



# FIRST CONNECTION

A Publication of First United Methodist Church of Blue Springs

## PASTOR'S COLUMN

Hi Church!

Hope you're all doing well! I'm writing this from the passenger seat of the minivan I recently inherited from my grandfather in Florida. It's been sitting there for a few months now, but I knew I was going to a conference in Florida in January (hallelujah) and decided that I'd drive it back home after the conference. Makes sense, right? But let me tell you, it has been an adventure! We ran into all sorts of unexpected challenges, like an ice storm shutting down the highway for two hours, getting locked out of the car, and surviving off weird road-trip food. But, even with all of those bumps in the road, we're finally close to our destination.



And I share this because that's what our journey of faith is like, both personally and as a church community. It's like a road trip with challenges and obstacles along the way. But, with God's guidance and strength, we keep moving forward, one mile at a time. And, eventually, if we keep moving forward, we'll find ourselves far from where we started and close to our goal!

I'm reminded of this passage from Paul. "I'm not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don't get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I've got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back" (Philippians 3:12-14 MSG). I'm so grateful that we have a Savior who encourages us to keep going, even when times get tough. That's the kind of hope and peace that we can find in Jesus.

Anyway, just wanted to share these thoughts and remind us that we're in this together. Let's keep pressing on, and God will take care of the rest.

Warmly,

Chris

P.S. Is there some kind of dad club I get to join now that I have a minivan?



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## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Membership Class

The next Membership Class is scheduled for Sunday, February 5, at 12:15 p.m. in room 103.

Interested in learning more?

Register at: [bluespringsumc.org/membership](https://bluespringsumc.org/membership)



### Widows' Support Group

The Widows' Support Group will meet on Thursday, February 16, at Tacos 4 Life, 11:30 a.m., 1105 NW 7 Hwy, Blue Springs.

If you have questions or want to make a reservation, contact Joyce Maggard at 816-229-1300 or Carol Sartain at

### reStart Lunch

For many years, First UMC has committed to providing lunches for reStart on the third Sunday every other month.

reStart provides services to those at risk or experiencing homelessness in the Kansas City area.

Lunch menus can be as simple or as involved as you would like and can be delivered on the day before if Sunday morning is inconvenient.

Can your Small Group, friend group or family support reStart by preparing and delivering a Sunday lunch in 2023?

Available dates are:

- February 19
- April 16
- August 20
- December 17

Contact Patty Stock at [pattylea@gmail.com](mailto:pattylea@gmail.com) or 816-210-4840 to sign up or for additional information. Delivery assistance is available.



The **Power Praise Kids Musical** is scheduled for Saturday, April 29. Watch for more details as the date gets closer.

### Summer Camp Opportunities at First UMC Blue Springs

Are you dreaming of warm weather and looking for some fun options for your kiddos this summer? We have a couple different opportunities for you to check out. All of this information and registration links can be found at [bluespringsumc.org/summer-camp](https://bluespringsumc.org/summer-camp)

Eagle Lake Day Camp - July 17–21, 2023, Ages 6–13

Cost is \$150 (\$25 off if registered before February 28, 2023)

First UMC Mini Camp - July 17–21, Ages 3–5

Cost is \$150

## CHURCH CALENDAR

### Date

#### Sunday, February 5

Contemporary Service  
Traditional Service  
Membership Class

#### Tuesday, February 7

Pickleball

#### Wednesday, February 8

Men of Praise  
Impact Youth  
Creative Crafts

#### Thursday, February 9

Ruth Circle  
Pickleball

#### Friday, February 10

Adult Volleyball

#### Sunday, February 12

Contemporary Service  
Traditional Service

#### Tuesday, February 14

Pickleball

#### Wednesday, February 15

Men of Praise  
Impact Youth  
Creative Crafts

#### Thursday, February 16

Pickleball

#### Friday, February 17

Adult Volleyball

#### Sunday, February 19

Contemporary Service  
Traditional Service

#### Monday, February 20—Office Closed, President's Day

#### Tuesday, February 21

Leadership Council Meeting

### Time

9:00 a.m.  
11:00  
12:15 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

6:30 p.m.  
6:30  
7:00

10:15 a.m.  
7:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m.  
11:00

7:00 p.m.

