



in the First Place

Volume 43 | Issue 15 | July 18, 2019



Fall Kick Off Celebration - August 11th

The smell of freshly sharpened pencils is in the air! As our students head back to school, we are kicking off another great Fall at First Church. Join us for a Sunday celebration on August 11th! We hope everyone will drop into the First Cup Cafe between 9:30-11 a.m. for a Fall-Kick Off Bonanza. There you will find great coffee and donuts, lots of information on what is coming up this Fall at First Church, and have the chance to change the lives of the students at Booker Elementary as we seek to reach a goal of packing over 500 bundles of school supplies. So drop in for the coffee, stay to pack a couple of boxes, and be a part of kicking off another great Fall at First Church!

Back to School for Every Child

School Supplies Drive for 500 Boxes

Packing Day - August 11th (Fall Kick-Off)

It will soon be back to school season, and we are partnering with Booker and Washington Elementary to make it a successful year for all students. We have set a goal to prepare 500 "back to school" bags for students at our partner schools. We need the following items to fill the supplies bags, and we need your hands on August 11 to pack. This is a church wide service event that you don't want to miss. Let's equip our students for a great school year!

- 1 wide ruled spiral notebook
- 1 loose leaf wide ruled notebook paper
- 1 pack #2 pencils
- 1 pack crayons
- 1 folder with clasps

School supplies can be dropped off in the donation baskets around the Church or brought to the SERVE Room outside of the Fellowship Hall.

NEWS & EVENTS

Register your Kroger card with FUMC YOUTH.

Details inside.

Member Care Casseroles

It's time to restock the freezer!

Health items needed for the Community Cafe.

Check the list inside.

WELCOMING STATEMENT

You are a child of God created in the Divine Image. You are welcomed, affirmed, and included at First Church, not despite, but because of your age, ability, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and gender identity. This is how the Holy Spirit works: when you are welcomed, all are welcomed. When all are welcomed and embraced as the Body of Christ, the world is transformed into a place where all of God's Children can THRIVE, finding the Trust, Health, Relationship, Imagination, Value, and Education they need. We are all children of God. Thanks be to God!

723 Center Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72201
501.372.2256 • www.fumclr.org

FUMC LR
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - LITTLE ROCK

NEW & EVENTS

Health Items for Community Cafe Donations Needed

We are seeking to stock up on health and hygiene items for the Community Cafe. If you have extra items around the house or would be willing to pick up extra items at the store, you can place your donations in the baskets around the Church.

Kleenex	Travel Lotion
Travel Deodorant	Soap Bars
Hand Sanitizer	Dental Floss
Combs	Sunscreen
Men's and Women's Socks	Bug Spray
Travel Shampoo and Conditioner	

July Worship Series

The Gospel According to Broadway

Every story tells the story of God—even the stories told through song and dance. Some of Broadway's greatest hits hold the deepest spiritual truths of God. From The Greatest Showman to Hamilton we find stories of belonging, compassion and tradition. Join us throughout July as we explore the Gospel according to Broadway - Sunday morning at 9 and 11 am.

July 21 - *Fiddler on the Roof*

July 28 - *Hamilton*

We are adding a Hospitality station, we need your help!

The Hospitality Team is adding a station in the children's ministry area! We get a lot of visitors every month, so it's important they receive a warm welcome. The station will be manned from 8:45 – 10, so we are looking for someone that could greet the entire time. Families arrive all throughout the morning, so this station will be a home base. We hope to get 8 volunteers for the station just like our other hospitality slots. This means that you would be on rotation every couple of months. Will you help? Please email Lesley Andrews (landrews@fumclr.org) with questions or to volunteer.

Register your Kroger Card with FUMC YOUTH!

