



# Grand AveNews

February 2021

## Join Us for “The Walk” this Lent

How do we walk with Christ—daily follow him, grow in him, and faithfully serve him? In the Gospels, Jesus modeled for us the Christian spiritual life. The apostles taught it in their writings. And the Church has, through the last 2,000 years, sought to pursue this Christian spiritual life.

In “The Walk,” Adam Hamilton focuses on five essential spiritual practices that are rooted in Jesus’ own walk with God and taught throughout the New Testament. Each of these practices is intended as part of our daily walk with Christ while also being an essential part of growing together in the church.

Each chapter, explores one of these practices, its New Testament foundation, and what it looks like to pursue this practice daily in our personal life and together in the life of the church. Deepen your walk with Christ as we explore the five essential practices of worship, study, serving, giving, and bearing witness to our faith.

**Worship with Us**—Pastor David’s messages and our worship each week during the season of Lent will focus on one of these five essential practices:

February 21—Worship and Prayer: A Living Hallelujah

February 28—Study: The Importance of Listening and Paying Attention

March 7—Serve: Here I Am, Lord, Send Me

March 14—Give: Where Your Treasure Is

March 21—Share: Going Fishing, Reflecting Light

March 28—The Five Practices from the Cross

**Enjoy Daily Devotion**—Along the way, you may use “The Walk Prayer Journal” to chronicle your individual walk with Christ. A single copy of the prayer journal was mailed to many of our members and friends this past week. If you didn’t receive one (or if you would like to have additional copies) please contact the church office at 501-623-5626 or [grand.avenue@sbcglobal.net](mailto:grand.avenue@sbcglobal.net)

**Share Your Journey with Others**—We have created a private Facebook group where our members and friends may share their journey with one another. We hope you’ll join us here: “The Walk” at Grand Avenue UMC — <https://www.facebook.com/groups/534471080828731>

**Learn More**—Video instruction for each week featuring Adam Hamilton is available at [amplifymedia.com](http://amplifymedia.com) (see the back page of this newsletter for details about accessing these videos). The basic text of Adam Hamilton’s “The Walk” is also available from Amazon or Kindle.

**Join a Small Group**—Along the way we will also be organizing small groups led by our members for discussion in-person, online, and by conference call. (Days and times to be announced soon.) Let us know if you are interested in joining.

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we LOVE  
because  
HE first  
loved us

1 JOHN 4:19



Building Faith,  
Bringing Hope,  
Reaching Out in  
*love*

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

# Update from the Re-launch Committee

The GAUMC ReLaunch Team met on February 8, 2021 to discuss returning to in-person worship. For February, we will remain suspended for in-person worship and will continue on-line opportunities. The team will regularly monitor the Garland County COVID status and meet again at the end of the month. One of the tools we watch is the Arkansas UMC Conference COVID dashboard. As of this writing, it is showing our county "red," which indicates strong caution for in-person worship. You can see this dashboard yourself at [www.arumc.org](http://www.arumc.org). Click on COVID Response and COVID Dashboard. Choose Garland County in the drop-down menu to check the status.

In the meantime

- Pastor David's Lenten worship plans can easily shift from on-line to in-person (or both!) as the situation changes.
- Our church is proactively supporting 1B priority vaccinations. Call the church office if you need support. Check with your physician if you are unsure if you should take the vaccination.
- The Re-launch team encourages your comments! Please reach out to anyone on the team or contact the church office.

Faith, Hope, and Love,

*Sheila McLarty*  
*Pastor David Fleming*  
*Mike Blythe*  
*Shari Coston*

*Cheryl Murphy*  
*Joe Peters*  
*Carol Scrivner*  
*Linda Stanley*

## Endowment Fund Goal for 2021

How many of you have set goals for the new year? Goals are something to shoot for but I sometimes find it hard to keep working for them. Do you think that having a goal for our endowment fund would be a good thing for 2021? If so, what should our goal be? These are worthwhile questions. Could you e-mail me at [cool-oaks@att.net](mailto:cool-oaks@att.net) with your thoughts?