6:30 p.m.  
6:30  
7:00

7:00 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

9:00 a.m.  
11:00

6:30 p.m.

### Location

Online/In Person  
Online/In Person  
103

Family Life Center

150  
014  
103

015  
Family Life Center

Family Life Center

Online/In Person  
Online/In Person

Family Life Center

150  
014  
103

Family Life Center

Family Life Center

Online/In Person  
Online/In Person

112

## GIVING AND ATTENDANCE

### January 8, 2023

<b>Giving:</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
One Fund	\$34,075	
YTD	\$34,075	\$4,227

#### Attendance:

Worship Attendance: 403

### January 15, 2023

<b>Giving:</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
One Fund	\$30,602	
YTD	\$64,677	\$40,201

#### Attendance:

Worship Attendance: 392

### January 22, 2023

<b>Giving:</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
One Fund	\$11,914	
YTD	\$76,591	\$59,799

#### Attendance:

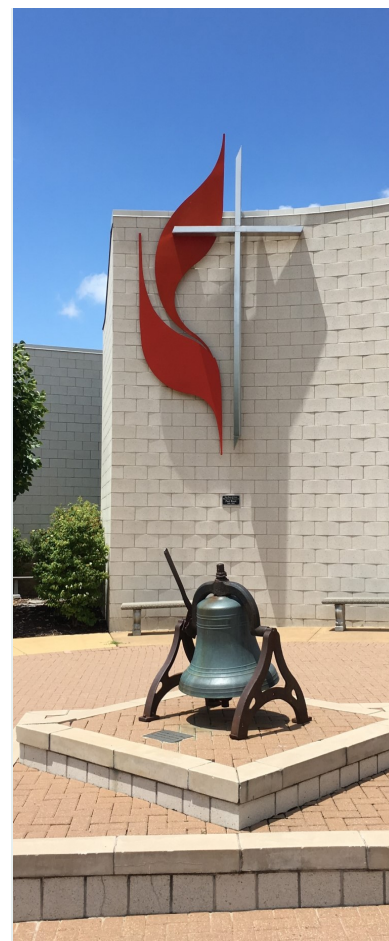
Worship Attendance: 391

### January 29, 2023

<b>Giving:</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
One Fund	\$9,427	
YTD	\$86,018	\$76,323

#### Attendance:

Worship Attendance: 381



We have online giving available 24/7 on our website. Follow this link to the church website giving page at

[bluespringsumc.org/give](https://bluespringsumc.org/give)

## WE'RE MEETING IN PERSON & ONLINE

Join us on Facebook, YouTube and the church website!

Watch for the Sunday morning reminder that includes links to join. If you're not getting these reminder emails, please call the church office to be added.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Ash Wednesday Services

**February 22**  
Drive-Thru Ashes from  
7-9 a.m.

Evening Service at 7 p.m.



### Pictorial Directories Have Arrived

Copies of the 2022 Pictorial Directory are available for pickup at the welcome desk in the lobby.

Feel free to stop by and get a copy. If you'd like a directory mailed to you, please call the church office at 816-229-8108.

### 150th Anniversary Book

If you haven't had the chance to purchase a commemorative, autographed book celebrating our 150 years—we still have some available.

This is a labor of love from Mike Freeman, a multigeneration member, who researched and wrote this book. Full of historical facts and pictures, this book will transport you back in time to our early days as a church being served by the circuit riders before Blue Springs, Missouri, was a city. You will discover a lot of the people that built the church as well as the people that sold us the land where we reside today.

Come by the welcome desk on Sunday or shoot us an email at [office@bluespringsumc.org](mailto:office@bluespringsumc.org) and purchase one today.



