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Love God. Serve People. Make a Difference.

First United Methodist Church

The Flame

NOVEMBER 2021

A word from our pastor

Rev. Dane Womack

Greetings Paragould FUMC,



First I want to say a special word of appreciation to everyone who gifted Rev. Chase and myself with notes and cards on Sunday, Oct. 10, "Pastor Appreciation Day". Your acts of support mean more than you know - especially after everything we've been through in our limited time together. This last year has been especially hard. I cannot thank you enough for your support and care toward me and my family. Even more so, what I most appreciate is your support of the church. More than gift

cards and kind notes, I cannot thank you enough for your attention to worship, financial support, and your willingness to volunteer. A church is only as strong as its lay leadership and involvement - and that's you! Thank you!

With respect to the business of the church, I remind you that our Church Council met last month (Oct. 10). This was an important meeting because it was the first time the leadership of our church was together this year and we welcomed a guest - District Superintendent Rev. John Fleming. The meeting agenda, notes, and minutes are available in the church office. I'll highlight a couple of key themes here. There was a shared consensus that we had a very good year on many fronts. We are thankful for the hard work and adaptability of our staff, we will continue to address major and minor facilities issues (e.g. Sanctuary water damage), and our financial strength continues to be a point of celebration. We have many things for which to give thanks. We also discussed challenges and opportunities including ministries that have not yet found their feet post-COVID19 like Adult Sunday School. We acknowledged significant attention is needed at one of our parsonages. Lastly we discussed and agreed to move forward with a debt reduction campaign in 2022 in hopes of paying off our debt as quickly as possible. You'll be hearing much more about that in the future. This Church Council meeting functionally served as this year's "Charge Conference" - though it wasn't an official Charge Conference. The actual **Charge Conference is Saturday, Nov. 13 at 10am via Zoom** and will be a District-wide

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Podcast

You can now find a podcast of the sermon each week. Just look for Paragould First United Methodist Church on Apple and Spotify.



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meeting. All Church Council members should have received a Zoom invite in their email.

November will be a busy month in the life of the Church. Please add these important dates to your calendar.

- On **November 7th we will celebrate "All Saints Sunday"** as we commemorate the lives of FUMC members who died this past year. This is always a meaningful service and I encourage you to attend as we give thanks for our Saints.

- Tues. Nov. 9 at 5:30pm in the **Sanctuary will be our second "Service of Grief & Hope"**. Current research tells us that many of us are experiencing significant challenges with respect to mental health including stress, anxiety, and depression. Come to this service to pray on these matters and receive mental health tips from our FUMC counselors and therapists.

- **Advent begins Sunday, Nov. 28!** Can you believe it?! This means our **Youth Hanging of the Greens service will be Sunday, Nov. 21 at 6pm.** Volunteers and Sunday School classes will be working to decorate the church in preparation for the holidays. I am looking forward to a wonderful holiday season with our church family!

Lastly, I want to leave with you with a word of encouragement and challenge. Thank God, the state-wide C19 data continues to improve. Active case numbers are way down. Booster vaccines are becoming more available. There's even talk of a children's dose being made public soon. Things are trending in a positive direction. I have talked to hospital and school officials in the last week and, at the moment, everyone is optimistic. Me too! Of course we have some people who are ill or too weak to risk being out in public. But if you are otherwise healthy and enjoying public outings, I want to encourage you to attend church and its ministries. The FUMC nursery is open. Childrens and youth ministries are busy. Masks may be worn at your discretion, though I encourage you to be mindful around (unvaccinated) children. Otherwise, if you have not been "back" or are not yet regular in worship, I want to express a hardy "Welcome!" It takes all of us to be the church God has called us to be. There is no mythical church. The only church we get is the one we support and create alongside God's guidance and care. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Grace & Peace,
Rev. Dane

YOUTH SERVE DAY



Youth, with the help of Jeanie Wallace, Joe Barnett, Dennis Brown, and Rev. Chase, made a ramp for a member of the community on Youth Serve Sunday, on October 10.

Advent

For many Christians unfamiliar with the liturgical year, there may be some confusion surrounding the meaning of the Advent season. Some people may know that the Advent season focuses on expectation and think that it serves as an anticipation of Christ's birth in the season leading up to Christmas. This is part of the story, but there's more to Advent.

The word "Advent" is derived from the Latin word adventus, meaning "coming," which is a translation of the Greek word parousia. Scholars believe that during the 4th and 5th centuries in Spain and Gaul, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, the celebration of God's incarnation represented by the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:1), his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist (John 1:29), and his first miracle at Cana (John 2:1). During this season of preparation, Christians would spend 40 days in penance, prayer, and fasting to prepare for this celebration; originally, there was little connection between Advent and Christmas.

