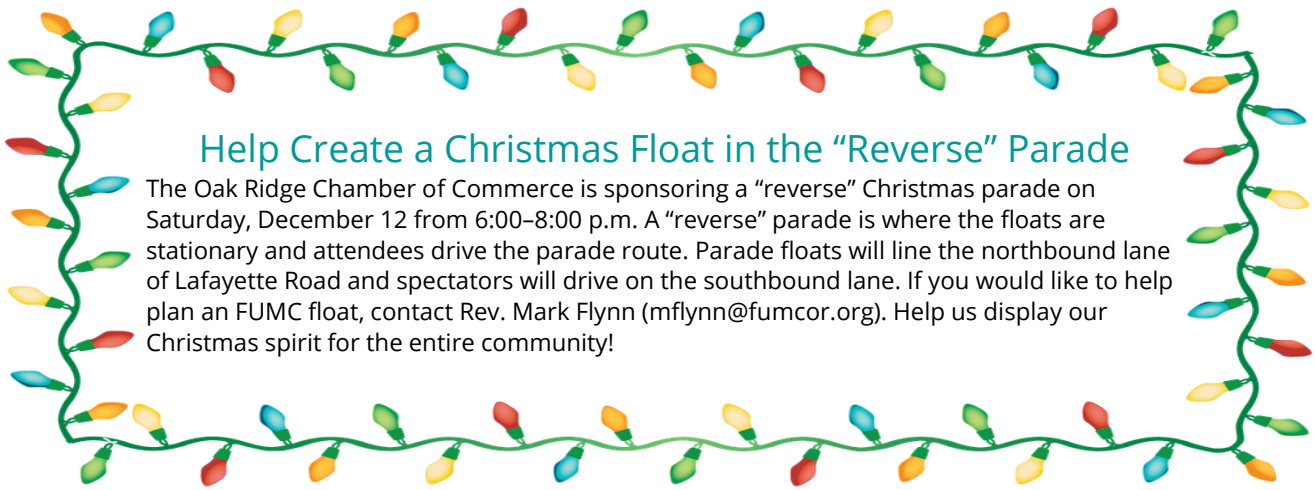


First Things

Issue No. 45

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November 15, 2020



Help Create a Christmas Float in the "Reverse" Parade

The Oak Ridge Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a "reverse" Christmas parade on Saturday, December 12 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. A "reverse" parade is where the floats are stationary and attendees drive the parade route. Parade floats will line the northbound lane of Lafayette Road and spectators will drive on the southbound lane. If you would like to help plan an FUMC float, contact Rev. Mark Flynn (mflynn@fumcor.org). Help us display our Christmas spirit for the entire community!

Want a Hard Copy of Our Traditional Liturgy?

For several months, our staff has mailed copies of the prayers and sermon used in each Traditional worship service to those who request it. For folks who are without access to the internet and our virtual services each week, this is an opportunity to stay connected to one of our worship experiences. If you are interested in being added to the list of those receiving this material, please contact the church office (483.4357).

Together in Christ Campaign Update

Our congregation is entering the next phase of our financial stewardship campaign: encouraging everyone who has not yet sent in their 2021 Estimates of Giving to do so as soon as possible. Please help our leaders create an accurate budget for the coming year by mailing in your care card, calling the church Finance Office with your information, or filling out an electronic version of the card on our website.

As of November 9, our Finance Office has received 190 Estimates of Giving (representing 66% of our goal of 290) for a total of \$915,621 (representing 77% of our \$1.2 million goal). These totals represent 12 NEW Estimates of Giving for a total of \$31,250; 77 increased Estimates of Giving for a total increase of \$48,069; 21 decreased Estimates of Giving for a total decrease of \$31,248; and 80 Estimates of Giving remain the same.

Pies Needed for Community Meal



We need store-bought pies for Thanksgiving. We will be providing a full Thanksgiving meal drive-thru on Wednesday, November 25. Many people have asked how to help. We'd love to provide each family/car with a pie. However, because of COVID-19, we cannot distribute homemade desserts. Instead, we ask that you bring unopened, store-bought pies (not frozen because space is tight) to the church, starting Monday, November 23. Contact the church office if you have questions. Thank you for helping all to find something to feel thankful for.



We are pleased to celebrate the baptism of Vivian Catherine Fountain, daughter of Elliott and Samantha Fountain. Reverends Black and Flynn baptized her on Sunday, November 8.



