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Love God. Serve People. Make a Difference.

# First United Methodist Church

SEPTEMBER  
2022

A word from our pastor  
Rev. Dane Womack

*The Flame*



Dear First United Methodist Church,

Happy September! One of my favorite times of the year. School is back in session. College football starts this week! This change of seasons can also be a time of spiritual renewal. We've had a wonderful kickoff to fall ministry opportunities. Many attended our Back-to-School Sunday on August 14. The YOUTH had a great 'end-of-summer' trip to Memphis, including visiting the National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Motel. Sunday School attendance and participation is growing with children and youth. A number of our Adult Sunday School classes are meeting

again. Now is a great time to reconnect with church.

Up next is Connect Wednesday! Our Wednesday evening ministry program begins Sept. 7 and runs through Nov. 16. Dinner is served at 5pm in the Fellowship Hall. At 6pm various age-level ministries meet across the church. Children PreK-6th grade will share in rotation groups (similar to VBS). (The first week will include a bounce house and outdoor play!) See Children's Director Angela Newby for more details! I (Rev. Dane) will lead the YOUTH (7th-12th) Bible Study in the Youth Room. Rev. Chase will lead the "Pastor's Bible Study" at 4 and 6pm on the Book of Acts in the Community Room. Choir Practice is each Wednesday at 6pm in the Sanctuary - all are welcome! The Praise Band practices at 7:30. The nursery (birth-3) is open and available 5:45 to 7pm. I really want to encourage you to get involved with Connect Wednesday. This is a great time of fellowship with folks across the church. Dinner is great! We have lots of fun. See you there!

Included in this newsletter is an updated snapshot of our Fall calendar. Please save the date for key events. Let me draw your attention to a couple. The FUMC Hospitality team is providing free water at the Paragould Get Downtown Festival on Saturday, Sept. 17. Please volunteer to serve and spread the good word about FUMC! Our Fall Church Council meeting is Sunday, Oct. 9 at 5pm. All FUMC members are welcome. Council members are expected and encouraged to attend! This meeting will include finalizing ARUMC Charge Conference paperwork and forms. Go ahead and mark your calendars for October 30 for our annual Trunk-or-

## Connect Wednesday Starts Back

Connect Wednesday resumes September 7 and will continue through November 16.

Every Wednesday night will feature dinner at 5:00pm. At 6pm, chancel choir, children's and youth activities, and an adult Bible study on the book of Acts begins and goes until 7pm (choir goes until 7:15). Praise Band will practice at 7:30pm.

The cost for family dinner is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children under 8 with a family maximum of \$15. You can pay cash, check, or CashApp (\$PFUMC).

On the menu:

*Sept. 7*

Layered Spaghetti, salad, French bread, peach cobbler with ice cream

*Sept. 14*

Poppy seed chicken, rice, broccoli and cheese, rolls, dessert

*Sept. 21*

Ham and cheese croissants, potato salad, chips, slaw, desserts

*Sept. 28*

Taco salad, chips and dip, desserts

# YOUNG AT HEART

## Highlights



### SEPTEMBER

Dawn's Restaurant in Mamaduke  
Thursday, September 22 at 10am



### OCTOBER

Dairy King in Portia  
Thursday, October 20 at 10am



### NOVEMBER

Lunch at the Pasonage in Jonesboro  
Thursday, November 17 at 11am



### DECEMBER

Thursday, December 8 from  
10am-noon in the Welcome  
Center. Christmas Cookies and  
coffee



### GAME NIGHTS

Every 4th Monday of the month  
starting at 5:30pm in the  
Welcome Center



Treat - an important and fun outreach event! You will also see in the newsletter our fall YOUTH calendar finalized by staff and youth parents. Lots going on!

Let me offer a few updates on financials and facilities. With regard to finances, we have had a strong summer. Thanks to our many members who support our church financially with consistency and generosity, we are ahead of budget and spending. Our Next 100 Years Campaign has led to an increase in giving to building needs and debt. You'll remember there were multiple emphases in the campaign: \$3.19m construction debt; \$200,000 office suite renovation; \$50,000 sanctuary maintenance; \$50,000 sanctuary technology. In August the Finance Committee transferred \$200k toward the loan bringing the debt total to just under \$3m. Sanctuary maintenance is ongoing. We believe we are "water-tight" (knock-on-wood) and will look to further complete interior paint & plaster repairs. Ramson's Construction is in the process of preparing an updated quote and drawings for the first-floor office suite renovation. Outside of the campaign, the Trustees worked with staff to replace the HVAC system in the Pairs-Spares room. Lastly, be reminded that the pastors have moved parsonages. The Womacks now live at 102 Cypress Pointe & Rev. Chase lives at 417 W. Main St. The Womacks are looking to offer some sort of parsonage open house later this fall/winter when we are slightly more settled.

