

# First Things

Issue No. 18

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

May 10, 2020

## Another Request for Cloth Masks

As we prepare for future worship gatherings at the church, at a date unknown, we need to have cloth masks available for people who do not have a mask or forgot to bring one with them.

So, once again, we are asking for homemade cloth masks. This time they will be used by our church, given to members who do not have a mask, or washed and reused for future church gatherings. There are multiple sites online to find a pattern to make one for yourself or to be donated to the church. Choose any style you prefer to make. Our goal is 400 masks, and we have no doubt you all can make this happen.

Please drop them off at any of the following addresses with a note indicating they are for FUMCOR. Place the masks in the box on the front porch. There is no need to call or ring the bell.

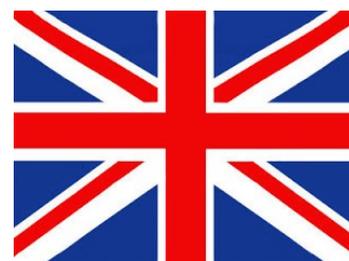
- 106 Danbury Drive
- 103 Meadowlark Lane
- 92 Tempura Drive

You can also drop them off at the Vienna Road entrance of the church, Monday-Wednesday 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

And a big thank you to Shelia Michel, Terry Pfeiffer, and Kathy Gillenwaters for allowing us to use their front porches as convenient drop-off sites!

## No Summer Camp in Holston

Camp Wesley Woods (and all other Holston Camps) announced they will not be hosting summer camp ministries this year because of COVID-19. However, there are ways we, as a congregation, can be involved in supporting Holston camping ministries this summer. They have asked congregations to pray, donate, and volunteer. Camp Wesley Woods needs volunteers interested in hands-on projects in and around camp during the summer. If you would be interested in potentially helping Camp Wesley Woods with your time, gifts, talents, or work gloves, please contact Rev. Chris Black (cblack@fumcor.org).



## England Choir Tour Postponed

In consultation with Perform International, our music staff, the clergy of FUMC Oak Ridge, and your surveys, we have decided to postpone the England Choir Tour until the summer of 2021. Current travelers who do not plan to go with us next summer need to let Seth know by Monday, May 11 so we can get refunds (minus the small cancellation fee) processed quickly. If current travelers do plan to travel next summer, the small rescheduling fee is due by June 1. Current travelers have received an email with further instructions. If you were not able to go in 2020 but are interested in joining us on our choir tour next summer, please let Seth know! The joy of postponing is that we have time to add more people. We will have exact dates for the 2021 tour in a few months. Thank you to everyone for patience as we worked this out.

## Worship Watch Parties

On Sunday mornings, we are taking advantage of a Facebook option called Watch Party. This is an opportunity to join in a community to experience worship together. We are airing the contemporary service at 10:00 a.m. and the traditional at 11:00 a.m. You may "chat" with others or just watch. While a Facebook profile is helpful, it is not necessary. Go to facebook.com/fumcOakRidge at the appointed time. Contact Jeff (jkile@fumcor.org) with any questions.

## Graduating Seniors' Support Group

Our emotional support group for graduating high school seniors began meeting last week and shows promise for being very helpful! All high school seniors are invited to join us on Zoom each Thursday at 7:00 p.m. For details, check out fumcor.org/youth.

## FUMCOR.ORG Online Opportunities

Reminder: We offer worship services, daily devotions, Sunday school classes, and Bible study opportunities on our website (fumcor.org). Visit the website at any time to see all of our resources.

## UMW Bakeless Bake Sale is Here

It's coming soon! We are not asking you to bake a cake or brownies or even come to the sale. Just mail your donation of \$20 to FUMC. Your check should be made out to the United Methodist Women and have "Bake Sale" in the memo line. Your gift will help agencies such as CASA and Morgan Scott Project serve those in need. A successful sale will allow the UMW to make an additional gift of \$500 to the Blossom Center, which is located in Oak Ridge and serves children 24 hours a day with child care services. This is the only day care to offer this much needed service. Thank you for continuing to help the UMW serve women and children in many ways.

### Our Prayers

*Personal information  
removed for privacy*

### Our Gifts

Offering this Week	\$19,956
2020 Year to Date	\$553,692
2019 Year to Date	\$465,067
Donations for Community Meals (includes donated food)	\$1,800

## Send Us Your Pictures!

What around your home is helping you to cope during this pandemic? Is it a pet, a place, a book, a person? We would love for you to take a photo and share it with us. If there are enough photos, we can create a slideshow to share on our website and social media pages. Send those photos to photos@fumcor.org with the subject line "Coping Photo."

## 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

## May Special Offering: Family Promise of Roane County

Family Promise of Roane County works in collaboration with faith-based organizations, civic groups, and concerned neighbors to shelter, nourish, transport, and assist families with children who are experiencing homelessness. It is an affiliate of the national Family Promise organization, a non-profit committed to helping homeless families achieve lasting independence. The organization provides help for family units and keeps families together.

How does it work? Local social service agencies refer families to Family Promise. Host faith-based congregations provide overnight lodging, meals, and hospitality during a family's stay. There are six host congregations. A day center, located in Rockwood, is the hub of case management. It provides office space for the case manager and other administrative services; has resources, including phones, internet, and serves as an address for receipt of mail; has laundry and shower facilities; and has a comfortable homelike setting with sofas and chairs and a play area for pre-school children. Older children attend school during their stay. Transportation for families is provided by a program van.

Volunteers are the heart of the program. With these leveraged volunteer efforts, expenses are directed to ensuring staff members provide case management and coordinate with multiple social service groups to provide pathways to jobs and permanent housing.

## Holston Home Collection Wrapping Up

We are switching gears with the collection for Holston Home for Children in Greeneville. Because of the uncertainty surrounding the coronavirus, we now plan to receive all financial donations by May 31, and then one person will deliver the few other items that have been donated. If you'd like to make a donation, please mail a check (payable to FUMC, memo: duffels) to the church. A very special thanks to all who have donated. We have received almost enough money to cover the much-needed duffels. We will not take a campus tour this year.

## No Panama Mission Trip in 2020

The Panama mission trip, scheduled for September, has become a casualty of COVID-19. Our missionaries last year averaged 70 years of age. It would just be too risky to go out of the country as early as September without being vaccinated against the infection. The mission in Panama does good work under the supervision of David and Cindy Ceballos. Pray for them. It is our intention to form a team to return to Panama in fall of 2021. -Jim Michel

## Receiving church-wide emails?

If you are not receiving our occasional church-wide emails with important announcements, we probably do not have your correct email address. Please contact the church office to update your contact information (483-4357).