

First Things

Issue No. 31

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August 9, 2020

Free Community Meal In Need

FUMCOR has a long history of finding concrete ways to show our love for our neighbor. In December of 2016, we began serving a free Community Meal. In response to the need and the vision of Lynn Ross, what began as a buffet dinner offered once a month turned into a sit-down meal served twice a month. In April, in response to the need in our community and through the hard work of a dedicated team of volunteers led by Naomi Asher and Melissa Charles, FUMC has safely served approximately 600 free meals every month for our community. An efficient means of preparing, packing, and distributing the meals has been established, with safety protocols in place to protect our volunteers and our guests.

Volunteers are needed to help in two areas of this vital ministry: packing meals (four people each week, beginning at 4:15 p.m.), and distributing meals in the drive-thru area. If you would like to serve God and neighbor and become part of this team, contact Jenny Caughman (jcaughman@fumcor.org, 256.1026). Because this work involves interacting with the public, we ask that those in a higher-risk category support us by your prayers and your gifts but not your presence.

Scouting Program Seeks Volunteer Leadership

For many years, our congregation has been blessed to sponsor Cub Scout Pack 328. As you might expect, the pandemic quarantine has been very difficult on scouting troops across the country, and the same is true for our scouts. Unfortunately, our pack is facing an even greater challenge, one that might lead to the closing it down: adult leadership.

To fulfill its charter, Pack 328 needs leadership: a pack committee chair, a pack treasurer, pack committee members, a cubmaster, an assistant cubmaster, and den leaders. Pack leadership has attempted to recruit replacements for the last year without success.

The current adult leaders have offered years of service, and we are grateful for all they have done to support the children and youth of our community. Unless these roles are filled soon, Pack 328 cannot continue. If you are interested in seeing scouting continue and are willing to speak to someone about the responsibilities of the various roles, please contact the church office.

Cub Scout Adult Leadership Qualities That We Are Looking For:

- Accepts the ideals and principles of the Boy Scouts of America and the United Methodist Church;
- Sets a positive example as a role model through appearance and consistent ethical behavior (fairness, honesty, trust, and respect for others);
- Has the ability to delegate tasks that permit use of adult and youth resources;
- Advocates and enjoys seeing youth development and growth;
- Appreciates the outdoors and enjoys the natural environment;
- Has some experience in group activity leadership in club, lodge, or religious organizations;
- Wins the confidence of parents, youth, and the community;
- Listens and builds rapport with others in a counseling role; and
- Is willing to invest time for training and unit leadership

Blessed for the School Journey

Children and Family Ministries recently sent all the First Church kids "Blessing Tags" and had a special blessing for them during a recent worship service. It was a reminder that we are thinking about them as they begin their school year. Some will be learning at home, and some will head to school. Either way, this is going to be a challenging time, and we will be praying for everyone, including parents and teachers.

Our Family Ministry Assistant, Autumn Bonifacius, also will be headed into the classroom as a first-grade teacher. She wanted the kids to know how she felt and said, "I hope you liked our blessing tags! I know our school journey is different this year, but just remember that learning is an adventure, and God will take care of all of us this year!"

One of our kids, Neelley, said, "The tag is really cute! I can't wait to put it on my backpack!" Another student, Fisher, said, "I love getting them in the mail! Thank you! I can't wait to put it on my backpack and go back to school!"

Some of our First Church kids will be learning virtually. Will said "Thank you" for the tag. His brother, Finnley, said, "I'm disappointed, but I get it" in regards to learning at home this year versus in school. Their mom said, "Receiving the tags, as they have received for their backpacks in other years, was one normal thing at the start of the school year!" Autumn and I were happy to try to bring some normalcy to the kids this year.

These tags will hang on backpacks or desks this year and serve as a small reminder that God is with us with every step of the way. Have a awesome school year!



