

First Things

Issue No. 11

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

March 21, 2021

Don't Forget to Save-A-Seat on our Website's Virtual Chapel if You Plan on Attending Worship in Person!



Holy Week is Coming Soon

We hope you will participate in our Holy Week services:

- Maundy Thursday, April 1, 7:00 p.m. (in-person and livestream)
- Good Friday, April 2, 7:00 p.m. (in-person and livestream)
- Easter Sunrise Service, April 4, 7:00 a.m. (in-person on the lawn)

Our Palm Sunday March 28 and Easter April 4 worship services will follow our new Sunday schedule:

- 8:45–9:30 a.m. Traditional in the Sanctuary
- 10:00–10:45 a.m. Contemporary in the Multi-purpose room (in-person and livestream)
- 11:00–11:45 a.m. Traditional in the Sanctuary (in-person and livestream)
- 1:00–2:00 p.m. Worship on the Lawn

Don't forget to *Save-A-Seat* under the Virtual Chapel tab found on our website (fumcor.org) and bring a mask.

Easter Sunrise Service

Do you enjoy celebrating Easter as bright and early as possible? If so, you are invited to attend our youth-led Easter Sunrise Service. Bring your own chair, save a space at fumcor.org/live, and join us on the front lawn to celebrate the Resurrection at 7:00 a.m. Sunday, April 4.

Livestreaming Information

Over the past year, videos of our Contemporary and Traditional Worship services have been available early on Sunday mornings. Our staff recorded those worship services during the week. Beginning this Sunday, our 10:00 a.m. Contemporary and 11:00 a.m. Traditional services will be livestreamed in real time. Those worshipping from home will be able to watch them as they are going on. After each service is over, recordings of the services will be available on the church's YouTube page. Links to those services will be available under our website's Virtual Chapel tab (fumcor.org).

Weather and Worship on the Lawn

Our new, weekly Worship on the Lawn kicks off at 1:00 p.m. this Sunday. If we need to cancel a service due to weather, we will place an announcement on the home page of our website and send out a church-wide email. We will also have someone answering the office phone between 12:30–1:00 p.m. on days when a cancellation takes place.

Food Collection Success

Are disciples of Jesus called to love God or serve their neighbors? The answer is "yes!" One of the beauties of FUMC is that we do both well.

While our building has been closed, it has been a hub of service—one of the most visible being a warehouse for area food pantries.

During a year when many people lost jobs and struggled financially, our community came together to answer a need. For many months our Welcome Center was home to huge amounts of canned soups, beans, chili, fruits, vegetables, mac-n-cheese, cereal, pasta, as well as diapers and other necessities.

Along with other service organizations, local food pantries regularly came to our building, took what they needed, and then distributed the food to their clients. It was a beautiful example of people working together to care for our neighbors. Having this collection of food readily available has also allowed us to meet emergency food needs throughout the week and provide some essential supplies for folks who have dropped by the church for assistance. Thanks to the commitment and incredible generosity of Nancy Kile, Naomi Asher, a team of volunteers, the United Way of Anderson County, FUMC members, and the wider Oak Ridge community, area food pantries have been well stocked.

We are grateful for those who have worked to serve our neighbors. If you would like to join the fun, contact Cara Weigel (481.8108) about the Food for Kids program, or Jenny Caughman (jcaughman@fumcor.org) about our Wednesday night Community Meal. Let us worship together and express our love for God and our neighbors! Amen!

Help With the Offering

The Finance Committee needs volunteers to help secure the offering at the 8:45 a.m. Traditional, 10:00 a.m. Contemporary [note the new time for Stage 1 reopening], and 1:00 p.m. Worship on the Lawn. You can work one or two Sundays a month.

During Stage 1 reopening protocols, we will not pass the offering plates. Instead, the plates will be near the back of the Sanctuary and MPR for people to drop in their gifts. Our offering officers will secure those gifts in a bank bag and deliver them to a designated area.

Contact Linda Bowen with questions or to volunteer (483.4357).

Hospitalized

*Personal information
removed for privacy*

Our Gifts

Offering this Week	\$43,002
2021 Year to Date	\$374,979
2020 Year to Date	\$371,924
Special Offering	\$845
Lent	\$500

Girl Scout Troop 21158 Wants to *Egg Your Yard*

Girl Scout Troop 21158 is participating in a special Easter egg fundraiser to help offset the cost for the troop's trip to Savannah, Georgia later this year. The scouts will deliver candy and toy-filled plastic Easter eggs to your front yard on either Friday, April 2, or Saturday, April 3. Eggs will be delivered after dark. Cost is \$20 for 2 dozen eggs. You must live in Oak Ridge. Payment must be received by March 29.

For information or to order, email Jerry Luckmann (luck7879@bellsouth.net).

Exciting News from Seth

After meeting with the Board of Ordained Ministry of the Mountain Sky Conference last week, I am excited to share that I have been recommended for commissioning as a provisional elder in the United Methodist Church. We've seen a few provisional elders here at First Church, including Rev. Rachel Witt and Rev. Chris Black. This is not only the culmination of four years of candidacy and seminary work but also the start of my journey toward ordination. I'm very thankful for all of the support I have felt during this process by the wonderful congregants of First Church. Thanks for letting me learn to preach, teach, and practice pastoral care over the last few years. I look forward to our continued ministry together.

Pastors

Mark Flynn, lead pastor
Chris Black, associate pastor
Jenny Caughman, spiritual care

Contact Information

865.483.4357
www.fumcor.org
Pastor on call: 865.272.9862



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Special Offerings: Lent, March, and Easter

Special offerings are collected to benefit organizations outside FUMC and its budget. The Lent offering will benefit the Trinity Out-Reach Center of Hope (TORCH) and will be used for safe housing for Anderson County residents. Aid to Distressed Families of Appalachian Counties (ADFAC) will receive our March offering to serve the needs of the low-income community in Anderson and three surrounding counties. Then, Easter will be United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Sunday. Money collected will go toward humanitarian relief and disaster response in the United States and internationally. Make checks payable to FUMC (include in the memo the name of the organization you wish to support).

Morgan Scott Ministry Needs Van Drivers

One of the ministries of our congregation is a food ministry serving people in Morgan and Scott counties. Members of our congregation drive vans for the ministry on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Volunteers pick up food from Second Harvest Food Bank on Mondays and Wednesdays. On Fridays, the food is delivered to the Morgan-Scott Project site for distribution. This ministry needs more volunteer drivers. If you can offer a few hours on any Monday or Wednesday morning, or an entire morning on Friday, contact the Church office (483.4357).

EASTER EGG HUNT

WHAT IS BETTER THAN ONE EGG HUNT...TWO?

Sunday, April 4

Come at 11:00 a.m. or 2:15 p.m.

**Bring a basket and
meet on the front lawn.**

**First Church
1350 Oak Ridge Turnpike**

