



## Mark Your Calendar: Combined Indoor Worship on September 3

Our congregation attempted to have a combined outdoor worship for the past two years. Unfortunately, inclement weather disrupted those plans every time, and we had to move indoors. However, the rain did not dampen the joy of those combined indoor worship services! We discovered that we experience great blessings whenever we gather as one big church family. In fact, after each special service, many people not only express their appreciation for the experience but also request more frequent combined worship services, regardless of whether we are indoors or outdoors.

**Therefore, we are excited to announce that on Sunday, September 3 at 11:00 a.m., our church family will gather in the Multi-Purpose Room for a combined worship service.** This service will feature a blend of contemporary and traditional styles of worship. You do not need to bring a lawn chair this time; simply come with an open heart to enjoy good fellowship.

## Prayer Chain

Have you ever had someone pray specifically for you? It can be a powerful experience. While we may not fully understand the power of prayer, knowing that people are aware of your difficult situation and lifting you up in prayer can be incredibly meaningful. Many people are unaware that our church has a Prayer Chain. This group of individuals regularly prays for those in need. If you or someone you know, whether they are a member of the congregation or not, is in need of prayer, please inform Pat Smith at psmith7082@aol.com or contact one of your pastors. Alternatively, if praying helps you feel closer to God and you would like to become part of this meaningful ministry, please let Pat know. The Prayer Chain is one simple way we can care for one another. Thanks be to God!

## First Church 101

First Church is growing, and we would like for you to have all of the information that you need to be a part of life here. If you have any questions about our congregation, the larger Methodist Church, or theological questions in general, we invite you to join us on Sunday, August 20, for First Church 101. We will gather at noon in the Welcome Center near the donut hole. During this session, we will provide a tour of our facility, so please wear your walking shoes. We look forward to sharing this time with you.



## Coat Shoppe: Providing Warmth and Hope for Local Students

Mark your calendars for the annual Coat Shoppe event happening on Monday, September 25! This year, our focus is on assisting high school and middle school youth, though we will also have a few requests for younger children. To see the list of needed coats, visit our church website starting September 3. We will be adding more requests each week. Last year, we sponsored 100 kids, and we are aiming to do the same this year.

To make this generous event possible, we invite the church community to visit our website, click on the signup genius, and purchase the specified size coat. Donations can be brought to worship services on Sunday, September 17 or 24, or dropped off at the church office during office hours. All items must be returned by the morning of September 24, but we gladly accept earlier returns. Please remember to attach the assigned ID to all sponsored coats and items. If you have an extra coat to donate, please label it as "extra."

For those who wish to contribute financially towards the purchase of coats but are unable to make a purchase themselves, we welcome any amount as a financial contribution. Simply make checks payable to FUMCOR with the Memo "Shoppes."

In addition to coats, we are also in need of new gloves and mittens. The Trinity Knitters group will be providing knitted scarfs and hats. Let's come together as a church family and spread warmth and love this winter season. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity to make a difference in the lives of local students.

## Report on Disaffiliating Churches

The Lewis Center has released an updated report on churches disaffiliating from the United Methodist Church through June 2023. There are more similarities than differences between the cohort of disaffiliating churches and the total pool of United Methodist churches. However, disaffiliating churches are primarily located in the Southeastern and South Central Jurisdictions. They are also less likely to be served by an active elder, predominantly white, and tend to have male lead pastors.

Most other statistics between the remaining churches and those disaffiliating are similar, including median worship attendance, percentage of churches with increased attendance, age of membership estimated on death rates, age distribution of pastors, and reports of professions of faith. Out of approximately 42,000 churches worldwide, about 6,100 are currently in the process of disaffiliation (14.5%). Of those, around 3,100 have committed to being part of the newly forming Global Methodist Church.

# Worship for August 20

## Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Matthew 15:1-20  
Sermon: Easier to Be a Church Member  
Than to Follow Jesus

8:45 & 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship - Sanctuary  
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship - Multipurpose Room  
Preaching: Rev. Mark Flynn

### We Celebrate:

Melinda and Matt Holder on the  
birth of their baby,  
**Hinton Charles Holder**,  
born on August 15.

### In the Hospital:

**Carolyn Henderson** (MMC)  
Prayers are greatly appreciated,  
but please no visitors at this  
time.

### Dismissed:

**Harold Phillips** (to  
Commonwealth on  
hospice care)

### Our Giving

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Weekly offering:   | \$ 31,197  |
| 2023 YTD offering: | \$ 866,549 |
| 2022 YTD offering: | \$ 832,888 |
| Mission offering:  | \$ 665     |



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### Did you know...

- Jones Memorial Library contains 137 DVDs, 2,389 small group titles, and over 9,100 books?
- First Steps Child Development Center staff have a combined 275 years of early childhood education, including 6 master's degrees?
- Rev. Jenny Caughman leads a centering prayer group every Tuesday at noon in the chapel?
- Our Student Lunch ministry is once again serving meals on Thursdays to Oak Ridge High School juniors and seniors.
- Senior Adult Luncheons, held at noon on the second Wednesday of each month, will start back on September 13.
- Our beautiful building has 34 toilets/urinals, 288 doors, and 324 individual computer-controlled water valves hidden inside the walls and ceilings.
- We have a group that helps senior adults with small household repairs.
- There are 17 images of Jesus' face in our stained glass windows.
- Our congregation's first worship service took place on March 19, 1944. (Which means we will celebrate 80 years of ministry in March 2024!)

### Stephen Ministry Training Program

Stephen Ministers provide confidential, compassionate, one-on-one care for those experiencing difficult times.

Life presents various challenges to us. Whether it's losing a job, receiving a diagnosis, or dealing with the departure of a loved one, being there for someone going through loss, grief, or life changes is at the heart of being a Stephen Minister. For over 25 years, First Church has been training lay people to provide confidential one-on-one care to those in need of support and reassurance that they are not alone.

A new training class will begin on September 12. The class consists of 18 sessions held on Tuesday evenings from 6:00-8:30 p.m. Upon completion of the training, individuals are commissioned as Stephen Ministers and make themselves available to offer support to those in need. Ongoing guidance and continuing education are provided through regularly scheduled bi-monthly Stephen Ministry meetings. If you feel called to be a part of this essential ministry and offer the gift of your presence to someone in pain, please contact Dan Ingersoll (dingersoll3@comcast.net) or Pastor Jenny (jcaughman@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