Thanks to everyone who attended our UMC information meeting on Aug. 1. The detailed handout is available at [fumcparagould.org/resources](http://fumcparagould.org/resources). I hope you feel informed. Since our meeting, more UMC churches have entered and/or completed the "disaffiliation process". I find this disconcerting and disappointing. For many churches this is a painful process. It is a challenging time as beloved congregations and fellow UMC members are leaving our church family. The Conference is hosting a special Annual Conference meeting in November to vote on congregations leaving the Conference at which point I will have more information and will update our church. I cannot speak for every church, but it is my understanding that many (most) ARUMC churches like FUMC Paragould continue to comfortably remain UMC. Those "leaving" get the most attention but they are not the majority. I wish I had more specifics on the next few months and years regarding our denomination, but I do not. We need to be patient and monitor each update. Most importantly, focus on the joy of sharing in ministry at our church.

I want to close with a personal word of appreciation and celebration. I do not say it enough, but I am truly happy to serve as one of your pastors and share in the wonderful community of Paragould. It has been a great Summer (OMP, VBS, Ready Set READ, updated parsonages, financial strength, etc) and will be a wonderful fall (excellence in worship, growing Sunday School participation, Connect Wednesday, special outreach events, etc.). We have a great church with a rich history and bright future. It's a wonderful time to share in ministry at First United Methodist Church of Paragould! So honored to be one of your pastors.

Grace & Peace,  
Rev. Dane

*Come Join Us!*



August has flown by and September seems to be over before it has even begun! The life of a parent is not easy, and life has a way of passing us by if we are not careful. School activities, sports, homework, dance, gymnastics, work responsibilities, and social obligations begin to take center stage this time of year and don't seem to slow down until after Christmas. Sometimes it's hard to make church a priority. I am thankful to each and every one of you that make sure that you find some time to worship with your children!

In the upcoming months there will be numerous ways you can instill a sense of worship in your children. One of those is Connect Wednesdays. It is a fun opportunity to share family dinners together, fellowship with others, and demonstrate that God is important by allowing your child to participate in the children's activities while you attend a Bible study. Even volunteering to help is a way for your children to see a different form of worship! I pray that you all are able to be part of the fun.

Another day of worship that you don't want to miss is Bible Sunday on September 25. We will present our 3rd graders with their Bibles. There will also be Bible Bootcamp for them during the Sunday School hour.

Family busyness is to be expected. My prayer is that we all find some time in the busyness this month to be still and worship our incredibly amazing God!

"Give praise to the Lord, proclaim his name, make known among the nations what he has done." Psalms 105:1  
-Mrs. Angela

# DATES TO REMEMBER



(SUBJECT TO CHANGE - **UPDATED AUG. 23**)

- Sept.7-Nov.16 Connect Wednesday 5pm meal & 6pm activities
- Sept.16 & 17 FUMC @ Get Downtown Festival
- Sept.18 Sun. Youth Cookout & Color War
- Oct.1-31 ARUMC Ingathering
- **Oct.9 Laity Appreciation Sunday**
- **Oct.9 Sun. 5pm Church Council Meeting**
- Oct.23 Sun. Youth @ Pumpkin Hollow
- Oct.30 Sun. Trunk-or-Treat
- Nov.1 5-6th Students "Turkey Tuesday" at Witt House
- Nov.6 All Saints Sunday
- Nov.8 7-9th Students "Turkey Tuesday" at Witt House
- Nov.15 10-12th Students "Turkey Tuesday" at Witt House
- Nov.20 Sun. Hanging of Greens Service
- Nov.27 First Sunday of Advent & College Student Sunday
- Dec.4 Sun. Children's Christmas Program
- Dec.11 Sun. Youth Christmas Dinner
- Dec.18 Sun. Choral Christmas Concert
- Dec.24 Sat. Christmas Eve: Noon, 5, 7, & 11pm
- Dec.25 Christmas Sunday 10am One Service Sanctuary

ADMIT ONE

YOUNG AT HEART

## MOVIE TIME

SECOND MONDAY OF EACH MONTH  
1:00 PM  
3RD FLOOR MOVIE ROOM

Sept. 12 Oct. 10 Nov. 14 Dec. 12

# BIBLE SUNDAY

SEPTEMBER 25

For 3rd graders

# Hospitality, Missions, First Core, First Students

Greetings Paragould FUMC family! As we settle into this school year and the changing of the seasons - I am looking forward to all of the things ministry-related for our fall season here at the church! This past month has been full of activities and fall preparation for a number of our ministry platforms – specifically: Hospitality, Missions, First Students (7th-12th), and First Core (18+). I want to lift up the work and engagement the aforementioned have been engaging in and working on to both celebrate and encourage others to participate!

