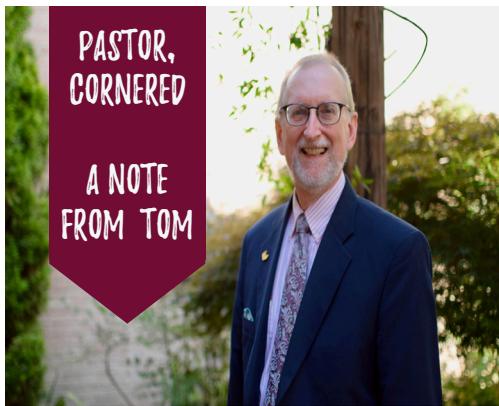




THE SPIRIT

FOUNTAIN CITY UMC
FEBRUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER



There's something to be said about being a lifelong learner. I remember someone saying to me a few years ago, "When you're through learning, you're through." True.

One year from now, we are anticipating several people from Fountain City UMC traveling to the Holy Land. To be able to make such a pilgrimage to places referred to in scripture adds a dimension to our reading and learning. Touching the Jordan River and Dead Sea makes these waters come alive. Being on the Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem puts us in step with Jesus on his way to be crucified. Just being near the Garden Tomb from which he was resurrected brings new life to personal faith.

The Society for Biblical Studies has arranged a 10-day itinerary for us, Dan to Beersheba, February 11-20, 2021, with an optional 4-day extension, The Wonders of Petra. We will actually be in the Holy Land on Ash Wednesday, which will be unforgettable, no doubt. The objectives of this trip include:

- To gain an overview of the historical, geographical and cultural settings of the Bible
- To become familiar with Christian Origins and the nature of Christianity in the Holy Land
- To gain an overview of modern biblical scholarship, including the rudiments of archaeology, and its importance for clergy and lay people
- To gain understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, its impact on neighboring countries, possibilities for peacemaking

A trip of this magnitude doesn't come together overnight, so I invite you to begin giving it some prayerful consideration. We have information available in the office for you to review. Without a doubt, this experience will be life-changing and life-enhancing. Jonna & I look forward to being part of this special trip with you. Let's learn together!

Peace of Christ, Tom

OUR GIFTS

2019 YEAR END:
RECEIVED \$1,527,141
BUDGET \$1,514,150

WEEKLY OFFERING
Jan 5-12 \$22,887.33

	SUNDAY DEC 8	SUNDAY DEC 15	SUNDAY DEC 22	SUNDAY DEC 29	SUNDAY JAN 5	SUNDAY JAN 12
Sunday School	355	316	295	233	302	334
8:30 am Traditional Worship	210	133	172	112	128	143
11 am Traditional Worship	277	231	254	191	246	201
11 am The Journey	141	127	120	104	148	116
Celebrate Recovery	150	95	148		105	169
Total Worship Services	778	586	694	407	627	629
Christmas Eve: Children's Service - 239		Contemporary Service - 157		Traditional Service - 278		

OUR SYMPATHIES

We extend our sympathy to Irene Tarver & family in the death of Paul Tarver on December 28.

We extend our sympathy to Eliza Love & family in the death of Peter Love on January 4.

We extend our sympathy to Rob Sterling, Jeanette Jensen, Nancy Austin and Betty Doughtery & families in the death of Jack Sterling on January 9.

We extend our sympathy to Barry Clabough & family in the death of Ray Clabough on January 10.

We extend our sympathy to Greg Smith and Sheila Emerton & families in the death of Barbara Smith on January 15.

We extend our sympathy to Kathleen Bloom & family in the death of Pat Mabry on January 16.

PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, SERVICE, AND WITNESS

FAITH PROMISE

Faith Promise Sunday will be February 23. Please use blue Mission envelopes provided in worship to make your commitment.

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 blessing with us!



Join us in celebrating our new church member, Michael Norwood. He joined our church body on January 7. Welcome!



Safe Sanctuaries

Parents, please check in your children on KidCheck. If your child is in the nursery - 4-year olds classrooms, please give leaders any information about your child that may have changed from the week before. If your child is in K-5th grade classrooms, please confirm that your child is with their large group leader after check in. Questions? Contact Miss Donna.

Notes for Summer Planning

Vacation Bible School

Save the Date! Our 2020 VBS Registration opens **March 1!** VBS will be held on **June 22-25** from 9:00 am - noon. Look for more details soon!

Camp Wesley Woods

It's never too early to begin planning your child's visit to Camp Wesley Woods, a loved ministry since 1959 with dedicated focus on summer camp ministry, outdoor education, and retreat ministry. Check out their website at www.campwesleywoods.com and sign up your child for an amazing experience this summer!