## A NOTE FROM LEADERSHIP COUNCIL CHAIR

It's a new year and there are awesome things happening within the church. First, over 800 people joined in-person or online for the Christmas worship services. The Christmas Eve offering once again was outstanding! We are able to send over \$64,000 to Water for Mozambique through your gifts. Also looking at positives concerning money, our 2022 budget ended the year with \$50,000 in the black. All of this good news helps us take steps toward our mission: We lead people to an active faith in Christ.

Hopefully you have been able to peek at the renovations being done in the building. The men's restroom by the lobby is completed and the women's restroom is being updated now. The room across the restrooms also is being prepped to transform into the cafe. Check out the progress the next time you are in the building!

Liz Mueller



## MISSIONS NEWS

### February Mission Project

In February, First Church is collecting twin-sized bedding for the Blue Springs chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace ([shpbeds.org](http://shpbeds.org)) to help children who are in need.

They believe that a bed is a basic need for the proper physical, emotional, and mental support of a child. All children deserve a safe, comfortable place to lay their heads. Many boys and girls go without a bed – or even a pillow – to sleep on. These children end up sleeping on couches, blankets, and even floors. This can affect their happiness and health.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace is a group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need. The beds that they build need bedding to go with them. SHP is in desperate need of twin-sized comforter sets. They also will use twin-sized sheets and pillows.

You can purchase these items and place them in the bin in the church lobby on Sunday or you can order them from an Amazon Wish List at [bluespringsumc.org/shp](http://bluespringsumc.org/shp)

Your order will be delivered to the church.

### Serve Day

Thank you to everyone who served on January 21. It was a great day with 53 servants going to 6 worksites. Teams sorted donations for the homeless at Uplift, assembled 50 Healthy Meal Kits for Harvesters and 109 Birthday Party Kits for Hillcrest Transitional Housing, cleaned the office at Community Services League Blue Springs and the yard of a couple of church members, and created cards of encouragement for some of our neighbors in need.

Serve Day is a fun and meaningful way to work together in families, small groups, and as a church to serve our community. Ashley Pollard said, “We had a great time serving together. My daughter, Harper, said, ‘This was so much fun!’”

There is another Serve Day tentatively scheduled for May 6, 2023. Save the date!



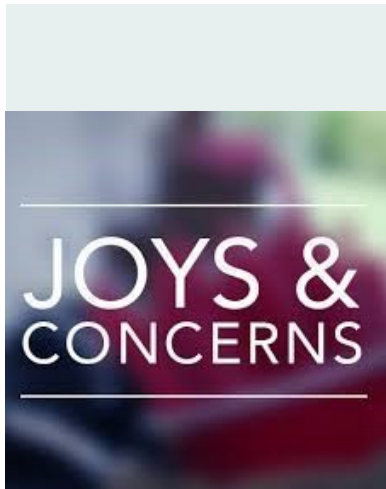
### SERVICE IN OUR COMMUNITY

First UMC Blue Springs has set a goal to serve our community for 10,000 in five years. We started in January, 2021.

Our total number of hours at the end of our second year, 2022, is 4,711. At this rate, we will meet our goal a year ahead of schedule!! Way to go, church!

If your Small Group, Sunday School Class or other church group serves in the Blue Springs/Kansas City area, we would love to include it in our total.

Please report your hours to Brooke Roskop, [broskop@bluespringsumc.org](mailto:broskop@bluespringsumc.org) or 816-229-8108.



## JOYS AND CONCERNS

### HEALTH CONCERNS

Matt Baker	John Bragg	Marti Dietrich
Teresa Eskew	Debbie Fleetwood	Venita Gilkey
Linda Hinkle	Vern Hinkle	Evelyn Julian
Vicki Kerr	Sharon McMullin	Linda Platt
Gloria Rose	Ron Simmons	Evelyn Schwenke

Brian Griffiths' parents  
Elizabeth Garber, per Nancy Baker  
Eugene Welch, per Jo Perrin  
Linda Nevels, per Joe Tabler  
Marsha Dorell, Glenda King's sister  
Michael Holliger, Jackie Holliger's son  
Randy Porter, Jackie Holliger's son-in law  
Richard Wallace, per Jo Perrin  
Sharon Swafford, Glenda King's sister  
Stella Henry, per Kay McCormick  
Teresa, friend of Glenda King

### SYMPATHY

To the friends and family of Linda Day, who passed away on January 6.