In the meantime please continue to support our endowment fund with your gifts. As you have read here before, we are in a long race to our goal. It is not a sprint so keep the faith and keep working for our goal. Thank you for your gifts in 2020 and thank you for all your support you give your endowment fund. Your efforts and your contributions are appreciated.

*Dickey Cooley*

**Administrative Council  
will meet on  
Monday, February 22  
at 6:30 pm via Zoom**

Members of the congregation are welcome to attend. Contact Pastor David or Sheila McLarty for Zoom instructions.

## Bean Bag Fun

A fun January surprise was delivered to our Sunday School children. A bucket of numbered bean bags with a list of bean bag games was a surprise that we hope made for some winter fun for our special kids. We look forward to seeing them in person, but until then we love seeing them in pictures.



Libby with her bean bags

**Outreach is collecting canned soup during February.**



The early Christians observed the days of Christ's passion and resurrection with great devotion, and it became the custom of the church that before the Easter celebration there should be a forty-day season of spiritual preparation. This was a time when converts were prepared for holy baptism. It was also a time when those who had committed serious sins and separated themselves from the community of faith were reconciled by repentance and forgiveness. Finally, it was a period of quiet reflection, fasting, and prayer for all Christians, a sort of "tithing of time" since the season is approximately one tenth of a year.

The gathering of the people of God on Ash Wednesday dates from the early medieval era. Historically, ashes have been a powerful symbol. They are used extensively in the Old Testament as a symbol of sadness, repentance, and humility. Job, in the midst of all his troubles, cried out to God from the ash heap. In the book of Jonah, the King of Nineveh sat in ashes as a sign of repentance. The use of ashes serves as a reminder of our mortality. Each of us faces the inevitability of physical death. Our bodies and all our possessions eventually will return to dust and ashes. Thus, the use of ashes reminds us that we dare not trust in things that will not last, but in God alone.

Join us online for

## Ash Wednesday Worship with the Imposition of Ashes

Wednesday, February 17

YouTube or Facebook Live at 7:00 p.m.

The ashes you received in our Lenten package mailing have been prepared as the palm fronds from last year's Palm Sunday celebration were burned. As you worship, you may read Psalm 51 and use them to make the sign of the cross on your forehead. The palms have borne witness to our sin; their ashes bear witness to our devotion.

Caution: Do not mix ashes with water. If you wish you may mix the ashes with a little oil to help them adhere.





Shari Coston presents Kathy Packard a registration list for those who signed up for the COVID vaccination.

## GAUMC Assists with Registration for COVID Vaccinations

Fifty more members and friends of Grand Avenue UMC will soon be receiving COVID vaccinations. This week we have partnered with the Oaklawn Center on Aging to register adults aged 70+ for vaccination beginning February 19. Here, Shari Coston, our steward of “Reaching Out in Love” is pictured handing a list of registrants to Kathy Packard, Executive Director of the Oaklawn Center on Aging. Shari, with support from Joanne Bokash and others, contacted our members who are 70+ and helped them complete the registration and make copies of additional documents needed to receive the vaccine.

According to the Arkansas Democrat Gazette 1,600 doses of the COVID vaccine will be administered at an event at the Garland County fairgrounds next week. Dr. Jennifer Dillaha of the Arkansas Department of Health said Garland County was selected for the event because of its high number of residents age 70 and older. At the beginning of February, 12.6% of the county’s residents age 16 and older had received at least one dose of the vaccine, which was higher than the statewide percentage of 12.1%.

## Let the Bells Ring Praises!

Kathie White, our director of music, has gathered small groups of volunteer handbell ringers to prepare music for our online worship services. The small groups commit to meet and rehearse for four weeks. Pastor David videos the ringers for inclusion in our online service. The music was written by Larry Sue especially for small groups of six or eight bells, and most of the pieces include piano accompaniment.

At the current time we have four small groups of ringers ready to provide musical praise for your enjoyment. They are:

Initial Group: Kathie White, Mary Tom Taylor, Linda Stanley.

Group 1: Barbara Ballard, Sheila McLarty, Brenda Matthews, Mary Tom Taylor

Group 2: Linda Stanley, Kathryn Gallistel, Ellen Clements, and Carol Peters

Group 3: Shari Coston, Shannon Rivas, Pat Reeves, and Jonnie Nix

Thank you Kathie, Lowella, and ringers for your contribution to our online worship.



