

First Things

Issue No. 18

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

May 9, 2021

An Announcement from Rev. Chris Black

Friends,

I have been asked by the Holston Conference of the UMC to transition to become the Pastor of 1st United Methodist of Madisonville, TN, beginning July 1, 2021. As many of you know, those of us who are clergy in the United Methodist Church make ourselves available for appointment every year to wherever the conference has a need. This year there is a need there and I have been called to it.

It is with a heavy heart that I leave you, but I am excited and confident heading into this new opportunity because of how you have prepared me. First UMC of Oak Ridge is a great church, and it has been a tremendous privilege to get to know you, serve you, and learn from you.

I have grown significantly since I first came to you on numerous levels, and I am deeply thankful for how you have molded me over the last three years. I have loved every moment of being in worship with you whether in Contemporary, Traditional, Abiding, or our various outdoor ministries. I have also loved learning about what it means to be in mission both in this community and all over our region and world. It has also been a privilege to be one of your pastoral representatives to meet and advocate for those who have some of the deepest needs in our city.

I have gained so much by working with both Mark and Jenny, and all the staff. But it has been the congregational community that has taught me the most. You have encouraged me, supported me, allowed me to teach you, and to serve alongside you in your missional discipleship. I will cherish many things about your church, but honestly, the most precious memory that I will have moving forward is how this church and it's First Steps Ministry has molded my daughter Sydney. She is who she is today because of this Church community, and the staff of First Steps, and for this I am forever grateful.

I am so thankful to have had these 3 years with you, and I am excited to see what FUMCOR's leadership, staff, and pastoral staff has in store for your future.

Peace,

Chris

Mission Trip to UMCOR Sager Brown in November

UMCOR Sager Brown in Baldwin, Louisiana is planning to open the depot to mission teams around June. Our FUMC team is scheduled to work in the depot the second week in November. By that time, they should have all of the kinks worked out and we should be able to have our normal fun and productive mission experience. We are scheduled to depart from FUMC on Saturday, November 6 and return to Oak Ridge on Saturday, November 13. Even though the depot is not currently accepting teams, they have encouraged us to start organizing our team. We invite anyone who is interested to sign up at this time. There are 20 available spots. To reserve one of those spots, contact Maxine Schultz (maxbob38@comcast.net or 482.0080).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Do you love working with kids and teaching them about how awesome God is? If you answered yes, then we need you as a volunteer in our Children and Family Ministry!

We have so many ways you can help from teaching Sunday—School, Children's Church, Nursery, behind the scenes work, and more!

**FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL SHELBY FOWLER
AT SFOWLER@FUMCOR.ORG**



Save-A-Seat System Discontinued

Since mid-May, church leaders have strongly encouraged those returning to our building for in-person worship to use the Save-A-Seat system on our website. That system has worked well and made it possible for us to maintain our safety protocols during Holy Week and Easter. Since Church Council passed our Stage 2 Protocol last week, it is no longer necessary for us to pre-register our attendance. When you are ready to switch from virtual attendance to in-person, you simply need to show up.

Over the last few weeks, more and more people have begun to transition back to in-person worship. When you are ready to do so, remember we are on a different schedule:

8:45 a.m. Traditional in the Sanctuary
10:00 a.m. Contemporary in the Multi-purpose Room
11:00 a.m. Traditional in the Sanctuary
1:00 p.m. Worship on the Lawn

(Important: since we will no longer have pre-registrations for Worship on the Lawn, there will be no way to contact everyone interested in attending if we cancel that service due to weather. We will do our best to post on the home page of the website by 12:15 p.m.)

Vacation Bible School Items Needed

We need **CARDBOARD TUBES**—paper towel size—for a VBS craft. Please begin to save these items as you come across them. You can drop them off at the main office Monday–Thursday from 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m. or in the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings in the basket provided. If you would like to volunteer for VBS email Shelby Fowler (sfowler@fumcor.org).

In Sympathy

We extend love and sympathy to Joe Tracy in the death of his brother, Billy Tracy.

Hospitalized

Personal information removed for privacy

Our Gifts

Offering this Week	\$26,797
2021 Year to Date	\$560,018
2020 Year to Date	\$547,836
Monthly Offering	\$755

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

Volunteer Opportunity

The best way to build self-esteem and find personal satisfaction is to contribute to something greater than yourself. Our congregation is blessed to have a member who volunteers to mow our lawn. However, it is difficult for this person to pick up trash that has blown onto our property. If you can spend 20 minutes on Thursdays picking up litter from our church yard, that would be a wonderful gift to our church. Contact the church office (483.4357) if you are interested.

Special Offering: OR Schools' Family Resource Center

Special offerings are collected to benefit organizations outside FUMC and its budget. The May special offering will support the Family Resource Center, a program of the Oak Ridge Schools. The center's mission is to assist "at-risk" children and their families so they can have success in school.

The center receives grant funding but depends heavily on donations and in-kind services. To support this work, write a check to FUMC (memo: Family Resource Center).



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF OAK RIDGE
1350 Oak Ridge Turnpike
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

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Return Service Requested

Supplies Needed

The United Way—with the support of our church, community members, and other local organizations—has been gathering supplies and putting together tampon totes (or period packs) for local teens. Each pack includes a couple of tampons, pads, wipes, a note of encouragement, a piece of chocolate, and an extra pair of panties.

Approximately 1,500 packs have been assembled by volunteers and distributed to schools and organizations such as Robertsville and Norwood Middle Schools, Clinton High School, Clinch River and Secret City Academies, and FUMCOR.

Donations are appreciated. Following is a list of items needed:

- Ladies' panties (small through x-large),
- Individually wrapped pieces of chocolate,
- Individually wrapped wipes (such as Summer's Eve), and
- Cosmetic bags.

Please deliver donations to the church office (Monday–Thursday 8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.), or drop them off Sundays (May 9 and 16) in the Welcome Center on your way to worship. Thank you! For more information, contact Nancy Kile (fnpkile@comcast.net) or Naomi Asher (naomi@uwayac.org).



Church members, Laura McLean, Vicki Hinkel, and Jerry Luckmann packing totes.



Members and leaders of Girl Scout troops 21158 and 69 packed 498 totes in less than 2 hours.

Food for Kids

Help pack Food for Kids, starting at noon on Monday, May 10. Delivery on Tuesday, May 11, starts at 8:30 a.m. Masks and social distancing are mandatory. Contact: Cara Weigel (481.8108).



Homebound Member Birthdays



The following people are homebound members of our congregation who have birthdays. Please take a moment to send them a card. You can get their addresses by looking in the directory or by contacting the church office (483.4357). Thank you for this expression of care and concern.

May 3	Joanne King
May 25	Peggy Proffitt, Charlene Reynolds
May 27	Bill Boyle

UMW Bakeless Bake Sale

A bakeless bake sale is a fundraiser sponsored by the United Methodist Women (UMW). In many ways, it's a virtual sale. If you normally would bake for the bake sale, consider donating the money you would spend on ingredients to the UMW. If you normally would purchase a batch of brownies or other goodies, consider donating the money you would spend on your purchase. Suggested donations are \$20 per person. Collection is May 16 at any of the church services.