



# in the First Place

Volume 43 | Issue 16 | August 1, 2019

## Thrive Fest

### A new date and pre-party.

Over the past few months, you've been hearing about Thrive Fest, our arts festival planned for this fall. We are very excited about this event to celebrate local artists and raise funds for our ministries that empower children to THRIVE in Little Rock. In order to make this event as grand as we have planned, we are moving the date to next spring and we will hold Thrive Fest on Friday, May 1st from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. You'll receive updates and information as our planning unfolds.



But that doesn't mean we can't have fun now! We're having a Thrive Fest Pre-Party on Friday, September 6th. It will be held at the Rogers House (400 W. 18th Street) from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Enjoy a casual night of heavy hors d'oeuvres, drinks, and fun. There will be a time to honor our Center Street Champions, Martha Faulkner and Kathy Webb. We'll have a silent auction with great items including art from some of the artists to be featured at Thrive Fest. Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased here ([fumclr.org/thrivefest](http://fumclr.org/thrivefest)) or following worship this Sunday. Proceeds from the night will go to our THRIVE ministry and to making our spring Thrive Fest a great success.

Make your plans to be at the Thrive Fest Pre Party on September 6 and save the date for Thrive Fest on May 1.

### 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 & Washington 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!

## NEWS & EVENTS

**School Supplies Drive  
Accepting Donations Now!**  
Details inside.

**Lydia Patterson Institute  
Communion Offering**  
Sunday, August 4th

**YOUth Week - August 4-11**  
Check the schedule 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, Relationships, Imagination, Value, and Education they need. We are all children of God. Thanks be to God!

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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - LITTLE ROCK

## NEW & EVENTS

### Fall Kickoff School Supplies Packing Party

**August 11, 9:30 am-11:00 am**

We are still collecting and sorting school supplies for our Fall Kickoff Bonanza on August 11. We have a goal of packing 500 school supplies bags for our partner schools Booker and Washington Elementary. The numbers below are what we currently have in stock.

209 wide ruled spiral notebook

168 packs crayons

96 folders with prongs

74 packs loose leaf wide ruled notebook paper

82 #2 pencil packs

Please consider donating more of those items to fill the bags. If you cannot shop for the supplies, you are invited to make a monetary donation directly to the cause. Let's help our students start the school year off right!

### Acolytes for 2019-20 school year

Children 3rd grade and up who are interested in serving as an acolyte for the 11:00 service on Sunday mornings please contact Leslie Cochran at richandleslie@att.net. Those who are already serving do not need to respond. We will begin August 11th. Thank you!

### We are adding a Hospitality station, and 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 staffed from 8:45 – 10, so we are looking for someone who 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.

#### 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 third Monday of the Month at Noon in the Community Cafe

**Life Group: Medical Professionals** stay tuned for next meeting time.

**Life Group: Moms who Lunch** second Wednesday of the month at noon in the Community Cafe

We are slowly adding new groups, so if have an idea for a new LifeGroup please contact Brittany (bwatson@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 providing 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@fumclr.org or 501-372-2256). Your gifts will make a significant impact on the difficult and complex life at our southern border.

### 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)

## Community Cafe Volunteers Needed Open Monday-Wednesday from 1:00-3:00

We need volunteers to help keep the cafe open and running smoothly. Volunteers always work in pairs with Rev. Haley to create a welcoming and hospitable place for all of our visitors. We prepare coffee, tea, and lemonade, welcome neighbors to enjoy a hot meal or snack, and enjoy one another's company for a couple of hours. You can sign up for as much commitment as you would like. Even 1-2 hours per month creates a wonderful space for all to enjoy! Email Rev. Haley at [hjones@fumclr.org](mailto:hjones@fumclr.org) to sign up. All abilities welcome.



### Love Thy Neighbor September 5th

"Love Thy Neighbor: Sound and Spirit," featuring musical performances, speakers from several of the world's religions, and an Interfaith Food Festival will be held Thursday, September 5 at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 1000 N.

Mississippi Avenue in Little Rock, beginning at 6 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. This year's special guests are Shaykh Muhammad Ninowy, Dr. Ysayë Barnwell, and the River City Men's Chorus. The sixth annual Interfaith Food Festival will follow the service, with delicious vegetarian dishes prepared by members of the interfaith community. While no childcare will be provided, children are welcome at this event.

## YOUTH

### Youth Week is coming!

Join us for any or all of our activities as we have some fun, welcome new youth, and wind down the summer. I need to know by noon every day if you and any friends are joining us so we have proper transportation. Scholarships available for anyone who needs one. For more info, email Brandon ([bbates@fumclr.org](mailto:bbates@fumclr.org)).

Sunday, Aug 4th - Arkansas Travelers game, 5:45-9:30 pm (\$5 includes food and drink)

Monday, Aug 5th - Scavenger Hunt & Loblolly Ice Cream, 6-8 pm (Free)

Tuesday, Aug 6th - Big Rock Mini Golf and Go Carts, 6-8:30 pm (\$5)

Wednesday, Aug 7th - Larry's Pizza on Bowman, 6-8 pm (Pizza is free, bring \$ for gameroom)

Thursday, Aug 9th - Little Rock Skatium, 6-8:15 pm (\$5)

Sunday, August 11th - Quapaw Quarter Community Breakfast 7:30-10 am

## 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.



### Bible Boot Camp August 23-24

Please join us for our annual Bible Boot Camp! BBC is an overnight adventure at beautiful Ferncliff Camp in West Little Rock for grades 3-4, where you will learn how to use your Bible through

hands-on workshops, crafts, games, missions, food, and friendship! Register online: [www.fumclr.org/registrations](http://www.fumclr.org/registrations)

### Quest - 3rd-5th Grades

Quest is a new program for children in 3rd - 5th grades (6th graders may participate if they are not part of the youth department in their local congregation) sponsored by the Arkansas Conference Council on Children's Ministries (CCCM). Created as a way for pre-teens to begin to: 1. Explore the meaning of God's call on their lives, 2. Develop and deepen their practice of spiritual disciplines, 3. Acquire a solid foundation of United Methodist theology, 4. Become equipped to go into the world with confidence in their faith and calling, so they may, in turn, make disciples who make disciples of Jesus Christ.



## FRIENDS & FAMILY Sympathy

To Rush and Linda Harding following the death of her father, Edward Turner, on July 23rd.

To the friends and family of Tom Pugh, who died on July 24th.

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*The next issue of In the First Place will be published on August 15, 2019. Submission deadline is August 12th.*



## Sunday, August 11th

Fall Kick-Off Bonanza - First Cup Cafe 9:30-11 am

Pack school supplies, grab a doughnut & some coffee,  
check out fall ministry opportunities, and more!

Children's Ministry Parent Meeting - 10:30 am, Rm 137

Backpack Blessing - 9 & 11 am Worship Services