

The Spire

WOODMONT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

AUGUST 4, 2020

"Enneagram, Covid, & Spiritual Growth"

CLAY STAUFFER & HUNTER MOBLEY



WEDNESDAY, AUG. 19 & 26, 6:30 PM ON ZOOM



CONGRATULATIONS!
TO DON ORR & DAUGHTER MOLLY KATE
ORR WHO WERE BOTH BAPTIZED AUG. 2
IN A SMALL FAMILY SERVICE



BUILDING FOR OUR FUTURE

TUESDAY, AUGUST 4



Woodmont Kids Donut Drive-Thru

Please join us at our Donut Drive-Thru on Saturday, August 22, from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM!

We would love to see your families, but to do it safely, please remain in your cars and enter through the North entrance of the campus and “drive by” to see your children’s Sunday school teachers and staff and grab some sweet treats.

You will exit out the South entrance near South Hall. We are also asking for donations to be given to Fall-Hamilton Elementary (list forthcoming) and they can be dropped off that morning.

We look forward to seeing you there even from a distance!

2020-21 Registration Form Children & Family Ministry

Link to register: woodmontchristian.org/register

This registration form applies to every child in Fifth Grade or below. Please, parents, complete this form for each of your children. Doing so helps us to organize children into Sunday School classes, keep watch over their health and safety, and provide adequate staffing at key events. Thank you!



WOODMONT
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

woodmontchristian.org

MINISTERIAL STAFF

Dr. Clay Stauffer, Senior Minister

Dr. C. Roy Stauffer • *Minister of Adult Education & Church Life*

Rev. Justin Gung • *Minister of Children & Congregational Care*

Rev. Chris Cox • *Minister of Youth & Their Families*

Dr. Donovan McAbee • *Minister of Spiritual Formation*

Farrell Mason • *Minister of Family Life & Pastoral Care*

PROGRAM STAFF

Michael Graham • *Music Ministry Director*

Abby McLean • *Children’s Ministry Director*

Andra Moran • *Creative Director, The Bridge*

Jenny Simmons • *Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Martha Duff • *Preschool Director*

Anne-Marie Farmer • *Small Groups & Connections Director*

Lauren Lucas Beuerlein • *Young Professionals & Couples Director*

Steve LaForge • *Missions Field Coordinator*

Dr. Ben Curtis • *Spiritual Director In Residence*

Anne Mitchell • *Parish Visitor*

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Chris Beck • *Business Administrator*

Amber Moss • *Executive Assistant*

Matt Diffenderfer • *Communications Director*

Jan Anderson • *Administrative Assistant*

Dr. Tom Gormley • *Capital Project Representative*

Sam Marsh • *Property & Facilities Manager*

Cliff Browning • *Facility & Property Maintenance*

Steven Austin • *Facility & Property Maintenance*

Cortney Akridge • *Facility & Property Maintenance*



For the most up-to-date information, download Woodmont’s Realm church directory app. Search for “Realm Connect” in iTunes & Google Play.

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Nashville, Tennessee 37215
615.297.8563

www.woodmontchristian.org



Church in a Brave New World

BY CLAY STAUFFER

When the Covid pandemic started back in the spring, everybody assumed it would be an inconvenience for a few months and then things would return to normal in the summer. This has proven to not be the case. Life is still very different and we are all having to adapt. Back in April, Rev. Cameron Trimble who is the CEO of a church movement called “Convergence” wrote an interesting article predicting how Covid-19 would change church life. Many of these predictions have proven to be true. They include:

- 1) Doing church online is here to stay.
- 2) Church closures will accelerate - specifically smaller churches with aging congregations.
- 3) Giving in some churches will drop and then MIGHT rise again.
- 4) Churches need new staff structures.
- 5) Younger generations can finally contribute more engaged leadership (At Woodmont, this was already happening).
- 6) Because church programs and sermons are now available online, many will church hop and hear a variety of voices.
- 7) New liturgies, prayers, and songs will be created to carry us forward.
- 8) A renewal of investment in local communities will take place.

9) We will see a rise in spiritual directors and pastoral counselors who work outside of a congregational setting.

10) We will create new partnerships between evangelical, mainline, Catholic, and other traditions and leaders as we all seek new skills to connect with our ministries. (<https://convergenceus.org/2020/04/02/ten-ways-the-church-will-be-changed-by-covid-19/>)

I find each of these predictions interesting. Everybody is trying to navigate this new world. In recent weeks, I have been pushing our staff to think about ways that they can innovate in their ministries. The same approach is simply not going to work in this new reality. In the same way that I am challenging our ministers and staff, I also challenge our leaders and members to be innovative in this new world. Here are a few of the things that Woodmont is doing to adapt to our new reality.

