



First United Methodist Church
Downtown Bentonville

ALL ARE WELCOME GUIDE



EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT
FUMC BENTONVILLE

Welcome to First United Methodist Church of Downtown
Bentonville!

You are welcome here because all are welcome here. We truly believe that every person is a beloved member of God's family, and that all are created in the image of God. We celebrate that you have come to this place to grow our family of faith.

This guide will help you find ways to connect here, including learning about various small group and service opportunities and how to make sure you are signed up for various means of communication that will help you stay informed about current and new church ministries.

We also encourage you to meet with one of our pastors and have the Four Questions Conversation (more on those later). These conversations help us make suggestions on how to find your passion and your created purpose through our church. If we do not currently have something that fits your passion, we may end up connecting you with others who have similar passions to see what the Holy Spirit will empower you to do collectively.

Just know our doors are open any time you want to seek ways of growing in your faith, in your relationship with others, and in your relationship with God. We cannot wait to see who we become now that you are part of us!

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Dr. Michelle J. Morris – Lead Pastor

Rev. Dr. T. Ray Wheeler – Associate Pastor

Church Staff

Rev. Dr. Michelle J. Morris,
Lead Pastor
michelle@fumcbentonville.org

Rev. Dr. T. Ray Wheeler,
Associate Pastor
ray@fumcbentonville.org

Toni Hinrichs,
Business Administrator
toni@fumcbentonville.org

TBD,
Bookkeeper

Allison Earhart,
Children's Ministry
Director
allison@fumcbentonville.org

Kristin Wells,
Youth Ministry Director
kristin@fumcbentonville.org

Lexie Burleson,
Family Ministries Assistant
lexie@fumcbentonville.org

Jonathan Day,
Media and
Communications
Coordinator
jonathan@fumcbentonville.org

Ken Weatherford,
Music and Worship
Director – The Gathering
ken@fumcbentonville.org

Matt Nelson,
Music and Worship Arts
Assistant Director
matt@fumcbentonville.org

Rev. Dr. Don Hall,
Pastor Emeritus and Small
Group Development
Donald.hall@arumc.org

Johnna Kosnoff,
Certified Lay Minister and
Community Development
Coordinator
Johnna.kosnoff@arumc.org

Who We Are

A Church Who Welcomes

FUMC Bentonville welcomes all. Because we believe the Communion Table is God's table, we invite everyone into our church family. We welcome and celebrate every race, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, age, physical and mental ability, national origin, economic station, and political ideology. We come together in action and outreach, aspiring to follow Jesus' example of radical hospitality, love, and grace as a transformative movement in our community.

Our Mission

Sharing Christ. Making Disciples.

Vision

To become the Spiritual Heart of Bentonville; a mission station to equip disciples for building relationships with people who are far from home or feel far away from God.

Commitment to the United Methodist Church

First United Methodist Church of Downtown Bentonville will not be joining the Global Methodist Church. In accordance with our welcoming statement, we do not feel that the aims of that newly forming denomination fit the values of our local congregation. We will remain United Methodist, and we will be in prayer for all those discerning where their journeys are leading them, sending those who choose to leave the denomination on with our blessings and our love.

-Adopted by FUMC Church Council, May 31, 2022

Basics of United Methodism

We encourage you to learn more about United Methodist beliefs and structure by taking Methodism 101, a course for adults offered by our pastors once or twice a year. We also teach basics of our faith to our 6th and 7th graders over the course of the school year in Confirmation class, with a makeup opportunity offered every few years as needed for youth who miss Confirmation. Here are some basics that highlight distinctions near and dear to United Methodist identity:

Grace as a Means of Salvation – When we talk about God’s grace, we mean God’s loving presence with you throughout your life. We believe before you are ever aware of God, God loves you and tries to draw you in relationship with God with every breath you take. This grace that goes before is called *prevenient* grace. We do not believe God will force you to choose to be in relationship with God, but when you accept that love and recognize the saving work of Jesus Christ in your life, we refer to that as *justifying* grace. Once you have received that love of God, you will also need to grow in love of God and others. That lifelong journey of faith where the Holy Spirit empowers you to love better and better is called *sanctifying* grace. Methodists the world over understand our relationship with God and the salvation that comes through it in these terms of a healing journey in grace.

The General Rules – Methodists have been called, since the earliest days of our formation, to follow three General Rules. These are: do no harm, do good, and stay in love with God. That last rule is simply a call to be disciplined in our faith by practicing works of piety (i.e. worship, prayer, studying the scriptures, fasting) and works of justice and mercy (i.e. opposing oppression, feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting those in prison).

