

First Things

Issue No. 23

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

June 20, 2021

NEW SUNDAY SCHEDULE @ **FIRSTCHURCH** FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF OAK RIDGE

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP 8:45 & 11:15 a.m.

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP 9:45 a.m.

YOUTH & CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL . . . 10:30 a.m.

BEGINNING JULY 4, 2021

Adult Sunday School Classes Can Be Flexible Under Our New Schedule

Our new Sunday morning schedule begins Sunday, July 4. There are a few points about this new plan we need to clarify. First of all, we know this schedule is far from perfect. The most glaring problem in the schedule we selected is that our early Traditional service attendees will need to wait for an hour for our scheduled Sunday school time to begin. We are going to begin a new adult Sunday school class at 9:45 a.m. for those who regularly attend that service, but we know that will not solve the problem for those of you who have long-established Sunday school ties.

Keep in mind **the time listed for Sunday school in the new schedule refers to children and youth classes**. Our adult classes can flex their schedules according to the needs of their members. Parents need to have a set period of time when their children and youth will be in class. **Our hope is that adult classes will find the right beginning and ending time that works for them.** For example:

- Adult classes whose members attend the 8:45 a.m. worship could begin as early as 9:30 a.m. and last for as long as they like.
- Adult classes whose members attend the 9:45 a.m. worship could begin as early as 10:30 a.m. and last for as long they like.
- Adult classes whose members attend all three services could gather at 10:00 a.m., fellowship until 9:45 a.m. worship attendees join them, have their lesson time, and then continue in discussion/fellowship until choir members and 11:15 a.m. worship attendees need to leave, or meet at times other than Sunday mornings.

We hope each class will find a rhythm that works for them. One of our major goals for the new schedule was to keep Contemporary Worship as late as possible—since those attending that service have already moved from their original 11:00 a.m. slot.

For those who point out our new schedule does not allow for fellowship time between Contemporary worship ending and Sunday school, the hope is that this flexible adult class scheduling will help address the issue. In addition, **our worship teams plan on keeping the length of our services to around 35 minutes**, giving some time to fellowship prior to Sunday school classes beginning.

As we prepare to move ahead with this new schedule on July 4, let us not forget that what matters most is to strive to show patience and hospitality toward one another. If this schedule needs to be changed in the future, we can certainly do that. Plans change, schedules adjust,

but striving to be a community of grace and trust is our overarching goal.



Seth O'Kegley-Gibson, Commissioned as Elder

Many of us recognize Seth as the music director here, and he certainly is that. However, Seth has completed the United Methodist Church's process of discernment for ordained ministry called "candidacy." In 2017, Seth was recognized as a certified candidate for ministry by the District Committee on Ministry (DCoM) for the TN Valley District here in the Holston Conference.

After building a web of connections through his seminary, Iliff School of Theology in Denver, Colorado, he moved his conference membership to the Mountain Sky Conference and continued as a "certified candidate." Earlier this year, his DCoM from Montana recommended him for commissioning as a Provisional Elder. On Friday, June 3, the Clergy Session (active and retired clergy from the Mountain Sky Conference) elected to grant Seth clergy credentials as a Provisional Elder.

So, you'll still see Rev. Seth (and Josh) directing our fantastic choirs, planning special events, and leading the music ministry, but you will also see him leading worship, visiting hospitals and assisted living facilities, and preaching occasionally. We celebrate with Seth on his commissioning and look forward to sharing in his ministry with him!

Children's Programs Beginning July 4

FirstKids will be kicking off our children's programs beginning July 4. Sunday School for Kindergarten-6 grade will be from 10:30-11:10 a.m. Children's Church will be offered during the 9:45 a.m. Contemporary service and 11:15 a.m. Traditional service. The nursery will be available from 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. each Sunday. For more information, please visit fumcor.org/cfm.

Congratulations to

- Rachel and Ryan McMillan, Oliver and Miles, on the birth of their daughter and sister, Maeve Ramona McMillan, on May 31. Grandparents are Pat and Jan Ryan, uncle Andrew.
- Wes and Keisha Horton on the birth of their son, Drake Hudson Horton, on June 5.

Congratulations to

Elizabeth Cousins and Andrew Whitus on their marriage, Saturday, June 5. Parents of the bride are Hal and Sharon Cousins, brother Andrew.

In Loving Memory

Paul Byrd

who joined FUMC July 24, 2005, and died May 22. We extend love and sympathy to his daughter's Rachel and Reagan and family.

In Sympathy

We extend love and sympathy to

- Beth and Jerry Van Fossen on the death of Beth's mother, Dorothy Free, on June 2.
- Rob, Lisa, and Emily Connatser on the death of their daughter and sister, Dana Fox, on June 13.

Hospitalized

MMC: Bob Henderson

Discharged: Sam Snow, Kay Moss, Burt Brubaker, Natalie Dickenson, Terry Pfeiffer

Our Gifts

Offering this Week	\$30,128
2021 Year to Date	\$700,652
2020 Year to Date	\$693,807
Monthly Offering	\$1,515

Pastors

Mark Flynn, lead pastor
Jenny Caughman, spiritual care

Contact Information

865.483.4357
www.fumcor.org
Pastor on call: 865.272.9862



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Stephen Minister Training

There are times when life hits us hard, and knowing that we are not walking alone on this path can be of great comfort. Stephen Ministers from our church have been travelling with those in need for almost 30 years. Stephen Ministers are caring people who have gone through an extensive training program so they are equipped to listen and understand. We will be restarting the training program that was interrupted by the pandemic in late summer. If you think that God is calling you to serve in this capacity, or if you want more information, contact one of our Stephen Leaders.

- Peg Ashline (ashline27@bellsouth.net),
- Anne Leitnaker (anne.leitnaker@gmail.com),
- Dan Ingersoll (dingersoll3@comcast.net),
- Ann Siemsen (siemsen100@gmail.com), or
- Rev. Jenny Caughman (jcaughman@fumcor.org).

WestWend to Play Outdoor Concert July 3 at 7:30 p.m.

Do you miss live music? So do we! The bluegrass, country, and celtic band "WestWend" will be giving a concert on our front lawn on Saturday, July 3, at 7:30 pm. All are invited to come. We will have some chairs, but you are encouraged to bring your own lawn chairs. Join us for this musical way to celebrate the holiday-- *Red, White, and Bluegrass*.



Grief Support Group Begins July 12

FUMC is offering a virtual Grief Support Group beginning Monday, July 12. While originally planned to meet in-person, it will now be meeting via Zoom. The Grief Support Group will be led by retired counselor Steve Herbes and there will be seven sessions. 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).

Special Offering: Free Medical Clinic

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



Homebound Member Birthdays



The following people are homebound members of our congregation who have birthdays this month. 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.

July 9	Evelyn Martin
July 12	Irvin Speas
July 18	Edna Donaghe
July 27	Elizabeth Rea, Don Sampsell