

WHAT'S INSIDE



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Love God. Serve People. Make a Difference.

First United Methodist Church

The Flame

OCTOBER 2021

A word from our pastor

Rev. Dane Womack



In his book *A Future That's Bigger Than the Past*, Rev. Samuel Wells who serves as Vicar of St Martin-in-the-Fields (London, UK) offers beatitudes for large congregations with many ministries:

- * Blessed are those who are needed, for they will find purpose in serving.
- * Blessed are those who are involved, for they will discover joy in teamwork.
- * Blessed are those who are noticed, for they will bring forth surprising gifts.
- * Blessed are those who are rewarded, for they will create a culture of gratitude.
- * Blessed are those who are listened to, for

they will foster a love of learning.

- * Blessed are those who are given space to grow, for they will find out what they were put on this earth to be.
- * Blessed are those who are challenged, for they will reveal what they're really made of.
- * Blessed are those who are trusted, for they will become leaders themselves.

This book has been a blessing and a guide during these last few months. I am especially drawn to these little beatitudes. Large churches include many layers of service, worship, and faith development. We hope we can create opportunities for everyone. Those who want to sing and serve. Those who teach and learn. Those with doubts and fears. We need everyone at the proverbial table so we can be the church we are supposed to be.

I have been on a number of denominational and conference-wide zoom meetings as of late. The common refrain is this ongoing season of transition. How has society changed? How has our church changed? What have we learned? We are all trying to figure this out together. One thing we all agreed on, though, is that we want everyone "there" - wherever there might be. Online, in-person, or some combination of the two. Everyone is needed and should be listened to and given space to grow and challenge and trusted. I invite you to dream of a church where that might be the case. Not a mythical church, of course, but an actual church - our church. That's what I am working and hoping

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POINSETTIAS



Poinsettias already! It is only October!!!! True, but we need to start taking orders for Poinsettias towards the end of October 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 included with the worship bulletins, and in the Welcome Center beginning October 24.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Monday, November 1, 2021
1:30 pm – 5:30 pm
First United Methodist Paragould



continued from page 1

for right now.

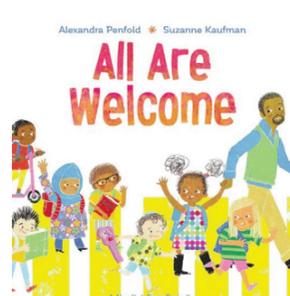
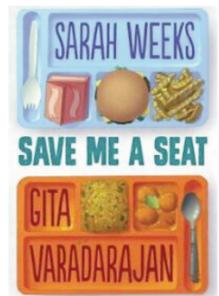
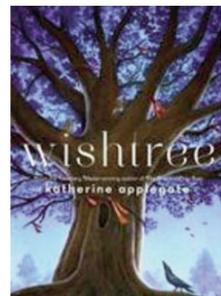
As with each monthly newsletter, I offer you a snapshot update on facilities and finances. As you've heard and read in this newsletter, we are pleased with the completed roof repairs on the west side of the sanctuary including the interior paint and plaster. We are thankful for the work of Roberts-McNutt and their contractors and expect to move forward with similar repairs on the east side where the damage is less significant. We've also been in the process of working with our insurance company and roofing providers regarding some hail damage way back in April. Our financial situation continues to be stable (total giving YTD: \$826,333; total distributed YTD: \$867,333). Giving has been strong including designated gifts toward special needs. Our Trustees and Finance Committee regularly discuss our efforts to reduce our debt as quickly as possible. We are already making strides in that direction and welcome giving toward that goal. We anticipate a church-wide debt reduction campaign sometime in 2022.

Over the last few days, the local C19 data improved greatly. This time last month, Greene County was leading the state in new cases. Hopefully that dreadful reality is behind us. As things improve, our staff and lay leadership have moved forward with Fall plans for more in-person ministries, namely Connect Wednesday, Blessing of the Animals, Trunk or Treat, and so on. We are working on holiday plans too! We are thrilled to have folks in the building for bible study and youth and children's discipleship opportunities. You may have noticed coffee and doughnuts are once again available on Sunday mornings. You will see announcements in this newsletter regarding upcoming ministries of service, fellowship, and worship. I look forward to seeing you there.

