

Flowers

The flowers on the altar are given by Waynette and Bobby Shuler in honor of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Announcements

Youth. Tonight is our 5th Sunday celebration. Youth are inviting their families to youth night to have some fun from 4-5 pm. We will play games, have a devotional together, and may even enjoy some friendly family vs. family competitions.

Memorial Day. The church office will be closed Monday, May 30th, in observance of Memorial Day.

Last Day. Pastor Randy's last day to preach is one week from today on June 5th. If you want to give a love offering or a card, you can still bring it by or mail it to the church office.

You're Invited. Your presence is requested at a church-wide drop-in celebration in honor of Waynette and Bobby Shuler on their 60th wedding anniversary. It is being held one week from today on Sunday, June 5th, from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m. in the FUMC parlor. No presents, please.

Arms Around Arkadelphia. The AAA ministry project is June 6-9 and we need volunteers. In addition to onsite workers, help is needed with food preparation, popsicle delivery, morning devotions, and prayer. Lunch is provided each day with a BBQ dinner Thursday evening to close out the week. Any amount of time volunteered is appreciated. Forms are available outside each service. Volunteers meet Monday, June 6th, at 8:00 a.m. in the First Baptist Fellowship Hall.

United Methodist Women. Tuesday, June 7th, at 10:00 a.m., the UMW will have a Potluck Salad & Dessert Luncheon at the home of Penny & Grey Ferguson. Please bring your favorite salads and desserts to the June 7th UMW Meeting and Luncheon. UMW will not meet in the month of July.

VBS. Mark your calendars and get your lab coats pressed! Vacation Bible School, God's Wonder Lab - Jesus Does the Impossible, is July 11-15. This is a fun and exciting program about some of the miracles Jesus performed and how we can learn and apply lessons from them. A volunteer sign-up form is available at each service.

Please Remember:

- A. You may put your offering in the plate, use Tithely by scanning the QR code under Ways to Give, go directly to Tithely at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=368022>, or drop it off at the church office during the week or by mail.
- B. You can live stream services on Facebook or YouTube at www.facebook.com/fumcark or www.youtube.com/user/fumcark. Watch previous services at www.fumcark.org/sermons.
- C. Face masks are optional but strongly encouraged.

Arkadelphia First United Methodist Church

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Organist Dr. Kay McAfee

Choir Director Dr. Bill Higgins

Liturgist Nevada Mills

Acolytes

Ushers Norm Coppernoll, Bob Shehane, Eddie Graham,

Daniel Maxey, Jim Blanton, Robert McCallum

Tech Todd Corley, Lori Maxey, Sasha Maxey, Cindy Phillips,

Nursery Workers Jewelie Mills and Erin Mecum

Custodian Sharon Murphy

Ways to give to First United Methodist Church



In Person
Offering plate



By Mail
107 N. 9th Street



Online
Scan

This is a Sanctuary, a place of peace. With the exception of municipal, county, state or federal law enforcement, carrying a gun on First United Methodist Church property is prohibited. Thank you for respecting this covenant of trust.

Adopted by First United Methodist Church Council, October 10, 2017.



O the Blessing of Peace and Persecution

Matt. 5:1-2, 9-12



First United Methodist Church

Worship for the Lord's Day

May 29, 2022
7th Sunday of Easter

11:00 Worship Service
Arkadelphia, AR

Welcome Nevada Mills

Opening Voluntary Kay McAfee
Solemn Melody (dedicated to fallen veterans)
-by Walford Davies

Centering Prayer (Focus) Pastor Randy

*Prayer of Confession & Invitation Congregation
Almighty God, through the power of your Holy Spirit you enable us to do and be more than we can think or imagine. How often we try to do everything in our own strength. Forgive us and remind us today to welcome your direction and empowerment for today's goals. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

*Hymn of Praise UMH No. 610
We Know that Christ is Raised

*Apostles' Creed UMH No. 881

*The Gloria Patri UMH No. 70
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

Children's Moments for Little Methodists
Sabrina Mecum

Pastoral Prayer and Offering
The Lord's Prayer Congregation

The Offertory *Lord of All Hopefulness*
-by Charles Callahan Kay McAfee

* The Doxology UMH No. 95
Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Reading God's Word Responsively Matthew 5:1-2, 9-12
Hear the Word of the LORD

"Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them. He said:"

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

This is the Word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God.

Anthem *I Will Arise* Chancel Choir
-arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

Sermon Pastor Randy
O the Blessing of Peace and Persecution

*Hymn of Response *Fairest Lord Jesus* UMH No. 189

*Benediction/Blessing Pastor Randy

Closing Voluntary Kay McAfee
Battle Hymn of the Republic
-by Fred Bock

Sermon Outline

I. Little is big

II. Peace defined (Mt 5:9)

III. Persecution explained (Mt. 5:10-12)

- A. The first Christians were persecuted in every area of life.
- B. Why did the Romans persecute Christians? Because they were falsely accused of:
 - 1. Cannibalism
 - 2. Immorality
 - 3. Being incendiaries
 - 4. Tampering with family relationships
 - 5. Political treason
- C. "blessed that they have allowed themselves to be persecuted for the sake of righteousness [same as Mt. 5:6]"

IV. Please choose to live in God's presence

Prayer Concerns

Please pray for Tiff Covington and his family. Tiff was in a bad motorcycle accident on Friday, May 20th. He is currently at UAMS in the ICU. You can stay up-to-date on his progress at caringbridge.org/visit/tiffcovington

Please also be in prayer for the family of Mary Ardith Higgins, Bill Higgins' mom. Mary passed away Thursday, May 19th.

Carolyn McAnally fell and broke her hip and is now post surgery. Please pray for a speedy and trouble-free recovery.