



Jarrett's Jottings



Dear Friends,

I MISS YOU!!!! I don't know if I can say that enough or with enough emphasis. I miss not seeing you in worship or visiting with you throughout the week. I miss not seeing you at community gatherings or restaurants. I pray that you are physically, emotionally, and spiritually well. This has been a long ordeal, and, by all accounts, it's not quite over. That's certainly not the news we want to hear, but that is, unfortunately, our reality.

As we've gone through these days, two ideas have run through my head. The first is the idea of "wilderness". You might remember our Lenten worship series was entitled "Lessons from the Wilderness". I had no idea how profound (at least for me) that title and those lessons would be. I believe it is appropriate for us to say that we are living in "wilderness times" — we are isolated from one another, perhaps we feel as if we are going through these times all by ourselves, perhaps we are even struggling to see or find God in the midst of these days. The biggest lesson of the wilderness is this — WE ARE NOT ALONE! It is precisely in the wilderness that perhaps we come face-to-face with God. It is precisely in the wilderness that we find the grace and provision of God for all that we need. Since there really isn't anything we can do about the present situation, perhaps the invitation to us is to simply embrace the wilderness, and seek the face of God.

The second thing that's been rolling through my head and my heart has been the idea of community. The cliché says "you don't know what you've got until it's gone". Never in my life have I found those words to ring more true. At First UMC, we have a wonderful community of faith that is committed to Christ and to one another! I know there are some who don't mind these long periods of "alone time". However, these times have shown me just how critical our church community is. We need one another! There is something special, and holy, about having a community — especially a community of faith—to support and encourage us, to care for us, and with which we can share and do life. These days have reminded me to never, never take for granted my community of faith. My hope and my prayer is that we come out of these days even stronger and more connected.

I know we are living in difficult and challenging times. I am holding out hope and faith that not only will we get through this, but these days could serve as a launching pad for even greater ministry in the time to come. Will you join me in prayer for that? Will you pray with me that God would prepare us, and allow us, to be part of an unleashing of the Holy Spirit, the likes of which haven't been seen for generations? I am convinced that our very best ministry could be just ahead!

In the meantime, I continue to pray for each of you; if you have any needs at all during this time, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will close by saying it again...I MISS YOU, and I can't wait to see you all again!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jarrett



*The Mustard Seed*

# May

**Ministry Team:**

*Pastor ~ Jarrett Wells*

*Office Manager ~*

**Maria Hymes**

*Pianist/Organist ~*

**Jill Roegge**

*Choral Director ~*

**Tim Bartholomew**

*Financial Secretary ~*

**Lynne O'Hara**

*Treasurer ~*

**Susan Treadway**

*Youth Director ~*

**Andrea Wells**

*Custodian ~*

**Tonya White**

**Sunday Services:**

*Worship Service ~*

**9:00 a.m.**

*Sunday School ~*

**10:30 a.m.**

*Phone ~ 217-323-1257*

*E-mail ~*

**beardsumc@sbcglobal.net**

*Website ~*

**beardstownfumc.com**

*"Like" us on Facebook ~*

**Beardtown First UMC**

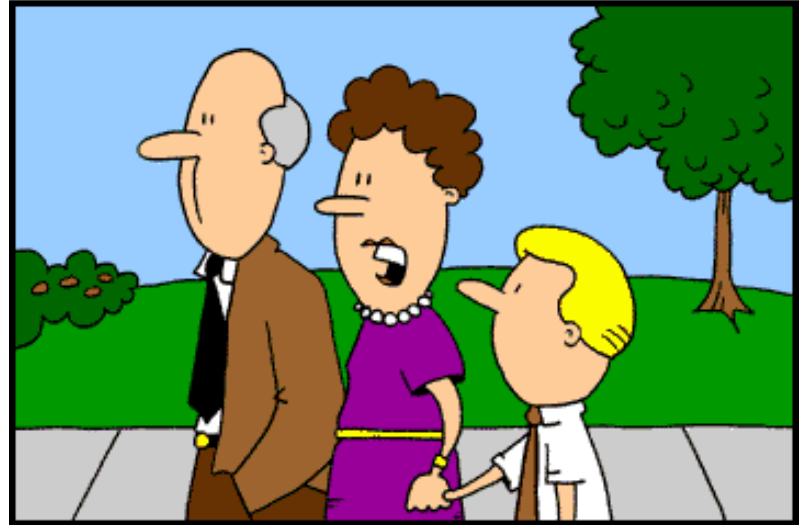
## Birthdays

- 2 Jean Olson
- Owen Quigley
- Christopher McClenning
- Brett Shores
- 3 Michael Dugger
- 4 Andrea Wells
- 5 Susan Treadway
- 9 Tanya Black Hager
- Trent Murray
- 10 Riley Booth
- 13 Christopher Shores
- Angela Robertson
- 14 Dick Robinson
- 15 Jamie Comiskey
- Sue Braner
- 16 Ola Quigley
- 17 Dale Robertson
- Angela Robertson
- 19 Erin Bell
- 20 Tammy Elam
- Billy Joe Robertson
- 21 Dan McClenning
- Gerry Braner
- 22 John Rohn
- Tara Black
- Sara Brannan
- 24 Leigh Lamb
- 27 Travis Taylor
- 28 Rob Quigley
- 30 Brandi Miller

## Anniversaries

- 10 Jerry & Peg Burgett
- 16 Don & Shirlee Clark
- 21 Richard & Karen Robinson
- 24 Jarrett & Andrea Wells
- 31 Levi & Jenna Vermillion

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05-07-1999

YOUR FATHER HAS AGREED TO STAY AWAKE IN CHURCH TODAY SINCE IT IS MOTHER'S DAY ... IT WOULD BE NICE IF YOU WOULD DO THE OPPOSITE FOR ONCE



## Christian Love In Action

Currently C.L.I.A. is in need of: ***Peanut Butter and Jelly***. For now, please take your donated items directly there. Hours are: Tuesdays from 12:00 - 4:00 p.m. and Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Thank you for donations. If you would like to contribute but don't have time / remember to shop, you can give money to Lynne O'Hara and she will pick up the items.