To Barbara Landes and family on the passing of her husband, Chet Landes, on January 22.

To the friends and family of Pearl Wilkinson, who passed away on January 25.

To Mike Adams on the passing of his mother, Mildred Adams, on January 26. The funeral will be held on February 4 in Iowa.

To Patty Grasinski on the passing of her cousin, Don Terry, who passed away in Florida.

### JOYS

To Miles and Lindsey McGhee on the baptism of their son, Cole, on January 22.

## NEXTGEN NEWS

### First Kids – February Themes

This month in Early Childhood, we'll be talking about: Doing extra-special things to show people how much we love them. One sweet way to do that has always been with candy hearts. Jesus didn't have a candy heart; instead he showed us love by action. Everything he did while He was on earth was to show us how much He loves us. This is why our bottom line this month is : Jesus Loves Me.



In Elementary we are talking about the connection between respect and God's character, through God's big story. Valuing others and having mutual respect is seen throughout Scripture and is a necessary way to communicate with others and demonstrate God's love. We will learn *All* people have value because they

were created in God's image, that God values us and wants a forever relationship with us and that God sent Jesus to make that possible.

We will spend all month memorizing Luke 6:31 "Do To Others As You Want Them to Do to You."

We'll see you Sundays from 9—10 a.m. in First Kids!

Hey First Kids - join us on February 12 at 9 a.m. for a fun activity and a little breakfast in honor of the Super Bowl.

P.S. - Feel free to wear your favorite Team colors!!!



### Impact Youth

We are continuing our series, "Never Give Up," this month. We are continuing to encourage them to know that God doesn't give up on them and doesn't want them to give up on themselves or others.

Upcoming Events—

February 8 - Serve Night

February 15 - Game Night

February 17—Youth Lock-in

February 22 - Ash Wednesday



# FIRST KIDS



**STAY CONNECTED WITH NEXTGEN**  
If you have a child or youth, be sure you're connected with us to find out what's happening in First Kids and Impact Youth.

### Facebook Groups

#### First Kids Facebook Group:

[Family First Kids Facebook Group](#)

#### Impact Youth Facebook Group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/FUMCBSYouth>

### Remind Texts

Download the Remind App, then input the following code:

\*Early Childhood (Birth-PreK):

fk9dkc

\*Elementary (K-5th Grade):

eh2edk

\*Impact Youth (6th-12th Grade):

fcehfgg

\*Impact Youth Parents:

fcehfgg





**FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH**  
BLUE SPRINGS

301 SW Woods Chapel Rd  
Blue Springs, MO 64015

Our Mission:

*Our Mission: We lead people to  
an active faith in Christ.*

Pastors

Rev. Chris Abel

[cabel@bluespringsumc.org](mailto:cabel@bluespringsumc.org)

Pastor John Howard

[jhoward@bluespringsumc.org](mailto:jhoward@bluespringsumc.org)

Worship

In person and online

Sunday—9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Office Hours

8:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Monday-Thursday

8:00 a.m.—noon Friday

Church Office: (816) 229-8108

Church fax: (816) 229-6705

Email

[office@bluespringsumc.org](mailto:office@bluespringsumc.org)

Learning Ladder Preschool

(816) 229-9949

Church Website

[www.bluespringsumc.org](http://www.bluespringsumc.org)

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Blue Springs UMC



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## FEBRUARY SERMON SERIES

Are you ready to dive into some real talk about relationships?

This three-week series is all about identifying "red flags" in ourselves and our connections with others. We'll be diving into the Bible for some wisdom on how to make our relationships thrive by looking at the life of Samson and learning how to avoid negative traits like selfishness, anger, and deception.

Whether you're single or in a relationship, we all can benefit from being able to spot red flags.

Join us beginning February 5!

