



THE SPIRIT

FOUNTAIN CITY UMC
JUNE 2021 NEWSLETTER



Rev. Don Hanshew, Projected Senior Pastor

I love being a United Methodist pastor and moving is part of what you sign up for. Moving BACK to a church you served could likely mean one of two things: 1-ministry was fruitful the last time around OR 2-you did such a bad job they are sending you back to fix your mistakes. Let's hope it is #1.

What I do know is that Tom Ballard and Kristen Burkhart are great people, strong leaders, and colleagues I admire. I appreciate the privilege of following them in ministry and count it a blessing to have an opportunity to serve at Fountain City one more time. I also want to say a HUGE thanks for the generosity and kindness of the gifted staff and dutiful Staff-Parish Relations Committee in how they have worked exceedingly hard to make sure Chase and I have what we need to start well. We have been prayed for, supported, and encouraged in so many ways. Thank you!

I never imagined I would be going back to a church that my family and I love so much. I am excited and hopeful for our future together. In particular, as we begin to exit the blanket of COVID restrictions, I feel we are entering one of the most opportune times for evangelism in my lifetime. There is a clear and renewed spiritual curiosity among those who have been outside of church life, and Fountain City/Halls is experiencing a significant boom of people moving to the area. As we begin to rally around a clear vision and unified mission, we can truly be part of transforming a generation of lives in the name of Jesus!

To be honest though, the hardest part of coming back will be discovering the loss of the many great saints of our church. There are more who have inherited the joy of heaven than I probably realize, and though I celebrate their reward I grieve our earthly loss. I seek your forgiveness in advance when I ask about your loved one and it reawakens your grief. Please allow me the privilege of grieving with you as you share your memories with me. It would do my heart good.

No transition is ever easy. Many of you have moved across states before, so you know the challenges we face as a family. As I write this article, Chase and I both have made multiple unsuccessful offers on houses in the last weeks, and Chase may have finally secured a winner this week! Regardless, we trust that the same God who called us into ministry will guide us into finding a place to call home. My backup plan is to spend some time in early July with my in-laws in Hardin Valley, then by mid-July move into the basement of the renowned Halls resident...can you guess...Jim and Judy Whedbee! He has a ping-pong table after all. That Whedbee family is just awesome!

May we all be unified in prayer as we seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit for decisions ahead.

With Much Joy and Anticipation, Don

PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, SERVICE, AND WITNESS

OUR GIFTS

WEEKLY OFFERING

Apr. 19-25	\$12,051.57
Apr. 26-May 2	\$24,148.00
May 3-9	\$29,509.00
May 10-16	\$20,382.00

FAITH PROMISE

Faith Promise Sunday will be June 27. Please mail your check to the church office or go to www.fountaincityumc.org and click on "GIVE NOW" on our homepage to make your commitment.

OUR SYMPATHIES

We extend our sympathy to Chris, John & Jeff Lemmons and family in the death of their mother, Lynn Lemmons, on April 30.

We extend our sympathy to Sherry Ball and family in the death of her mother, Opal Evans, on Tuesday, May 4.

FAREWELL TO PASTOR TOM AND PASTOR KRISTEN BY SPRC



Dear Pastor Tom and Pastor Kristen,
As members of SPRC we want to thank you for serving, loving, and caring for our congregation. You were able to do this during one of the most difficult times in the history of the church. You served during times of controversy and a divided church to a time of quarantine and looking for ways to keep us connected and able to worship. Somehow you were able to make it work in unique and creative ways.



As we emerge on the other side of the pandemic, we are stronger, determined, and still worshiping and serving each other, the community and our neighbors around the world. All of this under your guidance, care and VERY hard work. We cannot tell you enough how much we appreciate your service and know that we will continue to pray for you as you go forward to new adventures. God bless each of you and your families.

FAREWELL EVENT FOR PASTOR TOM AND PASTOR KRISTEN

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee invites you to celebrate Tom's and Kristen's ministry at Fountain City United Methodist Church on Sunday, June 6 with an opportunity to say farewell outside immediately following each worship service at 9:30-10:00am and 12:00-12:30pm.

