

Grand AveNews

April 2021

Worship With Us on Maundy Thursday April 1 at 7:00 p.m. (In-Person Only)

Our worship will feature a dramatic readers-theatre presentation of the Passion of Christ from Matthew 26:14-27:66. We will enter the Holy City with Jesus, stand by him as he overturns the money changers' tables in the temple, break bread with him in the upper room, pray with him in the Garden of Gethsemane, witness his betrayal and denial by all of his closest friends, and see the self-less way he offered himself in forgiveness, even for those who crucified him. The service will be accompanied by selections from our music ministry and congregational singing.

Observe Evening Prayer Online During Holy Week

Each evening during Holy Week, we will offer a time of devotion centered around the Seven Last Words from the Cross. Each service will include a prayer, scripture reading and devotion based on one of the seven last words, and a meditative song. Links to the service will be posted on Facebook; you may also find them by searching YouTube for "Grand Avenue UMC Hot Springs" and subscribing to our channel.

Celebrate Easter With Us In-Person or Online

We will offer multiple opportunities for worship on Easter Sunday, April 4. Sunrise on Easter Sunday will be at 6:54 a.m. Karla Hefty will be sharing an online devotion for the day that will be launched at exactly that time on Facebook Live and our YouTube channel. Our 10:45 service will also be available online as always.

If you would like to join us in person, we will offer two services for that Sunday only at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m. We ask that you help us be prepared to accommodate you by calling the church office (501-623-5626) by April 1 at noon to let us know your plans. (Although pre-registration is not necessary most weeks, we anticipate greater numbers on Easter and want to be prepared to serve you better.)

Holy Communion for Easter

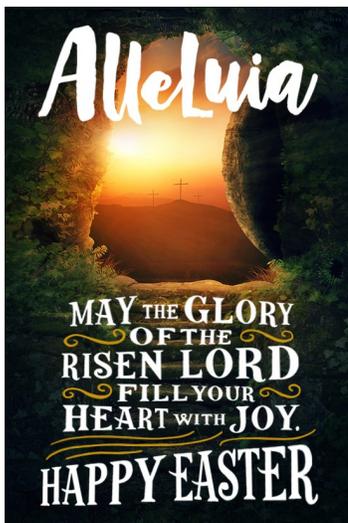
We will offer Holy Communion on Easter Sunday at both of our in-person worship celebrations. For those who worship with us online, we will offer an evening devotion and blessing of communion elements at 7:00 p.m. on Facebook Live (This service will not be available to view at other times.) You do not have to have a Facebook account to participate. Anyone with internet access on a computer, tablet, or smart phone will be able to join us. The link to join us is here:

facebook.com/Grand-Avenue-UMC-Hot-Springs-701469503307211/

You are invited to participate by preparing a bit of bread and a cup of juice that you and those in your household may share. Set these elements at your own table or wherever you sit when you worship online. You may want to put them on a cloth or piece of fabric that reminds you of a special time or a person deeply connected with you in the communion of saints. We invite you to place beside the bread and cup a lighted candle, a flower or plant, or the photograph of someone you wish to bring into the circle of faith as you worship.

Inside This Issue

UMCOR Sunday	2
Endowment Fund	2
Easter Lily Order Form	2
Annual Conference	3
Give Through Texting	3
Ozark Mission Project	4
Langston Reward Store	4
Valentine's Day Surprise	5
Memorials/Honorariums	5
Covid Update	6



Building Faith,
Bringing Hope,
Reaching Out in
love

Grand Avenue
United Methodist Church
Hot Springs, AR
501-623-5626

UMCOR Sunday



UMCOR Sunday (previously One Great Hour of Sharing) is one of six special offerings in The United Methodist Church that supports ministries shared by all churches in the denomination. UMCOR, the United Methodist Committee on Relief, acts on our behalf when there is a crisis. UMCOR's 80-year history is grounded in the teachings of Jesus Christ, "created to do good things" (Ephesians 2:10) that alleviate human suffering. Responding to people suffering from the effects of war, civil unrest, hurricanes, wildfires, famines or floods, UMCOR steps in on your behalf in times of crisis to help individuals, families and communities too overwhelmed to recover on their own.

When we give to specific UMCOR projects, 100% of our gifts are directed to the designated response. UMCOR equips local churches, annual conferences and nonprofit organizations to be in mission with their communities, to respond to those left most vulnerable during challenging times. And UMCOR doesn't just respond to the emergency for the short term. Working with local organizations, churches in the community and United Methodist volunteers, UMCOR cultivates relationships and helps communities rebuild, often for years after the disaster. UMCOR can do this because the funds we receive join with those of millions of United Methodists to

help cover the costs of doing business. From training volunteers to keeping the office lights on, the UMCOR Sunday special offering equips the organization to respond quickly when disaster strikes.

GAUMC Endowment Fund...A Bit of History

Do you like history? Does it give you pride to know more about your church? If any of these two things interest you here are a few historical facts about your church. Your permanent Endowment Fund was established at the Charge Conference during November 17, 2002. The actual document is signed by Pastor David Crooks and District Superintendent Jack Wilson. On April 28, 2003, the first deposit was made into the fund in the amount of \$5,000. Today the market value in the fund has grown to \$315,000. The fund's goal is reach \$500,000.