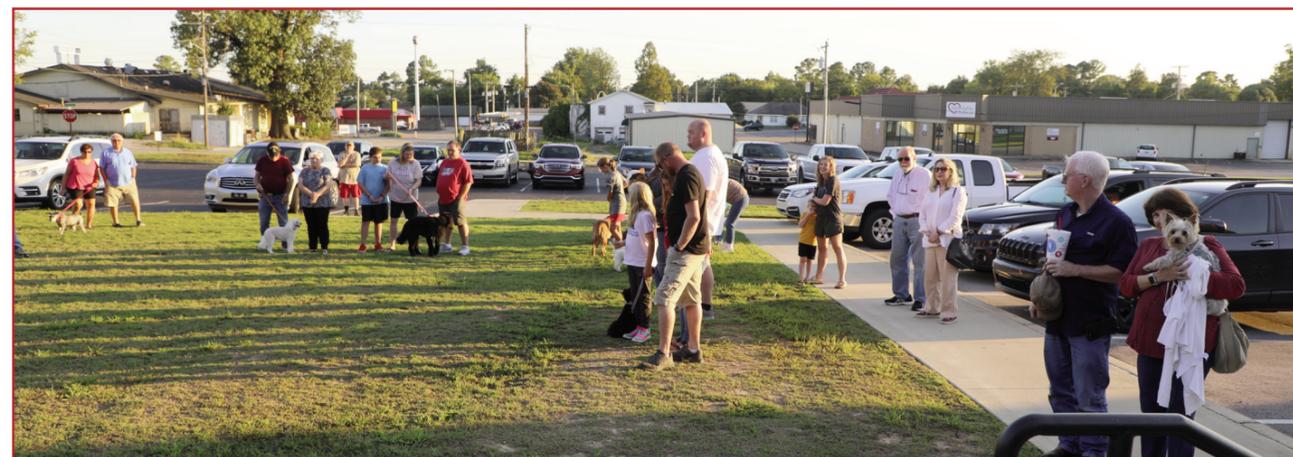
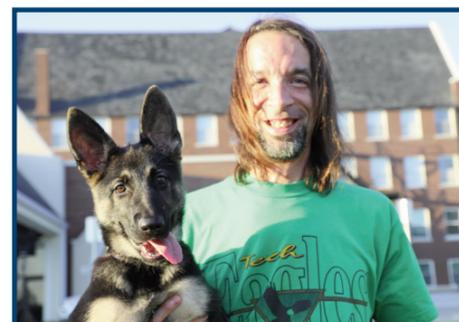
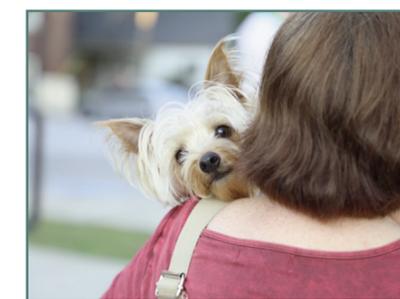
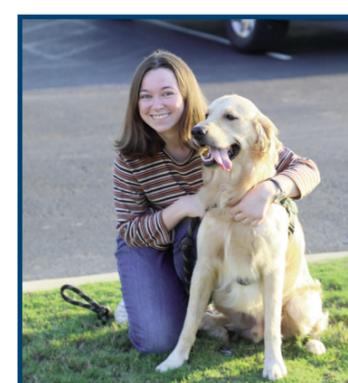
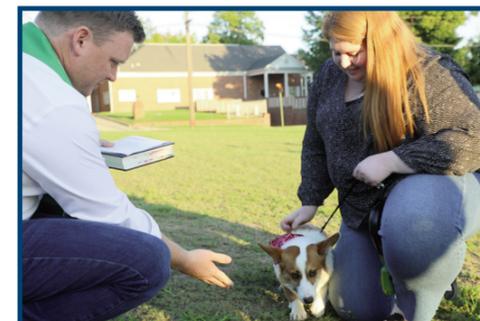
Today, the season of Advent lasts for four Sundays leading up to Christmas. The new Christian year begins with the twelve-day celebration of Christmastide, which lasts from Christmas Eve until Epiphany on January 6. Advent begins on the Sunday that falls between November 27th and December 3rd each year. Advent 2021 begins on Sunday, November 28th, and ends on December 24.

This year we will be putting together a church-wide devotional, full of devotionals written by church members. They will be available at the church for pick up by November 14.

**Excerpt taken from "What is Advent," an article by Justin Holcomb that appeared in Christianity Today*

Blessing of the Animals

We had a wonderful time as we asked God's blessing on our beloved pets in October. This tradition comes from our Roman Catholic friends who celebrate the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on October 4. Francis is the saint of animals and is remembered for his love of creatures big and small.