Kathie White, Linda Stanley, Mary Tom Taylor ring “Holy Manna.” Lowella Cherry provides piano accompaniment.

## GAUMC Helps Hot Springs School District

The annual Missions budget includes a line-item amount of money to support the education of students in Hot Springs School District. In 2021 we purchased undergarments for the Drop In Room at Hot Springs High School. In addition, we provided new shoes and socks for 5 students in 3 different schools. With funds remaining to be used in 2021, we reached out to Langston Elementary School to see what we could do to help their students succeed. Principal Zondria Campbell said they had always wanted to have a Rewards Store in their building. She said students who worked hard and did well were already given paper recognition cards and verbal praise. But the teachers felt having a “store” where students could “purchase” items with their printed reward “cash” would be a powerful incentive to work for those students who needed encouraging. GAUMC paid for Ms. Campbell and some teachers to go shopping for items they knew the students would want, including deodorant, shampoo, pencils, and a long list of special things just for fun. A sign will be placed in the Rewards Store identifying GAUMC as the primary supporter of the shop.



Principal Zondria Campbell and Assistant Principal Eric Lenox fill the shelves of the new Rewards Store at Langston Elementary School with items provided by GAUMC.

## Honorariums & Memorials for February

### In honor of...

Ray & Kerry Owen by Joanne McGowan  
 David Fleming & Karla Hefty by Joanne McGowan



### In memory of...

Dennis Beaird by Carol & Ken Ingram  
 Dennis Beaird by Elizabeth & Jay Leak  
 Tex Meyers by Vicki Chapman, Debbie Jiwa, & Fred Griffin  
 Karen Hartman by Jennie Peck  
 Shirley Barbee by Jennie Peck

## Table of Grace

The year of Covid-19 continues, and Table of Grace has “left the building” to serve our patrons carry-out meals through a table at the Quapaw entrance door. We are so grateful that we had two years of In-House dining in our Fellowship Hall prior to this pandemic. During that time we were able to treat our guests to a hot meal on china with real silverware. We were the restaurant workers, and they were our guests. We also had musical entertainment and short worship services during those evenings. Team members on all 4 working teams got to know many of these guests and developed friendly and caring relationships with them. Many of our guests consider GAUMC to be their church. All of those extras that accompanied the meal have been forfeited for safety reasons. This week we realized we wanted to try to put Jesus back into Table of Grace. Beginning this Sunday, we will include colorful cards with bible verses in the meal bags given to each guest. Plans are underway to create all kinds of inserts, similar to the hospital tray treats of the past. We are ready to recruit church members who are homebound and ready for some meaningful project to help others. If you are interested, contact Shari Coston at (501) 282-7824 or sharicoston@gmail.com).

**Do you have plastic shopping bags that you can donate to Table of Grace?.**

Table of Grace is in need of plastic shopping bags that are used to pack the take-out meals that we are serving. If you have bags to donate, drop them off at the church office.



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*We're Here to Serve You*

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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## **Amplify Media (think of it as Netflix for your soul)**



What if you could stay engaged and encouraged anywhere and anytime with a library of the best resources for study and reflection? Well, now you can. Welcome to Amplify Media! Through any device you now have 24/7 access to motivating stories, insightful teaching, and powerful resources. Amplify Media is a streaming service (offered through The United Methodist Church) allowing us to have access to hundreds of videos designed to encourage deeper discipleship and equip churches to pursue their mission with greater impact. Good news! Grand Avenue now has a subscription to Amplify Media so that you can access the large library of teachings. To get started you must set up your Amplify profile by following the steps below:

1. Go to the website <https://my.amplifymedia.com/amplify>.
2. In the right upper corner of your screen, click on the icon of the person. A menu will drop down. Click on "Enter Access Code."
3. Type the access code, PGDYLB (in all caps) and then click the "Verify" button.
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5. Click on the "Start a Free Membership" button. You can now browse to see all of the resources that are available to you. Enjoy!