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Love God. Serve People. Make a Difference.

First United Methodist Church

The Flame

MAY 2022

A word from our pastor

Rev. Dane Womack



Greetings Paragould FUMC,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of the Risen Christ! What a joy to greet you as we continue to celebrate the Risen Lord this Easter Season! Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

We had a great Holy Week & Easter at Paragould FUMC, including wonderful Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. We had a sizable crowd for our egg hunt the Saturday before Easter. We enjoyed

excellent worship on Easter Sunday across four services. Special thanks to additional volunteers, musicians and vocalists. It was a rich day of worship!

I remind you that the season of Easter, or Eastertide, lasts seven weeks and culminates on the 50th day, which is Pentecost Sunday (June 5). Easter is not a one-day celebration, but an entire season! We continue to give thanks for the Risen Lord throughout this month.

Other recent celebrations at Paragould FUMC include Senior Sunday on May 1. Our Senior Class of 2022 led us in all aspects of worship. Thanks to Rev. Chase for working closely with the Seniors and their parents/guardians for diligently preparing and leading an excellent Senior Sunday. Congratulations to the Class of '22!

We are reaching the high point of 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. FUMC will celebrate worshiping at this location for 100 years in late 2026! 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 the Next 100 Years! Our Next 100 Years Capital Campaign has three primary emphases: (1) Debt Reduction (\$3.19m); (2) Office Suite Renovation (\$200k); (3) Sanctuary Maintenance (\$100k). This campaign will culminate in 2026 as we celebrate our centennial. More detailed information can be

A Note from the Music Department

What a busy and wonderful time it has been for music at FUMC! We are taking a deep breath after working up a month's worth of special music for all our Holy Week services. I'd like to extend a special thank you to Bernard and the choir for all the extra rehearsals they attended to learn the large amount of music we had to prepare.

The icing on the cake was adding our additional brass musicians from ASU on Easter morning! I was truly blessed to be a part of such a spiritually moving morning.

As always, the choir wants you! We have several faithful members out battling serious illnesses right now. No one can replace what they bring as individuals, but we are definitely feeling the void. We are in desperate need of male voices in particular. Give us a chance this Wednesday at 6:00! The choir feels like family, and we'd love for you to be a part of it.

Yours in Christ and song,
Brian Pearson
Director of Music Ministries

PARAGOULD FUMC SUMMER SNAPSHOT



May 1 Senior Sunday

May 2 Next 100 Years Day of Prayer 7a-7p

May 8 Next 100 Years Commitment Sunday

**June 1-4 ARUMC Annual Conference
Rev. Chase Burns Ordination Wed. 4p**

June 5 Pentecost & Confirmation Sunday

June 7 FUMC Host ACCYM "The Tour"

June 12-17 Ozark Mission Project

June 20-24 Ready, Set, READ!

June 26-30 Vacation Bible School

July 24-28 Jr. & Sr. High Assembly

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found at fumcparagould.org/100years.

As of this writing we have completed eight informational meetings at the homes of church members. I thank campaign chairpersons, hosts, and attendees for making time for these meetings. We shared on Sunday, May 1, that "Advanced Commitments" & "Initial Gifts" to the Next 100 Years Campaign total just over \$1.6million! Yay! I give thanks for these church leaders who made their financial commitment to the Next 100 Years Campaign early in hopes of inspiring the rest of the congregation to follow suit!

Sunday, May 8, will be "Commitment Sunday" for the Next 100 Years Capital Campaign! Every member and regular worshiper at FUMC should make a five-year commitment to this financial effort. Those who are unable to do so in worship on May 8 will be welcomed to do so in the following days. We are hoping and expecting campaign commitments will total \$3.5m.