FEBRUARY USHERS

8:30 a.m. TRADITIONAL

Charles Thompson- Head Usher
Celia Thompson - Head Usher
David Vandergriff
Debbie Vandergriff
Rogan Oliver

11:00 a.m. TRADITIONAL

Gary Hillard- Head Usher
Ken Lett - Head Usher
Jason Hillard
Teresa Hillard
Frank Faulkner
Jimmy Villerreal
Mike Rogers

THE JOURNEY
TBA

Navigating the Website And Weekly E-Spirit

Our church is a busy place! We strive to provide all of the information you will need both on our website & in our weekly E-News so that you can keep up-to-date with all of the happenings here at FCUMC. We often include links to sign up for events, to other pertinent websites or to forms with various information.

On our website, these links are highlighted in red or blue. If you click on a red or blue word, it will take you to a new location to sign up for an event or to other important information. On our home page, if you click on one of our scrolling posts, it will take you to a page with details on that event.

In the E-Spirit, links to event sign ups, websites, staff emails, and other important information will be underlined and a different color than the rest of the text. It is our hope that these links make it easier for you to find the information you need. If you do not currently get the weekly E-News, please go to our website and click on the **Stay Informed** box on the right side of our home page. Thank you!

The Christian Fellowship Sunday School class has been meeting for 72 years. In that time, the class has been involved in many changes to the Church and our community.

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS IS SUNSETTING

In the early days, nearly all class members were World War II and Korean War Veterans. All felt they had won the freedom of so many nations, including our own. They returned to their lives as doctors, engineers, business owners, highly trained technicians, highly skilled tradesmen, rail road and airline employees, coaches, referees, chaperones, Scout leaders, and builders of ball fields and recreation centers.

While nearly all early class members were men, in October of 1947, a co-ed class was organized and named *Christian Fellowship*. Women quickly began to fill seats and take very active roles. So many church activities were done by women. They taught children's Sunday School classes, worked in the Nursery, made the Church connection to both the AGAPE House (a men's group home for recovering addicts) and Fountain City Ministry Center, as well as ran the Back Yard Mission, which was a food pantry held weekly from the back door of the Church kitchen.

As years passed, more veterans returned and as a result, the class grew rapidly. In a few short years, it grew into the largest Sunday School class, with over 120 members. In 1957-58, the class with several others, took the large leap of faith that demolished the little round red brick Sanctuary and constructed our much larger one. Many members wrote very big checks to allow the Church to expand its space

to include areas now used by "The Journey" and "Celebrate Recovery" and upgraded building systems and equipment.

Class members went on mission trips, hosted homeless families and the mission/choir youth groups of other churches, and they taught VBS and Children's Bible lessons. The class packed Operation Christmas Child boxes until 2015 and last year's Rise Against Hunger meal packing event saw them there, too. The class gave monthly to Fountain City Ministry Center, Emerald Youth Foundation and provided the Agape House with Thanksgiving turkeys. The class supported dozens of outreach and missions groups through prayes and gifts.

So, to younger church members, as the church's "Greatest Generation" lays down its earthly burdens, be grateful for your freedom, won at a great cost. Remember the old folks fondly. Please visit, send cards, be patient, hold the door open, and greet them warmly (but speak louder). This class made things better for so many who followed. Go and do likewise.



Members of Christian Fellowship
Sunday School Class

FATHER / DAUGHTER DANCE

IT'S TIME TO DANCE!! 17th Annual Father/Daughter Dance



The Fountain Kids ministry team is so excited to host the 17th annual Father/Daughter Dance! Young ladies of all ages and their fathers/father figures are invited to join us on Saturday, **February 8** from 5:30-8:00 pm in the Gym. Doors will open at 5:15 p.m. DJ Tara and Gigglebox will once again join us for this special father-daughter experience! Tickets are \$10 per father/father figure and \$5 per daughter. Please check out our website at fountaincityumc.org for registration instructions and a live link to register. This is one of the biggest fundraisers for our Fountain Kids ministry and everyone is invited so

share with your friends, your family, your neighbors, and your coworkers! Don't miss this special night of dancing and all the cookies you can eat! For more information, please contact Donna Lewis at donna.lewis@fountaincityumc.org.



(2019 Father/Daughter Dance)

KRISTEN'S CORNER

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



In the gospel of Matthew, following talk about taxes and the resurrection, somewhere between paying bills and eternal life, comes the greatest commandment. Jesus is asked a question in Matthew 22:36-40 New Internal Version. 36 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" 37 Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' [a] 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' [b] 40 All the laws and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

In our world of discontent, dislikes, destruction, and distraction I have halted on destruction of self. Do we not love our neighbors because we cannot love ourselves? "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." So is the question, how do you feel about yourself? Not in the worldly way that is covered in vanity, pride, and success. In the way that we acknowledge we are children of God.

