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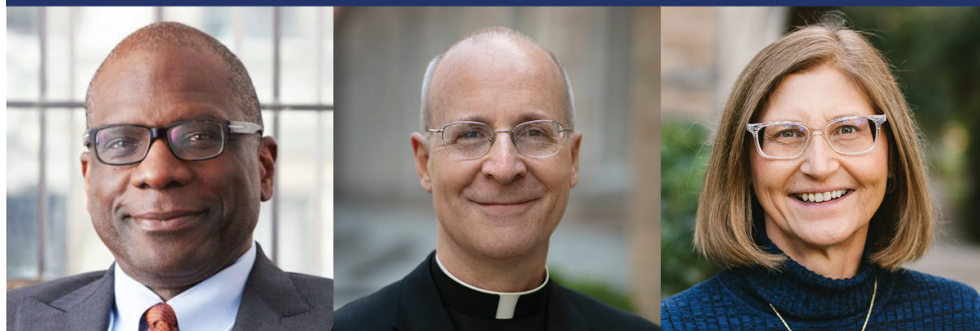


Frank & Kula Kumpuris Distinguished Lecture Series

AT THE CLINTON PRESIDENTIAL CENTER

The LGBTQ+ Community and the Future of the American Church

Wednesday, June 29 | 6:00 p.m. CT / 7:00 p.m. ET



Reverend Frederick A. Davie Father James Martin, SJ Sarah Wilke

Join Reverend Frederick A. Davie; Father James Martin, SJ; and Sarah Wilke for a conversation about how their faith traditions have responded to questions surrounding human sexuality, a topic that remains at the foreground of deep divisions within many of the largest Christian denominations in the United States. Frank Lockwood, Religion editor of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, will moderate the conversation.

On Wednesday, June 29, the Clinton Foundation, the Clinton School of Public Service, and the Clinton Presidential Library and Museum will host "The LGBTQ+ Community and the Future of the American Church," the next installment of the Kumpuris Distinguished Lecture Series. The program will be held in person at the Clinton Center.

Rev. Donna will coordinate a group if you want to go with FUMCLR friends - email dhankins@fumclr.org for more information.

In the
FIRST PLACE

WELCOME SHANNON!

The music ministry of First United Methodist Church is pleased to welcome Shannon Rookey as our Associate Director of Music and Worship Arts. Shannon brings a wealth of both performance and church music experience to this role. She has degrees from Oklahoma City University and Colorado State University in vocal performance and has had an impressive career on the stage notably starting as Ruther Bader Ginsburg in the opera Scalia/Ginsburg. However, Shannon also has years of church music experience as a section leader and music intern for choirs in Oklahoma, Colorado, and Arkansas.

A national search was conducted bringing in candidates from all over the country. Through a process of discernment (and many, many phone interviews), the ideal partner in ministry was found right here in Little Rock! She has a buoyant spirit and a passion for making music accessible for all people.

Perhaps most importantly, Shannon has experience with the way music can be used to enrich the worship of our children and youth through her work at Second Presbyterian Church (Little Rock) and her activity withing the Presbyterian Association of Musicians. In addition to participating in the leadership of our adult worship ensembles, she will head up both our First Arts program as well as our children's choir.

Shannon's first day will be July 11th; great things are in-store for our music ministry! Welcome, Shannon!!



Praying for YOU!

Months of separation and isolation have left us all feeling disconnected. To overcome that, we're searching for all kinds of ways to enhance people's sense of connection to one another and the church as a whole. That process begins with prayer. Each week, we'll be listing about 20 names in the newsletter for you to pray for during the week. Over the next several months, we'll be working our way through the church roll (backward alphabetically) so that everyone is lifted in prayer. You may not know these people personally, but that doesn't matter. Praying for someone by name is a powerful way to experience a connection beyond physical distance. We'll be connected by the Spirit and the power of praying for one another.