Practicing the Sacraments – United Methodists recognize two sacraments: baptism and communion. We see both sacraments as a representation of God's love in our world. Baptism is the public moment of recognizing that God's prevenient grace is already active in the life of the one being baptized. Since we also believe that the power of baptism comes from God, we do not rebaptize people, because for Methodists that is like saying the work God did in you didn't take. If you were baptized in a Christian tradition, your baptism is honored here. When it comes to communion, we practice Open Table. For us, God already loves you and welcomes you to the table. We do not believe we have any right or need to keep you from that invitation and expression of love. All are welcome at the table – no exceptions.

Wesleyan Quadrilateral – How do we know what God’s will is for us in any given moment? That is not always clear. When we approach such questions, we look to four sources for discernment: Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience. First, we go to Scripture. Our founder, John Wesley, believed all things necessary for salvation are found in Scripture. However, we also recognize that Scripture contains contradictions and cultural contexts that need to be accounted for as we seek wisdom within it. Tradition acknowledges that we are shaped by a faith tradition that helps us understand how we relate to God and Scripture. Reason acknowledges that we use our brains to seek understanding of God’s will. Experience allows us to bring our current moment, perspectives, and community into the conversation. All of these things work alongside one another to help us understand how to be the people of God.



Big Tent – Sometimes you will hear United Methodism referred to as a Big Tent denomination. What that means is that we seek to be a place where people of all walks of life are welcome. We know that these days we are often pushed into our ideological corners where we only relate to people who agree with us. However, we know that God loves all of us, so we make room in our church and at the table for everyone. Some say that waters down our message, because it is difficult for the UMC to take hardline stances on certain issues. The way we see it, however, is that we are simply acknowledging the deep complexity of most things in our world today. We make room for all kinds of wisdom, even when that wisdom disagrees.

Connectional Church - Also, we are a connectional, rather than a congregational church. We are connected to all the other United Methodist churches in the world. We support collective ministries together, such as the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) which is the second or third largest relief agency in the world. We are also connected in Annual Conferences, geographic regions where a bishop oversees all the churches in that region. Besides encouraging and equipping the churches in a region, the Bishop appoints the pastors who serve at each local church. These appointments are made or affirmed every year, usually in the Spring to begin service July 1.

Core Committees and their Leadership

United Methodism has a long tradition of empowering lay people to lead their church. As part of this effort, most UMCs have five core committees who do much of the work of the church. With the exception of SPRC, which handles confidential staff issues, the committee meetings are open to anyone, though usually only those appointed to the committee have vote.

Church Council – This is the main governing body of the church. All other committees report to this committee. When a statement, policy, or vision needs to be affirmed for the church, Church Council is often where this occurs. Ours meets the 4th Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Gathering Room and online.

Staff Parish Relations (SPRC) – This committee serves as a church equivalent to a human relations department, setting staff positions, salaries, and aiding with hiring and evaluations. They also oversee staff appreciation, and nurture healthy relationships between staff and congregation. Ours meets the first Tuesday of every month.

Trustees – This committee oversees the property and safety of the congregation, and is the legal body for entering contracts on behalf of the church. Our Trustees meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. in the Gathering Room and online.

Finance – This committee receives and prepares the budget for the church, raises funds, and nurtures a culture of generosity among our people. Ours meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. in the Gathering Room and online.

Nominations (Lay Leadership) – This last committee is the only one chaired by the Lead Pastor, and meets at least once a year to set the nominees for leadership in the other committees.

Church Leadership – 2023

Jennifer Russell,

Kevin Wilson,

Church Council Chair

Trustee Chair

Kj.russell@sbcglobal.net

Kjmdwilson@cox.net

Kate Schaffer,

Chris Knight,

Staff Parish Relations Chair

Finance Chair

Kate_schaff@msn.com

Cknight342@gmail.com

Worship

The Gathering - We gather each Sunday around the Light of Christ at 9 a.m. in Hines Hall on the west end of the building. Led by a full band playing a variety of popular music styles, we are immersed in sound as we sing and pray together. We share the stories of God's people and we break bread together at God's Holy Table. All are welcome.

Traditional – Sundays at 11 a.m. we worship in the Sanctuary through the music of our Chancel Choir, through the collective affirmation of reciting creeds and liturgy, and singing hymns that have been with us through the ages. We also share in communion every week. All are welcome into this intergenerational and longstanding service of worship.

Online Communion – For those traveling or homebound, most Sundays we gather at 12:15 p.m. on our Facebook page to have elements of bread and juice blessed over the internet and to share prayers and community with one another. Simply log on to Facebook to join us! (@FirstUnitedMethodistChurchBentonville)

Children First - Children grades K-6 spend an hour on Wednesday nights preparing the music and message of Children First, a children-led worship service on the first Sunday of the even months at 9 a.m. in Hines Hall. This service is filled with creativity and inspiration to remember Jesus calls us all to have childlike faith, and to let the little children lead us in worship and communion.

