Tim & Gina Jarrett, Drs. Mack & Vern Ann Shotts, Mr. & Mrs. Jim Westbrook, Keith & Mary Hickox, Camp Ground UMC, Kay Luter

John Allen, Jr. by Casey & Bridgette Horner, Janice Wilcox, Drs. Mack & Vern Ann Shotts, Carolyn Samuel, Phillip & Paige Wooldridge, Kay Luter

Avery Belief by Phillip & Paige Wooldridge, Kay & Herb Bland

Jim Thompson by Janice Wilcox, Mary & Keith Hickox

Clifford Gordon by Drs. Mack & Vern Ann Shotts, Glenna Rose Circle, Mary Ann Allen

Chad & Cindy Harris by Debbie DeVault

Danny Futrell by Mary Ann Allen, Kay Luter

Chad Harris by Phillip & Paige Wooldridge

Joseph DeMarco by Bob Branch

Holly Swihart by Kay Luter

Steve Adams by Kay Luter

Lisa Jarman by Kay Luter

Scarlett Jarman by Kay Luter

Roy McSpadden by Kay Luter

Pete Black by Linda Black

LOVE GOD. SERVE PEOPLE. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Church Office

8:30AM-4:30PM MON-THURS
8:30AM-NOON FRIDAY

*Witt House
Food Pantry*

4:30PM-6PM TUESDAY
9:30AM-11:00AM FRIDAY



Bishop Laura Merrill
District Superintendent Zach Roberts
Pastors Dane Womack (william.womack@arumc.org,
Sarah Ellzey (sarah.ellzey@arumc.org)
Music Director Brian Pearson
(brian.pearson@fumcparagould.org)
Director of Youth Ministries
Mary Hickox (mary.hickox@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

404 W. MAIN STREET

INFO@FUMCPARAGOULD.ORG 870-239-8541

WWW.FUMCPARAGOULD.ORG

FOR MORE INFORMATION



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

First United Methodist Church
P O Box 667
Paragould, AR 72451