



# THE FLAME

2025 August Issue

## From the Pastor's Study...

"Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to God, just as he had done before." -Daniel 6:10

August is upon us, and I must admit that I am excited about it. Personally, I am excited because we have celebrated several milestones in our family over the course of the last several weeks. Our oldest daughter Sydney has stepped into the new world of being a 3rd grader and will be an 8 year old this month. Molly is growing up faster and faster, and just started doing gymnastics with her sister! I celebrated my 39th year around the sun, and Julie and I had our 13 year anniversary. The months of July/August have naturally become a festive and celebratory time for our family and a season of milestones.

I know that many of us "celebrate" during this time of year because August marks the beginning of something new. Educators, students and parents often use August to mark a rite of passage to the next school grade, or the next group of students. Some among us may be starting a new job or career or beginning University classes. Some of us may even recognize that August kicks off the downhill slide to the festive season of fall.

Just as August often provides milestones to recognize, it also inevitably provides the opportunity to fully get back in the swing of things after summer. This means fulfilling responsibilities for loved ones and friends, like doctors' visits, attending games, running errands, and getting folks to and from school, or practices. No matter your age, August promises to have a more complex schedule with more responsibility. It is a fun but equally busy time.

As we shift into a busier season I want to invite all of you to strive to carve away some time for something simple. I want to invite you to try to talk with God everyday. An ancient Old Testament prayer practice that Jesus would have participated in was to pray three times a day: Morning, Noon and Evening. As the authors of Common Prayer: A Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals say, "*The daily cycle of prayer-morning, midday and evening-is like a heartbeat for the global church, passing from one time zone to the next each day, so that we as a people can, as the apostle Paul taught us, pray without ceasing.*"

As we move into August with all its natural complexities and milestones, I want to invite you to give yourself the gift of striving to pray as Daniel does. I want to invite you to check in with God three times a day. This could mean praying for others, praying through the Psalms, offering the Lord's Prayer, doing an Upper Room Devotional, or even using a breviary. (A breviary is a book for guided prayer. Some great ones that I have used in the past are: *Guide to Prayer* by Upper Room Books, *The Divine Hours* by Phyllis Tickle, *The Book of Common Prayer*, *Common Prayer for Ordinary Radicals* and *Christian Prayer: The Liturgy of the Hours*.)

May we allow daily prayer to simply nourish our hearts, minds, and bodies even as things promise to get busier as fall approaches. I hope that you will find ways to cultivate this simple practice in your own devotional life this month.

See you around the Church!

Chris

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST

**Church:** 143 College Street

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Madisonville, TN 37354

**Call:** 423-442-2471

**www.1umc.com**



### Fellowship Time

Sundays

10:00AM

Gathering Area

### Worship Service

Sundays

10:30AM

Sanctuary

### Midweek Communion

Wednesdays

12:00PM

Sanctuary

### Wednesday nights

Choir Rehearsal

6:00PM

Sanctuary

### United Methodist Youth

6:00PM

Youth Room

### Ignite Children's Ministry

6:00PM

Ignite Classroom

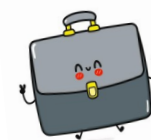
## WHAT'S NEW?



### Blessing of the Backpacks on August 3rd!

Every year on the first Sunday in August, we ask our children and youth as well as our teachers and educators to bring your school backpacks/work bags to church with you for a special blessing as we all look forward to returning to school! The Blessing of the Backpacks has become a wonderful tradition at our church as we seek to remind our students and teachers that God is with them wherever they go and that everything inside their backpacks can be a means to serve and bless our neighbors.

We hope you can join us!



### New Pastor's Bible Study Beginning in August!

Rev. Chris Black will once again host a home style Bible Study beginning on Wednesday, August 6th at 7:00PM in the fellowship hall. For this coming fall Chris will do a deep dive into Paul's two letters to the Corinthian Church. It doesn't matter if you're new to the Christian faith, or have studied the Bible for years you are welcome to be part of this unique study of 1st and 2nd Corinthians. If you have questions about the upcoming class please email Pastor Chris at [cblack@firstumcmadisonville.org](mailto:cblack@firstumcmadisonville.org).



