

## Welcome New Members

We welcome new members **Bob and Vicky Meredith** to the Front Street family.

Bob and Vicky moved to Gibsonville in June 2019 from New Port Richey, Florida.

Bob was born and raised in Racine, Wisconsin. He graduated from Dominican College and then spent 4 years in the Army completing his service in Vietnam as a Captain. He enjoyed his career as an FBI agent for 25 years until retirement.

Vicki was raised in Clearwater, Florida. She graduated from St. Petersburg School of Nursing in 1970. Most of her career

was spent in emergency nursing until retiring in 2011.

They were married in 1990 and share Bobs' two children, Adam (age 49) who lives in Jacksonville, Florida and Courtney (age 45) who lives in Cary, North Carolina.

They enjoy their retirement days hiking, traveling, and reading. Bob and Vicky look forward to seeing everyone in person soon!



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**THE JOURNEY TOWARD CHRISTMAS** CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE  
the flesh – Emmanuel, God with us! How can this be? Do I deserve such a gift? Can such a Savior even be possible? Yes, you can believe your eyes. There he is, right in front of you.

Even if you did not see him in the flesh, Jesus calls you to have faith. He says, "Blessed are those who believe without seeing me." (John 20:29) This is all you have to do to receive the gifts offered to you through the Savior – Believe! "This is the only work God wants from you: Believe in the one he has sent." (John 6:29)

The scripture tells us the shepherds "went back to their fields and flocks, glorifying and praising God for what the angels had told them, and because they had seen the child, just as the angel had said." (Luke 2:20) Once you believe, like the shepherds you can rejoice over what you've seen.

*Hope, Search, Follow, Believe, Rejoice* – What a journey! As you move into this holy time, maybe this year, instead of focusing on a particular date, you can focus on the journey. May your trip through Advent and Christmas this year be a blessing to your spirit.

Grace and peace,  
Pastor Ross

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## FRONTLINE

Focusing on the life and ministry  
of Front Street UMC



December 10, 2020 Volume MMXX No.22

### THE JOURNEY TOWARD CHRISTMAS

*Hope, Search, Follow, Believe, Rejoice*

I've heard it said, "It's not the destination; it's the journey." As we move into the seasons of Advent and Christmas, I would suggest the real joy is found in the journey.

The Lord says, "Shout and rejoice, O Jerusalem, for I am coming to live among you." (Zech 2:10) In those words we begin to experience a sense of Hope in the midst of a troubled world. Our tendency is to look for comfort in the things around us – that which we can see and touch. However, all of the world's troubles are based in spiritual disease. Who will help us be healed?

"For the time is coming," says the Lord, "when I will place a righteous branch of King David's throne." (Jer 23:5) We hear that one is coming, but who will it be? Who can help us with our real struggles?

We hear the angel, Gabriel, as he speaks to Mary: "You will become pregnant and have a son, and you are to name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. ...His kingdom will never end!" It's him – the one we are searching for – the one who can heal us and bind our wounds. We hear the voice of heaven calling to us: find him and follow him. And so we do.

With the shepherds, we hear the pronouncement, "I bring you good news of great joy for everyone! The Savior – yes, the Messiah, the Lord – has been born tonight in Bethlehem, the city of David! And this is how you will recognize him: You will find a baby lying in a manger, wrapped snugly in strips of cloth!" And then with the shepherds, we go. We kneel by the manger and stare wide-eyed at the miracle it contains – God in

continued

# A LOOK AHEAD:

## KNOWING CHRIST

### CHRIST OFFERING

On **December 13**, as has been our tradition, we will receive this year's Christ Offering. This offering always helps us bridge the gap of any budget shortfall we may have at the end of the year. Please mail your offering to the church, or send it by any electronic means you prefer. Just indicate "Christ Offering" on your gift. Thank you in advance for your valuable contribution toward helping ministry continue in a fiscally responsible, God-honoring manner.

