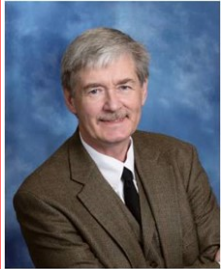


# THE FLAME



## OUR WORSHIP TIMES:

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



## “GOD’S YES — *FOR EVERYONE!!*”

*“For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by me and Silas and Timothy, was not “Yes” and “No,” but in him it has always been “Yes.” For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.”* (II Corinthians 2:19-20; NIV)

Thirty-three years ago, E. Stanley Jones, the great Christian (and Methodist) missionary to Asia, especially to India, suffered a stroke, at the age of 88. Not to be deterred by this setback, Jones, already the author of more than a dozen books, dictated his next (and last) book into a tape recorder: *The Divine Yes!* In this book, Jones taught that God is always God of the positive. Although human beings (including you and me) have “sinned and fallen short of the glory of God” (Romans 3: 23), God has made many promises to us over the centuries, and these promises have all been more than fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

*“For Jesus truly is “God’s YES!” to a troubled and needy world.”*

As we approach the Christmas season this year, we want to think about, as E. Stanley Jones had, the promises of God’s love, forgiveness, and blessings that have been fulfilled in the coming of God’s Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. For Jesus truly is “God’s YES!” to a troubled and needy world.

Our messages for December, then, will address the positive message God has given us in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. On December 1<sup>st</sup>, our message will be “GOD’S YES— In the Beginning!” On December 8<sup>th</sup>, we will briefly consider “GOD’S YES— In the FLESH!” On December 15<sup>th</sup>, we will look at “GOD’S YES— In our HEARTS!” On December 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Sunday before Christmas, the message will be “GOD’S YES— In our WORLD!” On December 24<sup>th</sup>, for our 6:00 PM Christmas Eve worship service, we will look at “GOD’S YES— In Bethlehem and Beyond!” Also, look at the enclosed calendar for several other Christmas activities for children and youth in December. See you Sunday at the “God’s Positive Message for You” place.

*Keith G. Knight*

Pastor  
**Rev. Keith Knight**  
 Keith\_Knight1985@aol.com

Administrative Assistant  
**Reba Hall**  
 adminassist@firstumcmadisonville.org

Music/Program Director  
**Sue Hamilton**  
 sue@firstumcmadisonville.org

Pianist  
**Beverly Taylor**

Organist  
**Mary Alice Huff**

Youth Leaders  
**Jerry & Vanessa Barr**  
 vbreummer@gmail.com

Nursery Attendants  
**Haley Allen**  
**Roger McNeece**

Custodians  
**James & Kim Cox**



### Inside This Issue:

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## Look What's Happening at First United Methodist Church!

NO! NO! It can't be. IT CAN'T BE! December 2019! I haven't gotten all the things put away after Christmas 2018---or 2017 for that matter for all of you who agonize over my inability to declutter! I am sure that this year won't be any better in that regard. Oh well. I'll keep trying!

As I write this, I am still working on things for the Thanksgiving services, but we have no time to spare. This is one of those years where, because Thanksgiving falls so late (28<sup>th</sup>), Thanksgiving is followed in 3 days by the beginning of Advent on December 1<sup>st</sup>. We don't really have that pre-Advent week where we have more time to decorate the church and begin to make preparations for Christmas. As of today as I write this, WE ARE BEGINNING TO DECORATE THE CHURCH FOR THE CHRISTMAS SEASON! Many of us have our 2019 Advent Devotion booklets in our hands! I know I have put lots of exclamation points in my column, but that is what life feels like right now. A BIG EXCLAMATION POINT! So much to do and it seems like so little time to do it.

I am excited about all the things that we have coming up over the next few weeks. We will kick off the Advent season on December 1 with the Hanging of the Greens service at 6 PM. We will finish decorating the sanctuary and think about the symbols of Christmas. We need participation from our youngest to our oldest. Let me know if you would like to take a part. After the service we will all go to the gathering area for a time of food and fellowship. Bring your favorite holiday finger food to share with others. Janet Tweed will be coordinating this part of the evening. I am sure she will be glad for volunteers to help.

Sunday morning December 8<sup>th</sup> will be a very special worship service when the choir presents *And the Gift Goes On*. This is a very upbeat Christmas cantata. I know I am very biased, but I think that this will be one of the most inspiring cantatas we have presented. Come early and don't eat breakfast until you get to church.

