

First Things

DOUBLE EDITION

Issue No. 47 & 48

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

November 24 & December 1, 2019



A Celtic Advent



The season of Advent begins on Sunday, December 1. Followers of Jesus use the days leading up to Christmas to celebrate and prepare for the coming of Christ. Our congregation will enhance our Advent celebration this year by drawing on some of the wonderful traditions found in Celtic spirituality. The name “Celtic” refers to an ancient people who settled in Europe. With the rise of the Germanic tribes in the North and the Romans in the Mediterranean region, the Celts were pushed north to the British Isles, forming the Irish-Gaelic, Scots-Gaelic, Welsh, Cornish and Breton cultures. Christianity spread to Ireland through its Roman origins (thanks St Patrick!) but maintained its own unique “flavor.” While the music of our worship services will only have a hint of that flavor, we will explore how the theological influences of Celtic spirituality provide insight for our Advent preparations. Those influences include the mystery of God expressed in the Trinity; the incarnation of Jesus as the Creator’s effort to achieve unity with creation; the belief that all creation is sacred/love of nature; the importance of “soul friends” to help us draw closer to God; and personhood before productivity. We hope you will join us each week in worship during the Advent Season.

Celebrating Our Generosity!

This past week’s Commitment Sunday made quite an impact on our 2020 “Moving Forward” goal to fund our congregation’s programs and ministries next year. So far we have received 172 “estimates of giving” toward our goal of 275 (63%). Those represent a total of \$824,979 toward our campaign goal of \$1,100,000 (75%). As you can see, we are still waiting to hear from a few folks. If you have not yet returned your 2020 estimate of giving, please help us be good stewards of our church’s finances and contact our business office as soon as you can. We will soon begin the process of budgeting and need financial information that is as accurate as possible. Thanks!

— The Finance Committee

Worship for November 24

8:45 & 11 am Traditional Service

Sermon: “Reign of Christ”

Scripture: Colossians 1:11-20

Rev. Mark Flynn, lead pastor

11 am Contemporary Service

Sermon: “Who is Your King?”

Scripture: 1 Samuel 8:1-22

Rev. Jenny Caughman, spiritual care pastor



Gobble Gobble

We will be serving a Free Community Meal on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, November 27 – so you guessed it – we’ll be serving turkey! A generous person approached the cook for that evening, Sheila Michel, and offered to deliver a cooked turkey on Wednesday. This will not only make meal preparation easier, it will also save the church money. We will need 10 – 12 turkeys. If you would like to help in this effort, please call the church office, 483-4357. Thank you, and Happy Thanksgiving!

Place a Red Poinsettia in the Traditional or Contemporary Services During Advent

Red poinsettias will be placed in the services during Advent. To order a poinsettia “in memory” or “in honor” of a loved one, please place this form in the offering plate, mail it, or bring it to FUMC. **Orders must be received by Sunday, November 24.** Cost for a 6" poinsettia is \$9. Make checks out to FUMC (memo: Poinsettias). Flowers may be picked up after the 11am services on the Sunday

you select. Flowers not picked up by noon on the following Monday will be used at the church or given away. All donors and persons being memorialized and honored will be listed in a Sunday bulletin insert on the First Sunday of Advent, December 1.



Name (as you would like to have your name listed) _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

Service: Traditional _____ Contemporary _____ Circle Date: Dec. 1 Dec. 8 Dec. 15 Dec. 22

Circle: In Memory In Honor of _____

Number of poinsettias ordered: _____ A check for or cash of _____ is enclosed (\$9.00 each).

Youth Retreat

Youth in grades 7-12 are invited to register for "Campfire: Stories", a brand new retreat happening at Camp Wesley Woods, January 10-12. We will worship, eat, play, pray, and enjoy time around warm campfires, along with the youth group from Bookwalter UMC! This retreat will be a great opportunity to meet new people, make new friends, reflect on faith and spirituality, find acceptance, share gifts and talents, and even take a jaunt to Gatlinburg for an afternoon. The cost of the retreat is \$30 per youth, and you can register online at fumcor.org/youthforms. The deadline for registration is Wednesday, December 18.