June 6-12: Doug, Deni, Michael, Joe, Stacy, Emily, Anna, Austin, Darrin, Melanie, John, Janice, Roger, Janis, Sara, Brad & Susan, Kat, Brian, Scarlett, Lindsey, Alex & Blaine, Cash, Kymari, Hope, Earnestine
June 13-19: Abbie, Kennedy, Braylon, Marcia, Sarah, Jason, Michael, Elizabeth, James, Samuel, Danielle, Jeanie, Greg, Bill, Kaye, Justin, Cameryn, Andrea, Loyd, Elaine, Matthew, David, Phillip, Caroline, Kimberly
June 20-26: Aaron, Sandra, Elisabeth, Helen, Paul, Jane, Dot, Harry, Kay, Jim, Felicia, Michael, Ann, Tammy, John, Juli, Autumn & Anna, Mosie, Debbie, John, Donna
June 27-July 3: Scott, Mary, Dylan, Amelia, Patti, Cale, Jamie, Ashley, Shaun, Catherine, William, Dick, Sue, Boyd, Patricia, Ryan, Kathy, Debbie, Anna, Catherine, Cal, Veeta, Scott

Lunch and Learn

Wed. at noon in First Cup, May 18 & 25

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.

June 22nd – Native plants and pollinators: gardening that helps heal, restore and renew our community.

June 29th – Sustainable actions for every household, recycling and beyond. Together we can make a difference.

All are welcome!

P.A.W.S on Wildcat Way (Partners Assisting Washington Students)

This summer we are launching our new partner school initiative calls P.A.W.S on Wildcat Way. Wildcat Way is where our partnership will be centered—The Pantry, behavior store, clothing closet, First Security student bank, tutoring, mentoring, and more. We are looking forward to the ways we can be in deep relationship with students, teachers, and staff in 2022-2023.

The Next 200

In 1831, a group of faithful people began meeting in downtown Little Rock to worship God and share the Wesleyan understanding of grace. They were the first Methodists of Little Rock. Over the years, more came to build that community and widen the church's impact on Little Rock. Their faithful prayers, mission, and sacrificial gifts have made First United Methodist Church of Little Rock what we are today. One hundred and ninety-one years later, it's our turn to continue building and nurturing this community of faith and pass it on to those who come after us.

That's why we've launched The Next 200 campaign, an invitation for you to be a part of protecting and propelling our church into the next 200 years of our life. The goal is to raise our Perpetual Endowment Fund to \$7,500,000 before our 200th anniversary in 2031.

A strong endowment will provide financial resources to protect and update our historic building without draining our annual budget that is used for ministry and mission, and it gives a safety net in times of crisis. In January of 2020, our Perpetual Endowment Fund was \$2,500,000 strong. Therefore, the overall goal of the Next 200 campaign is to raise \$5,000,000 either committed or received between 2020 and 2031.

Since January 2020, we have received several pilot gifts from people who left bequests to First Church, as well as several pledges from members which we will receive later from their estates. These pilot gifts and commitments, along with interest the endowment has earned over the past couple of years, total \$1,586,000- bringing the current total of gifts, pledged and received, to \$4,157,000. Because of these generous pilot gifts, we only need to raise 3,343,000 over the next 9 years. This is a very reachable goal if we all commit to it.

Over the next three years of this campaign, every church member will be invited to a gathering to learn more about the Next 200 and how to make a commitment through your will or estate. Each person or family that makes a commitment will have their names added to The Promise Tree on the wall just outside the church office. The leaves of this tree make up the great canopy of grace our church seeks to spread across Little Rock. There are other ways to give through regular memorials and honorariums and our new Birthday Club. Every gift makes a significant impact.

If you are ready to make your legacy gift commitment to First UMC or have already designated a gift in your will or estate, please contact Sonja Taylor-Larkowski (stlarkowski@fumcl.org, 501-372-2256 ext. 209). Otherwise, be looking for your invitation to one of our Next 200 gatherings over the coming months. I hope you will prayerfully consider your part in the Next 200.

