



The Flame

2025 October Issue

From the Pastor's Study...

"The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever..." -Isaiah 40:8

"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" -Isaiah 43:19

The season of fall is upon us, and I couldn't be more excited! There are so many unique "flavors" to this season of the year and I don't just mean all the pumpkin spice that is sure to be everywhere. Along with the flavors that stand out there are also many feelings that go with it too. The weather is getting cooler, days are shorter, our students, parents and teachers have gotten settled into new routines and fall sports are underway. I love this time of year for many reasons, but mainly because I have so many wonderful memories of being with friends around a fire, cooking out, eating S'mores or having chili with cornbread. October can be such a fun and festive month of the year.

I could not be happier about having the opportunity to experience my fifth fall season with you as your pastor this year. I am definitely looking forward to having some fun, fellowship and great worship with you this month.

Along with the fun, I also hope the month of October can be spiritually formative for each of you in some new way. Perhaps you can pick up a new practice to deepen your relationship with scripture through classes we are offering. You could also find some new way to be in mission or fellowship with other members (or visitors) of our church. Perhaps you could do something you haven't done before with the church, like help with our Trunk or Treat event on October 26th. It could also be a good time to think about worshiping with us more frequently or even in new ways.

I hope you will be on the lookout for ways that God is moving anew through us as a church and through you individually. October has always been a month of change and transition as summer becomes fall. My prayer for each of you is that you would pay attention to how God may be moving in (and through) you in brand new ways to deepen your own relationship with Christ and to strengthen your witness as his disciples. May we as a church family welcome October as a new season of ministry and worship together.

Lot's of Hope!

Chris

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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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 Classrooms

1st UMC Trunk or Treat Event!

On Sunday, October 26th, First United Methodist of Madisonville will be hosting our annual Trunk or Treat event in our upper parking area. This event will be happening at the same time as several other church events across Madisonville. We are planning on having games, a bonfire for s'mores, children's crafts and plenty of vehicle trunks open with goodies. We will also have hot dogs grilled by our own Pastor Chris.

It will be a fun event for all who participate.

Our Trunk or Treat will begin at 5:00PM, with the grill turning on at 4:30PM and things will wrap up at about 7:00PM. To make this event fun, we will need lots of cars (or SUVs, trucks, motorcycles, tractors, etc.), candy and folks to give out candy.

We are already beginning to give out parking spots for this event so if you are interested in providing a trunk to give out candy please sign up on the orange sheet in the Gathering Area. We are so excited about this event and how we will welcome the community to our church family!

Also...We Need Candy! If you are not planning to attend our Trunk or Treat you can still participate by donating some individually wrapped candy for folks to hand out. There is a tote in the Gathering Area for your donations or you can drop off in the Church Office during normal business hours, Monday-Thursday, 9AM-2PM.



United Women in Faith

All women are invited to attend a lunch meeting in the Fellowship Hall on October 19th at 11:45AM. Our October mission project is to collect items to make 20 small feminine hygiene kits for the Blessing Box. These items can be expensive for families on a tight budget and are greatly appreciated. *Items needed are: 1 gallon zip-lock bags, 2oz bottles of hand sanitizer, 3oz bars of soap, combs, hair ties and small packets of tissues.* Sanitary products will be provided by the UWF. Thank you for supporting our projects.

Come Join our Choir!

Our Choir ministry meets weekly on Wednesdays at 6PM in the Sanctuary. This group enjoys plenty of fellowship and fun each week as they learn new music to help lead our Sunday worship services. Even if you have never sung before you are welcomed to participate. Joining a choir group is a great way to build relationships with others and to learn a new skill that can glorify God. If you have questions or wish to join please contact Sue, sue@firstumcmadisonville.org.



Pastor's Bible Study Continues in October

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.

Interested in Teaching?

Over the course of the last several years we have had several seasonal classes led by Rev. Chris Black and others. This church has a strong history of making disciples through the fellowship, learning and teaching that happens in a small group ministry setting. If you would be interested in starting a class, teaching a class or helping to coordinate a re-launch of an older discipleship ministry then please schedule a time to talk with Pastor Chris. You can text, call or email him to set up a time to talk.

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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Pastor

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We support our Church by...

Our Gifts:

- Decorating a trunk for our Trunk or Treat event.
- Supporting our community through our many missions.

Our Presence:

- In church average for **September: 86**
- Hosting community events at FUMC that bring many groups together.

