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Backpack Blessing

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21st



On the Sunday before school starts we will be blessing the backpacks of our students and teachers during worship!
Be sure your little learner brings theirs!

In the **FIRST PLACE**

Dear FUMCLR,
I'm extremely excited about August 28th. We have two very special events planned. I hope you will be a special effort to be a part of this day.



A BIG SING with John Thornburg

First Tradition, our 11:00 worship service, will be a special event called a BIG SING led by Rev. John Thornburg. A BIG SING is a way for the congregation to experience singing in a whole new way. We'll learn new songs and sing old songs in new ways. John is great at helping people who aren't comfortable singing have fun and enjoy the process. John is a nationally known hymn writer and has traveled globally learning with musicians of many different styles. He has also been a mentor of mine for over 10 years, and I'm extremely excited for our congregation to have this worship experience together. You won't want to miss this experience. (We are also planning an interactive worship service for First Word that day filled with music and prayer.)

Fauré Requiem in Memory of John G. Lile III

At 3:00 pm that day, our music ministry will present the Fauré Requiem. This music composed in 1885 by Gabriel Fauré after his father's death is considered by many some of the most beautiful melodies ever composed. You know how talented our choir and leaders are and I know this will be an incredible concert.

John Lile was a long time member of our church who loved the music ministry. He passed away in 2020, and his family was unable to hold a full memorial service because of COVID cautions. As a way to celebrate John's life, the requiem will be presented in memory of him. We will also be dedicating new hymnals for the sanctuary that were given in memory of John. I hope you'll come to this special concert to remember John and let your heart be filled with beautiful and sacred music.

What a day we have planned. I can't wait to share these two worship experiences with you.
David

Sunday, August 28, 2022 - 3:00 pm in the Sanctuary

FAURÉ REQUIEM

in Memory of John G. Lile III

Gabriel Faure's Requiem is one of the most famous choral works every written. It is a work of great comfort and solace in trying times. Faure said of his own work that it "is dominated from beginning to end by a very human feeling of faith in eternal rest." Though a relatively brief piece when compared to its contemporaries, the Faure Requiem truly presents the best that late nineteenth and early twentieth century choral music has to offer.

Our afternoon concert will feature solos from all of our section leaders, congregational hymns, and this magnificent work accompanied by the equally marvelous Casavant organ.

Have you joined The Next 200 Birthday Club?

In honor of your birthday or the birthday of a loved one, give a dollar for each year of life. Your entire gift will go to the Perpetual Endowment Fund helping us reach our Next 200 goals. You can place your gift in the envelopes available in the sanctuary pew racks or contact Sonja Taylor-Larkowski (stlarkowski@fumclr.org, 501-372-2256 ext. 209). Congratulations to July's Birthday Club Members with gifts totaling \$518: Linda Fordyce, Barbara Gilbert-Wise, Marianne Ligon, Stark Ligon, Carl Miller, Carol Roddy, Liz Russell.



Our Little Library outside the church needs books! Drop them off in the church office or email Donna (dhankins@fumclr.org) for more information!

Lunch and Learn

Wed. at noon in First Cup, August 24 & 31

Bring your lunch, curiosity, and questions to a gathering in First Cup. Our time together is an opportunity to spend time with friends and expand our understanding of a topic relevant to our faith community.

On the 24th – A New Life in Arkansas – our Afghan family

Our First Church volunteers will share feedback and insights surrounding the work to welcome our Afghan family to Little Rock. It offers an interesting look into the realities of immigration.

On the 31st – Overcoming our Fear of Technology

Lesley Andrews will be on hand to share some tips and techniques for all things technology! We'll take a look at a few things specific to the technologies our church utilizes, and we'll also answer any specific questions you bring to the table.

Church Directory Time!

Friends - it's been too long since our last church directory! After so many requests, we are finally gearing up for a new one! Starting Sunday, September 4th, Lesley will be in the courtyard taking directory photos from 10-11 am and 12-12:15 pm! Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks.



Retreat Opportunity for Spiritual Renewal R3 Retreat: Rest, Rejuvenation, and Resilience Autumn in the Ozark Mountains

R3 is a retreat to experience rest and rejuvenation while building skills for resilience. While there are several opportunities in life for the first two R's, rest and

rejuvenation, building the third R, resilience, helps people avoid spiritual burnout and emotional exhaustion. This retreat led by David Freeman and Mary Jane Cole will provide an opportunity to experience all three R's. There will be time each day for light hiking or walking in some of the most beautiful spots in the Ozark Mountains (White Rock Recreational Area and Devil's Den State Park). The combination of rest, meaningful conversations, and exploring God's creation will increase capacity for resilient and wholehearted living.

