



 in the First Place

Volume 43 | Issue 25 | December 4, 2019

Join us  
this Sunday!

*The Ministry of Music  
presents*

*Illumination*

**December 8th at 11 am**

**ADVENT CALENDAR**

**Christmas Pageant**

December 15th at 10:00 am, Winston Faulkner Gymnasium

**Christmas Caroling**

December 22nd at 3 pm, Caroling followed by Hot Chocolate at FUMC

**The Service of the Longest Night**

December 22nd at 5:30 pm in the Chapel

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion**

December 24th at Noon in the Chapel, 6 and 11 pm in the Sanctuary

723 Center Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72201  
501.372.2256 • [www.fumclr.org](http://www.fumclr.org)

**FUMC**  **LR**  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH - LITTLE ROCK

## NEW & EVENTS



### Brief Blessings and Toasty Toes

Each year at Christmas, FUMC is generous to those around us! Again this year we have chosen to focus on the basic necessities, through Brief Blessings, Toasty Toes & More! We will be collecting NEW items each Sunday for men, women and children in need. Following you will find a schedule:

- **December 8th- Women's Socks and Underwear**
- **December 15th- Men's Socks and Underwear/Boxers**
- **December 22nd- Gloves & Hats for Men and Women**

On Sunday, place your items in the baskets located in the Sanctuary, Chapel and Cokesbury Center. The season of Advent is the time we prepare for God's incarnation, God's tangible gift to us. Providing the basic necessities for our neighbors is one of the ways we acknowledge God's presence among us in human form. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



### Caring Christmas 2019

Monday, December 9 at 6:00 pm

with CDC in Fellowship Hall

All are invited to attend our Christmas potluck celebration with the Child Development Center. Come and enjoy the season with food, fellowship, and festivities!

### 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 8: Busyness**
- **December 15: Grief and Loss**

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



### It's Yard Sign Time!

We have a few signs left! The yard signs will be available for free, however donations are greatly appreciated! Each sign costs the church \$6. If you want to help defray the costs, drop a donation in the offering plate with 'Christmas Signs' in the memo line.



### Christmas Poinsettias

Make a contribution to the Christmas Poinsettia fund in honor or memory of your loved ones. Your \$15 gift will make possible the poinsettias that adorn the chancel with all the proceeds of this fund given to our Church Community Gatherings and Celebrations Fund. Your gift will be listed in the December 15th bulletin. If you would like to make a contribution, please fill out the Journey Card in the bulletin and place it in the offering plate or contact Sara Williams in the church office at 372-2256 or via email at swilliams@fumclr.org by Dec. 9th. Please make checks payable to FUMC and note 'Christmas Poinsettias' in the memo section.

### In Search of Bakers and Deliverers

Member Care is planning to spread a bit of joy this holiday season, and we'd love your help. We'll be delivering bread to some in our church family mid-month and need volunteers both to bake bread and to deliver a loaf or two. If you'd like to bake, I'll give you the recipe and baking pans. If you'd like to deliver and visit with someone you haven't seen in a while, let me know and I'll get you names and addresses. This is an easy and delightful way to brighten someone's day and spread a bit of joy. If you'd like to be part of the fun, let me know. Thank you! Donna, dhankins@fumclr.org

### Service of the Longest Night

**Sunday, December 22, 5:30 pm in the Chapel**

Are the holidays a difficult time for you? Are you lamenting the loss of friends and family this season? Do you feel lonely this time of year? On Sunday, December 22 at 5:30 pm we will gather in the Chapel for our Service of the Longest Night. This simple yet profound worship service is an opportunity for us to remember that the holidays are not always easy or a time of great celebration for everyone. We will invite you to reflect through worship on the pain, the loneliness, and the sadness you may feel and offer it all to our great sign of hope, the Christ Child. We pray that you will find hope and comfort in knowing that you are not alone. Whether you come seeking comfort for yourself or in support of a loved one, all are invited to this time of worship.

## United Methodist Women's Christmas Party

**Monday, December 9, at 11:00 am, in the Fellowship Hall**  
The four year old class from our Child Development Center will sing Christmas songs at 11:00 am. This is earlier than we normally meet because the children need to go back to the CDC for their lunch. We will have our lunch after they leave. The cost is \$5.00. Each woman is asked to bring a wrapped Christmas gift to auction off. The proceeds will go to missions.

