



FIRST CONNECTION

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Hey Church!

Did you know that before there were lightbulbs or movies or Coca-Cola or telephones ... our church was meeting. Since 1872, we've been gathering as followers of Jesus—150 years as a community of faith—and during that time, we've been through two pandemics, both world wars, multiple meeting times and buildings, different styles of worship, and different ways of doing communion. I mean, I'm not one for dramatics, but that's pretty incredible!



And yet, one of the challenges of passing on this legacy is having someone to pass it on TO. And for that to happen, we have to be a church that continues to reach new people and new families. This challenge isn't unique to us, but is the challenge ahead of most of the churches in our country!

Luckily, the Bible is full of inspiration and guidance about how we can be a community that's faith-forward. One particular story I find encouragement from is the story of Nehemiah. He moved to Jerusalem at a time when the city and country had been destroyed. The city (and walls) had been in disrepair for decades, people had forgotten their faith story, and the future looked bleak. But Nehemiah rallied his people to rebuild ... a wall.

That's right. His big dream was just some wall.

But a wall meant so much more than just bricks. It represented safety. Longevity. Possibility. And once that wall around the city was fixed, things began to change. People began moving back into the city, morale grew, and their faith grew stronger than it had been in decades. All because of ... a wall.

Sometimes walls can have a huge impact. And while cities no longer need walls like they did back then, physical spaces can have an impact that's more than just materials they are made of.

That's why our Leadership Council has been dreaming and planning to fix some "walls" of ours that need repairs as well. A few things have jumped out to us that would make a huge impact for our church!

Our "Broken Walls"

1. **Visibility** - Very few people know where our church is! Some improved signage and exterior improvements would let people know First United Methodist Church is here.
2. **First Impressions** - Our lobby has stains and a lack of seating and gathering space. We'd love to make a better first impression for new people attending our church!
3. **Kids Ministry** - in the 20+ years since we built our space, church has evolved from "Sunday school" classrooms to "Kids ministry" space. We'd love to create an eye-catching and breathtaking space to tell our kids how important they are to us.

How are we going to tackle these projects? Well, one brick at a time :)

We'll be sharing more details in the months ahead, but I'm just really excited that we're dreaming about what could be. For 150 years that's been our DNA and I'm glad I get to experience it with you. More to come later this summer!

Chris



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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.

Pastor John Howard

Pastor John Howard will be our new associate pastor beginning in July and we're really excited for you to meet him and his wife, Martha. If you'd like to send him a welcome note, his church email is JHoward@bluespringsumc.org!