### The IGNITE Children's Ministry returns for a 4th year in a row!

We are excited that our IGNITE program for K-5th grade will resume meeting on Wednesday, August 13th from 6:00-7:30PM. Each Wednesday all children ages 5-12 are invited for a free meal, lesson, music, crafts, fun games and more! The fun begins with dinner in the fellowship hall at 6:00PM then activities move to our classrooms & library on the upper level of the church until 7:30PM. If you are interested in volunteering to help with food, teaching, crafts or other activities with our kids contact Carol or Jennifer McKenzie.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS—If you are interested in bringing your child to IGNITE there is a registration process required by our Safe Sanctuaries Policy. You may register your child online at <https://youth.1umcm.com>.



### August Sermon Series From Madisonville to Thessaloniki

During the month of August, Pastor Chris will offer a new 5 week sermon series on Paul's two letters to the Thessalonian church. This series will take a look at how we can bridge who we are as disciples of Christ in modern day Madisonville with what Paul was trying to teach the ancient church at Thessaloniki. Chris will discuss many themes that you can apply to your faith life today. Please make plans to join us in worship for all five weeks of this unique series!



### Our Church Prayers...

- Dr. Dennis Trammel
- Conley Family
- Liszeski Family
- Reedy Family
- Maiuri Family
- Venable/Collett Family
- Grover/Rutzen Family
- Barger Family
- Isbill Family
- West Family
- Ahart Family
- Hibbert/Caroine Family
- Hunt Family
- Wengert Family
- Peery Family
- Strickland Family
- Kefauver Family
- Stuckey/Huff Family
- Larson Family
- Ruppel Family
- Jennifer Waller and Family
- Harrell Family
- Nelson/Stratton Family



### Mark your calendars for Family Night Supper!

On Wednesday, August 27th at 6:00PM we will be having our August family night supper in the fellowship hall and we want to invite you to bring your favorite summer dish! This could be casseroles, deviled eggs, vegetables, fruit, bread, meatloaf, chicken, etc. Every time we have a family night supper it is a wonderful time to fellowship and break bread together! Please join us!

## CONTACT US...

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We support our Church by...

Our Gifts:

- Being a volunteer during our amazing Vacation Bible School!!
- Providing dinners for our Ignite and Youth Groups.

Our Presence:

- In church average for July-102
- Joining in Fellowship with our Youth on Wednesday nights.

Coffee Bar

August 3rd  
Glenda Parker

August 10th  
Janet Tweed

August 17th  
Glenda Parker

August 24th  
Open

August 31st  
Open

Flowers

August 3rd  
Communion Sunday

August 10th  
In Memory of Judy  
Christoper by Bruce

August 17th  
In Honor of Margaret and  
Chad Chester's 49th  
Wedding Anniversary

August 24th  
Donated by Susan Pulliam

August 31st  
Open

Some Thoughts on Giving from Marlee Tierce

The tithe is the Lord's way of asking us to show our love. Giving God a percentage of our earnings shows that we put our love for Him before our need for money. Costs have gone up. Living in 2025 takes money. Budgeting our finances helps keep us on track and shows us where the money is going.

Where is the church in your budget? Do you decide what to give to the church based on the cost of groceries that week? Do you decide what to give to the church when the offering plate is passed?  
Or do you give to the church prayerfully as support for the Lord's work?

Supporting a fruitful church takes money.

