

First Things

Double
Edition

Issue No. 51 & 52

A weekly publication of First United Methodist Church, Oak Ridge, Tennessee

December 22 & 29, 2019

Christmas Eve Service for Those Living With Dementia

We are pleased to announce the joy of our new “Abiding” worship experience leads us to offer a new dementia-friendly service on Christmas Eve. Beginning at 3 pm in the Chapel, this Holy Communion and Candlelight service will use familiar music selections and well-known scripture lessons. Church and community members alike are invited to participate in this gentle, loving service. Caregivers with questions about the service or who need assistance with their loved ones are encouraged to contact the Rev. Chris Black, 483-4357.

Thank you FUMCOR for Supporting UMW Events!!

Your FUMC United Methodist Women’s unit is grateful for the faithful and generous support of our two recently completed major mission projects. The first was the **Pilot Club of Oak Ridge Arts and Crafts Show** in November. Many of you joined our unit members in providing hand-made arts and crafts for us to sell. Our booth was very successful! We sold enough items to cover a significant portion of our 2020 mission programs and some for our unit expenses.

The second project was the “**Snowman,**” our annual Christmas collection of hand-made or purchased winter hats, mittens/gloves, scarves and socks to donate to local missions for needy kids. This year, again, the congregation hung hundreds of the “warm fuzzies” on the Snowman’s pegs. They were distributed to, and greatly appreciated by, Family Resource Center, Holiday Bureau, T.O.R.C.H., Mission of Hope, and Morgan-Scott Project. Thank you!

Evergreen Movie, *The King and I*, Jan. 6, 2:30 pm

We will be showing “The King and I,” starring Yul Brynner, Deborah Kerr, Rita Moreno, and Martin Benson in room 207 on January 6th at 2:30 pm. The King of Siam hires a widowed American English teacher to tutor his children. The collision of East and West affords its winning mixture of drama, humor, and musical scores. After the movie, we will eat at a local restaurant chosen by the group. If there are questions, please call Nancy Delene, 483-0740.

Worship for December 22

8:45 & 11 am

Traditional Service

Sermon: “Christ Within Me”

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25,
Romans 12:1-5

Rev. Mark Flynn, lead pastor

11 am Contemporary Service

Sermon: “Christ Within Me”

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25
Rev. Chris Black, associate pastor

Help the ADFAC Crisis Cupboard

On Sunday, Dec. 22nd, our church will collect supplies for the ADFAC (Aid to Distressed Families of Appalachian Counties) Crisis Cupboard. This resource is stocked with some essential items that folks need but often can’t afford. {Or purchase with SNAP benefits.} These items are given away to meet an emergency need for folks who come to ADFAC for assistance. Please bring at least one of the items to Chris’ office downstairs or to the Fellowship Hall.

Items Needed: Laundry detergent, paper towels, toilet paper, tissues, diapers, wipes, deodorant, body wash, shampoo, travel size toiletries, household cleaners, dish soap, toothpaste/brush, and non-perishable food.

Christmas Sing Along and Cookie Packing

Fa-La-La-La-La with us on Sunday Dec. 22nd from 4:00pm-5:30pm as we pack up some cookies to be delivered to persons in our community that have to work on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. The small packages of cookies that we make during our cookie packing/sing along will be available for pick-up immediately following each of our Christmas Eve services. We will sing Christmas songs with Jeff Kile and Wendel Werner while we get the packages ready (and taste test some of the cookies). Convenience store clerks, healthcare providers at nursing homes, assisted living facilities, hospital personnel, emergency responders, police, full time caretakers, etc., can all be blessed through our efforts! It's a nice way to let them know we remember and recognize them. Can you bring some cookies? Please let Ruthie Gordon know at rjruns@comcast.net.

January Sermon Series: Caring for God’s Creation

Caring for God’s creation is the greatest unexamined and future-critical theological issue of our day. Although shocking for some, that statement comes as no surprise to most young adults. Environmentalism and all the issues associated with it top the list of concerns for those under 40 years old. On the four Sundays of January, our worship services will be exploring the theme of “Caring For God’s Creation.” The sermons in the series are:

January 5 – Creation Is God’s First Great Incarnation

January 12 – We Are The Root of Our Creation’s Woe

January 19 – It Is “Easier” To Worship God In Creation
Than In The Church

January 26 – The Church and Not Government Must Lead
Creation Care

Christmas Eve Holy Communion & Candlelight Services



4:00 pm **Children’s Pageant,
Sanctuary**

7:00 pm **Contemporary Service,
MPR**

11:00 pm **Traditional Service,
Sanctuary**

Our Upcoming Winter Studies (Take Note of a Few Changes Since Last Week!)

