

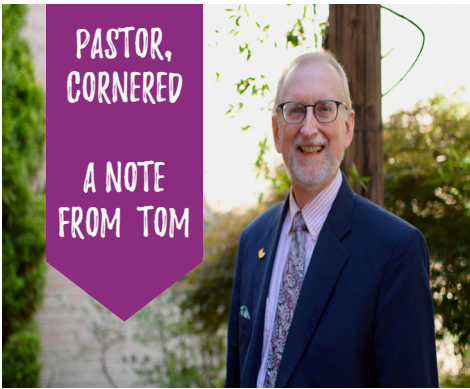


THE SPIRIT

FOUNTAIN CITY UMC
MARCH 2020 NEWSLETTER

PASTOR, CORNERED

A NOTE FROM TOM



We are all aware that 2020 is a leap year. Instituted by Roman emperor, Julius Caesar, in 45 BC, it represented another way of counting time. History tells us that in 44 BC, Caesar's closest friends assassinated him during the Ides of March. I can't help but wonder if this change, a new way of counting time, was part of the reason that his closest associates turned on him.

February 29 comes along every four years, so whoever is born on that day is actually only 1/4 of the age of the rest of us. Now, if you really believe that, I have some swampland in Florida that I would like to talk with you about.

In a leap year, here in the USA, we can count on the Summer Olympics, a presidential election, and a UMC General Conference. These historic events each bring their own respective drama. Along with drama, comes emotion which is manifested in a variety of ways. Emotion brings out the best and the worst in us. Most of us will never participate as an Olympic athlete, but we will cheer on with patriotism and pride. None of our FCUMC members are vying for the nomination of their party to be a candidate for the US presidency. The closest that we will come is casting our vote in November. And, a lot of us are watching very carefully as the UMC considers next steps as a denomination when almost 900 delegates will gather from around the world May 5-15, 2020, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. These are certainly challenging days for us.

But, here is what I want you to know and to celebrate that you have had a direct influence upon. Now that the numbers are in, we are grateful that in 2019, you helped us to exceed our operating budget by \$13,000. By controlling expenditures, we wound up on the positive side for the year with income over expenses of \$51,000. We also added 26 new members.

Despite changes, even the drama all around us, the Church is still of God. And here at FCUMC, we have committed ourselves to Making Disciples, Changing Lives. One immediate evidence of that is our Missions Celebration weekend, March 27-29. I hope that you will find your place where you can make a direct impact on the community and world at our front door.

Peace of Christ, Tom

OUR GIFTS

WEEKLY OFFERING

Jan 13-19 \$31,239.47
Jan 20-26 \$19,590.97
Jan 27-Feb 2 \$27,608.32
Feb 2-8 \$32,885.00

	SUNDAY JAN 12	SUNDAY JAN 19	SUNDAY JAN 26	SUNDAY FEB 2	SUNDAY FEB 9	SUNDAY FEB 16
Sunday School	334	357	332	308	331	334
8:30 am Traditional Worship	143	137	125	137	142	146
11 am Traditional Worship	201	215	192	211	215	211
11 am The Journey	116	124	124	130	154	180
Celebrate Recovery	169	155	162	113	128	174
Total Worship Services	629	631	679	591	639	711
Resurrection	76					

PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, SERVICE, AND WITNESS

FAITH PROMISE

Faith Promise Sunday will be March 29. Please use blue Mission envelopes provided in worship to make your commitment.

OUR SYMPATHIES

We extend our sympathy to Tony & Judy Clift & family in the death of their daughter, Megan Stinnett, on January 22.

We extend our sympathy to Bill Oakes & family in the death of his wife, Ashley Oakes, on February 4.

We extend our sympathy to Elizabeth Petersen & family in the death of her mother, Colleen Bornhorst, on February 13.

OUR PRESENCE

CELEBRATING WITH OUR FCUMC FAMILY

Our extended church family continues to grow! We certainly have a lot to celebrate as a congregation. You are invited to rejoice in the following blessings with us!

We celebrate the birth of Avery Weston Trent, son of Cara and Josh Trent, on Monday, January 20. Avery is the brother of Rylie Russell, and grandson of Carol Chamberlain.

Join us in celebrating new member, Steve Taylor. He joined our church body on February 11. Welcome!

