



FIRST CONNECTION

A Publication of First United Methodist Church of Blue Springs

PASTOR'S COLUMN

Dear Church,

A couple weeks ago Beth, August, and I moved into a new townhouse—seven houses away from our current one. We packed up our belongings, scheduled movers, and cleaned an entire house ... all to move down the block. Why would we go to all this effort? The answer is simple: We decided we needed an extra bedroom. All that work for a single room.



But that room wasn't just a room for us. It was a reflection of our priorities as a family! That room will be a place for grandparents to come visit and spend time with our son. That extra room isn't about a bigger space. It's about priorities. And at the end of the day, having family members love on our son is worth all the hassle of packing boxes and picking up our life.

And a church, too, has to choose what to prioritize! There are all sorts of things a church can put first. For instance, you can probably imagine what it looks like when a church prioritizes comfort! We've all seen churches that haven't been touched in decades, who prioritize their pews and bright red carpets.

Thankfully that's never been our church! We've stretched and adapted and prioritized people for our entire history as a church. Whether it's been moving buildings, expanding space, choosing chairs over pews (thank goodness!), or expanding our online presence, our church chooses to prioritize people.

That's why I've been so excited about our Faith Forward campaign! Just like a move down the street for an extra room, this gives our church a chance to prioritize the next generation and people who haven't found a home at our church yet. And just like our move down the street—the cost, inconvenience, and effort are all worth it because the next generation is worth it! If you want to learn more, look inside this newsletter or visit bluespringsumc.org/2023. Thank you for being a church that goes above and beyond to prioritize people!

Chris



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Blood Drive Coming November 11

The American Red Cross is holding a Blood Drive in the church gym on Friday, November 11, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter FUMCBlueSprings to schedule an appointment.



Save the Date!

The United Methodist Men are hosting a Santa's Workshop on Saturday, December 4, from 10 a.m. –1 p.m. in the Family Life Center.

Watch for more details as the date gets closer.

Widows' Support Group

The Widows' Support Group will meet on Thursday, November 17, at 11:30 a.m. at China Buffet, 756 SW 40 Highway, Blue Springs.

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



United Women of Faith Christmas Luncheon

The UWF Christmas Luncheon will be Friday, December 9, at 10:30 a.m. in room 117. Our speaker will be Melodie Chrisman, Director of CSL, Blue Springs. We will be collecting new, unwrapped gifts for teens for the CSL Christmas Store.

Tickets will be available at the Ruth Circle meeting on November 10, as well as in the lobby on Sunday, November 27, and Sunday, December 4. Ticket price is \$15. All are welcome to attend!

Ruth Circle Invites You to "Seasonal Potpourri"

On Thursday, November 10, Ruth Circle is meeting in the sanctuary at 10:30 a.m.

Norma Jean Sigler and Virginia Kernes will play piano duets in a program called, "Seasonal Potpourri." We would like to invite the members of the congregation to join us and anyone else who would like to attend.

Independents' Nut Sales

The Independents will have their Holiday Nut Sale on Sunday, November 13, and Sunday, December 11. These are great for your holiday baking and gift giving! Proceeds from the sale help fund the annual Independents' scholarship.

Pre-orders are strongly encouraged to ensure that we have enough of everything on hand. A limited amount of inventory will be available for purchase on the dates listed above, and pre-orders will be available for pickup in the lobby at those times.

To ensure timely delivery for pre-orders, those for the November 13 date should be placed by November 4; and orders for the December 11 date should be placed by December 2. An order form can be found next to the designated basket in the lobby, as well as in your bulletin. Forms may also be obtained by emailing Brenda Yanney at blyanney@gmail.com. Completed order forms may be placed in the basket or emailed to Brenda.

Disaster Response Training

Now that things are getting back to normal, the Conference office has resumed in-person Disaster Relief Training.

If you are interested in being trained to help after a tornado, ice storm, flood or any other disaster, or have questions about what this entails, please contact Mike Adams at 816-419-3097 or email at mike@adamsfamilymail.com.

The district where the disaster happens contacts the Conference when they're at a point to receive help. The Conference in turn will contact us to check availability of resources to assist.

Thank you for your consideration in joining this group.