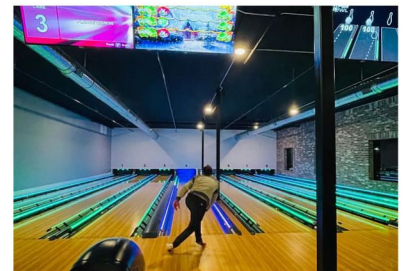
**Hospitality:** Our hospitality team greets all of the worshiping participants at each worship hour on Sundays! You have seen their warm welcoming smiles in the parking lot, entrance doors, and thresholds of the worship space. This is only one of the ways in which this team uses their gifts and graces to share the hospitality of Jesus within our faith community. Members of this team (and missions team) prepare cookies and celebrate communion once a month with our faith community at the Chateau. We average around 15 participants each month - as we gather for song, scripture, communion, cookies, coffee, and fellowship! As a church with deep roots to Downtown Paragould, members of this team also extend the hospitality of our faith community to our downtown events! As Rev. Dane mentioned, the next event we are engaged with is the Paragould Get Downtown Festival on Saturday, Sept. 17. The hospitality team also assists in our faith communities spiritual care by delivering communion from communion Sunday to those who are unable to be physically present for worship.



**Missions:** Our missions team is diligently engaged in working toward assisting in our local food insecurity crisis as well as engaging in missional strategies to end food insecurity within our community. With over 30 volunteers serving at the Witt House, our members work diligently each week to offer a unique food-choice food pantry. If you have never seen this ministry in action, I invite you to visit Tuesday evening between 4pm and 5pm or Friday morning between 9am and 10am to see them serving and engaging with our community! Alongside the food-choice food pantry, the Witt House delivers produce to a number of locations within our community, as well as partnering with local school officials to provide meals where needed. In addition, our mission team engages in other

opportunities to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community; from connecting with our local senior-living facilities, specialized facilities, preparing community gardens for non-profits, hosting and assisting Ozark Mission Project, to strategizing our church's engagement in ARUMC's Ingathering initiative to receiving/restructuring, and creating Paragould FUMC's Multi-Missional-Mobile! Our Mission Team is dreaming and dreaming big-er-er on how our faith community can be the active and engaged hands and feet of Christ in our community.

**First Core:** Our First Core group consists of those who are entering in to their post-high school experience! We meet each Sunday @ 10a in the worship center for check-in, scripture/sermon reflection and prayer. Along with our Sunday check-ins, we like to get together when everyone is back in town! This summer we gathered with others within our UMC connexion to fellowship and think about the year to come. Next gathering is Tuesday, September 6th @ The Wesley ASU at 6pm where a team from our church will be providing a meal, Cornerstone's band will be leading in worship, and Rev. Chase will be speaking!



**First Students:** After several attempts and cancellations for this particular trip (due to the craziness of the past two years), we finally got to go!!! We had a wonderful time of fellowship, discipleship, worship, and fun! We went to Memphis Friday after school. We got up early the next morning and made our way to The National Civil Rights Museum - Lorraine Motel (the location of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination). We walked through the historical event of the African American Experience from the 1600s, to Dr. Martin Luther King's assassination, and ending with issues of marginalization and racism experienced today. After the tour, we met in their conference room to digest and reflect on the tour. It was a good opportunity to discuss the basic Sunday school question, "W.W.J.D. (What would Jesus do?) in these situations?" We went a bit deeper into our Wesleyan Heritage in thinking about John Wesley's experience at Bristol (part of the slave trade route) and his reflections on slavery. To bring our conversation home, we discussed the UMC's Social Principles and how we (youth) see and react to current issues of marginalization and racism. It was a great experience, and I encourage anyone to take the tour when in Memphis (see pics on the next page)!

