



Grand AveNews

March 2025

Lenten Luncheon and Worship ~ “I Am...”

Grand Avenue UMC is joining several area congregations for a time of worship and a light luncheon each Monday during Lent. The theme this year is “I Am...” In the Gospel of John, Jesus claims his divinity by using the phrase “I Am” seven times. (Each phrase is reminiscent of God’s self-revelation to Moses; when Moses’ asked God’s name, God responded, “I am.”) Jesus’ teachings join the phrase “I Am” to tremendous metaphors, expressing his saving relationship toward the world, and showing that he is everything we need.

Worship will begin each Monday at 12:05 pm with music being provided by the host church and a homily being delivered by one of the other pastors. A light lunch of soup, salad, and sandwiches will be served at 12:35. There is no charge for the luncheon, but donations will be taken to support “Project Hope” which helps each of our congregations feed the hungry in our community all through the year. You are invited to join us for any or all of the following times of faith and fellowship:

March 10 @ Westminster Presbyterian Church
JJ Galloway will preach on “I Am the True Vine”

March 17 @ First United Methodist Church
Mark Nabors will preach on “I Am the Bread of Life”

March 24 @ St. Luke’s Episcopal Church
Chip Hatcher will preach on “I Am the Light of the World”

March 31 @ Oaklawn United Methodist Church
Leslie Roper will preach on “I am the Door.”

April 7 @ First Presbyterian Church
David Fleming will preach on “I Am the Good Shepherd”

April 14 @ Grand Avenue United Methodist Church
Gail Brooks will preach on “I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life”

As we plan to host during Holy Week, Jane Oliver is once again coordinating our efforts in the kitchen. We will serve creamy tomato basil soup with chips and a variety of sandwiches. We need people who will provide sandwiches as well as others who will set and decorate tables, serve soup and drinks, and clean up after the meal. If you are available to help, you may sign up after worship on Sunday or call the church office at 501-623-5626.

The Spiritual Discipline of Fasting

In his continuing focus on teaching spiritual disciplines Pastor David will offer a workshop on “Fasting” Tuesday, March 25 at 10:30. There is a strong biblical basis for fasting, particularly during the 40 days of Lent leading to the celebration of Easter. Fasting has also been a part of Methodism from its early beginnings. For more information, phone (501)623-5626.

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Building Faith,
Bringing Hope,
Reaching Out in
love

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

Welcome New Members!

Chuck and Barbara Burke – Chuck was born in Tampa, Florida, but raised in Baltimore, Maryland where he graduated from high school. Following high school he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, and went on to earn a Doctor’s degree in Physiology at Penn State University.

Chuck has worked in health care for 44 years. His first position was as a respiratory therapist. He did post-doctoral work in pulmonary diseases at the University of Minnesota. Chuck served on the faculty of Indiana University, was the Program Director for Respiratory Therapy at Mid-Western State University, and worked as the team leader for clinical applications at GE Healthcare. Now that Chuck lives in Hot Springs he works at National Park College in the Sciences Department. He also works at Saline Memorial Hospital.

Chuck met Barbara in Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania. On September 26 they will celebrate their 44th anniversary. They have three children – Jaclyn will graduate from Veterinary School this semester. Jessica sells insurance in Wichita Falls, Texas. Billy is a cabinet maker in Wichita Falls. The Burkes have two grandchildren.

Chuck’s hobbies include gardening and hiking. He would also like to do more fishing.

Chuck and Barbara have always enjoyed United Methodist fellowship. They have found the spirit at Grand Avenue to be very welcoming.

Barbara was born in Culpville, Pennsylvania, but was raised in Bloomsburg. She earned a Bachelor’s degree in Education and a Master’s Degree in Reading. She taught for seven years in Bloomsburg, ran a United Methodist Christian pre-school in Brownsburg, Indiana, and has taught for 29 years in Wichita Falls, Texas. She plans to retire in May 2025.

Barbara is an avid reader. She uses Kindle Unlimited to read and was notified that she was in the top 7 percent of Kindle readers. She also enjoys hiking and Jet Skiing.

We welcome the Burkes to Grand Avenue!

Joey Wuichet – Joey was born and raised in Hot Springs. She graduated from Hot Springs High School in 1985 and enrolled in Beauty School following graduation. She married and the couple owned their own business, Garland Superstop Convenience Store, in Hot Springs.

Joey has one son and two grandchildren (an 8 year old grandson and a 1 year old granddaughter).

Joey’s hobbies are quilting, Facebook, and flower gardening.

Joey previously attended Grand Avenue with her family and became a member in 1992. Years later she left to join Piney UMC. Welcome back to GAUMC, Joey!



Barbara & Chuck Burke with
Pastor David Fleming



Pastor David Fleming, Joey Wuichet, and
Jim Morrissey

Catherine Stallard – Catherine was born and raised in DeQueen, Arkansas and graduated from DeQueen High School in 1972. After high school she earned a master’s degree in Social Work from UALR and has worked in Texas, Missouri, and Arkansas in community mental health. She currently works at a clinic in DeQueen.

Catherine is married. Her husband is a retired truck driver.

She rarely has time for hobbies but does belong to a book club.

Catherine had always loved Methodist Bible School. She was recently a member of Gardner UMC until they closed. We now welcome her to GAUMC!



Quapaw Entrance Upgrade

You may have noticed that we have a new roof on the Quapaw entrance. The building project is complete except for staining the treated wood and adding gutters. The final steps will have to wait until the wood is cured, which is usually a few months.

Thank you, Joe Peters and the Trustees for this improvement to our campus.

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 \$15.00. Make checks payable to Grand Avenue UMC. Please place your order by April 14.

