

First Things

Issue No. 15

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

April 18, 2021

New Wednesday Night iStudy Series Begins April 28

Rev. Mark Flynn will offer an online Bible study class on Wednesday evenings from 6:00–7:30 p.m., from April 28–June 9. *iStudy Old Testament* will explore the entire Old Testament except for the Torah—the first five books. This seven-week Bible study has daily readings and is open to everyone. You need not have any Bible study background to participate. The free study guide is available on the church website under the resources tab (fumcor.org). Please call the church (483.4357) if you would like for us to print one for you. If you are interested in participating, email Rev. Flynn (mflynn@fumcor.org). *Be sure to finish the first week's reading prior to April 28!*



Celebration of Baptism

On Saturday, April 10, Kara Grace Renegar, daughter of Kirk and Rebecca Renegar, was baptized by the Rev. Chris Black in our Sanctuary. Join us in celebrating with Kara, the Renegar family, and our church community.

Regarding Our Intruder Incident on Sunday, April 11

As most of you have heard by now, we had an eventful Sunday after Easter. As people were leaving our 10:00 a.m. Contemporary service and beginning to gather for our 11:00 a.m. Traditional service, a man running from the police entered our building. An Oak Ridge police officer had stopped the man for a traffic violation across the Oak Ridge Turnpike. After discovering there were several outstanding warrants for his arrest, the unarmed man left his car and ran across the Turnpike, looking for a place to hide. We believe he chose our building because it was the closest location for him.

He ran through our lawn to our upper, Vienna Road parking lot. He then casually entered through the Welcome Center and found a hiding spot somewhere in the building. The police arrived quickly after him and set up a perimeter around our facility. During this process, those inside the church were escorted outside, and the police began an extensive search through our building.

People who had arrived for the 11:00 a.m. service and others from our congregation gathered in the Memorial Garden, prayed together, and then the majority left. Members and staff who remained gathered in the Chamber parking lot across the street.

After combing the facility, the police found the man around 12:25 p.m. and took him into custody. Nobody was injured in this process. The building was secure after that, and all were safe.

We want to thank the Oak Ridge Police Department and the Anderson County Sheriff Department for their excellent work. We are deeply grateful that this situation ended peacefully for all involved.

If you have any additional questions about what occurred, please email or call one of our pastoral staff.



Keystone Is Up and Running

Keystone is up and running! Participants pictured are enjoying a rousing game of bean bag toss for afternoon recreation. We are excited to have our community together once again, and we have space available for new participants. For information, contact Phyllis Spangler at 483.6631 or pspangler@fumcor.org

In Person Visitation Resuming

One of my jobs is to visit the homebound members of our congregation. During the last year these visits were limited to phone calls. As more people are fully vaccinated, I am transitioning back to in-person visits. However, an entire year has passed, and many people's situations have changed. Now, more than ever, I am dependent on others to let me know who might benefit from a visit or a phone call. If you, or a member of the congregation you know, are currently homebound for reasons other than COVID-19, please let me know.

Because of the isolation and stressors caused by COVID-19, this year has been a challenge for many of us. If you, or anyone you know, would appreciate the opportunity to talk through your thoughts and feelings with a trained, confidential Stephen Minister, please let me know. Thank you for working together to care for one another.

Rev. Jenny Caughman
(jcaughman@fumcor.org; 483.4357)

Bill Mooney Funeral Arrangements

Former Associate and Visitation pastor Bill Mooney passed away in November. Because of COVID restrictions, his family waited to have his funeral. A Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, April 24, at 1:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary. If you would like to attend, use the Save-a-Seat reservation portal on our website (fumcor.org/live). The service will be livestreamed, and if the Sanctuary reaches capacity, we will also have livestreaming available in the Multi-purpose Room.

Congratulations to

Fern and Matthew Pruss in the birth of their daughter, Lila Jean Pruss, April 6. Grandparents are Anne and Wendell Lawson.

Hospitalized

No one that we know of.

