

First Things

Issue No. 27

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

July 25, 2021

Homecoming at FUMC

While Rev. Mark Flynn is on sabbatical, we look forward to hearing from several guest preachers. Most of them have served First Church at some point during their ministry. Watch this space each week to learn more about our guests and to help us welcome them to FUMC.

Introducing This Week's Guest Preacher: Troy Forrester



The Rev. Troy Forrester will be our guest preacher at all three services on Sunday, July 25.

Currently serving as the Pastor at First United Methodist Church in Knoxville, Troy was Associate Pastor at FUMC from June 2006—June 2016. During his time here, the church launched a young adult ministry and saw many

enhancements to the Contemporary Service. However, Troy counts one thing as the most significant event in the life of the church during his tenure: the momentous achievement of FUMC's softball team winning multiple Co-Ed Division B softball championships.

Troy experienced a couple of very important life events during the 10 years he served our church. He and Christina were married in 2014 and welcomed their son Callen into their family in April 2016. Since his departure, he, Christina, and Callen celebrated the arrival of daughter and sister Mallory in August 2020.

He is looking forward to reconnecting in worship with so many people who have been a blessing to him and his family. He fondly remembers his time at First Church and says he is forever grateful to the congregation who loved him as a fresh, green seminary graduate and partnered with him for a decade of Christian ministry.

Please help us welcome Troy and his family back to First Church!

Welcome Steve and The Lakelands Institute



The Staff-Parish Relations Committee is pleased to announce it has contracted with Rev. Steve Martin and his company, The Lakelands Institute, to provide outreach and

communications services. Steve's background in local church work, including serving as our Associate Pastor 15 years ago, along with his wealth of experience as the Director of Communications for the National Council of Churches in Washington, DC, means Steve brings expertise to this position. Steve and his company bring the skills to make an immediate impact on our congregation's ministries.

Update on our Endowments

The Enduring Gifts Committee is thrilled to celebrate that our Endowment funds hit the \$1,500,000 mark in May. From the program's inception on November 24, 2003, it took 8.5 years to accumulate \$500,000, achieving that level in May 2012. The next \$500,000 came a little more quickly, reaching the \$1,000,000 mark 7 years later (May of 2019). However, with outstanding giving and a bullish stock market, it has taken just 2 years to add this last \$500,000 to our endowment funds. Many thanks to Jim Parks for overseeing our endowment investments and making recommendations to the Enduring Gifts Committee. Jim estimates that if the stock market remains strong and we are able to conservatively distribute 4% of the funds, the program should generate about \$60,000 per year or more as it grows.



Welcome Dave Long and Mary Harmon

We celebrate that Dave Long and Mary Harmon took membership vows and joined our congregation during the 8:45 a.m. worship service July 18. While it is always wonderful to welcome new members, Dave and Mary's connection to our church is all the more special. They will be married here in the church in a ceremony on September 18. We praise God that they found each other and then decided to officially become part of our community of faith.

Enjoy singing? Join a Choir

Choir rehearsals will resume for the fall term August 4. The Adult Choir will rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 7:00–8:30 p.m. and provide music for both Traditional services. Choristers may now choose the service that they prefer to attend, 8:45 or 11:15 a.m. The Youth Choir will rehearse on Sunday evenings from 6:15–7:00 p.m. before Youth Group starting August 8. We will provide music on the first Sunday of each month rotating through all three worship services. Children's Choir will be in conjunction with Mrs. Shelby and will begin soon. Stay tuned for more information.



Kyle Jones and Selene Wu in Concert Sunday, August 1

Join us on Sunday, August 1, at 2:00 p.m. for an afternoon of music by Kyle Jones (saxophonist) and Selene Wu (pianist). The eclectic and diverse program will contain both lyric and virtuosic music featuring established saxophone repertoire as well as newer compositions. This is a free concert in the Sanctuary. Hope to see you there.

New Small Groups to Launch

Small groups foster relationships and provide a sense of belonging. Now that the church has begun to ease restrictions on in-person gatherings, we are ready to start some new small groups. If you would like more information about being involved in the Small Groups Committee, contact Rev. Jenny Caughman (jcaughman@fumcor.org, 483.4357).

In Sympathy

We extend love and sympathy to Vicki and Greg Hinkel in the death of Vicki's mom, Bess Turner, on July 20.