May represents a transitional month for many as the school year ends and gives way to summer schedules. This is true at church, too. The first week of June is the Annual Conference of the Arkansas United Methodist Church held in Hot Springs. Join in celebrating Rev. Chase Burns ordination at Annual Conference on Wednesday, June 1. Sunday, June 5, is Confirmation Sunday at Paragould FUMC. FUMC attends and hosts Ozark Mission Project June 12-17. FUMC hosts the literacy program Ready, Set, READ! June 20-24. And Vacation Bible School is June 26-30. It will be a busy June at FUMC! As you make your summer plans, be sure to mark your calendars for church activities. We look forward to seeing you!

Grace & Peace,
Rev. Dane

**PASTOR'S RECEPTION &
ICE CREAM
SOCIAL
JUNE 5 @4PM**



LOOKING AHEAD

YOUNG AT HEART

Movie Club

Monday, May 9

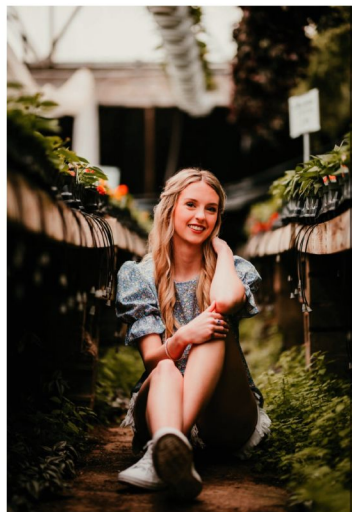
1:00 pm 3rd floor movie room

Popcorn and candy provided

(bring your own drink)



2022 High School Seniors



Alexanne Kellett



Alexis Brewer



Karlie Thompson



Kate Young



Logan Hickox



Natalie Horner



Noah Huffman



Ryley McMains



Taylor Runsick



Payton Brown



Group photo taken on Senior Sunday



Scenes from Senior Sunday, May 1: contemporary service, brunch, and leading the traditional service



Hello FUMC Friends!

Danielle Honeycutt and I recently had the honor of presenting the Ready, Set, READ program at the Arkansas Annual Conference Literacy Summit 2022. There were some amazing presenters and speakers all there to stress the importance of breaking the cycle of poverty through literacy intervention. It was a humbling experience to be a part of. As a teacher, I am aware of the dire need to improve reading skills in our state. I am also aware of the poverty that has seemed to overtake our state. However, it is always sobering to hear the statistics again.

There are approximately 497,000 students in the state of Arkansas. 1 in 5 (approximately 99,000) are dyslexic. Approximately 38% of third graders are reading on grade level. That means 62% are NOT. This data is one of the greatest predictors community leaders use to determine future jail sizes. Sixty five percent of students in Arkansas qualify for free or reduced lunches, which is a measurement of low income or poverty.

"200,000" More Reasons is our conference's initiative to try to break the cycle of poverty in our state. We do this through literacy support and by getting books into the hands of so many that don't have home libraries. We also do this through helping students and families that are food insecure. I am thankful to be part of a church that is working to break the cycle. We can make a difference and share the love of Jesus as we do it. One book, one meal, one child, one family at a time.

Ready, Set, READ will be held June 20-24. If you are interested in helping, please let Danielle or me know. The children of our community need you!

Blessings,
Angela, Director of Children's Ministries

The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Matthew 25:40



Hey gang! Can you believe summer is here! We are looking forward to this summer season with First Students! Here is our calendar (to the right) with a few notes!

***OMP**

You can still register to attend Ozark Mission Project happening June 12-17. Sign up in the church app or at www.fumcparagould.org/register.

***Vounteer Opportunities**

We need volunteers for the Ready, Set, READ program (June 19-24) and Vacation Bible School (June 26-July 1). Come join us! See Mrs. Angela if you are interested.

*** July 3rd**

If you are celebrating the 4th of July at Norfolk, Rev. Chase will be at the Baskin-Robbins 3052 Highway 62, Suite 30, Mountain Home, AR 72653 from 3p-4p.