UMCOR SAGER BROWN MISSION TRIP

Members of FCUMC will once again make the trip to the UMCOR Sager Brown Depot in Baldwin, LA, a United Methodist ministry that receives, sorts, packs and ships disaster relief supplies around the world when war, conflict, or natural disaster disrupt life to an extent that communities are unable to recover on their own.



This year's Sager Brown mission trip will take place the week of **October 4-9** and is open to all adults. If you are someone who identifies yourself as a Baby Boomer, member of the Greatest Generation, or of the Quiet Generation, this is a great opportunity for you to transform the world as a disciple of Jesus Christ!

Mission team members may choose work in the depot, in the local community in outreach and housing rehabilitation projects, or with gardening and maintenance opportunities on the depot campus. Accommodations are climate-controlled dorms with beds and an excellent dining hall. There is also availability for persons to stay in their own RV Campers. The trip will also include an opportunity midweek to sightsee around the Bayou. The cost of trip is approximately \$255 plus transportation costs, which may be offset by fundraising or scholarships.

The 2019 FCUMC team truly had a wonderful experience. Please look for our poster at the Missions Desk near Wesley Hall. If you are interested in going to UMCOR this fall, please contact Sandy Morgan at (865) 679-0760 or slmorgantn3327@gmail.com.

MARCH USHERS

8:30 a.m. TRADITIONAL

Barry Clabough - Head Usher
Louanne Clabough - Head Usher
Sharon Smith
Larry Smith

11:00 a.m. TRADITIONAL

Gene Patton - Head Usher
Robert Smiddy - Head Usher
Mary Brabson
Conrad Majors
Wanda Majors
Jay Wormsley

THE JOURNEY

TBA

FCUMC PRESCHOOL REGISTRATION



FCUMC Preschool will soon begin enrollment for the 2020-21 school year. Our wonderful Preschool is a nationally accredited, part-time program serving children 6 months to 4 years old.

FCUMC Preschool has been serving families of Fountain City and beyond for over 50 years. We are a play-based, child-focused program providing individualized learning opportunities across all areas of a child's development.

Church members are able to enroll during the week of March 2 -6, which is one week earlier than open enrollment. Please come to the preschool office between 8:00 am - 2:30 pm during the priority enrollment week to fill out a registration form and pay the \$50 registration fee (cash or check). For more information, contact our Preschool Director, Alycia Truett at (865) 689-5518 or alycia.truett@fountaincityumcorg.



MISSIONS CELEBRATION 2020

We are gearing up for our annual Missions Celebration weekend coming at the end of this month! Mark your calendars for **March 27-29** as we celebrate the past year of missions, anticipate our future commitments, and participate in our hands-on meal packing event for **Rise Against Hunger**! Check out our schedule of events:

FRIDAY, MARCH 27 KICK-OFF DINNER

Join us at 6:30 pm in Wesley Hall for dinner to kick-off the weekend. Doug Shipman and his crew will be serving up his famous lasagna. Come listen to our keynote speaker, retired UMC deaconess **Betty Purkey**, while you enjoy a delicious meal.

We will also have a guest speaker from Rise Against Hunger who will give us their vision for ending world hunger by 2030. We have packed meals for **Rise Against Hunger** for many years now, and after this year's event, we will have packed 260,000 meals!

After dinner, we are asking for volunteers to help unload the Rise Against Hunger truck and help set up for our meal packing event.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28 RISE AGAINST HUNGER

Saturday is our annual Rise Against Hunger meal packing event! This is a very family-friendly event, with important tasks for all ages. We will have two 2-hour shifts on Saturday morning: 10am-12pm and 12pm-2pm. These meals will be sent to some of the most impoverished, malnourished countries in the world. Our goal of 40,000 meals this year can't be achieved without you! The registration link is available on our website where you can sign up for a shift, and possibly give a financial donation to help offset the shipping costs. Just click on the Missions Celebration graphic scrolling on our home page. It will be the most fun you'll have in a hairnet, guaranteed!

SUNDAY, MARCH 29 GUEST SPEAKERS

Speakers from several of our Faith Promise partners will join us on Sunday to tell us more about their ministries and the impact our support has meant to them. **Betty Purkey** will be the keynote speaker for both Traditional services, and **Mike Sluder**, the Director of Connectional Ministries with Holston Conference, will speak at The Journey service.

