

# In the FIRST PLACE

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**INGATHERING**  
2022-United Methodist Church of Arkansas

statewide event at the Arkansas Food Bank will be held on  
**NOVEMBER 12, 2022**

period packs | cleaning kits | school kits | hygiene kits

Learn more and register at [arumc.org/ingathering](http://arumc.org/ingathering)

## Generosity Sunday, October 30

One of the conditions of living in survival mode in the last few years has been our sense of scarcity. When the pandemic first started, we were overwhelmed with scarcity. We couldn't get enough hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies. We needed masks and ventilators. Some foods were hard to get, like peanut butter and milk. And don't forget how hard it was to get toilet paper. Some people lost jobs, and others had hours and pay cuts. Ongoing supply chain issues have continued our experience of scarcity. As vaccinations rolled out, there was a mad rush to get one. Inflation and a volatile market have intensified this feeling that we don't have enough. This chronic experience of scarcity leaves us spiritually empty and diminishes our experience of life.

Here's the kicker. The antidote to scarcity is not to acquire more. It's to practice generosity. Being generous with anything--time, money, kindness, skills, strength--frees us from feeling like we don't have enough. In fact, it reminds us that if we freely share what we have, we will all have enough. This fact shows up over and over in the Bible. Since our entire lives are a gift from God, practicing generosity is doing God's work. Generosity is a spiritual practice that allows us to thrive and not just survive.

We're trying to create a culture of generosity at FUMCLR. This means we want our first instinct to be how we can share ourselves and our resources so that all may have enough. We want people to experience the spiritual renewal that happens when we live like Christ, who gave everything for us. A culture of generosity means that instead of asking if we have enough time, we are quick to serve and volunteer. It's using our gifts and skills to benefit the community. It's being financially generous and working toward the Biblical concept of tithing. It's looking around at what needs to be done and doing it rather than waiting for someone to ask. It's about seeing our whole lives filled with abundance and sharing it.

Sunday, October 30, is Generosity Sunday. That whole day will be a celebration of all that we have and consider how we can share it with others. You'll be asked to bring your commitment cards representing what you plan to give financially to FUMCLR in 2023. However, I hope you see the whole day as a way to break out of the scarcity survival mode and thrive through generosity. This week you should or will receive your commitment card in the mail. There is also information on that card about our church's vision to move from surviving to thriving in God's grace. I hope you will spend the next two weeks prayerfully considering how you can more fully embrace the spiritual practice of generosity.

Gratefully,  
David

**Fill out your Commitment Card online!**  
[www.fumclr.org/commit](http://www.fumclr.org/commit)

## Next 200

### Birthday Club - New Members

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 new Birthday Club Members:  
**Nancy Foster**  
**Joe Roddy**  
**Mary Lou Rasco**  
**Mary Davis**  
**Bill Sherman (in memory)**  
**Carole Sherman**  
**Marcia Caplinger**  
**David Smith**  
**Joy & Lynn Rockenbach**  
**Pat Lile**  
**Sam Smith**  
**Kay Burton**  
**Linda Deloney**  
**Evan Hankins-Hull**  
**Bill Owens**

### Camp Aldersgate Fish Fry Thank You

Since Camp Aldersgate is 75 years old this year, the goal for the Fish Fry was to raise \$75,000. Guess what! They exceeded the goal and raised \$76,000. Thank you First Church for your contribution of vans and drivers and for selling 97 tickets totaling \$1,840. We love supporting our Camp Aldersgate!!

## Church Directory Time! THREE SUNDAYS LEFT FOR PICTURES!

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 Lesley will be in the courtyard taking directory photos from 9:15-11 am and 12-12:15 pm! You may also call Lesley at 501-425-6883 to schedule a time during the week! Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks.



### Grief Expressions-

#### A Creative Way to Engage with Grief and Loss

#### Sundays, Nov. 6 & 13, Noon – 3 pm, lunch provided

Join us for a creative arts activity to honor whom or what you have lost. While the source of our loss varies, all can benefit from the opportunity to engage with our grief in a creative and transformative way. The afternoon will include lunch, prayer, and experience-based workshops in journaling and art therapy. Artistic experience or ability is not required to participate and enjoy the workshop, just the

willingness to create. All are welcome. RSVP to the church office by Nov 3rd, 372-2256. If you have questions, see either Donna Hankins, dhankins@fumclr.org, or Mary Jane Cole, mcole@fumclr.org. We look forward to this special space and time to acknowledge, create and honor together!

### Canvas Community Worship

#### Sunday's at 5:30 pm

#### 1111 W Markham, Little Rock, AR 72201

As we turn our attention to the new Church vision God has placed before us, we seek to build a stronger relationship with our unhoused and near homeless neighbors. We can best do that by building relationships with organizations assisting neighbors. Canvas Community, just down 7th street, helps our unhoused and near homeless neighbors meet their basic needs and work towards their goals. We want to build a stronger relationship with Canvas Community and join the good work of loving our neighbors well. We invite you to join us on Sunday nights at 5:30 pm for a unique worship experience with our unhoused neighbors.

