

United Way Looking for Family Advocate Volunteers

United Way of Anderson County has launched a new initiative to mentor those in our community in need of financial assistance. This pilot program seeks to provide tools and support for families to move beyond ongoing crisis to independence. The program will be led by one part-time referral staff and case management volunteers.

United Way is currently looking for persons to volunteer to become case managers. Volunteers need to be compassionate and non-judgmental, be able to maintain confidentiality, be good at financial management, and understand budgeting. Volunteers are expected to work 4 to 8 hours per month.

If you are interested in being a volunteer case manager or would like to learn more, please contact Debbie Jordan at United Way (865-483-8431).

Aldersgate Update

Last week Shelby Fowler brought 6 children that attend Sunday school ranging in age from 5-10 years old. They were delightful and had written down questions to ask us.



Tom Bookhart moved to Florida on February 15th. Tom has attended our class regularly since we began meeting again. He will be living in a one-bedroom apartment in the independent living section at Legacy Pointe at UCF. Many levels of care are available there and the building should be completed soon. Until then, Tom will be staying with Bryan and his family. He would love to hear from his First UMC family as he adjusts to life in Florida. Contact the church office to be given his address for cards and letters.

We wish Tom and Mocha happiness in their new place. We will miss him and will certainly let him know if we have a Zoom gathering.

Membership and Attendance Update

Our Church Council will meet next week. The following ten-year membership and attendance trends for our congregation will be among the topics of discussion.

	Membership	Attendance (in-person)
2021	1,638	220
2020*	1,675	376
2019	1,724	365
2018	1,734	406
2017	1,752	454
2016	1,763	489
2015	1,797	531
2014	1,813	512
2013	1,830	549
2012	1,845	602

*2020 attendance is skewed since we did not worship the entire year in-person together.



After a short break to allow the latest wave of COVID-19 to pass, we are once again ready to restart our Children's Choir program on March 8th at 4 pm in the Music Room. Students currently in kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to join. Please contact Rev. Seth for more information.

Keeping Our Friends Company

Joanne King, a long-time member of FUMCOR, has recently moved to Life Care Center of Blount County to be closer to family. She misses her church! If you've got a free moment, please consider either calling Joanne (865-380-7356) or sending her a card: Life Care of Blount County, Helen Joanne King, Room 238, 1965 Stewart Lane, Louisville, TN 37777. Thank you for helping us to stay connected.

In the Hospitals

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

In Memory

Dianna Altom who died February 10th, 2022. We extend love and sympathy to all her family and friends.

Our Gifts

Offering This Week:	\$36,143
2022 YTD offering:	\$210,777
2021 YTD offering:	\$199,078
Monthly Mission Offering:	\$850

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 13

Seventh Sunday After Epiphany

Sermon: Ideals Are Like Stars...

Scripture: Genesis 45:3-11,15; Psalm 37:1-11,39-40;

Luke 6:27-38

8:45 & 11:00 am Traditional Services

11:00 am Contemporary Service

Preaching: Mark Flynn



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Celebrating Our Latest Volunteers!

Although several of our congregation’s ministries still need additional volunteers, we want to celebrate that recent newsletter articles requesting help have spurred a handful of folks to step forward! Volunteers stepped up to support our Sunday morning children’s programs, to be trained for the sound and lighting needs of our contemporary worship services, to secure our Sunday morning offerings, and to help with our free, Wednesday night community meals! Thank you to those of you who heard a call for help and came forward!

Choral Scholars to Sing Evensong

Please join us on March 13th at 5:30 pm in the Nave for Choral Evensong sung by our FUMC Choral Scholars and friends. Choral Evensong is an Anglican tradition dating back into the mid-sixteenth century and is a sung version of Evening Prayer. In his worship resource for the early American Methodist Church, John Wesley advocated saying or singing Evening Prayer weekly. We will pray together as we observe the Second Sunday of Lent. This service will feature music by Henry Purcell and William Byrd, as well as traditional plainchant.

Stephen Ministers Are Here to Help

Are you or is someone you know going through a difficult time? Would it be helpful to have someone to talk with and to pray with? Stephen Ministers are members of our congregation who listen, care, encourage, and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are facing a crisis or going through tough times. The care received from a Stephen Minister is confidential, free, and very helpful. To learn how you—or a friend, neighbor, coworker, or relative—can receive care, talk to a Mark, Seth, Jenny or a Stephen Leader – Peg Ashline, Ann Siemsen, Anne Leitnaker or Dan Ingersol.

Prayer Opportunities During Lent

The upcoming season of Lent is a period where we work toward turning away from things that distract us from God and build spiritual practices and habits that sustain us through the coming year. As part of this Lenten intention, we are offering prayer times in our beautiful Chapel starting the week of March 6th. Evening Prayer will be prayed on Sundays at 5:30 pm. Morning Prayer will be prayed Mondays and Thursdays at 8:15 am. Guided Lectio Divina (divine scripture reading) and Centering Prayer are offered on Tuesdays at noon. Please join us for these weekly prayer services. Contact Rev. Seth for more information.