

First Farragut United Methodist Church Serving Opportunities

Christmas With the Community Day (CCD)

What is the mission of the organization? CCD aims to share the blessing and spirit of Christmas, while also providing outreach to the local community.

How does FFUMC currently support this effort? FFUMC supports CCD by providing the physical space for the event. The church supports CCD financially through individual donations and the Hommel grant.

How can you contribute? Individuals may provide new toys, books, underwear, shoes, and gently used clothing and coats, as well as monetary donations. You may also volunteer to assist with reservations, help set up, serve at different stations during the event, and clean up afterwards.

Contact: Lynn Kirchner (kirchner@tds.net)

Compassion International

What is the mission of the organization? Their mission is to “Release children from poverty in Jesus’ name,” through “church-based, child-focused, and Christ-centered” distinctives. Holistic child development through one-to-one sponsorship is Compassion’s primary funding model.

How does FFUMC currently support this effort? Compassion International provides meaningful, ongoing communication with the three children the church supports, while also providing a monetary gift for Christmas and birthdays. FFUMC UMW has sponsored a child in Ethiopia through Compassion for many years.

How can you contribute? Individuals can provide monetary gifts, write messages on special forms that have space for interpreters to fill out, and pray for the children. Individual FFUMC members may also sponsor children directly.

Contact: Jeanette Krupski (jeckstamps@charter.net) or Marcia Rotty (kidsmatter@outlook.com)

Family Promise

What is the mission of the organization? Family Promise provides a community-based response, using faith-based organizations, that empowers and equips families experiencing homelessness and housing-instability to achieve sustainable independence.

How does FFUMC currently support this effort? FFUMC supports Family Promise as a Host organization. This means we use our facility and volunteers to feed and house homeless families enrolled in the Family Promise program for one week each quarter. Classrooms become bedrooms, so that families have a safe and secure place to sleep, while the children return to school and parents work with Family Promise social workers to resolve the root causes of their homelessness. FFUMC also supports Family Promise through a monetary contribution each year provided by the Serving Team budget and the Easter offering.

How can you contribute? There are over 80 opportunities to serve. FFUMC prepares the area, before the families arrive, by turning classrooms into bedrooms, and Youth Central into a dining/common area. Volunteers prepare and serve them dinner, socialize with the families, and spend the night with the families, while they stay in the church. FFUMC members can also make a monetary contribution directly to Family Promise or through the Easter offering.

Contact: Steve Krupski (sjktools@charter.net) or Jeff Cleveland (clevelandjt@icloud.com)

West Knox FISH Pantry

What is the mission of the organization? FISH is a ministry of 18 churches in Knox County that has been active for 50+ years. Its mission is to provide a 3-day emergency supply of groceries to Knox County residents who lack transportation or mobility. Each church takes one day of the month to receive phone requests for food and to make deliveries. The pantry is housed at Church of the Savior, 934 N. Weisgarber Rd., Knoxville. Stocking churches are responsible for refilling the pantry with groceries one month of the year, filling shelves with grocery bags, and filling freezers with bread.

How does FFUMC currently support this effort? FFUMC supports FISH expenses through the Serving Team budget. Servant volunteers take phone calls and deliver groceries on the 4th Wednesday of the month. We are also a stocking church, and we are responsible for filling the pantry with groceries and accompanying duties the month of October.

How can you contribute? Individual members can support FISH by contributing to the Serving Team Easter offering. They can also serve by taking phone calls and/or delivering groceries on the 4th Wednesday of the month, and by assisting with stocking duties the month of October.

Contact: Kathy Cleveland (kacleaveland@charter.net)

Project Linus

What is the mission of the organization? The mission of Project Linus is to provide as many blankets as possible for those in need.

How does FFUMC currently support this effort? FFUMC supports Linus by making blankets.

How can you contribute? Volunteers can make blankets - there are different sizes, and styles, such as crochet, quilting, or tie blankets, and almost any kind will be accepted.

Contact: Jeanette Krupski (jekstamps@charter.net)

Magnolia Avenue UMC

What is the mission of the organization? The mission of Magnolia Avenue UMC is to serve and grow the congregation in the Magnolia area of Knoxville. This primarily includes restoring this dormant church to life and a member of the community, which is a monumental task.

