

First Things

Issue No. 1

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

January 5, 2020

Our Upcoming Winter Studies

A variety of new classes and programs will kick-off beginning the week following Sunday, January 12. Some of these will be short-term, others longer term. Contact Megan Alden, 865-483-4357; malden@fumcor.org, if you need childcare for younger children.

Adults

Beginning Tuesday, January 14 from 6-7:30 pm and Wednesday, January 15 from 1 - 2:30 pm, Jenny Caughman will co-lead "Connecting with God Through Creativity" with Sheila Michel and Susan Ochs. Many of us desire to develop our relationship with God and are uncertain of how to do that. God's first act in the Bible is creation, and we worship God as Creator. Made in the image and likeness of God, we too are called to create – yet for many of us that feels either threatening or unimportant. This 12-week group will help participants explore the creative process and how it can be a way to express our spirituality, connect with God, and connect with our deeper selves. Artistic talent is **not** a prerequisite! For more information or to register, please contact Jenny Caughman (jcaughman@fumcor.org; 483-4357).

A 7-week Bible study exploring the Torah, the first 5 books of the Bible, will take place twice on Wednesday evenings (to provide options for parents whose children are singing in one of our choirs). Led by Mark Flynn, these classes will begin on Wednesday, January 15 from 5:15 - 6:15 pm and will again be offered from 6:15-7:15 pm. This study has daily readings and is designed for all people — those with no biblical background, as well as those with years of devotional study. Those participating will need to pick up a copy of the free study guide from the office in time to finish a week's readings prior to that first class.

Another option beginning Wednesday, January 15 from 6:15-7:15 pm will be our 4-week "Nonviolence In A Violent World" study. Led by Chris Black, the class will focus on how the teachings of Gandhi, Jesus of Nazareth, and Howard Thurman informed Martin Luther King, Jr.'s unique philosophy of nonviolence. We will explore how King's non-violence became both an expression of his faith and the basis for a movement that changed the world. We will look deeply at King's life and obstacles his movement faced, as well as seek to uncover how non-violence shaped his strategy for racial reconciliation, integration, and freedom. The class will also explore how "Kingian nonviolence" can inform our Christian discipleship in the world.

Beginning on Thursday, January 16 from 10 am to noon, Mark Flynn will teach the second part of his iStudy Bible Study series. This study will focus on all the books of the Old Testament other than the Torah. This 7-week class has daily readings and is designed for all people — those with no biblical background, as well as those with years of devotional study. Completion of an iStudy Torah class is helpful but not necessary. Pick up a study guide in the office, read the first week's lessons, and come join us.

As always, our weekly Adult Chancel Choir rehearsals begin at 7:00 pm on Wednesdays.

Youth

Special Wednesday night activities are already taking place in the youth loft. Our 7th through 12th graders gather at 6:15 pm for Youth Choir in the music room and at 7:15 in the loft, spending time deepening their spiritual lives and having fun together.

Children

Join us as we begin our Wonderful Wednesday program for kids in PreK to 6th grade! Kick Off will be January 15th. Starting at 5:15 pm, this program will include a light meal, choir music practice as well as a rotation schedule of Library Tales, Creative Arts, Bible Buddies and Project X (service projects). Kids will participate in Choir as well as one of the rotations each week, ending at 7:15. We call it Wonderful Wednesday because that is what it will be for the kids!

January Sermon Series: Caring for God's Creation

Caring for God's creation is the greatest unexamined and future-critical theological issue of our day. Although shocking for some, that statement comes as no surprise to most young adults. Environmentalism and all the issues associated with it top the list of concerns for those under 40 years old. On the four Sundays of January, our worship services will be exploring the theme of "Caring For God's Creation." The sermons in the series are:

January 5 - Creation Is God's First Great Incarnation

January 12 - We Are The Root of Our Creation's Woe

January 19 - It Is "Easier" To Worship God In Creation Than In The Church

January 26 - The Church and Not Government Must Lead Creation Care

Worship for January 5

8:45 & 11 am Traditional Service

Sermon: "Creation is God's First Great Incarnation"

Gospel: John 1:1-5

Rev. Mark Flynn, lead pastor

11 am Contemporary Service

Sermon: "Creation is God's First Great Incarnation"

Scripture: Colossians 1:11-20

Rev. Chris Black, associate pastor

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

Our Prayers:

Discharged: Ginny Minturn

Discharged to NHC OR: Mary Kate O'Kain,

Sue Shults

In Loving Memory

Fred Hurst

who joined FUMC on January 4, 1948 and died on December 18, 2019. We extend love and sympathy to his family and friends.