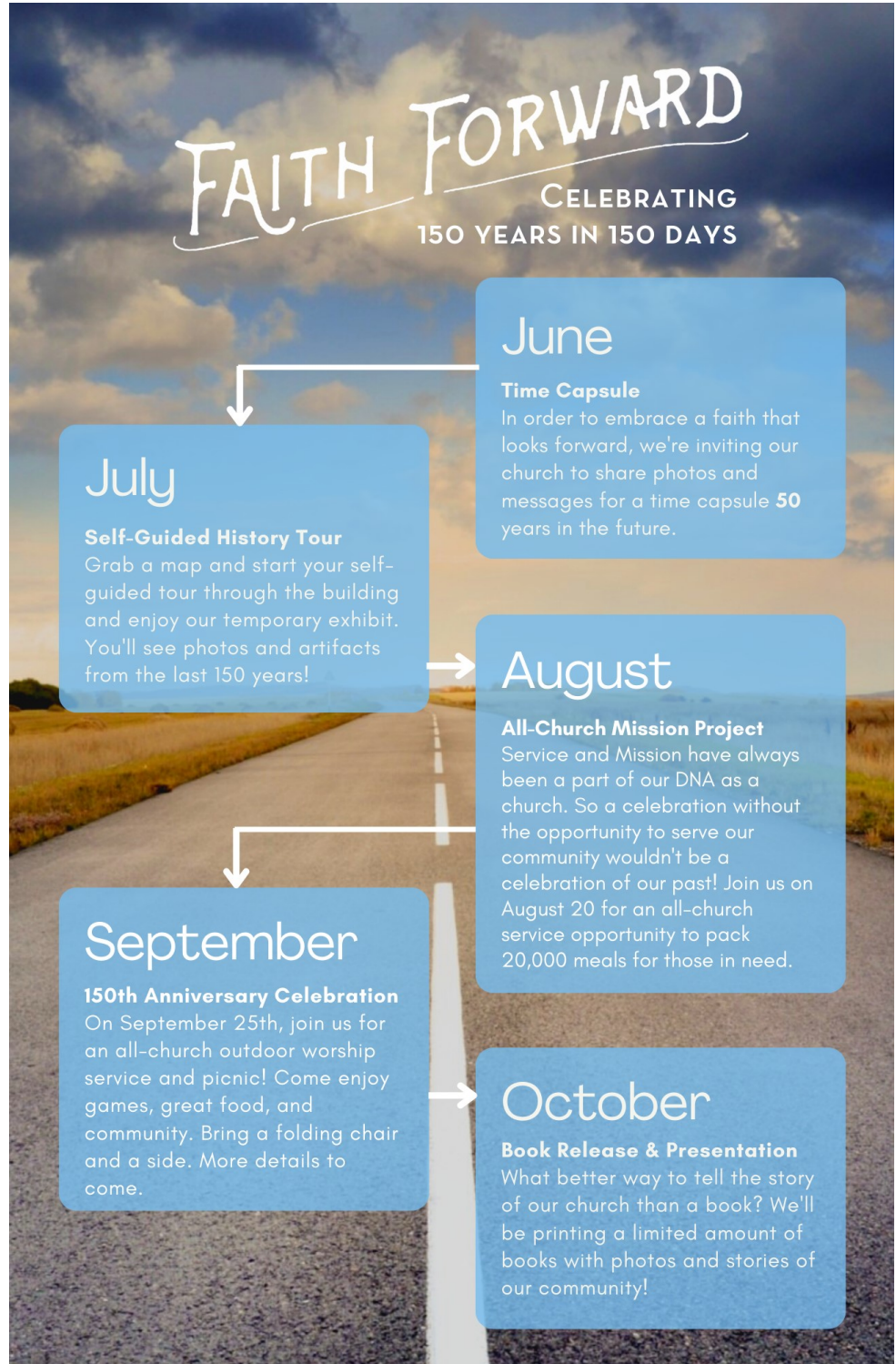
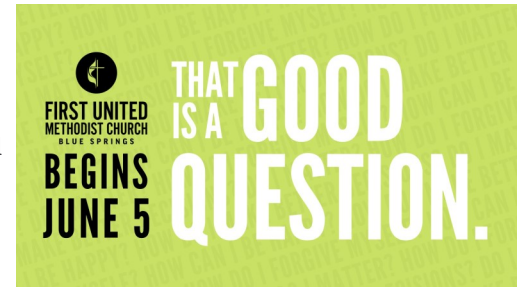
John Howard

ANNOUNCEMENTS

June Sermon Series

Good Question

This sermons series is looking at good questions that all people have about life and faith. Each week we'll ask and answer a good question through the lens of the Bible.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Conference

A Church Conference has been scheduled for Sunday, June 19, at 10:15 a.m. in the sanctuary. The sole purpose of this Church Conference is to elect the new Leadership Council whose term will begin on July 1, 2022.

Class of 2023	Class of 2024	Class of 2025
Ronda Brewer	Lydia Kaume	Teresa Eskew
Brian Griffiths	Liz Mueller (chair)	TBD
Matt Guthrie	Bill Wickham	Jim Meyer

First UMC Guide Book & Directory

Membership Information Update ...

Does our church have the most current information for you and your family?

Here is your chance to update your record for our annual Guide Book & Directory.

If you have moved, disconnected your landline, or changed your email address, we'd love to know so that we can publish the most current information. Please contact the church office by email at office@bluespringsumc.org or call us at 816-229-8108.

