



# Grand AveNews

October, 2021

## Join us for Commitment Sunday & Celebration Lunch Sunday, October 24 at 10:45 a.m.

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Dear Members and Friends,

Sunday, October 24 is our congregation's *Commitment Sunday*. I urge you to plan now to participate in two important events:

- **Commitment Sunday morning worship** — Whether you worship with us in person or online you will be blessed as Reverend Ann Ferris, Superintendent of the Southwest District UMC serves as our guest preacher.
- **Celebration Luncheon** — Immediately following worship that same day, we will offer a celebration luncheon catered by *Bubba's Catfish* with boxed lunches to take away. The menu includes fish, chicken, and all the trimmings. Those who worship with us in-person will pick up their lunch as they leave the sanctuary; others may drive by the Quapaw entrance to leave their commitment card and pick up their meal between 11:45 a.m.—12:45 p.m.

This spiritual-growth-oriented process is designed to enrich our biblical understanding of Christian stewardship. Rather than focusing on the need of the church to receive, the experience concentrates on the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development.

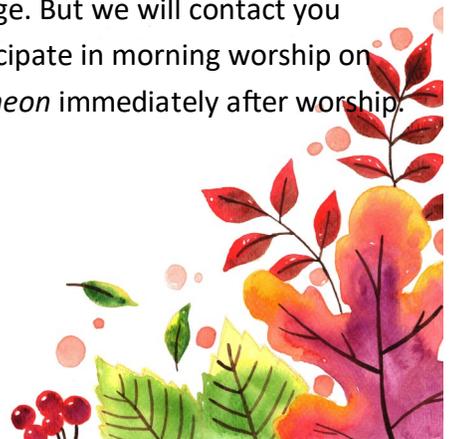
We believe that you care enough to participate on *Commitment Sunday* and make your commitment of prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness as an act of worship.

No one will call on you at your home for a pledge. But we will contact you personally to secure your commitment to participate in morning worship on *Commitment Sunday* and the *Celebration Luncheon* immediately after worship.

Cordially,

Steve & Jackie Arrison  
Commitment Sunday Chairs

*Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, Witness*



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

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

# Children's In-Person Sunday School Resumes on October 10



Boys and Girls,

Mark your calendar...We are returning to in-person Sunday School on Sunday, October 10. We will meet in Mrs. Ellen's big classroom all together for a wonderful time learning about Jesus.

Get your mask and come on back to Sunday School at 9:45! We will be waiting on you! We can't wait to see you!

*Children's Sunday School Teachers*

## 2021 District-Wide Charge Conference

Your 2021 Administrative Council has completed the annual reports for 2021 Charge Conference. It will be held on November 7 at 3:00 pm via ZOOM. Anyone is welcome to watch this on-line District-wide Charge Conference, but you must register for the link by November 3 to watch the November 7 meeting. If you would like to register, please contact the church office to receive the link. Your 2021 Administrative Council leader-volunteers and our church staff members have faithfully worked on behalf of the congregation to keep our church "building faith, bringing hope, and reaching out in love" as effectively as possible. These past two years have demonstrated our ability to be *flexible*, be *innovative*, be *faithful*, and be *safe* for the life of our church. Grand Avenue UMC is doing quite well in spite of (and even because of) new challenges! Thanks be to God!

## Our GAUMC Endowment Fund

Last Wednesday, September 23, was the official first day of Autumn. Only 92 days until Christmas. But before we get to Christmas there is Halloween and Thanksgiving then Christmas and New Year. All in all a busy time for all of us. It would be good to take a little time to think about our church endowment fund before all of this starts. What have you done for the Endowment Fund this year? What do you plan on doing for the Endowment Fund before the year is out? Take a few minutes to consider these things. Your church Endowment Fund needs your support. As we get closer to Thanksgiving, think of what your church means to you. We all have certain things that our church means to us and we all have things that our church provides us to be thankful for. Count your blessings and please support your church Endowment Fund.

## United Methodist Outreach Thrift Store Needs Volunteers

The Outreach Thrift Store need volunteers to work! Workers sort, organize, and sell donated merchandise, and the proceeds provide food to families identified by AR Social Services and to support other local organizations. If you can work one or more shifts, please contact Becky Meadows at 501-282-9898. Shifts are as follows:

<b>Monday</b>	10:-00 to 2:00	<b>Thursday</b>	9:00 to 12:30 or 12:30 to 4:00
<b>Tuesday</b>	9:00 to 12:30 or 12:30 to 4:00	<b>Friday</b>	9:00 to 12:30 or 12:30 to 4:00
<b>Wednesday</b>	9:00 to 12:30 or 12:30 to 4:00	<b>Saturday</b>	10:00 to 2:00



**Outreach is collecting macaroni & cheese during the month of October.**

# Reaching Out in Love...

For about 18 months now, it's been a struggle to "reach out in love" the way Grand Avenue Church folks are used to doing. The dramatic changes that had to be made to Table of Grace are only symptomatic of the changes to almost every one of our 22 identified areas of ministry. And even though we as a country/state/county seem to be making some progress toward defeating (or at least controlling) Covid-19, it still is only safe to be in the indoor company of folks who we know are not potential carriers of the virus.