- For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10
- For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession. Deuteronomy 7:6

When Matthew writes with the law in mind, verse 39, he could be referencing Leviticus 19:18. "Do not seek revenge or bear a grudge against anyone among your people, but love your neighbor as yourself. I am the LORD." I would encourage us to read Isaiah 40 this month and ponder the ways of the Lord. "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak." Love your neighbor as yourself! Do you not know that God loves you? Do you not know that God loves your neighbor? He has created both, he understands you and your neighbor. You are worthy and he will continue to guide and direct you. You are a child of God and greatly loved and strengthened by his love to love your neighbor. I wish they would make Valentine candies with "Jesus loves you...and your neighbor" on them.

FCUMC PRESCHOOL ACCREDITATION

Our FCUMC Preschool has achieved a new five-year term of accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, effective through April 1, 2025. Accredited programs are required to meet high standards in the areas of Relationships, Curriculum, Teaching, Assessment, Health, Teachers, Families, Community Relationships, Physical Environment and Leadership/Management. Our administration, teaching staff, and families of FCUMC Preschool are to be congratulated for being one of only three preschools in the Knoxville area to earn the mark of quality that NAEYC Accreditation represents. In addition, FCUMC Preschool has recently received the highest rating, 3 stars, from the Tennessee Star-Quality Program for child care centers. Congratulations!!

General Conference UMC 2020

Several days ago, there was a press release which has caused a bit of a stir regarding The United Methodist Church. Unfortunately, when the public media received the press release, the impression was that the Church was heading toward separation. While there is much yet to consider, as your pastors, we want you to know these three things:

- No one person speaks for The United Methodist Church. Only the General Conference can do that. General Conference convenes May 5-15, 2020, in Minneapolis, MN. Be prayerful.
- We are still Fountain City UMC. We are going to continue living into our mission of ***Making Disciples and Changing Lives***. That is who we are and what we will do. Period.
- Information is our friend, but be careful. Please stay aware through www.umnews.org. We are available if you would like to have a conversation. After all, we are your pastors. We are here.

Tom Ballard

Kristen Burkhart

ADULTS 50+ UPDATE

Valentine's Day Lunch

Come celebrate Valentine's Day with us! Please join us for our 50+ Valentine's Lunch at The Chop House in Fountain City on Friday, **February 14** at 11:30 am. We will enjoy fun, fellowship, friends and premier casual dining at its best!

The Chop House offers a superior dining experience with generous portions, fresh ingredients, and delicious food. Whether you want steak, seafood, colossal onions rings, soup or salad there is something for everyone. Lunch menu choices starting at \$8 or less. Make your reservations by going to our website and clicking on the ***Happening Now*** tab to find the link, or by calling the church office. We will meet at the restaurant where they will have the back area set up especially for us. Invite your friends to join us and newcomers are always welcome. Please RSVP by Tuesday, February 11 so we can save you a seat! Questions? Contact the church office at (865) 689-5175 or email 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, **February 20** from 1:00-3:00 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. No reservations and no experience needed! Just show up! If you enjoy good fellowship, fun and friends, we invite you to come join us!

Inskip Snacks

We are off to a roaring start for 2020 with a snack collection for Inskip Elementary School. Susan will be collecting snacks on February 14 at our Valentine's Day Lunch. Please bring individually packaged snacks in a bag to The Chop House. Remember **NO** peanuts! Thank you for helping us make these snacks available to the students who arrive late to school.

ABOUT THE COVER PHOTO:

The Lenten Rose symbolizes the newness of spring and rebirth. 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 FEBRUARY DATES

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

6:30 pm : Youth Super Bowl Party (Wesley Hall)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

5:30 pm : Father/Daughter Dance (Gym)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

4:00 pm : Missions Committee Meeting (Wesley Hall)

6:30 pm : Youth Group Resumes Meeting on Sundays

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

10:00 am : UMW Ruth Circle (Rooms 134-135)

1:00 pm : UMW Sarah Circle (Rooms 134-135)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

11:30 am : Adults 50+ Valentine's Day Lunch (Off-Site)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

11:30 am : High School Day - Meet near the buses for a trip to Tomato Head and Escape Game Knoxville

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

5:30 pm : Confirmation Shabbat Service (Sanctuary)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

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

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

6:45 pm : Ash Wednesday Service (Sanctuary)

SAVE THESE DATES:

March 27-29 Missions Celebration Weekend
June 22-25 Vacation Bible School

FOR MORE DETAILS

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

WWW.FOUNTAINCITYUMC.ORG

2019 - A Year in Review from the FCUMC Missions Committee

Our Church had another busy year in 2019 reaching out to help others in need. Check out the list of our efforts below:

- 8 UTK Wesley Foundation Meals prepared and served
- KARM meals served twice weekly during 9 months of 2019
- Missions Celebration Weekend including our Rise Against Hunger event where we packaged 40,176 meals for Madagascar
- Shop The World with 2 shopopportunities
- Crayons and Markers collected for the Fountain City Ministry Center
- We dispersed \$50,500 to 20+ partners through Faith Promise
- Trip to Sager Brown
- Fifty senior angels blessed at Beverly Park Place with Christmas gifts
- 103 sets of underwear collected for Lost Sheep
- Twelve Open Door Community Meals served for our Fountain City community
- Multiple project and donations made by Sunday School classes and individuals
- Conference Food Buckets were collected

Mission Celebration Weekend

Save the date! Our Missions Celebration Weekend dates are set for the weekend of **March 27-29**, with our Rise Against Hunger meal packing event on Saturday, **March 28**. Let's once again come together to support our missions! More details coming soon.



EMERGENCY ON CALL

Jan. 31-2: Tom Ballard
(423) 585-7054

Feb. 7-9: Kristen
Burkhart (865) 357-6354

Feb. 14-16: Tom Ballard
(423) 585-7054

Feb. 21- 23: Kristen
Burkhart (865) 357-6354

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

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Gail Clift
(865) 922-9408

INTERCESSIONARY PRAYER

Tim Brown
(865) 599-3429

Mary Bolton
(865) 250-3923

Tom Harrington
(865) 687-9460

IN MEMORY & IN HONOR

CHOIR FUND

In Memory of Bobbie Sterling Sharp by Judy Hodge
In Memory of Martha Kerley by Tim, Debbie, Lacey, & Lindsey Sharp
In Memory of Jack Sterling by the Staff of Dr Rob Sterling

MISSIONS

In Memory of Betty Harrington by Tom Harrington, and Polly Kelly

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Memory of Paul Tarver by Sherman & Elizabeth Morton, and Troy & June Lawson
In Memory of Ray Clabough by Open Door SS Class

FOUNTAIN CITY MINISTRY CENTER

In Honor of Janice Stevens by Judy Hodge
In Memory of Paul Tarver by Eleanor Thurman, and Tom Harrington
In Memory of Peter Love by Tom Harrington

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In Honor of Christian Homebuilders SS Class by Bill & Martha Routh
In Memory of Paul Tarver by Bill & Martha Routh

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of Bob Clark by Charlotte Watson
In Honor of Barbara Clark by Charlotte Watson

In Memory of her son by Velma Holloway
In Honor of Christian Fellowship SS Class by Whobodies SS Class
In Memory of Paul Tarver by Judy Hodge, Mark, Karmen & Tyler Sharpe, Billie & Fred Graves, Lili Holbert, Dolores Smith, Susan Burbank Spickard, Randy Spickard & Family, Jim & Eleanor Burbank, Clyde & Connie Holmes, Gordon & Nancy Ridenour, M.C. Letsinger, E.C. Carden, Conrad & Wanda Majors, and Bill & Mary Ann Hunley
In Memory of Charlotte West by Judy Hodge
In Memory of Joe Black III by Judy Hodge
In Honor of Rev Tom Ballard by Hap & Paula Minhinnett, and Mark Biagi
In Honor of LeRoy Hatcher by Hap & Paula Minhinnett
In Honor of UMW Ruth Circle by Hap & Paula Minhinnett
In Honor of Tom Harrington by Hap & Paula Minhinnett
In Honor of Emily Jones by Hap & Paula Minhinnett
In Memory of Betty Harrington by Boyce & Kay Corn, Jim & Carol Davis, Mary Scott, June Clanton, E.C. Carden, and Marshall & Lynn Crippen & Family
In Honor of Charles & Kathy Harrington by Tom Harrington
In Honor of Allan & Amy Bible by Tom Harrington
In Memory of Bobbie Sharp by Dolores Smith
In Memory of Jack Sterling by Dolores Smith, and John & Karen Needy
In Memory of Chloe & T.R. Harrington by Rick Harrington
In Honor of Tom & Rick Harrington by Carl & Suzanne Tolbert
In Memory of Nancy Cloud by Mark & Karen Cloud
In Memory of Lucy Grigsby by Mark & Karen Cloud

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Todd Graves, Facilities Staff