

THE FLAME



HOW to PRAY at TIMES LIKE THESE

Many people are saying, “We have never seen anything like this before! What should we do?? How should we handle this?” Because we are told to stay home and go out to work or stores no more than we have to do, some struggle with a greater sense of loneliness than ever before. Because of all the challenges we have due to this very contagious virus, we need to lean on the Lord more than ever, and also use the good common sense that God has given us. So, let us all:

FIRST - We need to listen to the medical experts and health professionals, who tell us to keep our distance from each other, and reduce the chances of trading breathing borne particles, especially by coughing or sneezing. Stay home as much as you can, and stay safe. Bishop Taylor has told pastors and churches in the Holston Conference to not meet until further notice, and with the President’s recommendation on Sunday (in which he followed the guidance of the medical experts), that probably means through the end of May.

SECOND - PRAY for our First Line Defenders, who are fighting this disease for all of us: doctors, nurses, paramedics, medical researchers, lab techs - every person who is trying to bring medical aid to those sick with this virus, and everyone trying to find a vaccine and treatments for COVID-19. Pray for their continued health, for their families and loved ones, and for success in developing a vaccine and a treatment for this disease.

THIRD - PRAY for those who are providing our basic needs, in spite of current restrictions: staff at grocery stores; employees at restaurants who are still preparing food for many of us for carry-out or delivery; staff at gas stations; and of course, First Responders, such as police officers, paramedics, ambulance drivers, other emergency personnel. Tell any of them you can, that you appreciate their efforts for all of us.

FOURTH - Pray for those in our church, and for people throughout our nation and around the world, who face other health issues: cancer, heart disease, diabetes, etc. These diseases and conditions continue to strike individuals and families, and they are now more vulnerable to the COVID-19 illness.

FIFTH - PRAY for, and stay in contact, with people in our own congregation, and neighbors you might know, who usually do not get out much, *(Pastor, Continued on Page 6)*

OUR WORSHIP TIMES:

- Sunday School 10 AM
- Worship 11 AM
- Youth Fellowship and Ignite—Wednesdays at 6 PM

Pastor

Rev. Keith Knight
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Administrative Assistant

Reba Hall
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Music/Program Director

Sue Hamilton
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Pianist

Beverly Taylor

Organist

Mary Alice Huff

Youth Leaders

Jerry & Vanessa Barr
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Nursery Attendants

Haley Allen
Roger McNeece

Custodians

James & Kim Cox



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Look What's Happening at First United Methodist Church!

I really don't know where to start. Last month, as we were putting together March's newsletter, we spilled over into April and put in many of the April events that we planned to have. Right now planning forward means looking at plans for the next day—not an entire month. This newsletter mainly contains information that we hope everyone will find helpful as we navigate the month of April together as First United Methodist Church Madisonville.

We miss being together on Sunday morning for worship, but from the feedback we have received we know that our live streaming service has been a blessing to many people. Right now it is difficult to remember what the day of the week it is, but we can mark Sunday because we have been to church together. If you have not watched the service for the 22nd or 29th, there are instructions in this newsletter to lead you to it. We know that folks locally and in several other states have tuned in. It was great to hear from many of them either in comments or by text or email. As the old hymn says—"Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love. The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above." I think that the bind that our church has is very important and easy to see.

Those of us who have been at the church for the streaming service have been talking about things that we might be able to do for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. As I said, right now we can't look forward more than a day or two. We don't know what the situation and restrictions

will be in a week or two. We just have to take it a day or two at a time. One thing that I hope we can do, even if we can't meet together, is flower our outside cross on Easter Sunday. Even if we are still in a very size constricted mode, I think individuals or families could drive by the church and put flowers on the cross. If someone is at the cross when you pull up, you could just wait until they are finished and then pull up to the cross. I will let you know closer to Easter if we can do this. This could be our most beautiful cross ever!

We will continue to send out emails and please continue to check the church website often for information. We have a shorter address now. You can go to lumcm.com and pull up our website. I want to give my personal thanks to Richard Beaubien who has given many hours setting up and making our Sunday morning service possible. He is posting things on our website for us and he helped us get licensing for using the music we have used on Sunday morning. Please take time to thank him for making all this possible.

Please continue to pray for our church, for our county, our state, our country and our world. We are all in this together.

