



## Church Council Highlights

Our church council met on Tuesday, May 23. Here are a few highlights:

Following the incident in which a protester walked through the sanctuary during announcements in late April, there was renewed discussion around church security. Church security experts agree that having an off-duty officer in a police vehicle outside the building is the best possible deterrent a church can utilize. As a result of these conversations, the council approved hiring an off-duty ORPF officer to be present on Sunday mornings, when one is available.

The Missions Committee reports the congregation is strongly supporting the hands-on food buckets for Zimbabwe, with 10 additional buckets purchased for the project. All buckets should be filled and returned to the welcome center by May 28.

The Staff-Parish Relations committee and trustees are pleased to announce the hiring of Brian Drummond, an Oak Ridge resident, as our new assistant facilities director. It has been an arduous task to find the right person!

Our Children's Ministry is slowly rolling out their new Sunday morning check-in system for students, nursery-6th grade, in the welcome center. This system provides a name tag for each child and a matching security tag for parents to use when they pick up that child.

Family Ministry is gearing up for a "Glow" dance party on Friday, May 26. All are welcome to join the fun, fellowship, and dancing!

Vacation Bible School is just weeks away! "Living Water: Sailing Towards God's Love" will be from Monday, June 12-Thursday, June 15, with Friday, June 16, being a family and congregation night with water games and snow cones to follow!

The Finance Committee reports we are on track with 34% of the year complete, having received 34% of total expected revenue and around 37% of expected operating pledged gifts/estimates of giving.

FirstYouth is gearing up for summer with a trip to Dollywood, a pool day, and a movie/escape game set for June. More to come in July!

The Missions Team, plus one other donor, is paying for an extension of the Blossom Center Preschool playground fence. Work is to be performed by church volunteers and will be complete by the end of June.

The Enduring Gifts Committee has approved the following requests: \$8,300 to purchase 150 chairs for the Multi-Purpose Room and \$7,261.11 to replace worn carpet in the library.

First Recovery will host a free Addiction and Faith Summit on Saturday, July 22, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., along with

Anderson County nonprofits and the Faith-Based Initiatives Office of Tennessee's Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. The summit will focus on the church's role in supporting addiction recovery and reducing stigma.

The Scholarship Committee has awarded \$2,000 each to two scholarship applicants: Claire Gibson and Spencer Shults.

First Recovery's Wednesday night speaker meetings continue to grow, with an average weekly attendance of 45 persons. First Recovery assisted the Sheriff's Department in placing an individual needing recovery support services and provided family member support and guidance during the emergency. Likewise, Matt Holder, our Recovery Director, found permanent housing for two women, allowing them to keep their children.

Our Recovery Ministry will soon begin small groups following their Wednesday night speaker meetings. One group will be for veterans who experience PTSD and substance misuse issues. The other group will be a co-ed 12-Step study.

The Trustees reported that work on a storage closet in the Fellowship Hall continues. This storage will be used for tablecloths, Community Meals supplies, and our Youth Ministries. They also reported that shade sails will soon be installed for the playground. The sails help protect our children as temperatures rise in the coming weeks.

The Social Concerns Committee plans on participating in the Scarboro '85 Reunion parade on July 28 and the Knox Pride Parade on October 6. Anyone interested in participating should contact Rev. Flynn.

The Council has a planning retreat scheduled for October 13-15 at Wesley Woods. The staff is planning for a "Church at Camp" event for that Sunday morning for any and all who

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## A Conversation With Those Who Have Lost Children

Parents and grandparents who have lost children or grandchildren are invited to reflect on the experience of losing a loved one, and how we can support one another and others who are suffering the same devastating loss. This conversation will be held on June 5 from 1:30-3:00 p.m. in Room 203. The Rev. Bob Cantrell and the Rev. Caryl Griffin Russell will facilitate the discussion. Both Bob and Caryl are retired United Methodist pastors. Please contact Jenny at [jcaughman@fumcor.org](mailto:jcaughman@fumcor.org) to register.

## Join Us for First Church 101 May 28

Do you have questions about FUMC, Methodism, or theology in general? Then join us for First Church 101 on May 28 after the 11:00 a.m. services. We will meet in the donut hole at noon. Wear your walking shoes!

## In Celebration:

Sarah and Tyler Robinson welcomed their baby, **Adeline Belle**, on May 4. Adeline's sister is McKinley; grandparents are Lee and Beth Nickle.

## In Sympathy:

We ask for prayers for Bill and Mabel Yee in the death of their son, **Wendell Yee**, on May 14, 2023. Arrangements are incomplete at this time.

## In the Hospital:

We are aware of no one in the hospital at this time.

## Dismissed:

Carolyn Henderson  
Edna Earl Donaghe

## Our Giving

Weekly offering:	\$12,774
2023 YTD offering:	\$ 569,216
2022 YTD offering:	\$ 559,869
Mission offering:	\$1,391

# Worship for May 28

Pentecost Sunday

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

Sermon: "The Holy Day That Frightens Pastors"

8:45 & 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship - Sanctuary

11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship - Multipurpose Room

Preaching: Rev. Mark Flynn



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desire to experience a campfire worship service, tour the camp, and participate in various fun activities.

United Women of Faith thanks the congregation who supported their Bakeless Bake Sale. The \$2,250 collected will be used to support many organizations in our community and beyond.

## Volunteers Requested to Help with Scarborough '85 Reunion Weekend

The organizing committee for the Scarborough '85 Reunion Weekend is requesting volunteers to assist with events from July 28-30. This presents an excellent opportunity for FUMCOR to put into action the ideas of community connection developed at the April "Coffee and Difficult Conversations" gathering.

Currently, the committee needs volunteers to provide water and other assistance along the parade route on July 29 beginning at 8 a.m. Also, help is required for the "Skills Challenge for Youth" from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. High school-aged youth are especially encouraged to volunteer for the skills event. Additional opportunities may arise later. For further details and to sign up, please email Social Concerns co-chairs Greg and Becky Smith at [smit92611@gmail.com](mailto:smit92611@gmail.com).

## Requiem for the Living

The FUMC Festival Choir will present Dan Forrest's "Requiem for the Living" with the choir of St. Elizabeth's Episcopal and a professional orchestra. Although requiems are typically written for the deceased, this one is dedicated to the living who also require the rest and peace found in Christ. Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 4 at 4:00 p.m. for this moment of respite in our sanctuary.

## Flower Reminder

Recently, we have welcomed numerous new members who may not be familiar with the process of signing up for flowers to decorate our worship spaces. For those in the Contemporary service, there is an online sign-up available on our website. Each arrangement costs \$25. Meanwhile, for those in the Traditional service, there is a paper sign-up located on a corkboard between the Parlor and the Chapel. Each Traditional arrangement costs \$35.

Any information that cannot be communicated through the sign-ups should be directed only to Josh Sumter ([jsumter@fumcor.org](mailto:jsumter@fumcor.org)).

Please refrain from contacting Lisa Mott or Mott's Floral Design directly, except when paying your bill. We appreciate your efforts in making our worship spaces more beautiful.

**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