OUR PRESENCE CELEBRATING WITH OUR FCUMC FAMILY

**Our extended church family continues to grow!
We invite you to rejoice in the following blessings
with us!**

Join us in celebrating the new membership of Elizabeth Greene, daughter of Sean and Melissa Greene. She was confirmed in Traditional Worship on May 2, 2021.

Join us in celebrating the marriage of Britt Warren and John Ewart on May 15.

Join us in celebrating the marriage of Marina Shipman and Clifford Scharlock, Jr. on May 16.

If you have a celebration to include, please email kathleen.bloom@fountaincityumc.org. Photos are always welcome!

EMERGENCY ON CALL

June 4-6: Kristen Burkhart (865) 357-6354

June 11-13: Tom Ballard (423) 585-7054

June 18-20: Kristen Burkhart (865) 357-6354

June 25-27: Tom Ballard (423) 585-7054

(Please call. Do not text.)

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Gail Clift (865) 922-9408

INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Tim Brown (865) 599-3429
Tom Harrington (865) 687-9460

This year's mission trip to Puerto Rico was up in the air for quite some time. Daniel Doubleday has been hard at work to make it happen and he is very happy that the trip has been finalized for June 26 - July 2.

PUERTO RICO MISSION TRIP

Individuals from FCUMC's Youth Group and chaperones will be serving in Carolina, Puerto Rico, which is in the San Juan area. They have partnered with Iglesia Bautista de Metropolis, which is the church they assisted two years ago working heavily on a building that was used for short term missions and for children's programs. Daniel Doubleday said, "we will spend some time working on that building again, in addition to working at a soup kitchen that feeds over 1,000 people each day. We will also help fix up a facility used to care for children with disabilities as it prepares to reopen."

Initially, Daniel wasn't planning a return trip until the summer of 2022 which would have given him time after the fundraising they had done for the last trip, allowing them to build up some more money before taking another trip. Then COVID hit. The pandemic came with a lot of difficulties, but it also offered a fairly unique opportunity - very cheap airline tickets! The costs associated with the trip would be substantially lower.



2019 Mission Trip To Puerto Rico

The finance committee agreed to allow Daniel to use some of his 2020 unspent budget to offset their inability to fundraise during COVID. Daniel and his wife, Faith traveled to Puerto Rico in February to learn the mission organization's COVID protocols, which they reported to the Safety and Security team. After developing a plan for the trip with safety measures in place, the Security Team gave their blessing. Unfortunately, Holston Conference rules at that time wouldn't allow for the trip so the uncertainty continued.



2019 Mission Trip To Puerto Rico

Through March and the beginning of April, it looked as if the trip would not happen but fortunately, by mid-April we learned that the conference COVID task force was turning decision-making processes back over to local churches. However, now they were against the clock as plane tickets to Puerto Rico for a large group were becoming harder to find. God always has a plan and by his will, they were able to purchase the tickets, and in just a few weeks, they will be on their way to Puerto Rico. The FCUMC Youth Group will serve once again with common goals and in unity in order to serve others while serving God.

ABOUT THE COVER PHOTO:

A beautiful view of Morris Lighthouse at Folly Beach, SC. If you'd like to see one of your photos grace the cover of a future *The Spirit* newsletter, please email Kathleen Bloom at kathleen.bloom@fountaincityumc.org



*Congratulations,
Class of 2021*

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Roland Belew
Joseph Coram
Avery Lockhart
Joe Meade
Josiah Mustaleski
Josie Wells

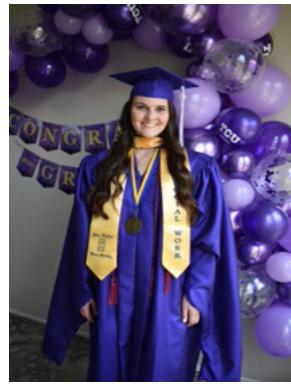
Ella Campbell
Katherine Dupree
Kate Lutrell
Nathan Moss
Brody Perry



Roland Belew graduated from Central High School and will attend TN College of Applied Technology.



Kate Lutrell graduated from Halls High School and will attend the University of Memphis to study Biology and anthropology.



Morgan Crawley graduated from Texas Christian University with a Masters Degree in Social Work.



Joe Meade graduated from Central High School and will attend PSCC and Brett Carroll Athletics in the fall.



