

# First Things

Issue No. 26

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

July 18, 2021

## New Sunday School Class at 9:45 a.m.

In response to the new worship schedule, we are starting a new Sunday school class designed for those who attend the 8:45 a.m. service. The class will begin August 1 and will meet in the Chapel starting at 9:45 a.m. Jay Jellison will be leading the class for the month of August and will be teaching on the Sermon on the Mount. Susan Ochs will take over starting in September. All are welcome, especially those looking for an opportunity to deepen their knowledge of the Bible and to study and explore with others. For more information, contact Rev. Jenny Caughman (jcaughman@fumcor.org, 483-4357).

## Don't Forget to Reserve Your Photo Date



If you haven't already, reserve your date for your photo session for the church directory. Go to the website (fumcor.org) under the Resources tab and select Photo Sessions. Make sure to choose FUMC's availabilities on the reservation site. We want everyone to be included. You do not have to be a member to participate. These sessions are pet friendly!

## Be Part of the Sager Brown Mission Team

FUMC will be sending a mission team to the UMCOR Sager Brown Supply Depot November 6–13, 2021. An informational meeting will be held Tuesday, July 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in Room 207. This mission destination is located on a bayou in south Louisiana. Our main work will be preparing UMCOR disaster relief kits for shipping to all parts of the United States. Experience a fun week with FUMC friends as well as putting your hands to work helping others. Contact Maxine Schultz (865.719.4304 or 482.0080) if you have questions.

## Confirmation Registration is Now Open

All rising seventh graders are invited to participate in Confirmation this school year. Confirmation is an 8–9 month process in which youth learn about Christian beliefs, Church history, and how to live together in community as followers of Christ. Many older youth can testify that the confirmation process helped them to better understand the faith tradition in which they have been raised and claim for themselves.

Confirmation will begin this year with a one-night retreat at Camp Wesley Woods, August 27–28. Youth must be registered by Thursday, August 12. Registration forms are available in the church office or by contacting Kayla Carico (kcarico@fumcor.org). Classes will meet during Sunday School at 10:30 a.m. In addition, all those in Confirmation are welcome and invited to also participate in any and all youth activities, as our youth ministry includes all students in 7–12 grade.

## Youth Group on Sunday Evenings Beginning August 1

We will be kicking off the school year together for Sunday Night Youth Group on August 1. Youth Group is moving from Wednesday to Sunday evenings. Each Sunday from 7:00–8:15 p.m., our youth group will gather in the Loft for games and devotions. We hope the change from Wednesday to Sunday evenings will allow for more flexibility with extra-curricular activities and sports that have coincided with our Wednesday gatherings in the past couple of years. All students in grades 7–12 are invited to come to Sunday Night Youth Group. For the foreseeable future, *masks will be required for everyone* in the Youth Loft, as some youth are not fully vaccinated. We want to create a safe and inclusive environment where everyone can thrive, grow, and have fun without feeling singled out. To find our fall youth schedule, check out the youth webpage (fumcor.org/youth).

## Vacation Bible School 2021

FUMC was loaded with children a few weeks ago during VBS. Thank you to all of our volunteers and participants.

Contact Shelby Fowler, Director of Children and Family Ministries (sfowler@fumcor.org) for information on how you can help with children's ministries.



## Congratulations to

Sarah and TJ Robinson on the birth of their daughter, McKinley Elizabeth, on July 2. Grandparents are Lee and Beth Nickle.

## In Sympathy

We extend love and sympathy to Betty Oakberg in the death of her son, Frank Oakberg, July 9, 2021.

## Hospitalized

**Tennova North:** Bob Henderson  
**MMC:** Ken Kile

## Our Gifts

Offering this Week	\$30,364
2021 Year to Date	\$778,598
2020 Year to Date	\$768,319
Monthly Mission Offering	\$805

## Pastors

Mark Flynn, lead  
Jenny Caughman, spiritual care  
Seth O'Kegley-Gibson, worship

## Contact Information

865.483.4357 [www.fumcor.org](http://www.fumcor.org)  
Pastor on call: 865.272.9862

## Stephen Ministry Training Begins this Fall

Training for new Stephen Ministers will begin this fall on Tuesday, September 14. Stephen Ministers are lay people who have been trained to provide one-on-one Christian care to those experiencing a significant life challenge, such as the loss of loved ones, separation or divorce, job crisis, medical conditions, birth or adoption, or just being overwhelmed by life. Stephen Ministry is a non-denominational program that has been at FUMC for over 30 years. Training is open to anyone in the community.

The course consists of 20 sessions, lasting 2.5 hours each. The fall session is on Tuesday nights from 6:00–8:30 p.m., from September 14–November 16. The sessions will begin again Tuesday, January 4–February 22 at the same time.

Stephen Ministers conduct confidential visitations, assist with in-home communion for homebound members and residents at various assisted living facilities. They also make hospital visits a few days a week to assist our pastors and meet regularly to support one another. More information can be found at [fumcor.org/stephen-ministry](http://fumcor.org/stephen-ministry). Contact Rev. Jenny Caughman ([jcaughman@fumcor.org](mailto:jcaughman@fumcor.org)) if you are interested in this ministry.



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## Amazing Turnout for the Red, White, and Bluegrass Concert

What a great turnout at FUMC on Saturday, July 3 for the Red, White, and Bluegrass concert. Thank you everyone who was able to attend. It was such a wonderful event that Seth O'Kegley-Gibson is already planning to have another concert next year on July 2, 2022, so mark your calendars.



## Informational Gathering on Homeless Ministry

The mission of Family Promise of Roane County (FPRC) is to shelter first time homeless children and their families in safe, stable, and caring environments. All persons interested in exploring how our congregation can participate in this critical ministry will have a chance to meet with new Executive Director, Gregory Chadwick, Sunday, July 18 at 12:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

If FUMCOR were to become a FPRC "host site," we would need enough volunteers to welcome, feed, and be available to help up to two families, one week at a time, four weeks a year beginning next May. Two volunteers would be needed to stay overnight in the church building during those weeks.

There should never be a reason children and their families can't have a safe place to sleep.

## Special Offering: Morgan Scott Project

The Morgan Scott Project will receive our July special offering, which will be used to help the needy, elderly, and disabled in Morgan and Scott counties. The ministry offers emergency aid, home repairs, educational support services for adults, the Good Earth Garden which helps feed families, a thrift store, and more. Make checks payable to FUMC (memo: Morgan Scott). On Fridays, FUMC gathers and delivers food to Deer Lodge. If you can help (even occasionally), contact Ted Willgrubs ([tmwillgrubs@att.net](mailto:tmwillgrubs@att.net)). To learn more, visit [morganscottproject.org](http://morganscottproject.org).

## Memorial Gifts Received January 1–June 30

Bonnie Hedrick  
David Mason  
William Mooney  
Joan O'Steen  
H. Jack Pope  
Margaret Pryor

Hal Schmitt  
Tom Scott  
Wilbur (Dub) Shults  
Franklin Skipper  
Ben Smith  
Teresa Wyatt

## Construction Mission Trip to Alabama, September 19–25

We are looking for three or four more team members for a rebuilding mission trip to southern Alabama.

Alabama was struck by two hurricanes last year, and has the highest death toll for tornadoes this year. There is a need for major rebuilding efforts in the Alabama UMC Conference. We have 12 team members committed for this trip and are looking for three or four more. For more information, contact Jim Michel (865.567.2206, [jamesmichel@hotmail.com](mailto:jamesmichel@hotmail.com)).