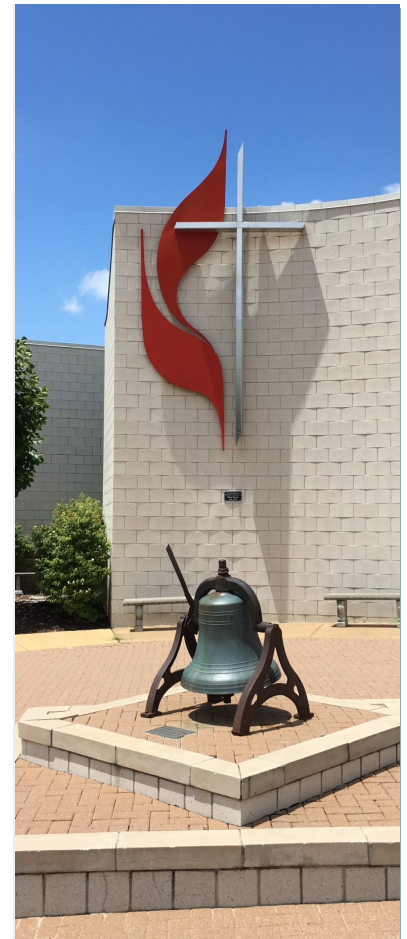
Mike Adams
Disaster Response Team

CHURCH CALENDAR

Date	Time	Location
Sunday, November 6		
Contemporary Worship	9:00 a.m.	Online/In Person
Traditional Worship	11:00	Online/In Person
Tuesday, November 8		
Leadership Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.	117
Pickleball	7:00	Family Life Center
Wednesday, November 9		
Men of Praise	6:30 p.m.	150
Creative Crafts	7:00	103
Thursday, November 10		
Ruth Circle	10:30 a.m.	Sanctuary
Pickleball	7:00 p.m.	Family Life Center
Friday, November 11		
American Red Cross Blood Drive	10:00 a.m.	Family Life Center
Sunday, November 13		
Contemporary Worship	9:00 a.m.	Online/In Person
Traditional Worship	11:00	Online/In Person
Confirmation Class	noon	014
Tuesday, November 15		
Pickleball	7:00 p.m.	Family Life Center
Wednesday, November 16		
Men of Praise	6:30 p.m.	150
Impact Youth Group	6:30	014
Creative Crafts	7:00	103
Thursday, November 17		
Pickleball	7:00 p.m.	Family Life Center
Friday, November 18		
Adult Volleyball	7:00 p.m.	Family Life Center
Sunday, November 20		
Contemporary Worship	9:00 a.m.	Online/In Person
Traditional Worship	11:00	Online/In Person
Confirmation Class	noon	014
Friday, November 25		
Adult Volleyball	7:00 p.m.	Family Life Center

GIVING AND ATTENDANCE

October 9, 2022				October 16, 2022			
Giving:		2022	2021	Giving:		2022	2021
One Fund		\$19,409		One Fund		\$31,638	
YTD		\$773,553	\$758,920	YTD		\$805,191	\$784,492
Attendance:				Attendance:			
Worship Attendance: 356				Worship Attendance: 323			
October 23, 2022				October 30, 2022			
Giving:		2022	2021	Giving:		2022	2021
One Fund		\$14,674		One Fund		\$20,498	
YTD		\$819,864	\$813,940	YTD		\$840,362	\$829,587
Attendance:				Attendance:			
Worship Attendance: 270				Worship Attendance: 325			



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

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.

**ADVENT BEGINS
NOVEMBER 27**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Caring Ministries

Last month we announced a revised manner by which the church would focus on the caring needs of the congregation. Ten categories of caring needs have been identified and coordinators have been identified for each of the ten categories.

- Health Concerns and Rehabilitation - Betty Hartwig
- Cancer and Long-Term Illness - Debby Engelbrecht
- Senior Living and Homebound - Carol Jo Lenning
- Grief - Jo Perrin
- Hospitalization and Procedures - Pastors and Nancy Baker
- End of Life - Pastors
- Family and Friends - Jeanette Popp
- Life Celebrations - Debbie Danner
- Military and Public Service – UMM and Paul Mitchell
- Congregant Assistance - Diane McMillian

The newest of these ten categories is Congregant Assistance. We are looking for volunteers to assist other members of our congregation with some activities that they may have difficulty completing. These needs may result from illness, injury, or short-term health issues. Generally, the work should be one-time activities requiring up to two hours to be completed; for example, light yard work, leaf raking, snow removal. To express a need or your willingness to volunteer for future work activities, please call or text Diane McMillian at 816-377-0364.