Devan Spencer graduated from ETSU with a degree in Psychology with a minor in Criminal Justice.



Kate Smith graduated from Carnegie Mellon with a Masters in Music - Voice.

COLLEGIATE UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES

Brian Hardin
Rachel Shipman

Katie Meade
Devan Spencer

COLLEGIATE MASTERS DEGREES

Susannah Clabough
Morgan Crawley
Kate Smith



Katie Meade graduated from Carson Newman with a degree in Business Administration and Sports Management. She will pursue her MBA at Carson Newman.



Brian Hardin graduated from Middle Tennessee State University with a BBA in Business Information Analytics. He hopes to move to Charlotte, NC to work in the IT field.



Rachel Shipman graduated from UTK with a Bachelor of Science in Social Work with a minor Child and Family Studies.



Susannah Clabough graduated from Lee University with a Masters in Music. She will attend the University of Memphis this fall to pursue her Doctor of Musical Arts degree.



Joseph Coram graduated from Halls High School and plans to attend UTK as a theater major.

FOUNTAIN KIDS

JUNE 2021 BIBLE EXPERIENCE



When it comes to confidence, we might try to base it on what we do well or what a teacher or parent says about us. But true confidence should be built on something that lasts forever. We think that's found in understanding how God sees us. God created us and loves us. Nowhere is this more evident than in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. When you put your confidence in Jesus, you can truly see yourself as God sees you.

JUNE WEEK 1

We kick off the month with the most famous verse ever: John 3:16. *God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son. Anyone who believes in him will not die but will have eternal* (NIV). John is quick to remind us that our life is best when built on God's love for us through Jesus. Our confidence comes from Him.

JUNE WEEK 2

In week two, we head to Joshua 5:13-6:20. God recently chose Joshua as the next leader of the Israelites. Joshua's first task was a doozy. He was leading God's people into the promise land, including taking the giant city of Jericho. God's plan might have seemed a bit crazy, but Joshua had confidence that God's plan would work. He led the people, and God came through for them.

JUNE WEEK 3

In Judges 6-8, we discover more about when God called Gideon to lead the Israelites. Gideon doubted God would want him to help. After all, Gideon was from the smallest tribe, the smallest family, and he was the smallest of his family. God wanted him anyway. Eventually, Gideon learned that God could use him no matter what.

JUNE WEEK 4

We finish up the month in 1 Kings 18. Elijah showed confidence God could do the impossible. When Elijah challenged the prophets of Baal, he believed God would come through for him and send fire from heaven. So much so that he doubled-down on the challenge. God showed up and proved His power over the impossible. Bottom Line: God can do the impossible. This line is packed with amazing truth. God has the power to do anything! When we believe that, it can change everything. We hope kids discover how they can live with confidence knowing this truth about God.



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: PUT FAITH ON THE MAP

Embark on an epic quest through hidden ruins, ancient caves, and dense jungles. At Treasured VBS, kids dig into action-packed, faith-filled adventures. They'll discover God's greatest treasure isn't diamonds, gems, or gold. It's them! We are adding music, wild games like a monster truck bounce house, obstacle course, Ponderosa petting zoo, and special emphasis nights. We will also have a Thursday night food collection for Fountain City Ministry Center.

Monday, June 14: God knows you.

"O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me." Psalm 139:1

God identifies David as the future king.

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Tuesday, June 15: God hears you.

"I love the Lord because he hears my voice and my prayer for mercy." Psalm 116:1

David escapes Saul and writes psalms to God.

1 Samuel 23:1-14; Psalm 86

Wednesday, June 16: God comforts you.

"He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others." 2 Corinthians 1:4

God reassures King Hezekiah. 2 Kings 18:5-19:34

Thursday, June 17: God forgives you.

