



Dear First UMC family,

The past 13(!) weeks have been some of the most difficult weeks many of us have faced. We have experienced a wide range of emotions; from caution and concern to frustration and feeling “over it”. I have shared these emotions with you. I have longed to be with you, to gather in worship, to have some sense of “normalcy”. I have missed you! I have missed worshipping with you and sharing with you. I have missed seeing you, not only at church but in the community as well. But as much as I don’t like these days in which we are living, and as much as I REALLY don’t like not worshipping together — I get it. I get why we have been asked to take the precautions we have. I get the need to protect one another and look out for each other. I know you get these things, as well.

As time has worn on, the frustration has mounted, and we have longed to “return to normal”. As we have seen other congregations return to in-person worship, we, too, have longed to do the same. Over the past few months, our Bishop has developed a phased reopening plan for churches in our conference. This reopening plan follows along the guidelines set forth by the Department of Public Health’s “Restore Illinois” plan. The full text of Bishop Beard’s guidelines can be found at www.igrc.org/coming-back-to-the-heart-of-worship.

Coming Back to the Heart of Worship - igrc.org

Coming Back to the Heart of Worship Illinois Great Rivers Conference Guidance on Safely Gathering. Download the Entire Plan Document (v.2.2, 5/29/20, 18 pp, PDF). As we continue to minister with and serve our communities during the COVID-19 global pandemic, we are seeing our churches transform and adapt in amazing ways. www.igrc.org

Here are a few key points:

- We are currently in Phase 3; only gatherings of 10 or fewer are permitted
- Phase 4 allows for gatherings of 50 or fewer. The earliest we could move into Phase 4 is June 26th.
- Phases 1-4 do not allow for congregational singing or responses, socially-distanced seating, a recommendation of face coverings, and limited interpersonal contact. On June 8th, our Executive Team met to discuss these

guidelines and to discuss the question: What is best for Beardstown First UMC? After much conversation, our Executive Team has decided that we will resume in-person worship the Sunday after we are officially in Phase 4 (the EARLIEST date for this is June 28th). The wisdom of the Executive Team is that it is better to be together, albeit with restrictions, than to remain apart and continue the suspension of in-person worship.

As we come back together, here is what you can expect, until we move into Phase 5:

- **BIG CHANGE! WORSHIP WILL BEGIN AT 9:30 A.M.**
- Face coverings will be recommended. We are working to procure disposable masks and hand sanitizer for each entrance to the building.
- We will have socially-distanced seating. Pews and seating areas will be clearly marked (translation: It’s possible you might not be able to sit in “your spot”!).
- We will have limited interpersonal contact.

Regarding worship services:

- There will be NO congregational singing. We will have a soloist who will provide music for worship (if you are interested in being a part of a rotation for leading music, please let Pastor Jarrett or Andrea know).
- We will have no bulletins or other handouts.
- We will not be passing the microphone or the offering plate.
- We will forgo the sacrament of Communion.
- We WILL pray together and hear the Word of God together.
- Sunday School will remain suspended for the time being.
- We will be recording who is present.
- There are contingency plans to accommodate more than 50 persons in a socially-distanced way.
- After each service, the sanctuary will be thoroughly cleaned.

We will continue to stream our worship service in its entirety on our church Facebook Page (Beardstown First UMC). We are also exploring options that might allow us to share or broadcast our service on other online platforms, for example, YouTube.

Friends, I understand this is a lot to take in. I do understand there are those who might view things differently, especially as we see other congregations returning to “normal”. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns you might have. Remember this, dear ones: This is but a season. This season will pass, and will return...and we will celebrate. Through all this, Jesus is STILL on the throne and God is good!

I can’t wait to see you and worship with you again!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jarrett

The Mustard Seed

June



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 ~

Beardstown First UMC

Birthdays

- 1 Brian Becker
Jack DeWitt Elam
- 2 Dennis Hack
Charlie Roegge
- 4 Robert Schoolcraft
Tim Icenogle
Abby Jean Newman
- 7 Bette Jane Cowen
Melissa Scott
- 9 Georgeanne Osmer
- 10 Jill Roegge
- 11 Dick Tyson
Gracen Maltby
- 12 Karen Burgett
Kathy Schoolcraft
- 13 Linda Absher
- 14 Bob Robertson
- 15 Michael Booth
- 16 Val Bushey
Dale Lamb
Sara Pilger
- 19 Vicki Vawter
- 21 Brayden Booth
Clint Cowen
Aaron French
- 22 Ann Bell
- 23 Judy Briggs
Kathy Newman
- 24 George Absher
- 25 Jo Ann Surber
- 26 Adam Rohn
Cash Hurst
Jason Elam
Brandon Hendricker
Michelle Becker Black
- 27 Hannah Elam
- 28 Nic Ruiz
Amelia Marie Davidsmeyer
Kathy Vermillion
- 30 Yvonne Austin
Jonathon Korsmeyer
Audra Elam

Anniversaries

- 1 Joey & Brooke Luna
- 5 Michael & Heather Booth
- 10 Brad & Christine Allen
Jack & Marti Fearneyhough
- 13 Joe & Bree McClenning
- 15 Myron & Christine Hobrock
- 20 Carlos & Susan Treadway
Duane & Marilyn Hendricker
- 21 Dan & Fawn Rohn
Dick & Jeanne Tyson
- 26 Steve & Mary Looker
- 27 Mike & Sue Bonansinga
- 30 Stacey & Dianna Mayes



Christian Love In Action

Currently C.L.I.A. is in need of: **Canned Tuna & Wide Noodles**. You can bring your donated items to the church again. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. CLIA 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 **JUNE**: **Rice-a-Roni, Oatmeal, Ramen Noodles, Macaroni & Cheese**.

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

You still have time to turn in your UMW Scholarship applications as we have extended the deadline until June 30th. If you have not picked one up yet, the office is open again from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. 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**. Thank you!

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



CLASS OF 2020

Graduation

Most people remember their graduation... it was hot, cold, sunny, rainy, outside, inside, the speaker was great, or long winded. They graduated from a big class or they knew everyone by name. Well the class of 2020 is no different, or maybe just a little, as this graduation year for high school and college alike is one for the record books. They either have not had a ceremony, had a virtual ceremony, or it is postponed for a later date, hopefully. The end of May usually brings on graduation parties, and while some may have had them, on a smaller scale, it has been difficult to get together for the typical celebrations.

On Memorial weekend in Beardstown, also known as Alumni weekend, alums will gather for their reunions on Friday night. On Saturday every past graduating class can attend the Alumni banquet where they gather to share memories and send the graduating seniors off into their future endeavors. Then Sunday is the senior's graduation ceremony. Well this year is a little different as that didn't happen. No reunions, no banquet and no graduation ceremony. There was however a parade through Beardstown for the seniors.

It is a right of passage to hear your name called, walk across the stage, hear your family and friends cheer and receive your diploma. While it may be different this year, you have earned your diploma—which can never be taken away! We are very proud of you and the hard work you have put in that past several years. To those graduating high school and moving on to college/trade school, into the work force or military and to our college graduates who are moving on into the work force, may the Lord bless and guide you in your future endeavors. Congratulations!!!!



2020 Graduates-College

Mikaila Kirchner ~ daughter of Randi Kirchner & Scooter & Kelly Kirchner

I went to Parkland College in Champaign, IL with an Associate's Degree in Nursing (ADN). As of right now, no jobs are lined up. However NICU at St. John's Hospital would be my ideal / dream job. In fact any ICU setting would be ideal. I have loved all the new friends I made during my college years! However, I hate how expensive college was for something that is needed to be successful in life. There have been so many wonderful memories, that I couldn't even begin to list them. But a wonderful experience was had for sure.



Ross Blakeman ~ son of Wendy McClenning & Joe Blakeman

I graduated from MacMurray College with my Bachelors in Science specializing in Human Resources and Organizational Leadership. I am pleased to be on the Dean's List for the 2020 spring semester. MacMurray is unfortunately closing their doors and I am honored to be a part of the last graduating class of MacMurray College.

I am currently working at Obiter Research in Champaign IL. Obiter Research specializes in custom contract chemical research and manufacturing of difficult or complex chemical compounds. At Obiter I am the Business Operations Manager where I oversee departments of Human Resources and Compliance.

What I liked most about my years with MacMurray College was that it was flexible for the lifestyle that I wanted. I was able to be a full-time student but also work full-time as well. While I went to MacMurray I worked at 4 All Seasons for Marilyn Pilger for a couple years, Prairie State Bank and Trust, and the First National Bank of Beardstown. MacMurray offering classes to me online let me have 5 years of experience in the workforce before I even graduated.

The only thing that I struggled with during college were the exams and finals. I am not a good test taker. I am one to be able to verbally explain something to someone but when it's on paper it's very different to me; but I've been like that my whole life. I always had to work harder than everyone else to get the grades that I wanted. Fortunately for me, a lot of my professors had us do final projects instead which I was grateful for and able to showcase my knowledge better that way.

My favorite memories of college would be looking back at where I started. My years in college are full of amazing memories but also some really hard times for me. College made me realize where I belong, who I am, those friends that will be forever, my biggest supporters, educating myself to know I could make a great businessman, and just finding an overall abundance of confidence and who I am meant to be in this world.

Emma White ~ daughter of Chris & Brittney Taylor & Mike White

I went to Illinois State University and got my degree in Elementary Education with an endorsement in teaching English as a second language. Starting this fall I will be teaching 3rd grade in Rushville at Webster Elementary. Some of the best things of my time at college is the lifelong friends I've made. There I found such an amazing support system that I cannot imagine my life without them. However something that was a disappointment was the fact that it was cut 8 weeks short! I didn't want it to end at all, let alone given the circumstances the way it did. A great opportunity I had was when I was given the chance to study abroad in Milan, Italy for 4 weeks. I was able to visit so many cities in Italy and made a trip to Poland and visited Auschwitz. This was a once in a lifetime opportunity and hands down the best experience I had!



2020 Graduates— Beardstown High School



Ellie White ~ daughter of Chris & Brittney Taylor & Mike White

After graduation I will be getting things ready for college and spending the last real summer with my friends. Then in the fall I will be attending Paul Mitchell Cosmetology School in Normal, IL. While in high school I loved the dances we had and the sporting events for sure. I have fond memories of the Softball / Basketball Dance and Elite Choir the first 2 years, and then volleyball for the first 3 years. However something I will miss is my lower classman friends.

PAUL MITCHELL
the school.



Zach Watson ~ son of Jim & Kim Watson

Plans for summer would have been working my third year as a lifeguard at the Beardstown Pool if we weren't quarantined. This fall, though, I will be going to school at Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky studying for pre-med / biology with plans of being an ER doctor. My favorite part of high school was being able to join clubs and making new friends. But then I will also miss being involved at all the extracurricular activities. I was involved in NHS (National Honor Society), student council, football, baseball, key club, student advisory council and the mentoring program.



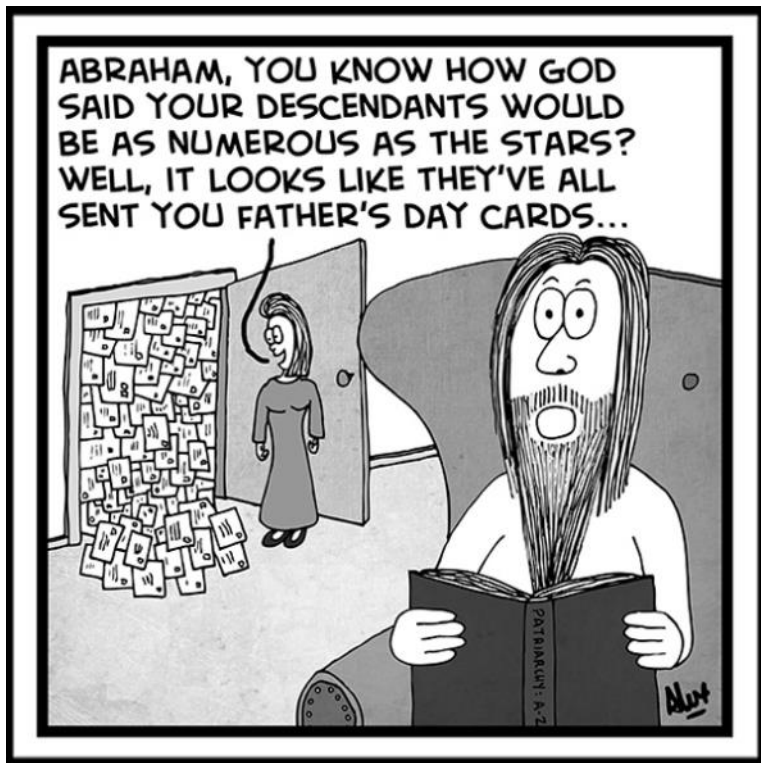
Avery Quigley ~ son of Rob & Michele Quigley

This summer I plan on doing maintenance at the park district, and hopefully lifeguarding at the Beardstown Pool if it opens back up. I also will be working out, fishing, and swimming. In the fall I will be attending McKendree University in Lebanon, IL to study Exercise and Sports Science. My favorite part of high school was spending the day with my friends, especially on game days. My least favorite was the school lunches though, leaving a lot to be desired. While in high school I was involved in football, baseball, basketball, the mentor program and NHS (National Honor Society).

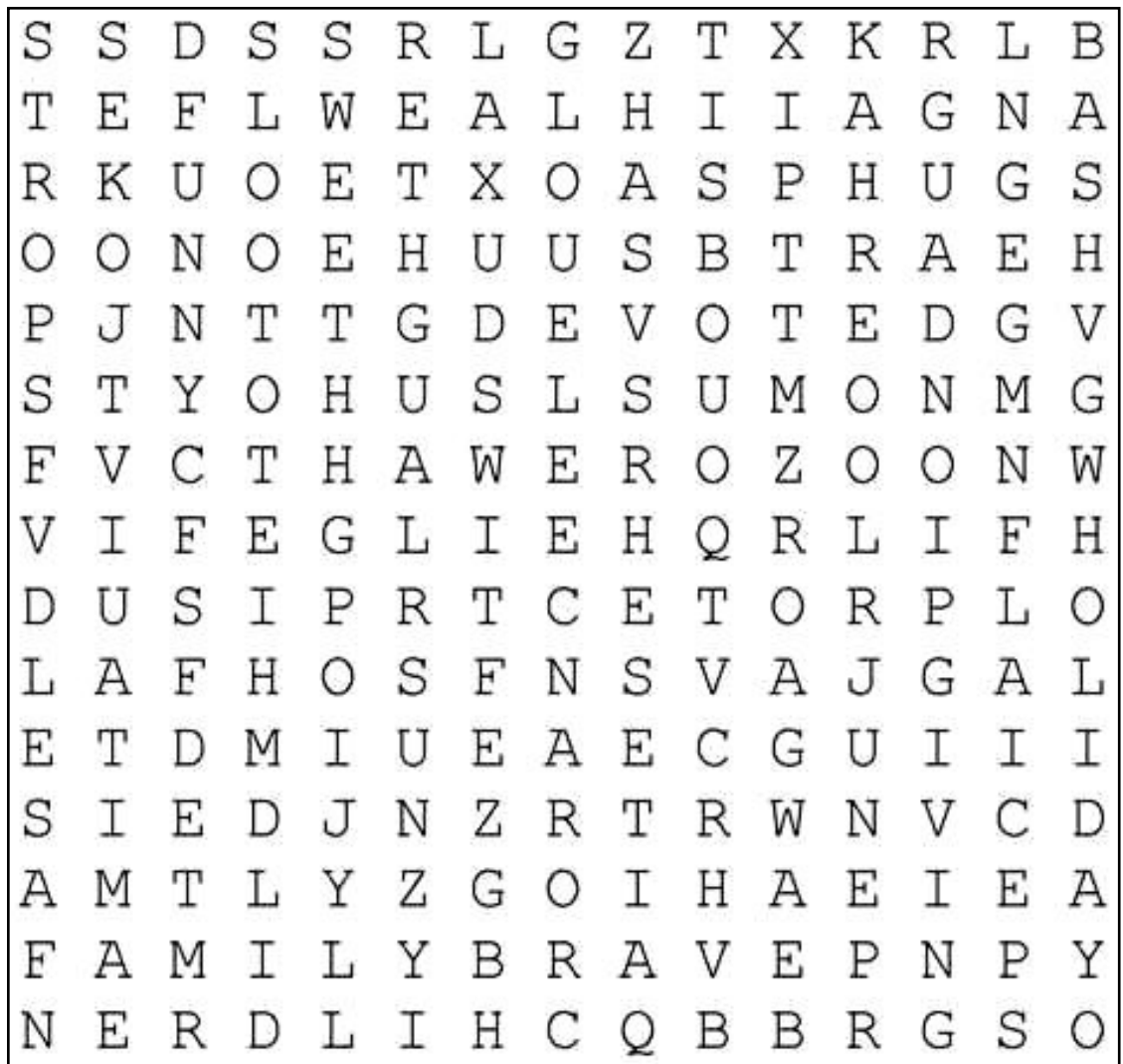


Some tidbits about this year, besides the quarantine and not being able to finish the school year as normal is... the Taylor/White family having 2 graduates, Emma from college and Ellie from high school. Also while Avery enjoyed his senior year, he was also able to play on the same athletic events with his younger brother, Owen, who was a freshman. Then Ross is in a unique situation, as his class is the last to graduate from MacMurray college, as they have closed their doors.

No final decision has yet been made on whether Beardstown will have a graduation ceremony or not for Avery, Zach, Ellie and their classmates. Mac in Jacksonville had a virtual ceremony on the actual day, but is planning on doing something later since it will be the last graduation. Parkland did not have a ceremony, instead they did a slide show, so Mikaila was not able to get pinned for her nursing. And at ISU they made a YouTube video that was a virtual graduation with their name and picture on the screen and a few people giving speeches. The graduates are invited back though for the commencement ceremony in December if they wish to attend.

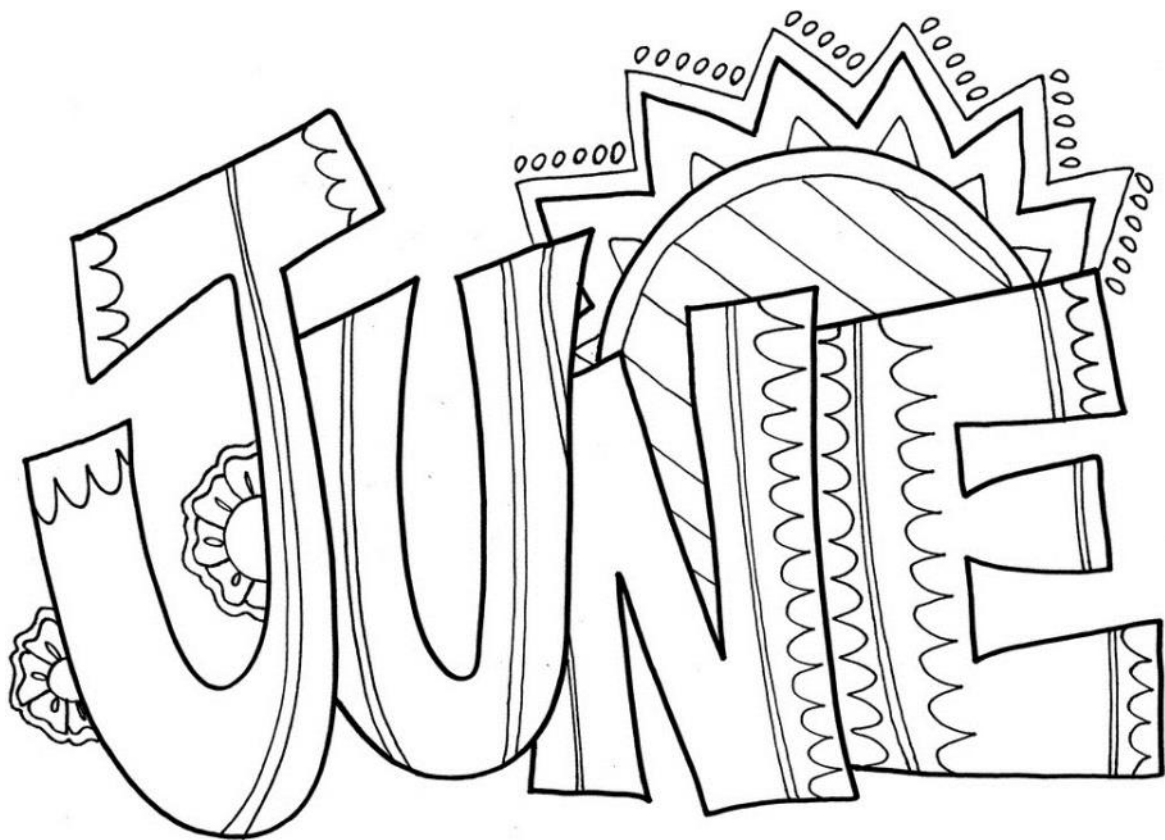


- BBQ
- BRAVE
- CARING
- CHILDREN
- DADDY
- DEVOTED
- FAMILY
- FATHER
- FISHING
- FOOTBALL
- FUNNY
- GIFTS
- GIVING
- HEART
- HOLIDAY
- HOME
- HONOR
- HUGS
- JOKES
- JUNE
- KISSES
- LAUGHTER
- LOVE
- MEMORIES
- NATURE
- PARENT
- PROTECT
- RESPECT
- SPECIAL
- SPORTS
- STRONG
- SWEET
- THOUGHTFUL
- TIE
- TOOLS



*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow
of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

~ Psalm 23:4



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