Gratefully, David



Children's Church Helpers Needed

Each time we gather for Children's Church we need an extra volunteer to help our teachers. There is no prep needed, just come with a friendly smile and a little extra energy. If you are interested in this fun way to hang with our kids and help out our ministry, click here!

NOTE: We also need nursery volunteers, so if babies are more your speed, let me know!



Rev. Mary Jane Cole named new Spiritual Director in Residence

Rev. Mary Jane Cole has been a part of First Church for many years in various roles. She previously served on our staff as Associate Pastor, and in recent years she has led ministries such as our Enneagram

and meditation groups. Since 2014, she has been a spiritual director through her practice Sacred Path. She now returns to our team bringing her expertise and skill in spiritual direction as the Spiritual Director in Residence. In this role, she will design, implement, and evaluate ministries that create spiritual enrichment. These ministries include group experiences such as classes, retreats, and small groups as well as offering one-on-one spiritual direction for interested church members. This is a quarter time role on the church staff. In addition, her offices for Sacred Path will be located at the church (in the room formerly known as the Pastor's Study). If you are interested in finding out more about individual spiritual direction, please contact Mary Jane at mcole@fumcl.org. We look forward to these new possibilities Mary Jane brings to our church to enrich our spiritual lives and the life of our church.

KIDS@FIRST Family Meals- June 26th

This summer I am hoping to schedule a conversation with as many families as possible. One way to do this is through family meals where adults can chat and kids can play. If these days don't work for you, don't worry, we will find another time to connect.

Children's Church

During the 9 am and 11 am services kids, ages three through grade 5 will be invited to come to Children's Church. After the Children's Moment, kids will head to the children's area to continue worship and learn in ways that are more accessible to them. Children will head back to the worship space during the final song of the worship space.

First Family Sunday school

On the first Sunday of every month, the entire family is invited to this Sunday school hour as we celebrate what it is to be the church.

Dates to know:

Sunday, June 26 at 5 p.m.: Family Meal@FUMCLR

July 3 at 10 am: First Family Sunday School @First Cup Cafe

August 7 at 10 am: First Family Sunday School @ First Cup Cafe

YOUTH

Most of our summer plans are for fellowship, fun, and connection during a time when schedules get so varied. We will also take time for prayer and devotions during our times together.

At the bottom you will find our summer calendar. Please note that Youth Week activities have been moved back a week from what I originally sent out. I apologize for the error.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR MEDICAL RELEASE FORMS ASAP

June 19– No Sunday Night YOUTH

June 21– Mission Day. Meet at the church at 8:30am. We are going to serve that morning at Recycle Bikes for Kids, which refurbishes bicycles to be given to children in need. After lunch we are headed to North Little Rock and Gardner UMC's Food Pantry to help assemble food items for distribution. We will be back at the church by 4:30 for pickup. Lunch provided.

June 26– Caddo River Float. Meet @ 9am and we will drive near Arkadelphia and float the Caddo River in innertubes. \$20. Lunch included

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Welcome New Member



We welcomed Tim and Gwen Bartlett into membership during First Tradition on Sunday, May 15th. You may recognize Tim, he has been a part of Chancel Choir for several years. Give the Bartletts a warm, First Church welcome!



We welcomed Samuel Abassah-Oppong into membership during First Tradition on Sunday, May 22nd. Welcome Samuel!

Congratulations

To Haley Jones Wells and Alex Wells on the birth of their son Wren on May 27th.

To Hannah Cheek and family following the birth of their son Cal on May 26th.

To Mary and Nick Thompson on the birth of their first granddaughter Emma.

To Catherine and Whit Robben on the birth of their son, Sarah Spencer and Fred Oswald's grandson, George Whitmore Robben on June 2nd.

Sympathy

Sympathy to Lillian and Larry Ross following the death of Lillian's sister, Sederia Daniel.

Sympathy to Justin and Cameryn Burch following the death of his mother, Edith Burch, on May 22nd.