



Church Council Highlights

Staff-Parish Relations Committee reported that two of our livestream operators, Grant Walters and Ryan Bowen, have agreed to serve as Sunday Morning Hosts in addition to their livestream duties. Also, the Music Director Selection Committee has been busy. Candidates will soon be interviewed via Zoom. Finalists will be invited to direct a choir rehearsal in person.

Finance Committee reported that as of the end of April, we received \$587,708. That means that with 33% of the year complete, we have received 42% of our expected income. We have spent \$550,135, or 39%, of our expected expenses.

The **Christian Homemaking Circle** of the United Methodist Women will have its June luncheon on June 7 at Calhouns and will not meet again until September. They are donating diapers and will collect donations for a gift card for the Ukrainian family living in our town.

First Recovery's Facebook page and website are up and running. Also, treatment was found for two individuals, bringing the total number of individuals placed in sober living or treatment to twelve. The public kickoff event on May 22, showing the film *Tipping The Pain Scale*, had around 50-60 people in attendance. Nine individuals signed up to volunteer.

Our **Helping Hands** ministry provided yard work for members of our congregation on April 30.

Coffee, Dessert, and Difficult Conversations

Reading Scripture Responsibly: The Clobber Verses

On June 15th beginning at 6:30 p.m. the Rev. Chris Black will return to lead a single night conversation focused on verses and passages from the Bible that are often characterized as the "clobber verses." These passages are often used to condemn persons whose identity or beliefs are different than the reader's. Chris will delve into the context of particular passages including the story of Sodom and Gomorrah, the book of Leviticus, the gospels, and some of Paul's letters. The goal will be to cultivate a responsible reading and method of interpretation for these Biblical texts, which are often used to judge, divide, and clobber people. There will be opportunities for listening, Q & A, and small group discussion. We hope you will come to this event and join the conversation.

Plans are being finalized for a **Marriage Enrichment Sunday School Class** to begin in September, following a kick-off luncheon.

Stephen Ministers are now helping our pastors by visiting people at Methodist Medical Center on Wednesdays and Fridays. Some of our Stephen Ministers are now available to be paired with Care Receivers. If you know of anyone who could benefit from a SM, please contact Rev. Jenny.

Trustees reported that our chiller compressors have been rebuilt, and the entire roof, exterior walls, sidewalks, curbs, and the Memorial Garden wall have been thoroughly cleaned.

Children's Ministry reported that our Sunday morning children's Sunday School attendance continues to grow! First Kids Worship (Children's Church) has started during the 11:00 a.m. services. During that hour, the kids have a short lesson, play games, and visit the contemporary and traditional services for different parts of worship. We are grateful for the volunteers who have stepped up to help us, but we are still in need of many more!

Sign-ups for **Vacation Bible School** have already exceeded our number from last year, and we expect to pick up more in the next few weeks. "Space Trek: Exploring God's Love for the Universe" will take place June 13-16 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Quick Notes

Grief Support Group Returning

The next Grief Group will meet in person, starting Monday, June 13 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Thank You For Live-Streaming!

I want to thank everyone in the congregation that has done anything to facilitate live streaming of the services. It is very difficult for us to get there in person. So, it really means a lot to us, and we enjoy it each and every week! —*Sincerely, Judy and Bobby Dodd*

A Thank You from Seth & Jared

Thank you for an awesome goodbye party this past Sunday in youth group. Jared and I feel so loved by the youth and their families and we're going to miss being a part of youth at FUMCOR. Best wishes!

In the Hospital

Linda Houlberg (UTMC)

Dismissed

Ginny Minturn (discharged home on hospice care)

In Sympathy

We extend our love and care to the families of:

Betty Kile, who died on 5/26.
Services will be on 6/18.

Chris Houser, son of Jean Houser,
who died on 5/24.

Our Gifts

Offering This Week: \$14,826
2022 YTD offering: \$578,029
2021 YTD offering: \$629,090
Monthly Mission Offering: \$1,095

Worship for June 5

Day of Pentecost

**Scripture: Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Romans 8:14-17;
John 14:8-17, 25-27**

8:45 am & 11:00 am Traditional Services

Preaching: Rev. Seth O'Kegley-Gibson

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

11:00 am Contemporary Service • Preaching: Rev. Mark Flynn



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ORMA Statement on Uvalde Tragedy

Regardless of our political stances, we all are wailing and crying out over the deaths of these sweet souls. We also agree that Uvalde is another stark sentinel cry among an endless stream of warnings that schools—which should be safe refuges for learning and flourishing—are becoming battlegrounds in every sense of the word.

The Oak Ridge Ministerial Association (ORMA) stands in solidarity with all people in denouncing this violence in the strongest terms. Our many faith traditions also speak to the reality that words alone without actions are useless and dead.

As faith and community leaders, the members of ORMA recognize our role in discerning and proclaiming a plan of action to our individual worshiping communities and to the wider community of Oak Ridge. Our stand in the face of violence that robs us of our children, cuts down people out of hatred and prejudice,

and seeks to rob all of us of our souls can only occur when we step out in courage to come together.

We offer these steps as ways to act with intentionality and faithfulness:

Pray: Prayer as a sentiment is not enough. Thoughts without actions are not helpful. But all of our traditions in ORMA recognize that prayer grounds us to a moral and ethical perspective that empowers us to speak out against evil and initiate change.

Speak out constructively: We also need concrete forms of action. Political advocacy, like calling your state and national legislators—repeatedly, if necessary—is a very real way that we can put our faith into action. Speak out for increased enforcement of existing gun laws. Insist upon universal background checks and waiting periods. Speak out against permitless carry laws. Support mental health advocacy and character education training.

A great deal of our anger lies in the fact that we correctly perceive our political institutions as doing nothing. But a democracy is based on the voice of the people being made loud and clear. And, if we don't speak, there is zero chance of change happening. Speak to our political and law enforcement leaders in Oak Ridge. While they can't make the laws, their voices carry weight. And their voices will be influenced by what they hear from our community. These actions will not make gun violence go away, but any steps to make these acts more difficult to accomplish will be well worth the effort.

Come together: ORMA's strong belief is that these challenges provide us with opportunities to visit, dialogue, and share a meal to listen and learn what can be done. None of us individually has the answers for how to fix this problem; together, we can achieve much more—and build a stronger community as a result.