During the Sunday School hour, there will be many speakers to choose from including Bryan McClain of **Camp Wesley Woods**, Ross Jones of **Knoxville Dream Center**, Jay Zartman of **Operation Backyard**, Dani Castillo of **Hispanic Ministry**, and a live feed from Pastors Christina and Joe-d of **Willow UMC** in Willow, Alaska. All are Faith Promise partners who FCUMC supports through their ministries. Mike Sluder will visit with the children during the Sunday School hour as well. We encourage you to attend these presentations and learn more about getting involved!

During all three services, you will have the opportunity to make your 2020-21 **Faith Promise** pledge. Due to your generosity, our church has been able to support many ministries over the years. Thank you for being a church body dedicated to God's call by making the world our parish.

FOUNTAIN KIDS

KIDS CAN FOR CHRIST - 40 4 40

It's time for the Fountain Kids' annual Lenten food drive, Kids Can for Christ. We will be collecting canned goods through Palm Sunday for the Fountain City Ministry Center. We are asking each person to collect 40 food items during Lent for donation. A cart will be in front of the gym on Sunday mornings for The Journey drop off, and a table will be in the Narthex for Traditional service drop off. Your donations are much appreciated!

40 4 40



Kids Can For Christ 2019

ROCKY RAILWAY VBS - June 22-25

Summer feels like a long way off, but it's just around the corner. Get on board for Camp Rocky Railway VBS chugging into town June 22-25! Registration is now open for child participants and volunteers. Click on the Rocky Railway VBS scrolling post on our website's homepage to register. For more information, please contact Donna Lewis at donna.lewis@fountaincityumc.org. Camp Rocky Railway VBS will take kids on a ride they will never forget!



BUTTERFLY RELEASE



Mark your calendar for the children's butterfly release at 9:45 am Easter morning. Bring flowers to adorn the cross in the courtyard and children will each have their own butterfly to release at the cross. This will be a wonderful Easter memory and photo-op with the kids!



KRISTEN'S CORNER

By Rev. Dr. Kristen Burkhart, Associate Pastor of Discipleship

On February 26, 2020, we had the opportunity to begin celebrating Lent, the forty day period we as Christians participate in, which starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. We reference this time to the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness where he was tempted by Satan and preparing for ministry. When I think of Lent, the first thing that pops into my mind is lint; yes the short fibers that separate from cloth and usually shows up on our dark clothes.

Last summer we got a new addition to our family as we moved to Fountain City. She is a beautiful blonde and now weighs 65 pounds. Her name is Faith; her mother's name was Joy. She is our English Cream Golden Retriever. Faith is a blessing to our family and me. She is always happy to see me and willing to cuddle. She leaves gifts of her blonde hair like lint all through our house and on our clothes. We have lint rollers stationed all over the house and in the doors of our vehicles. Most of the time we can roll the traces of her off of us before we go to school or work. We vacuum 2-3 times a week, but sometimes we are tired and just let it be and we start to not notice the hair.

What if Lent was a time for us to roll away our bad habits and sin like lint? What if we made these forty days a time to concentrate on our relationship with Father, Son, and Holy Spirit? Can we notice our faults and seek to better our relationship with Jesus Christ and in doing so, prepare as FCUMC to continue to do ministry? Psalm 51:1-2 "Have mercy on me, God, according to your faithful love! Wipe away my wrongdoings according to your great compassion! Wash me completely clean of my guilt; purify me from my sin!"

God Bless, Kristen

All In For Christ Spotlight

By Lyling Spooone

I became a member of FCUMC four years ago. When I first visited the church, I knew it was the place for me. Everyone was so warm and welcoming. This is a very community-oriented church that really cares about their parishioners; not only those who are able to attend the church, but also those who are not able to attend - through the assistance of the Congregational Care Committee.



I've been asked to co-chair the committee with Mary Simpson, who is such a blessing to be with. Together, we schedule meetings to coordinate ways to minister to church members who are elderly, ill, homebound, or are experiencing

personal grief. I am grateful to serve with a group of such dedicated individuals. Each volunteer responds to the needs of our church members and their families on so many different levels.

