

First Things

Issue No. 7

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

February 16, 2020

Developments in the United Methodist Church

As we reported in early January, a 16-member group representing theologically-diverse organizations within the United Methodist Church (UMC) has announced unanimous agreement for a proposal to address the 50-year division over the issues of same-sex marriage and the LGBTQ ordination. That plan, which has received very broad endorsement over the last month, will allow more conservative congregations to form a new denomination without financial penalties or losing their property. The UMC which remains after the split will be more open and affirming of LGBTQ persons. Their proposal has now been translated into legislation that will be presented at the next General Conference in May, 2020. If you would like to read that legislation or a summary of it, please go to <https://www.gracethroughseparation.com/faqs-legislation>

PTSD Peer Support Group

A new peer support group for persons afflicted with post traumatic stress disorder is being offered at 6 pm in Room 207 on Sunday evenings. PTSD sufferers commonly experience anxiety, depression, and struggles with substance abuse. The group is open to all who are ready to focus on recovery, the possibility of change, and future wellness. For more information, call Chuck Dawn at 865-599-2147.

Can You Offer a Ride?

We need help getting people to church. There are currently members of our congregation who no longer drive, as well as people interested in attending worship who need a ride. We would love to be able to offer them a ride to church, but we need volunteers. We are compiling a list of those willing to drive people to or from church. If you can do this, even occasionally, please either call the office or let Jenny know. 483-4357, jcaughman@fumcor.org.

Free Bibles Available

On Sunday, February 23rd, there will be a table set up outside all three worship services with some extra Bibles that the church is happy to give away. Some of them are gently used and some are brand new. There will be an assortment of reliable translations available. If you or someone you know would like to have one of these Bibles, please feel free to take one or two.

Worship for February 16

8:45 & 11 am Traditional Service

Sermon: "Faith is a Balancing Act"

Scripture: Deuteronomy 30:15-20,

Matthew 5:21-37

Rev. Mark Flynn,

Lead Pastor

11 am Contemporary Service

Sermon: "Cut It Off"

Gospel: Matthew 5:21-37

Rev. Jenny Caughman,

Spiritual Care Pastor

My Support of FUMCOR

My habit from the age of nine has been to attend Sunday School and Church services wherever I found myself. I have lived in many places and found comfort in my identity with fellow Christian friends!

We joined FUMCOR in 1974, and our family has benefitted from the programs including Sunday School, Worship, Youth Group and Youth Choir. I have served on several committees: Social Concerns, Trustees, Science and Theology, Enduring Gifts, Administrative Council; helped with the nursery; and served as a Holston Annual Conference representative at Lake Junaluska. All of these experiences helped me grow and helped our children grow into responsible Christian adults. The ministers were very helpful with Lee, Jr. and his limitations. He was included in youth programs, which was a gift from God, always!

The Church needs our support as volunteers and our financial support. I pray for our Church and our Annual Conference to face the most difficult problems with respect and serious concern for members, and, yes, those who are different! I love the way our ministerial staff has led us during these difficult discussions. I love our music programs, the free community meals, the congregation's support of the XYZ Senior Group monthly lunches and programs, the First Steps Child Development Program, and our church-wide and Sunday School support of so many community programs for the needy.

When I wake up, I thank God for a new day and pray that I hear God's calling for me to have the courage and love to do His will!

Blessings, Peace, Love, Joy, and Hope to All,
Ann Munz

In Loving Memory

Susan Saunders

who first joined FUMC on April 14, 1957 and died on February 6, 2020. We extend love and sympathy to her husband, Barry, and daughter, Alicia.

Hospitalized

UT: Laurie Tan

Discharged: Brenda Fellner

Our Gifts

Offering this Week	\$31,773
2020 Year to Date	\$216,672
2019 Year to Date	\$194,728
Mission Special Offering	\$570

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

New Library Additions

Did you know that our church library continues to add new works to its collection? Not only are 12 magazines regularly updated, we added 8 books/collections in the last three months. These latest additions include titles such as: *20 Centuries of Great Preaching*; *The Heart of the Community: Methodist Medical Center of Oak Ridge, 1943-2008*; and *Yesterday, Today, and Forever* by Maria Von Trapp. Since January 1, 2019, our library has added 45 new works. 327 books, videos, and collections have been added in the last 5 years. Stop by and have a look.

