

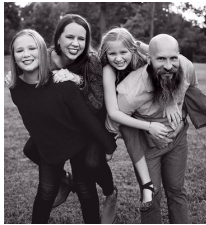
in the First Place

Volume 44 | Issue 03 | February 6, 2020



We want images of the BRICKS of your life!

Throughout this year, we will be placing images of the bricks of your lives onto two banners. One is located upstairs outside the music suite, and the other one is outside the gym. Check out the images below the staff submitted representing February's theme of Home, Friends and Family. You can send yours to Lesley at landrews@fumclr.org, or by uploading the images on the website at fumclr.org/brickandmortar. ***All the images received will not be added to the banners, but all images will be collected and displayed somewhere in the church!***



House Blessings FACEBOOK LIVE Sunday, February 16 , 5:00 pm

You're invited to join us for our house blessings LIVE event on Facebook on Sunday, February 16 at 5:00pm. This is an opportunity for anyone and everyone to participate in a house blessing that invites God to dwell in our ordinary days that we spend in our homes and with the people we call family and friends. You may pick up a "house blessing to go" bag this Sunday, February 9 or the morning of the 16th to supplement our LIVE house blessing experience, but it is not necessary. You have everything in your home to bless it with us on that day. For any questions, please reach out to Rev. Haley at hjones@fumclr.org.



NEWS & EVENTS

Lucie's Place Ribbon Cutting

Monday, Feb. 10th at 3:30 pm

House Blessings in February

See details inside.

United Methodist Women Lunch & Meeting

Sunday, February 16th at Noon

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

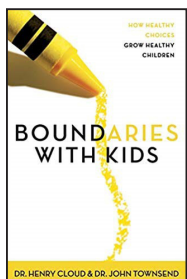


Good Luck Jonathan!

After 13 years on our staff, Jonathan Caudle has taken a position with another company. Jonathan has been vital part of our ministry as part of our maintenance and security staff. We are grateful that he has shared his gift of hospitality and infectious kindness with us for so long. If you would like to contribute to an appreciation gift for Jonathan, please contact our Finance Director, Sonja Taylor-Larkowski (stlarkowski@fumclr.org or 501-372-2256). Jonathan's last day with us is Thursday, February 13th. Please hold him in your prayers as he starts this new chapter of his life.

Lucie's Place Ribbon Cutting & Open House Monday, February 10, 3:30-6:30 pm

After several years of building this partnership, Lucie's Place is finally opening in our building at 307 W. 7th Street. Stop by on Monday, Feb. 10th to see the completed transformation and how it will be used to transform Little Rock to a place where all children of God thrive. Gather at 3:30 pm for a ribbon cutting ceremony and stay for an open house.



Boundaries with Kids

Parenting Class- Join us for six Tuesdays starting on February 11th from 6-7 pm. 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)

United Methodist Women Meeting and Lunch

Sunday, Feb. 16, at 12:15 in the Fellowship Hall

After lunch our speaker will be Janet Marshall from The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas. Janet grew up in Wynne, Arkansas and is a graduate of Baylor University. Janet began her professional fundraising career in Little Rock in 1992 in non-profit healthcare fundraising. She joined The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas in June 2001 as their Vice President of Development. The title for her presentation is "Who is The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas and the Three-Legged Stool?" Please call the church office at 372-2256 or sign the Journey card in the bulletin to make a reservation for lunch. Everyone is welcome!

ONES FOR THE MANY!

Each week all the \$1 bills placed in the offering plate are donated to 'Ones for the Many.' These donations will go to support our friends and neighbors who visit us in need of birth certificates, state ids, prescriptions, and a place of rest in the Community Cafe. Donations go directly back to our community.

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.

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)

Sarah Circle, Monday, February 17, at 6:00 pm at the new home of Veeta Biggers, 22 Winterfern Cove

After dinner our speaker will be Nechi Fullerton. While she was serving in San Jose, Costa Rica, at the Universidad Biblico Latinamericano, a progressive ecumenical School of Theology, currently the only accredited theological school in all of Latin America, Nechi met the coordinator for "Red de Mujeres para el Desarrollo." RED is a connection and support for economic ventures and economic empowerment of women in Latin America and the Caribbean. UBL has strong connections with the United Methodist Church and "RED," with offices on their campus, has United Methodist Women support. Nechi will tell us about "Red Mujeres para Desarrollo."

