



in the First Place

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WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?


Sunday, November 17, is our annual Commitment Sunday in which you are invited to bring your commitment card as your offering to God for 2020. You will receive this card in worship, or one will be mailed to you. Commitment Sunday is always a joyful day filled with the Spirit. I hope you will make an extra effort to be here.

The theme for our Commitment Sunday this year is “What difference does it make?” We are reflecting on the difference giving to God makes in our lives and how it deepens our spiritual journey, as well as the great impact it has on the ministry of the church and the greater Kingdom of God. Financial giving is a practice that both enriches our personal lives through sacrifice and devotion, and it builds the community through increased resources and tools. As you spend time in prayer filling out your 2020 commitment card, I invite you to reflect on the difference your commitment will make. When you see the impact your giving makes, I know your joy will increase.

As you make your prayerful decisions about your 2020 financial commitment, consider taking the What Difference Does It Make Challenge (See below). Responding to God’s call to give sacrificially is a challenge in and of itself, but this challenge is to go just a bit further to see how your giving multiplies exponentially when it’s joined with others.

I look forward to worshipping with you on Commitment Sunday, November 17, and seeing the power of the Spirit moving through our congregation. Until then, I am personally holding you in prayer as you discern your 2020 giving.

*Gratefully,
David*



**What
difference
does it
make?**

STEWARDSHIP

2019

Happy

Veterans Day

Thank you for your
service and sacrifice
We are forever grateful.



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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NEW & EVENTS

CareFair - This Sunday!

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. 10 in Fellowship Hall at First United Methodist Church, 723 Center St. downtown.



Caring Christmas – Spreading Holiday Cheer

This holiday season, please help us support families whose children attend the Child Development Center or St. Andrew UMC by purchasing a gift card for a child that will enable their family to fulfill their Christmas wish list.

This year our partners suggested that we ask church members to leave the holiday shopping to the families by simply selecting one or more children to support by purchasing a gift card (Walmart, Target or any store of your choosing) for each child. Suggested value - \$50 per card.

Plan to drop by the Christmas Care Fair, 8:30 am-12:30 pm, Nov. 3 and 10 (Fellowship Hall) to select names and gift tags. Turn in tags with gift cards to the church office by Dec. 1. Thanks for helping spread Christmas cheer to our extended church family. Also plan to join us for these holiday celebrations: Dec. 3, 6:00 pm, potluck at St. Andrew UMC, and Dec. 9, 6:00 pm, at the CDC.

In addition, if you would like to shop for specific items to support the classroom needs at St. Andrew and the CDC, please bring the following items to the office by Dec. 1: Diapers, wipes, other, colored pencils, construction paper, glue sticks, etc?!

Questions? Email [Patty Barker, pbarker@arhungeralliance.org](mailto:pbarker@arhungeralliance.org)

Stewpot Volunteers Needed

4th Tuesday of every month, 9:15am-10:30 am

We need more hands and bodies helping prepare the food for the Stewpot meal on the 4th Tuesday of every month. Do you have an extra hour to spare once a month? There is a small team working to prepare the food, but we don't have enough help to make it run at full capacity. If you would like to be added to the Stewpot email list, please contact Haley at hjones@fumcl.org. We can add you to the list, and you can volunteer based on your schedule. SERVEing our community is easy at Stewpot!

Guest Choir - Sunday, November 10th

Arkansas State University Beebe

Concert Choir

under the direction of Dr. Timothy Bartlett

Petit Jean anyone? Rescheduled for Nov. 13th

On Wed., Nov. 13th, a church van will be headed to Petit Jean for lunch and a trip down memory lane. We will leave the church at 10 am and return mid afternoon. Cost is \$10, plus lunch at the Mather Lodge. To reserve your seat on the bus or for more information contact Donna, dhankins@fumcl.org.

Ladies Supper Club

Join us on Thursday, Nov. 14th at 6 p.m. for the first gathering of our Ladies Supper Club. We will try out different restaurants around town while also getting to know some of the great women of First Church. Our first stop will be easy to find as we head to EJ's Eats and Drinks (just a block north of the church on Center st.) Let us know you are coming by contacting Rev. Brittany at bwatson@fumcl.org or calling the church.

Holiday Survival Guide

The holidays can be a tough season! Let us help. During Advent we will be offering a series of classes tackling some of the challenges we encounter during the holidays. These classes will give you space to recognize what is going on in your life while also giving you spiritual tools to help you navigate this season. Each class will be from 4-5 p.m.

December 1: Family Tensions

December 8: Busyness

December 15: Grief and Loss

You can register for these classes online or by contacting Rev. Brittany (bwatson@fumcl.org).



Thank You!

