

First Things

Issue No. 38

A weekly publication of First United Methodist Church, Oak Ridge, Tennessee September 27, 2020



Third-Grade Bible Presentation This Sunday

We are excited to offer our **Third Grade Bible Presentation** virtually this year. Please watch our services on September 27 to see some terrific kids receive their new Bibles. It is a special time as they receive these Bibles and begin to learn more about studying God's word. We hope they spend many years using them at home, church, and growing deeper in their faith. Our children receiving Bibles this year are:

Fisher Brown	Zachary Hicks	Henry Kittle	Finnley Mindrup
Courtney Isenberg	Tessa Kemp	Landon Luby	Shepherd Tull
Ella Hay			

Let's Support Livestream Broadcasting

I feel called to ask you to support this project because of the potential benefit it has for all of us for many years to come. When I heard Jeff Kile tell Trustees why he and the staff felt we needed to invest in equipment for virtual broadcasting for the future, I was convinced of this need.

While I have been watching the virtual broadcasts on Sunday at home these past months, I realize what it could mean for so many people in the future who may not be able to see it now. Just think how the folks at places like Canterfield and Commonwealth would benefit to see our service on Sunday. We could really share our Christmas and Easter music with the community through this process. There are many other ways this type of broadcasting would benefit so many people.

Like any other project of this nature, funds are required to enable the project. Trustees voted for this project and passed it to the Council, who approved it. The hard part is now. We need to raise the funds as this project is outside of our budget. Finance, Trustees, and the Council felt that if we could raise \$30,000, then the church would probably be able to find the rest of the money. We have had numerous projects like this over the years, and I have always found our congregation to be more than generous. Bob and I feel this project is important for many reasons, so we have made a contribution as "cheerful givers." I encouraged the UMW to give from the Bakeless Bake Sale profits to this fund, and they came forward very generously.

Jeff Kile and those who assist him have worked tirelessly since March to bring us virtual worship, classes, and events. Jeff is a part-time staff person, and he cannot do virtual streaming and his present job when we open back up. We need better equipment and some part-time help for this project. I have known Jeff since 1973 when he was in the youth group with Nancy. He has been at the church before that and ever since working as a loyal FUMC member and volunteer, and now as part of our great staff. How lucky we are to have him share his talents with us in his retirement. Let's make this project possible. If 300 members give \$100 each to fund this project, it will happen. We can do it!

Thank you,
Carolyn Henderson

September Church Council Highlights

- The Council voted to allow small groups of no more than 15 persons to meet in-person, inside the church building, using our masked and physically distanced protocols beginning October 12. Contact the church office if your small group would like to reserve a room.
- Kayla Carico will establish a learning pod for our youth to gather at our church during school hours to do schoolwork and have reliable internet access, all following stage 1 protocols for health and safety.
- As of Sept. 10, our church and community members collected and distributed to various food pantries over 20,000 food items- restocking 14 organizations and pantries up to four times since we began collecting in April.
- Thanksgiving Basket distribution to 50 families/200 children is set for Nov. 19. Christmas Shoppe distribution to a different 50 families/200 children is set for Dec. 5.
- The Trustees are exploring the possibility of adding a covered walkway for the single exterior door entering from the Vienna Road parking lot.
- The United Methodist Women will supply coats and shoes to Oak Ridge Schools for their October mission project.
- On September 27, both worship services will celebrate a presentation of Bibles to our 8 third graders (and one 4th grader). The children will also participate in some of our readings.
- Chris Black will begin a four-week study based on C.S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity* on Oct. 7.
- Jenny Caughman will lead a class on Forgiveness starting Oct 13.
- Our Tennessee Valley District Conference will take place via zoom on Sunday, September 27 at 3:00 p.m. In that gathering, the 2021 District budget will be approved and District at-large delegates to the 2021 Holston Annual Conference will be elected.

In Loving Memory

Emma Boyd

who joined FUMC June 13, 1971, and died September 19. We extend love and sympathy to her family and friends.