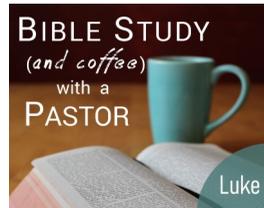


Christ Offering  
You are the Light of the world.

## GROWING IN CHRIST

### BIBLE STUDY AND COFFEE WITH A PASTOR

Join Pastor Ross on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. via Zoom for a Bible Study on the book of Luke. This study will be ongoing with Pastor Patrick hosting the gatherings in January. If you would like to participate but are unable to join us on Wednesday mornings, these gatherings will be recorded and posted on our website and available to view at a time that suits you.



## UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

As 2020 comes to an end, the United Methodist Women are thankful for all of God's blessings and members' generosity. The last in-person UMW meeting was in March but that has not stopped us from fulfilling our purpose. Listed are some of the agencies that UMW has helped with financial and in-kind gifts during 2020: Allied Churches, AGAPE, Burlington Youth Solutions, C4C, Family Abuse Services, Kenyan Well Project, Living Free Ministries, Methodist Home for Children, Partners in Ministry Outreach Community Center, Peg's PJ's, and the Salvation Army. Funds were also sent to the Corridor District and NCC of UMW for state and global ministries. We are hopeful that

### United Methodist Women



2021 will bring a return to in-person meetings and continued mission outreach.

## SHARING CHRIST TREES OF LOVE

Thank you to everyone who has adorned our Trees of Love to share Christ with our neighbors this season. It's not too late to participate—please return all items (unwrapped) to the trees by **Sunday, December 20**. Note: if you are donating money or gift cards, please return to the church office. Visit [www.frontstreetumc.org](http://www.frontstreetumc.org) for additional information on each Tree of Love.



## 2020 CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE

A friendly reminder from the Church Office: in order for contributions to be included as a contribution towards your 2020 statement, please have mail postmarked or dropped at the church office **NO LATER THAN December 31**. All contributions received after December 31 will be applied to your 2021 statement.

Please note: When you provide a check as payment, you authorize us either to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your account or to process the payment as a check transaction.

## OFFERING ENVELOPES



Offering envelopes are available for pick-up outside the church office. Please pick yours up before the end of December. Thank you.

## SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The **2021** flower calendar is available in the Welcome Center. If you are interested in placing flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or in memory of a loved one, please write your name on the Sunday you wish to put flowers in the church. For more information, please contact Linda Paul at 336-543-5081 (cell) or [kpaul5@triad.rr.com](mailto:kpaul5@triad.rr.com) (email).



## Prayers

- **Susan Abernethy and Ras Rasmussen** who are recovering from COVID

Continued prayers:

- **Jane Bazemore**
- **Charles Hawks**
- **Carol McDaniel**

## Thank You

*Dear Front Street Family, My love and gratitude to all of God's guardian angels for your heartfelt prayers, your expressive words of encouragement, your beautiful cards, and your nourishing food for my family while I was in the hospital and rehab. I send special thanks to our wonderful Prayer Ministry Team for keeping me close to your hearts in thoughtful prayer. Jesus, the Master Physician, is holding my hand as He guides me on the journey toward health and healing. I am sending heartfelt prayers to all of you who are coping with health issues and I know you too will be guided by God's healing touch.*

*In Christ, Sally Fox*

## FINANCIAL GIVING UPDATE AS OF 12/3/2020

YTD Actual Giving - \$1,007,815.31  
YTD Budgeted Giving - \$1,264,022.70

### STAFF

**Senior Pastor**  
Ross Carter

**Pastor of Discipleship**  
Patrick Murphy

**Youth Minister**  
Chris Huneycutt

**Director of Children's Ministry**  
Marcy McAdams

**Minister of Visitation**  
Leslie Peavy

**Organist/Director of Music**  
Matt Brittain

**Choirmaster**  
Laura Sam

**Director of Aldersgate Music**  
Clay Stevenson

**Finance Manager**  
Tammy Page

**Administrative Assistant**  
Pamela Shields

**Communications Coordinator**  
Joanna Strelow

**Building Superintendent**  
Jackie Long

**Maintenance**  
Joe Peloquin  
Zach Mace

**Playschool/Babies Morning Out Director**  
Rebecca Hurdle

**Afterschool Director**  
Catherine Mills

# CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES AND MORE:



## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

DECEMBER 1-JANUARY 1

MONDAY—THURSDAY

9:00 AM—1:00 PM

(CLOSED ON FRIDAYS)