## Shop for Good CHRISTMAS MARKET

### Sunday, November 6

#### Winston Faulkner Gymnasium, 8:00am-1:00pm

Choose from 18 different booths of nonprofits and First Church missions to Shop for Good from 8 am to 1 pm Nov. 6. In the Gym:

- Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance
- Camp Aldersgate
- Central Arkansas Library
- Child Development Center
- Teacher Support
- Equal Exchange
- Esse Purse Museum
- Family Christmas Photos for The Pantry Backpack Ministry
- FLAME
- FUMC Swag
- Habitat for Humanity
- Heifer Project
- Literacy Action of Central Arkansas
- Methodist Family Health Angel Tree (waiting on confirmation)
- Our House
- Ozark Mission Project
- ancake Breakfast for PAWS (Washington School Projects)
- The Pantry Backpack Ministry
- Sew and Serve
- Village of Hope for Uganda

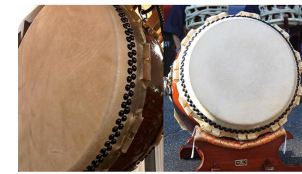
### Christmas Decorators Needed!

We're getting ready to the halls for Advent in about a month and we need your help. If your Sunday school class, Small group, or group of friends would like to help, we need groups to decorate a room or area of the church between Sunday, November 20 and Wednesday, the 23rd. You get to choose the time and date you'll decorate. Email Lesley (landrews@fumclr.org.)

## Try Taiko Drumming!

### Mondays, 6:30-8:30 pm

Japanese drumming is an exciting and invigorating musical experience. See what it's about - no experience necessary! Try this fun and expressive group art form and get a good workout while you're at it! All are welcome, regardless of physical condition, age, or musical background. Taiko is more than music, more than a workout; it's an open and welcoming community that would love to have you in it! We will meet on Monday nights from 6:30-8:30 at First United Methodist Church, 723 Center Street, downtown Little Rock. Wear comfortable, flexible clothing. Be prepared to work hard and have fun. Visit [www.taikoark.com](http://www.taikoark.com).



## Church Women United

### Central Arkansas South

#### World Community Day Celebration

CWU will have its World Community Day Celebration at our church, FUMC LR, on Friday, November 4, at 10:00 am in the Chapel. World Community Day began in 1943 and was one way that Church Women United show their passion for prayer, peace, justice, and reconciliation. The speaker will be Anna Beth Gorman, who in 2016 became the Executive Director of the Women's Foundation of Arkansas. Everyone is welcome to come.

## The Pantry on Wildcat Way

### Funding Needed!

The Pantry, formerly known as Backpacks for Kids, is our weekend food ministry with our partner school Washington Elementary. The Pantry provides weekend food bags for all families at the school. That's 340 students! Our team packs the bags at the school on Mondays at 1:00 pm. FUMCLR also financially supports The Pantry, and we need help. It costs \$5.00/bag for 340 students. That's \$1,700 a week! Can you sponsor a student for a month? Can you sponsor five students for a month? You can donate to The Pantry by submitting your donation to the Church.

- \$5.00—one student/week
- \$20.00—one student/month
- \$100—5 students/month

## KIDS@FIRST

### Parent's Night Out

#### Friday, November 4, from 5:30-8:30 pm

Drop your kiddos off with Rev. Brittany and our childcare staff as you enjoy a night off! We will have a night full of fun and surprises for your kids! However, please sign up ahead of time to have enough helpers.

## Sunday, October 30 at 10 am - Kids Area

All kiddos are invited to wear their Halloween costume on Sunday, October 30! We will be trick-or-treating and having all kinds of Halloween fun during Sunday School. This will be a silly and fun Sunday that your family won't want to miss!

## KIDS@FIRST (cont.)

### November

**Friday, November 4** from 5:30-8:30 pm: Parent's Night Out Drop off your kiddos at church and enjoy a date night.

**Sunday, November 6** at 10 am: Family Sunday School Enjoy the pancake breakfast, Christmas market, and UMCOR service opportunity.

#### Saturday, November 12: Ingathering

This is a family-friendly mission opportunity at the Arkansas Food Bank.

#### Sunday, November 13 at 10 am: Parent Bible Bootcamp

While this is for our 3rd and 4th graders' parents, all parents are welcome to learn more about the Bible and find ways to incorporate it at home.

#### Saturday, November 19: 3rd and 4th Grade Bible Bootcamp

This is a fun, full-day retreat at Ferncliff!

## FRIENDS & FAMILY

### Welcome New Members



We welcomed Cindi, Randy, Peyton, Harrison (not pictured), and Claire Maddox to First Church on September 25th during First Tradition. The family joins by transfer of membership from Searcy.

## Congratulations

### on Baptism

Congratulations to Paige and Peyton Maddox on the baptism of their son Redford Peyton. Redford is the grandson of new members Cindy and Randy Maddox.



## Congratulations

To Irma Jewell on the birth of her 14th great-grandchild, born on October 9th.

To Barbara and George Wise following the birth of their first grandchild, Graham Gilbert Wise, on September 17th.

## Sympathy

To the family and friends of Rev. Rebecca Boggan, following her death on Tuesday, October 18.

To Stark Ligon and family following the death of Marianne on October 6th.