Our Gifts

Offering this Week	\$33,904
2021 Year to Date	\$476,876
2020 Year to Date	\$474,406
Monthly Offering	\$870

Youth Series on Relationships and Dating

On Wednesday, April 7, we began a series of youth devotions, called *Birds and Bees*, on relationships and dating. Teenage years are the time when many people begin to explore and become curious about these things, and it's helpful to have some information about the basics. Assume a rating of PG13—while physical intimacy may be mentioned, sexually explicit subject matter will not be included. We will meet in the Youth Loft on Wednesdays from 7:00–8:15 p.m.

April 21: Recognizing and Preventing Abuse. *Learn how to identify signs of physical and emotional abuse in relationships. Learn to avoid abusing others.*

April 28: Questioning Your Sexuality. *Learn about how growing up takes time and how it can be challenging to figure out who you are and who you like as a teen.*

May 5: Dealing With Rejection. *Learn more about processing and coping with the negative feelings and self-image struggles that can result from being rejected.*

May 12: Breaking Up Gracefully. *The majority of the time, teen relationships have both a beginning AND an end. Learn about how relationships can be ended without causing unnecessary damage and pain.*

Eat dinner before coming. Wear masks and enter through the rightmost Welcome Center door.

Pastors

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

Contact Information

865.483.4357
www.fumcor.org
Pastor on call: 865.272.9862



1350 Oak Ridge Turnpike
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit #18
Oak Ridge, TN
37830

Sanctuary Flower Orders Online

To make it easier to reserve flowers for our Sanctuary, we will have flower signups online beginning in May. The cost of flowers for one side of the altar is \$35. If you wish to place flowers on both sides, cost is \$70. The bill will come directly to you from Mott's Floral Design.

If you choose not to pick up your flowers, they will be repurposed in small vases and taken to our members who are visited by our ministers.

We are working to budget funds to place flowers when none are reserved. To reserve flowers for a Sunday, visit (fumcor.org/worship) or contact BJ Boyd, Chair of the Altar Guild (beej159@comcast.net).

Special Offering: Pinnacle Resource Center

The April special offering will support Pinnacle Resource Center, which strives to be the "Pinnacle of defense" against poverty for families and individuals in Scott, Morgan, and Campbell counties. It provides emergency shelter and housing services, emergency food services, a thrift shop, and comprehensive social assistance. In partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank, Pinnacle runs a community-wide food pantry. It also offers units to house families together and lighten stress during crisis. In December 2020, Pinnacle opened a second campus in Campbell County, offering more space to better serve people in need in its overall service area. Most importantly, Pinnacle is a safe place where there are no drugs, weapons, or sex offenders. Please consider donating to help cover the basic services provided and to help equip the new facility in Campbell County.

What do I do when I witness racism?

In an effort to keep the topic of racism in our conversations, the pastoral staff offer the following article:

Seek Help

Where there is a threat to physical safety...try to get the person to a safer space. With their permission only, call emergency services or 9-1-1.

Where a safe intervention is possible...

Choose: Be an active bystander rather than a passive one. Choose not to nod or laugh along. Do not validate racist stereotypes and behavior.

Confront: "What you said/did makes me uncomfortable."

Question: "Did you think about how your words might make people feel unsafe?"

Support

Support the person who has been impacted. Let them know you are a witness and that you are not okay with what happened.

Let them know you care about what is happening...

Remove the person affected: "Do you mind if I talk to you for a second?"

Validate: "However you are feeling is ok." Follow their lead: "What would you like to do? What can I do to support you?"

Learn and Seek Advice

Embrace continual education. Challenging oppressive systems like racism is an ongoing and continual process. There is always more to learn.

Learn the definition of racism...

Rac-ism (noun): a broad and complex phenomenon involving expressions of superiority of one racial group over another. The effects of racism can be detected in all areas of society including individual behaviors, cultural practices, ideologies, social, political, and economic structures.

For additional resources, visit RacialEquityResourceGuide.org.