Please take a few minutes to be sure your card is still synced to FUMC YOUTH. They have to be synced every year. To sync it or to register it:

1. Go to your web browser and type this in: bit.ly/firstyouthkrogercard
 2. Select "Create an Account" or Sign In (on left side of screen)
 3. Select 'First United Methodist Church Little Rock Youth' as your organization to support.
- You can also search by our Kroger number: YJ070 (those are zeroes)

Register your Kroger card with FUMC LR YOUTH. Kroger will donate a portion of your purchase to us at no cost to you. We receive no information on you or your purchases.

First Cup Cafe Pop-Up Service

Join us in the First Cup Cafe from 10-11 a.m. on Sunday, July 21st for an opportunity to serve your neighbor by making snack bags for the Community Cafe. Drop in anytime and make one bag or twenty bags! Rev. Haley will be there to share more about the incredible ministry that happens in the Community Cafe. We hope you will drop by!

Jericho Way Housing Summer Bash

Monday, July 29 , 6:00 pm-8:00 pm

We are hosting another Jericho Way housing party with a "summer" theme, and we need your help. We need greeters, servers, eaters, and friends to make this a true celebration. FUMCLR is sponsoring the ice cream bar, and we need ice cream, sprinkles, chocolate sauce, M&M's, Oreos, and other great toppings. If you would like to volunteer on the night of the event or would like to donate to the ice cream bar, please contact Haley at hjones@fumclr.org. These housing parties celebrate our neighbors moving out of homelessness and offer true community to maintain their success. Join us!

Help Children THRIVE Near and Far Children's Library in Lesotho, Africa Donations Needed

In partnership with African Library Project, we're helping Malimong Primary in Lesotho start a library. How can you help? Clean out your bookshelves and donate gently used children's books. Our goal is to collect 1,000 books. We need: new and gently used books for k - 7th grade, paperback easy readers, paperback children's picture books, paperback fiction/nonfiction/science fiction chapter books, paperback poetry books, nursery rhymes, art and crafts books, and teacher resource materials and flashcards. We do not need textbooks. You can drop your books in the donation baskets around the Church. We will collect books until August 25. -Becky Williams, FUMC Member (rcwilliams715@yahoo.com)

Member Care Needs Casseroles!

We take casseroles/soups to those needing some TLC (tender loving care) from our church family and friends- sickness, births, deaths or just need to feel the love of those who care. It has been a busy season, so we could use some meals to share with those who are sick. Containers are available in the office, if you need them. Thank you for this tangible expression of care!

The American Festival Chorus

Performance Tour of Spain, June 13-24 2020

This is an invitation for you to join us in Spain in Summer 2020. The choirs will be going on tour with others from STL that we sang with at Carnegie Hall last year. This tour will have up to 3 performances. The rest of days are for touring. Please know you do not have to sing or be a singer to go. We would ask you to support us in the audience. Please email me if you have questions, klinson@fumclr.org.

Communion Offering, Sunday, August 4

Lydia Patterson Institute

A great deal of attention is being paid to the southern border, especially at Juarez and El Paso. It is a difficult and complex issue that makes many people feel helpless. Yet, there is some satisfaction that comes from knowing the United Methodist Church has had a presence of healing and empowerment there for over 100 years. In 1913, a Methodist laywoman, with the help of her Women’s Missionary Society of her church, started a school for Hispanic boys living in el barrio who had no access to schools. Since then, the Lydia Patterson Institute, or La Lydia, as it’s affectionately known, has been a beacon of academic opportunity for underserved students.

Located just a few blocks from the border bridge between El Paso and Juarez, many of the students make a long journey from deep within Juarez and walk across the bridge every morning. La Lydia provides a “cross cultural, academic, and state-of-the-art education.” Ninety-five percent of graduates go on to college, many of them studying at some of the best United Methodist Colleges around the country including Philander Smith and Hendrix.

La Lydia continues to be a banner ministry of the United Methodist Church supported by the South Central Jurisdiction. Yet, the buildings at LPI need a great deal of work. Therefore, they are engaged in a multi-million dollar capital campaign for improvements. The Arkansas Conference has committed to helping build a new chapel and the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas is provided a matching grant for every dollar raised by Arkansas churches.

