



 in the First Place

Volume 43 | Issue 26 | December 19, 2019

# Christmas Eve

*Communion & Candlelight Services*

NOON Chapel

6:00pm and 11:00pm  
in the Sanctuary



December 22, 3 pm

*Christmas  
Caroling*

The Service of  
The Longest Night

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22  
5:30 PM IN THE CHAPEL

723 Center Street • Little Rock, Arkansas 72201  
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**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 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.



### **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.

*Calling all LGBTQ United Methodists and Allies*

### **UMC Next Service of Resistance**

**Sunday, January 5, 2020 at 5:30 pm**

You are invited to join in the state-wide #ResistHarm Worship Service. Part of the National Day of Resistance, we call on LGBTQ United Methodists and allies to worship together in resistance to the Traditional Plan and in celebration of our diversity and love for one another. We hope all who support full inclusion of our LGBTQ families will participate or attend this service.

The service will be held in the FUMCLR Sanctuary, and we need your help! Led by LGBTQ UMs, and we need ushers, readers, etc. Please contact Kathy Webb, [kathywebb14@gmail.com](mailto:kathywebb14@gmail.com), to help.

LGBTQ UMs 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.

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.

### **New year, new you.**

Join us for a conversation about wellness, specifically emotional wellness. We must eat right if we want our bodies to be healthy, likewise, there are things we can do to keep our emotional health at its best. Whether you think your emotional health is terrible or excellent or somewhere in between, this conversation is for you. Choose one of the following: January 12th at 10 am in First Cup or at 5 pm in First Cup, January 15th at 5:30 in room 204. For more information see Donna Hankins or Joy Rockenbach.

### **“New Year, Fresh Start” Teacher Bags**

#### **Donation Items Needed**

We are preparing and packing “New Year, Fresh Start” bags for our teachers at Booker and Washington Elementary to help them start 2020 off on the right foot. We need donations of these special items:

Clorox Wipes, Post-It Notes, Kleenex, Dry Erase Markers, Paper Towel Roll

You can drop your donations off in the donation basket around the church. We invite you to join us for the packing party on Sunday, January 26 at 10:00 am in the Gymnasium.

## **YOUTH**

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

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

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

**Jan. 3-5- Youth Retreat @ Mount Eagle. \$30. Join us for a time to get away, rest, reconnect, and have some fun before school resumes. Cost covers lodging, transportation, & food.**



## FRIENDS & FAMILY

### Welcome New Members



We welcomed Amanda DiPippa into membership on Sunday, November 24th. Amanda joined by transfer of membership from another denomination. Welcome Amanda!

We also welcomed Shellah Rogers on Sunday, November 24th. She joins by transfer from another UMC. Shellah is pictured with her daughter Ruby. Next time you see Shellah and Ruby, give them a warm FUMCLR welcome!



We welcomed Dayle McCune on Sunday, December 15th during First Tradition. Dayle joined by transfer of membership from another UMC. We are so excited to welcome you!

### Sympathy

To Dawn Dobson and family following the death of her mother, Jo Dobson, on December 12th.

### 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)).

## Children's Christmas Pageant





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*The next issue of In the First Place will be published on January 9, 2020. Submission deadline is January 6.*



December 22, 3 pm

*Christmas  
Caroling*

The graphic features a background of a wooden surface. On the left, there is a green pine branch with a red ribbon and a red Christmas ornament. In the center, there is a sheet of music with a red ribbon tied around it. The text 'December 22, 3 pm' is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font over the music. At the bottom, the words 'Christmas Caroling' are written in a large, white, cursive font.