

## Upcoming Lectures on the Science of LGBTQ

Plan now to join the Social Concerns Committee for our next Coffee, Dessert, and Difficult Conversation on Sunday, June 11. The Rev. Dr. Daniel Helminiak will offer two lectures in the Fellowship Hall that afternoon.

The first lecture, "Science-Based Ethics of Human Sexuality" will begin at 12:30 p.m. This lecture will offer a summary of Dr. Helminiak's international bestseller "*What the Bible Really Says about Homosexuality*," offering a scientific analysis—an explanation grounded in evidence—which links the "abomination" of Leviticus 18:22 with the "impurity" of Romans 1:24, and then examining both in light of the revelation of Christ Jesus.

The second lecture, "Galileo All Over Again: The Sexual Revolution," will begin at 3:00 p.m. This lecture will explore how today's sexual revolution is the continuation of the 16th-century scientific revolution. As Galileo displaced the earth from the center of the universe, so are LGBTQ issues undoing the standard model of "sex + heterosexual marriage."



Dr. Helminiak was ordained as a Catholic priest in Rome and served a large suburban parish in Pittsburgh for four years. Daniel earned a Ph.D. in theology at Boston College and Andover Newton Theological School, where he was a teaching assistant to Professor Bernard Lonergan, S.J., whom *Newsweek* (April 20, 1970) styled the Thomas Aquinas of the twentieth century.

## Well Done First Church and Well Done Holston Conference!

We prepared 34 buckets, filled with non-perishable, healthy food, to be sent to Zimbabwe. Joining with other churches in the Holston Conference, we filled a total of 4,778!

Thank you for such a tangible, incarnational expression of loving our neighbor.



## New Labrynth

Thanks to Enduring Gifts, we now have a new, portable, canvas labyrinth.

What is a labyrinth, you might ask? The labyrinth is an ancient pattern found in many cultures around the world. It can be used as a walking meditation, a path of prayer



and an archetypal blueprint where psyche meets Spirit. It has only one path that leads from the outer edge in a circuitous way to the center. There are no tricks to it and no dead ends. Unlike a maze where you lose your way, the labyrinth is a spiritual tool that can help you find your way.

Our new canvas labyrinth will be set up in room 305 the week of June 19. People can stop by anytime. Directions will be available. If you would prefer a more formal introduction, Rev. Jenny will be available on Tuesday, June 20 at 6:30 p.m. Come explore this wonderful spiritual tool.



Join the Children and Family Ministry team for "Living Water: Sailing Towards God's Love." Vacation Bible School is open to students age 5 through 6th grade and will take place June 12-15 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Your family



to register



to volunteer

## June Special Offering: Girls Inc.

Girls Inc. serves low-income families and offers center-based programs in the Oak Ridge community. Currently, after school programs, school break day camps, summer day camps, and a full year of athletics are offered.

Summer programs are currently being put in place. With your assistance, the plan is to return to the strong and revamped programs, previously enjoyed prior to the COVID pandemic.

# Worship for June 11

Scripture: Matthew 9:9-13

Sermon: Walking In The Way That Leads To Life

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

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

Preaching: Rev. Mark Flynn

## In Sympathy:

The funeral for **Wendell Yee**, son of Bill and Mabel Yee, will be Friday, June 9 at 3:00 p.m. There will be a reception immediately following in the Fellowship Hall.

## In the Hospital:

We know of no one in the hospital at this time.

## Dismissed:

Debbie Buchanan  
(from Tennova West)

## Our Giving

Weekly offering:	\$ 25,276
2023 YTD offering:	\$ 606,393
2022 YTD offering:	\$ 585,201
Mission offering:	\$ 965



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## Save the Date: Special Fellowship Sunday School Class

This Sunday, join the Fellowship Sunday School class and Social Concerns Committee on Sunday, June 11, from 10:00-11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a presentation by John Spratling on the Scarboro 85 Monument Project. Mr. Spratling, a history teacher at Robertsville Middle School, is instrumental in bringing back the history of the Scarboro 85. These students from the Scarboro Community were the first to integrate a high school in the U.S. in 1955 when they integrated with Oak Ridge High School and Robertsville Junior High School. Before Spratling's presentation, there will be a brief introduction of Oak Ridge Solutions on Racism (ORSOR). All Sunday School classes are invited!

## Group Membership Sunday

We are preparing for our next group membership Sunday on June 18. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact Rev. Denna Hornby at [dhornby@fumcor.org](mailto:dhornby@fumcor.org).

We would be honored to formally welcome you to our church family!

## A Report on Worship Attendance

Worship attendance continues to rise from the pandemic lows. The current average is 318 per Sunday. This reflects an increase of 21% over the 2022 average of 263 per Sunday. Online attendance shows a slight decrease from 54 to 51. We can expect the online number to increase over the summer as we also expect in-person attendance to decrease before rebounding later in the year.

In 2019, the last pre-pandemic year, our average attendance was 391. Our current average reflects nearly 81% of that number. Few, if any, large Holston Conference UMC churches have returned to pre-pandemic attendance levels. It is also worthwhile to note that if we back up four years prior to 2019 we see a 2015 average of 477. Comparing 2015 to 2019, we see a decline to 82%. This reflects a steady attendance decline that goes back at least 30 years and almost exactly matches what has occurred in the past four years.

Keeping all of these numbers in mind, it is very possible that our in-person attendance is right where it would have been had the shutdown never happened. And if we add the 51 online worshippers, we can celebrate a significant leveling of our decades-long decline.

A graph is included on our website at [fumcor.org](http://fumcor.org).

**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