On the back of each week's bulletin is a financial highlight that shows:

- **General Giving** is the total each Sunday of what was donated to the general fund. As Regina Warfel explained in last month's newsletter, this money goes to pay bills such as utilities, printing, office supplies, subscriptions (i.e. Upper Room), salaries and church upkeep.
- **Designated Giving** donations go to a specific budget item such as Community Café, Community Assistance, Youth, Music ministries, Budget Reserve, etc. It can only be used for the designated budget line. If a donation is not designated, it is used to pay the general bills of the church and to pay the 10% tithe to the Holston Conference.
- **Needed Monthly** shows how much is required to pay for the bills. That means that if we meet that total in our donations, we can meet all of the church's known financial obligations.
- **Total Giving for the month** shows us the amount that has been donated toward covering all of the necessary obligations and allows us to see if we have enough to pay the bills that month

The folks who report on our giving and guide our budget decisions are the Finance Committee.

{This group is composed of chair people from Trustees, Lay Representative, Lay Representative to the Annual Conference, Staff Parish Relations, and Church Council, those elected for a 1 year at-large term, the Church Treasurer, the Finance Committee Chair, the Finance Committee Secretary/Treasurer and the Pastor. The Finance Committee meets the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00PM opening with prayer before the business. This is not a closed meeting, anyone is welcome to attend or ask questions.}

In a quote from pastor/author Dr. R. B. Ouelette, "To not tithe and then ask God to bless your finances is like stealing from your boss and asking for a raise."

The Lord works miracles. He uses our gifts to multiply what he can do to change lives, to provide peace and comfort, to give people fellowship with each other, to add to our numbers and to allow our church to flourish with His love.

What miracles would you like to see in the growth of our church? What services, what missions, who could we reach that we have only dreamed possible. Dare to dream and participate with your prayers, your presence, your witness, your gifts and your service and watch what the Lord can do.

Prayerfully give to the General Fund to provide the necessary amount needed to pay the bills and have enough for fulfilling dreams. Ask a Trustee or a Finance Committee member about projects that need funding. Let someone know about a vision for the church you would like to see us reach.

Earn all you can, save all you can, and give all you can are the three basic points of John Wesley's famous sermon entitled, "The Use of Money." Wesley made note in 1789 that "If Methodists would give all they can, then all would have enough."

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

A Big Thank You!!!

Our 2025 **Road Trip!** Vacation Bible School was a tremendous success! A huge thank you to all our volunteers who helped set up, tear down, teach, cook, lead games, run registration, shepherd children, make crafts, teach, host/MC and run our technology in the sanctuary. Also, a big thank you to a few of our Presbyterian friends who helped us as well. A wonderful time was had by all and many of our children, youth and adults learned a little more about God, that his presence is everywhere and how to have a deeper relationship with him. We are already looking forward to our Vacation Bible School next year!



Sue's August News

AUGUST 2025!! CAN YOU BELIEVE IT? Where did July 2025 go? It is a blur. Now we are ready to get back into a more normal rhythm (if there is such a thing). On August the 3rd we will bless backpacks during morning worship and it is off to the races! Adult bible studies will continue and new ones will begin. IGNITE for grades K-5 will begin on the 13th. Our youth will jump into another fall session and I am sure they will soon begin preparations to attend Resurrection 2026 in January. We have already picked out our chancel choir Christmas cantata it is ordered. We have dates set for our Wednesday night Family suppers for the rest of the year (the first being on August 27th at 6PM). The new handbell choir is up and running and has already begun to make beautiful music. Our Sunday morning worship attendance is growing. We are on the move going into August!

I want to take just a moment to say a few things about our just completed Bible School **Road Trip** and to thank all who assisted or participated in any way during the week. Bible School 2025 was fantastic! We had over 30 children and youth who participated. Most evenings we had over 40 adults who helped in many ways or who attended Chris' adult class. We had fun and great meals and we learned many things about road trips in the Bible. Our Presbyterian partners were a big help. It was a great week and we have already received information about possible themes for Bible School 2026.

August is going to be busy! Be prepared to get involved!

~Sue

To Do List

- 1 So
- 2 Many
- 3 Things