A variety of new classes and programs will kick-off beginning the week following Sunday, January 12. Some of these will be short-term, others longer term. Contact Megan Alden, 865-483-4357; malden@fumcor.org, if you need childcare for younger children.

Adults

Beginning Tuesday, January 14 from 6-7:30 pm and Wednesday, January 15 from 1 - 2:30 pm, Jenny Caughman will lead "Connecting with God Through Creativity." Many of us desire to develop our relationship with God and are uncertain of how to do that. God's first act in the Bible is creation, and we worship God as Creator. Made in the image and likeness of God, we too are called to create – yet for many of us that feels either threatening or unimportant. This 12-week group will help participants explore the creative process and how it can be a way to express our spirituality, connect with God, and connect with our deeper selves. Artistic talent is *not* a prerequisite! For more information or to register, please contact Jenny Caughman (jcaughman@fumcor.org; 483-4357).

A 7-week Bible study exploring the Torah, the first 5 books of the Bible, will take place twice on Wednesday evenings (to provide options for parents whose children are singing in one of our choirs). Led by Mark Flynn, these classes will begin on Wednesday, January 15 from 5:15 - 6:15 pm and will again be offered from 6:15-7:15 pm. This study has daily readings and is designed for all people — those with no biblical background, as well as those with years of devotional study. Those participating will need to pick up a copy of the free study guide from the office in time to finish a week's readings prior to that first class.

Another option beginning Wednesday, January 15 from 6:15-7:15 pm will be our 4-week "Nonviolence In A Violent World" study. Led by Chris Black, the class will focus on how the teachings of Gandhi, Jesus of Nazareth, and Howard Thurman informed Martin Luther King, Jr.'s unique philosophy of nonviolence. We will explore how King's non-violence became both an expression of his faith and the basis for a movement that changed the world. We will look deeply at King's life and obstacles his movement faced, as well as seek to uncover how non-violence shaped his strategy for racial reconciliation, integration, and freedom. The class will also explore how "Kingian nonviolence" can inform our Christian discipleship in the world.

Adults can also be looking ahead to Wednesday, March 4 from 6:15-7:15 pm when our "John Wesley's Sermons For Today" class will begin. Led by Chris Black, more details on this 6-week series will come later.

Beginning on Thursday, January 16 from 10 am to noon, Mark Flynn will teach the second part of his iStudy Bible Study series. This study will focus on all the books of the Old Testament other than the Torah. This 7-week class has daily readings and is designed for all people — those with no biblical background, as well as those with years of devotional study. Completion of an iStudy Torah class is helpful but not necessary. Pick up a study guide in the office, read the first week's lessons, and come join us.

As always, our weekly Adult Chancel Choir rehearsals begin at 7:00 pm on Wednesdays. Now is the time to join and prepare for the Lent and Easter seasons!

Youth

Special Wednesday night activities are already taking place in the youth loft. Our 7th through 12th graders gather at 6:15 pm for Youth Choir in the music room and at 7:15 in the loft, spending time deepening their spiritual lives and having fun together.

Children

Join us as we begin our Wonderful Wednesday program for kids in PreK to 6th grade! Kick Off will be January 15th. Starting at 5:15 pm, this program will include a light meal, choir music practice as well as a rotation schedule of Library Tales, Creative Arts, Bible Buddies and Project X (service projects). Kids will participate in Choir as well as one of the rotations each week, ending at 7:15. We call it Wonderful Wednesday because that is what it will be for the kids!

January Homebound Member's Birthday!

Each month we will be listing the homebound members of our congregation who have a birthday. Please, take a moment and send a card. You can get their addresses by either looking in the directory or contacting the church office (483-4357, dgallaher@fumcor.org). Thank you for this expression of care and concern!

- Shelby Douglass, January 4

Our Financial Update

We are SO close to our 2020 stewardship goal of 275 commitments for \$1.1 million! So far we have received 254 "estimates of giving" totaling \$1,062,087. This is wonderful news! We are only \$37,913 and 21 estimates of giving from our goal! Whether you can commit \$10 or \$10k for 2020, it's going to take all of us working together to reach our goals. We can get there together!

Celebrating Missions

Here, at the close of the year, we want to look back and celebrate the number of mission trips our congregation has taken over the years! Praise God, and thank you to all who have participated since 2003!