One Worship – Taking place in the Sanctuary at 11 a.m. the first Sunday of the even months (February, April, June, August, October, and December), One Worship is a dynamic service that brings together the best of both contemporary and traditional music styles. Featuring musicians from the Gathering Band as well as the Chancel Choir, OneWorship is our humble attempt to honor both styles of worship in a joyful, healing, and unifying service that allows all of our church to worship and take communion together in the same space.



Nursery

We love spending time with our Littles on Sunday mornings! All Pre-K children are welcome to the Nursery during both services. During this time, teachers facilitate fellowship among our Littles and assist in learning through play. From 10-10:45 teachers lead a Sunday School lesson through stories or puppets and facilitate a coordinating craft or activity. Snack is served during this time. Our Nursery is open from 8:50a.m. – 12 p.m. on Sundays.

Kids

We offer Sunday School year-round for all ages. During the school year our children are grouped by grades, and during the summer we have our mixed ages (grades K-6) FUNday School which is a way for us to teach Bible stories through Art, Lego, and Science. Here is the breakdown of what Sunday School looks like during the school year each Sunday from 10-10:45 a.m.:

- **Preschool – Nursery** (first floor, Wee Friends wing). We have a group devotional with a craft and snack.
- **Kindergarten & 1st Grade** - Explore & Discover Room (first floor next to the Parlor).
- **2nd & 3rd Grade** - Upstairs Room 213D.
- **4th & 5th Grade** - Upstairs Room 206D. Our children learn how to use their Bibles in this class.
- **6th Grade** - Upstairs Room 208D. This class offers our Confirmation class, as well as exploring what it means to become a young adult in our church.

Youth (7th-12th grade)

Using our approach of Naïve Reading we will do a deep dive on a biblical passage each week. We will ponder – what are things we noticed and what are questions we have? We will discuss these together and even pull out some resource materials to gain a deeper understanding. Meets Sundays from 10-10:45 a.m. in the Youth area on the 2nd floor.

Additional Gatherings for Children and Families

Ms. Allison arranges monthly events connecting the kids by age group in an activity, lesson, or fellowship gathering that is appropriate for each age. To learn more about these events, contact her at allison@fumcbentonville.org.

Additional Gatherings for Youth

SALT – Sharing Actual Life Together

Sundays during the School Year | 4-5:30 pm

Embrace the awkward. Come as you are.

Sunday Night SALT is a time to connect with each other, the church at large, and our community. Through shared experiences of small groups, snack supper, games, monthly missions, and special guests, our hope is to create a space where students build meaningful relationships and experience the church as their home base.

Sacred Cinema

Wednesdays during the School Year | 6-7:30 pm

Join us Wednesdays during the School Year as we search for the sacred in the secular. We believe God is in all things, so we can find God just as easily in a Marvel movie as in a worship song. Come join us for some spiritual archaeology as we uncover what is hidden beneath our very noses. We will be watching the Marvel movies in timeline order.

To find out what other events are happening in the Youth program, or to register for upcoming retreats and missions, use this QR code:



Sunday Morning – Adult Sunday School Classes

10:00 -10:45 a.m.

- **Pairs and Spares** – meets in the Gathering Room (room 120); primarily ages 60+; study Adult Bible Studies curriculum together. Contact Don Bortell, dbortell@cox.net.
- **The Mixer** – meets in the Room 228; mix of ages, largely below age 50; study deep questions, justice, and mission issues. Contact Kelsey or Taylor Sutton, kelseysutton23@gmail.com; ctsutton01@gmail.com.
- **Masculine Journey** – meets in the Conference Room (room 133); men of varied ages studying the lectionary together. Contact Ed Adair, efadair1@gmail.com.
- **Heart to Heart** – meets in the Parlor (room 143); women of varied ages studying topics chosen by the group. Contact Pam Rapp, plrapp52@cox.net.
- **Sprouts** – meets in room 236 or offsite; primarily parents of elementary aged kids sharing life together and studying topics that can be addressed in class with little to no advanced preparation. Contact Ramsay McCullough, ramsaymccullough@icloud.com.

- **New Beginnings** – meets in room 217; primarily people newly becoming grandparents; study topics decided on by the group. Contact Angela Barrington, afbarrington95@gmail.com.
- **Women in the Word** – women who study lectionary passages from the Bible each week (room 246). Contact Donna Reams, djonesreams85@hotmail.com, or Teresa Poulseen, teresapoulseen@gmail.com.
- **Parents of Preschoolers** – Forming in early spring 2024, this group of parents with young children will spend time in support and fellowship each Sunday. Location TBD. Contact Emily Long, eehlong@gmail.com or Jamie Long, jamielong@protonmail.com.