Whether it is delivering the Upper Room booklets with a visit, writing sympathy cards, or calling to check on a hospitalized member, it is vital to let that person know that they are cared for through prayers and with the love of the church. Congregational Care is about providing care and support to those church members that need it most and I am blessed to be part of this committee.

FAMILY PROMISE - APRIL 5-11

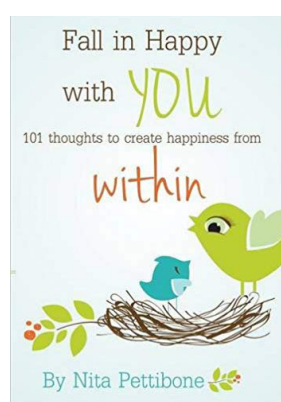
Family Promise is an important ministry impacting the lives of families right here in our city: single mothers, parents working hard to get back on their feet, children thrown into the instability of being homeless. And our church body has the privilege of partnering with Christ UMC in Halls as we help homeless and low income families work to achieve sustainable independence. Our responsibility is one meal and one overnight as a host. Please contact Debbie Pickett at dpickett09@comcast.net if you are available to help with this important ministry.

ADULTS 50+ UPDATE

March Luncheon

Our March luncheon will be held on Friday, March 13 at 11:30 am in Wesley Hall. We will discuss happiness in the little things and how that ties to your overall health.

Our guest speaker will be Nita Pettibone, health coach



and author who will discuss her book, ***Fall in Happy with YOU: 101 thoughts to create happiness from within***. She will discuss her top five tricks to reignite that inner wellness spark, regardless of age, income or health status. Lunch is \$6 and will consist of a selection of sandwiches, chips, fruit, and cookies from McAlister's Deli. Please register by March 10 by going to "Happening Now" on our

website and clicking on the link provided. Questions? Contact our church office or email Jeanie at jeanie.tillman@fountaincityumc.org.

Adult Coloring

It is a great time to get out of the house and join the fun! If you have never been to our amazing Coloring Group, now is the time. It is easy, fun and free! Please join our host, Susan Schumpert, on Thursday, **March 19** from 1-3 pm in Room 137. If you have never been to our amazing Coloring Group, now is the time! We will have plenty of supplies on hand, or you are welcome to bring your own supplies. Don't want to color? No problem! Bring your own craft and enjoy the fellowship. No reservations and no experience needed! Just show up! If you enjoy fun and time with friends, we invite you to come join us!

Inskip Snacks

A shout out to everyone who has contributed to snacks for Inskip Elementary School so far. You are the best!! We will continue our snack collection throughout the school year. Please bring individually packaged snacks in a bag. Reminder: No Peanuts. Thanks for your help!

ABOUT THE COVER PHOTO:

St. Patrick used the shamrock to explain the holy trinity with each leaf representing the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The three leaves of a shamrock are also said to stand for faith, hope and love. If you'd like to see one of your photos grace the cover of future ***The Spirit*** newsletters, please email kathleen.bloom@fountaincityumc.org.

UPCOMING MARCH DATES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

6:30 pm : Lenten Studies begin (Churchwide)

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

7:00 pm : Middle School Night (Gym)

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

10:00 am : UMW Ruth Circle (Room 137)

10:45 am : UMW Unit Meeting & Luncheon (Wesley Hall)

1:00 pm : UMW Sarah Circle (Wesley Hall)

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

11:30 am : Adults 50+ Luncheon (Wesley Hall)

MONDAY - FRIDAY, MARCH 16-20

Knox County Schools Spring Break

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

1:00 pm : Adults 50+ Coloring (Room 137)

FRIDAY, MARCH 27

6:30 pm : Missions Celebration Dinner (Wesley Hall)

8:00 pm : Rise Against Hunger Set-up (Gym)

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

10:00 am : Rise Against Hunger - Shift 1 (Gym)

12:00 pm : Rise Against Hunger - Shift 2 (Gym)

5:45 pm : Open Door Community Meal (Wesley Hall)

SUNAY, MARCH 29

Missions Celebration Speakers (Churchwide)

Faith Promise Sunday (Churchwide)

SAVE THE DATE:

June 22-25 Vacation Bible School



Lent is a season of reflection and preparation. As we prayerfully go through the season of Lent, we continue to focus on Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and the miracle of His Resurrection on Easter Sunday. To help you navigate the season of Lent, we will have three Lenten Studies available beginning on March 4. Please take a look at the options listed here and go to our website at fountaincityumc.org to sign up for your preferred class. Just click on the Wednesday Night Programming/Lenten Studies graphic on the home screen.