A Worship Experience For Those Living With Dementia And Their Caregivers



As we prepare for our new, weekly Abiding Worship service (beginning December 1 at 10:15 am), designed for our loved ones with dementia and their caregivers, the Trustees have approved removing every other pew in the Chapel. Removing them will enable those with dementia and mobility issues to receive Holy Communion. As we have learned from our Keystone ministry, receiving the sacrament is an essential element for this worship experience. The beautiful chairs going in to the Chapel would be similar in style to those used in cathedrals around the world. The Chapel is a designated worship space and this change would allow us to do more with worship in that space. The Council will be voting on this issue in the coming month. If you have any questions or comments about this potential change, please reach out to one of our Church Council members: Debbie Clark, chair; Chris Black; Jenny Caughman; Jennifer Ducko; Pam Fleming; Mark Flynn; Chuck Fritts; Debbie Fritts; John Glowienka; Martin Grossbeck; Princess Haas; Harold Hartman; Keith Jeter; Chris Lindsley; Laura McLean; Robert Mindrup; Seth O'Kegley; Greg Smith; Jerry VanFossen; Jessica Wililams; and Brian Wilson. If you need contact information for any of these persons, please contact the church office.

Christmas Shoppe Tree Continuing...

We have just a few more Gold Stars to be claimed this coming Sunday, and we are now hoping to get our store shelves stocked with other desired toys/items for ages 1-18. Puzzles, craft kits, STEM kits, dolls, cars, stocking stuffers, tools (for teenagers), gift cards (for teenagers) are just a few ideas to help complete the shoppe. Please keep bringing in the tissue paper, Christmas paper and boxes (for wrapping), socks, underwear or make a donation to the Christmas Shoppe! Thank you for your generosity, excitement, and commitment to our church and this amazing mission opportunity. Questions? Information is updated on our website fumcor.org under ministries, contact Nancy Kile at fnpkile@comcast.net, or any committee member.

Christmas Visitation

Each year at Christmas time a group of volunteers visits the homebound members of our congregation. Many of these people were extremely involved in FUMC for years, and they miss being able to actively participate in our worship services and programs. Volunteers will soon take a poinsettia to those persons, reminding them they are still vital members of our congregation. This year, visitations will take place on December 14 and 15. There will be a brief devotional and instructions on the 14th at 10:00 am in the Chapel, but visits can be made and flowers picked up anytime that weekend. Please help spread some Christmas cheer and reach out to people who may be feeling isolated. To participate, please sign up on the website (<https://www.fumcor.org/visitation>), on the Mission's bulletin board, or contact our leaders: Betty Lou Alspaugh (310-1644, alspaughbl@gmail.com) or Jenny Caughman (jcaughman@fumcor.org, 483-4357).

Thanks!

The Mission Trip Leaders would like to say "thank you" to all of you who helped us achieve our \$15,000 fundraising goal! The total cost of our 2019 trips (Honduras, Louisiana, Panama, and North Carolina) will be in the range of \$109,000. Each international trip Team Member contributed between \$1,700 and \$1,900 to defray their own expenses. Domestic trip Team Members cover their own expenses. The \$15,000 raised in this latest campaign will all be used to cover the cost of construction materials, medical supplies, eye glasses, relief supplies, translators, and support to the mission team workforce. Thank you!

A Service of Lessons and Carols

To mark the beginning of Advent, the community and congregation are invited to a Service of Lessons and Carols. This festive service will take place on Sunday, December 1st at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. Included will be traditional Advent scripture readings alternating with congregational carols, as well as Christmas music performed by instrumentalists and vocalists. We will also have a brass ensemble. Come join us for a joyful celebration of Advent!

Stephen Minister Training Coming!

There are times when life hits us hard, and knowing that we are not walking alone on this path can be of great comfort. Stephen Ministers from our church have been traveling with those in need for almost 30 years. Stephen Ministers are caring people who have gone through an extensive training program so they are equipped to listen and understand. We will be starting a new training program in January. God just might be calling you to serve in this meaningful capacity, or if you would simply like more information, contact one of our Stephen Leaders: Peg Ashline, Anne Leitnaker, Dave McCully, Ann Siemsen, or Rev. Jenny Caughman.