After the tour, we made our way to Beale Street Memphis to eat at the B.B. King's Blues Club. Not only was it great food, the youth experienced a live blues set while we ate! After a full morning of historical and musical activities, we made our way to Autobahn for a full afternoon and evening of fun! Of course, a trip away from church did not mean we skip church - our crew crammed into one of our hotel rooms and watched the 9 o'clock worship service Sunday morning. We ended our trip with a scavenger hunt. After the long weekend behind us, we headed back to church to have our fall planning meeting! Here is a look at our schedule for fall (bottom right)!

—Rev. Chase



**Paragould FUMC First Students (7th-12th)  
Fall 2022**

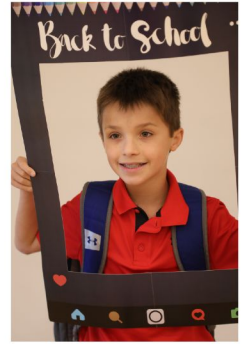
**SUNDAY MORNING:** Worship at 8, 9, 11am & Sunday School 10am (Sam LaHaie & Jill Womack)

**CONNECT WEDNESDAY:** 5pm Dinner & 6pm Bible Study w/ Rev. Dane (Sept 7 - Nov 16)

SUNDAY NIGHTS					SPECIAL EVENTS		
August	8/26/22	Friday	7:00 PM	7th-12th	GCT @ Paragould Football "Bell Game"	Community Event	
August	8/28/22	Sunday	5:00 PM	7th-12th	Gym & God's Word	UMYF	
September	9/11/22	Sunday	5:00 PM	7th-12th	Gym & God's Word	UMYF	
September	9/13/22	Tuesday	6:45 AM	10th-12th	Senior High Breakfast Club	Senior High	
September	9/17/22	Saturday	11a-7p (one-hour spots)	7th-12th	Serve @ Get Downtown Festival PFUMC Booth	Church Wide Event	
September	9/18/22	Sunday	5:00 PM	7th-12th	Connexional Event: Cookout Color War (Comerstone Hosting)	Connexional Youth	
September	9/25/22	Sunday	5:00 PM	7th-12th	Gym & God's Word	UMYF	
October	10/2/22	Sunday	5:00 PM	7th-12th	Gym & God's Word	UMYF	
October	10/5/22	Wednesday	4 PM - 6 PM	7th-12th	Serve Wednesday Night Meal	Service	
October	10/9/22	Sunday	5:00 PM	7th-12th	Gym & God's Word	UMYF	
October	10/11/22	Tuesday	6:45 AM	10th-12th	Senior High Breakfast Club	Senior High	
October	10/13/22	Thursday	5:00 PM	7th-12th	Dig for the Cure Volleyball GCT & PHS	Community Event	
October	10/16/22	Sunday	5:00 PM	7th-12th	Gym & God's Word	UMYF	
October	10/23/22	Sunday	5:00 PM	7th-12th	Connexional Event @ Pumpkin Hollow	Connexional Youth	
October	10/30/22	Sunday	TBD	7th-12th	Serve @ Trunk-or-Treat	Churchwide	
November	11/1/22	Tuesday	4 PM - 6 PM	5th&6th	November Turkey Tuesday's Mission @ Witt House	Mission	
November	11/3	Thursday	5:30 PM		Paragould @ GCT 8th/Jr.High Football	Community Event	
November	11/6	Sunday	5:00 PM	7th-12th	Bonfire	UMYF	
November	11/8/22	Tuesday	6:45 AM	10th-12th	Senior High Breakfast Club	Senior High	
November	11/8/22	Tuesday	4 PM - 6 PM	7th-9th	November Turkey Tuesday's Mission @ Witt House	Mission	
November	11/13	Sunday	5:00 PM	7th-12th	Gym & God's Word	UMYF	
November	11/15/22	Tuesday	4 PM - 6 PM	10th-12th	November Turkey Tuesday's Mission @ Witt House	Mission	
November	11/20/22	Sunday	2-7p (Service 6-7p)	7th-12th	Hanging of the Greens & Spring Planning Meeting	Worship	
December	12/11/22	Sunday	5:00 PM	7th-12th	Progressive Christmas Dinner	UMYF	
December	12/13/22	Tuesday	6:45 AM	10th-12th	Senior High Breakfast Club	Senior High	

# Back to School Sunday!

August 14 was Back to School Sunday! Kids preschool-7th grade moved up to their new Sunday School classes. Prayers were led in the 9am contemporary service and the 11am traditional service. Kids brought their backpacks to be blessed.