To sign up or get more information, contact David Freeman (dfreeman@fumclr.org, 501-372-2256 ext. 204)

Dates: September 19-21

Location: Mount Sequoyah Retreat Center in Fayetteville, Arkansas

Cost: Single occupancy room=\$375 per person, Double occupancy room=\$275 per person (Includes lodging, transportation, and most meals.)

Bring us your #5's

Caring for our community by recycling

During one of our June Lunch and Learns, we discovered that #5s can be recycled in Little Rock, but they just can't be included in our curbside carts. We can help with this! First Church will collect your clean #5 containers and bring them to Natural State Recycling. #5 are things like yogurt tubs, sauce/dip tubs, or to go containers where the opening at the top is larger than the base. Recycling is one of many ways we can be good neighbors.

Calling All Sunday School Teachers

Sunday, August 21 at 10 a.m. First Cup Cafe

If you are interested in being a part of our Children's Sunday School ministry, please plan to be at this meeting as we explore what this will look like!



45 YEARS OF ARKANSAS
UNITED METHODISTS
FEEDING THE HUNGRY
AND SUPPORTING
DISASTER RELIEF

Saturday, November 12
Arkansas Food Bank
Little Rock, AR

Meal Packing Postponed, Ingathering Save the Date

The meal packing event scheduled for Sunday, September 25 has been postponed. Any money donated will go directly to our Washington Elementary partnership for ministries on Wildcat Way. We are looking forward to our 4th quarter church wide mission project, Ingathering, at the Arkansas Food Bank. Mark your calendars for this Conference wide event on November 12 where all ages are welcome. We will be sending out more information shortly on how FUMCLR will prepare for this hunger and disaster relief event by gathering UMCOR hygiene kit supplies in October.

Join our Washington Reading Tutor Team

It's time to organize our tutoring program at Washington Elementary! Below you will find all the details about commitment and how to sign up. Join the legacy of reading tutors at Washington from FUMCLR. Our goal is to have 15 reading tutors this school year. If you have any questions, please contact our lay leader Pamela Owen at pamelarowen@yahoo.com.

The Commitment: Spend one hour per week from the week of October 3rd through the week of March 13th (with two weeks off for winter break) serving as a reading tutor, mentor, and friend to an elementary student.

1. Sign up online by visiting www.arkidsread.org/volunteer and select Washington Elementary as your site. In late August, AR Kids Read will reach back out to you to schedule your exact tutoring times, but daytime school tutoring will be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm. After-school tutoring times will be held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays between 3:30 and 5:30 pm.
2. Complete a background check form.
3. Attend a tutor training session.
4. Start tutoring!

YOUTH

We had a great parents meeting last Sunday evening! Thanks to all that attended. Following are the next two week's activities:
August 21- Sunday Night Youth at the church, 5:00 pm
August 28 - Pool Party at the Darwin's, 5:00 pm
Email Adam (youth@fumclr.org) for more info!

KIDS@FIRST Backpack Blessing

August 21 at 9 & 11 am

On the Sunday before school starts we will be blessing the backpacks of our students and teachers during worship! Be sure your little learner brings theirs!

Back to School Bash

August 27 from 4-6 pm

Jody's House- 27 Plantation Acres Dr.

Join us for food, games, inflatables, and horseback rides as we say "GOODBYE" to summer and "HOWDY" to a new school year. Come for the whole party or drop by for a hotdog! We hope to see you there! Questions? Want us to save you a spot? Call or email Rev. Brittany

Razorback Watch Party September 10 at 11 am

Location:TBD (Let me know if you want to host!)

Football, friends, food, and fun- there's not much else to it! Watch the whole game or just stop in to say hi. We don't have a host for this event yet, so let me know if you might be interested.

Parent Info Meeting

September 11 at 10 am

Come and get a glimpse at what to expect with Kids@First for the next few months. Calendars, forms, questions, and so much more! Kids can hang out in the Cokesbury Center or go the gym for some supervised play!

First Family Sunday School Sunday, September 4 at 10 am

On the first Sunday of the month we invite the entire family to gather for Sunday school. We will start in the First Cup Cafe and then offer an opportunity for the whole family to play, learn, and grow in faith together.

FAMILY & FRIENDS Congratulations

To parents Justin and Cameryn Burch and grandparent Charles and Kelli Miller on the birth of Archer Henry Burch on August 17th.

Sympathy

To Kathleen and Sam House, following the death of Kathleen's mother, Pam Foster, on July 12th.

To Shelby Clark and family following the death of his mother on July 21st.

To Sonja Taylor-Larkowski and family following the death of her father, Larry Taylor, on July 21st.

To Wilsie Griffin Tiner and family following the death of her sister Carolyn Henrickson on July 24th.

To Marian Berry, after the passing of her mother, Claudine Owens, on August 9th.