Family Night Celebration

"But you are a God of forgiveness, gracious and merciful, slow to become angry, and rich in unfailing love." Nehemiah 9:17

Jesus reinstates Peter. John 18:1-21:19



Rev. Chase Crickenberger, Projected Associate Pastor

Sisters and brothers in our Lord Jesus the Christ,
For Maddie and me this last year has been a mix of the highest of highs and the lowest of lows. Might I be given the opportunity to paraphrase Charles Dickens' A Tale of Two Cities at the risk of being cliched, "it has been the best of times and it has been the worst of times." It was our spring of hope and our winter of despair. During and immediately preceding the pandemic, we welcomed two new fur-children into our home, saw the birth and baptism of our youngest niece, and on July 3rd, 2020 were married despite the difficulties of planning and executing a COVID wedding. However, we also experienced, like I'm sure many of you have, a great deal of loss. Both Maddie and I lost a grandfather, mine only two and a half weeks after our wedding and her's in October. In April we said goodbye to Maddie's Aunt Shelley, after a long and difficult fight with cirrhosis. To say that this last year has been an unimaginable mix of emotion would be an understatement.

So many pastors and laity have compared the pandemic to the long and arduous journey of the Hebrews through the desert. This time has been especially difficult for those of us who are clergy as we have been asked to lead through unprecedeted times we were neither prepared nor trained for. I am so grateful for the Moses-like leadership of Tom and Kristen who have given their all in this past year to make sure that Fountain City not only survives but thrives in the midst of this horrible year. As if their tremendous leadership was not enough -- although, it certainly was -- Tom and Kristen have been so generous with their time in ensuring that the pastoral leadership transition goes smoothly. Not only that, they have been so tremendously supportive of me and Don and lifted up their excitement for our leadership of FCUMC.

As Maddie and I prepare for our big move from Atlanta to Knoxville and the CDC continues to lift its mask requirements and restrictions, we can't help but feel we might finally be seeing the proverbial light at the end of the tunnel. Maddie awaits a new job opportunity as a teacher at Farragut High School, I as your Associate Pastor. Just this morning, Maddie and I accepted a generous counter offer on what will be the first home we will have ever owned. However, it is not just Maddie and me who are starting a new journey. Much like the end of the Book of Exodus, we, the entire church and the broader society, stand at the precipice of the promised land we have so longed for, normalcy. As this book comes to a close, though, a new one is opening, not only for the world but also for Fountain City. The amazing part of this new journey together is that all of us, laity, clergy, and staff alike, are going to have a hand in writing this new narrative together with renewed spirits and a renewed appreciation for the little details of everyday life without masks, social distancing, and the constant threat of sickness and death.

Don, myself, and our families have already been blessed by the spirits of this loving and generous congregation. You all have done everything in your power to make sure that we transition well and in comfort. That is truly a blessing on our lives which I cannot express appreciation for in words. What a blessing this transition has been to us. However, it is my hope that we might bring blessing unto you all as well. That is not to say that we offer anything you do not already have, but instead that we might add to the energy, compassion, and grace of this community that makes it so special.

I don't know about y'all, but I am so excited for the future God has in store for us and in store for the narrative we will build together not only in the church but also in Fountain City and Knoxville more broadly. With faith in knowing that the Holy Spirit is working through and in this congregation of Christ-followers, I know that whatever lies in front of FCUMC in this post-COVID reality is going to change our communities and our world. Thank you for letting me and Don be a part of that change alongside of you and I can't wait to join you in person.

In the grace, love, and kindness of the Triune God,
Chase Crickenberger

IN MEMORY & IN HONOR

GENERAL FUND

In Memory of R.C. Condon by Bob & Lyling Spoone, and Mary Emma Scott
In Memory of Ray Bellgrau by Mary Emma Scott
In Memory of Opal Evans by Pairs & Spares SS Class, and Patti Jelinski

FAITH PROMISE

In Memory of R.C. Condon by Tom Harrington
In Honor of Tom & Jonna Ballard by Whobodies SS Class

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In Memory of R.C. Condon by Ralph & Ruth Latham

FOUNTAIN CITY MINISTRY CENTER

In Memory of Carl Parrott by Gary & Martha Masterson
In Memory of Ray Bellgrau by Rudy & Carol McBee

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Memory of R.C. Condon by Troy & June Lawson

CELEBRATE RECOVERY

In Memory of R.C. Condon by Pairs & Spares SS Class, Ken & Sandy Failing, Bill & Betty Addonizio, James & Karmen Gastellum, Polly Kelly, Bill & Martha Routh, Jason & Rachel Buck, and Rudy & Carol McBee

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Todd Graves, Facilities Staff