Coffee Bar

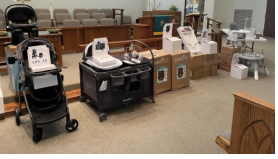
- October 5**
Open
- October 12**
Janet Tweed
- October 19**
Open
- October 26**
Open

Flowers

- October 5**
In honor of Greg & Nikki Rutzen's 23rd anniversary
- October 12**
Communion Sunday
- October 19**
In memory of Ted Hall and Janice Dopkins by Reba and Duane Dopkins
- October 26**
In memory of Fred & Joyce Hamilton by Gary and Sue Hamilton

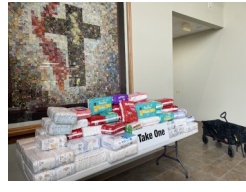
Blessings Abound!!!

We celebrate all the blessings from hosting Monroe County Health Department's Community Wide Baby shower in our church. There were over



300 guests here!

A special thanks to all of you who contributed



diapers to add to our diaper pyramid!
So many families and children benefited from this!
Thank you!

Have you visited our church library?

Our church devotional library is a space in our church that is set aside where you can grow in your relationship with God through study, prayer and discussion with others. There are many theological and devotional resources in our stacks from several different generations and we will be adding more commentaries and study resources for the congregation's use in the future. We hope you will drop by and use our library as a quiet space to read, pray, reflect and even research about our unique Christian faith and its scriptures.



Our Church Prayers...

- Mary Alice Huff and family
- Fran (Trotter) Goddard and family
- Tate Sherrer and Family
- Carolyn Peters and Family
- Maiuri Family
- Joshua Stuckey and Family
- Rustie Stuke and Jim Richardson
- Anna Paquette and Family
- Mark Fagg and Family
- Chuck & Kathy Isbill and Family
- Connie Caroine
- Jimmy Liszeski
- Robbins/Tweed Family
- Joe Grubb and Family
- Kefauver Family
- Family of Jennifer Waller
- Nelson and Stratton Family



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

For the month of October we want to highlight our own Regina Warfel who has been serving as our volunteer treasurer for the last couple of years. This is a **big** job and

requires time at the church each week, record keeping, report creation and participating in Finance Committee meetings. Regina is also a member of the Church Council, a Trustee, a participant in our United Women of Faith (UWF) group and often volunteers to help prepare and cook meals at the church. In the past Regina has helped teach Sunday School, and she is currently one of the essential folks that helps in our sound booth making worship run smoothly. Regina has a servant's heart and does so much to help our church and its mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. If you see Regina around the church sometime soon I hope you will express your own thanks for all her tireless work and leadership for the mission and administration of First UMC.



Thank you!!

Sue's October News

I can't believe that it is already October 2025! Where has this year gone? You can feel fall in the air. I am looking out my window at Barbara Penland's trees in the distance, and you can tell that they are beginning to change into beautiful fall colors. Fall is such a special time in East Tennessee.

October is going to be a busy time here at First UMC Madisonville. I am looking at events listed on the calendar and I know that we will be adding more things as the month progresses. We have Sunday worship services, Bible studies & adult Sunday school classes, handbell & choir practices, Community Caf , small group & committee meetings, Wednesday communion, and youth & IGNITE meetings. *(IGNITE parents, please note that **IGNITE WILL MEET ON Wednesday night October 29th**. We had originally said IGNITE would not meet that night, but it will.)* Several outside groups will be meeting here in October, too. Our big community event will be our 2025 Trunk or Treat event on Sunday evening October 26th from 5PM-7PM in our upper parking lot. First Baptist will also be having their big event that evening so we hope that we'll have a really big crowd in this part of town! We need lots and lots of candy. It is always a fun evening!

October is going to be a busy time!
Make plans now to be a part of our services and events.
~Sue



Joyful Ringers



Our church owns a beautiful 3 octave set of handbells that survived the church fire years ago. The *Joyful Ringers* is a fellowship that meets on the second and fourth Sundays at 2:00PM downstairs in Classroom 1 (that is on the Youth room side). We park in the lower lot and come through the double doors. There are gloves available so that we don't damage the lacquer further with our hands.

Our joyful group enjoys getting together to ring familiar tunes and are always delighted to hear the music that happens when we all work together or break down in laughter at times when we all get lost. Sometimes we go really slow just to figure out when to ring. Marlee color codes the music so that no one needs to read music or understand the squiggles on the page. Each measure is numbered and we count out loud to find our places on the page. We are enjoying the time together with no pressure.

We are excited to begin enjoying our favorite Christmas carols in November and December. There are places at the tables for more to join us! The bells are waiting. Want to give it a try? Everyone is welcome to come once or become a regular. Chaos takes practice and sometimes music takes over. Have questions? Please ask any of us and then come and see if joyful ringing is for you.