

# First Things

Issue No. 22

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

June 6, 2021

## New Worship Schedule Begins July 4

The time has arrived for our congregation to reestablish a regular time for our Sunday School classes to meet. Our current worship schedule has served us well over the last three months as we have re-launched in-person worship. However, under this schedule, Sunday School groups are forced to meet during either Contemporary or Traditional worship, leaving some class members unable to participate.

Rev. Mark Flynn will preach all the services most weeks, following Rev. Chris Black's departure, so we can no longer have two 11:00 a.m. services. This means Sunday mornings will look different from our pre-pandemic schedule. As is always the case with schedules, there is no perfect solution where everyone's wants are met. The staff have explored, prayed about, and debated a dozen or more options; each of them has positives and negatives. Here is the New Sunday morning schedule we believe will work for the most people.

### Beginning on Sunday, July 4

Traditional Worship	8:45–9:30 a.m.
Contemporary Worship	9:45–10:30 a.m.
Sunday School	10:30–11:15 a.m.
Traditional Worship	11:15 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

When we were recording worship during the pandemic, our worship services tended to be 30–40 minutes long. Since returning, many members have expressed their appreciation that our services have continued to be that length. We plan on continuing with that length as a guideline.

This new schedule presents two challenges. One is that the 8:45 a.m. Traditional worship attendees will have to wait an hour before Sunday school classes begin. We hope to begin new Sunday school classes that will begin at 9:45 a.m. for those who attend that service. Likewise, the Contemporary service will move from 10:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. We know this is an inconvenience for several who prefer our former 11:00 a.m. starting time. We tried to keep this time as late in the morning as possible.

The 10:30 a.m. Sunday school time slot is when our children and youth classes will meet. Teachers point out that 45 minutes is the right amount of time for those age groups. Adult classes are encouraged to decide for themselves when to begin, flexing their time around that 45-minute slot and which worship services the majority of their members attend.

Finally, the second Traditional worship service will begin at 11:15 a.m., ending by noon. To help bridge the gap for those who arrive early in the Sanctuary, Josh Sumter will play an extra prelude beginning at 11:10 a.m. We hope this will provide the worshiping congregation a time for prayer and reflection.

Thank you for your patience and support as we move into this new schedule **on Sunday, July 4**. Change is never easy, and the transition to this new schedule will certainly have its issues. May God grant us grace toward one another as we take this important step in our ministry.

## Celebrating Our Upcoming Homecoming Series

For the six Sundays between July 25–August 29, our congregation will have the privilege of hosting many of our former pastors and our current District Superintendent as preachers for a homecoming series.

The idea for this series emerged as a result of our Staff-Parish Relations Committee authorizing Rev. Mark Flynn's six-week sabbatical, beginning in late July. The response to our homecoming invitations was incredibly enthusiastic. We now anticipate an August filled with excellent preaching from Jenny and Seth as well as:

	<b>Traditional</b>	<b>Contemporary</b>
July 25	Troy Forrester	Troy Forrester
August 1	Stella Roberts	Ann Robins
August 8	Richard Edwards	Seth O'Kegley-Gibson
August 15	Ken Carder	Lauri Jo Cranford
August 22	Steve Martin	Steve Martin
August 29	Seth O'Kegley-Gibson	Jenny Caughman

In addition, Rachel Witt Carosiello will provide a videotaped sermon for us to share with the congregation. In early August, she and her husband Gryff will have just welcomed home their first child.

Plan now to be part of this wonderful series, beginning July 25.

## The Staff Parish Relations Committee Invites You to a Reception for Rev. Chris Black Sunday, June 13 12:00 p.m. on the Front Lawn

Join us as we celebrate Chris's wonderful ministry among us and wish him well in his new appointment. Cupcakes and bottled water will be provided. There will be a table and basket available for cards, checks, and other tokens of appreciation. Checks should be made directly to Chris Black.

### In Sympathy

We extend love and sympathy to Elizabeth Rea on the death of her brother Rich on May 28.

### Hospitalized

**MMC:** Bob Henderson, Sam Snow

**Discharged:** Bob Smith-hospice, Chet Morris, Maxine Schultz

**Diversicare:** Royce Sayer

### Our Gifts

Offering this Week	\$16,041
2021 Year to Date	\$638,107
2020 Year to Date	\$627,531
Monthly Offering	\$2,081

### Keystone Support Group

The Keystone support group meets the second Thursday each month from 12:30–2:30 p.m. in Room 202. This group is for all caregivers whether they have a family member at Keystone or not. During June, the group is welcoming Connie Warford from The Groves at Oak Ridge to share with us everything we need to know about placing a loved one in assisted living. Connie will provide an overall informational presentation about community living followed by questions and answers. This is a great time to learn more about what an assisted living facility does and does not provide. Please join us for this time with Connie followed by a time to share with one another about our caregiving journeys.

### 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 Offering: Free Medical Clinic

Special offerings are collected to benefit charities outside the church. A different charitable organization is chosen each month. The June special offering will support the Free Medical Clinic of Oak Ridge, which provides no-charge medical care for low-income and uninsured residents of Anderson, Morgan, and Roane counties. Since its founding in 2010 at FUMCOR, it has grown to provide two clinic locations: Oak Ridge and Harriman. Since 2010, the Free Medical Clinic has provided more than 40,000 patient encounters and millions of dollars worth of primary medical care to community members in need. The Clinic is the only healthcare facility that many of our neighbors have to help them with their medical care. The Free Medical Clinic volunteer staff and your contributions make this care possible.

To contribute, make a check payable to FUMC (memo: Free Medical Clinic).

### Sunday Cool for Youth Begins Sunday

Our summer youth program, *Sunday Cool*, will start this Sunday. All rising 7–12 graders are invited to participate on Sunday afternoons until the end of July. If you take the "s" and the "h" out of "school," you're left with "cool." It's a silly name, but the point is that it's going to be super fun. Come to the Loft after the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday for a gaming day. There will be at least one Nintendo Switch, board games, and card games. Youth are invited to bring their own video game consoles as well as their favorite board and card games to share. We will play until 5:00 p.m. Contact Kayla Carico (kcarico@fumcor.org) with questions.

### Grocery Bags Needed

The Community Meal is in need of grocery bags for the meal distribution. If you have extra bags, drop them off at the Welcome Center entrance. You may leave them in the cubby area or buzz the office to let you in.

### Grief Support Group Begins July 12

FUMC will be offering an in-person Grief Support Group beginning on Monday, July 12. The Grief Support Group will be led by retired counselor Steve Herbes. There will be seven sessions. The group will provide persons an opportunity to understand the grief experience in a safe, supportive community in which to express and explore their grief. There is no cost for participation, but we ask people to register. For more information or to register, contact the church office or Rev. Jenny Caughman (jcaughman@fumcor.org or 483.4357).

Visit [fumcor.org](http://fumcor.org) to find out what is happening at FUMC.