There is also a need to resume Sunday morning transportation to and from Parkway Senior Living for the 11 a.m. worship service. We need a few volunteers to drive the church van and a few additional volunteers to assist riders getting on and off the bus. Only one driver and one assistant will be needed each week. So, we expect to rotate drivers and assistants weekly, depending on the number of volunteers. There are some necessary but not overwhelming steps to take in order to be certified to drive and/or assist the riders. Please call or text John Howard at 816-885-0282 to express your interest in helping others to physically attend worship and to fellowship with us in person.

A NOTE FROM LEADERSHIP COUNCIL CHAIR

Hopefully you have seen and heard the plans to update our space. Much consideration was put into the Vision and Leadership Council hopes you join us in making the dream a reality.

Vision and Mission Updates:

- **Invite Others to Worship:** The impact of a friendly smile and warm greeting can be enormous. Whether you see an old friend or a new face, don't forget the power of a smile!
- **Make Disciples Through Small Groups:** If you are looking for fellowship, a small group can be a great place to start. This program has grown into an important part of our ministries.
- **Invest in Next Generation:** A huge part of what makes the Next Generation programs successful are the adults committing time, energy, and wisdom to children and youth. While transitions are being made with leadership, consistent adults in the lives of our children and youth is vital. If you are interested in volunteering to help shape the future, reach out to Mona.
- **Serve the Community:** The last Serve Saturday was small but mighty. Leadership Council is looking into what day might engage the most people.
- **Update Our Space:** The plans have been shared and your insights are being heard. While tough decisions were made on what is a priority, the phases of improvement are just the start to what our building could become.

Liz Mueller

MISSIONS NEWS

Stocking Stuffers for Hillcrest

Hearts and Hands is again collecting hotel/sample-size toiletries for the women in Hillcrest's Christmas adopted families. Items go into makeup bags to be used as fun stocking stuffers.

Please place items in the Hearts and Hands barrel in the coatroom off the lobby by November 27. Thanks for the items that have already been donated. If you receive extra calendars, they can also go in the barrel. If you would be interested in helping wrap presents for the adults in the families, stay tuned for a date announcement.

You do NOT have to be an expert wrapper—only someone willing to give 2-3 hours to put yourself in the Christmas spirit.

Serve Day

Thank you to everyone that joined the all-church Serve Day on October 8. 41 people met at the church that morning for donuts, prayer and fellowship before going to 5 different worksites to serve our neighbors in different ways. If you were a participant, please spread the word about how much fun it is to serve together!

Socktober

First United Methodist Church is so generous. Thank you for the socks that filled our collection bin. We collected 1070 pairs of socks. First UMC also was given 2500 pairs of socks from Bombas to distribute to our partners. That's a lot of socks! The items that we collected and the Bombas socks will be delivered to several organizations in the Kansas City area to keep our neighbors warm this winter.

Office Food Pantry

The church office has a small food pantry. The cupboard is looking a little bare. Can you help restock by bringing some items to the office?

We are looking for -

Pasta sauce

Peanut butter

Jelly

Instant oatmeal packets

Canned meat

Thank you for helping our neighbors!

Hours In Local Service

In 2021, First UMC made a commitment to do 10,000 hours of service in our community in five years. We are well on our way to meeting that goal. The total hours served so far is 4,130. If your church group has served in some way, please contact Brooke Roskop in the church office at broskop@bluespringsumc.org or 816-229-8108. We want to celebrate everyone's great work!

Giving Tree

First UMC will be helping to stock the Community Services League Christmas Store.

The Giving Tree will be in the lobby throughout the month of November. Each tag has an item printed on it. When you find one that you would like to purchase, take the tag, make the purchase, and bring the item, unwrapped, back to place under the tree.

If it's more convenient, click this link to Amazon (bluespringsumc.org/givingtree) and order items to be delivered to the church by November 27. This is a wonderful opportunity to make someone's Christmas merry.