The Best Church Library in this Region

The Jones Memorial Library is located on the first floor beside the choir room. However, the original library was housed in Room 110, currently our Director of Music and Worship office. As the library grew, the need for more space was addressed during renovation of the choir room, office, and area where the current library is located. On April 22, 1979, the library name changed to “The Jones Memorial Media Center” where cassette tapes, VHS tapes, and audiovisual materials could be used. A corner was designated “Children’s Corner”; there a large wall mural was painted by Jeannie Gregory and her helpers. A “Media Mountain” was built where children could sit and read or listen to stories read to them. Large pillows made it exciting and comfortable. It was also useful for storing items such as children’s choir robes and large items such as signs portraying sheep, cows, donkeys, etc. used in the children’s nativity pageant. The mountain did lend itself to jumping and tumbling, but there were no serious accidents. When less space was needed for cassettes, recorders, and players, and such equipment that had become out-of-date, the “mountain” was removed and the space became once more “Jones Memorial Library” where more current materials could be provided.

– Prepared by Mary Kate O’Kain

Christmas Concert Tickets Available!

The Music Ministry will present its 2019 Christmas Concert on December 15th and 16th at 7 pm. This year’s program, “A Heaven Full of Stars,” will highlight the music of Appalachia, including folk music, Appalachian instruments, and even a touching Christmas drama. As in the past, there will be free tickets available for reservation. Starting this Monday, November 25th, tickets will be available for reservation by calling the Main Office or by visiting fumcor.org/music. These tickets are to manage the large number of attendees at the concerts and keep each night comfortable for all involved. Attendees with tickets will be seated before walk-ins each night. Thanks for your help in making these concerts the best they can be! We look forward to seeing you there.

College Care Packages

We always take care of our college students by sending them a care package of goodies. This year’s packages will be going out for finals week so that our students have some comfort from their church family during the craziness of exams. If you would like to help assemble a care package, please pick up a college care kit from Seth. These need to be completed and returned no later than December 1st. We have about 35 to send, so we need lots of help. Thanks!

A Futures Team Update

The Futures Team thanks all the individuals, Sunday School classes, and participants in our two church-wide gatherings who brainstormed ideas to be included in our conversation. We received 180 unique ideas! Originally the Future’s Team goal was to gather the 15 Action Planning Teams together prior to Thanksgiving to work on creating potential goals (which will be presented to Church Council for approval). However, because so much energy was expressed in brainstorming, the team chose to give extra time for that portion of the process. The goal is to produce quality work, not rush to beat an arbitrary deadline. So, the Futures Team schedule now looks like this:

- 1) The Futures Team will meet prior to Thanksgiving for training in facilitation and to finalize who will be invited to be on our Action Planning Teams.
- 2) The Team members will contact potential Action Planning Team members over the holidays, finalizing those groups.
- 3) Come January, our Action Planning Teams will begin to meet.

Sunday Host Needed

Jared Gibson, our current host, is officially retiring as church host. This means First Church is looking for someone who might be interested in filling that position. We need someone who is welcoming, trustworthy, and helpful but who can also be up a little earlier than most on Sunday mornings. This is a part-time, 6-hour-a-week position and requires the Host to lift tables and chairs for program setup and take down. If you are interested in the position or know someone who might be, please contact Rev. Chris Black {cblack@fumcor.org}.

Upcoming Youth Events!!!

The Youth Group has three exciting activities coming up in December! First, on December 8, we will go eat lunch and ice skate right after the 11am services, and come back by 4pm to help out with the Christmas Shoppe. Then on December 14 is our monthly movie. Better bundle up because we’re going to be Frozen (II)! Finally, and perhaps most exciting, is the youth Christmas Party on Friday, December 20 at 6pm. We will play games, swap silly gifts, and celebrate Christ’s birthday! Mark your calendars and join us! All youth in grades 7-12 are welcome to all of these events.

FUMC Snowman

Our United Methodist Women is again sponsoring the FUMC Snowman from Nov. 11 – Dec. 12. The wooden snowman is in the Fellowship Hall, where the congregation is invited to hang gifts of hand-made or purchased mittens/gloves, hats, scarves and socks, which will be donated to five local charities. For many years the UMW Snowman has delivered annually several hundred of these “warm fuzzies” to needy children and adults in the Oak Ridge area.



Christmas Trees for Sale!!

Would you like to pre-order a 6-8 foot Fraser Fir Christmas tree from First Church? Since there will not be a FUMC sponsored tree lot this year, Nick Gallaher and Elizabeth Bonner are raising money for the Youth Choir through this wonderful new fundraiser! You may order a \$65 tree by calling the church office at 483-4357, then schedule to pick it up on the church front lawn on Saturday, December 7. You must pre-pay for the tree. You may also request a delivery for local areas for an additional \$15 donation.

