



Blessing of the Animals At Fall Fest

The leaves are changing, temperatures are beginning to cool, and pumpkin spice is in the air—all the signs suggest it is time for our Fall Festival! There will be trunk or treat, games, crafts, and for the first time ever, a Blessing of the Animals. Bring your dogs and cats, horses and reptiles, or whatever beloved creature that you would like Rev. Flynn to bless! The gathering for blessing will take place at 4 p.m. on October 31st on the front lawn. Individual prayers will be offered for all animals.



Project: Recycling Plastic Caps

You are invited to help our congregation, led by Maxine Shultz, to collect plastic caps and lids.

Although these plastics fall under the 2, 4, and 5 recycling numbers, not all manufacturers place that information on their plastic caps. We are recycling the caps and lids from



containers for deodorant, medicine bottles, spray paint, milk jugs, flip-tops (ketchup, mustard, creamer), detergent, toothpaste, ointment, drink bottles, cottage cheese, sour cream, cool whip, peanut butter, mayonnaise, butter, frosting, and ice cream buckets.

The following are NOT acceptable: pumps and sprayers, fast food drink lids, and prescription/medicine bottles.

All caps must be clean and dry. You may use the wicker collection baskets in the church library on the first floor.

We are currently collecting these to support children in Lenoir City, who are recycling these caps and lids in order to create plastic benches for their schools.

A Phenomenal Library

Did you know our church has a phenomenal library! On the first floor, we have a collection that may be unparalleled in Oak Ridge. If you want to learn about anything spiritual, from the history of the church to spiritual formation, our library has books that will feed you, heart, soul, and mind! These books are available to borrow by all members of the community.



In the main library area, there is a computer which serves as our card catalog. Using it is a little tricky though as a few years ago we had a merger between the Jones Memorial Library and the Small Group Collection. Books in the main library are sorted by the Dewey Decimal System. Books in the Small Group Collection are sorted first by topic (Spiritual Life, Scripture, Faith, etc.) and then by author. We have large print and reference books, a fine Children's collection, books for Stephen Ministers, and a United Methodist Women's collection.

Come downstairs and take a look. If you have a question, a staff member will be happy to help you out. More information will be coming in future newsletters to help you learn about this wonderful resource!

Remembering Thomas Bratton and Helping Others

On September 19, First UMC church members, Tom and Ann Bratton, experienced every parent's nightmare—they learned that their son, Thomas, had died, likely due to an unintentional drug overdose. At Thomas's funeral, his parents did not want anyone to sugarcoat the cause of their son's death. Instead, they bravely chose to be fully transparent in the hope that others might learn from what happened to Thomas.

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As followers of Jesus, we know God does not protect us or our loved ones from tragedy.

Rather, God sustains

us and calls us to care for one another with wisdom and love. Our congregation celebrates a wonderful example of this Christ-like care in the form of a donation someone made in Thomas' memory to our Recovery Ministry. May all of us continue to look for ways to express our love for others and do all we can to minister to each other, this community, and the world.

Celebration of Marriage

On Sunday, October 10, former First Steps Director, **Elizabeth Bonner** married **Albert Kindred**.

Join us in celebrating with Elizabeth and Albert, and their children Malachi, Evelyn, Miriam, and Tytus.

In Loving Memory

Elizabeth Rea

who joined the FUMC family July 1, 2008, and died October 7. We extend love and sympathy to all her beloved family and friends.

In the Hospitals

Joanne Boyle
Joanne King

Our Gifts

Offering This Week: \$30,244.00
2021 Year to Date: \$1,044,776
2020 Year to Date: \$1,051,879
Monthly Mission Offering: \$735.00

Worship for October 17

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: If Jesus Paid A Ransom,
To Whom Did He Pay It?
Scripture: Mark 10:35-45

8:45 & 11:15 am Traditional Services
9:45 Contemporary Service
Preaching: Mark Flynn, lead pastor



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All Saints Day: Reminder

Each year on All Saints Day, our church family celebrates those church members who have passed away over the previous twelve months. This year that holy experience will take place on Sunday, October 31. We will read the names of the recently departed members aloud in all three of our worship services, ring bells in their memory, and thank God for sharing their lives with us.

However, we are also aware that many of us lost significant friends and family who were not members of our congregation. In an effort to acknowledge those important losses and thank God for their lives, we are asking everyone to send the names of those important non-members who passed away since November 2, 2021 to the church office. You may call or email these names to mflynn@fumcor.org, or add them on the attendance pads during worship.

Pastors

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

Contact Information

865.483.4357 www.fumcor.org
Pastor on call: 865.272.9862

Service to Elderly Members

A new and exciting opportunity to serve is being proposed by the Adult Ministries Committee. The Willing Workers are soliciting members to assist a few of our elderly church members who still live at home and need help with some of the everyday activities many of us take for granted, such as raking leaves or changing light bulbs.

This is a great opportunity for us to help our congregation's members, and we need your assistance to carry out this mission.

The first tentative service date is November 6. We envision a commitment of around 1-3 hours. Masks will need to be worn for any indoor work. Please contact Mark

Diemer at mpdiemer@comcast.net or 483-5410 to volunteer or ask questions about this new way to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

The Bible For Critical Thinkers

Have you ever wanted to gain a single, comprehensive understanding of Jesus' life? In Rev. Flynn's latest study, the material has been adapted from our previous iStudy materials, presented in a completely new way. For links to the weekly video and an electronic version of the free study booklet, visit our church website (fumcor.org/bible-study). For a hard copy, please contact the church office. Email mflynn@fumcor.org for the Monday night class' Zoom link.