



Highlights From Church Council

The Missions Committee distributed a total of \$93,405.41 in 2021 as follows: local \$72,905.41; food pantries \$3,000; Central America \$10,500; Africa \$5,000; global \$2,000. The committee is now selecting the charities to be supported in 2022.

Now that children can be vaccinated, our numbers in the nursery and children's Sunday School are holding steady. However, we are in desperate need of volunteers. If Sunday School and nursery volunteers do not step up, we may discontinue children's programs.

The number of youth participants is growing with 10 to 12 students consistently attending. Although several youth had to drop out of the trip to Resurrection, nine students attended. All who attended expressed a desire to grow their relationship with Jesus.

Due to the high number of COVID cases in our immediate community and the risk of exposing unvaccinated children, we have suspended the start of Children's Choir until this 'wave' has passed. We will reevaluate at the beginning of March.

Young Adults have resumed our weekly gatherings at Bud's Farmhouse Coffee. We will gather this Thursday for a Harry Potter movie night. On Sunday we will begin a comparative study of other world religions and how they agree, disagree, compliment, and conflict with United Methodism.

Nine newly-trained Stephen Ministers will be commissioned on March 13th. They are eager to begin work, so if you know of someone who would benefit from a compassionate, listening ear, please contact the pastoral staff.

The Recovery Ministry Committee selected "First Recovery at FUMC" as the name for its ministry. In December, the committee hosted a large gathering with ASAP of Anderson County (Drug Coalition) on block federal funding for the county and received \$4,025.00 in donations. The committee is working with the Anderson County Jail to develop a jail ministry.

Greg Smith reported our church's Reconciling Ministries Network Committee (RMNC) has been meeting regularly with about eight members. The RMNC is currently working through the RMN Tool Kit which helps design a process for discerning if joining the RMN is right for our church.

Memorial Gifts For Joey Fuller

We are terribly sad to report that Joseph Paul Fuller, known as "Joey," passed away very unexpectedly this past weekend. Joey was the husband of JoEvin Fuller, our interim Executive Director of First Steps Child Development Center. This tragic news has been difficult on many in our congregation and community. Joey not only leaves behind JoEvin but also four children. Many have asked how they might support Joey's children. Those who desire to make a memorial gift can write a check to "JoEvin Fuller" with "Children's Education Fund" in the memo line. You may mail these memorial gifts to the church, but please DO NOT write checks to our congregation. Our Finance Department will return checks written to our church.

When the RMNC's design for the process is complete, it will be presented to the Church Council for approval.

Our Small Group Committee has expanded and is now co- led by Phil Fairchild and Mary Jellison. They have reached out to many of our newer members, held informational groups, and are currently exploring what kinds of groups to offer.

Steve Herbes will lead another Grief Group which will meet virtually on Mondays from 6:30 to 8:00pm beginning February 21.

The Council approved the Finance Committee's proposed 2022 budget of \$1,413,234. This total is a .6% reduction from our 2021 budget.

The Council approved a proposal from the clergy staff to change our Wedding Policies and Procedures to allow non-member couples to be married in our building. The pastoral staff will draft a new proposed fee schedule with a non-member section.

Jeff Kile reported that we are in the process of replacing two of the nine-year-old Multi Purpose Room's projection screens with money provided by the Enduring Gifts Committee.

The United Methodist Women's Christian Homemakers Circle donated \$50 to the United Methodist Committee on Relief and heard a presentation on our new Recovery Ministry. The Creative Directions Circle shared a program on Habitat For Humanity.

In the Hospitals

We know of no one in the hospitals at this time.

In Loving Memory

Joey Fuller who joined the First Church family June 5, 1995, and died January 29, 2022.

Mary Louise Pitt, never joined—she was the mother of Becky Smith—died January 28, 2022.

Our Gifts

Offering This Week: \$26,634
2022 YTD offering: \$120,939
2021 YTD offering: \$126,229
Monthly Mission Offering: \$935

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

Worship for February 6

Fifth Sunday After Epiphany

Sermon: The Second Step Of Encountering God
Scripture: Luke 5:1-11

8:45 & 11:00 am Traditional Services
11:00 am Contemporary Service
Preaching: Mark Flynn, Lead Pastor



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Grief Support Group

Losing someone we love is never easy – and the pandemic has not made it easier. Recognizing the value of both learning about the grief experience and meeting with others who are also grieving, FUMC will offer a Grief Support Group starting in February. The Group is led by retired counselor Steve Herbes and will meet virtually. The group begins on February 21 and will meet on Mondays from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. for 7 weeks. The group provides participants an opportunity to understand the grief experience and a safe, supportive community in which to express and explore their grief. It is open to those who lost a loved one in the last year, or perhaps years earlier. There is no cost to participate, but pre-registration is requested. For more information or to register, contact the church office, Rev. Jenny Caughman, or sign up under the Courses tab on our website.

Benches for the FUMC Children's Playground

FUMC is partnering with the Tellico Village Kiwanis Club to obtain three benches made from recycled plastic bottle caps. The Tellico Kiwanians have entered into a partnership with Green Tree Plastics to provide benches for children/youth based organizations. For each bench, 200 pounds of bottle caps and a nominal fee are required. Koinonia Sunday School Class has donated the fee required to have one bench made.

Two other groups at FUMC would also like to secure benches, so we need to keep collecting. This project not only provides a bench for all of us to use, but very importantly it also keeps the plastic from our landfill.

Your clean collected plastic bottle caps may be placed in the marked large wicker barrel located in the Church Library near the Choir Room.

Confirmation Class for Adults

Are you new to Methodism or even Christianity? Have you been a member of First UMC for a while but never truly learned what it is that Methodists believe and practice? Rev. Seth O'Kegley-Gibson is offering his new program, "The Way: United Methodist Confirmation for Adults," during the Lenten season. Participants will explore history, tradition, reason, experience, and scripture in this 7-week program. Participants should plan to commit to one in-person session each week and digital content in between. There is a track for persons who wish to be baptized and confirmed on Easter, for those who wish to take membership vows, and for those who just want to learn more and deepen their Methodist faith. Learn more and register for this experience under the Courses tab on our website.