



# in the First Place

Volume 44 | Issue 01 | January 9, 2020

## Year-Long Focus Kicks off with 4-Week Sermon Series

Our lives are built brick by brick of the various components of life: family, work, social life, health, community, travel. But what holds all the bricks together? Without strong mortar, our lives are an unstable stack of bricks.

So often we view “faith” as one brick in our lives—one isolated part of our selves that has nothing to do with the other parts of our life. Yet, a healthy mature faith in Christ is more like the mortar between the bricks that holds them all together. It’s gives our lives structure and strength as it surrounds all the “bricks” of our lives.

Throughout 2020, we are strengthening our lives by focusing on the mortar that holds it all together, our faith in Jesus Christ. We’re starting this year off with a 4-week worship series called A Brick and Mortar Life. Join us each Sunday, January 12- February 2 at 9:00 am in the Cokesbury Center or 11:00 am in the sanctuary.

**Sunday, January 12**  
**The Mortar Faith**  
*Romans 12: 1-2*

**Sunday, January 19**  
**The Lived Faith**  
*James 1: 22-27*

**Sunday, January 26**  
**The Cornerstone Faith**  
*Ephesians 2: 19-22*

**Sunday, February 2**  
**The Temple Faith**  
*1 Kings 6: 1-13*



## NEWS & EVENTS

### Conversations on Methodism

This Sunday at 10:15 am  
in the Chapel

### New Enneagram Journey

Class Starts January 21st

### Donations needed for Teacher Bags

See details 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!

## NEW & EVENTS

### Conversations on the Future of Methodism

Sunday, January 12, 2019

10:15 am in the Chapel

Join David in the Chapel on Sunday at 10:15 am for an informal conversation about recent proposals regarding the future of the United Methodist Church. **(Note change of room from original location)**

### 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.

### The Enneagram Journey: Growth, Exploration, and Transformation

Starts Tuesday, Jan. 21, 6 pm

Ignorance is bliss - except in self-awareness. What you don't know about yourself can hurt you and your relationships, and even keep you in the shallows with God. Do you want help figuring out who you are and why you're stuck in the same ruts? The Enneagram is an ancient personality type system with an uncanny accuracy in describing how human beings are wired, both positively and negatively. It is extraordinarily useful because it works. Each of us has life experience that has given us a degree of self-knowledge; however there is always a deepening clarity we discover through our Enneagram type. Cost \$40. 10-12 weeks. For more information and to register, please contact Rev. Mary Jane Cole - mjcole@arumc.org or 501-960-7731. You may also register online at [fumclr.org/registrations](http://fumclr.org/registrations).



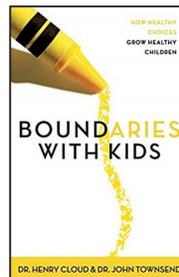
### Re-purpose Your Christmas Cards!

As you gather old Christmas Cards, please save for Betsy Hoffman. Betsy re-purposes these into Christmas Cards for the inmates. You may drop them off in the church office.

### Community Engagement at FUMC, Little Rock

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Did you know we started offering help with SNAP applications in the Community Café? Carol Roddy, our SNAP application specialist, has helped fill out nine applications in the last month.



### Boundaries with Kids

Parenting Class- Join us for six Tuesdays starting on February 11th from 6-7p.m. This class will focus on the book “Boundaries with Kids” which offers great resources for those parenting kids of any age. Childcare will be available. Register online or email Rev. Brittany ([bwatson@fumclr.org](mailto:bwatson@fumclr.org))

### Ladies Supper Club

Join other women of First Church for a casual meal and great conversation. We will be gathering on the third Thursday of the month (January 16) at 6 p.m. at Mockingbird Bar and Tacos. Want to join us? Just contact Rev. Brittany ([bwatson@fumclr.org](mailto:bwatson@fumclr.org)) and she will save you a seat!

### Neighbor's Table

Share a drink and a conversation with your neighbor as we gather for this time of focused conversation. Each month we will be exploring the themes of our Bricks and Mortar Life in this unique time of guided conversation.

**January 28: 6 pm at Rock Town Distillery**

Topic: Brick and Mortar Life

**February 25 at 6 pm at Stone's Throw in Stiff Station**

Topic: Home Life

**March 30 at 6 pm at Stone's Throw in Stiff Station**

Topic: Beer and Faith (spots are limited, pre-register)

### Caregivers Life Group

If you are a caregiver for someone you love, join us at noon in the First Cup Cafe on the third Wednesday of the month for a time of communal support. Come as you are, when you can. NOTE: Because of MLK Day, January's meeting will be on Monday, January 27.

### Thank You FUMCLR!

The United Methodist Women want to thank the more than 40 individuals who made cookies and brought them to the church before Christmas. We had over 250 dozen cookies this year for Renie Rule to take to the prison on Christmas morning for our Cookies



and Cards for Prisoners Ministry. Thanks again for all the cookie bakers and also for Betsy, our wonderful card maker.

## YOUTH

**Jan. 12-** Parents vs. Youth Night. 5-7. We will eat, and then the gloves will come off in competition. The parents have a lead on the youth.