## HOLIDAY CLOSURES

DECEMBER 24, 25 & 28

**Merry Christmas and a very  
happy New Year from all the  
staff at FSUMC!**



### Christmas Eve Services: noon | 5 PM | 8 PM

You are invited to join us as we celebrate the birth of our savior this Christmas Eve. As with most events this year, these services will be slightly different than in the past. All services (20-30 mins) will be held outside (weather permitting) on the grassy area by the playground and will include the reading of scripture and singing of Christmas carols. Our 5 PM service is designed especially for children and their families. Votives will be distributed during the 8 PM service for the singing of *Silent Night*.

For the health of everyone please:

- Maintain a 6 feet distance between families
- Wear a mask
- Bring your own lawn chair or blanket, if you wish to sit during the service. Of course, standing is also an option. Alternatively, worship with us from your car with the windows rolled down.

*In case of rain, a modified service will be held in Aldersgate Hall.*

## CONFERENCE-WIDE LEADERSHIP TRAINING

In a time of adaptive strategies and new approaches, the 2021 January Leadership training, usually held in the districts, will now be conference-wide and virtual. Whether you are starting a new leadership role, or have been serving in church leadership for years, we hope this model of leadership training will prepare you for your much-needed ministry. Laity and clergy in partnership with one another is the key to a church's success in making disciples.

You will have a chance to choose one of five workshops, depending on your leadership role or interests. Do you serve on more than one committee? No problem. We will record the sessions.

The Workshops and Presenters:

- **Trustees, led by Gray Southern**
- **Finance, led by Christine Dodson**
- **Lay Leader, led by John Hall**
- **State of the Connection, led by Mark Schneider**
- **S/PPRC, led by Beth Hood**

Visit <https://nccumc.org/leadership/training/> for more details and to register.

# Special Gifts

## Adult Missions

*In memory of Dr. James Hayes by  
Tom and Vickie Sykes*

## Allied Churches

*In honor of Patrick Murphy by  
Peggy Smith*

## Children's Ministry

*In honor of Dr. and Mrs. Howard Miller by  
Mike and Margaret Mitchell*

## Congregational Care

*In honor of Leslie Peavy by  
Peggy Smith*

## Endowment Fund

*In memory of Chuck Bingenheimer by  
F. D. and Mary Zeta Hornaday*

*In honor of Pastor Ross Carter by  
Peggy Smith  
Alice Thompson*

*In memory of Dr. James Hayes by  
Jonathan and Nancy Blake  
Thomas and Lisa Ford  
F. D. and Mary Zeta Hornaday  
Dr. and Mrs. H. B. Kernodle, Jr.  
Wally and Laura Kernodle  
Marshall and Carol Old*

*In honor of Pastor Patrick Murphy by  
Alice Thompson*

## Kenya Well Project

*In memory of Johnny Roberson by  
Richard and Glenda Blue*

## Men's Breakfast Bible Study Group

*In memory of Dr. James Hayes by  
Salley Bradford*

## Music Fund

*In honor of Matt Brittain by  
Peggy Smith*

*In memory of Dr. James Hayes by  
Nancy L. Thomas*

*In memory of Robin Reid by  
Becky Stearns*

## Pastor's Discretionary Fund

*In memory of Kenneth Maxwell Fisher by  
Salley Bradford*

*In memory of Julie Lescelles Overman by  
Salley Bradford*

## Wheelchair Ramp Ministry

*In memory of Adrian Smith by  
Peggy Smith*

## Youth Missions

*In honor of Chris Huneycutt by  
Peggy Smith*