- Enhancing our online worship service that is available every Sunday morning at 7 am.
- Continuing our 9 am drive- in service because being outside feels very safe.
- Working towards a socially distant sanctuary service that requires reservations and masks beginning Sunday August 23rd.
- Continuing our digital devotionals that will go out during the week called “6 at 6.”

• Encouraging our leaders and members to start new small groups – use the week’s sermon and scripture as the discussion topic.

• Offering Wednesday night programming online beginning with a special Enneagram series featuring Hunter Mobley August 19th and 26th.

• Roy is encouraging our members to join an existing class or small group that meets on zoom – we are constantly publishing these links and options and they are on the website.

• Encouraging online giving and direct deposit because the church still needs financial support during this time

• Jenny and Chris have been going to the houses of our youth for “front porch visits.”

• Andra is working on a vespers service that will take place during the week.

• Farrell is going to establish a weekly prayer time in the Garden of Prayer where people can come to pray for our world and those in our community who are struggling.

• Justin and Abby continue to work on children’s curriculum that is available digitally to our families.

• We have established a racial reconciliation task force, chaired by Karen Woolridge and Charles Robert Bone, to educate ourselves and to help our church lead in this arena.

Church in a Brave New World

- CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

- Encouraging all of our members to reach out and check on each other by phone, email, card, and social media.
- Encouraging small groups who are comfortable to meet outside on patios and porches.
- Continuing to build our new chapel and children's area because at some point, this will end, and we will need the space. We are making significant progress.

The key in the coming months is INNOVATION and THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX. It is also an opportunity for us to strengthen our connections in this new reality. I am challenging Woodmont to not become complacent during this time, and to not let Covid keep us from doing ministry in new ways that are safe. We all need to grow in our faith and maintaining community and relationships is a big part of that. Let me know what you are doing to be innovative.

Blessings,



The Other Side

BY ABBY MCLEAN

I've been reminded a lot lately of Thom Schuyler's songs and that, of course, came with Tallu's diagnosis. As someone who grew up at Woodmont, Thom's songs were a part of my teenage years. Every time I hear them, I feel better, more centered.

One of my favorites is "The Other Side". Tallu and Thom sang this for my dad's burial in our church Columbarium the day we had his funeral. I remember as we started the planning stages of his funeral, I knew that they would sing that song. It's become a regular one sung at Woodmont and is always one we sing at reunions. It was originally written for a musical called "Joshua" and the song references the 12 tribes standing on the banks of the Jordan looking to the "other side".

The chorus says the following: "Be still, he will do wonders. Be still, he will be magnified. Don't know what lies before us. What more can break our stride. Standing on the banks of the Jordan looking to the other side."

What else can we do in a time like this but be still. We don't know what lies before us but what we can do is look to God. We can listen for his still small voice in the chaos and as the song goes on to say "keep this in your heart in these troubled times". What more can we ask of God but to be with us and stand with us and we know that whatever happens in our daily lives, he will abide in us. We can find rest in him knowing he's got us. And we should "be still."

August 2 Food Drive

Thank you, Woodmont! Our food drive on August 2 was a great success as John Michael Clark partnered with The Nashville Food Project to collect a total of 1,608 pounds of food to help those who have been affected by the tornadoes or are unemployed due to COVID-19.





Lean Into God

BY FARRELL MASON

My family discovered and eagerly watched a mother Red Robin preparing her nest for the arrival of new life. This work of art included a piece of mint floss, the wrapping of one of my children's left-over yogurt pops, and some twigs from our grape vines. The nest tucked with five tiny blue eggs was something to admire. The day they hatched you would have thought it was Princess Kate and Prince William's brood we were heralding! But then, in a scary flash they were all gone, a lizard's feast. We heard the high-pitch shrills of the Mother Robin's mourning song from high above on a nearby tree limb.

Grief is the shared experience of every living creature born on this planet. In many ways it is a black thread that binds us, a bird, a whale, a tree, a human, a community. Loss in any form upsets the equilibrium. We grieve for the loss of loved ones, dreams, youth, plans, even missed hugs in pandemics.

Barbara Brown Taylor says, "suffering makes theologians of us all." Abruptly, one must fight tooth and nail to retain the faith. No wonder for centuries mourners wore black for months, even years. It is an outward sign of the darkness that eclipses the heart on the inside.

A mother who had to bury her adult child included this insight in a note to me after the funeral: "Grief never ends. But it changes. It's a passage, not a place to stay. Grief is not a sign of weakness, nor a lack of faith. It's the price of love." Right now I am leaning into the words of St. Teresa d'Avila, "Let nothing disturb you. Let nothing frighten you. All things are passing. God never changes. Patience obtains all things. Whoever has God lacks nothing. God alone suffices.

Time proves a merciful friend in the experience of grief passing. Putting one foot in front of the other, watching the sun rise and fall day after day, eventually one makes it to the other side. The loss never leaves us, but it softens enough so that we can locate the coordinates of joy again.