From Rev. Chase

Fall is here! November & December are Packed! We have many things to be looking forward to and engaging within the church as a student/youth this fall!

First, students are serving at the **Witt House** the first three Tuesdays in November! We will meet at 4pm to set up and serve our community until 6pm! Here are the following dates for each group: 5th & 6th: November 2nd, 7th-9th: November 9th, 10th-12th: November 16th.

Youth Bonfire (Students 7th-12th) @ The Cooks- Sunday, November 14th, 2021 @ 5pm!



Hanging of the Greens Set-up and Service (Students 7th-12th): Set up is Sunday, November 21, 2021 from 2pm-5pm. We will have dinner at 5pm and the service will begin at 6pm!

Progressive Christmas Dinner- Sunday, December 5th, 2021- First stop @ 5pm!

Senior High Trip (December 10th-12th): The last day to sign up for

the Senior High Trip is Friday December 3rd! Sign up online or in the church center app. We have plenty of room so feel free to invite a friend! Senior High Fall Trip - First United Methodist Church (churchcenter.com)

We are thrilled to have so much going on this fall! As always, we cannot offer the events without our adults! There are several opportunities to help. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Chase 501-804-1282

livestreaming:

Find us online/Facebook

Our 9:00 and 11:00 worship services are live streamed each week on our website: www.fumcparagould.org/worshiponline. You can also find us live on Facebook on Sunday mornings.

All Saints Sunday

November 1 is All Saints Day, a sometimes-overlooked holy day in United Methodist congregations. It is not nearly as well known as the day before, All Hallows' (Saints') Eve, better known as Halloween, but is far more important in the life of the church.

John Wesley, founder of the Methodist movement, enjoyed and celebrated All Saints Day. In a journal entry from November 1, 1767, Wesley calls it "a festival I truly love." On the same day in 1788, he writes, "I always find this a comfortable day." The following year he calls it "a day that I peculiarly love."

Wesley cautioned against holding saints in too high regard. The Articles of Religion that he sent to the Methodists in America in 1784, include a statement against "invocation of saints" (Article XIV—Of Purgatory, Book of Discipline ¶104). Wesley did not see biblical evidence for the practice and discouraged Methodists from participating.

All Saints Day is an opportunity to give thanks for those who have gone before us in the faith. It is a time to celebrate our history, what United Methodists call the tradition of the church.

From the early days of Christianity, there is a sense that the Church consists of not only all living believers, but also all who have gone before us. For example, in Hebrews 12 the author encourages Christians to remember that a "great cloud of witnesses" surrounds us encouraging us, cheering us on.

** Excerpts taken from "All Saints Day: A holy day John Wesley loved" by Joe Iovino*

Remember those who left us this past year:

J. Dewayne Allen
C. R. Dudley
Jeanne Willcockson
Jackie Dudley
Dick Chiles
Donna Williams
Christine Hoke
Glen Pillow
Iris Wheelis
Kay Goodwin
Gretta Jernigan
Ann Black
Jan Parker
Chris Stidham

These people will be remembered in all three church services on All Saints Sunday, November 7.