The fund is invested 60% in the Foundation's Growth Pool and 40% in the Fixed Income Pool. Each month the fund is rebalanced to achieve the 60/40 allocation. Your gifts to the endowment fund do not have to be large sums. Small donations mount up over time. We are running a long term race here, not a short sprint. Please remember your endowment fund when you have an occasion to remember or honor a loved one or a friend. If you can remember your endowment fund on a regular basis that is super. Your church thanks you for all your contributions.

Easter Lily Order Form

Help us to beautify our sanctuary for Easter by placing a lily in honor or memory of a loved one.

The cost of each plant is \$12.00. Make checks payable to Grand Avenue UMC. Please place your order by March 29.

_____ In honor of _____

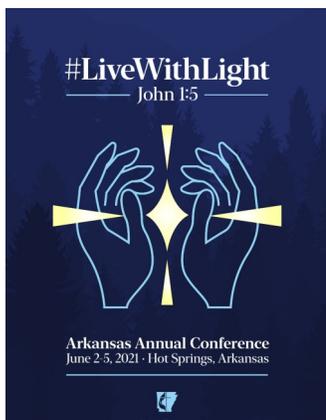
_____ In memory of _____

Given by: _____

_____ Cash _____ Check _____ Amt. Paid



“Live With Light” - 2021 Annual Conference



The 2021 Arkansas Annual Conference will be held June 2-5, 2021, utilizing a hybrid format that will allow participants to gather either in-person in the Hot Springs Convention Center or online via Zoom. Both those who attend in-person and by Zoom will have the ability to fully participate in every aspect of the Conference, including voting and speaking to the entire Annual Conference.

Of course, the Bishop and Annual Conference Planning Committee will continue to monitor appropriate COVID-19 trends and vaccine distribution data, and make decisions about adopting a different format should conditions warrant. As we draw closer to June 2, updates will be issued via email and on the Annual Conference 2021 [webpage](#).

Information regarding lodging, petitions and resolutions (due March 15) is already available and full registration will be open in early April.

The 2021 Annual Conference is being planned carefully so it will be a safe gathering. This will include adhering to the current real-time COVID-19 guidelines recommended by the Center for Disease Control, the Arkansas Department of Health and the Arkansas Annual Conference. It also means many of the usual meals, displays and gatherings will not be held.

We, as Arkansas United Methodists, have been at our best as we have lived out ministry and our connectional life together in extraordinary times. This has required responding and adapting to quickly changing circumstances involving the pandemic. At this point, the uncertainties that exist as we prepare for this year’s Annual Conference can be frustrating for everyone. Please be patient, continue to extend grace to each other and #LiveWithLight as we look forward to this year’s Arkansas Annual Conference.

You Can Now Give to the Church Through Texting

Grand Avenue has set up “Give by Text” through Vanco. You now have the opportunity to give online to some of our most popular giving funds, such as Community Meals, Blessing Box, Food for Backpacks, etc. To get started download the **GIVE PLUS+** app from your app store. Search for Grand Avenue United Methodist Church. The app will allow you to set up a new account or log in to an existing account. You can also choose to give without setting up an account. Once you select Give, you will have the option to give to our general fund or several other frequently used funds. Our unique 10 digit phone number is 844-926-3814. Text the following words to this number to give:

GIVE—to give to the general fund

PANTRY—to give to the Blessing Box fund

STORE—to give to our Outreach fund

KIDS—to give to Food for Backpacks

MEALS—to give to Community Meals

SENIORS—to give to Food for Seniors

You will be guided through setting up your account the first time you use Text to Give.



Dates Available for 2021 Flower Calendar

There are still plenty of dates to sign up to provide sanctuary flowers in memory or honor of a loved one or in celebration of a special occasion. Call Chris (501-623-5626) to make arrangements for the date of your choice. Available dates are listed below:

April 11 and 25

August—all Sundays available

May—all Sundays available

September—all Sundays available

June 6 and 13

October—all Sundays available

July—all Sundays available

November—all Sundays available



Ozark Mission Project 2021



Under the Day Camp model, OMP has decided to host camps in locations easiest for most campers and staff to attend on a daily basis. This summer, OMP Day Camps are planned in Hot Springs for June 6-11, June 20-25, and July 11-16. We can help by identifying homeowners who are in need of help with maintenance and/or repair for their houses. Approved projects include the following:

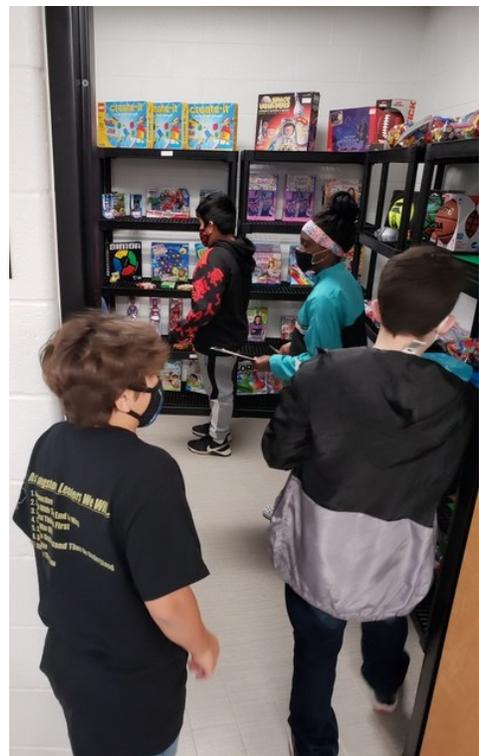
- Building wooden porches, step, wheelchair ramps and handrails
- Painting (interior and exterior), power washing, yard work, and housework
- Repairing porches, ramps, fences, and window screens

There is no cost to the homeowner. OMP Staff will contact applicants the week before the camp starts. If a project is considered viable, a site visit will be made to establish the safety of the environment for youth along with the needed materials and time required.

If you know a homeowner who needs this support or an organization that works with families in need of home maintenance, please help get information to them. Applications must be received at OMP headquarters by May 1, 2021 to be considered. The forms are available in the church office.

Langston Elementary School Reward Store

The Reward Store at Langston School is officially open and running. Students are slowly learning there are tangible benefits for all kinds of good behaviors including regular attendance, participation in class activities, and good grades on homework and tests. When asked what “rewards” we could help provide, principal Zondria Campbell suggested the kids would love headsets, ear buds (can take used ones if in good shape), nail polish, lip gloss (a popular item) , and eatable treats, especially ring pops candy. Does that speak to you about virtual learning from home! I’ll bet they can learn a lot better if we help with headsets and ear buds. A basket has been added in Fellowship Hall for your donations for the Langston Reward Store.



Langston students line up to visit the Langston Reward Store.

A Note from Potter’s Clay

Thank You

We are very grateful for your support during these difficult times. Thank you for your concern for women and children in crisis. Our records

reflect the value of your donations to our families during 2020 at approximately \$500.00. God Bless You!

Mike Brakebill

Outreach is collecting oatmeal & cereal during the month of March.

GAUMC Children Enjoy Valentine's Day Surprise

During the second week of February we surprised our precious Sunday School kids with a Valentine balloon and a sack of goodies...including a painted rock to remind them how special they are to us. Enjoy these picture of some smiling faces!!



Ethan shows his painted rock.



L to R—Micah, Kinsley, Jaxon, and Journee



Marley with Valentine goodies



Libby with her rock and balloon



Memorials & Honorariums Received in March 2021

In memory of...

- Max Hartman
by Jennie Peck (correction from last month's newsletter)
- Shirley Barbee
by Brenda Mitchell
- Shirley Barbee
by Patsy & Robert DeHart, Pete Penney, and Mandy Penney
- Shirley Barbee by Don & Sarah Harris
- Barbara Watson by James & Beverly Ortigara

In memory of...

- Shirley Barbee
by Don & Sarah Harris
- Barbara Watson
by James & Beverly Ortigara

In honor of...

- Nancy Baker
by David Fleming & Karla Hefty
- Dickey Cooley
by Skip & Kay Holland
- Mary Tom Taylor, Carol Scrivner, and Kay Adams
by Joanne McGowan





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We're Here to Serve You

Senior Pastor - Rev. David M. Fleming
Chancel Choir Director - Kathie White
Administrative Assistant - Chris Headley
Grand AveNews Editor - Linda Stanley

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Updates to Our COVID Policy

Beginning this month, we have returned to in-person worship with one service at 10:45 a.m. Our Trustees have modified our guidelines, no longer requiring pre-registration to attend worship and allowing worshipers to be seated in the section of their choice in the sanctuary as long as social-distancing is practiced. We will offer services at both 8:30 and 10:45 on Easter morning only (see related article on page 1). Sunday School classes and other groups may meet during the week by arrangement. Additional services, Sunday School classes, and other activities will be added gradually following guidance from our Bishop:

“Our pastors and laity have demonstrated outstanding leadership in ‘doing no harm’ and keeping people safe. I am removing the “Stages” guidelines that were applicable to the entire conference in order to better allow local churches to determine, based upon their individual contexts, what is best for the safety of their congregations,” Bishop Mueller stated.

“I will continue to insist that persons attending in-person church events wear masks, safely distance, and keep hands and surfaces clean, even if Governor Hutchinson lifts the statewide mask mandate,” shared Mueller. “Although more people are receiving vaccines, we still do not fully understand the consequences of ignoring these basic precautions or the possible impact of variants of the virus. When Arkansas has reached herd immunity as defined by the CDC, we will take appropriate actions. Likewise, if the situation worsens again, we will respond as needed.”

Groups that want to meet at times other than Sunday morning are welcome to schedule those now by calling or emailing the church office. Our current guidelines are posted here: <https://tinyurl.com/uud49bmh>