LENTEN STUDY: THE HEART OF CHRISTIANITY

Rev. Dr. Jim Dougherty leads a 7-session study based on *The Heart of Christianity* by Marcus J Borg. The book for this course is optional and is available for purchase in paperback & eKindle versions at amazon.com.

LENTEN STUDY: NEHEMIAH

Rev. Dr. Kristen Burkhart leads a 7-session Lenten Study on Nehemiah as we seek to rebuild our relationship with Christ, the church, and one another. There is no book for this course.

LENTEN STUDY: THE GOD WE CAN KNOW

Rev. Tom Ballard leads a 7-session Lenten Study based on *The God We Can Know* by Rob Fuquay. The book is available for purchase in paperback or e-book from Cokesbury.com and Amazon.com.

If you need assistance registering, please contact the church office at (865) 689-5175. We will not meet during Knox County Schools Spring Break or during Holy Week. We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday nights during Lent for our Fellowship Meal & one of these Lenten Studies!

EMERGENCY ON CALL

Feb. 28 -Mar.1: Tom Ballard
(423) 585-7054

Mar. 6-8: Kristen
Burkhart (865) 357-6354

Mar.13-15: Tom Ballard
(423) 585-7054

Mar. 20- 22: Kristen
Burkhart (865) 357-6354

Mar. 27 - 29: Tom Ballard
(423) 585-7054

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Gail Clift
(865) 922-9408

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Tim Brown
(865) 599-3429

Mary Bolton
(865) 250-3923

Tom Harrington
(865) 687-9460

IN MEMORY & IN HONOR

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of Megan Stinnett by David & Johnnie Burkey, Conrad & Wanda Majors, Fred & Billie Graves, and Dolores Smith

In Memory of Paul Tarver by Dennis & Julia McGee, Brenda Steele, Brother Edmund & Family & Friend Linda Falls, and David & Johnnie Burkey

In Memory of Jack Sterling by Arlene Garrison, Mary Emma Scott, Ethel Carden, Fred & Billie Graves, Billy & Dianne Hall, Mac English, and Bill & Sarah Greene

In Memory of Barbara Smith by Fred & Billie Graves, Mary Frances Tucker, First Priority Title Company, Mac English, and Mary Emma Scott

In Honor of Janice Stevens by Fred & Billie Graves

In Honor of Lewis & Erma Brewer by Kathryn Paden

CHOIR FUND

In Memory of Jack Sterling by Eleanor Thurman, Bill & Martha Routh, Judy Hodge, Woody & Kathy Farrell, Mary Frances Tucker, Polly Kelly, Lee & Susan Iglehart, and Jim & Betty Dougherty

In Memory of Joyce & Jack Sterling by Tom Cloud

MISSIONS

In Memory of Paul Tarver by Polly Kelly

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Memory of Paul Tarver by Mark Biagi

FOUNTAIN CITY MINISTRY CENTER

In Memory of Jack Sterling by Tom Harrington

In Memory of Barbara Smith by Tom Harrington

In Memory of Ray Clabough by Tom Harrington

In Memory of Megan Stinnett by Tom Harrington

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In Honor of the Clabough Family by Bill & Martha Routh

In Memory of Jack Sterling by Mark Biagi

SOUND AND TAPE MINISTRIES

In Memory of Barbara Smith by Alesis Knutsen, Charles & Kim Smith, Ethel Carden, Charlotte Musgraves, Tom Cloud, Woody & Kathy Farrell, Joc Collignon, Tim, Debbie, Lacey & Lindsey Sharp, Polly Kelly, and Mark Biagi

YOUTH MINISTRIES

In Honor of Daniel Doubleday by Tom Cloud

YOUTH ENDOWMENT FUND

In Memory of Ashley Oakes by Lee & Susan Iglehart

PRESCHOOL FUND

In Memory of Ashley Oakes by Michael & Gail Bordes, and Betty Chitwood's SS Class

FOUNTAIN CITY UMC STAFF

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Todd Graves, Facilities Staff