George Brandon

who joined FUMC on January 27, 1985 and died on December 25, 2019. We extend love and sympathy to his wife, Pat, and daughter, Beth Nickle, and family.

In Sympathy

We extend love and sympathy to Jim & Melissa Charles, in the death of Jim's mother, Nell, on December 19, 2019.

Ecumenical Storehouse in February

It's time to sign up to work at the Ecumenical Storehouse! First Methodist will be in charge in February, so sign-ups are now beginning. We need volunteers to work in the Storehouse office on Mondays and Fridays from 9:00 am until noon, and Saturday volunteers to work from 9:00am and 12:30pm. **Please note that the Storehouse is no longer open on Wednesdays!** The weekday volunteers escort our clients through the Storehouse to select furniture, appliances, and kitchen supplies. Office volunteers also answer the phone, sort and fold sheets and towels, and help clients load their items into their vehicles. The Saturday volunteers pick up furniture from donors and bring it back to the Storehouse. In addition to the Storehouse box truck, several pickup trucks are needed. There are several different ways to sign up to work at the Storehouse:

- In your Sunday School class during the month of January,
- On the Missions bulletin board on the first floor near the church office, or
- Call Linda Battle (742-6345) or Betty Lou Alspaugh (310-1672).

Our congregation has been strong supporters of the Ecumenical Storehouse since it began over 30 years ago. We look forward to continuing this support again this year.



1350 Oak Ridge Turnpike
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

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Our Gifts

Offering this Week	\$13,144
2019 Year to Date	\$1,314,365
2018 Year to Date	\$1,387,652
December Special Offering	\$1,554

Evergreen Movie,

The King and I, Jan. 6, 2:30 pm

We will be showing "The King and I" on Jan. 6 in room 207 at 2:30 p.m. The King of Siam hires an American widowed English teacher to tutor his children. After the movie, we will eat at a local restaurant. If you have questions, please call Nancy Delene, 483-0740.

XYZ Our next gathering will be on January 8.

China Palace will cater, and the program will be Allen Sims on the improvements in Knoxville's Old City! Call in your reservations to the church office by [January 3!](#) Merry Christmas to all XYZ Seniors and their families! For more information, call Ann Munz at [865 661 0700](tel:8656610700).

Sanctuary Flowers

The 2020 flower calendar is up and has plenty of dates that need to be filled. If you would like to purchase flowers for the Sanctuary on Sunday mornings, please put your name and number on the calendar and someone will call you close to your date to ask you who you would like to dedicate them to.

Schedule for January 4 - January 11, 2019

Saturday, January 4

11:00 Brandon Receiving of Friends, 202

Sunday, January 5

8:45 Traditional Service, Sanc.
 10:00 Sunday School
 10:15 Abiding Worship, Chapel
 11:00 Traditional Service, Sanc.
 11:00 Contemporary Serv, MPR
 12:00 Youth Parent Lunch, FH

Monday, January 6

11:00 ROMEO, 202
2:30 Evergreen Movie, 207

5:00 PFLAG, FH
 6:15 Threshold Choir, 106
 6:15 Pack Meeting, MPR
 7:00 Mission Meeting, 204

Tuesday, January 7

8:15 Weekly Communion, Chpl
 9:00 Staff Mtg, 207
 9:30 Christian Homemaking, FH
 12:00 Centering Prayer, Chpl
 6:30 Social Concerns, 206
 6:30 Ballroom Dancing, MPR
 6:30 Eagle Scout Board, 304

Wednesday, January 8

9:00 Small Group, 202
 9:30 SET, 204
 10:00 Creative Directions, 206
 10:30 First Things Folders, 207
 3:30 Sisters in Spirit, 202
 6:00 Youth Choir, 106
 6:00 Chrismon Class, 204
 7:00 Youth Group, Loft
 7:00 Adult Choir, 106

Thursday, January 9

11:20 Thursday Lunch, MPR
12:30 Caregiver Support, 203

4:30 Card Making Wrkshp, 204
 6:15 Basketball, MPR
 6:30 Girl Scouts, 206
 6:30 PTSD Group, 207

Friday, January 10

8:00 Women's Small Grp, 202
5:00 Youth Retreat Leaves

Saturday, January 11

No activities scheduled

Keystone & First Steps—M-F