MISSIONS NEWS

Youth Mission Trip

The Youth Mission Team will be traveling to Lake Traverse, SD, the week of June 26 through July 1. They will be doing minor home repairs, painting, and helping at a children's day camp. They will also be meeting new people and experiencing new things.

Please pray for the team to have a fun, meaningful, and safe trip.

Youth Mission Trip Stock Sales

The Youth Mission Trip Team would like to say thank you to everyone who purchased stock! By becoming a stockholder and investing in middle school and high school students, you are helping them experience their faith in a new way. They will be exposed to new cultures, new skills, and new people.

The team members look forward to telling you all about their trip and serving a meal at the Stockholders Celebration on July 24, 2022.

If you would like to support this group of students by purchasing stock, you can do so via cash or check delivered to the office or online at www.bluespringsumc.org/stocks.

Hygiene Kits

Thank you all SO much for your hygiene drive donations! Once again, First UMC has been incredibly generous. We collected 678 individual items. That will complete 75 hygiene kits and the extra stuff will go to our pantry, CSL and Hillcrest!

The Hearts and Hands Women's Group will be assembling the kits in June.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Creative Crafts

Creative Crafts has become a tradition over the past 30 years at First UMC!

What began as a Quilters Workshop with teachers and students evolved into creating premie hats and layettes for local hospitals and charities. About 20 years ago, the Prayer Shawl Ministry was begun, and countless beautiful, blessed shawls have been given to our families, friends, neighbors, and strangers. Every Wednesday this fellowship includes those who enjoy hand crafting: knitting, crocheting, embroidery, quilting, and conversation.

If you would like to make (or learn to make) Prayer Shawls, spend time on a current or new project, or visit with friends, please join us every Wednesday, 7 p.m., in room 103. Feel free to contact Gwen Wheeler at 816-213-0598.

Minicamp

We are BACK for a fun-filled week July 11 - 15, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., of Bible stories/games/fellowship and a few surprises. If you have children or know of children ages 3 (must be 3 by March 31) - 5 years old, you are NOT going to want to miss this opportunity. Cost is \$150 and spaces are very limited.

Register now at

bluespringsumc.org/minicamp.



Summer Camp

We are currently looking for help in the following ways:

DAY CAMP ON LOCATION

at: **First UMC
Blue Springs**

JULY 11-15

Give your kids the BEST week of their summer!



Host Homes - We are in need of host homes. The Eagle Lake counselors travel for up to 12 weeks during the summer and part of our camp host opportunities are to be able to open our homes to these young adults for a week. Please go to bluespringsumc.org/camp for more information or contact Kristi at kharris@bluespringsumc.org.

Scholarships - Our church has made the financial commitment to help offset some of the camp costs and/or support any child that wants to go to camp but can't afford it. These scholarships range from a partial \$50 for each child and sometimes a complete scholarship of \$125. Your gift of financial support would be greatly appreciated and can be sent via mail/offering plate/or electronic giving at bluespringsumc.org/give (make sure you specify CAMP).

Serve Volunteers - Interested in helping the week of camp - either behind the scenes or on the property? There are too many opportunities to list right here.

Go to bluespringsumc.org/camp for more information.

Widows' Support Group

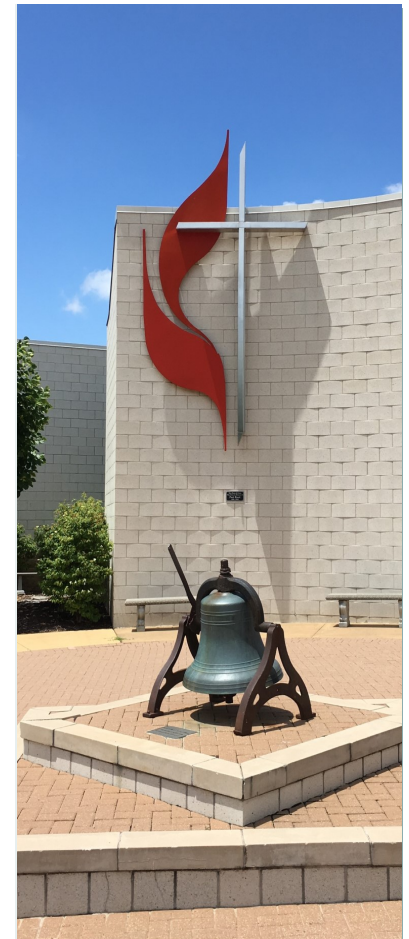
The Widows' Support Group will meet on Thursday, June 16, at 11:30 a.m., Hawaiian Bros, 800 NE Coronado, Blue Springs.

