

How Many People Watch Our Online Worship?

This has been a very popular question over the past year and a half. The answer has been, "It's difficult to know." While it continues to be difficult to know, YouTube analytics have improved in this area and enabled us to arrive at a formula that gives us a better answer.

The formula is: $1.8 \times \text{peak concurrent views} + \text{hours of subsequent views}$. Because we know that people often watch the live stream in pairs or family units, we multiply the concurrent (live) views by a recognized standard of 1.8. After the live stream, views continue to mount in perpetuity. However, the actual time viewed usually remains low. It is not at all unusual to have 75 subsequent views within the first week of posting, while the actual total view time remains at approximately 5 hours. Many churches are simply adding the subsequent views. It is our position to ignore that number and instead add the hours viewed.

So, what are our actual numbers? January through August, we are averaging 55 views per week for the two services. Roughly estimated, that is 18 additional worshippers for contemporary and 37 for traditional—although those numbers vary from week to week. In comparison, our in-person attendance is 253. When we add those together, 308 represents a significant increase of 22% for our total attendance.

We celebrate the people and the outreach that these numbers represent and thank the church for supporting our live stream ministry.

Community Assistance Fund Donations Are Needed

Over the last six weeks, the church office and pastoral staff have fielded a higher than normal number of requests for our Community Assistance Fund. To remind you, our congregation assists people who have received a utility cut-off notification and/or those who need gasoline to make it to work. We always limit the amount we help any one person or family.

Currently, our Community Assistance Fund has \$4,360. We spent \$2,500 in one, very-busy week recently. Because our funds have reached this point, we will reduce the amount we help even more and primarily assist those with small children. If this particular ministry of our congregation touches your heart, please consider making an extra gift to our Community Assistance Fund. However, please do not shift your annual giving from the General Fund, because that fund covers so many more of our essential ministries.

Reconciling Ministries Network July Survey Results

Thank you for turning in the RMN July survey. Here is a short summary of the results:

Out of the 193 surveys turned in, 95% thought there should be no discrimination and our church should stand with marginalized people, 35% did not know about the Reconciling Ministries Network (RMN), and 41% wanted more information about the RMN. More complete results can be seen on our website at <https://fumcor.org/rmcc/>. Please contact any RMN Core Committee Member if you have questions.



September Coat Drive - Your Donations Are Due Back Soon!

What a great response to our goal of supplying coats and outerwear to those in need in our community! As of now, all of the specific coat requests have been filled!

If you signed up to donate, please return your coat no later than this Sunday. Make sure the ID number is attached and visible on each item and if possible, please have the item on a hanger.

We are still accepting donations of unassigned mittens, gloves, and new coats in all sizes. These extra items will be available at all 3 events: Coats, Thanksgiving and Xmas. Please mark any unassigned coats as "extra."

Questions? Contact Nancy Kile FNPkile@comcast.net or Vicki Hinkel at vhinkel@comcast.net.

This Week's Podcast: Panama

Mark's guest this week is Jim Michel who will talk about our missions program and the upcoming trip to Panama. This week's episode drops Thursday afternoon.



In Celebration

Gene and Lynda Sage would like to announce the birth of their sixth great-grandson, born on September 9th, 2022.

In Sympathy

Cat Gray's funeral service is Saturday at 10:00 am
Oak Ridge Memorial Park

Dismissed

Marlene Ericson (MMC)
Ed Ducko (Cincinnati)

Our Gifts

Offering This Week:	\$48,750
2022 YTD offering:	\$927,582
2021 YTD offering:	\$956,178
Monthly Mission Offering:	\$920

We will be having **"Group Membership Sunday"** on September 18 in all services. Contact Pastor Denna for more information.

Worship for September 18

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon: Christian Idols

Scripture: Numbers 21:4-9

8:45 am & 11:00 a.m. Traditional Services

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service

Preaching: Rev. Mark Flynn



1350 Oak Ridge Turnpike
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Return Service requested

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

Workshop on Gender and Sexuality

A Gender and Sexuality Panel/Workshop organized by the Reconciling Ministry Core committee will be held on Sunday, September 25, shortly after the 11:00 a.m. services. A light lunch will be served in Fellowship Hall.

The panel will consist of clinical psychologists (current church members), a board member of Oak Ridge's PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), and two members of the local gay community. The panel will share their experiences interacting with the queer community and the impact on their faith.

Some topics to be addressed are:

What flips our triggers?; Why are pronouns so important to the youth?; and How did their faith and church shape their lives?

After the panel shares, roundtable discussions will be encouraged and questions that are generated will be shared with the panel to respond. We believe this event will be educational and impactful.

Please RSVP by September 18 for lunch planning to mjhardy3@comcast.net.



Hygiene Kits for Sager Brown

Our congregation has collected 67 Hygiene Kits for the UMCOR Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, Louisiana. Since our goal is 150, you still have time to pick up instructions located on a wicker basket in the Library. Complete the items in the bag provided along with \$2.00 (for shipping & toothpaste) and put them in the basket by September 30. If you wish to contribute, write a check to FUMC for Hygiene Kits or contact Cara Weigel, 865-481-8108.

Carry the Stone Fundraiser

Keystone Adult Day Program's 5th annual *Carry the Stone Fundraiser* kicks off on Tuesday, September 20. 100% of the proceeds from this fundraiser go to support Keystone's Scholarship Program. As we work to fulfill our mission of partnering with caregivers to provide relief by offering a safe and supportive environment for those living with dementia, we rely on YOUR generosity to ensure that no one is ever denied services because they struggle to afford the cost. In 34 years, we have never turned anyone away for the inability to pay, and your donations are critical in helping us uphold this commitment. Please mail your donation to Keystone, 1350 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, TN 37830, donate online at www.keystonetn.org, or drop off your donation at the Keystone or church office. Thank you!

Pastors Mark Flynn, lead • Jenny Caughman, spiritual care • Denna Hornby, associate

Contact Information 865.483.4357 • www.fumcor.org • Pastor on call: 865.272.9862