

First Things

Issue No. 49

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

December 8, 2019

A Financial Campaign Update

Our “Moving Forward” stewardship campaign to fund next year’s ministries and programs is still underway. Although Commitment Sunday was weeks ago, members and friends of First Church continue to turn in their “estimates of giving.” So far we have received 193 “estimates of giving” toward our goal of 275 (70%). Those represent a total of \$895,877 toward our campaign goal of \$1,100,000 (81.4%). This is wonderful news! We are only \$204,123 and 82 estimates of giving from our goal! If we hear from those 88 other persons/families, we should enter 2020 in a solid financial position. If you have not yet turned in your estimate of giving, please prayerfully consider doing so.

– The Finance Committee

Thank You!

Thank you to all who so generously donated turkeys for the Thanksgiving Community Meal. We were able to serve a wonderful dinner and send each guest with a take-out Thanksgiving dinner for Thanksgiving day, all due to your generosity. The extra desserts were delicious and the volunteers in the kitchen worked hard at preparations, serving and cleaning, all while smiling. I give thanks for the generosity of spirit and willingness to assist whenever asked that is present in our midst at First Church.

With Great Thanks, Sheila Michel

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.

Worship for December 8

8:45 & 11 am Traditional Service

Sermon: “Celtic Cross”

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

Rev. Chris Black, associate pastor

11 am Contemporary Service

Sermon: “Celtic Cross”

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

Rev. Mark Flynn, lead pastor

FUMC Mission Trip to Wilmington, N.C., November 2019

17 people traveled to Wilmington, N.C. for a mission trip on November 9 – 16. Three work teams led by Jim Hardy, Richard Pack, and Lee Garrett worked at four sites to repair homes damaged by Hurricane Florence in 2018. Work included sheetrock, flooring, inside trim, painting, fixture installation, windows and door work, and other repairs while families remained living in the homes. One homeowner was described as a hoarder. In truth, the family had lived in a large home but due to financial and medical events, they had to move to a smaller home and ended up keeping most of their belongings. A second homeowner worked from his residence as the local expert lawn mower repairman. He insisted on sending one team member home with a part that had proved difficult to find and repair. “No charge,” he said, in appreciation for the team’s work. A third homeowner had no help until she contacted the United Methodist Church in Wilmington. The team’s spiritual nourishment was provided at morning devotionals while physical nourishment was provided by team members Mary Ann Hardy and Becky Smith. A special thanks to Jim Michel for administrative organization and to Jim Hardy for site coordination. The team included Phil & Donna Fairchild, Lee & Susan Garrett, Jim & Mary Ann Hardy, Greg Hinkel, Steve & Ellen Kennel, Jim Michel, Paul Michel, Pete Michel, Richard Pack, Scott Shepherd, Greg & Becky Smith, and Vince Stevens. New young and young-at-heart missionaries are always welcome for other events.

– Lee Garrett

Christmas Visitation

There is still time to sign up for Christmas Visitation on December 14th and 15th, with a brief devotional in the Chapel on the 14th at 10am. Please help spread some Christmas cheer and reach out to people who may be feeling isolated. Please sign up on the website (<https://www.fumcor.org/visitation>) or contact our leaders: Betty Lou Alspaugh 310-1672 or Jenny Caughman 483-4357.

Clutter Busters’ 16th Birthday!

Come celebrate with us! We are cheering about our Sweet 16 years of Clutter Busters of Oak Ridge! We are celebrating on Monday, December 16 at 12 noon at the Soup Kitchen. We will have lunch with former participants and new enthusiasts for eliminating clutter. Come share your successes and tell us about what you have learned. Clutter Busters will continue meeting in 2020 on the third Monday of the month from 12-1pm, with a brown bag lunch in Room 204. For additional information call 865-414-6053.

Financial Shock!!