Hospitalized

MMC: Michele Frisbee, Russ Morel

Tennova North: Bob Henderson

Discharged to Diversicare: Ken Kile

Our Gifts

Offering this Week \$13,794
2021 Year to Date \$792,492
2020 Year to Date \$794,869
Monthly Mission Offering \$1,310

Congratulations to

Rev. Rachel (Witt) and Rev. Griff Carosiello on the birth of their son, Theodore Victor "Theo", July 15.

Pastors

Mark Flynn, lead

Jenny Caughman, spiritual care
Seth O'Kegley-Gibson, worship

Contact Information

865.483.4357 www.fumcor.org
Pastor on call: 865.272.9862

Experience the Grand View of the Northwest Parks, May 15, 2022

Make a nine-day trip that stimulates your senses and captures your curiosity of the national spaces of parks and monuments. Driving west through the Rocky Mountains to Grand Junction, we'll venture on to Moab, following the scenic Rim Rock Drive. In Utah, we will visit Arches and Canyonlands national parks and Dead Horse Point. Following Byway 12, we will view the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. We will visit Bryce Canyon National Park. Finally, in Zion National Park, we will experience the grandeur of white and red sandstone cliffs and the Virgin River that runs through them. Our tour will conclude in Las Vegas.

This Collette Vacation tour will be explained in detail Wednesday, August 25, at 4:00 p.m. in Room 207. Kay Moss, coordinator of Adult Trips, will introduce Sawyer Shoates, the Southeastern Representative. Collette caters to retirees but welcomes all ages. Collette contributes 10% of our trip proceeds to FUMC.



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Mission Trip Opportunities

Sager Brown Mission Trip November 6-13

FUMC will send a mission team to the UMCOR Sager Brown Supply Depot November 6-13, 2021. This mission destination is located in south Louisiana. Our main work will be preparing UMCOR disaster relief kits for shipping to all parts of the United States. Contact Maxine Schultz (719.4304 or 482.0080) if you have questions.

Want to help keep our flowerbeds beautiful?

Several long-term volunteers responsible for keeping a flowerbed weed-free have decided to pass that ministry on to others. Would you be willing to oversee one flowerbed and keep it beautiful during these warm months? Nothing more than weeding is required; trimming bushes is already covered. Contact Mike Corcoran (mcorcoran@fumcor.org) if you are interested.

Confirmation Registration Now Open

All rising seventh graders are invited to participate in Confirmation this school year. Confirmation is an 8-9 month process in which youth learn about Christian beliefs, church history, and how to live together in community as followers of Christ. Many older youth can testify that the confirmation process helped them to better understand the faith tradition in which they have been raised and claim for themselves.

Confirmation will begin this year with a one-night retreat at Camp Wesley Woods, August 27-28. Youth must be registered by Thursday, August 12. Registration forms are available in the church office or by contacting Kayla Carico (kcarico@fumcor.org). Classes will meet during Sunday School at 10:30 a.m. In addition, all those in Confirmation are welcome and invited to participate in any and all youth activities, as our youth ministry includes all students in grades 7-12.

Construction Mission Trip to Alabama September 19-25

We are looking for three or four more team members for a rebuilding mission trip to southern Alabama.

Alabama was struck by two hurricanes last year and has the highest death toll for tornadoes this year. We have 12 team members committed for this trip and are looking for a few more. For information, contact Jim Michel (567.2206, jamesrmichel@hotmail.com).

Youth Group on Sunday Evenings Beginning August 1

We will kick off the school year together for Sunday Night Youth Group on August 1. Youth Group is moving from Wednesday to Sunday evenings. Each Sunday from 7:00-8:15 p.m., our youth group will gather in the Loft for games and devotions. All students in grades 7-12 are invited to come to Sunday Night Youth Group. *Masks will be required for everyone* in the Youth Loft, as some youth are not fully vaccinated. To find our fall youth schedule, check out the youth webpage (fumcor.org/youth).

Special Offering: Morgan Scott Project

The Morgan Scott Project will receive our July special offering, which will be used to help the needy, elderly, and disabled in Morgan and Scott counties. Make checks payable to FUMC (memo: Morgan Scott). On Fridays, FUMC members gather and deliver food to Deer Lodge. If you can help (even occasionally), contact Ted Willgrubs (tmwillgrubs@att.net).