Wednesday Evening

There are several ways for people of all ages to grow in your faith and relationship with God and others on Wednesday evenings:

- **Children's Programming** – Elementary age (grades K-6) kids gather to do faith-based experiments, learn more about the Bible, and to plan and practice Children First services. Activities primarily occur on the 2nd floor in the Children's area from 6:00-7:00 p.m.
- **Sacred Cinema** – Youth (grades 7-12) gather in the movie room in the Youth area and are making their way through the Marvel Cinematic Universe, discussing themes of faith and formation throughout the movies. They meet during the school year from 5:30-7:00 p.m.
- **Parents in the Parlor** – Dropping kids or youth off for programming and want to make your own connection? Meet other parents in the Parlor (room 143) to visit or walk downtown together. Arrive around 6:00 p.m. to see what's up.
- **Pastor Michelle's Bible Study** – Each week get a sneak peek at the passage for the upcoming Sunday's sermon in a deeper dive in the Scripture. Study meets in person in the Gathering Room (Room 120) or on Zoom (meeting ID: 838 9762 3062; Password 72712) Drop in and leave any time in the 5:30-7:00 p.m. window. Regular attendance is not required – come any Wednesday!

- **Chancel Choir** – Sing and serve alongside of some great people by joining our Chancel Choir. Enthusiasm to sing is all that is required! We Gather for rehearsal in the Sanctuary every Wednesday from 6:30-7:30 p.m. The Chancel Choir supports our 11:00 am Traditional worship. Come sing and worship with us!

Small Group Connections Outside of Sunday

- **One Together** – for people who identify as single, this group meets once a month for service and fellowship. Contact Lauren Floyd (L26floyd@yahoo.com) or Dayna Pedrin (dmpedrin@gmail.com).
- **Missional Prayer** - meets in person to pray together for the needs of our United Methodist Church, the leaders of our Arkansas Conference, and the needs of our Church and our Community; meets Monday at 4pm in the Parlor (Room 143). Contact Johnna Kosnoff, johnna.kosnoff@arumc.org.
- **Environmental Care Team** - working to educate ourselves and our congregation on ways to care for our environment; meeting bi-weekly on Thursday at 10:30 am. Contact Johnna Kosnoff, johnna.kosnoff@arumc.org.
- **Grief Group** – for all who are experiencing any kind of grief through loss or significant life change (divorce, job loss, etc.). Groups form periodically to meet new needs. Contact Pastor Michelle, michelle@fumcbentonville.org.

- **Art and Faith** – meets the second and fourth Monday of every month at 1 p.m. in the Gathering Room (room 120) to paint and share life and faith together. Sometimes they also do painting that supports missions. Anyone from an expert to a first-time painter is welcome. Contact Vicki Roberts, trhawkeye@msn.com.
- **Faith Walk** - twice a month, we meet for an hour on Wednesday to walk a couple of miles along a pretty, and mostly flat, trail and share a devotion. Time of day varies, depending on the season. Contact Marcia Patterson, marpat007@hotmail.com.
- **United Methodist Men's Breakfast** – meets every Tuesday at 7 a.m. for breakfast, scripture, and prayer in Hines Hall; all men welcome. Contact Tim Pratt, timpratt3007@gmail.com, or just show up with your appetite!
- **United Women in Faith Circles** – meet at various times and locations to study, pray, and serve together. Contact Pastor Michelle to be connected, michelle@fumcbentonville.org.
- **Young Adults** – meet most weeks around meals or activities to build community among those in their 20s-30s. Contact Wesley Wells, wpwells23@gmail.com.
- **Dorcas and Prayer Shawl ministries** – sewing and needlework ministries that allow people to learn these crafts and practice them for the care of others. Contact Velma Clemons, velma.clemons@gmail.com for Dorcas, and Karen Paris, tfparis@cox.net for Prayer Shawl

- **Daffodils** – a group of women who choose studies to do together; meets Wednesday morning at 10 a.m. in the Parlor (room 143). Contact Sandra Hutchens, sandrahutchens49@gmail.com.
- **Pastor Michelle's Wednesday Bible Study** – meets in the Gathering Room or on Zoom Wednesday from 5:30p-7:00p; studies the passage being preached on the following Sunday. Contact Pastor Michelle, michelle@fumcbentonville.org.
- **FUMC Friends and Fuel** – Come have a cup of coffee to caffeinate and connect as you wind down the week. Meteor Café, 7:30am, every Friday. Contact Lauren Floyd, L26floyd@yahoo.com.
- **Flyfishing in Faith** – For those who love flyfishing, or who would love to learn how and just enjoy the peace of nature, this group gathers periodically to fish and spend time in prayer and devotional with one another. Contact Bill Fernandez, bill.fernandez@telecomp.com.