Helen Catron

who joined FUMC April 21, 1946, and died September 20. We extend love and sympathy to her daughter, Carol Catron, granddaughter, Christie Cheney, family, and friends.

In Sympathy

We extend love and sympathy to Donna & Dwight Butcher and children in the death of Donna's father, Bobby Johnson, on September 20.

Our Prayers

None that we know of

Our Gifts

Offering this Week	\$24,800
2020 Year to Date	\$994,050
2019 Year to Date	\$990,706
September Special Offering	\$845

United Methodist Volunteer in Mission Team Leader Training

UMVIM Team Leader training will be held via Zoom on Saturday, October 17 from 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. There is no charge for the course, but participants will need an UMVIM Team Leader Handbook. For more information or to register, visit the Missions tab on the website (fumcor.org) or contact Maxine or Bob Schultz (maxbob38@comcast.net or 719.3230).

Keystone Activity Totes (KAT) Are Here

Keystone is busy imagining new ways to offer programming during the COVID-19 pandemic. One such way is the creation of tote bags that contain multiple activities, complete with supplies and instructions, for our participants and caregivers to use at home. While the Keystone Board and staff recognize that it is not safe at this time to offer in-person programming, we are committed to continuing to support the ongoing needs of those we serve. These needs have intensified in the wake of increased social isolation and lack of stimulation for people living with dementia as well as the lack of relief for their caregivers. As an outreach to the wider community, we have additional totes available for anyone who may need one. If you are interested in a KAT, please contact the Keystone office (483.6631).



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Mere Christianity Class Begins October 7

Rev. Chris Black will be leading a four-week Zoom class on C.S. Lewis's *Mere Christianity*. The class will begin Wednesday, October 7, at 8:00 p.m. The link for the class will be under the Virtual Chapel tab on our website (fumcor.org). Whether you have read this book or not, you are welcome to attend. Following is the schedule of topics for each week:

- Oct. 7 - "Right and Wrong as a Clue to the Meaning of the Universe"
- Oct. 14 - "What Christians Believe"
- Oct. 21 - "Christian Behavior"

UMCOR Sager Brown Kits

In lieu of a mission trip to Sager Brown this year, we are sending a financial gift to the mission. Please consider a contribution to this cause (memo: UMCOR Sager Brown Kits).

October Homebound Member Birthdays



The following people are homebound members of our congregation who have birthdays in October. Please take a moment to send each one a card. You can get their addresses by looking in the directory or contacting the church office (483.4357). Thank you for this expression of care and concern.

October 6	John Hill
October 19	Ada Hopkins
October 29	David Copeland

Class on Forgiveness Begins October 13

We all know the importance of forgiveness, how Jesus calls us to forgive not 7 times but 77! Yet the process of forgiving can be extremely challenging, and most of us would admit we have some work to do in this area. FUMC will be offering a six-week class, using Archbishop Desmond Tutu's book on forgiveness as a model. Rev. Tutu received the Nobel Peace Prize and was appointed chair of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, where he pioneered a new way for countries to move forward after experiencing civil conflict and oppression.

The class will explore what forgiveness is and what it is not (it is not forgetting nor does it subvert justice). We will also learn about Tutu's Fourfold Path of forgiveness and discuss how this relates to our own experiences. In the book's introduction, Tutu makes the bold claim that "there is nothing that cannot be forgiven, and there is no one undeserving of forgiveness." In this class, we will explore and work with our reactions to this claim.

Forgiveness matters, which may be why Jesus emphasized it so. Again to quote Tutu: "In our own ways, we are all broken. Out of that brokenness, we hurt others. Forgiveness is the journey we take toward healing the broken parts. It is how we become whole again." The path of forgiveness is not an easy one, but it is the path toward freedom and peace.

This Zoom class will be led by Rev. Jenny Caughman, meeting from 7:00–8:30 p.m. for six Tuesdays, beginning October 13. Participants may choose to read Archbishop Tutu's book but it will not be required. You can register either online (**link**) or by calling the church office (483.4357). For more information, contact Jenny Caughman (jcaughman@fumcor.org).