The youth will have breakfast foods prepared. This will be one of their fundraisers for upcoming events. Donations will be greatly appreciated.

On Wednesday evening the 11<sup>th</sup> we will have our monthly covered dish supper at 6 PM. I know we need hosts! After supper we will go to the sanctuary for our annual children's Christmas program. The children's choir has been working on special music. Some of our children will also be doing instrumental presentations. It wouldn't be Christmas without our annual Nativity Pageant given by any children and youth in attendance. Get those cameras ready!

We will have our annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 until 11:00. This has become a very special event for our children and for community children. We know we get repeat "customers" from children who have been to the Pumpkin Patch in October. It makes us feel good to see these kids again. We are well known in the community for our outreach efforts. A group of us were eating out the other day and the waitress knew we were Pumpkin Patch people! What we do here does make an impression on Madisonville.

A very special service will be our Christmas Eve Service at 6 PM on the 24<sup>th</sup>. We will have special music, an inspiring Christmas devotion, Holy Communion and a candlelight service. You will still have plenty of time left to celebrate with family and friends that evening.

I know that we will have many other special things coming up in December. Watch for emails and read your bulletins and the rest of this newsletter.

I know that 2019 has been a very difficult year for many of our church families. When one family loses a family member, we all feel it. Please show your love to everyone in our church family this season. We are one big family.

Merry Christmas!

*Sue*



**“Are you as excited as I am about the Advent & Christmas activities at our church?”**



## Memorials and Honorariums

In the month of **November** (thru the 17th) donations were made to:

The **General Fund** in memory of **Gloria Witt** from:

Marian Cantley  
Bruce & Betty Sloan  
Carolyn Steuer

The **Building Fund** in memory of:

**Gloria Witt** from:  
Karen Rapking  
Barbara Penland  
Robert & Margaret Marshall  
Jeff & Diane Patterson  
Bruce & Judy Christopher  
Kevin & Bev Taylor  
Mike & Gabi Tallent  
Howard & Pat Harvey  
Alfred & Carolynn Greenwood  
Angela Tallent  
Steve & Kathleen Cornett  
Peoples Bank

**Kathy Hambaugh** from:

Alfred & Carolynn Greenwood  
Reba Hall

**Floyd DeBoef** from:

Angela Tallent

**Jessie Gibson** from:

Angela Tallent

**Ralph DePew** from:

Angela Tallent

**Betty Balsinger** from:

Angela Tallent

**Ruby Layman** from:

Angela Tallent

**Joe Penland** from:

Angela Tallent

**Christine Giles** from:

Angela Tallent

The **Lee Johnson Flag Pole Fund** by:

Angela Tallent



### Christmas Joy!

We are accepting memorials and honorariums for our Christmas Joy! fund. These donations will be used to replace worn Christmas decorations in our church. *Make your check payable to FUMC, write Christmas Joy on the memo line, place in the offering plate or mail to our church office: P O Box 157, Madisonville, TN 37354.* The list of Memorials & Honorariums will be printed in the January newsletter.



## United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men will meet on Sunday, December 8, 8:30 AM in our fellowship hall. Breakfast will be provided for you by our youth. All men of the church are invited to attend. If you have any questions, please call Ray Nelson at 928-660-1061.



## United Methodist Women

The United Methodist Women will **not** meet on Sunday, December 15th. They will be going out during the month for their annual Christmas party.



Thank you for your donations to the Wesley House in response to the **CHALLENGE** for October & November.

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.

## Church Family Covered Dish Supper

We need hosts for the Wednesday Night Church Family Covered Dish Dinner on December 11, 2019 at 6 PM.

Let's share a favorite dish or two you always prepare around Christmas. Looking forward to seeing you there and tasting your favorite dishes.

If you have any questions or are willing to help, please call Dora Nelson at 928-660-1009.

The dinner will be followed by our **children's Christmas program** in the Sanctuary. Plan to stay for this fun and meaningful time of worship with our children.



## Seniors

We are going to Western Sizzlin located at 1804 Decatur Pike in Athens for our holiday meal on Monday December 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will gather there at 11:30 AM. We will leave from the lower parking lot of the church at 10:45 AM if you would like to carpool.