FUMC Adult Mission Trips

Honduras – 2003 – 2019 (25 teams)

Nicaragua – 2006 – 2015 (10 Teams)

Red Bird Mission – 2007 – 2010 (4 Teams)

Hurricane Katrina (Waveland, MS) – 2008 – 2012 (5 Teams)

Henderson Settlement – 2008, 2011– 2013 (4 Teams)

Haiti – 2010 & 2011 (2 Teams)

Nashville Flood – 2011 (1 Team)

Pilgrimage to Compassion – 2012 – 2015 (4 Teams)

Hurricane Sandy (Brooklyn, NY) – 2013 – 2016 (4 Teams)

Appalachian Service Project (Greenville, TN) – 2014 (1 Team)

Hurricane Irma (St. Augustine, FL) – 2018 (1 Team)

Panama – 2019 (1 Team)

Hurricane Florence (Wilmington, NC) – 2019 (1 Team)

Youth Parent Luncheon, January 5

On Sunday, January 5 at 12:15pm, there will be a lunch in the Loft for parents and guardians of youth, as well as volunteers. Kayla will share information about spring youth events. If you would like to get more involved or stay involved with the workings of our youth ministry, this meeting is a great opportunity! If you have any questions, feel free to contact Kayla at kcarico@fumcor.org.

Following the lunch, there will also be a brief informational meeting about our January 10–12 retreat for registered youth and their parents and guardians.

December Special Offering

Our December special offering is for the YWCA. Its main function is to offer domestic violence services in Oak Ridge and Anderson County. The programs offered by the Y help to provide safe housing for threatened women and their children; counseling and mental health services; advocacy in the courts; and community education.

Check Out the Library

The FUMC library provides writings by contemporary Christian authors and spiritual help books that might not be found at the public libraries. The stated purpose of Jones Memorial Library is to serve the congregation in its ministries and to provide materials for members to assist in their growth as Christians. To make it easier to participate in using the library, an electronic catalog can be found by going to the church website [<https://www.fumcor.org/>] and checking under “Resources.” Any DVD that is available in the catalog can be used through home computers. For special orders, submit requests to Pastor Chris Black. If you have questions or interests in many “church” topics, check out the library – you might find what you need in FUMCOR’s Jones Memorial Library.

(Prepared by Mary Kate O’Kain for the FUMCOR History Team on Sep. 12, 2019)

Worship for December 29

**8:45 & 11 am Combined Services
In the Sanctuary**

God Calls. How Do We Answer?

Will include numerous scriptures,
prayers, poems, and stories.

Clean Water for the Home

Lou Ann and Steve Cristy will be traveling to Honduras in February 2020, taking water filters to provide potable water filters for families who have difficulty providing safe water for their children and themselves. Water borne diseases remain the leading cause of illnesses in third world countries.

Clean Water for the Home has a priority to serve these families with children under 5. However, they also have many families with children over five, with handicapped members, and elderly persons.

2020 represents their 11th year and their 13th trip. The Cristys have delivered over 1700 filters to families with over 4000 children in 22 communities. The ministry has been training two pastors, Hector Lainez, pastor at Ciudad Espana, and Carlos Cornejo, pastor in Tegucigalpa, and some lay persons such as Karina Contreras, in El Negrito, to carry on this work. When that time comes, the ministry hopes to continue supplying filters, buckets, parts, and supplies for them to use. The Cristys pay for their own travel expenses and a small stipend for Hector, but they depend on contributions for purchasing filters, buckets, parts, and now some costs for maintaining the filter systems around the country. A donation of \$50 will do all this and purchase more than one complete new filter system.

The Cristys want to thank all of the many generous First United Methodist Church persons who have supported Clean Water for the Home over the last 10 years. “We can’t do it without you!” Should you wish to hear more, call Steve or Lou Ann at 406–3666 or email to cleanwaterfth@bellsouth.net.