All of this has had many negative impacts on every one of us. Our sense of being a caring community is suffering both individually and corporately. When can we get back to doing those things to help others? Those acts of love were targeted at those needing help, but the ones that get the most out of giving of themselves are the givers!

Meanwhile, consider the plight of the caregiving organizations in our city who have not had the normal help of volunteers and donations of needed items as well as money! Imagine how hopeless they must feel by now considering the struggles the past year must have brought in their efforts to take care of those in need.

We don't know when we will be able to resume the in-person ministries that we so miss. However, we can still help them. There is much we can give that will supply their needs AND show them that Grand Avenue United Methodist Church is still here, ready and waiting to get "back to normal".

We keep baskets in our Fellowship Hall for you to use in making donations of needed items. Please read the list below of who needs what and pray for God's guidance in how you can help. Contributions may be items listed below that you place in the appropriate basket or cash donations (given to Chris and then forwarded by the church to the organization). Remember the directive of Jesus when He said, "Do unto others what you would want them to do for you". What would you hope for if you had nothing? If you have a donation and need someone to come pick it up, we will happily do that. Just call the church office and talk to Chris.

SOCIAL WELFARE ORGANIZATION	ITEMS NEEDED FOR RESIDENTS
<u><b>Adult and Teen Challenge of Arkansas</b></u> Residential recovery program for men with addictions	<b>Single Use Size, Travel Size, and Samples of Hygiene Items</b> (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant)
<b>Garland County Jail Ministry</b> Adult and Youth incarcerated for crime	<b>Paperback Books, Magazines, Devotion Material</b> <b>Stamped envelopes and stationary</b> <b>Large Print Bibles</b> (NKJ, NIV, or NASB) Must Have Soft-back Covers
<u><b>Ronald McDonald House Little Rock</b></u> Residential support for parents of children being treated at Arkansas Children's Hospital	<b>Aluminum Tabs from Drink &amp; Food Cans</b> (sold to recycle with proceeds going to maintain the house)
<u><b>Potter's Clay Residential Apartments</b></u> Residential apartments for women and children escaping violent living situations	<b>Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Laundry Detergent, Dryer Sheets, Dish Soap, Baby Wipes, Trash Bags</b>
<u><b>Ouachita Children, Youth, &amp; Family Services</b></u> Emergency shelter and respite care plus outreach programs, case management, and support services	<b>Toothbrush &amp; Toothpaste</b> <b>Lip Balm and Nail Clippers</b> <b>Hand Sanitizer and Wipes</b> <b>Granola Bars</b> <b>Bar Soap and Toiler Paper</b> <b>Paper Towels, Liquid Laundry Detergent</b> <b>Cleaning Products</b>



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Hot Springs, Arkansas 71901

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*We're Here to Serve You*

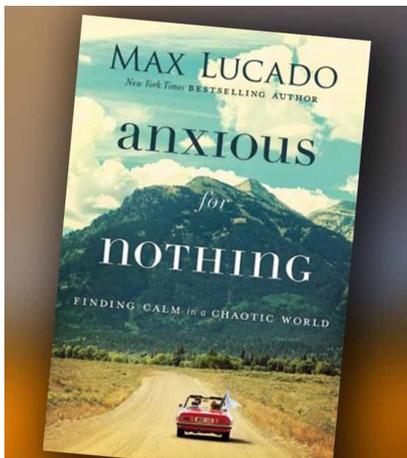
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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**



**NEW Study!**

***Anxious for Nothing*  
by Max Lucado**

**Led by Pastor David Fleming**

Americans are the most anxious people in the world. We take the most medication for it, see doctors to treat it, and spend fortunes trying to relieve it. How have we let our fears get the better of us? In *Anxious for Nothing*, Max Lucado leads readers to reflect on the promises of Philippians 4:4-8. This passage from Paul's epistle contains an antidote to anxiety that will help you develop a mindset of resilience. Rediscover the power of prayer and take control of your thoughts. You can rest in "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding.

**In Person — Tuesdays, October 19– November 16 @ 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall**

**Online — Tuesdays, October 19– November 16 @ 7:00 p.m. via Zoom**

**Call the church office 501-623-5626 to sign up for  
either in-person or online class**

**Study guides are available in the church office for \$10**