In each of this month's church leadership meetings we discussed how things at church have felt sporadic over the last few weeks. Data appears to be better, then we have a new surge in cases. Many families are present one week, but the next week multiple households are in quarantine. Out of town activities draw people away. We have individuals who are undergoing medical treatment or recovering from cancer for whom it is not safe to return to public gatherings. I hope and pray we are once again settling into more regular patterns of ministry. And I want to encourage you to plug in - however that looks for you. We look forward to being with you!

Grace & Peace,
Rev. Dane Womack

2021 ARUMC INGATHERING



Rev. Chase Burns

It is that time of year again-time for the ARUMC-INGATHERING! After last year's event, the conference wants to continue to encourage each District to design its own Ingathering Events. This year, I have the privilege of serving as our district's Ingathering Chair. Our conference focus is on two items- flood buckets and the distribution of literacy items to our kids (part of our 200k More Reasons initiative). Our district's Ingathering event for this year is titled "BUCKETS & BOOKS" and our goal is to collect 200 Flood Buckets for the ARUMC-Arkansas Disaster Relief Program, as well as to collect and distribute 2,100 books for the year 2021! I am excited about this event because we are working toward supplying flood buckets for Arkansas as well as our neighbors via UMCOR. Through this event, we are also investing in our local literacy components. Each church is partnering with a local entity to distribute books. What does this mean for Paragould FUMC? Our goal is to collect 20 COMPLETED flood buckets as well as 90 specific books. For the flood buckets, you can see the flyer on page 3 with all the components that are to go into your bucket. If you would rather purchase a flood bucket, they are \$75 each. You can donate both electronically through the app, in-person (Please notate on the offering envelope "Flood Bucket"), or send a check to the church with "Flood Bucket" in the description. For our book collection, we are partnering with our very own Ready, Set, READ! Program! They are needing three specific books: "The Wish Tree" by Katherine Applegate, "Save Me a Seat" by Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan, and "All Are Welcome" by Alexandra Penfold. If you would rather donate to the purchase of the books, each book can be purchased for \$12 or \$36 for all three. Our goal is to purchase 30 of each book. Once we reach our goal of 30 books each, we will provide a list of other books needed.

The book drive is **October 1st-15th** (the Ready, Set, READ! Program will be utilizing these books for an off-campus event on October 23rd).

The bucket drive is **October 1st-November 7th**. You can drop off your bucket in the designated area of the new brick hallway between the entrance to the worship center and the children's area.

Finally, we can't do this without being a bit competitive. The church that brings in the most completed buckets will get to choose (from a list of options) what will go into a bucket to be poured on our D.S, Rev. John Fleming. Likewise, the church which brings in the greatest number of books will get to choose (from a list of options) what will go into a bucket to be poured on our district's Ingathering Chair (AKA-Me).

I am looking forward to this year's Ingathering event! Let's work together in investing in connectional missional ministry here in Paragould, Arkansas, and our neighboring states!
Grace and Peace.



northeast district
INGATHERING
2021 • United Methodist Church of Arkansas

BUCKETS

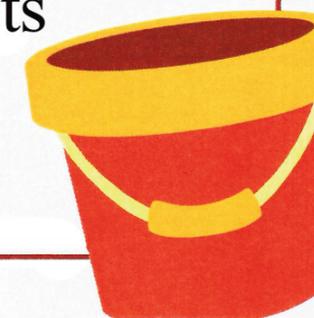
Cleaning Materials	Assembly Directions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One five-gallon round bucket with re-sealable lid (14.35" h x 12.19" w x 12.19" d / no screw lids / may be used, but must be free from all residual product / advertisements on the outside acceptable) • One 32-64 oz. bottle liquid laundry detergent • One 16-40 oz. bottle liquid concentrate household cleaner (no spray cleaners) • One 16-34 oz. bottle dish soap • One 4-8 oz. pump spray air freshener • One 6-14 oz. pump spray insect repellent (pack of 10-20 wipes also acceptable / pump spray bottles must have protective covers) • One scrub brush (with or without handle) • 18 re-useable cleaning wipes (no terrycloth, microfiber or paper towels / remove from packaging) • Five scouring pads (no stainless-steel pads with soap in them / remove from packaging) • 36-50 clothespins • One 50-100 ft. clothesline (cotton or plastic line) • 24 roll of heavy-duty trash bags (33-45-gallon sizes / remove from packaging) • Five N95 particulate respirator dust masks (1-3 mm thickness / no surgical masks) • Two pairs kitchen gloves (durable for multiple uses / remove from packaging) One pair work gloves (cotton with leather palm or all leather) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place all liquid items in the bucket first. • Place remaining items in the bucket fitting them around and between the liquid items. • Scouring pads and trash bags can be separated in order to fit all of the items in the bucket. • Clothes pins may also be placed in a small re-sealable bag. • Secure the lid on the filled bucket. <p>Notes: All items must be new except for the bucket and lid. All cleaning supplies must be liquid. If items have been omitted, label bucket and indicate which items are missing. Non-cellulose sponges will be added to each bucket so there is no need to purchase one. Do not include any personal notes, money, or other materials in the kits. Buckets and contents should not be imprinted with cartoon characters, advertisements, religious, patriotic, military, or camouflage symbols.</p>

