

First Things

Issue No. 6

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

February 9, 2020

Youth Group Growth

Each week this past month, 15 youth have participated in Wednesday night programming. Students are bringing friends who often return on their own! This great growth also creates a wonderful problem. Kayla needs more help on Wednesday nights. A big “thank you” to Anne and Joe Thomas, who come twice a month to help! If you are willing to help, to come regularly, eat dinner, play games, and/or lead a devotion, please let Kayla know! (kcarico@fumcor.org)

Food for Kids

Food for Kids will be packing bags on Monday, February 10 at 1:30pm. Delivery will be Tuesday, February 11 at 8:30am. If you have any questions, contact Cara Weigel at 481-8108.

Branches Sunday School

Over the next three weeks (Feb. 9, 16, and 23), the Branches Sunday School Class will watch and discuss selections from “Vital Conversations 4: Race, Culture, the Church, and Human Sexuality.” The Vital Conversations video series is produced by the United Methodist Church (UMC) General Commission on Religion and Race. Each video presents a one-on-one discussion between people of different races, sex, backgrounds, and/or sexual orientation offering their diverse perspectives on the intersections of Christian faith, sexual orientation, and gender identity. These videos were created to provide a forum for sometimes unheard voices to contribute to the discussions in the UMC on ordination and marriage of LGBTQ church members. We invite all who are interested to join us in room 205.

Worship for February 9

8:45 & 11 am Traditional Service

Sermon: “Uncovering the Light”

Scripture: Isaiah 58:1-12,

Matthew 5:13-20

Rev. Mark Flynn, lead pastor

11 am Contemporary Service

Sermon: “The Flavor of Life”

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

Rev. Chris Black, associate pastor

Save the Dates

- March 5-7 will be the Spring Second Chance Consignment Sale for the First Steps Child Development Center. Toys, furniture, maternity items, and clothing will be available. If you are interested in becoming a consignor, please visit www.fumcor.org/firststeps.
- On April 1, First Steps will hold their annual spaghetti dinner and auction to raise money for our new infant and toddler playground. You may purchase tickets now (\$10/adult, \$5/child, \$30/family max) in the main Church Office.
- We will be taking photographs on May 13-16 and May 21-23 for a new church directory. Mark your calendar! Specific times and sign-up information will come later.

Scholarships at FUMC!

FUMC offers three scholarships each year: the Bruce and Phyllis Jacobson Scholarship (undergraduates who will be freshmen in the fall), the Rebecca Taylor scholarship (undergraduates who graduated from ORHS), and the Jeanette Reynolds Scholarship (students interested in full time ministry in the UMC). Each scholarship has various requirements and qualifications. Find applications at fumcor.org/scholarships. The deadline is April 13.

Highlights from the Jan. 28 Church Council Meeting

- Our congregation ended 2019 in an extremely positive financial position, with no surplus, no loss, and no monies pulled from reserves to cover expenses.
- The 2020 Stewardship Campaign was a HUGE success, receiving \$1,148,375 in estimates of giving (104% of our \$1,100,000 goal). Previous years' experience indicate people who did not provide an estimate of giving will contribute around \$225,000. That giving, along with some other sources of income, led the Finance Committee to recommend a 2020 budget of \$1,450,980, which the Council approved. This 2020 budget represents a 2.7% decrease from 2019.
- The Nursery was moved from the Preschool downstairs to Room 206 on the main floor. This has been a positive experience.
- Kids and Junior Choir have almost doubled now, thanks to the new “Wonderful Wednesdays.” Youth and Adult Choir have both resumed as well, with an increase of 3 or 4 in each of those.
- Growth in the youth ministry has shown promise, with 15 students attending Wednesday night Youth Group in the past two months. We need more volunteers!
- In the month of January we had 82 visitors in worship, 27 of whom are coming regularly, 14 have indicated a desire to join later.
- Our Christmas concerts were attended by 881 in total and raised just shy of \$2000 for the upcoming choir tour to England.
- Our Neighbor to Neighbor program, which pairs members of our congregation with homebound members, is off to a great start.
- The Free Community Meal continues to go well, serving anywhere between 80 and 120 dinners on each of the last two Wednesdays of the month.
- SPRC has hired Ken McClain as our new Sunday Host after Jared Gibson resigned.
- Trustees have given a contractor the go-ahead to procure and install automatic door openers at second floor restrooms.
- Almost every room in the church has a TV or a projector. There are two 32” TVs on carts for the rooms that do not. If you need one moved for a Sunday morning, please contact Jeff Kile by noon on Wednesday.

First Steps is Hiring!

First Steps Child Development Center is in dire need of teachers. If you or someone you know might be interested, please email the Director, Elizabeth Bonner, at ebonner@fumcor.org.