Missions Pancake Breakfast

A pancake breakfast to raise money for the Adult Mission Trip Fund is scheduled for Saturday morning, December 14th, at Applebees from 8AM until 10AM. We need volunteers to help serve and clean up. Carpooling will be provided by choirs of Oak Ridge—join in! There will be a

signup sheet on the bulletin board by the church office or you can contact me by phone (865-806-0921) or email (jehj1946@comcast.net). More info and tickets will be available soon. We hope to see you there—mark your calendars now! Thank you, Jim Henry.

Cookie Delivery Ministry

Join us from 4:00 pm-5:30 pm on December 22. We will package cookies to hand out to folks working on Christmas Eve/Christmas. (We may even bake a few!) We are delighted that Wendel Werner and Jeff Kile will be leading us in singing some Christmas carols. This is a family friendly event, but everyone is invited! Please consider bringing some homemade or packaged cookies to donate, and come join us in celebrating the spirit of Christmas. For more information, contact Megan Alden at malden@fumcor.org.

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



1350 Oak Ridge Turnpike
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Return Service Requested

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Worship for December 1

8:45 & 11 am Traditional Service

Sermon: "Tree of Life"
Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44
Rev. Mark Flynn, lead pastor

11 am Contemporary Service

Sermon: "Tree of Life"
Gospel: Matthew 24:36-44
Rev. Chris Black, associate pastor

Our Prayers:

MMC: Elizabeth Rae

Discharged: Mary Ann Manning to NHC Oak Ridge

Our Gifts

Offering this Week	\$21,812
2019 Year to Date	\$1,188,683
2018 Year to Date	\$1,233,690
November Special Offering	\$1,025

Schedule for November 23 - December 7, 2019

Saturday, November 23

No activities scheduled

Sunday, November 24

8:45 Traditional Service, Sanc.
10:00 Sunday School
11:00 Traditional Service, Sanc.
11:00 Contemporary Serv, MPR
12:15 Hanging of the Greens

Monday, November 25

11:00 ROMEO, 202
1:15 Staff Mtg, 207
6:15 Threshold Choir, 106
6:30 Scouts

Tuesday, November 26

8:15 Weekly Communion, Chpl
10:00 FS Thanksgiving Feast, FH
12:00 Centering Prayer, Chapel
4:00 Children's Choir, 106
6:30 Ballroom Dancing, MPR
7:00 Stephen Ministry, 207

Wednesday, November 27

9:00 Small Group, 202
9:30 SET, 204
10:30 First Things Folders, 207
3:30 Sisters in Spirit, 202
5:15 Junior Choir, 106
5:30 Free Community Meal
5:30 Handbell Rehearsal, Sanc.
6:00 Youth Choir, 106
6:00 Chrismon Class, 204
7:00 Adult Choir, 106

Thursday, November 28

Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

Friday, November 29

Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday

Saturday, November 30

No activities scheduled

Sunday, December 1

8:45 Traditional Service, Sanc.
10:00 Sunday School

10:15 Abiding Worship, Chpl

11:00 Traditional Service, Sanc.
11:00 Contemporary Serv, MPR
7:00 Lessons and Carols, Sanc.

Monday, December 2

11:00 ROMEO, 202
1:15 Staff Mtg, 207
2:30 Evergreen Movie, 207
6:15 Threshold Choir, 106
6:15 Pack Mtg, MPR
7:00 Mission Meeting, 204

Tuesday, December 3

8:15 Weekly Communion, Chpl
9:30 Christian Homemaking, FH
12:00 Centering Prayer, Chapel
4:00 Children's Choir, 106
6:30 Social Concerns, 206
6:30 Ballroom Dancing, MPR

Wednesday, December 4

9:00 Small Group, 202
9:30 SET, 204
10:00 Legacy Small Grp, 203
10:30 First Things Folders, 207
3:30 Sisters in Spirit, 202
5:15 Junior Choir, 106
5:30 Handbell Rehearsal, Sanc.
6:00 Youth Choir, 106
6:00 Chrismon Class, 204
7:00 Adult Choir, 106

Thursday, December 5

11:20 High School Lunch, MPR
10:00 iStuday, FH
6:30 Girl Scouts, 206

Friday, December 6

8:00 Small Group, 202

Saturday, December 7

2:00 Teddy Bear Tea, MPR

Keystone & First Steps—M-F