Megan Alden
Director of Children and Family Ministries

Back To Basics Final Class

This week our class will be meeting on Wednesday, August 12, at 8:00 p.m. Chris's Bible study finishes up with an exploration called "Some Tools of the Trade...when to consult them and how to use them." If you haven't participated in the class up to this point, don't worry! There will be a link for the Zoom meeting under the Virtual Chapel tab on the website (fumcor.org). If you have questions, contact Chris Black (cblack@fumcor.org).

Congratulations to

Emily and Nick Meadows in the birth of their daughter, Haidyn Olivia Meadows, on July 23. Grandparents are Scott & Amy Elkins and Kristy & Greg Pryor. Great grandparents are Bill & Sandy Elkins.

Our Prayers

Personal information removed for privacy

Our Gifts

Offering this Week	\$14,418
2020 Year to Date	\$822,276
2019 Year to Date	\$793,023
July Special Offering	\$2,020

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

Unorganized Religion Class: Christianity Before Constantine 5 Tuesdays from 7:00-8:00 p.m. Starting August 25

This five week class surveys the development of the Christian Church from the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost to the declaration of Christianity as the state religion of the Roman Empire. Many elements of church that we think of as "ancient" aren't really ancient. We think of monks chanting, soaring cathedrals, and verbose theological creeds. But a thousand years before all of that developed, there were many factions of Christian thought spread out across the slowly dying Roman Empire. Politics, heresies, and persecution are just some of the juicy topics we will cover in learning about how the Christian Church got where it is today. For more information, contact Seth O'Kegley (sokegley@fumcor.org) or visit the FUMC Virtual Chapel.

Holy Troublemakers: Youth Bible Study

Over the next nine weeks, Kayla Carico is offering an online Bible study for youth called "Holy Troublemakers: Prophets of the Bible." Both middle and high school youth are invited to this study on Tuesday nights. Middle school youth will meet at 7:00 p.m., and high school youth will meet at 8:00 p.m. If you or a youth you know is interested in going more in-depth with their faith and knowledge, this class is a perfect opportunity! Visit fumcor.org/youth for details.



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A Reimagined Christmas Shoppe Experience this Year: Two Events Instead of One!

We know it is only July, but we are already thinking about how to best serve our community for the coming fall and winter holidays. We expect an ongoing, increasing need for food and basic necessities, so we will not offer the traditional Christmas Shoppe experience. Instead, we will have two drive-thru events. We plan to serve 50 different families at each drive-thru. As in the past, these families are referred by outside social agencies.

In November, we will have Thanksgiving-themed food and paper product/hygiene baskets. Additionally, families will have the choice of a coat, shoes, or blanket for each child.

In December, we will have the same offerings but with a Christmas-theme. Each family will have a small selection of toys, games, and other yet-to-be-determined items for their children.

Following are two lists of needed items - one to be brought to the church and one to be kept at your house.

Things to bring to the church now:

(place in basket outside Welcome Center entrance)

1. New, quality manual can openers.
2. New kitchen towels/cloths.
3. New Christmas or Thanksgiving-themed napkins.

Things to buy now and KEEP AT YOUR HOUSE until later:

1. New socks and underwear #all sizes.
2. New blankets (all sizes).
3. New family board or card games.

For a complete list of items needed, check the church website (fumcor.org). For questions, email Nancy Kile (fnpkile@comcast.net).

August Special Offering: The Pinnacle Resource Center

The Pinnacle Resource Center was established in Huntsville, Tennessee, to combat conditions of poverty in Scott, Morgan, and Campbell counties. Its programs and facilities have grown to enable a wide range of free services for in-need families and individuals there. Pinnacle provides emergency shelter, food, and clothing in a safe, drug-free environment. With loving, esteem-building support, they assist folks to improve their life situation through a variety of life-skills programs, assistance, and internet access. In the past, Housing and Urban Development funded 60% of the Center's roughly \$100K budget. Due to the COVID pandemic, however, HUD eliminated the funding in favor of other critical needs. Please consider donating. Make checks payable to FUMC (memo: August Special Offering).