A couple of years ago I attended a lecture by the theologian, Marcus Borg. Famous for his work on the historical Jesus, he was not a man of overt sentimentality. Afterwards I asked him what he thought Jesus would have said about the deep suffering and grief inherent to the human condition. He reminded me that Jesus wept. Then he recited this poem in his gentle voice.

The Avowel
by Denise Levertov
As swimmers dare
to lie face to the sky
and water bears them,
as hawks rest upon air
and air sustains them,
so would I learn to attain
freefall and float
into Creator Spirit's deep embrace,
knowing no effort earns
that all-surrounding grace.

We must court hope in our suffering, weep and collect other's tears when they weep, stop and listen to the bird's soliloquy of grief and bow to the mourner dressed in black, lean into God and not away, and have the courage to free fall trusting that God's grace will eventually see us through.



Virtual Groups & Classes

BY ANNE-MARIE FARMER

Woodmont has many opportunities for you to connect with classes and groups online during this time of social distancing. Several of these are listed below. If you'd like more information on one of these online meetings, email the listed contact person or annemarie@woodmontcc.org.

Sunday

Challenge Class, @ noon • Meets for a devotional, prayer, news of the class and individual check-ins from each member. Email Susan Hammonds-White at sushammonds@bellsouth.net

• <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88615061089?pwd=VnY4c3dTWXN3U3hjbVRmQkRlOFdFZz09>

Christian Response to the 21st Century, @ 10 am • This class looks at current events and how scripture guides a Christian response based on social justice and the gospel. • <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/927432179>

Points of View Class, Sundays @ 11 am • Designed for people interested in examining and refining their own beliefs. Organized discussions based on readings in theology, Christian history, and current issues.

• <https://zoom.us/j/97438187348?pwd=SGVNT1I2K1JvWUxkNDY3K3BMQ1krUT09>

Reflections Class and Disciples Class, @ 11 am • These two classes have combined for a study of the Gospel of John, led by Dr. Roy Stauffer. • <https://zoom.us/j/733959472>

Youth Sunday School, @ 11 am • The Youth Group offers Sunday School, Bible studies, and other opportunities online for grades 6-12. • Email youth@woodmontcc.org to be added to the email list and informed about all events.

Monday

Geezers, @ 3 pm • Study books on spirituality and develop friendships in this group for older men.

• <https://zoom.us/j/467925763>

Tuesday

Young Professionals & Couples, First Tuesday of each month, @ 6 pm • A gathering of peers facing similar life stage challenges who enjoy each other's company. Varying from mid-twenties to mid-forties in age, some members are couples with kids while others are dating or single. Email Lauren Beuerlein to be added to email list, lauren@woodmontcc.org • <https://zoom.us/my/ypcouples>

Wednesday

Roy Stauffer's Morning Men's Group, @ 6 am • Discuss a variety of contemporary issues, books, and articles on Christian faith. • Meets at the church.

Clay Stauffer's Morning Younger Men's Group, @ 7 am • Join other men in conversation about living out your faith daily. • <https://zoom.us/j/825531824>

Men's Bible Study, @ 8 am • Discuss the books of the Bible and connect with other mature men.

• <https://zoom.us/j/460211919>

Thursday

Sit and Stitch, @ 10 am • Work on your latest needlework project with a group. Beginners and learners welcome.

• Meets online and in person. Email Jeanie Taylor at jmtandjrt@comcast.net for more information.



"The Cost of Discipleship"

LUKE 14:25-33

- THIS SUNDAY, AUG. 9 -

**YOUTUBE SERVICE
AT 7:00 A.M.**

**DRIVE-IN SERVICE
AT 9:00 A.M.**

SERMON: "THE COST OF DISCIPLESHIP"

SERIES: "SIMPLY JESUS"

PREACHER: DR. ROY STAUFFER

SCRIPTURE: LUKE 14:25-33

INDOOR WORSHIP BEGINS AUG. 23

GIVING

JULY 12: \$20,595

JULY 19: \$40,046

JULY 26: \$36,679

AUG. 2: \$62,188

PRAYERS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

• Meredith and Andrew Kalt, on the birth of their son, Brooks Bennett Kalt, on July 28 in Atlanta, GA. Proud grandparents are Jay and Sarah Ramsey. Great grandparents are Liz and John Ramsey.

SYMPATHY TO:

• The family of Dr. William C. Alford, Jr. who passed away July 29.