Advent Visitation for Homebound Members

Traditionally, FUMC's Advent season includes visitation to our homebound members. Because we cannot visit this year, we invite members to make wreaths to be delivered to homebound members as a way of showing how important they are in the life of our church. If you'd like to make and/or deliver Advent wreaths, call the church office (483.4357) or email Rev. Jenny Caughman (jcaughman@fumcor.org). We will provide instructions and materials if needed. Additionally, as Advent nears and plans unfold, we also will encourage all members to make a sacred space (including an Advent wreath) in your homes for devotion and worship; watch for details.

Congratulations to

Steve and Rose Anne Bell in the birth of their great-grandson, Beckham, on November 4.

Hospitalized

None that we know of

Our Gifts

Offering this Week	\$22,266
2020 Year to Date	\$1,158,203
2019 Year to Date	\$1,156,792
Special Monthly Offering	\$795



Youth Campfire Movie Night

On Friday, November 20, from 6:00-9:00 p.m., the youth will gather at the Gallaher home in Oak Ridge (131 Barrington Drive) for an outdoor campfire movie night. Youth grades 6-12 are invited. We will decide on a movie that evening. Bring a sweater and your mask and prepare for a cozy time! Contact Kayla Carico (kcarico@fumcor.org) with any questions and remember to text @1stjourney to 81010 to sign up for text updates.

Shopping Amazon Smile Benefits FUMCOR

Do you know that when you shop online at Amazon Smile, your purchase dollars can provide a .5% reward to the charity of your choice? To let your online shopping benefit FUMCOR, visit smile.amazon.com, and designate "First United Methodist Church of Oak Ridge" as your charity of choice. Consider doing this as you prepare for the upcoming holiday giving season. If you want to purchase items for our upcoming Thanksgiving and Christmas Shoppes, you can have those gifts sent directly to First UMC, Attn: Christmas Shoppe (and include the ID number for your child), 1350 Oak Ridge Turnpike. Just another easy way to support our congregation's ministries!

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



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Return Service Requested



Tech Operators Needed

When live-in-person worship resumes, we will be live streaming all three Sunday services. Each service will require at least one additional tech volunteer to operate a live stream video switcher. We also intend to stream other events such as funerals, weddings, and meetings.

The Traditional service has typically had one volunteer who operates audio and lights. This person will be paired with the live stream operator and will need to also place text layovers (liturgy, lyrics, etc.) onto the live stream. These tasks could easily be split three ways if enough volunteers come forward.

The Contemporary service has had three tech volunteers who operate slides, lights, and audio. More volunteers to operate these would be greatly appreciated. One additional volunteer will be needed to operate the live stream switcher. Interested? Ready for training? Contact Jeff (jkile@fumcor.org).

Keystone Fundraiser Underway

Keystone Adult Day Program is raising money through donations as a way of recouping lost revenue, following our March closure caused by the pandemic. To donate, make your check payable to FUMC (memo: Keystone Fundraiser). We are determined to continue to meet our mission of supporting caregivers and those living with dementia. We're working diligently to maintain our specialized training and stay in touch with our participants and their families. Please consider a donation to help honor and celebrate the enduring presence of the human spirit for those living with dementia.

College Students Zoom Dinner

On the third Monday of every month, FUMC college students and their friends are invited to hop on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. to hang out and catch up while eating dinner. To pre-register for this and the dinner on November 16, and get the Zoom link emailed to you ahead of time, visit our website and click on "college" under the "ministries" tab. If you have any questions, contact Seth O'Kegley (sokegley@fumcor.org).

Special November Offering: ADFAC

Our Community is Working Hard Together

During the pandemic, Aid to Distressed Families of Appalachian Counties has continued to provide services to our community in need. "With financial support from many partners who stepped up when the pandemic began and recognized ADFAC as a pivotal way to stabilize our community, we have provided significant assistance to families, thus preventing homelessness and utility cutoffs for hundreds of our neighbors," said Annie Cachiero, ADFAC's executive director. "Many non-profit organizations are working together to support our community, and we're doing the best we can given the difficult circumstances." Donations also are used for budget coaching, necessary home repairs, new home builds, and school supplies to students in Anderson, Campbell, Morgan, and Roane counties. Thank you for every dollar donated.