House Blessings

Our homes mean so much more to us than just a place to sleep. They serve as a refuge, gathering place, storage facility, entertainment venue and so on. It is only natural to want God's blessing on a space that holds such significance in our lives. Simply put, a house blessing is asking for God's peace and protection in the dwelling place we call home. Recognizing God's presence in our homes is another expression of our brick and mortar lives. During the month of February there are 4 opportunities to have one of the pastors come to your home and lead a house blessing. Packets will also be available the next two Sundays for you to take home and use at your convenience (**limited supply**). You can sign up by calling Sara in the church office, 372-2256.

- February 9, 2-4 pm
- February 17, 6-8 pm
- February 28, 1-3 pm

Little Rock Food Tour

Saturday, March 7, 2020, 4:00 pm-7:00 pm

What is the intersection of food and faith? How does your belief in God shape your dining experience? Kevin Shalin, food writer and blogger at The Mighty Rib, will lead us on a Little Rock Food Tour in the SOMA district. We will begin the night at Esters with appetizers, The Root for the main course, and Loblolly for dessert. There is an optional end to the evening with a local drink at Rocktown Distillery. This will be an evening of food, fun, and meaningful connection with those around the table talking about food, cooking, and dining. Space is limited to 15, and individuals are responsible for payment at each location. You can register online at fumclr.org/registrations

Our House Dinner Volunteers Needed

August 30 and November 29

Are you part of a Sunday school class or small group that would like to serve our Little Rock community? First Church prepares, cooks, and serves dinner at Our House Shelter on the 5th Sundays of the year. We have two vacancies open for your small group—August 30 and November 29. If your group would like an easy yet meaningful way to engage in our community, please reach out to Rev. Haley for more details.

YOUTH

Feb. 9- UMY Night 5-7. 'Lime in the Coconut'

Feb. 16- Worship & Game Night, 5-7 pm



Registration Open! \$105 (updated, lower cost than previously advertised) for a week of service and fun. Cost covers lodging, transportation, lunches & dinners in Nashville + some fun stuff. Register by Feb. 23

KIDS@FIRST

Reminder

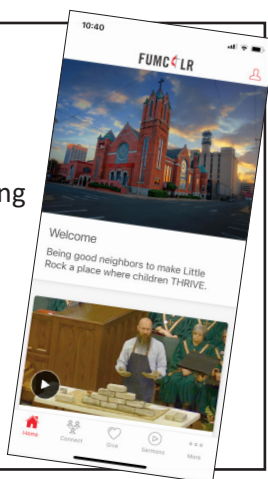
Children's Choir practice resumes Sunday, February 16 at 9:42 in the Movie Theater. Please plan to attend each week as we are preparing to sing on Palm Sunday April 5 at 11:00.

Download the FUMCLR Church App!

As we head into our Brick & Mortar Life over the next year, we'll be sending notifications on our church app!

Instruction to download follow:

1. Text 'FUMCLR app' to 77977. Follow the link texted in the reply.
2. Go to The App Store and search for 'FUMCLR.'
3. Download and enjoy.



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 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).

FRIENDS & FAMILY

Welcome New Members



We welcomed Tommie Kelley into membership on Sunday, January 19th during First Tradition. Welcome Tommie!

We welcomed Emily Wyatt and Kari Owens into membership on Sunday, January 26th during First Word. Emily and Kari are pictured with their children Presley, McKenzie, Landon, Annie and Connor.



We welcomed Chelsea Kennedy, Andrew Garrison and Patty Borek into membership on Sunday, January 26th during First Tradition. Also pictured are Chelsea and Andrews' grandchildren, Sawyer and Finn.

We welcomed Beth Quarles into membership on Sunday, February 2nd during First Tradition. Beth joined by transfer from another denomination. Give Beth a warm FUMC welcome!



We welcomed LeeAnn Thomas' reaffirmation of membership on Sunday, January 12th during First Word. LeeAnn is a long-time member and recently moved back to Little Rock. Welcome home LeeAnn!

We also welcomed Margaret Norton back into membership on Sunday, February 2nd during First Tradition. Margaret grew up in First Church! We are glad to welcome you back!



Congratulations

To Audrey and Sean Morell on the birth of their daughter, Amelia Mae, on Monday, February 3rd.

<<FullNameWithSalutationsAndNoTitles>>
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The next issue of In the First Place will be published on February 20, 2020. Submission deadline is February 17.

Brick & Mortar LIFE

As we embark on our year-long focus of Brick & Mortar Life, we offer this prayer as guidance.

God, I give you my every day, ordinary life—my sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life. Receive this offering, so that everything about me is a reflection of you. In the construction of my life, may you be the mortar between the bricks, building me up and holding me together. Amen.