_____ In honor of _____

_____ In memory of _____

Given by: _____

_____ Cash _____ Check _____ Amt. Paid



God With Us

Sometimes, just like a weather vane
Without a steady wind,
We find ourselves directionless,
Alone without a friend.



Becalmed, without a guiding force,
Our lives can seem to stall.
Our hopes for something meaningful
Can shrink to very small.

Who can we look to for support
What e'er the future brings?
Who cares so much that they'll become
The wind beneath our wings?

If lost or losing just recall
The ancient Scriptures tell
You need not ever feel alone—
We have Emmanuel.

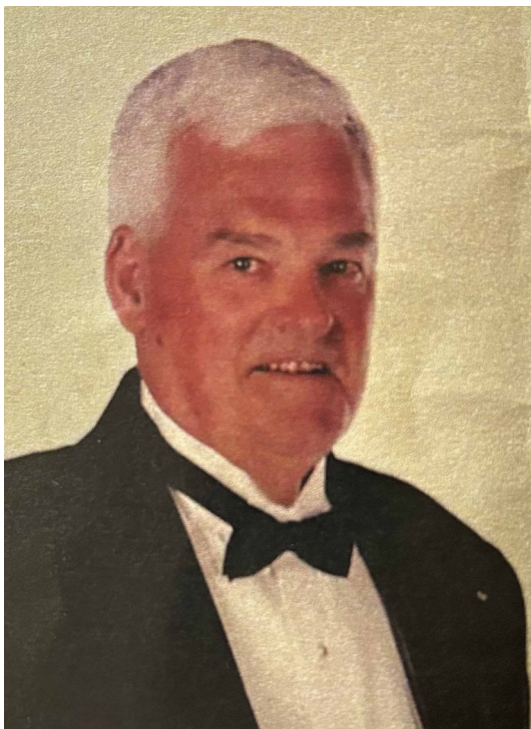
Steve Jennings

Habitat for Humanity

GAUMC has had a relationship with Habitat for Humanity in Hot Springs for many years. According to the mission statement, "Habitat for Humanity works in partnership with God and people everywhere, from all walks of life, to develop communities with people in need by building and renovating houses so there are decent houses in decent communities in which every person can experience God's love and can live and grow in all that God intends." The GAUMC Mission Outreach Team supports our local Habitat for Humanity organization in 3 different ways:

1. Provide snacks, conversation, and prayers once a month on site with the local builders working on a new home.
2. Present new homeowners with a \$200 gift certificate from Lowe's at the dedication of their new home, averaging 5-6 per year.
3. Contribute \$1,000 toward each Faith Build, a once-a-year home build supported by churches in Hot Springs with financial contribution, other donations, and work hours of church members.

Morris Coston Honored by University of Arkansas Army ROTC



Lieutenant Colonel Morris Coston

On March 7 Morris Coston was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the University of Arkansas Army ROTC Razorback Battalion. Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Morris Coston graduated from the University of Arkansas and was commissioned through the ROTC program in 1961. He also graduated from the University of Arkansas with a M.S. in Mathematics in 1972. He served 20 years as an infantry officer, completing two combat tours in Vietnam and two tours in Germany. He served in various Command and Staff positions from Company to Corps, including command of the Army's ceremonial unit in Washington, D.C., the 3D Infantry (The Old Guard).

LTC Coston's awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. He was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge and Parachutist Badge.

Following his military service, he dedicated another 25 years as an educator teaching high school math and physics in Hot Springs. Now fully retired, he remains a respected mentor and leader in his church and community. He and his wife, Shari, are proud grandparents of 10 grandchildren.

Congratulations, Morris, on your induction into the Hall of Fame!

From our Friends at Area Agency on Aging



AREA
AGENCY ON AGING
OF WEST CENTRAL ARKANSAS

Area Agency on Aging announces the opening of Hot Springs Senior Adult Center. The Center will be open on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. The temporary location for the Center is at Union Missionary Baptist Church, 219 Gulpha Street in Hot Springs. Their phone number is 501-431-2850.

The Center will serve a hot lunch beginning at 11:30 on the days it is open. In addition, dominoes, cards, and other games will be available for entertainment. Also Kathy Packard from Oaklawn Center on Aging will offer Ageless Grace Tai Chi.

Dear Pastor and Members,

On behalf of the Hot Springs School District, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks for your generous support of our welcome/resource center, families, and students. Your commitment to helping provide essential necessities for these students and families has had an immeasurable impact on their lives.

Through your thoughtful donations, we have been able to offer crucial items such as clothing, toiletries, and laundry supplies, which not only meet their immediate needs, but also provides a sense of dignity and stability. Your contribution goes beyond just material support - it provides hope and encouragement to students and families who are experiencing hardship.

It is through the compassion and generosity of community partners like you that we can continue to support and uplift all of our students, regardless of their circumstances. We are deeply grateful for your partnership in making a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing generosity and commitment to making our community better, one student at a time. We look forward to our continued partnership in serving the students and families of the Hot Springs School District.

Warm regards,

Korri Holder, Welcome Center Coordinator

Dear Grand Avenue,

We at Potter's Clay give thanks for you because you care. We are so grateful for you and all that you do for our ministry at Potter's Clay. We are blessed by your support toward our mission to help women and children in crisis situations. Thank you so much!

Sincerely

Patience Brakebill

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



Grand Avenue
United Methodist Church
841 Quapaw Avenue
Hot Springs, Arkansas 71901

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Hot Springs, AR 71901
Permit No. 170

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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Holy Week at Grand Avenue

Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025

In-person Worship at 8:30 and 10:45 am
Online Worship on Facebook and YouTube

Thursday, April 17, 2025

Maundy Thursday Service at 6:30
Holy Communion

Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025

In-person Worship at 8:30 and 10:45 am
Online Worship on Facebook and YouTube