If you have questions or want to make a reservation, contact Joyce Maggard at 816-229-1300 or Carol Sartain at 816-229-9753.



CHURCH CALENDAR

Date	Time	Location
Sunday, June 5		
Contemporary Worship	9:00 a.m.	Online/In Person
Traditional Worship	11:00	Online/In Person
Tuesday, June 7		
Pickleball	7:00 p.m.	Gym
Wednesday, June 8		
Impact Youth Group	6:30 p.m.	014
Men of Praise	6:30	150
Creative Crafts	7:00	103
Thursday, June 9		
Back Fence Bible Study	10:00 a.m.	100
Ruth Circle	10:30	015
Pickleball	7:00 p.m.	Gym
Friday, June 10		
Adult Volleyball	7:00 p.m.	Gym
Sunday, June 12		
Contemporary Worship	9:00 a.m.	Online/In Person
Traditional Worship	11:00	Online/In Person
Monday, June 13		
Leadership Council Meeting	6:00 p.m.	117
Tuesday, June 14		
Pickleball	7:00 p.m.	Gym
Wednesday, June 15		
Impact Youth Group	6:30 p.m.	014
Men of Praise	6:30	150
Creative Crafts	7:00	103
Thursday, June 16		
Back Fence Bible Study	10:00 a.m.	100
Pickleball	7:00 p.m.	Gym
Friday, June 17		
Adult Volleyball	7:00 p.m.	Gym
Sunday, June 19		
Contemporary Worship	9:00 a.m.	Online/In Person
Traditional Worship	11:00	Online/In Person



GIVING AND ATTENDANCE

May 1, 2022			May 8, 2022		
Giving:	2022	2021	Giving:	2022	2021
One Fund	\$9,857		One Fund	\$19,534	
YTD	\$344,704	\$345,879	YTD	\$364,238	\$361,706
Attendance:			Attendance:		
Worship Attendance: 411			Worship Attendance: 349		
May 15, 2022			May 22, 2022		
Giving:	2022	2021	Giving:	2022	2021
One Fund	\$18,779		One Fund	\$12,818	
YTD	\$383,017	\$369,065	YTD	\$395,838	\$390,146
Attendance:			Attendance:		
Worship Attendance: 347			Worship Attendance: 324		

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

bluespringsumc.org/give



JOYS AND CONCERNS

HEALTH CONCERNS

Marti Dietrich	Linda Hinkle	Vern Hinkle
Vicki Kerr	Marty Kniffen	Sharon McMullin
Patrick Moore	Gloria Rose	Jane Savage
Judy Vaughn	Karen Zymball	

Carol Bueker, per Evelyn Schwenke
Charlie Atkin, per Kathy Bozarth
Dee Dye, Kathy Bozarth's brother
Kayla, Cheryl Duncan's daughter
Kayla Gunn, per Carol Jo Lenning
Landon Drake, per Jo Brown
Lenora Beamgard, Ron Balcom's sister
Marsha Durwell, Glenda King's sister
Mike Benecourt, per Jo Brown
Rick Mariano, per Virginia Kernes
Rose Griffiths, Brian Griffiths' mother
Sue Watts, Tonya Dallas' mother
Tessa Burns, Linda Redwine's daughter
Tharen Jorgenson, Don and Bonnie Jorgenson's son
Suzanne Rutten, Sheri Rutten's sister-in-law

SYMPATHY

To Allen and Darlene Mobley on the passing of Darlene's brother, Ronnie Hansman, on May 12.

To Donna Karst on the passing of her husband, Ron Karst, on May 13.

To Janice Patillo and family on the passing of her father.

