



The Flame Newsletter

2025 November Issue

From the Pastor's Study...

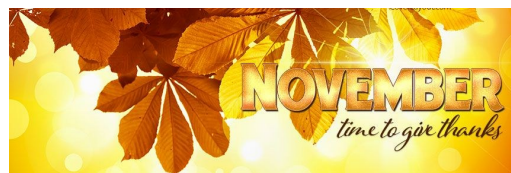
"As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving." Colossians 2: 6-7

November is here and it feels like it has come very quickly this year! October was such a fun time for worship, study, and fellowship that has flown by. As we approach a new month I was reminded of a sermon I offered for us during my first few weeks here. I discussed a passage from the Book of Acts chapter 2, where it talks about what life was like for the early Christians, and how they went about practicing their faith as a young church. There were four "focuses" that I lifted from our Acts passage that I said could be restorative for us this year as a community of faith. The early disciples focused on:

1. Holding fast to the Apostles teaching
2. Being in fellowship together
3. Breaking bread together (by sharing a meal or communion)
4. Being devoted to prayer

At the close of that sermon I invited all of us to embrace a "simple path," during our years together in ministry, and to make these four things priorities for our ministry. I said, "If we could just focus on studying scripture together, being together in fellowship, eating together, and praying for one another it could change the trajectory of who our church is, and what it could be in the future."

The month of November is traditionally a season when we are encouraged to give thanks, and to gather with family and friends to share, eat, and visit. I hope you will take advantage of the opportunities here at the church to be in worship, to pray for one another, to study, and to be in fellowship together as believers. November is a time in the church year that often previews the deeply rich season of preparation called Advent. This year, Advent will begin on Sunday, November 30th. My hope as your Pastor is that the month of November, and the season of Advent, will be a time for us to continue to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ together via the simple path offered above. If we can do this intentionally enough, our experience might just mirror what happened to the early church. Remember that passage in Acts ends by saying, *"Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved."* I pray that our discipleship as a church would lead others to salvation in Christ, and to help them know what it means to have a church community to call home.



Lots of Hope!

Chris

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Church: 143 College Street

Mail: PO Box 157

Madisonville, TN 37354

423-442-2471

www.1umcm.com



Adult Sunday School

Sundays

9:30AM

Library

Fellowship Time

Sundays

10:00AM

Gathering Area

Worship Service

Sundays

10:30AM

Sanctuary

Wednesday Nights

Choir Rehearsal

6:00PM

Sanctuary

United Methodist Youth

6:00PM

Youth Room

Ignite Children's Ministry

6:00PM

Ignite Classrooms

Advent is coming!

The season of Advent begins on Sunday, November 30th this year. Followers of Jesus often use the days leading up to Christmas to celebrate and prepare for the coming of Christ. Our congregation will mark the 4 weeks in Advent leading up to the Christmas season in some very rich, unique, and fun ways both on Sundays and throughout the week. Please be on the lookout for all the ways we will be preparing as a community to celebrate the birth of our Savior. The last Sunday of the liturgical year will be *"Reign of Christ"* Sunday on November 23rd.



Let's Eat Together!

On Wednesday evening, November 19th we will be having a covered dish dinner at 6:00PM to celebrate Thanksgiving. This will be a time to gather as a church family, share a meal, and be in fellowship with one another. Bring a dish or two of food to share. We will cook a couple of turkey's at the church and Pastor Chris may be bringing a ham or smoking a turkey to share. This dinner should be a wonderful time to be together and offer thanksgiving as a community. Choir practice will be at 7:20PM this evening.

Sunday November 2nd is All Saints Day

Each year on the first Sunday in November, churches around the world name those faithfully departed members who have passed away within the past year. During worship on November 2nd we will be honoring the saints of our church, along with the loved ones in our church family who have passed away. We encourage you to take a moment, read over our list of members who have passed away since we last observed an All Saints Day, and offer a prayer of thanksgiving for their lives.



Mary Margaret Mason

Larry Davis

Wayne Peery

Jennifer Waller

Pastor's Bible Study Continues in November

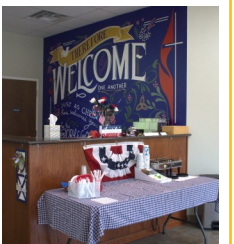
Throughout fall, Pastor Chris will continue to host a home style Bible Study on Wednesdays at 7:00PM in the Fellowship Hall. Chris is doing a deep dive into Paul's two letters to the Corinthian Church. It doesn't matter if you're new to the Christian faith or have studied the Bible for years, you are welcome to be part of this unique study of 1st and 2nd Corinthians. If you have questions about attending this class please email Pastor Chris at cblack@firstumcmadisonville.org.

Celebrating Sue's 50th Anniversary!