For further guidance about any of these existing groups, or if you are interested in starting a new group, contact Rev. Dr. Don Hall, donald.hall@arumc.org.

Ways to Serve: Worship Support

Hospitality Team – This team makes sure people receive a warm welcome as they come in the doors of our church, helps them navigate the space, and is a first line of connection for them to get to know us better. To serve on this team, contact Marie Clapper to be included in upcoming trainings (marieclapper@gmail.com). Here are the ways they serve:

- Greeters – Come about 15 minutes before the services and welcome people at our main entrance doors. Great way for anyone to serve, including families with children of all ages.
- Coffee Hour Hosts – set up, replenish, and clean up the coffee and snacks that are available from 8:50 a.m. – 11 a.m. Different people cover each part, so you do not have to cover 3 hours of work, just your assigned part. Set up people get to bake cookies!
- Welcome Home Hosts – Each month we invite people new to our church to a lunch after the 11 a.m. service. Some of these take place in parishioners' homes, and some at the church. We need hosts for both places, so if your home doesn't accommodate 10-12 people, you can be a church host!

Communion Stewards – These people buy the bread and prepare the juice cups each week for communion for both services. Pro tip: if you bring the bread, you pick the bread. To serve this way, contact Dixie Spears (dixiespears13@gmail.com). If you want to serve on Sunday morning, you need to let Pastor Michelle know before Sunday, or show up for service a little early and wave her down – she is usually frantically asking people to do that good work.

Chancel Choir – Love to make a joyful noise to the Lord? Or maybe you just think it would be fun to hang out with Ray and Matt more (you are right – that is a lot of fun). Chancel Choir would love to have you! They rehearse Wednesday nights in the Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. for an hour. Contact Pastor Ray (ray@fumcbentonville.org) or just start showing up!

Gathering Band – Hanging out with Ken and Matt is also a lot of fun, and you get to play a wide variety of music for The Gathering service on Sunday morning, because Pastor Michelle insists God is found in all things, especially the wide variety of creative expression the Holy Spirit inspires.

Tech Team – This team runs slides, sound, and the livestream. It does require some training, much of which is done on the job. To train for this team, contact Jonathan Day to schedule time (jonathan@fumcbentonville.org).

Acolyte – Children are an integral part of our worshiping community, something we celebrate every other month in Children First. But another way they can regularly serve is as an acolyte, bringing in and carrying out the light of Christ for either service. To train as an acolyte, contact Jennifer Russell (kj.russell@sbcglobal.net).

Hines Hall Chair Set Up – While we all pitch in and put up the chairs at the end of the 9 a.m. service, we have a volunteer team who sets up the chairs beforehand. Teams arrive at 8:15 a.m. (or sometimes Saturday if there are no other events). If you want to serve on this team, let Pastor Michelle know and she will connect you (michelle@fumcbentonville.org).

Nursery – These volunteers love on and care for our kids aged 5 and under during the 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. worship hours. During the Sunday school hour, they also help as the kids are taught an age-appropriate lesson. We are also seeking to provide nursery on Wednesday nights to support Parents in the Parlor, Pastor Michelle's Wednesday Bible Study, and Chancel Choir Rehearsals. To volunteer to help (or if you have a teenager who would like to earn a few dollars), contact Allison, allison@fumcbentonville.org. Safe Gatherings training and a background check are required for everyone's care and safety.

Ways to Serve: Church and Community

Congregational Care Team – This team consists of several subteams who care for people in our church community in significant life moments. This team does rely on confidentiality in some situations, so please sign up only if you can maintain that sort of boundary. To be part of this team, contact Pam Satterfield at pkssatterfield@gmail.com and share which of these subteams interests you the most:

- Home Visitation – This team has people who regularly visit our homebound members and bring them communion.
- Card Team – This team writes and sends cards to people who have had illness, loss, a celebration, or are in need of some encouragement.
- Prayer Team – This team receives email updates of prayer requests from people in our community and commits to praying for them (to request a prayer, send an email to prayerteam@fumcbentonville.org).
- Funeral/Bereavement Meal Team – This team prepares the space and the meals for people in our community holding a funeral through our church so their family can be fed and cared for in this critical moment in loss.
- Pet Loss Team – This is the newest team, they take a care package to a family upon the death of a pet.

- **Meal Train Team** – This team provides meals for people in all kinds of situations – loss, illness, surgery recovery, and the birth of a new baby. Team members are given details of the needs (number in family, any allergies, etc) to be able to offer this love to people in such times.