More information can be found at ARUMC.org/ingathering.

Our goal is to collect 20 flood buckets

Bucket drive is October 1-Nov. 1

*Please drop off a completed bucket, or donate to purchase a bucket (each one costs \$75)





Connect Wednesday

September 29 - November 10

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:

- October 6—Grilled Chicken & Mac and Cheese, Green Beans, Roll
- October 13—Layered Spaghetti, Broccoli w/cheese, french bread
- October 20—Poppy Seed Chicken, Rice, Green Beans
- October 27—Chili with fixings
- November 3—Oinky's BBQ

TIME	MINISTRY	LOCATION	POINT PERSON
5-6pm	Dinner	Gym/Kitchen Diners may eat outdoors, worship center, welcome center, etc. at their discretion.	Greig Lynn & Susie Cook & Kitchen Volunteers
5:30-7:30pm	Nursery Available	Nursery Area	Tiffany Luster & Others
6-7pm	Kids: Kindergarten & under	Check In/Out @ Worship Center Rotate among children's areas, playground, gym, etc.	Children's Director Angela Newby & Volunteers
	Kids: 1st - 4th		
	MidSchool: 5th & 6th	5th & 6th Classroom	Rev. Chase & Volunteers
	Youth: 7th - 9th	Youth Area	
	Youth: 10th-12th	Chapel	
Adult Study: <i>When I Pray What Does God Do?</i>	In-person: Spares & Pairs Class (Old Nursery) Online: Facebook & fumcparagould.org	Rev. Dane	
Choir Practice	Sanctuary	Brian & Bernard & Choir	
7:30-8:30pm	Praise Band Practice	Worship Center	Brian & Band

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Friday, October 1

10:00 am Threads of Faith

Sunday, October 3

- *8:00 am Early Worship
- *9:00 am Contemporary Worship
- *10:00 am Sunday School
- *11:00 am Traditional Worship
- 4:00 pm Hospitality Committee Meets
- 5:00 pm Youth @ gym
- 6:00 pm Blessing of the Animals

Wednesday, October 6

- 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

Friday, October 8

- 10:00 am Threads of Faith
- ## Sunday, October 10
- *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

Monday, October 11

- 1:00 pm Young at Heart movie club
- ## Wednesday, October 13
- 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

Friday, October 15

- 10:00 am Threads of Faith
- ## Sunday, October 17
- *8:00 am Early Worship
 - *9:00 am Contemporary Worship
 - *10:00 am Sunday School
 - *11:00 am Traditional Worship
 - 5:00 pm Youth @ gym

Wednesday, October 20

- 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

Friday, October 22

10:00 am Threads of Faith

Sunday, October 24

- *8:00 am Early Worship
- *9:00 am Contemporary Worship
- *10:00 am Sunday School
- *11:00 am Traditional Worship
- 5:00 pm Youth @ gym

Monday, October 25

5:30 pm Young at Heart Game Night

Wednesday, October 27

- 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
- *6:00 pm Chancel Choir
- *7:30 pm Praise Team

Friday, October 29

10:00 am Treads of Faith

*Nursery Provided



Our Witt House Food pantry is open:

Tuesday 4:30-6:00 pm

Friday 9:30-11:00 am

YOUNG AT HEART

Upcoming Activities

Movie Club

Monday, October 11

1:00 pm 3rd floor movie room

Movie: "The Agony and the Ecstasy"

Popcorn and candy provided (bring your own drink)

Game Night

Monday, October 25

Welcome Center



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.