Our Gifts

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Offering this Week | \$44,722 |
| 2020 Year to Date | \$184,899 |
| 2019 Year to Date | \$141,945 |
| Mission Special Offering | \$275 |
| Souper Bowl of Caring | \$869 |

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

What Do Our Trustees Do?

Each month, we are highlighting a different administrative group, explaining what they do. This month we look at our Trustees. Composed of nine persons and a staff liaison, the Trustees “shall have the supervision, oversight, and care of all real property owned by the local church and of all property and equipment acquired directly by the local church...” (Book of Discipline, para. 2533). In other words, our Trustees oversee the congregation’s land, building, and equipment. They do not perform the actual tasks associated with property upkeep. The Trustees oversee the work of our Facilities Director, Mike Corcoran, and our maintenance staff; negotiate contracts (HVAC, computers); and make monthly reports to our Church Council. They meet together on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. They oversee 16.5% of our budget (\$239,475 of \$1,450,980). A listing of persons on the Trustees and all other committees is available on the church website fumcor.org/leaders.



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Classroom TV's and Projectors

Almost every room in the church has a TV or projector. There are two 32" TVs on carts for the rooms that do not. There are several ways to connect to these.

- Blu Ray players (8) – these play DVDs as well and two of them stream content
- DVD Players (6) – some with VHS
- Six foot HDMI cables – one for just about every TV
- Apple TVs (3) – easily mirrors anything on your Apple device
- Chromecasts (8) – great for YouTube, google presentations, or the chrome browser

Any of these can be moved for your presentation. If you need one moved for a Sunday morning, please contact Jeff Kile by noon on Wednesday. Last minute help can sometimes be found through our Sunday morning host, Ken McClain. For questions and training please contact Jeff at jkile@fumcor.org.

February Special Offering: Camp in the Community

Camp in the Community (CITC) is a ministry of Holston Conference Camp and Retreat Ministries. It is a week-long day camp program for children in poverty. The camp operates in partnership with a host church located in an impoverished community. It provides a high-quality summer camp experience to those who could not otherwise afford to attend summer camp. This ministry shares the gospel in a tangible way and develops lasting relationships between the community and the church. In addition to reaching children in poverty, the program works with area youth to develop them as leaders in the church. This ministry recently suffered a major setback at the end of last year when all of their mobile resources, equipment, games, and travel trailers were stolen. We hope you will support this wonderful and vital outreach ministry of the Holston Conference during the month of February.

Schedule for February 8 - February 15, 2019

Saturday, February 8

No activities scheduled

Sunday, February 9

8:45 Traditional Service, Sanc.
10:00 Sunday School
10:15 Abiding Worship, Chapel
11:00 Traditional Service, Sanc.
11:00 Contemporary Serv, MPR
6:00 PTSD Support Group, 207

Monday, February 10

10:30 WOW, 205
11:00 ROMEO's, 202
1:00 The Book Group, 207
5:00 Grief Support Grp, 203
5:00 ORCMA Brd Mtg, 202
6:15 Pilot Club, 207

6:15 Threshold Choir, 106

6:30 Scouts

6:30 Ham Radio Club, 115/117

7:00 Mission Mtg, 204

Tuesday, February 11

8:15 Weekly Communion, Chpl

9:00 Staff Mtg, 207

10:00 PEO, FH

12:00 Centering Prayer, Chpl

6:00 Connecting w/God, 203

6:30 Trustees, 205

6:30 Ballroom Dancing, MPR

7:00 NAMI, FH

7:00 ORC Search Comm., 204

7:00 Stephen Ministry, 207

Wednesday, February 12

9:00 Small Group, 202

9:30 SET, 204

10:30 First Things Folders, 207

12:00 XYZ, FH

1:00 Connecting w/God, 203

3:00 Adult Min. Comm., 204

3:30 Sisters in Spirit, 202

4:00 Canterfield Mtg., 205

5:15 Kids Choir

5:15 iStudy Torah, FH

5:30 Handbell Rehearsal, Sanc.

5:45 Wonderful Wednesdays

6:15 Youth Choir, 106

6:00 Chrismon Class, 204

6:15 iStudy Torah, FH

7:00 Youth Group, Loft

7:00 Adult Choir, 106

Thursday, February 13

11:20 Thursday Lunch, MPR

10:00 iStudy Old Testament, FH

12:30 Caregiver Suppt Grp, 203

4:30 Card Making Wrkshp, 204

6:15 Girl Scouts, 205

6:15 Basketball, MPR

6:15 Boy Scout Banquet, FH

Friday, February 14

8:00 Women's Small Grp, 202

6:00 FNL

Saturday, February 15

9:00 Girl Scouts, MPR

5:30 Youth Monthly Movie

Keystone & First Steps—M-F