## Cass County Food Pantry

The Cass County Food Pantry is another place that helps Cass County residents in need of food. To help with their mission, they are asking churches for donations for the month of **MAY**: ***Cereal, Canned Tuna, Chicken or Hamburger Helper***.

They are always in need of: ***Peanut Butter, Jelly, Macaroni & Cheese, Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruit, Cereal, or Non-Perishable Food Items***. They have a walk in cooler or freezer to hold perishable items, and are able to take fresh produce items.

## UMW Scholarship Application

For those of you who picked up a scholarship application, we have extended the time to turn it in, to **June 30<sup>th</sup>**. If you have not gotten one and need to pick one up, please leave a message at the church and you can pick one up at the parsonage. Or you can go to our church's Facebook page: Beardstown First UMC and print it out from there. Please make sure it is filled out **COMPLETELY**, then you can mail it back to the church at 415 S. State St., Beardstown, IL 62618 or drop it off to the parsonage, hopefully the office will be open in June.

## Upper Room

Print copies of the May-June issue of *The Upper Room* can be picked up at the parsonage, beginning Tuesday, April 28. If you are unable to get out, a copy can be delivered to you or mailed to you; if that is needed, please call the parsonage (323-2420).

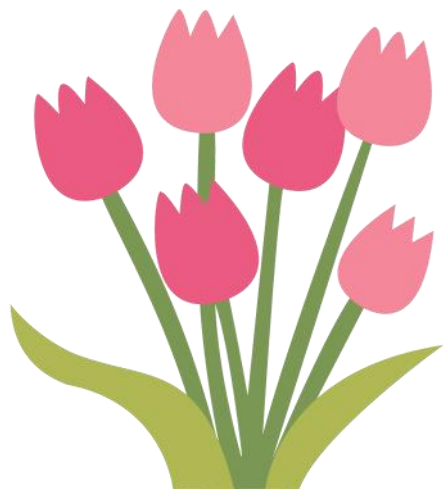
## Digital Giving Is Here!!!

One of the consequences of being unable to worship in-person is offerings either being mailed to the church or dropped off at the parsonage. We now have a solution for that!! Offerings can now be given via our portal through an app on your smartphone. In order to give to the church, you will need to download the GivePlus app (available on both Google Play and the Apple Store). Once the app is downloaded, you will need to search for Beardstown First United Methodist Church or enter our ZIP code and then select our church. Once you select our church, you will have the option of creating an account or proceeding to "give now". Creating an account will allow you to store your payment information and set up recurring offerings. If you choose not to set up an account, you will need to enter your payment information each time you give.

As of this writing, we are set up only to receive offerings into the General Fund; there may come a time when we can route offerings into different accounts. We are also working on setting up an option to give via text messaging — stay tuned for more information on that. If you have ANY questions at all, please get in touch with me (Pastor Jarrett) and I will try to answer as best as I can!

On the subject of giving...let me extend (again) my deepest gratitude to you all. You have been faithful in either mailing your offerings or bringing them by the parsonage. **THANK YOU!!** In these difficult times, the temptation could easily be to pull back or take a "wait and see" approach. Yet you have remained steadfast and faithful! Your faithfulness allows the church to continue to meet our obligations, but more importantly, to further our mission of connecting people to Jesus Christ. I pray this new giving option will be a means for us to remain faithful and continue our partnership with one another for the advancement of God's Kingdom. Of course, if you'd still prefer to mail your offerings to the office or drop them at the parsonage...go right ahead!

HAPPY  
Mother's  
DAY





# Mother's Day

B G S T Y A Y U F Q H L S Q D  
 U F N R D L O O R I M Z P D X  
 F F W I I W R V B E N K E Z O  
 L V L M R E J U Z U P X C Y M  
 L R A O V A V I P Q I R I R H  
 P F F E W B C H J I M B A O A  
 P E R Y T E X W T N G O L Z C  
 S M Z S S G R S D U H H M A F  
 R E H T O M A S K F E D L M U  
 Q K M L U F A M A M A W O Y Y  
 Z O O V K C H I L D R E N A Y  
 B V R A L G U W F K T L Y M C  
 E M E Q F K I S S E S F V C Z  
 V R O K F J T R T D O H Z Q X  
 B A X M U V C B C T B I Y G N

BREAKFAST  
 FAMILY  
 HEART  
 MAMA  
 MOMMY  
 UNIQUE

CARING  
 FLOWERS  
 KISSES  
 MAY  
 MOTHER

CHILDREN  
 FOREVER  
 LOVE  
 MOM  
 SPECIAL



He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations,  
I will be exalted in the earth."

~ Psalm 46:10



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