## Cookies and Cards for Prisoners

The UMW Sarah Circle is coordinating our annual "Cookies for Prisoners" with a goal of making 250 dozen cookies by Thursday, December 19. The cookies will be delivered to the prison on Christmas morning, and we want each prisoner to receive 3 cookies. Betsy Hoffman has already made sufficient Christmas cards for the prisoners.

We need your help to make the 250 dozen cookies! Please e-mail Jean Rolfs at [jcondogirl@gmail.com](mailto:jcondogirl@gmail.com) with how many dozen cookies you will bring to the church. It's a fun family project and a great way to get into the Christmas spirit. You can deliver your cookies to the church anytime between now and Thursday, December 19. The preferred option is to take them to the front office--church staff will make sure they are carefully placed into the freezer. If you need to leave them in kitchen instead, mark them well as Cookies for Prisoners. Try to bring them in shoe boxes or on extremely sturdy paper plates, so they remain unbroken while being stacked in the freezer. Thank you for participating!



## Ladies Supper Club

Join us on the Third Thursday of each month as the women of First Church gather for fellowship and food. This month, on December 19th at 6 p.m., we will be gathering at Three Fold Noodles and Dumpling Co. Everyone is

invited! Please let Rev. Brittany ([bwatson@fumclr.org](mailto:bwatson@fumclr.org)) know if you planning to join us so that we can save you a seat.

## Calling all LGBTQ United Methodists and Allies

Sunday, January 5 is a National Day of Resistance, as the first Sunday after the Traditional Plan goes into effect. A worship service is planned for 5:30, at First United Methodist Church in Little Rock. The service will be led by LGBTQ UM's, and we need ushers, readers, etc. Please contact Kathy Webb, [kathywebb14@gmail.com](mailto:kathywebb14@gmail.com), to help.

LGBTQ UM's and Allies-we need your voices in the choir for the special service, please contact Kyle Linson, [klinson@fumclr.org](mailto:klinson@fumclr.org). All participants will be asked to come at 4:30 the day of the service.

We hope all who support full inclusion of our LGBTQ families will participate or attend this service. For other opportunities for the National Day of Resistance, including planning your own service, contact [kathywebb14@gmail.com](mailto:kathywebb14@gmail.com) for a toolkit.

## YOUTH

**Sunday, Dec. 8** - Join us at Quapaw Quarter UMC (1601 S. Louisiana St.) as we prepare and serve breakfast for people in need. Join us there at 7:30 am. We will bring everyone back to the church at 10.

**Dec. 8-** Mission Night 5-7- shopping for 'Angel Tree'. We will go off and purchase gifts for a couple of kids living with Methodist Family Health. Bring a few dollars to go to our Angel Tree Mission

**Dec. 15-** Mission Night 5-7

**Dec. 20-21-** YOUth Lock Out

**Dec. 22-** Sunday School but no Sunday Night Youth

**Dec. 29-** Sunday School but no Sunday Night Youth

## FRIENDS & FAMILY

### Sympathy

To Jay and Lisa Warren and family following the death of Jay's sister, Charlotte Smith, on November 25th.

### Memorials & Honorariums

#### In Memory of Julian Smith

by Curtis Dixon, Thomas & Martha Smith, David, Laura & Bruce King

#### In Memory of James Christian

Mr. & Mrs. Craig Wood, Jack & Lila Riggs, Mary Ann Lee (Communion Fund), Mr. & Mrs. James Christian (Flower Girls)

#### In Memory of Joanne Perez

by Mary Ann Lee, Martha Faulkner

#### In Memory of Robert Cress

by Jack & Lila Riggs

#### In Memory of Lillian Dowell

by William Shepherd

#### In Honor of James Calhoun Bynum's Baptism

by Richard and Mary Stockland

#### In Honor of FUMC Staff

by John & Pat Lile

### LifeGroup Ministry

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

**Life Group: Caregivers** meets on the third Monday of the Month at Noon in the Community Cafe

**Life Group: Medical Professionals** stay tuned for next meeting (email [bwatson@fumclr.org](mailto: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](mailto:bwatson@fumclr.org)).

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



*The next issue of In the First Place will be published on December 19, 2019. Submission deadline is December 16.*

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Are you lamenting the loss of friends and family this season?  
Do you feel lonely this time of year?

**We will invite you to reflect through worship on the pain, the loneliness,  
and the sadness you may feel and offer it all to our great sign of hope, the Christ Child.**

# Service of The Longest Night

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22  
5:30 PM IN THE CHAPEL

**FUMC LR**  
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