Sue



Memorials

In the month of
March donations were
made to:



The **Building Fund** in memory of:
Gene Bourlard by:

Mike & Gabi Tallent
Reba Hall

Gloria Witt by:

Mike & Gabi Tallent

Christine Giles by:

Mike & Gabi Tallent

Dave Rapping by:

Mike & Gabi Tallent

Ralph DePew by:

Mike & Gabi Tallent

Joe Penland by:

Mike & Gabi Tallent

Church Family Covered Dish Supper

With all that is going on all around us and (with the directions from the Bishop) not having the church open at this time, we will not be having our Church Family Wednesday Night Supper this month.

We will keep you updated as to when we can share our potluck dishes again. I am looking forward to seeing and visiting with you then.

Keep our congregation and loved ones in your prayers. We can always use a prayer said in our behalf.

God will always be with us to lead and guide us. We just need to listen and obey.

Love and Prayers,
Dora Nelson,
Coordinator

**Happy Birthday**

- 5 Quinn Strickland
- 6 Cory Johnston
Dwayne Peters
Joanne McBee
- 7 Sam Grubb
Zachary Johnston
Ross Burrus
- 12 Mia Sage Lowry Beason
Rachel Cornett Fields
Briley Williford
- 13 Grant Hamilton
Howard Harvey
- 16 Kyleigh Curtis
- 17 Clifford Lynch
- 18 Peggy Wengert
- 19 Cindy Hammitt
- 24 Evan Kile
- 27 Phyllis Harrell
- 29 Tyler Hammitt
Richard Turner
- 30 Sarah Alliman Chermley

Happy Anniversary

- 3 Rick & Cathy Saunders
- 4 Richard & Mary Margaret Mason
- 13 Samantha & Tyler Kadau
- 23 Steve & Kathleen Cornett
Bill & Jo West

Are we missing your name?

We would like to hear from you if we are. Please email the office at adminassist@firstumcmadisonville.org or call (423-442-2471) to let us know when your birthday or anniversary is.



United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men will **NOT** meet this month. If you have any questions about the UMM and their activities and ministries, please call Ray Nelson at 928-660-1061.



United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women will meet on Sunday, April 19 at 9:30 AM in the fellowship hall **IF** we are back in normal operation by this time.



If you have questions about the United Methodist Women's organization, their ministries and how you can serve, please contact Laurie McNeece, President, at 423-420-1054.

Prayer Ministry Team

There are no meetings scheduled, so I'll just take this space for a few thoughts on paper.

Prayer is our strongest connection to God. There is no wrong way to pray. Some people like to set a special time to pray. Some people pray all day long in sentences to the Lord as they deal with life. Some people are eloquent in their words. Some people just say it like it is.



There is no wrong way to pray. Just pray. In Jesus' name, to your Heavenly Father, to a loving God.... And listen to the voice inside your head that says, "Do not be afraid." That does not mean, "Do not be cautious, careful, attentive, safe." It means that no matter what you go through, God is with you.

I miss seeing you each Sunday. I miss the Class Meeting time spent with the small group. I am sure the choir misses each other; the Sunday School groups miss each other; church friends miss each other, etc. Take time to lift those others up by name in prayer. We have a directory that lists most of the names.

As things calm down and the Earth tilts back to a different normal, we will begin another small group study. We will plan events and meetings. Pray for our church, our workers, our pastor, our financial obligations. Just talk with the Lord.

Marlee Tierce, Chairperson

First United Methodist Church, Madisonville



ELECTRONIC GIVING

If you would like to give electronically



GO TO
firstumcmadisonville.org
click ONLINE GIVING

ONE-TIME GIFTS are simple to set up using a debit or credit card, or from a bank account.

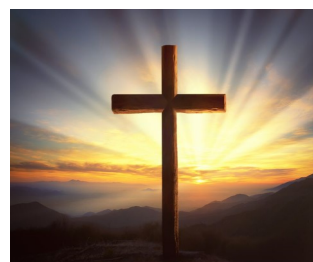
RECURRING GIFTS can be set up on a schedule that works for you, with flexibility to track and manage your giving pattern. By setting up a bank transfer, approximately 3% more of your gift will go to ministry compared to a credit card transaction.

FOR ASSISTANCE, please call Reba Hall at 423-442-2471.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Easter Sunday Service

We hope to have our cross outside by Good Friday. Bring flowers to decorate the cross on Easter Sunday morning. (See info in Sue's News.)



We are still working on the service for Easter Sunday morning. Please watch the website **1umcm.com** or your email for information.