Planning Ahead for Missions 2020

The FUMC Adult Mission Trip Planning Team has been vigorously at work developing plans for the 2020 church year. The dates of service have already been set for three teams, and a fourth team experience is undergoing planning. The three trips that have secured their dates are:

- Honduras Mission Trip – It is expected this team will have medical, vision, children's oral health & sewing service elements plus construction and VBS, if participants wish to perform these activities. This team is scheduled for March 14th through 22st. Contact Jim Henry (482-4203 or 806-0921) to express your interest in participating.
- Sager Brown Mission Trip – 18 slots have been secured for the November 7th through 14th time frame. As usual, this team will work at the UMCOR World-Wide Disaster Relief Depot in Baldwin, LA. The work there, as in the past, will be as varied as you wish it to be – from kit verification & sewing to service in the community. Contact Maxine Schultz (482-0080 or 719-4304) to ask questions or participate.
- Panama Mission Trip – This will be the second year for this exciting adventure. Services to be offered are expected to be medical, vision and possibly children's oral health. This team will be serving during the Oak Ridge school system fall break, September 26th through October 4th. Contact Jim Michel (483-8849) to express your interest in this adventure.
- **NOTE:** Disaster Relief Mission Trip – The fourth mission team's activities will focus on disaster relief. The nature and timing of this very important service activity will be determined in early 2020.

Pastors

Mark Flynn, lead pastor
Chris Black, associate pastor
Jenny Caughman, spiritual care

Contact Information

865.483.4357
www.fumcor.org
To Contact the Pastor On Call:
865.272.9862



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Oak Ridge, TN 37830

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Congratulations to

Keith Kile and Katie Vail on the birth of their daughter, Maren Elizabeth Vail-Kile, on December 6th, 2019. Grandparents are Jeff & Nancy Kile.

Our Prayers:

MMC: Mary Kate O'Kain, Dick Schreiber

Our Gifts

Offering this Week	\$20,626
2019 Year to Date	\$1,293,131
2018 Year to Date	\$1,336,585
December Special Offering	\$1319

Last of the Scrip Cards Available

We still have a few scrip cards available for purchase before we close out the fundraiser. These are gift cards the Youth Choir sells to help pay for choir tour. If you shop at the places below, think about purchasing the gift cards first. By purchasing the cards, a percentage back of the dollar amount will go to the choir, and you have a gift card to use. No extra cost to you! Contact Danielle in the main office if interested, 483-4357. **The following cards are available:**

- | | | |
|---------------------|----------------|--|
| • 13 \$100 Food Cit | • 1 \$100 CVS | • 5 \$25 CVS |
| • 2 \$100 Walmart | • 4 \$25 Dicks | • 1 \$100 Dicks/Golf Galaxy/Field & Stream |
| • 5 \$25 Walgreens | | |

XYZ

XYZ Seniors enjoyed a great Christmas Luncheon on Dec. 11th with Judy Dodd Catering and a Music Sing-a-Long with Seth O'Kegley! Donna Wiffen shared her exquisite Nativity Needlework and provided Snow Man favors! Thank you to the XYZ Committee for their loyal support and work! **Our next gathering will be on January 8.** China Palace will cater, and the program will be Allen Sims on the improvements in Knoxville's Old City! Call in your reservations to the church office by [January 3](#)! Merry Christmas to all XYZ Seniors and their families! For more information, call Ann Munz at [865 661 0700](tel:8656610700).

Schedule for December 21 - January 4, 2019

Saturday, December 21

10:00 Pageant Rehearsal, Sanc.

Sunday, December 22

8:45 Traditional Service, Sanc.

10:00 Sunday School

10:15 Abiding Worship, Chapel

11:00 Traditional Service, Sanc.

11:00 Contemporary Serv, MPR

4:00 Cookie Decorating, MPR

Monday, December 23

11:00 ROMEO, 202

1:15 Staff Mtg, 207

6:15 Threshold Choir, 106

6:30 Scouts

Tuesday, December 24

Building Closed Until...

4:00 Children's Pageant, Sanc

7:00 Christmas Eve

Contemporary Worship,
MPR

11:00 Christmas Eve Worship,
Sanc

Wednesday, December 25

Building Closed

Thursday, December 26

Building Closed

Friday, December 27

No activities scheduled

Saturday, December 28

No activities scheduled

Sunday, December 29

8:45 Traditional Service, Sanc.

10:00 Sunday School

10:15 Abiding Worship, Chapel

11:00 Traditional Service, Sanc.

11:00 Contemporary Serv, MPR

Monday, December 30

11:00 ROMEO, 202

1:15 Staff Mtg, 207

6:15 Threshold Choir, 106

6:30 Scouts

Tuesday, December 31

8:15 Weekly Communion, Chpl

12:00 Centering Prayer, Chpl

Building Closes at 12 Noon!

Wednesday, January 1

Building Closed

Thursday, January 2

No activities scheduled

Friday, January 3

8:00 Women's small grp, 202

Saturday, January 4

No activities scheduled

Keystone & First Steps—M-F