*** JR & SR High Assembly**

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's coming to an event and leaving with a "family". It's an opportunity to open up, to get real, and 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. Registration opens soon and will be shared ASAP! Save the dates: July 24th-28th

*** Other Summer Opportunities: Camp Tanako** <https://www.tanako.org/>

Camp Tanako is part of the Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church. Participants in the ministries at Camp Tanako leave this setting to return to local congregations revitalized to engage in local community and congregational ministries with a renewed empowerment and relationship with God. Camp is a part of the process that begins in the home and local churches. Camp is full of rich experiences that immerse participants in an array of opportunities to meet Christ face to face. The experiences that happen at camp translate back to local churches. The goal is to fan an ember of flame that has been sparked in the local church. This flame is encouraged to burn even brighter through experiences at camp.

Camps: Elementary Camp (3rd-6th) July 17-22; Junior High Camp (6th-8th) July 24-29; Senior High Camp (9th-12th) July 10-15; **Leadership Camp (JR/SR High) August 1-5

** This is a new camp where JR/SR High get to serve behind the scenes as Tanako transitions from summer mode to retreat center, and take a deep heartfelt look into one-on-one interactions between Jesus and disciples that prepared them for leadership.

*** Save the Date**

September 30th-October 2nd - *Dedication of Disc Golf Course @ Mt. Eagle.* We will leave after school on Friday the 30th. Saturday will be a day of fun and fellowship: disc golf on the new course, hiking to the bear cave, ga-ga ball, and enjoying the mountain. Sunrise devotion at Sunrise Point Sunday morning, and head back home!

Youth Schedule

Month	Date	Day	Time	Group	Event
May	5/1/22	Sunday	5p	7th-12th	Youth Council Meeting
May	5/7/22	Saturday	7a-5p	7th-12th	NEA Youth Event @ Beebe
May	5/8/22	Sunday	No Youth-Mother's Day		
May	5/15/22	Sunday	5p	7th-12th	Wisdom in the Kitchen Feeding the Multitude John 6:1-16
May	5/22/22	Sunday	5p	7th-12th	Wisdom in the Kitchen Sweet Tooth Psalm 34
May	5/29/22	Sunday	No Youth-Memorial Day Weekend		
June	6/5/22	Sunday	5p	7th-12th	Wisdom in the Kitchen Grill Masters Matthew 15
June	6/7/22	Tuesday	5p	7th-12th	Serving "The Tour" Dinner
June	6/12-17/22	Sun-Fri	Ozark Mission Project		
June	6/19-24/22	Sun-Fri	Ready Set Read		
June	6/19/22	Sunday	No Youth-Father's Day		
June	6/26/22	Sunday	Vacation Bible School		
July	7/3/22	Sunday	Youth @ Norfolk 3rd-4th *		
July	7/10/22	Sunday	5p	7th-12th	Swim and Stories-CC
July	7/17/22	Sunday	5p	7th-12th	Swim and Stories -TBD
July	7/24-28	Sun - Thurs	All Day	7th-12th	JR & SR High Assembly *
July	7/31/22	Sunday	5p	7th-12th	Escape Room (Connexional Youth)
August	8/7/22	Sunday	1p-6p	7th-12th	Crowley's Ridge (Remembering Baptism)
August	8/10/22	Wednesday	6p	Church	Pool Party @ The Community Center
August	8/14/22	Sunday	5p	7th-12th	80's Worship & Glow Night
August	8/19-21/22	Sunday	5p	7th-12th	End of Summer Trip
August	8/28/22	Sunday	5p	7th-12th	Being Still @ Gym
September	9/4/22	Sunday	Labor Day Weekend - No Youth		

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHTS



Laura Jackson (left) shortly after being named Volunteer of the Year. She is pictured here with Rev. Dane Womack.

Our own Laura Jackson was named Volunteer of the Year at the Chamber of Commerce banquet held in April.