The problem with Gmail

Several church members have grown increasingly frustrated with the church email system: in particular, those members with Gmail accounts are frequently getting emails that are many hours old, or not getting them at all. In this article I shall try to offer non-techy, common-language reasons for this, as well as solutions.

Gmail is part of Google's suite of products, and it is wildly popular; of the 2+ billion email accounts out in the world today, a little more than 1 billion of them are Gmail accounts. The next closest is Microsoft email with 400 million users. Gmail is trusted by a great many small to medium size businesses for its speed and security, as well as its very low price to small businesses. One of the principal reasons it's so well trusted is its security: Google places a very high value on making sure that viruses and junk marketing emails (spam) don't get through to its customers. This is a good thing, and the primary reason why I chose Gmail for my personal email.

Most viruses are transmitted by so-called "attachments" - files that are added to an email that require the user to click in order to open. Likewise, most spam emails originate in bulk mailings from a single source to hundreds or thousands of recipients. Additionally, google considers email coming from non-Gmail accounts

(like firstumcmadisonville.org) to be more risky. Google security considers these problems, and "red flags" certain emails. One or two emails from a

Google account that contain the same attachment usually go through without an issue. Those same emails that come from a non-Google or Gmail account, might get a little red flag and be checked a little before being sent on to the recipient. Hundreds or thousands of emails from a non-Google account with attachments will get big red flags, and all of them will get a virus scan before being delivered. Incidentally, larger files (like this newsletter, which is digitally huge) will take a much longer time to scan. Many times when there are many emails with huge attachments, Gmail will just "time out" on them. That is what we are seeing.

My suggestion is that we change a couple of business practices. Instead of attaching large files to mass emails, we should put those attachments to a place on the web, and then copy a link to that material into the email. That way, there are no files being transmitted, and Gmail will be happy. In the end effect to you, instead of clicking on the attachment, you will click on a link inside the text of the email, and your web browser will go out and find the material and display it for you. We have done some small scale testing, and the results look very promising. In fact, this newsletter was sent out in that same way. Please let us know of any problems.

By the way, I strongly suggest that you never click on an attachment that comes in an email, especially if you do not know the sender.

Richard Beaubien

. . . is an opportunity to help over and above your regular tithes and offerings to the church.

Good Shepherd Center

Announces Corona Virus Policy

Tina Smith, Director at the Good Shepherd Center, has announced policies that will affect its operation. Their client interaction will be implemented based on the national policy of controlling contact with the general population. Days and hours of operation will not change.

All food distribution days and times will not change. However, all food pickups will occur only outside of the Good Shepherd Center and at the “garage door” entrance at the end of the building. Distance between the food volunteer and the client will be maintained.

There will be no clothing distribution or clothing acceptance until further notice. During this difficult time there will also be no new intake of clients.

They are still in need of **green beans** and other canned vegetables. Your donations may be delivered to the Good Shepherd Center or you may continue to bring them to the church.



Spending Your Spare Time

Don't forget these **mission opportunities** that will only take a few minutes of your time:

- used candles and yarn leftovers for Camp Wesley Woods
- empty prescription bottles for the animal shelter or other organizations who use them
- bring empty ink cartridges to the church for recycling and reward \$s.
- used or new jigsaw puzzles for the nursing home
- used eye glasses—we will see that they get to a group who could use them
- aluminum can tabs for the Shriners Hospitals for Children or other organizations
- Box Tops for Education – either cut the coupons from the package or scan your receipt for the new digital coupons

(Pastor, Continued from Page 1)

and now will leave home even less. Call them, and let them know that they are not alone, that you and others think of them and are praying for them.

SIXTH - Remember that God will answer our prayers, no matter who is praying. The power is NOT in the one who prays: the devotion and holiness of the person who prays may be a factor in God answering prayers, but the PRIMARY ELEMENT to answered prayer depends on GOD, who alone has the POWER and purpose to answer our prayers.

AND FINALLY - many of us see little to show for answered prayer, because we ask for too little. And when we DO pray for something specific, we do not expect much! In one of the STAR WARS movies, the wise little master Jedi, Yoda, performs an incredible feat that his apprentice, Luke Skywalker, could not accomplish. Luke, in astonishment at his mentor's success, said, “I don't believe it.” Yoda answered, “THAT- is why you fail.”