**Jan. 19-** Mission Night. 5-7

**Nashville Spring Break Mission Trip. Cost- \$155  
Save the dates March 22-27. Registration opens in the  
New Year! Guests welcome!**

## KIDS@FIRST

### Welcome into the new year!

It seems like a distant memory, but just a few short weeks ago, we hosted a Christmas pageant starring 44 children! We were delighted to offer a full production of the nativity story with our sweet cherubs and the help of a few grown-ups. It occurred to me that I have not updated the congregation on our growth lately, so unless you work in the children's ministry area or have a child in the program, you may not know that we have 68 children that attend regularly! We never have everyone here on the same Sunday so it may not be obvious, but I'm sure you've seen an uptick in worship attendance. We have a thriving nursery and toddler ministry upstairs located just outside the sanctuary which consistently has 27 children ages 3 and under and our Pre-K 4 thru 5th grade classes make up the remaining 41 children. We are so blessed to have grandparents bringing their grandchildren and so many new families who come for a visit or two and wind up becoming part of our church family. We are delighted by our growth, and we hope you are too! We have big plans on the horizon for a highly structured learning space for our large and growing toddler population, and five more babies on the way within the next few months! We have a great opportunity to learn, craft, sing, explore and grow at FUMCLR. I know you will join me in praying for our growth, for our children and their parents as they navigate parenthood in our faith community.

**-Tammy Felder**

### 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 - Jan is meeting Jan. 27

**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)).

## FRIENDS & FAMILY



### Welcome New Member

We welcomed Susan Burkett into membership on Sunday, January 5th during First Tradition. She joined by transfer of membership from another Methodist Church. Welcome Susan!

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Heather and Ben Honaker on the birth of their son, August "Gus" Benjamin Honaker on December 26th. Big brother Jack and big sister Ellie are very excited!

Congratulations to Catherine and Whit Robben following the birth of their son, John Frederick, on January 8th.

### Sympathy

To Sharon Newell and family following the death of her husband, Jim Newell, on December 25th.

To David Russell and family following the death of his mother, Betty Dortch Russell McMath, on December 26th.

To Curtis and Karen Barnett following the death of Curtis' father, Darrell Barnett, on January 7th.

### Memorials & Honorariums

#### In Memory of Charles Withrow

*by Janet & Don Ludwig*

#### In Memory of Jo Dobson

*by Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Mosely, Patsy Frost, Judy Chastain, Cherry Light, Mr. & Mrs. Shawn McMurray, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Nelson, Wilsie Griffin-Tiner, Martha Faulkner, Koinonia Sunday School Class, Allen & Lou Bedell*

#### In Memory of Marian Matson

*by Emily Lewis*

#### In Memory of Jim Newell

*by Bowen Cabe Sunday School Class*

#### In Honor of Mary Hawks

*by John & Janice Choate (Library)*

#### In Honor of the Church Choir

*by Patsy Frost*

#### In Honor of the Acolytes

*by Dee Ann Holt*

#### In Honor Tuesday Morning Study Group

*by Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Cotham*

#### In Honor of Tammy Felder

*by Ann West*

#### In Honor of Kyle Linson

*by John & Janice Choate*

#### In Honor of Greg & Jeanie Burton

*by Wannie J. Pope*

#### In Honor of Connie Bowen

*by Mary Ellen Irons*

#### In Honor of Mary Hawks

*by John & Janice Choate*

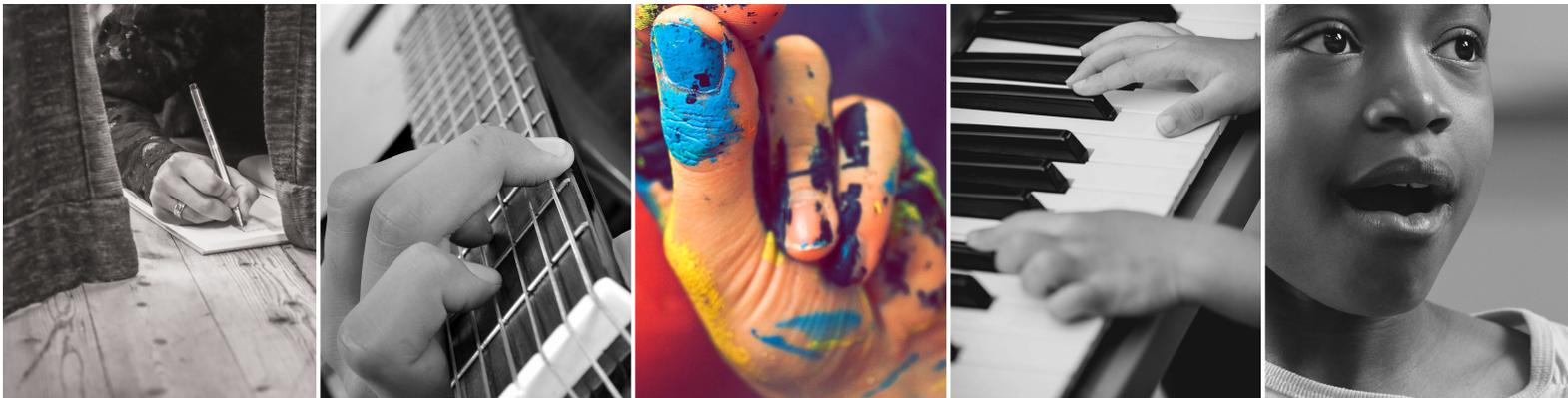
#### In Honor of Lamar Rigg's 81st Birthday

*by Mo Perrilliat*

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*The next issue of In the First Place will be published on January 23, 2020. Submission deadline is January 19.*



# FirstArts

art

music

drama

After school instruction in the arts at First United Methodist Church in downtown Little Rock. Classes include: piano, voice, guitar, violin, bass guitar, ukulele, voice, drama, art, creative science lab, and choir.

**STUDENTS: 2nd - 8th grades**

Adventures in Acting class in conjunction with the Arkansas Arts Center. All other classes taught by instructors on behalf of First United Methodist Church.

**Tuesday and Thursday afternoon beginning January 21 & 23**  
Registration at [www.fumclr.org/registrations](http://www.fumclr.org/registrations).