Sue and Jan

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVENTS

- \* **Hanging of the Greens**  
Sunday, Dec 1st, 6 PM
- \* **Church Family Covered Dish Supper**  
Wednesday, Dec 11th, 6 PM
- \* **Children's Christmas Program**  
Wednesday, Dec 11th, 7 PM
- \* **Breakfast with Santa**  
Saturday, Dec 14th, 9:30—11 AM
- \* **UMYF/IGNITE Pizza Party**  
Wednesday, Dec 18th, 6 PM
- \* **Christmas Eve Candlelight/Communion Service**  
Tuesday, Dec 24th, 6 PM

Please see Sue's News on page 2 for detailed information about each of these events.





**Prayer Ministry Team**

*Acts 2:42 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)*

*<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of*

*bread and the prayers.*

*Hebrews 10:23-25 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)*

*<sup>23</sup> Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. <sup>24</sup> And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, <sup>25</sup> not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Please join me in organizing a Small Group Fellowship through a weekly support meeting after church beginning Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. We will use the text, The Class Meeting by Ken Watkins based on the research of John Wesley's small group experiences. (This book costs \$17, but your cost is \$7 thanks to the Prayer Ministry Team and the Small Group Ministry Team.)

This is not a Bible study. This is a transformation-driven program that will lead us into

the Lenten Season.

After service on January 5<sup>th</sup> we will have a small lunch together while introducing ourselves to the project and the book.

There are 8 chapters and an epilogue in the book so we will meet to go through a chapter a week beginning January 12<sup>th</sup> and finishing March 8<sup>th</sup> (weather permitting). Each meeting will last an hour and half including our lunch fellowship.

In March we will celebrate by leading a Saturday small group session with others to share what we've learned, enjoy a pot luck dinner and attend a service with a guest speaker on Praying during Lent. That same guest speaker will do the service on Sunday morning.

Please direct any questions or suggestions to Marlee Tierce, [mtierce@aol.com](mailto:mtierce@aol.com), or call 423-884-2196. I look forward to the journey we will travel together.

Please sign up for the small group study on The Class Meeting by December 22<sup>nd</sup> so I can order our books. Info about the class and tear-offs for sign up will be in the bulletins and/or on the table in the gathering area in December.



Marlee Tierce  
2020 Chairperson

**A NOTE OF**

To my fellow parishioners at  
First United Methodist Church:

For two years I have been dealing with multiple myeloma and amyloidosis. During this time I experienced a heart attack and a bulging lumbar disk that has caused significant pain in my hip. A stem cell transplant and aftercare have managed the myeloma well, and the amyloidosis is in remission. I've had no further coronary issues and have been waiting to come off a blood thinner to clear the way for back surgery to relieve the hip problem. That sur-

gery is scheduled for December 3.

I want all of you to know that the support you have afforded me during this time was a tremendously wonderful benefit to me in meeting the various health-related challenges. I cannot adequately express my appreciation and affection for my church in the way that its members responded to the situations that arose. Please know that your love and support were vital elements in my recovery.

Thank you, and God bless you for your kindness.

Sincerely,  
Curwood

Happy  
Birthday



Happy  
Anniversary

- 1 Mia Barr  
Brandie McConkey
- 2 Alanna Storm Millsaps
- 3 Mable Graham
- 5 Lucas Killen
- 6 Juana Barker  
Sherrie McConkey
- 7 Kathy Hall  
Lisa Johnston
- 8 Sierra Dearmon  
Ray Nelson
- 11 Jackie Hargett
- 13 Alan Johnson  
John Summitt  
John Sherrer
- 15 Brian Beason
- 16 Adam Kefauver
- 17 Linda Clements
- 19 Vanessa Barr
- 20 Karen McMillan
- 23 Bob Tate, Jr
- 24 Gabriel Barker
- 25 Chelsea Scott
- 27 Owen Hargett  
Mary Alice Huff
- 29 Catherine Barger

- 12 Todd & Sherri McConkey
- 19 Hasmukh & Fran Kanabar
- 26 Sam & Kay Grubb
- 31 Todd & Lee Anne Strickland



**Are we missing your name?**

We would like to hear from you if we are.

Please email the office at [adminassist@firsttumcmadisonville.org](mailto:adminassist@firsttumcmadisonville.org) or call (423-442-2471) to let us know when your birthday or anniversary is. There are Member / Attendee Profile sheets on the table in the gathering area and in the attendance notebooks. Please take time to fill one out for your family if you have not already done so or if there are changes.