"Mrs. Laura is the most deserving recipient of the inaugural Volunteer of the Year Award by the Paragould Regional Chamber of Commerce. As she said when receiving her award, she doesn't volunteer for recognition but because in her heart it feels like the right thing to do, and that is why she is the perfect example of a volunteer in our community. She has exuded a lifetime of volunteerism in the community of Paragould, and we are extremely proud to give her this award," said Allison Hestand, CEO of the Paragould Chamber of Commerce.

Pam Diggs, administrator at the Green House Cottages of Belle Meade, had this to say about her: "Her husband was admitted to our nursing home in July 2015, and she was there every day, all day long unless something drastic kept her from being there. When he passed away in 2017, she continued to come to the nursing home, and she still volunteers 5 days a week. When we have elders that are sick and in the hospital she goes to visit them. She's been to several funerals because they get so close to her because she does so much for our whole campus. She has brought so much joy and happiness to our elders. She is an amazing volunteer. She gives everything she has to it. She is sweet, kind, and has the most gentle soul of anyone I've ever known."

"I have known her for about 10 years," said Mary Justice, fellow church member and Laura's Sunday School teacher. "She does a lot of cooking for our fellowship dinners and is known especially for her chicken and dumplings. She has changed my life by being such an outstanding and well-loved person. She lights up my day every Sunday when she comes in.

Laura was married to Wallace; they have 3 sons: Jim, married to Guyla, Davey Joe, married to Rena, and Stan, married to Teresa. Laura will be 93 on June 25.

Mayor Agee proclaimed April "Child Abuse Prevention Month." In recognition of that proclamation, he noted that children are abused daily in our county and recognized people working in agencies and organizations to assist in preventing future abuse.

In that spirit, Mayor Agee presented the Greene County Child Abuse Task Force Member of the Year award to Robin Patten. "Mrs. Patten has dedicated approximately 20 years to helping protect our young people here in Greene County," he said. According to Paragould Police Department CID Commander Lieutenant Rhonda Thomas, "Robin is instrumental in the day to day team operations. She is an amazing team member and a huge advocate for our children. We would not be the team we are without her."

Robin is the Director of Social Services at Arkansas Methodist Medical Center.

Robin is a long-time member of FUMC, and was even married in the church sanctuary. She is a faithful member of the choir. Robin is married to Mike.



Here Robin is pictured with Paragould Mayor, Josh Agee.

Holy Week/Easter



Finance

2022 Budget \$1,269,130

April 2022

General Contributions: \$97,415

Building Contributions: \$11,060

Building Loan Balance: \$3,199,062

A Dollar A Week

\$2,582

Memorials

Fred Swindle by Mike & Tracy Finch, Larry & Denise Chipman

Norman Ness by Larry & Denise Chipman

Jackie Eaker by Robin Patten

Shane Wallace by Coffee Break Class

Jasper Poindexter by Kay & Herb Bland, Larry & Denise Chipman, Bob Branch

Claire Jenkins by Rev. Biff & Ann Averitt,

John Crafton by Bob Branch, Winnie Hill

Randall & Claire Jenkins by Mary Ann Stallcup, Riley & Barbara VanHorn

Pete Black by Linda Black

Ann Black by Linda Black

Richard Martin, MD by Linda Black

Marilyn Marlar by Linda Black

Vicki Tedder by Linda Black

Witt House Stats for April

During the month of April, the Witt House served 293 households representing 918 individuals. We added 55 new client households and served 4 emergency households

Year-to-date, we have served 1,066 households representing 3,457 individuals.

Witt House Statistics: April 2022		Breakdown By Category		
Statistic Name	Total Served	Clients (Includes PSD)	New Clients	Emergency
# Households Served	293	234	55	4
# Households With One Person Employed	46	32	14	Unclassified
# New People Served	162	*****	150	12
People	918	906	Included with clients	12
0-18 Years	360		Included with clients	Unclassified
19-59 Years	413		Included with clients	Unclassified
Age Over 60	133		Included with clients	Unclassified
Females	468		Included with clients	Unclassified
Males	438		Included with clients	Unclassified

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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