You are cordially invited to First Methodist Church of Madisonville at 2PM-3PM on Sunday, November 16, 2025. That Sunday, it will be 50 years to the day that Sue Hamilton began as Adult Choir Director of First UMC. We, the congregation, Sue's family, friends, and co-workers plan to gather for this brief afternoon ceremony in the sanctuary of the First UMC Church. A light reception in the gathering area will follow the half-hour service.

Coffee Bar Volunteers Needed!

Do you love hosting? If so, sign-up to be a volunteer host for our Sunday Coffee Bar. You only need to provide the food, hosting and clean-up. All paper products, decorations and drinks are provided by the church. Hosting is a great fellowship opportunity. If this sounds like something you are interested in, contact Janet Tweed.



Smoky Mountain District Day with Bishop

On Tuesday, November 18th Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett will spend the day in the Smoky Mountain District spending time with Laity, Clergy and other leaders in the district. In the evening at 6PM she will be at Seymour UMC, 107 Simmons Road, Seymour, TN to meet with laity and clergy to do some deep listening. She has asked all participants to come prepared to share answers to these questions:

1. In the past year, where have you seen hopeful signs of God's presence in your local church-through worship, ministries, relationships or outreach?
2. Looking at your wider community; what is one unmet need or opportunity where you believe the church could be a witness for Christ's love in a fresh or deeper way?
3. How can conference leadership walk alongside of you-resourcing, encouraging and supporting your congregation-as you live into God's mission in your setting?

She will share information and dialogue at that time. We would encourage you to go and to hear from our Bishop directly. It should be a good conversation. If you have any questions feel free to reach out to Pastor Chris cblack@firstumcmadisonville.org

CONTACT US...

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First Steps Coordinator

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We support our Church by...

Our Gifts:

- Donating your time to our fun events like Trunk or Treat!
- Helping set up the *All Saints* Altar table.

Our Presence:

- In church average for **October: 86**
- Joining in fellowship at our Family Night Suppers.

Coffee Bar

November 2
Kris Browder

November 9
Janet Tweed

November 16
Open

November 23
Open

November 30
Open

Flowers

November 2
Communion

November 9
Flowers by Frank & Carol
McKenzie in memory of
our parents

November 16
Tara & Robert Stewart

November 23
Margaret & Chad Chester

November 30
Advent

Our Church Prayers...

- Tate Sherrer and Family
- Maiuri Family
- Joshua Stuckey and Family
- Jim Richardson
- Conley Family
- Connie Caroine
- Joe Grubb and Family
- Kefauver Family
- Nelson/Stratton Family
- Quinn Strickland and Family
- Humphrey Family
- Venable/Gay Family
- Parker Family
- Peery Family
- Moore/Harrell Family



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

If you look through our history collection just off from our gathering area you will see many pictorial directories from years past. Some are from the 80's, some from the 90's and the early 2000's...and some are from just after the 2007 fire, with the most recent example being from last year. In just about every directory you will see our choir director, Sue Hamilton, pictured next to her longtime partners in ministry Mary Alice Huff and Bev Taylor. Bev has been the choir accompanist/pianist for many decades, and Mary Alice Huff has been our organist for almost as long. Both of these amazing servants of the church have done this essential work voluntarily since they began. They have committed countless hours to performing, practicing, rehearsing, and guiding worship here at First UMC of Madisonville. Over time our church's worship has been cultivated to be rich and meaningful because of their efforts. Their playing and leadership help us to honor God through song, contemplation, and praise. I hope you will find a way to intentionally thank both Bev and Mary Alice for their continued great work among us as worship leaders.



Thank you!!

Sue's November News



Can you believe how fast October flew by? I am writing this article on the day before Halloween. We had our Trunk or Treat this past Sunday night. Even though it was chilly and a little rainy, we had a great evening and a good crowd. We want to thank everyone who decorated vehicles, provided candy, helped with cooking and crafts or contributed in any other way. This event is a great way to have community folks visit our campus and see what a great church we are. Thanks again for a great evening.

The November project for our United Women in Faith is collecting food for our blessing box. They have a collection place in our Mission Alley. We expect that November will be a time when we see many people visiting our blessing box. If you can pick up a few extra items when you shop, I know the UWF will appreciate you supporting their November project. Our Madisonville Kiwanis Club is doing Thanksgiving baskets for needy families and will be passing out these baskets in our upper parking lot on the morning of Saturday, November 22nd. It takes the whole community working together to meet the needs of the community.

One of my favorite services, HANGING OF THE GREENS, will take place on the first Sunday of Advent, November 30th at 6:00PM. We will finish decorating the sanctuary for Christmas season while explaining the theological meaning behind the decorations. This service blends readings, music and the symbolic placement of decorations. After the service we will fellowship together in the gathering area as we enjoy everyone's favorite Christmas foods and treats.

November is going to be a very special month at First UMC Madisonville.

~Sue



A huge Thank You to all who helped make our Trunk or Treat a huge success! Check out some fun pictures from the event...