**Use of the Building**

Please check with the office to see that the space you would like to use for your Team meetings or other event is available before you schedule your next meeting.

If your group will be meeting on a regular schedule (every month, every other month) please let the office know so it can be included in the calendar.

**Holiday Office Hours**

The office will not have regular hours from Dec 23, 2019 thru Jan 1, 2020.

If you need something, please call to see if someone is there to assist you.

We will be back to regular hours on Jan 2.

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

## Good Shepherd Center

The needs at The Good Shepherd Center pantry at this time are:

all types of holiday foods—including, but not limited to —

- ◆ chicken broth
- ◆ cranberry sauce
- ◆ pie filling
- ◆ cake mixes and frosting
- ◆ boxed potatoes
- ◆ gravy –canned or dry mix
- ◆ stuffing mix
- ◆ canned sweet potatoes

Please put your donations in the grocery cart in the hallway and we will see that they get delivered to the Good Shepherd Center in time for Thanksgiving.

## Spending Your Spare Time

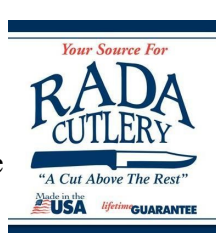
Don't forget these **mission opportunities** that will only take a few minutes of your time:

- used candles and yarn leftovers for Camp Wesley Woods
- empty prescription bottles for the animal shelter
- empty ink cartridges for recycling and reward \$\$
- 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 and other organizations



## **Box Tops for Education** *“They have changed!!”*

You can still clip the pink coupons and turn them in. More and more products are going to digital coupons. Simply scan your receipt and any qualifying products you purchased will automatically be registered. There is a place on the app where you can select the school you want your rewards to go to.



Thank you for your orders. We made a profit of \$251.45 to go towards the Mission trips for our Youth.

I will be sending another order on Dec 9, 2019. It will be back in plenty of time for Christmas.

Their products make wonderful Christmas gifts. Check out a catalog, located at the Coffee Bar counter.

Thank you for supporting our youth.

Dora

## Loaves & Fishes



Many of our local school children do not have enough food to eat during the school break at Christmas time. We have a local group of concerned folks whose ministry is to address this situation. It is called Loaves and Fishes. This group has fundraisers throughout the year and accepts monetary donations so they can send home backpacks stuffed with kid friendly foods to last through the school break. We know that we see many of these kids as they come through the Pumpkin Patch. We decided that we would like to support this project with a part of our Pumpkin Patch money and made a \$100.00 donation through our community outreach efforts. If you would like more information about Loaves and Fishes, please talk to Lee Anne Grubb who is a part of this group.

Sue Hamilton, Chairperson of Outreach

**Our Gifts****For November** (thru the 17th)**General Operating Fund:** \$ 16,027.00**Designated:** \$ 347.10**Building Fund:** \$ 4,200.00**Memorial Fund:** \$ 365.00**Our Presence****Average for November** (thru the 17th)

Sunday School— 35

Worship— 103

**Our Commitments****For December****Ushers**

Will be announced in the bulletins weekly

**Lay Reader**

John Byrum

**Flowers**

Our Altar will be decorated for the Advent season during the month of December.

**Acolytes**

- Dec 1 Emily & Justin Deaton
- Dec 8 Zander Liszeski & Leland Shaw
- Dec 15 Catherine Barger & Storm Millsaps
- Dec 22 Storm Millsaps & Zander Liszeski
- Dec 29 Alexis Jones & Leliah Pyros

**Coffee Bar***Will you help?? Sign up at the coffee bar.***Trustee for the Month**

Alan Johnson

**Wednesday Night Church Family Supper**

Dec 11th, 6 PM

Hosted by: -

**Supper Hosts for IGNITE/UMYF**

- Dec 4 Dora Nelson Team
- Dec 11 Family Night Supper
- Dec 18 Pizza Party for IGNITE/Youth
- Dec 25 Christmas—No meetings