How does FFUMC currently support this effort? This ministry is supported by donations of specific items to create "Blessing Bags" for those in need during the Monday Medical Clinic, as well as members providing and serving a meal to the congregation after their worship service on Sunday evenings.

How can you contribute? Volunteers can shop for/donate specific items listed in the main hallway on the bulletin board. Also, anyone, or groups, can cook and serve a meal for the Magnolia Avenue congregation following their worship service on Sunday evenings. Currently, we serve approximately 70 people with a meal such as chili and dessert.

Finally, while their church leadership is off to a great start, they can use more help from volunteers, such as Sunday school classes, youth groups, small study groups, and the United Methodist Women, as well as retirees or families looking for serving opportunities.

Contact: Ashley Carrera (pointe_dancer18@hotmail.com)

Mobile Pantry

What is the mission of the organization? The mission of Mobile Pantry is to share God's love by providing food, children's clothing, and school supplies to area families in need at the beginning of the school year, typically the third Saturday of July.

How does FFUMC currently support this effort? Through the Serving Team budget, FFUMC provides monetary support for the truckload of food from Second Harvest. Wesley's Attic provides servant volunteers throughout the year to collect and sort gently used children's clothing. 100+ FFUMC servant volunteers assist on the Friday and Saturday that the Mobile Pantry is hosted. They unload the truck, set up the sanctuary for food distribution, distribute food, recycle cardboard, push grocery carts, and reset and clean-up after the event.

How can you contribute? Individual members can donate to this ministry by supporting the Serving Team Easter offering. They can also provide coordination and leadership to plan the event and serve at the Mobile Pantry food distribution at FFUMC.

Contact: James and Stacey Breeding (james.stacey.breeding@gmail.com)

Operation InAsMuch

What is the mission of the organization? The goal of Operation InAsMuch is to provide a large number of packaged foods which can be distributed locally or internationally.

How does FFUMC currently support this effort? FFUMC has held one filling event. A leader is needed to coordinate the event and secure volunteers. On the day of the event, members of the congregation can come together to fill, weigh, and seal the bags, and resupply each of the filling stations. They also take the filled boxes to the truck.

How can you contribute? This ministry needs volunteers to fill and weigh the food items, as well as load completed boxes into the truck. A volunteer(s) is also needed to coordinate with Operation InAsMuch to schedule and organize the event.

Contact: James and Stacey Breeding (james.stacey.breeding@gmail.com)

Society of St. Andrew

What is the mission of the organization? The mission of this larger organization is to provide food to those in need. They concentrate on using food that would otherwise be wasted, poorly utilized, or discarded.

How does FFUMC currently support this effort? In addition to financial support, FFUMC has most recently participated by gleaning unsold food from the Farragut Farmers Market and delivering it to where it will be distributed.

How can you contribute? Individuals, or groups, such as families, youth groups, or Sunday school classes, can resume the farmers market gathering, including adding additional farmers markets or apple orchards for example. You may also participate in the large food drops that are held at Concord UMC, where we can deliver sweet potatoes, green beans, and other seasonal foods gathered from the farmers markets and such for Concord to deliver to local food banks and organizations that provide for those in need.

Contact: Jerry Blossom (geraldblossom@gmail.com)

United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR)

What is the mission of the organization? The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) is the humanitarian and development arm of the United Methodist Church. It assists churches in providing relief to people in need globally, nationally, and locally in the Holston Conference.

How does FFUMC currently support this effort? FFUMC provides financial gifts to specific relief efforts (e.g., Haiti earthquake, Ukrainian refugees, COVID relief, etc.) sponsored by UMCOR.

How can you contribute? FFUMC members can also support this ministry by assembling cleaning buckets and hygiene kits for UMCOR to distribute to areas affected by natural disasters (most recently for flood victims in the Nashville area).

Contact: Jeff Cleveland (clevelandjt@icloud.com)

Wesley's Attic

What is the mission of the organization? The goal of Wesley's Attic is to provide clothing for needy children.

How does FFUMC currently support this effort? FFUMC provides the storage and a work area for clothing donations. The Serving Team of FFUMC provides financial support for the annual Wesley House Christmas party.

How can you contribute? Volunteer to sort clothing and arrange donations into size and gender specific storage bins. The donation of new or gently used children's clothing, as well as volunteering during distribution events is another way to serve.

Contacts: Denise Viator (denisev3@gmail.com) or Judy Bensey (judybensey52@gmail.com)