The God of the Universe, Maker and Creator of everything, wants to hear you tell Him of your concerns, especially in these days. He will answer, perhaps in ways you do not expect, but He WANTS to answer your prayers. And He WILL answer your prayers - so just trust Him.

See you every Sunday, at the “place of prayer” in Jesus' name.

Keith G. Knight



Our Gifts**For March (thru 3/25)****General Operating Fund:****Needed Monthly:** \$20,862 **Rec'd:** \$ 15,349**Building Fund:****Mortgage Balance as of 2/29/2020:** \$292,797**Needed Monthly:** \$4,034 **Rec'd:** \$ 14,541**Memorial Fund:** \$ 1,050**Designated:** \$ 1,101**Our Presence****Average for March**

Sunday School— 31 (for the 1st 2 weeks)

Worship— 92 (for the 1st 2 weeks)

Online streamed service—

We had over 300 views the week of March 22nd
and over 150 so far for the week of March 29th.**Our Commitments****For April . . .**. . . will be announced when we are back
to our normal schedule of events.**Our Prayers****On-going Prayer Concerns:**

Sharon Amundson

Bobbie & Ronnie Arp

Barbara Baiz

Charles Baker

Janet Bales

Wanda Barger

David Beaubien

Nancy Byrum

Gene Carson

Jane Daily

Greg Davis

Marilyn DePew

Tony Ellison

Courtney Farmer

Marjorie Fezlar

Danny Gardner

Tammy George

Mable Graham

Clifton Greenwood

Richard Hall

Betty Hicks

Bill Huddleston

Dr Bob Hunt

Logan Hunt

Peggy Hyatt

Pauline Kauffman

Angie Kyle

Gay Layne

Irad Lee

Doug Lottes

Margaret & Bob Marshall

Mary Margaret and

Dickie Mason

Mckinzie

Susan Miley

Christopher Miller

Mary Millsaps

Freida Naylor

Maria Nelson

Mary Nelson

Norman Nelson

Sandy & Mike O'Neill

Barbara Pennington

Jim Pennington

Kristin Pennington

Dwayne & Carolyn Peters

Bill Poole

Jack & Ruth Porter

Carol Rapking

Barbara Roberson

Donna Roberson

Catherine Reed

Paul Robbins

Maria Rosian

Tina Smith

Tonya Wells Spires

John Stratton

Todd Strickland

Emma Tate

Keith Trout

Joyce & Dick Turner

Michael and Becky

Wacaster

Bill & Jo West

Peggy White

Stephen White

Selena Wiggs

Sharon Whitlock Young

Eli Zinck

Christine Hendricks and
son-Randy

The Leamon family

Jimmy Williams and

donor family

Curwood Witt & family

Nancy Manning at the
loss of her mother**Our Active Military Personnel**

Adrienne Greenwood—US Army

Nathan Greenwood—US Navy Reserves

David Hargett—US Army

Zach Johnston—US Army

Tyler Kadau—US Marines

Wesley Taylor—US Army

Adam Thornton—US Coast Guard Reserves

Those in Nursing Homes or Assisted Living:Mary Margaret Mason—Wood Village Assisted
Living, Sweetwater

Judy Lee—Northshore Heights, Knoxville

Edna Bonifacius—Asbury Place, Maryville

Gerri Benton—Wood Village Assisted Living,
Sweetwater

Steve Cavett—River Oaks, Room 307, Loudon

Pat & Howard Harvey—Wood Village Assisted
Living, Sweetwater

Shirley Nappier— (Harold Hunt's mother-in-law)

Ouachita Heath Care

7950 Millhaven Rd, Room # 112

Monroe, LA 71203

*Please let us know if anyone
can to be taken off this list
or if anyone needs to be
added.*



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Monday thru Friday

Our website:
www.firstumcmadisonville.org

Follow us on:
Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/FirstUMCMadisonville/>

Twitter

<https://twitter.com/FUMCMadville>

Watch your e-mails or go to our website:
www.firstumcmadisonville.org

or

1umcm.com

(both addresses will get you to our website)
for information about when we will once again
be able to gather in our building for worship
and other activities.

At this time Bishop Taylor has said
“until further notice”.

Check our website frequently for:

⇒ **Home Page**

info for streaming worship service
the calendar of events

⇒ **Church News**

the Sunday Bulletins
the monthly newsletters
info from The Holston Conference

Special Offering for April

Native American Ministries Sunday April 26

Your generous gift on this day helps support Native American seminary students and outreach that honor and celebrate Native American culture and communities.