To the friends and family of Thomas Board, who passed away on May 21.

JOYS

To Fred and Roma Troxel on the birth of a great-grandson, Ryan Arrow Grubb, on May 1.

To our six new members who joined First UMC on May 15: Diane McMillian, Brian and Jenny Hidy, Ray and Ashley Pollard, Haley Martin.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Spring Blood Drive. We were able to collect 24 units during this critical shortage. A special thanks to Carol Orndorff who donated her 100th unit during our drive!

The Mizpah Class has made the decision to no longer host these blood drives in the future. If you or your small group would like to host this important event, please let the church office know.

Dear First UMC Scholarship Committee,
Thank you so much for accepting my scholarship application. I promise to use the money I've received to further my education and make the church proud.

Sincerely,
Trent Higgins

Dear United Methodist Men,
Thank you so much for the scholarship opportunity this year. It will help me tremendously when it comes to furthering my education. Thank you all again and God bless.

Sincerely,
Cogan Davis

NEXTGEN NEWS

First Kids

Early Childhood friends—Have you ever seen the commercial where one person does something kind? Then, a person who witnesses this kindness is motivated to do something kind, followed by another person seeing this kindness who feels moved to also be kind. It's not just in commercials. It's in real life, too. Waves of generosity. Lives changed. And, it all begins with one act of kindness. During the next two months, we are going to be teaching our preschoolers that they, too, can Make Waves when they choose kindness—as well as love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Most importantly, we want them to know that Jesus is there to help them choose these things. Because when Jesus is my friend forever, Jesus can help me do everything!

Elementary friends—This month is all about Making Waves as we explore the memory verse from Galatians 5:22-23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” We were created in God’s image. God sent Jesus to show us the best way to be human. But God knew we’d need help. That’s why God sent us the Holy Spirit. With the power of the Spirit, we can produce fruit that points others to Jesus. Every month, kids discover something about God’s character and how they can reflect or respond to that character because they are created in God’s image. This summer we’ll be teaching our kids that what you do today can change the world around you.

See you Sundays at 9 a.m. this summer!

Impact Youth

This summer will be fun in Impact Youth!

HIGH SCHOOLERS! Check this out. We’re going to be having a Sunday morning hangout just for you. Have you ever had questions about your faith or the Bible or wondering how to go deeper with your faith? This is the place for you! Join us Sunday mornings from 10:30-12 as we not only answer your questions, but give you the tools to help you develop your own thoughts. We’ll see you in the youth room starting June 5. This is for high schoolers - including those who will be entering 9th grade starting in fall 2022.

Both Middle and High-Schoolers, join us Wednesday nights in June from 6:30-8 p.m. in June! We’ll be hanging out, playing games, eating, and studying the Bible. Invite a friend, too!

LET’S GET SOCIAL!

Are you looking for a chance to connect with other people in our church community? You’re invited to host or participate in a “summer social”—a short-term, interest-based gathering this summer. It could be anything! Bike riding, board games, movies ... whatever fun, social activity that your heart desires!

To host or sign up for an activity, visit www.bluespringsumc.org/summersocials.



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):

fcehfeg

*Impact Youth Parents:

fcehfeg

Monthly Parent Connect

Email: To join the monthly Parent Connect email, contact Rev. Mona, NextGen Pastor
(mcandea@bluespringsumc.org)



**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

Pastor Andrew Nelson
anelson@bluespringsumc.org

NextGen Pastor
Rev. Mona Candea
mcandea@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

Learning Ladder Preschool
(816) 229-9949

Church Website

www.bluespringsumc.org

Like us on Facebook:
Blue Springs UMC



Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

Blue Springs, Mo 64015

Permit No. 21

Address Service Requested

Pastor Andrew's Farewell Gathering

Please join us at 10 a.m. on Sunday, June 5, in the Worship Courtyard (just outside of the sanctuary) to offer Andrew and Tara best wishes as they move to Texas and begin the next chapter in their journey together.

Pastor Andrew's last Sunday with us will be Sunday, June 12.

He will be preaching that day.