Happy Valentine's Day to Homebound Members

Thank you to all who supported the work of our team of youth, UMW members and our recently formed Neighbors-to-Neighbors group to prepare and deliver Valentine's Day gifts to our homebound members as a token of our love and appreciation. Bags decorated by our youth and filled by UMW members with donated personal-care items, Valentine's cards signed by all the team members, and a bit of V-Day candy are being delivered by our Neighbor-to-Neighbor group to 40 of our members who are unable to attend church services regularly.



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Oak Ridge, TN 37830

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Souper Bowl of Caring Collection Results

Thank you to everyone who gave generously on February 2 for the Souper Bowl of Caring collection! The youth group raised \$869.98, and will be donating half to Tabitha's Table and half to the Free Community Meal. Again, thank you for helping the youth group fight hunger in our Oak Ridge community!

Youth Spring Break Lock-in is Coming, March 13

Youth, grades 6-12, are invited to come to the spring break lock-in on Friday, March 13 from 7:00 pm-11:00 am. We will go bowling, visit Waffle House, and play fun games at the church! Youth should bring money for bowling and Waffle House, a sleeping bag and pillow, a change of clothes, and any favorite board or card games. Register now at fumcor.org/youthforms.

Our Nursery Recently Moved

Our nursery recently moved to Room 206, and we have seen quite an uptick in the number of young ones attending since then. It is so fantastic to peek in the door and see so many happy children with their caregivers. All of our childcare staff are CPR trained and dedicated to taking good care of the children so their parents can attend a worship service or meeting without worry. On Sunday mornings, the staff also does a short Sunday school lesson with them. We have had so many positive comments since the move and hope to see continued growth in this area. Our nursery is open on Sunday mornings from 8:30am-12:30pm and at other times by reservation. Contact Megan Alden, Director of Children and Family Ministry, if you need to schedule childcare for your event.

Schedule for February 15 - February 22, 2019

Saturday, February 15

9:00 Girl Scouts, MPR
5:30 Youth Monthly Movie

Sunday, February 16

8:45 Traditional Service, Sanc.
10:00 Sunday School
10:15 Abiding Worship, Chapel
11:00 Traditional Service, Sanc.
11:00 Contemporary Serv, MPR
1:00 Renovam Concert, Sanc.
6:00 PTSD Support Group, 207

Monday, February 17

11:00 ROMEO's, 202

12:00 Clutter Busters, 204

5:00 Grief Support Grp, 203
5:00 Keystone Board Mtg, 204
6:30 Scouts
7:30 ORCMA Concert, Sanc.

Tuesday, February 18

8:15 Weekly Communion, Chpl
9:00 Staff Mtg, 207
12:00 Centering Prayer, Chpl
6:00 Connecting w/God, 203
6:30 Ballroom Dancing, MPR

Wednesday, February 19

9:00 Small Group, 202

9:30 SET, 204

10:00 Philosophers, 205
10:30 First Things Folders, 207
1:00 Connecting w/God, 203
3:30 Sisters in Spirit, 202
5:15 Wonderful Weds. PK-2nd
5:30 Free Community Meal
5:30 Handbell Rehearsal, Sanc.
5:45 Wonderful Weds. 3rd-6th
6:00 First Steps Board Mtg, 207
6:15 Youth Choir, 106
6:00 Chrismon Class, 204
7:00 Youth Group, Loft

7:00 Adult Choir, 106

Thursday, February 20

11:20 Thursday Lunch, MPR
10:00 Trinity Knitters, 207
6:00 F.S. Staff Mtg, FH
6:15 Basketball, MPR

Friday, February 21

8:00 Women's Small Grp, 202
4:00 Pinewood Derby, MPR
Saturday, February 22
10:00 Pinewood Derby, MPR

Keystone & First Steps—M-F