Grounds Team – The people who serve on this team get to spend time in God’s creation, give the gift of a beautiful grounds to downtown Bentonville, and save the church thousands of dollars a year. Toni Hinrichs helps coordinate this team (toni@fumcbentonville.org). You can serve by helping to mow, weed, edge, plant and rotate flowers, make seasonal transitions, or be available for landscaping projects.

Prayer Shawl Ministry – This group gathers every Friday morning at 10:30 a.m. in the Conference Room (room 133) to knit prayer shawls for people in all sorts of life situations. Anyone is welcome to show up and join in, including beginners. For more information, contact Karen Paris, tfparis@cox.net.

Dorcas – Our FUMC sewing group, Dorcas puts together quilts and layettes for some of the more vulnerable newborns in Northwest Arkansas. They also periodically take on other projects for the community, such as sewing cornhole bags for Ozark Mission Project to distribute to area children’s shelters. They meet the second Wednesday of nearly every month at 10 a.m. in Hines Hall to sew together, but they also have projects people can work on at home on their own time. Contact Velma Clemons, velma.clemons@gmail.com.

Missional Prayer Team – This team meets in person to pray together for the needs of our United Methodist Church, the leaders of our Arkansas Conference, and the needs of our Church and our Community; meets Monday at 4pm in the Parlor (Room 143). Contact Johnna Kosnoff at johnna.kosnoff@arumc.org.

Environmental Care Team – This team addresses and organizes efforts to better care for the creation God has entrusted to us. They coordinate recycling for the church and plan events such as an Environmental Fair. Contact Johnna Kosnoff (Johnna.kosnoff@arumc.org) for more information.

School Partnerships – We work primarily with 3 area schools: RE Baker and Mary Mae Jones Elementary Schools and Gateway – Bentonville’s Alternative Learning School, providing volunteers for all kinds of needs. Some examples include serving as a regular lunch buddy for an elementary kid, helping with administrative needs like laminating and cutting materials, teacher appreciation, and mentoring and interviewing high schoolers preparing for job interviews. To find out how you can help, contact Johnna Kosnoff, Johnna.kosnoff@arumc.org.

Lay Servants – Longing to serve the church in a deeper way, perhaps in leadership, mission, teaching, congregational care, or preaching? Train as a lay servant. All lay servants need to complete the basic class, which we periodically offer through the church, and then regularly take additional classes that can be accessed through the Arkansas Conference or online. If this is an interest of yours, schedule a meeting with Pastor Michelle (michelle@fumcbentonville.org) to talk more deeply about it.



Our Supported Ministries

Our church has supported the establishment of, and houses in many cases, four additional 501(c)3 organizations, and we continue to support them in various ways.

Second Street Pantry – A food pantry that serves people in Bentonville, Bella Vista, and Centerton, they disburse food and other goods on Tuesdays in two afternoon shifts. To volunteer for the pantry, contact Lisa Martens (lisagmartens@gmail.com) or Kerrith Starnes (kstarnes1003@att.net).

Beer & Hymns – The passion project of Ken Weatherford, Beer & Hymns gathers twice a month (once at Tonitown Winery and once at Bike Rack Brewing at 8th Street Market) around a different musical theme to sing hymns and popular music through the ages and to raise money for a different area non-profit each month. The year culminates in Beer and Carols which always benefits the Northwest Arkansas Children's Shelter, raising tens of thousands of dollars to care for vulnerable kids in the area. Follow them on Instagram and Facebook for event dates (@beerandhymnscharity).

Wee Friends – A weekday daycare housed in the Douglas Wing, Wee Friends has an enrollment of around 75 kids, from infants to preschoolers. They operate year round to provide care and education for the smallest among us, seeking to keep rates reasonable and care of the best quality. For information, call 479-273-0540.

Explore and Discover – This preschool provides half-day care for kids either on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, or on Tuesdays and Thursdays to provide stay-at-home parents some respite during the week. They meet in the Explore and Discover classroom, which is also shared by the Kindergarten and First Graders of our church on Sundays. Contact Director, Carole Dalton, cd.dalton@att.net or (479) 445-3542.



How to Join

Anyone is welcome to be part of our congregation without joining, and to engage in most of our activities (certain leadership positions require church membership). Membership involves taking vows to support the church with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service and your witness – a commitment we hope everyone undertakes with seriousness and joy – and can be a significant step in your journey as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

If you are new to our community, and you choose to share your information with us, we will extend an invitation to a Welcome Home gathering. These take places in the homes of people in our church community, or they take place at the church, on a Sunday following the 11 a.m. worship service. These gatherings allow you to meet others who are also exploring our church and to ask any questions about us.

