



Highlights From Church Council

We celebrated that Jeff Kile, our Director of Contemporary Worship, has been on our staff for 10 years! Thank you Jeff for your dedication and your commitment to providing excellent leadership for our church family!

The Enduring Gifts Committee met and approved the distribution of funds from our Endowment Funds. A total of \$67,025 is available to spend from 15 funds.

The United Methodist Women's Christian Homemaking Circle met for a program on racism and sent Valentines to the congregation's shut-ins.

The Finance Committee reported that with 8% of the financial year complete at the end of January, we have received 9.4% of our expected income (\$132,905.89) and spent 6% (\$85,884.94) toward our \$1,413,234 general budget.

The Adult Ministries Committee is exploring the possibility of a marriage enrichment weekend, small dinner groups, and reorganizing the XYZ luncheons after the latest COVID surge passes.

The training of nine new Stephen Ministers finished on February 22. They will be commissioned on March 13 and are eager to start serving our congregation and community.

Edna Earl Donaghe, a church member who resides at Canterfield, is sending out birthday cards to all our members. There are several birthdays each day, so this is quite a task!

Confirmation Class for Adults

Are you new to Methodism or even to the Christian faith? Have you been a member of First Church but never truly learned what 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 seven-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 under the Courses tab on our website.

Last month the Council approved a change to our "Wedding Policy & Procedures" allowing couples with no connection to First United Methodist Church to be married in our building. This month the Council approved a \$2,725 fee for non-member weddings.

The Recovery Ministry has helped place one individual into treatment in a new 28-day inpatient program for substance/mental health issues, one individual into an outpatient program at the faith-based Renew Clinic, and currently has four individuals receiving Recovery coaching services.

Trustees celebrated the hiring of a new afternoon custodian/maintenance person. We once again have a complete facilities team! After several very expensive visits from a plumber, the Trustees have announced that flushable wipes will no longer be allowed in our restrooms.

March 17th will be our initial "First Parents" event. This gathering is a time for the parents in our church to fellowship while their children enjoy games and crafts.

Our Sunday morning nursery and Children's Sunday School attendance numbers continue to rise.



New Ministry for Parents

The Children and Family Ministry team is excited to announce a new program for parents in our congregation. "First Parents" is a program to help encourage our parents in their journey to raise godly children. Those who participate will hear special speakers, connect with other parents, and find fellowship with those who know the joys and sorrows of raising kids.. Our first meeting will be Thursday, March 17th at 6:30 pm. Childcare will be provided.

In the Hospitals

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

In Memory

We have no deaths to report at this time.

Our Gifts

Offering This Week: \$13,321
2022 YTD offering: \$224,098
2021 YTD offering: \$218,496
Monthly Mission Offering: \$1,170

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 27

Transfiguration Sunday

Sermon: Transfiguration for Beginners

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:17-4:2, Psalm 99, Luke 9:28-36

8:45 & 11:00 am Traditional Services

11:00 am Contemporary Service

Preaching: Mark Flynn



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Choral 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 to 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, William Byrd, and traditional plainchant.

Did You Know...?

...that our church's YouTube channel receives 1,216 views on average each month? Worship services, Lectio Divina episodes, Morning Coffee videos, and Thursday Live interviews—you can find them all by searching "FUMC Oak Ridge" on YouTube!

Interested In A Christmas Alternative Gift Market?

Yes, it is too early to think about Christmas, but it is the perfect time to begin talking about FUMCOR hosting an Alternative Gift Market in 2022! Such a market offers Christmas gifts that help change the world, selling gifts that help oppressed people, preserve the Earth's endangered environment, and build a global community. Imagine—instead of giving your Aunt Zoe a sweater this year, plant a tree in her honor! Give your spouse a hand-crafted Fair Trade item from a cooperative in a developing nation. Make a contribution to a local non-profit in honor of your parents.

If such a market is in our future, we need persons to step forward to begin the conversation. Interested? Contact Rev. Flynn.