



in the First Place

Volume 43 | Issue 21 | October 10, 2019

An Exciting Few Weeks Ahead

There are many exciting things going on at First Church in the next few weeks that I wanted to fill you in on.

Launch 2.0

On October 14, 15, and 16, Little Rock will be host for the Launch 2.0 Conference put on by the Clergy Leadership Institute of the Texas Methodist Foundation. About 120 United Methodist Pastors and church leaders from around the jurisdiction will be in town to explore topics like courage and innovation in ministry. Sessions will be held at great Little Rock sites like the Clinton Library, the Innovation Hub, Little Rock Central High, and the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center. I've been honored to be on the design team for this event, and our church is helping by hosting some sessions and providing vans for transportation. So if you are around the church next week and there is a lot of activity, that's what's going on. I hope you'll join me in praying for all the participants and leaders of this event and that our church and city can be a fertile ground for learning and innovation for churches all around our jurisdiction.

Little Rock Pride Fest

Pride Fest has become one of the largest and most exciting community events in our city. I'm excited that our church is participating this year with a float in the parade and lots of participants walking with the float to represent our church. It's a great opportunity to tell the people of our community that our church is a place of grace and that we see the image of God in all people. Unfortunately, I can't be there because I'll be at a family wedding, but I know many of you all will have a great time.

Children's Sabbath

Each year, we set aside a Sunday in October as a day of rest and safety for children. This year, we've set aside October 27th for Children's Sabbath. Children are central to the life and vision of our church. When we say we want to make Little Rock a place where children THRIVE, we believe that all children are our children, not just those that attend our church. And we believe all people are children of God. So, on October 27th the focus of our worship will be how we are making our church and world a place of welcome, honor, and joy for all children. We will even have a special time to honor those families in our community of faith. I hope you'll start looking forward to this day of worship and celebration.

Obviously, there's a lot going on at First Church in the coming weeks. I look forward to being with you for all the fun and activity.

Gratefully, David

NEWS & EVENTS

Little Rock Pride Parade

Saturday, October 19th

Christmas CareFair

November 3rd & 10th

Honoring a Visionary

Dr. Kelsy Caplinger

Sunday, October 13th

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!

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

FUMC LR
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - LITTLE ROCK

NEW & EVENTS



SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13TH
11:30am - 3:00pm
CAMP ALDERSGATE | 2000 ALDERSGATE RD | LITTLE ROCK, AR
TICKET \$15 - Kids 6 and under free.
Tickets will be sold at FUMC on Sunday, Sept. 29th & Oct. 6th

In Honor of a Visionary - Dr. Kelsy Caplinger

On Sun, October 13th, we will honor FUMC member Dr. Kelsy Caplinger for his visionary leadership in the creation of the **Med Camps** at **Camp Aldersgate**. Dr. Caplinger was one of the leading Asthma and Allergy doctors in the region throughout his career. Many of Dr. Caplinger's young patients could not attend typical activities like summer camp because of the limitations from their asthma. So, he started a camp specifically designed for kids with asthma. At this camp they were able to do all the usual camp activities under the protection of staff and volunteers who knew how to protect them from asthma related complications. In addition, campers received training in how to monitor and control their condition. Being a Methodist in Little Rock, he reached out to Camp Aldersgate to hold this first camp. After Dr. Caplinger's initial idea, they began replicating these camps for children with various conditions such as Cystic Fibrosis, Spina Bifida, and Downs Syndrome. This was the start of Med Camps at Camp Aldersgate. All these years later, Med Camps at Camp Aldersgate continue to be a thriving ministry to children with special needs. First Church is deeply grateful to the vision and work of our own member, Kelsy Caplinger.

LifeGroup Ministry

Our LifeGroup ministry is an opportunity to gather with people who share your experiences in a casual and meaningful way.

Life Group: Caring for Aging Parents meets on the third Monday of the Month at Noon in the Community Cafe

Life Group: Medical Professionals November 12th at 6 pm stay tuned for next meeting (email bwatson@fumclr.org for place)

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).



Join us in the Pride Parade, October 19th

We will be participating in the LR Pride Parade on October 19th at 1 pm. FUMC will have a float and walk along in support of our LGBTQ community. Details are below if you want to walk in the parade with us! If you are interested, email Kyle at klinson@fumclr.org. All are welcome!

1. Please wear an FUMC Tshirt or Rainbow colors!
2. Parade line-up and staging will begin at 12 pm on Saturday, October 19th, at the intersection of Louisiana and Markham (next to the Capitol Hotel). ONLY AUTHORIZED VEHICLES ARE ALLOWED IN STAGING AREA.
3. The parade will begin at 1:00 pm at the corner of Louisiana and Markham (next to the Capitol Hotel). In case of rain, determination will be made at 12 pm that day whether to go forward with the event.

Christmas in October

for Cookson Hills Center in Oklahoma

A United Methodist Mission Ministering to the Native Americans in rural Oklahoma.

The United Methodist Women are collecting new gifts that are not wrapped and do not need batteries for the Christmas Store. Some suggested new gifts to buy for the Christmas Store are:

FOR CHILDREN: Toys for all ages, dolls, trucks or cars, books for all ages, wooden puzzles, legos and warm winter clothing

FOR TEENS: Games, sports equipment, warm clothes such as jeans or T-shirts and decorative pillows and blankets

FOR WOMEN: Mixing bowls, pots & pans sets, dishes, warm clothing, bed spreads, sheets, pillows & blankets for twin or full beds.

