

First Things

Issue No. 14

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

April 12, 2020

Church Building Sanitized

Our facilities team is pleased to announce our building has been thoroughly sanitized. After cleaning the contents in each room with antibacterial cleaners, they ran ozone generators specifically designed for shock sanitizing in every space. They filled each room completely with ozone gas. They treated furniture, equipment, walls, floors, ceilings, and vented air moving through the ductwork and air handlers. Each room required different times and saturation amounts to complete the sanitizing process.

Ozone not only eliminates odors, it destroys airborne and surface pathogens, bacteria, viruses, surface mold, and all airborne spores. Ozone is more effective than chlorine in destroying viruses and bacteria on surfaces or in the air. Ozone molecules are created when two oxygen molecules merge. The new molecule is erratic and short lived. Once ozone attacks a spore or bacterium, it reverts to its original oxygen molecule state.

So, when the day comes when our congregation gathers back together, we can feel great about the readiness of our building.

Our Chapel Chairs Are Here



Many thanks to Richard Pack, Denny Siemsen, and Janna Taylor for creating our "new" chairs for the Chapel. To make them more user-friendly for folks with physical struggles, Denny and Richard added arms to one-half of the worship chairs we had in storage. Janna re-upholstered all of them, and now they make a beautiful, versatile addition to our Chapel.

Kids Easter "Egg-travaganza" Drive-Thru

We will have a big Egg Hunt when we get back together in person, but in the meantime, come to the Drive Thru event. Just drive through the Church parking lot along Vienna Road anytime April 10-12. Look at all the eggs in the windows and answer some short questions on the Easter Egg question sheet. **No need to leave your car.** You can find the question sheet on the FUMCOR Young Families Facebook page or email Megan at malden@fumcor.org to request one.

After you've completed the, sheet you can scan and email it to Megan or bring it to the actual in-person Egg Hunt. You will get a prize for completed sheets. Enjoy!

Children's Sunday School Classes Available

Kids, join us Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. for Zoom Sunday School! The teachers would love to see and interact with you even though we can't be in class together right now. Join Ms. Megan, Ms. Autumn, Mrs. Terry, and Mrs. Leigh as we have class with the EPIC and POWER UP groups together. Email Megan at malden@fumcor.org to be added to this group.

Free Grocery Shopping for Seniors

The Senior Citizens Home Assistance Service (SCHAS) will shop and deliver groceries directly to Senior Citizens, age 62 or older, in the Oak Ridge area. SCHAS has been a trusted non-profit in East Tennessee for 50 years. For more information or to sign up for the service, call 865-245-8165 or visit schas.org/s-o-s-program. There is a 25-item restriction to what they can deliver. Take advantage of this service as you shelter in place!

No Food for Kids in April

Food for Kids previously scheduled for April 13-14 has been canceled. The schools are hoping that it can be picked up again for the May 11-12 dates. Please watch the newsletter for further information.

Order an Easter Flower by Sunday, April 19

To order a flower in memory of, or in honor of, a loved one for Easter Sunday celebration (TBD), mail it to FUMC by **Sun., April 19**. Cost is \$15 (make checks to FUMC, memo: Easter flowers) and flowers may be picked up after the 11 a.m. services. Donors and persons being memorialized/honored will be listed in the bulletin.

Name (as you would like to have listed) _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

Circle: *In Memory* *In Honor* of _____

Service: ___ Traditional ___ Contemporary No./Type of flowers: ___ Lily ___ Cyclamen ___ Kalanchoe

A check for _____ is enclosed (\$15 each). Deadline to order: Sunday, April 19

In Loving Memory

Bernard Griggs

who joined FUMC on July 13, 1969,
and died on April 4, 2020.
We extend love and sympathy to his
daughter, Lisa.

Our Prayers:

Discharged: David Copeland

Our Gifts

Offering this Week	\$21,624
2020 Year to Date	\$440,380
2019 Year to Date	\$366,611
Special Offering	\$145

Steve and Lou Ann Cristy Are Home!

We are pleased to announce the Cristys have returned to Oak Ridge following mission work in Honduras. After their April 2 flight was canceled, no airlines were showing flights for a month! While they were among caring and loving people, Steve and Lou Ann longed for home. They connected to a United Methodist Global Ministries missionary named Desiree who had recently arranged flights for her mother to return home. Through Desiree, they found a flight scheduled for March 30, but only First Class seats were available. After filling out numerous forms and calling both Honduran and United States United Airlines representatives, they booked seats out for the next day. Then came the issue of how they would travel to the airport. Protesters were using burning tires and logs to block the main roads in protest of conditions resulting from the pandemic. Fortunately for Steve and Lou Ann, a Honduran Congressman named Walter Chavez volunteered to take them to the airport. They arrived in Houston and then headed back to the Knoxville airport. They have now self-quarantined for 14 days, although they feel great. They express their thanks for all the prayers and thoughts. According to the Cristys, "We love you all. We are so blessed--so blessed and happy to be home."

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



1350 Oak Ridge Turnpike
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit #18
Oak Ridge, TN
37830

Welcome New Members!

We want to welcome Chris and Laura Griffin to our church family! The Griffins became the first members in FUMCOR history to join during a Sunday School video call this past Sunday. They had planned to join in the Sanctuary on March 29. Instead, the GIFT Sunday School class became the witnesses to this wonderful event. We celebrate that even during the pandemic, our congregation is finding ways to care for one another.

No Desserts Needed for April Community Meals

As many of you know in an effort to provide for our community and stay safe, our Free Community Meals are now being offered every Wednesday as a drive-thru. Due to the pandemic we are no longer providing homemade desserts. We look forward to sitting down together again when this pandemic is over and share in these luscious desserts again.

Holston Home Visit Postponed

Our Sunday morning collections benefitting the Holston Home for Children and our congregation's visit to the ministry is postponed until we return to a normal weekly pattern of worship. Please be on the lookout for our future plans to aid this wonderful ministry.

Join Us For Easter

By clicking the "virtual chapel" tab on the church website (FUMCOR.org), you can join us for new traditional and contemporary worship options each week. You also will find Sunday School class offerings and a daily prayer meditation. Please worship, learn, and be in devotion with us each Sunday or anytime during the week as we go through this odd time together.

news@fumcor.org

The methods in which the news is dispensed and the ways in which it is consumed have changed greatly in the past few years. Websites and social media have replaced print media for many of us. As church staff come and go, various persons have had roles in getting our news to you. Below is a list of staff members who currently hold these responsibilities:

- ⇒ Kayla Carico - graphics, electronic sign, bulletin boards, social media, Welcome Center TVs, donut hole TV
- ⇒ Danielle Gallaher - First Things newsletter
- ⇒ Seth O'Kegley - website
- ⇒ Jeff Kile - Contemporary Worship welcome loop
- ⇒ Mark Flynn - news press releases

While this list has fluctuated and probably will again, **there is a single email address that goes to all of these persons: news@fumcor.org**. That address is a simple way to get your announcements, photos, and publicity needs to all church staff who hold these responsibilities.

Virtual Youth Group Available

Last week, we held our first Virtual Youth Group meeting via Zoom and it was a success! Virtual Youth group will be happening every Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. for the foreseeable future. Along with that, youth are also invited to "hang out" in the Virtual Youth Loft every Monday-Thursday from 3:00-5:00 p.m. All the details for joining these online gatherings can be found at fumcor.org/youth.