JOYS AND CONCERNS

HEALTH CONCERNS

John Bragg	Max Brown	Marti Dietrich
Teresa Eskew	Debbie Fleetwood	Linda Hinkle
Vern Hinkle	Evelyn Julian	Vicki Kerr
Sharon McMullin	Patty Mohn	Carol Orndorff
Gloria Rose	Grace Shaver	

Clarice North, Gail Echerd's mother
Brett Stock, Nancy Beagle's nephew
Brian Griffiths' parents
Elizabeth Garber, per Nancy Baker
Eugene Welch, per Jo Perrin
Janice Patillo, per Janet Tabler
Linda Nevels, per Joe Tabler
Michael Holliger, Jackie Holliger's son
Randy Porter, Jackie Holliger's son-in law
Richard Wallace, per Jo Perrin

SYMPATHY

To the friends and family of Margaret Ford, who passed away on September 22.

To Marisa Gilbert on the passing of her brother, Rodel Javier, on October 8.

To the friends and family of Maurice Gebhardt, the father-in-law of my sister, Suzanne, and the father of her husband, Jay. (Teresa Eskew)

To Chris and Beth Abel on the passing of Chris' grandfather on October 18.

To Nancy Tharp and family on the passing of her husband, Dave Tharp, on November 2.

JOYS

To Mallori Morgan and Blake Becka, who were married on September 30.

To Jerry and Lorraine Hatfield, who will celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on November 15.

Congratulations to David Bell, Clayton Hayes, Tracy Morley and Linda Walker, who joined First UMC on October 23.

THANK YOU

Thank you to Learning Ladder Preschool, who collected over 150 food items for the church food pantry this month.

Thank you for all your love, support, cards, calls and prayers. John has finished chemo and radiation this week and is ready to let the healing process begin.

Cheryl Bragg

Thank you to Grace Circle for sponsoring Samantha, our Hillcrest resident. Samantha has successfully completed the program. Her goals were to save money, learn how to budget and learn how to prepare meals. Not only did she accomplish those goals, she also found better employment and was able to get her car battery and tires replaced. She is now renting an apartment in Sugar Creek that is within her budget. She was also able to get her car battery replaced and tires fixed while here. She found so much support and comfort here that she was able to schedule a doctor's appointment to take care of some health issues and finally been able to save money.

NEXTGEN NEWS

FIRST KIDS

In preschool this month we're going to be talking about how God is good! Sometimes we get so excited about the gift that we forget to remember the giver. So, this month we will take some time to look around at the wonderful gifts God has given us and teach our preschoolers that God is good! We want our preschoolers to know that all of the good things they see in the world are good gifts from a very good God Who loves them. And we can say "Thank you, God!" Everywhere we look we see good gifts that God has given us, like friends and family, people who help us, and yummy food ... like donuts! But DONUT forget to thank God because God is good!

This month in elementary, we'll be learning all about courage. As we continue our journey through God's Big Story, we take a closer look at the lives of significant people in the Jewish Scriptures: Joshua and Caleb, David, Daniel, and Esther. Each of them trusted God and found courage to face difficult circumstances. They also represent major time periods in Israel's history—from entering the land of Canaan, the United Kingdom, and Exile. Like these people we read about in the Old Testament, God may ask us to take a risk or do something we might not feel prepared to do. But God will also give us the courage we need to face that challenge. We can also look to Jesus. He faced the biggest challenge of all: death on the cross. Still, He chose to be brave and follow God's plan. We'll be looking at our memory verse from Joshua 1:9 "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Impact Youth

Check out our new series: Simplify! No one likes when things are over-complicated. Need me to prove it? Well, have you ever stressed over instructions for assembling a coffee table or maybe wrestled with a device you didn't know how to turn on? We like when things "just make sense." Too bad faith rarely seems that simple. But what if it could be? What if, in some ways, we've overcomplicated faith? In our new series on The Greatest Commandment called Simplify, we'll be exploring what Jesus said matters most when it comes to our faith. By the end of these four weeks, we'll all be able to breathe a little easier knowing that Jesus came not to complicate, but to simplify what it means to have faith in God.

Join us for Friendsgiving on November 16! We'll eat a Thanksgiving meal together and play games!

Wednesday nights 6-8 p.m. Drop off at the Family Life Center Doors.



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 John Howard

jhoward@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

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FAITH FORWARD

Our Faith Forward Renovation Campaign is off to a great start!

A huge "Thank you!" to those who have supported this dream already. We've reached 75% of our goal in just a few weeks!

If you missed Vision Sunday, find out more by visiting our website at bluespringsumc.org/2023.