Above: scenes from the 9 & 11 services as prayers were offered to bless the school year. Left to right: preschool class, 1-2nd grade class, 3-4th grade class, 5-6th grade class, scenes from music time

# New Members



Above: We would like to welcome Kevin and Raenan Moslander, who joined in August. We are so glad you are here!

## Witt House

During the month of August the Witt House served 369 households, representing 1,131 individuals. We added 82 new households (268 individuals) and 13 Emergency Bag households (32 individuals.) A copy of the statistical breakdown is listed below.

Witt House Statistics: August, 2022		Breakdown By Category		
Statistic Name	Total Served	Clients	New Clients	Emergency
# Households Served	369	274	82	13
# Households With One Person Employed	73	51	22	Unclassified
# New People Served	300	*****	268	32
People	1131	1099	Included with clients	32
0-18 Years	406	406	Included with clients	Unclassified
19-59 Years	536	536	Included with clients	Unclassified
Age Over 60	157	157	Included with clients	Unclassified
Females	584	584	Included with clients	Unclassified
Males	515	515	Included with clients	Unclassified

The Witt House needs our help to feed the people of our community. With food costs steadily rising, we are seeing more and more people each month.

You can donate money, peanut butter, or these canned foods: pinto beans, tuna, chicken, chili, and ravioli. Donations can be left in the bin in the Worship Center, or in the Narthex.

The need has never been greater. Thank you for your help in this ongoing ministry.

2022 New Households	
January	55
February	42
March	60
April	55
May	57
June	62
July	87
August	82
Total	500

# Finance

**2022 Budget** \$1,269,130

## August 2022

General Contributions: \$54,874

Building/100 Year Contributions: \$11,123

## A Dollar A Week

\$5,051 to date

## Memorials

### In Memory of:

**Betty Fletcher** by Pairs & Spares Sunday School Class, Denise & Larry Chipman, Robin Patten, Bob Branch, Martha Morgan

**Frances Boone** by Bill & Pat Phillips, Janice Wilcox, Bob Branch, Larry & Denise Chipman, Mary Ann Allen, Joe & Jackie Barnett, Kay & Herb Bland, Wilma Horne Family

**Ron Schneider** by Kay & Herb Bland, George & Susie Cook, Larry & Denise Chipman, Robin Patten, John Eden, Charles & Dona Brazil, David & Donna Jones, Linda & Danny Futrell, Dr. Leonus & Marcia Shedd, Janice Wilcox, Pairs & Spares Sunday School Class, Dr. Everett & Sandy Rogers, Dane & Jill Womack

**Hillis Pratt** by Bob Branch, Rena & Davey Joe Jackson, Larry & Denise Chipman, Kay & Herb Bland, George & Susie Cook, Charles & Donna Brazil, Robin Patten, Linda & Danny Futrell, Janice Wilcox, Jim & Guyla Jackson, Robin Patten, Martha Morgan

**Dewey Shelton** by Robin Patten, Larry & Denise Chipman, Bob Branch, George & Susie Cook

**Carolyn Haynes** by Rena & Davey Joe Jackson, Betty Fletcher, John Wyatt, Gary Black, Bob Branch

**Leon Giguere** by Robin Patten, Martha & Russell McCain  
**Scott Noles** by Sandra Rogers, Shirley Wilson, Debbie Newberry

**Terry Waits** by Joe & Jackie Barnett

**Joan Ratton** by Martha Morgan, Gary Black, Riley & Barbara VanHorn, Sarah & Andrew Boyer

**Fred Swindle** by John Wyatt, Betty Fletcher, Mary Ann Stallcup

**Jack Blackshear** by John Wyatt

**Jim Keith** by Jeff & Cynthia Underwood, Martha Morgan, Martha Jean Swindle, Gena James

**Ola Mae Wilkinson** by Lane, Courtney, Connor, Cohen & Cross McMurry, John Wyatt

**Sheila Comeford** by Beverly & David Crawford

**Mark Middleton** by Gary Black

**Red & Claire Jenkins** by Sarah & Andrew Boyer

**Dick Pace** by Beth, Mary Ann & Carol Misenhimer

**Dr. Tory Lee Stallcup** by Mary Ann Stallcup

**Anne Fisher** by Martha Morgan

**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

Office Phone 870-239-8541  
Office Hours: 8:30-am- 4:30 pm  
(Fridays close at noon)

*First United Methodist Church*  
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[info@fumcparagould.org](mailto:info@fumcparagould.org) **870.239.8541**  
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8:30-noon Friday  
[www.fumcparagould.org](http://www.fumcparagould.org)



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