Healthcare Meals

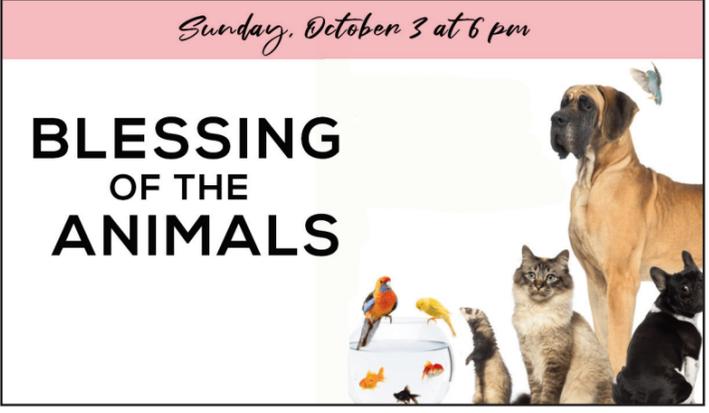
Greetings Paragould FUMC!!!!
 Words cannot express the joy I hold in my heart for all those who contributed and participated in feeding our health care workers at AMMC and Green Acres. We served right at six hundred meals, at two locations, in six shifts!!! Over thirty (30+!!!) of our members worked diligently to set-up each meal throughout the day while maintaining social distancing and protocols at each facility. Thank you, Mary Justice, and the Mission Committee, for organizing all the volunteers! Our Threads of Faith Ministry (along with several others) created over five hundred (500!) prayer squares. Several of our members supported this mission initiative financially. From the bottom of my heart- thank you all!

In the hospital hall, we set up four prayer stations for the medical staff to engage in while receiving their meal. The prayer stations were The Candle Lighting Station in which the medical staff could light a candle and remember that the light of Christ is with them; The Communal Petition Station in which the medical staff could write and read prayers for each other (we brought this station back to the church so we could join them in prayer-praying over their prayers and writing some of our own. This station will be in the welcome center until October 1, 2021); The Prayer Square Station in which the medical staff could receive one of the prayer squares created by our Threads of Faith Ministry; and The Communion Station in which the medical staff could receive communion. "A Place of Refuge", I believe, is an appropriate description of the space the medical staff experienced. There were several who while upon entering, just stood and inhaled peace. The gratitude of the staff was quite overwhelming. Tears and smiles (hidden by masks but seen in the eyes) were shared. If ever there was a moment of experiencing the Holy Spirit at work-it was in this place, bringing Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Gentleness, ...

Again, to each of you who gave your resources, time, and prayers-Thank you. Your faithfulness to be the hands and feet of Christ in Paragould has touched so many lives.
 Rev. Chase



Save the Date



Finance

A Dollar A Week

Year to Date 2,808 (through 9/19/21)
2021 Budget 1,250,857
 Month of August, 2021
 Building Contributions: \$8,565
 General Contributions: \$70,181

Month of September, 2021
 Building Contributions: \$4,300
 General Contributions: \$42,600

Loan Balance: \$3,366,550

Memorials

Ann Black by Bob Branch, Diane Blossom, Janice Wilcox, Mary Ann Allen, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McLarty, III, Paula Nail, Andy & Sonja Fulkerson, Doug & Carol Vail, Carolyn Samuel, Sally & Jeremy Ewing, Hadley & Gavin, Sonni & Lucy Tripod, Linda Black, Beth Pace, Sue Moerck, Charles & Donna Brazil, Donis & Bonnie Hamilton, Bruce & Sherry Burrow, Pat Thomas & family, Sally Martin, Fay Jean Campbell, Carol Tomlinson, Dave & Meryl Cupp, Fred & Martha Jean Swindle, Kay & Herb Bland, Bill & Kaye Holmes, Bob Branch, Kaut & Lynda White, Sandy & John Marshall, Steve Middleton, Dr. John & Ann Honeycutt, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Fisher
Paul Combs by Robin Patten, Janice Wilcox
Gretta Jernigan by Gale Blalock
Don Fleeman by Mary Ann Stallcup
Pete Black by Sally & Jeremy Ewing, Hadley & Gavin, Sonni & Lucy Tripod, Linda Black

Honorariums

Bernard Raley by Diane Blossom

Facilities Update

A look at some of the "before" pictures before repairs were made to the roof in the sanctuary



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)

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 8:30-noon Friday
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