You have the opportunity to contribute to this campaign on Sunday, August 4th. Our communion offering that day will go towards the Arkansas commitment to La Lydia and will be matched by the UMFA. Many of you have been great supporters of the Lydia Patterson Institute for many years and if you would like to make a significant gift to these improvements, please contact our Senior Pastor, David Freeman (dfreeman@fumcl.org or 501-372-2256). Your gifts will make a significant impact on the difficult and complex life at our southern border.

LifeGroup Ministry

- Our LifeGroup ministry is an opportunity to gather with people who share your experiences in a casual and meaningful way.
- Life Group: Aging Parents** meets on the 3rd Monday of the Month at Noon in the Community Cafe
- Life Group: Medical Professionals** next meeting is on July 24 at 6 p.m. at Fassler Hall
- Life Group: Moms who Lunch** - watch newsletter for next meeting!
- We are slowly adding new groups, so if have an idea for a new LifeGroup please contact Brittany (bwatson@fumcl.org).

YOUTH

- July 14- Foot Golf 5:30-8:30. We will go off campus to a golf course to play.
- July 21- Park Night @ Pettaway Park 5:45-7:30
- July 28- ‘Destination Unknown’ We will go off campus to a location that will be the backdrop for the evening. 5:30-7:30

KIDS@FIRST

Fall Kick-Off - August 11th

It’s hard to believe it’s almost time to go back to school! Our Fall Kick-Off here at church will be Sunday August 11. We will have a breakfast celebration and activity at 9:30 in the First Cup café and at 10:30, we will adjourn to the New Room, 137, down the hall, to meet briefly about what’s coming up in children’s ministry this fall. We will have calendars for you to take home. I hope you will join in the conversation to dream with us about who we want to be as the children and families of First church.

In preparation for another great school year, we will be blessing the backpacks on Aug. 11th during the 9 & 11 am worship services. We pray that these small blessings will carry us into the year with God’s love in our hearts and remind us to live like Jesus in our day to day lives, even when we are at school.



FRIENDS & FAMILY

Sympathy

- To Amy Claxton following the death of her brother Robert Lee Claxton on June 24th.
- To Pat Blackstone and family following the death of her husband Paul on June 30th.
- To the friends and family of Shelton Cross who died on July 10th.

Memorials & Honorariums

- In Memory of Roland Anderson by Unity Sunday School Class
- In Honor of Donna Hankins by Helen Williams
- In Memory of Robert Cress by Patsy Frost, Martha Faulkner, Martin & Melissa Thoma, William & Carol Sherman, Joanne Riddick, Mary C. Davis, Marian Belew, UMFA
- In Memory of Homer Holbrook by Conrad & Linda Miller
- In Memory of Sarah Posey Smith by Roger Chinn & Janis Harrison, Jane Harkey, Patricia Blackstone



The First United Methodist In the First Place (USPS692-190) is published every other week for a total of 26 issues by the First United Methodist Church, 723 Center Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-4317. Editor, David Freeman ; Managing Editor, Lesley Andrews; Periodicals postage paid at Little Rock, Arkansas. www.fumclr.org. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to FUMC In The First Place, 723 Center Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72201-4317

PERIODICALS
POSTAGE PAID
LITTLE ROCK, AR

Follow us!
facebook.com/fumclr



The next issue of In the First Place will be published on August 1, 2019. Submission deadline is July 29.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH PRESENTS



SUNDAYS, 9AM 11AM
JULY WORSHIP SERIES

Every story tells the story of God—even the stories told through song and dance. Some of Broadway's greatest hits hold the deepest spiritual truths of God. From *The Greatest Showman* to *Hamilton* we find stories of belonging, compassion, and tradition. Join us throughout July as we explore the Gospel According to Broadway.

REMAINING DATES:

JULY 21

Fiddler on the Roof

JULY 28

Hamilton