Following, or in lieu of, that invitation, one of the pastors will sit down with you to learn more about your specific discipleship journey. Pastor Michelle will most likely have the Four Questions Conversation with you. In it, she will ask you Four Questions to get at the heart of the passions God has laid on your heart. These four questions help her make connections for you with others in the church, or help you find ways to serve that are meaningful to you.

The questions are:

1. When have you most felt like a disciple of Jesus (or when has your life had the most purpose)?
2. What breaks your heart?
3. What brings you joy?
4. If you could do anything, there are no limitations, what would you do?

When you decide you are ready to join, reach out to Pastor Michelle (michelle@fumcbentonville.org) or to Pastor Ray (ray@fumcbentonville.org). We love to welcome you into membership in front of the congregation on Sunday morning, but we are very committed to our “All Are Welcome” stance and recognize some people are uncomfortable in front of a crowd, or in the case of foster children cannot be shown on a livestream, and so we can make arrangements for you to join at some other time and place. We just need to have a witness from the church to be present.

If you are new to Christianity and have never been baptized, we will baptize you as part of the service of joining. If you have ever been baptized in the Christian tradition, we will recognize that baptism and will not baptize you again. If you have been a member of a Christian church, we would also like to contact them to share with them that you have transferred your membership to us.

Whether or not you officially join us, we are grateful you have chosen to make this place your faith home. We do seek to be a church that welcomes all and builds

a spiritual space for those who are far from home and feel far from God.

How to Give

Here are the various ways you can give to support the mission and ministry of our church.

- ACH (Automated Clearing House)/Automatic Bank Draft – Set it and (practically) forget it giving, this sets up regular giving on your set timeframe, and also does not result in any fees for the church. To set up ACH, go to the give tab at our website (fumcbentonville.org) and choose the ACH option to complete the form, or call the office (479-273-2712) and ask to speak with Accounting.
- Online giving – Make a one-time, special, or regular gift using a credit/debit card or Google pay by going to our website, choosing Give, and then GIVE ONLINE, or by using this QR code:



- Text to Give – Give using your phone by texting 479-431-2441.
- Cash or check – You can still give by placing money in the offering plate/basket that goes around every week, or by mailing or bringing money to the church office at 201 NW 2nd St, Bentonville AR 72712 during regular business hours.
- Venmo – We also take Venmo (@FUMCBentonville), which you can also access at the Give tab on our website (www.fumcbentonville.org/give/). Just be aware it is difficult for our accounting department to know where you want those funds directed, and we do also use that for our parking lot ministry, which directs funds to a different non-profit each month. If you use the Venmo option to give to the church, please send an email to Toni Hinrichs at toni@fumcbentonville.org to let her know it should be directed to the regular budget (or to designate it to particular funds).



Available Resources

Website – Our church website – fumcbentonville.org – contains information on who we are, a calendar of events happening at the church, descriptions of ministries, and online worship resources.

Podcast – Each week we post the sermon from Sunday. It is available where most podcasts are found. Search for FUMC Bentonville Sermon Podcasts.

Amplify – The Methodist Publishing House has an online resource for people to access studies for all ages. Our church subscribes to this service. To sign up:

1. Go to <https://my.amplifymedia.com/amplify>
2. Go to the Person Icon at the top right hand corner of the screen
3. Enter our Access Code: **XCRDTN**
4. Create your account - one account per household

Google Classroom – There are additional online courses you can take to learn more about Methodism and discipleship. To find descriptions of these courses, visit methodistconnection.org and choose Studies and Devotionals.

Upper Room – This devotional book is printed every two months. We have regular and large print copies available in the office, and an electronic copy can be downloaded from our website.

AudioFetch – In the Sanctuary, you can listen to the speaking microphones through your cell phone with hearing aids or headphones. Download the AudioFetch app before coming to worship. Then, when you come in the Sanctuary, use your settings option on your phone to choose the AudioFetch network. Then, open the app and it will detect our sound system.

Ways to Connect

This list includes ways you can learn about what is happening in our church.

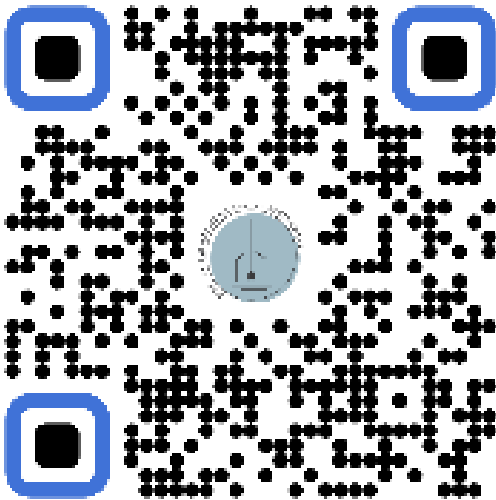
- eNews and Following Faith – eNews comes out every Friday via email and includes major events and news items for the church. Following Faith includes some volunteer opportunities, recaps of past church events, and membership announcements (new members, baptisms, deaths). To sign up, contact Jonathan Day to receive the link, jonathan@fumcbentonville.org.