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Monday, November 1

1:30pm-5:30 pm Blood Drive

Tuesday, November 2

4:30 pm 5th-6th grade @November Turkey Tuesday

4:30-6pm Witt House Open

Wednesday, November 3

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

5:00 pm Connect Family Meal

*6:00 pm Adult Bible Study

6:00 pm Connect Children's

programming

6:00 pm Connect Youth Programming

*6:00 pm Choir Practice

*7:30 pm Praise Band Practice

Thursday, November 4

10:00 am Prayer Group

Friday, November 5

10:00 am Threads of Faith

9:30-11 am Witt House open

Sunday, November 7

All Saints Sunday

*8:00 am Early Worship Service

*9:00 am Contemporary Service

*10:00 am Sunday School

*11:00 am Traditional Worship Service

5:00 pm SPRC

6:00 pm Youth at Brick Oven

Monday, November 8

1:00 pm Young at Heart movie club

Tuesday, November 9

4:30-6:00 Witt House open

5:30 pm Service of Grief & Hope

Wednesday, November 10

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

5:00 pm Connect Family Meal

*6:00 pm Adult Bible Study

6:00 pm Connect Children's

programming

6:00 pm Connect Youth Programming

*6:00 pm Choir Practice

*7:30 pm Praise Band Practice

Thursday, November 11

6:30 am Breakfast Club-HS Juniors & Seniors

10:00 am Prayer Group

Friday, November 12

7:30 am-6:30 pm Fill the Food Bank day at Walmart

9:30-11 am Witt House Open

10:00 am Threads of Faith

Saturday, November 13

10:00 am NED District-wide Charge Conference

Sunday, November 14

*8:00 am Early Worship

*9:00 am Contemporary Worship

*10:00 am Sunday School

*11:00 am Traditional Worship

5:00 pm Youth @ Bonfire

5:00 pm Finance Meeting

6:00 pm Trustees Meeting

Tuesday, November 16

4:30 pm Youth: 10th-12th @November

Turkey Tuesday

4:30-6:00 pm Witt House open

Wednesday, November 17

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

*6:00 pm Choir Practice

*7:30 pm Praise Band Practice

Thursday, November 18

10:00 am Prayer Group

Friday, November 19

10:00 am Threads of Faith

9:30-11 am Witt House open

Sunday, November 21

*8:00 am Early Worship

*9:00 am Contemporary Worship

*10:00 am Sunday School

*11:00 am Traditional Worship

2:00 pm Youth: set up Hanging of the Greens

6:00 pm Hanging of the Greens Service

Monday, November 22

5:30 pm Young at Heart Game Night

Tuesday, November 23

4:30-6:00 pm Witt House open

Wednesday, November 24

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

12:00 pm Church office closes

*7:30 pm Praise Team

Thursday, November 25

Church office and Witt House closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

Friday, November 26

Church office closed

Sunday, November 28

First Sunday of Advent

*8:00 am Early Worship Service

*9:00 am Contemporary Service

*10:00 am Sunday School

*11:00 am Traditional Worship Service

12:00 Youth-Serve Sunday

5:00 pm SPRC

6:00 pm Church Council Meeting

*Nursery Provided

Fill the Food Bank

Drop by Walmart on November 12th from 7:30 am till 6:30 pm We are accepting food & money donations. Proceeds benefit the Witt House and 2 other food pantries.

Connect Wednesday

We have had a great time being back on Wednesday nights! You are welcome to join in for the last 2 weeks. There are children and youth activities, choir practice, and a Bible study. All activities meet from 6-7pm. For more specific information, go to our website at www.fumcparagould.org/connect-wednesday

Connect Wednesday Night Meal

From 5:00-6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children under 8, \$15 max per family. In the gym starting at 5:00 pm. You can eat in the gym, worship center, welcome center, outside, etc. Please sign up in advance in person on Wednesdays or by calling the church office at 870-239-8541 or emailing denise.chipman@fumcparagould.org.

On the menu:

November 3—Oinky’s BBQ

November 10—Vegetable Soup



Save the Date

Hanging of the Greens

Sunday, November 21
6:00 p.m.
in the Sanctuary

SERVICE OF GRIEF & HOPE
 FOR THOSE EXPERIENCING DESPAIR, ANXIETY, OR EXHAUSTION INCLUDING HEALTHCARE WORKERS, EDUCATORS, AND OTHERS NEEDING A PLACE OF REST AND SUPPORT
 5:30-6PM | SECOND TUES OF MONTH
 • OCT. 12 COMPASSION FATIGUE
 • NOV. 9 RESILIENCE IN TRYING TIMES
 • DEC. 14 GRIEF AND THE HOLIDAYS
 FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 404 WEST MAIN STREET
 FUMCPARAGOULD.ORG

YOUTH
Progressive Dinner
 DECEMBER



POINSETTIAS



Orders for Poinsettias are being taken with a deadline of November 19. This is so we know how many to order and give the florist time to get them in. Order forms will be in the Welcome Center, Narthex, and Grand Hall.

Finance

A Dollar A Week

Year to Date 3,155 (through 10/15/21)

2021 Budget 1,250,857

Month of September, 2021

General Contributions: \$ 65,207

Building Contributions: \$8,810

Month of October, 2021 (through 10/15/21)

General Contributions: \$31,117

Building Contributions: \$5,300

Building Loan Balance: \$3,366,550

Memorials

Jan Parker by Janie Harris, Carolyn Samuel, Larry & Denise Chipman, Pairs & Spares Class, Jimmy Dodd Jr., Bob Branch, Charles & Donna Brazil, Beth Pace
Debra Stevens by Dottie McAllister, Early Bird Class, Larry & Denise Chipman, Millie & Gary Fleeman, Richard Misenhimer by PHS Class of 1965, Charles & Donna Brazil, Davey Joe & Rena Jackson
Ann Black by Mike & Diane Warnecke, Jann Willcockson, Phillip & Paige Wooldridge, Janie, Britni & Jake Harris
Paul Combs by Mary Ann Stallcup, Larry & Denise Chipman
Kay Goodwin by Mary Ann Stallcup
Jerry Buck by Jann Willcockson

Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, November 1, 2021

1:30 pm – 5:30 pm

First United Methodist Paragould



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
 (eaglebandguy2@gmail.com)
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)

First United Methodist Church
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 info@fumcparagould.org **870.239.8541**
 Office Hours: 8:30-4:30 Monday-Thursday
 8:30-noon Friday
 www.fumcparagould.org



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