FOR MEN: Tackle boxes with hooks, lines, lures or weights, screwdriver sets, cleaning kits for cars, flannel shirts or blankets

These gifts can be placed in the large Christmas boxes around the church during October.

United Methodist Women Lunch & Meeting Sunday, October 20, Fellowship Hall, 12:15 pm

After lunch the speaker will be Rev. Johnette Fitzjohn, Director of Lucie's Place, a non-profit organization assisting LGBTQ youth ages 18 - 25. Lucie's Place has one mission, and it is to ensure lifelong acceptance, stability and success for LGBTQ young adults experiencing homelessness and family rejection in Central Arkansas. First Church is working with Lucie's Place to convert the building at 307 West 7th Street into a new downtown facility that will have more office space for privacy in consulting, offer improved technology for job searches and be easier to access for homeless LGBTQ young adults. Please call the church office at 372-2256 or fill out the Journey Card in the bulletin to make a reservation for lunch so enough food will be prepared. Everyone is welcome to come.

First Arts needs you!!

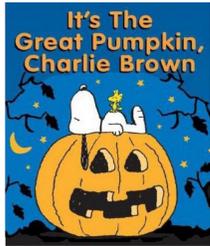
Do you play Jenga? How are you with Legos? Can you take attendance? Many of our regular volunteers are out of town for dates during October, and we are in need of substitute volunteers to donate a Tuesday or a Thursday from 2:30 until roughly 4:15. If you have the time available for us, we have a job for you (and we promise it will be fun). Please contact James Stanley (jstanley@fumclr.org) or Cindy Hedges (cindyhedges@me.com).

United Methodist Women's Sarah Circle

Tuesday, October 22, at 6:00 pm

at the home of Laura Elrod, 7501 Rockwood Road

After dinner, Barbara Wise will tell us about the many ministries provided by St. Andrew United Methodist Church located on Baseline Road in Southwest Little Rock. She will also bring samples of items such as placemats and napkins made by women at "Sew and Serve" that will be on sale at our Christmas Care Fair. The money made from the sale of these items will go to the United Methodist Committee On Relief.



Family Movie Night

Saturday, November 2 at 5 pm

Come for one last spooky celebration as we gather for food, fellowship, and film! We will gather for dinner at 5 pm. After dinner will have a fun activity and finally a showing of "It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown"

in the Children's movie theatre. Kids (and adults) are invited to get one last wear out of their Halloween costume! Everyone is invited! Questions? Contact Rev. Brittany Watson (bwatson@fumclr.org) or Tammy Felder (tfelder@fumclr.org).



Save the Date!

Christmas Care Fair

Nov, 3 & 10

Honor your friends and family this Christmas with gifts that support the causes they care about. Causes like the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, Lucie's Place and Ozark Mission Project will be participating

from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Nov. 3 and 10 in Fellowship Hall at First United Methodist Church, 723 Center St. downtown.

The Teen Age: A Parent Training Next Session - Nov. 6th at Noon

This first series, led by Pearman Parker, PhD, RN, is in 4 parts, focusing on the brain, its development, and effects on students. If you, or any friends could utilize this, please register. You can bring your own lunch, or we can provide one. Please save the future dates for the ones that apply to you, as registrations for each one will open on the first Thursday of the month. Nov. 6- Middle Teens (15-17), Dec. 4- Late Teens (18-20)



Bra Ministry Needs Support

In May of 2016, I recognized a need in our community for bras. With the help of a network of friends and family, we have distributed more than 6000 bras to 18 organizations. We have honored specific requests for people needing special sizes, sports bras, nursing bras, and mastectomy bras.

This ministry has benefited from all the women that purchase the wrong bras! It seems that we all have several in our drawer that we aren't wearing. We accept new and gently used bras.

We will be collecting bras at the church during the month of October. Please drop those off at the church in one of our labeled receptacles. If you are not in the neighborhood, there is always a receptacle inside BA Framer in the Heights. On October 27th, we will gather in the Community Café to sort and package those bras. Please call me if you identify any group needing bras that we may not know about. This is not a nonprofit. We do not collect any money. Our only goal is to get the bras to those in need. **Donna Smith 501.681.8187**

YOUTH

Oct. 6- Tech Training Night 5-7. Join us as we help some adults in the church with how to better utilize their cell phones.

Oct. 13- MORNING QUAPAW QUARTER BREAKFAST 7:30-10am

Oct. 13- Dinner Destination Unknown. Free. 5-7:15.

Oct. 20- Destination Unknown. ****Special Time 5:30-7:40****
Theme: Pineapples, Power, Trees, and Water



We will go Nov. 8-10.

Cost- \$55. Registration opens Sept. 8.

After Sept. 22, the cost goes up to \$85

FRIENDS & FAMILY



Congratulations

Congratulations to Colin and Anna Beth Gorman on the baptism of their daughter, Elthie Flinn, on Sunday, October 6th.

<<FullNameWithSalutationsAndNoTitles>>
<<AddressLine1>>
<<AddressLine2>>
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The next issue of In the First Place will be published on October 10, 2019. Submission deadline is October 7.