NEW CONCERNS:

• Steve McHugh - aortic valve surgery Aug. 7 at St Thomas West
• Judy Davis - knee replacement surgery on August 6
• Bill Heyne - rotator cuff repair surgery on August 6

CONTINUING CONCERNS:

• Pat Bell
• Ben Curtis
• Laura Hobson
• Janet Howell
• Lyle Lankford
• Billy Pirtle
• Tallu Quinn
• Virginia Rippee
• Rick Slaughter
• Gary Thompson
• Virginia Waddey

FAMILY/FRIENDS OF MEMBERS:

• Judith Malloy (Jerri Malloy's mother and Steve Lowry's mother-in-law)
• Kimmy Bennett's mother-in-law, Arline Bennett - Malta, Ohio
• LuAnn Brent's brother-in-law, Earl Milroy in Pine Bluff, AR
• Mary and Glenn Kiger's sons living in California
• Ashley Krieg Byrd's mother-in-law, Barbara Byrd - Williamson Medical Ctr
• Bill Heyne's mother, Edie Holmstrom (90 yrs) in Ohio - chemo
• Lucy and Wilbur Sensing's daughter, Lucy in Bellingham, WA

OUR ELDERS ASK YOU TO JOIN THEM IN PRAYER:

1. For students of ALL ages, ALL school personnel, and parents as the new school year begins.

2. For all who are facing surgery, undergoing treatments, and experiencing health challenges AND their caregivers.

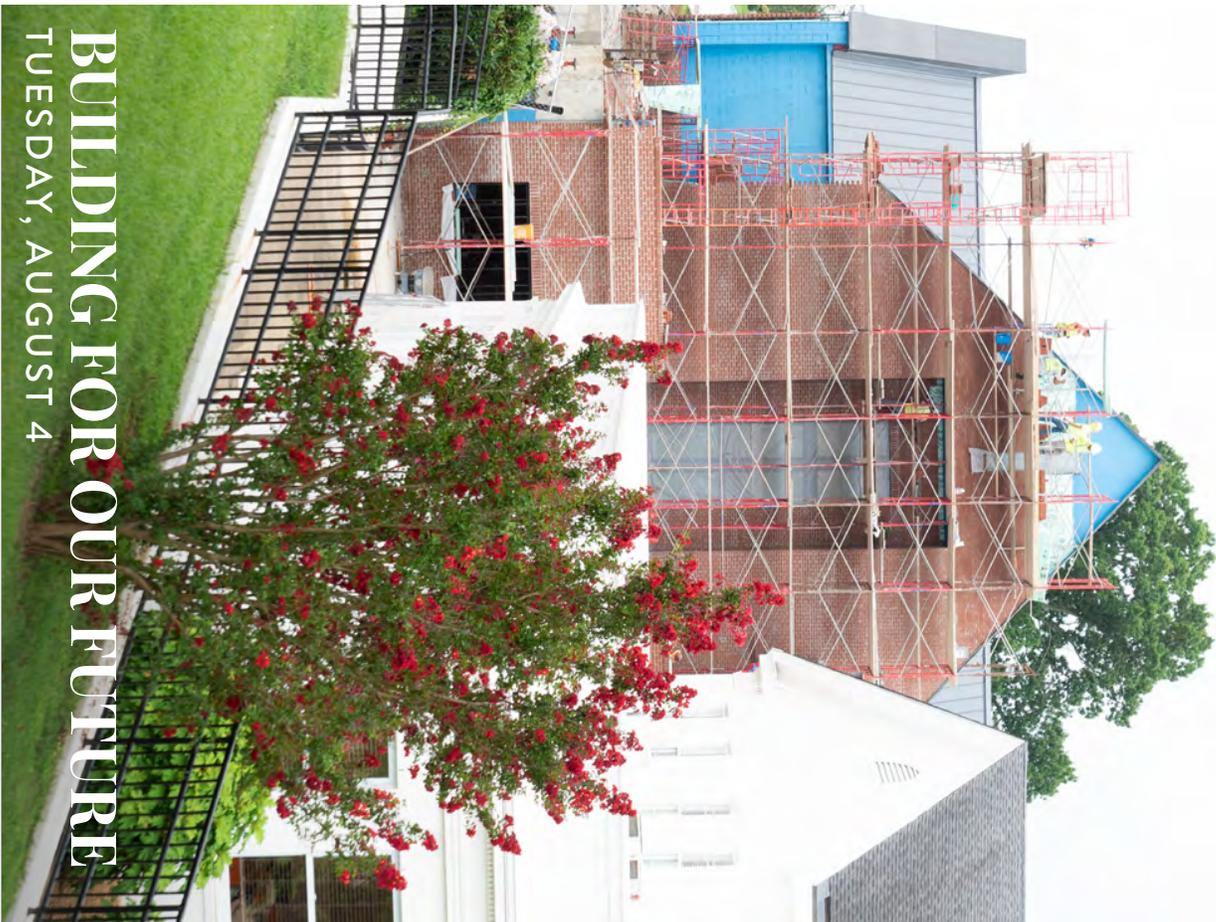
3. For the safety and protection of voters and poll workers in the preservation of our democratic process.



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TUESDAY, AUGUST 4