Have you looked closely at the “Pledged Gifts” chart in the Financial Overview booklet recently made available to us? According to the chart, the lowest two ranges of giving (\$2500 and under) represent over 50% of the pledges (159) and provide just 1/6 of our budget. With gifts averaging under \$100 per month, this is only enough to keep the church going for about two months! The next range (\$2500.01 to \$5000) has about 20% of the pledges (59) and provides another 1/6 of our budget. The highest four ranges (\$5000.01 and up) have about 30% of the pledges (86) and provide 4/6 of the budget. My takeaways are (1) without those in the highest four giving ranges, our church would be closing, and 2) if those in the lowest ranges are actually tithing, then over 50% of our pledgers are living well below the Federal poverty level! I’m shocked, are you?

– Russ Morel

Missions Pancake Breakfast A pancake breakfast to raise money for the Adult Mission Trip Fund is scheduled for Saturday, December 14th, at Applebees from 8AM until 10AM. Caroling will be provided by choirs – you may join in! If you would like a ticket, you may purchase one at the church office, Mon.-Thurs, 8am-4:30 pm. We hope to see you there. Thank you, Jim Henry.

Packing for the Cookie Delivery Ministry Join us from 4-5:30 pm on Dec. 22 to help package cookies to hand out to folks working on Christmas Eve/Day. (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

In Loving Memory

W.T. Northcutt

who joined FUMC on April 22, 1962,
and died on November 26, 2019.
We extend love and sympathy to his
daughter, Paula.

In Loving Memory

Barbara Parks

who rejoined FUMC on July 19, 1981 and died on
Nov. 26, 2019. We extend love and sympathy to
her husband, Jim, mother, Helen Catron, and
daughter Christine Cheney, and family.



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In Sympathy

We extend love and sympathy to:

- Matt & Caroline Beidler in the death of
Matt's grandmother, Elizabeth Beidler, on
Nov. 18
- Bob & Carolyn Henderson in the death of
Bob's sister, Jane Babb, on Nov. 19.

Our Gifts

Offering this Week	\$34,389
2019 Year to Date	\$1,241,694
2018 Year to Date	\$1,275,993
November Special Offering	\$470

Our Prayers:

MMC: Mary Kate O'Kain

Discharged: Chuck Dawn, Mary Underwood,
Elizabeth Rae, Lula Bartholomew

Christmas Concert Tickets 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. Tickets available at fumcor.org/music.

Schedule for December 7 - December 14, 2019

Saturday, December 7

2:00 Teddy Bear Tea, MPR

Sunday, December 8

8:45 Traditional Service, Sanc.
10:00 Sunday School
10:15 Abiding Worship, Chapel
11:00 Traditional Service, Sanc.
11:00 Contemporary Serv, MPR
12:30 Youth Ice Skating
3:00 Christmas Shoppe

Monday, December 9

10:30 WOW, 206
11:00 ROMEO, 202
12:00 The Book Group, 207
1:15 Staff Mtg, 207

6:15 Pilot Club, 207

6:15 Threshold Choir, 106

6:30 Scouts

6:30 Ham Radio Club, 115/117

Tuesday, December 10

8:15 Weekly Communion, Chpl
12:00 Centering Prayer, Chapel
4:00 Children's Choir, 106
6:15 Yahweh Potluck, 204
6:30 Trustees, 206
6:30 Staff Parish, 202
6:30 Ballroom Dancing, MPR
7:00 Stephen Ministry, 207
Wednesday, December 11
9:00 Small Group, 202

9:30 SET, 204

10:30 First Things Folders, 207

12:00 XYZ, FH

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 Concert dress rehearsal,
Sanc

Thursday, December 12

10:00 iStudy, FH
11:20 Thursday Lunch, MPR
12:30 Caregiver Support, 203

6:15 Girl Scouts, 206

Friday, December 13

8:00 Women's Small Grp, 202
6:00 FNL

Saturday, December 14

8:00 Pancake Breakfast
8:30 Concert Rehearsal, Sanc
9:00 Girl Scouts, 115/117
10:00 Christmas Visitation, Chpl
11:30 F.S. Staff Party, FH
5:30 Youth Monthly Movie

Keystone & First Steps—M-F