Note: if you unsubscribe to our newsletters multiple times, you will be unable to subscribe again. Please check your spam folder if you are not receiving it after you have requested it.

- Website – The website includes a calendar that lists our events. Find us at fumcbentonville.org.
- Social media – We post event information on our Facebook and Instagram pages, and we broadcast worship on Facebook (First United Methodist Church Bentonville) and on YouTube.
- App – Download the FUMC Bentonville app for iPhone or Android. If you are not yet a member, you will not be able to access the directory. If you are a member, and you only have a few people in the

directory, try removing the app and downloading it again. To update your information in the directory, including adding a picture, choose the Profile option, and then choose Edit Your Profile.

- Text Announcements – We have mass text capability. If you are not receiving texts and would like to, contact Jonathan Day, jonathan@fumcbentonville.org, with your cell number and we will get you added to the list.
- Mail – If you are not tech savvy, or if you have unsubscribed to the eNews too many times, and would like to receive a printed copy of the eNews every week, call the office or send an email to office@fumcbentonville.org.
- Announcement QR Code – Every week we update the announcements at this QR code:



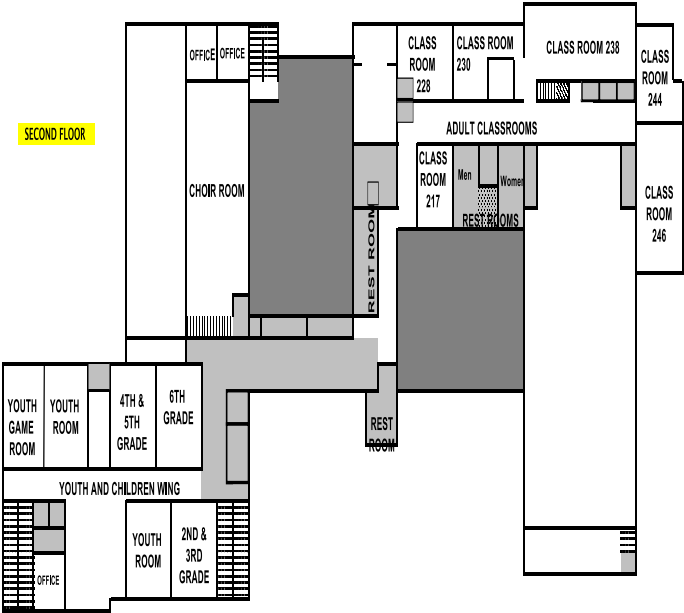
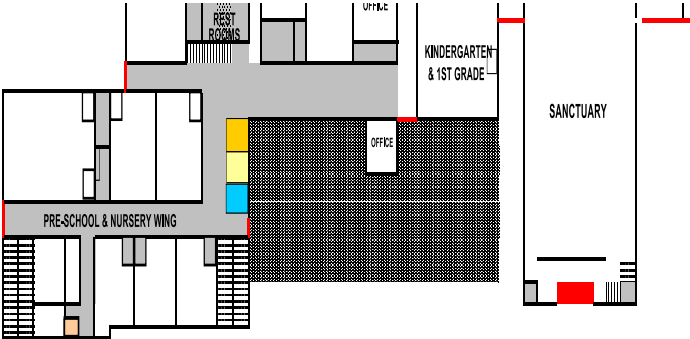
Looking for a Church Directory?

We have one! It is available on the app. If you are a church member, you can access the phone numbers, emails, and addresses of other church members. When you download the app, you will have a people option as one of your choices on the home page. If you are a member and that option has not appeared, first make sure you are signed into the app under the same email address that we show in our church directory. You should be able to sign in under profile. If the People option does not appear after you are signed in, then remove the app and try downloading again.

We also encourage you to upload a picture of yourself so that when others access the directory, they can put a face with your name. Here is how you upload a picture of yourself:

1. Click on "Profile"
2. Choose "Edit Your Profile"
3. On the circle with the person on it, just below edit profile, choose the plus sign
4. Pick either "Choose From Library" to use a photo in your phone, or "Take Photo" to use your phone to take a picture, follow the prompts to load/take the photo
5. Hit "Save" before you exit the profile edit

Maps



Virtual Tour

We have a virtual 360 degree tour of the campus. It can be found at our website under the New Here tab, or it can be accessed with this QR code:

