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# The Arkansas United Methodist

## LIVING OUR FAITH

December 17, 2020



## What to Read this Week

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## Fill the Fence Keeps Arkansans Warm

Fill the Fence is a new donation ministry at FUMC Rogers that seeks to provide warm clothing to anyone who needs it by attaching donations to the iron fence that surrounds the church's grounds.

[Read More](#)



## Services For a Difficult Year

Blue Christmas, also called Longest Night, services will be held by United Methodist Churches all over the Arkansas Conference as a way to offer a shared space for grieving, but also comfort and hope.

*By Caleb Hennington*

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## WiFi Grants Offer Churches a Chance to Become Community Hubs

200K More Reasons has partnered with the Methodist Foundation for Arkansas to provide Virtual Learning Support grants to a limited number of churches. These grants can expand churches' networks to allow them to minister to children and families who need a safe place to access the internet.

*By Rev. Samantha Meadors*

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## Replacing Masks of Hate with Masks of Brotherly Love

“As this year comes to a close we are quickened in our spirit, knowing that regardless of what 2020 might have brought, how it might have challenged us, this is not our fate, not our character or the mask we must wear.”

*By Rev. Rashim Merriwether*

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## The Nature of Disability in Our Complicated World

The Rev. Stephen Waggoner of the ARUMC Disability Concerns Committee explains the meaning of the word disability and how it's not always what you think it is. This is part 1 of 3 in a new series on disability in the church.

*By Rev. Stephen Waggoner*

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A Blessing for those who minister to children...  
 May the God who loves us all refill your spirit in this new year! God of greatness wash over us the new skills we have learned to keep them ready to apply to your work. May the Holy Spirit guide us to each family that needs to feel the love of Christ.



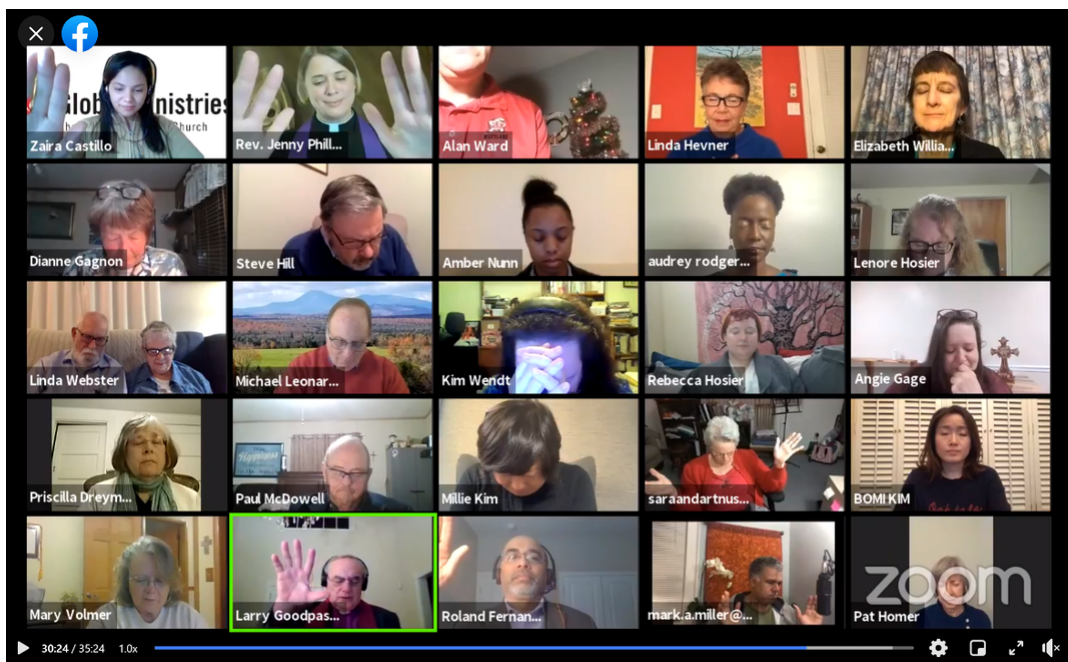
May the Lord Bless you and keep you, may the Lord's face shine upon you and give you peace.

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The year 2020 marched in with the assumption that we would be carrying out ministry like we always have been doing. Many Children's Ministers and volunteers left the Beyond Conference full of new ideas and approaches to apply to our work in ministry, all to have it come to a screeching halt in March. Melinda Shunk offers a look back on this tumultuous year, as well as hope for 2021.

*By Melinda Shunk*

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## Rev. Angie Gage Commissioned as Global Ministries EarthKeeper

The Rev. Angie Gage, senior pastor of Cherokee Village UMC, was recently selected to serve in the UMC Global Ministries EarthKeepers program and was commissioned in an online ceremony in December. Read more about what the EarthKeepers are and the work that Rev. Gage will be doing.

*By Caleb Hennington*

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Ingathering 2020 was a different experience this year, but Arkansas United Methodists from all over the connection still found a way to come together in separate locations to provide food and donations to hungry Arkansas families. Check out a highlight video of the various events above!

*By Christina Choh*

Every day, from December 26 until January 2, we'll be sharing some of our favorite Arkansas United Methodist stories from 2020. In a year of a lot of pain and heartache, let's be reminded of some of the best uplifting and encouraging stories from the past year! Subscribe to the AUM today to make sure you get the daily emails.

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*Have a story idea? Want to submit an article to be featured online?  
Contact Caleb Hennington at [caleb.hennington@arumc.org](mailto:caleb.hennington@arumc.org) or call 501-324-8037.*



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