



Church Council Highlights

The United Methodist Women's **Creative Directions Circle** held their last official meeting in April. They will gather in May for a final luncheon. This group of women has been together for over forty years. We celebrate their faithfulness and all that they have contributed to UMW and our congregation!

The Staff Parish Committee (SPRC) is pleased to announce that a **joyous celebration of Rev. O'Kegley-Gibson's ministry** will take place on Sunday, June 5, 2022.

The **Finance Committee** reports that at the end of March, with 25% of 2022 behind us, we have received 30% of expected pledged giving and 20% of expected non-pledged giving. Overall, receipts from all sources of income represent 27% of our expected income. Most budgeted expenses are at 25% or less, with the exception of the Trustees' spending \$97,555 on a new chiller.

Greg Smith reported our **Reconciling Ministries Core Committee**, which Council gave permission to form last November, has developed a discernment process tailored for FUMCOR to determine whether our congregation would like to join the Reconciling Ministries Network. The RMN is a grassroots organization of >44,000 members and >1,300 reconciling ministries dedicated to trying to mend (reconcile) relations between the UMC and LGBTQIA+ community. Their proposed discernment process laid out a campaign of education, prayer, sharing, discussion, and then voting. The Council approved the Committee's process. Look for more information coming soon.

"FirstKids Worship" has taken the place of Children's Church and lasts for the full length of the 11 am worship services. Children who are in Kindergarten through 3rd grade will spend this hour in free play, singing songs, and participating in a short Bible story lesson. Our Children's Ministry team is excited to provide this ministry once again, but they need volunteers to help.

We are excited our **nursery and children's Sunday School numbers** continue to grow and that more and more families return to in-person worship! Easter was wonderful with over 40 kids in attendance for our Easter Egg Hunt! In response to the growing number of children in the nursery, Trustees has approved using room 205 (immediately next to the current nursery) for children's activities on Sunday mornings. The room will remain available for adult meetings and activities during the week.

The Recovery Ministry Committee announced their a major kickoff event, set for Sunday, May 22 at 3 pm. They will be showing **"Tipping the Pain Scale,"** a feature documentary film following individuals grappling with addiction and their journey to develop new, innovative, and often controversial solutions to the problems of recovery.

The **Missions Committee** has distributed \$35,080.93 in the first quarter (37.9% of its annual budget) to local charities (25,080.93), Central America (4,000), Africa (3,000), and other global ministries (3,000).

The Children's Ministry Team is so excited **Vacation Bible School** will soon be here that they wrote original curriculum! Space Trek:

Exploring God's Love for the Universe will be June 13-16 from 6:30-8:30! For this event to be successful, we need as many adult helpers as possible. Contact Shelby Fowler to volunteer!

The SPRC and the First Steps Child Development Center Board is pleased to announce that Ms. Sara Norman has been hired as the next **full-time Executive Director of First Steps!** We look forward to her leadership of this vital program.

The **Enduring Gifts Committee** agreed to fund approximately \$1350 for paraments for the Altar Guild and \$1080.78 for a newsletter tabbing machine.

Our **Helping Hands** group, under the able leadership of Mark Diemer, continues to assist homebound members with yard work and small tasks such as changing bulbs.

Outdoor Worship Sunday, May 1

Inflatables open at 9:30 am

Worship at 11:00 am

CJ's Taco Truck after the service

bring a lawn chair



In Sympathy

James Murphy Powell, father of Pam Gibson, died April 25. We extend our love and sympathy to all of Pam's family.

Our Gifts:

Offering This Week: \$9,665
2022 YTD offering: \$465,361
2021 YTD offering: \$521,609
Monthly Mission Offering: \$2,515

Worship for May 1

The Third Sunday of Easter

Scripture: John 21:1-19

Sermon: Unity In Christ

11:00 am Outdoor Service

Preaching: Rev. Mark Flynn



1350 Oak Ridge Turnpike
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Return Service requested

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage PAID
Permit #18
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

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

Thanks for your Thoughts at Easter

Dear Jenny and Church,

Thank you for always thinking of us and bringing us nice people full of love and caring. You will never know how much it means to know that the church cares.

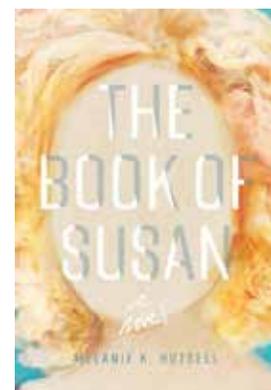
Love and Prayers, Bill & Sandy Elkins

Mental Health and Faith Discussion

Have you ever considered what it might be like to receive a diagnosis of mental illness? Would you like to know more about living with mental illness? As part of Mental Health Awareness Month, First Church will be hosting a discussion group on *The Book of Susan*, a work of fiction that explores this subject.

The discussion group will be moderated by the author, Melanie K. Hutsell, who is a member of First Church and who lives with bipolar disorder. The group will meet three Sunday evenings starting May 22 (skipping May 29, Memorial Day weekend) from 6:00 – 7:30 pm.

We ask that people pre-register to ensure enough books are available. Participants may either use a provided book or they can order the books themselves. It will be available on May 10. Please note: this book contains some strong language and intense content because of the subject matter involved.



We Need Your Photos

Do you have some great photos from Holy Week or Easter? Family photos, children hunting eggs, the labyrinth, or any of the six Holy Week and Easter Sunday services— any of these images would be great. We want to beautify our church by running them as a slide show on the Donut Hole TV and our first-floor photo wall.

While you are sending those pictures in, charge your camera batteries for the outdoor service on May 1st. Post those photos to Instagram and tag our church!

Youth Sunday School is Back!

We will have one class section for 7th-8th grades led by Kelsey and one section for 9th-12th grades led by Pastor Seth. Spread the word!

For more information or to pre-register please contact the office or Pastor Jenny (jcaughman@fumcor.org).