



## The Book of Susan Wins Major Award

We are pleased to celebrate that in their annual Book Awards, the editors of Christianity Today have named our own Melanie Hutsell's novel, *The Book of Susan*, as runner-up in the fiction category! The staff of this influential magazine selects books that they feel are most likely to shape Christian life, thought, and culture. You can find a description of all the award winners by scanning the QR code with your mobile device.



## Office Closures Over the Holidays

Just as many businesses close for the holiday, our Church Office will be closed occasionally to allow our employees a chance to celebrate with their families and friends. Here is a brief schedule of those closures:

- From Thursday, December 22 through Monday, December 26, the office will be closed but worship services will take place.
- On Thursday, December 29, our office will close for the afternoon.
- On Monday, January 2, the office will close for the day to celebrate New Year's Day.

## Celebrating the Chaplains Among Us

Following Jesus's call, the founder of the early Methodist movement, John Wesley, taught us to grow in our faith by "doing good of every possible sort, and, as far as possible, to all." To fully serve the Oak Ridge community, pastors Mark Flynn and Denna Hornby serve as chaplains.

Mark serves the Oak Ridge Fire Department, and Denna serves the Oak Ridge Police Department. This civic service allows Mark



and Denna the privilege of ministering to people in our community who have suffered a loss. The Rev. Darrell Cook is another member of our congregation who serves through chaplaincy. Darrell has been an Oak Ridge Police Department Chaplain for four years, and 18 years with EMS! Darrell also recently began overseeing a chaplaincy service for the Anderson County Family Justice Center. We thank all our chaplains!

## For Your Financial Offerings to Count toward 2022 Taxes...

...you need to bring your offering to the church by noon on December 29 or send it via mail with a 2022 postmark. And remember, our office will be closed on Monday, December 26 and open for only two and a half days after that.

## Music Office Volunteer Needed

Organist and Choirmaster Josh Sumter is in need of a volunteer in the music office on a regular basis. Duties will include mostly sorting and filing music, maintaining lists, and performing other clerical duties as needed. This volunteer role is a great opportunity to help the music ministry of the church run more smoothly. Contact Josh Sumter ([jsumter@fumcor.org](mailto:jsumter@fumcor.org)) to learn more.

## Time for More Pies!

Our church was so incredibly generous we were able to give out pies to all who came to pick up a Thanksgiving Meal. We would like to do the same on December 21 as a means of celebrating Christmas.

So please bring pies, homemade or store-bought, that do not need refrigeration, the week of December 19. Please leave them in the office or the kitchen before 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 21. Thank you so much!

## Christmas Eve Flowers

In celebration of the birth of Christ, special floral arrangements are planned for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services in the Nave. Extra arrangements, in addition to the two regular arrangements, include two altar candle wreaths and a large altar floral-scape. If you are interested in contributing to this project and honoring friends or loved ones, let Josh Sumter ([jsumter@fumcor.org](mailto:jsumter@fumcor.org)) know by Sunday, December 18. You may also contact him with any questions.

## College and Young Adults Christmas Eve Gathering

Attention all college-age and 20-something former youth: Kelsey would love to help facilitate a get-together for you all after the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. She will be reaching out, but you can also contact her at [kelsey@fumcor.org](mailto:kelsey@fumcor.org).

## In the Hospitals

We are not aware of any members in the hospital at this time.

## Our Gifts

Offering This Week: \$23,879  
2022 YTD offering: \$1,262,265  
2021 YTD offering: \$1,243,223  
Missions Special offering: \$1,530

## This Week's Podcast

Mark, Jenny, Denna, Shelby, Matt, and Steve join for a fun walk thru Christmases past. Look for new episodes at Apple Podcasts and on our website.



## Worship for December 18

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sermon: There Are No Minor Characters in the Divine Drama

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-25

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

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service

Preaching: Rev. Mark Flynn



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## Our 2022 Advent/Christmas Special Services Schedule

### A Service of Lamentation and Hope

Sunday, December 18 at 7:00 p.m.

This service will use scripture, song, and the words of Desmond Tutu to honor the challenges of the season while reminding us of the gift that Christ is with us always.

### Early Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 22 at 7:00 p.m.

Each year, many in our church travel out of town prior to Christmas Eve. This year we will provide an Early Christmas Eve experience on the Thursday of that week. All are welcome to join us in singing carols, sharing Communion and raising candles a few days early.

### Christmas Eve Services of Holy Communion and Candlelight

Saturday, December 24

**Children and Family Service** at 4:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

**Contemporary Service** at 7:00 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room

**Traditional Service** at 11:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary



FirstYouth celebrated pre-Christmas dinner together last Sunday evening at Gallo Loco.

## Marvelous Mondays Set for Wednesday, January 4

Come one, come all to a presentation of *Breakfast At Tiffany's* in the Fellowship Hall on January 4 at 1:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served, so you can munch away while watching a classic film. Questions about the movie or about the program in general can be directed to Mark Diemer at (865) 483-5410.

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

**Contact Information** 865.483.4357 • [www.fumcor.org](http://www.fumcor.org) • Pastor on call: 865.272.9862