**Our Prayers****On-going Prayer Concerns:**

Todd Strickland	Mary Nelson
Maria Rosian	John Summitt &
Pete Hambaugh	Joan Holland
Barbara Penland	Susan Miley
Art & Penelope Fowler	Logan Hunt
Kristin Pennington	Sandy & Mike O'Neill
The Leamon family	Selena Wiggs
Paul Robbins	Marjorie Fezlar
Nancy Byrum	Joyce & Dick Turner
Bill & Jo West	Howard & Pat Harvey
Sharon Amundson	Freida Naylor
Catherine Reed	Courtney Farmer
Betty Hicks	Hank Weston
Mary Margaret and	Christine Hendricks and
Dickie Mason	son-Randy
Lynn Knight	Maria Nelson
Doug Lottes	Mable Graham
Charles Baker	Dwaine & Carolyn Peters
Donna Roberson	Peggy Hyatt
Barbara Roberson	Gene Carson
Janet Bales	Bonnell Cooper
Curwood Witt & family	Peggy White
Barbara Baiz	David Beaubien
Marilyn DePew	Jimmy Williams
Bill Huddleston	Clifton Greenwood
Gregg Dodd	Irad Lee
John Stratton	

*Please let us know if anyone can to be taken off this list or if anyone needs to be added.***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  
 8804 S Northshore Drive,  
 Knoxville, TN 37922  
 Edna Bonifacius—Asbury Place, Maryville  
 Gerri Benton—Wood Village Assisted Living, Sweetwater  
 Barbara Pennington—Patricia Neal Rehab Center, Knoxville  
 Howard Harvey—Life Care Center of Blount Cnty, Room 123, 865-380-7291



# Dec 2019/Jan 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 SS 10 AM Worship 11 AM Hanging of the Greens 6 PM	2 Boy Scouts 6 PM CR Cub Scouts FH 6 PM	3 Girl Scouts 6 PM CR	4 UMYF 6 PM Supper Hosts: Dora Nelson Team Choir 7 PM	5 TOPS 4 PM CR	6 AA CR	7
8 UMM 8:30 AM in our Fellowship Hall SS 10 AM Worship 11 AM Cantata	9 Trustees 6 PM Boy Scouts 6 PM CR Cub Scouts FH 6 PM	10 Finance 6 PM Girl Scouts 6 PM CR	11 Church Family Supper 6 PM Hosts: Children's Christmas Program 7 PM	12 TOPS 4 PM CR	13 AA CR	14 Breakfast with Santa 9:30—11 AM  Lynch Family Christmas dinner FH 4 PM—>
15 SS 10 AM Worship 11 AM	16 Boy Scouts 6 PM CR Cub Scouts FH 6 PM	17 Morgan Ellis FH 3 PM—> Girl Scouts 6 PM CR	18 UMYF/IGNITE 6 PM Pizza Party for IGNITE/Youthj Choir 7 PM  Homeless Mgmt Group	19 TOPS 4 PM CR	20 AA CR	21
22 SS 10 AM Worship 11 AM	23 Boy Scouts 6 PM CR Cub Scouts FH 6 PM	24 <i>Christmas Eve</i> Christmas Eve Svc 6 PM	25 <i>Christmas Day</i>	26 TOPS 4 PM CR	27 AA CR	28
29 SS 10 AM Worship 11 AM	30 Boy Scouts 6 PM CR Cub Scouts FH 6 PM	31 Girl Scouts 6 PM CR	1 January <i>New Year's Day</i>	2 TOPS 4 PM CR	3 A ACR	4
5 <i>Epiphany Sunday</i> SS 10 AM Worship 11 AM The Class Meeting group study — after worship	6 Boy Scouts 6 PM CR Cub Scouts FH 6 PM	7 Girl Scouts 6 PM CR	8 Church Family Supper 6 PM Hosts: UMYF 6 PM Choir 7 PM  InterAgency Noon CR	9 TOPS 4 PM CR	10 AA CR	11



First United Methodist Church  
143 College Street  
Mailing Address: P O Box 157  
Madisonville, TN 37354  
Phone: 423-442-2471  
Fax: 423-442-2434  
Office Hours: 8 AM to 1 PM  
Monday thru Friday

Our website:  
[www.firstumc  
madisonville.org](http://www.firstumc<br/>madisonville.org)

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Twitter

[https://twitter.com/  
FUMCMadville](https://twitter.com/<br/>FUMCMadville)



***Merry Christmas!***

***As we celebrate this Advent  
and Christmas season  
remember that each of you  
are loved and cherished  
by those around you.***

***We thank you for the love  
and support you have  
given us during this  
past year.***

*Keith*

*Sue*

*Reba*