The United Methodist Women at FUMC want to thank everyone who brought gifts for the Christmas Store at the Cookson Hills Center which ministers to the Native American people in rural Oklahoma. Inez Stone and Carol Sherer took the many new gifts that had been loaded into the church van to Cookson Hills on Tuesday, October 29.

Rev. Judy Deere, the Director of Cookson Hills, and her husband helped unload the van. They were thrilled with all the items that were brought. Rev. Judy Deere said that they were expecting to help over 150 families this year. These very low-income families put in an application in November and are given a date to come to the Christmas Store. Families are allowed to shop for one gift item per family member at a minimal cost. Children are allowed one clothing item and a toy. Volunteers then wrap the gifts for the families to take home. Each family also receives a box of food. The UMW appreciates everyone who brought gifts!



The Dandy Line Kitchen
at the
Christmas Care Fair
Sunday, Nov. 10th
8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Grab soup to-go or eat-in to support
The Dandy Line social enterprise.

\$7.00
Quinoa Vegetable Soup
Red Lentil Chili with Corn Muffin

What Difference Does It Make? Challenge

How often do you spend \$5 and not miss it? A cup of coffee? A small tip for a server? A couple gallons of gas? Parking? For many people, spending \$5 here and there doesn't make a major impact in their budget or in their standard of living. So, what if you increased your giving to First Church by just \$5 a week? Would you even miss it?

Your \$5 a week might not make a difference to you, but if all 318 people/families that give to First Church every year increased their gifts by just \$5 a week, it would add up to \$82,680 a year. That makes a big difference!

Challenge: As you make your annual increase in giving to First Church, you are challenged to take it a small step further. Commit an extra \$5 a week (or \$260 a year) in addition to whatever increase you are making. For some \$5 isn't enough. Maybe you wouldn't even notice \$10 or \$20 a month. Challenge yourself to go just a bit further to find the amount that may not make a difference to your bottom line but would make a significant impact in God's Kingdom.

Guarantee: At the end of 2020, if giving that little extra has had a negative impact on your financial health or if you haven't seen the benefit it's made in the church and community, we will return that gift to you. The overall purpose of this challenge is to enrich your life and the life of your faith community, not create more stress.

KIDS@FIRST



Parents, It's that time of year again! We want this year's Christmas Pageant to be better than ever! We hope to have all signed up by Sunday, November 10th! So Excited! Tammy and Kyle

If your children would like to participate in this year's pageant, please fill out this online form:

<https://fumclr.wufoo.com/forms/msfpnbb1lvtyfg/>

Once you have registered to participate, visit the following page on our website to practice the songs!

<https://fumclr.org/christmas-pageant/>



Deck the Halls

November 24 at Noon

Soup lunch at noon in the Fellowship Hall,
then break into groups to Deck the Halls!

YOUTH

Nov. 10- Destination Unknown 5-7:15.

Nov. 17- Pineapples and Power- 3 Lilies. 5-7

The Youth Council has some plans in the works for December and January. Block off the following dates: Dec. 20 & 21, Jan. 3-5.

FRIENDS & FAMILY



Welcome New Members

We welcomed John & Caroline Gairhan into membership during First Word on Sunday, November 3rd. They join by transfer of membership from another Methodist Church. Welcome John & Caroline - we are delighted to welcome you!

Memorials & Honorariums

In Honor of Dick Blake's Birthday
by Craig & Nancy Wood

In Memory of Robert Cress
by Martha Sowell

In Memory of James Christian
by Leigh Bornhoft, Jenny Adair, Martha Faulkner, Lindsey Watson Allen,
Patsy Frost, Mr. & Mrs. Bob Nelson

In Memory of Charles Withrow
Patsy Frost, Cherry Light

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: Downtown Moms second Wednesday of the month at noon in the Community Cafe

20-Somethings: First Sunday of the month at 10 am in the First Cup Cafe

We are slowly adding new groups, so if have an idea for a new LifeGroup please contact Brittany (bwatson@fumclr.org).

Follow us!
[facebook.com/fumclr](https://www.facebook.com/fumclr)



The next issue of In the First Place will be published on November 26, 2019. Submission deadline is November 24.

A promotional graphic for a Christmas Care Fair. On the left, a white gift box is wrapped with a red ribbon and has a green tag that says "Christmas Care Fair" in white cursive. The background is a light wood-grain texture. On the right, the text "Christmas Care Fair" is written in a large, red, cursive font. Below it, "November 10th" and "Fellowship Hall" are written in a bold, black, sans-serif font. At the bottom right, the FUMC LR logo is displayed, with "FUMC" and "LR" in a bold, black, sans-serif font and a red cross icon between them. Below the logo, the text "FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - LITTLE ROCK" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font.

**Christmas
Care Fair**

November 10th
Fellowship Hall

Honor your friends and family this
Christmas with gifts that support
the causes they care about.

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