

# First Things

Issue No. 39

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

October 4, 2020

## Virtual Organ Recital by Josh Sumter October 4

Join the Music Ministry on October 4 as our Organist & Music Associate, Josh Sumter, gives a virtual organ recital in honor of St. Francis of Assisi's Feast Day. St. Francis was known for his affinity for animals and nature. So, the selections by Bédard, Saint-Saëns, Vienne, and others will all be inspired by his Canticle of the Sun as well as by our fuzzy (and not so fuzzy!) friends. There will be a Facebook Live Premiere at 7:00 p.m., but the recital can be accessed via the church's YouTube channel any time after that.

## In-Person Youth Group Resumes October 14

On September 22, Church Council voted to allow small groups to meet at the church beginning on October 12. This means that we can have in-person youth group once again! Our first in-person youth group of this school year will happen on Wednesday, October 14 at 7:00 p.m.

### What to Know About In-Person Youth Group During Covid-19:

- According to our church protocols, **masks will be required** both indoors and outdoors, and must be worn properly over both the mouth and nose (Kayla will be strict about enforcing this.).
- Youth will be expected to eat before coming, dinner will not be offered. We will play games and have a devotion.
- Plan to gather outside on the front lawn of the church. If the weather is bad, plan to enter the building at the Welcome Center (off Vienna Rd.).

## FUMC Youth Learning Pod

Beginning the week of October 19, our church is offering a learning space for youth-age students (grades 6-12). This means that on their virtual learning days, we are offering space for students to come to the church and work there, with Kayla present to facilitate learning.

Many students are struggling with virtual learning and getting schoolwork done at home. This happens for all kinds of reasons, including lack of access to Wi-Fi, distractions at home, or lack of adequate supervision.

This opportunity will be exclusively available to our church youth as it gets started, with the possibility for expanding to include more area students if it's successful.

Registration will be required. Be on the lookout for more information soon about registering for the FUMC Youth Learning Pod.

## FUMC Has New Awnings

The Trustees Committee, Mike Corcoran, Elizabeth Bonner, and Linda Bowen worked quickly and diligently to make sure that FUMC, First Steps, and Keystone had appropriate coverage for main entrances used throughout the week. FUMC already had awnings located at the main office entrance and the Keystone playground entrance, but those awnings needed to be enlarged and repaired.



Church Main Office



First Steps Entrance



Keystone Playground Entrance

## New Online *iStudy Body of Christ* Coming Soon

Rev. Mark Flynn will begin a new online Bible study class on Wednesday nights from 6:00–7:30 p.m. Beginning October 14 and running through November 25, *iStudy Body of Christ* will explore the non-gospel books of the New Testament. This seven-week Bible study with daily readings is open to all; you do not need to have taken previous *iStudy* classes to participate. The free study guide is available on our church website under the Virtual Chapel tab, as is the Zoom link. Be sure to have finished the first week's reading prior to Wednesday, October 14.

## October Special Offering: Oak Ridge Area Food Pantries

This month's mission offering will be all the Oak Ridge area food banks and food pantries. Many more people in the area are suffering reduced income due to fewer work hours in small businesses. That calls on us to step up. Our church has been collecting food and money to distribute to established food pantries. In addition to giving food directly, we help stock 14 other local area pantries. The need has not diminished and will probably increase as government aid runs out as COVID-19 continues. We hope you will help by designating a gift for "Food Pantries" for the October Special Offering.

## Thursday Holy Communion Changes

We are suspending the live-streaming of Holy Communion services until further notice. Thank you for your understanding.

### In Loving Memory

#### Robert Walker

who joined FUMC January 12, 1964, and died September 24. We extend love and sympathy to his wife, Judy, family and friends.

### In Sympathy

We extend love and sympathy to Paul and Princess Haas in the death of Paul's sister, Elaine Fischer, September 17 and his brother-in-law, Charles Allmon, a few weeks ago.

### Hospitalized

None that we know of

### Our Gifts

Offering this Week	\$11,953
2020 Year to Date	\$1,006,004
2019 Year to Date	\$1,000,660
September Special Offering	\$1,050

## Thanksgiving and Christmas Shoppe Update

Our reimagined Thanksgiving and Christmas events are happening November 19 and December 5. These combined events will serve approximately 100 families and up to 400 children. This is double what the Christmas Shoppe has done over the past few years.

We are fortunate to have received grant money to cover the cost of the food. We still have many other needs to fill including: up to 400 coats, 200 blankets, shoes, socks, underwear for 400 children, a few toys, personal hygiene items, paper, basic kitchen supplies, and more. Click the Christmas Shoppe link under the Ministries tab on the website (fumcor.org).

Let one of the Christmas Shoppe Committee members know if you, your small group, committee, or Sunday school class can help us out.

Thank you, church. Every year you have responded with amazing faith and generosity. You end up touching lives in ways never imagined. We can't wait to see what happens this year. Contact Nancy Kile (fnpkile@comcast.net) if you have any questions.



1350 Oak Ridge Turnpike  
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

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

Return Service Requested



## Mere Christianity Class Begins October 7

Rev. Chris Black will be leading a four-week Zoom class on C.S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity*. The class will begin Wednesday, October 7, at 8:00 p.m. The link for the class will be under the Virtual Chapel tab on our website (fumcor.org). Whether you have read this book or not, you are welcome to attend. Following is the schedule of topics for each week:

- Oct. 7 - "Right and Wrong as a Clue to the Meaning of the Universe"
- Oct. 14 - "What Christians Believe"
- Oct. 21 - "Christian Behavior"
- Oct. 28 - "Beyond Personality: or First Steps in the Doctrine of the Trinity"

## An Incentive Gift for Live-Streaming

We have been notified by a church member that in support of the current efforts to raise \$60,000 to pay for live-streaming equipment and startup costs, their family will donate \$5,000 IF we can reach \$25,000. We currently have received \$9,910 toward this project. If you are interested in supporting this ministry, the goal of which won't provide a high-quality livestream of our worship services for those who are not able to physically attend worship, please consider doing so now so that we can reach our goal. And "thank you" to all of you who have already made gifts!

## Class on Forgiveness Begins October 13

Rev. Jenny Caughman will be leading a six-week Zoom class, using Archbishop Desmond Tutu's book on forgiveness as a model. The class will begin Tuesday, October 13 from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

The class will explore what forgiveness is and what it is not (it is not forgetting nor does it subvert justice). We will also learn about Tutu's Fourfold Path of forgiveness and discuss how this relates to our own experiences.

Participants may choose to read Archbishop Tutu's book but it is not required. You can register online (fumcor.org) or by calling the church office (483.4357). For more information, contact Jenny Caughman (jcaughman@fumcor.org).

## Virtual Holy Communion This Sunday

Both of our worship recordings for this Sunday will offer you an opportunity to participate in Holy Communion. Prior to beginning that worship experience, take a moment and gather bread of some form, as well as a cup of juice or wine. May the Holy Spirit bind our hearts together as we share the good gifts of God.

## No In-person Worship

Church Council decided to not reopen FUMC for in-person worship at this time. They have however, decided to let small groups use the facility if the groups have 15 or less people and follow the protocol set up by the staff. For more information on using the facility, contact Danielle Gallaher (483.4357).