

The Flame



OUR WORSHIP TIMES:

- **Worship** 10:30 AM In-Person and On-Line at 1umcm.com
- **Youth Fellowship** Wednesdays at 6 PM

From the Pastor's desk . . .

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of darkness—on them a light has shined...For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9: 2b, 6)



The season of Advent is upon us, and I am excited about it! There are so many wonderful things that I look forward to that are unique about this season. We have moved from autumn to winter outside, and the church has moved from ordinary time to a season of expectation and preparation as we get ready to celebrate the birth of Christ. You will notice many new sights, sounds, colors, and themes in our worship over the coming weeks. As we build toward Christmas, we will hear words from the prophets, Jesus himself, John the Baptist, and Mary, the mother of Jesus. During each of the 4 weeks of Advent we will also have themes that can help guide us spiritually and devotionally. On November 27th we will focus on Hope. On December 4th we will reflect on the theme of Peace as our choir offers its Christmas Cantata. On December 11th we will encounter John the Baptist as we reflect on Joy, and finally on December 18th we will center ourselves on Love.

Each worship week in Advent will build upon the previous week and will culminate in the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord and Savior on Christmas Eve. Our service of candlelight and communion on December 24th promises to be a beautiful, rich, and meaningful service of worship, and we hope that you will join us. After the Christmas season we will then have a 5-week sermon series called, “A Healthy Balancing Act.” Details about the January series and other Advent/Christmas activities and classes at the church are detailed in this edition of The Flame.

During this next month my hope as your pastor is that you would carve away some time to center yourselves on your relationship with Jesus Christ and to rest. This season of the year can be incredibly enriching in many ways, but it is also a time that can pull us in more directions than we are used to. I pray that you would find time for simplicity, for prayer, for celebration, for fellowship with family and friends, and for communion with God. I hope that as we worship together, you can find some of the hope, peace, joy, and love that God wants for us, and for our relationships with others. During this month I also hope you will take time to say "yes" to some new ways to help others, and "no" to things that don't. I also hope you will find some ways to become more connected to our unique community of faith and to share your faith with others. I look forward to seeing you around the church.

Lots of Hope!

Chris

- Pastor**
Rev. Chris Black
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- Organist
Mary Alice Huff
- Youth Leaders
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- Custodians
James & Kim Cox

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Sue's News - December 2022

There are announcements in this newsletter about upcoming events for our 2022 Advent/Christmas season. It is going to be exciting! On my way to work this morning I began to think about Christmases past at First UMC, and I decided that's what I wanted to write about for this newsletter.

This will be my 48th Christmas at First UMC Madisonville. When I was hired as choir director in November of 1975 (I was just a child then!) for a three month probationary period, I never gave a thought to being here 48 years later in 2022. I have been choir director for the entire time, fill in pianist, youth worker for at least 2 long periods of time and I have been the program director/congregational care director since 2007 (the job title has changed several times since 2007). I have been part time for all these years, but you are never really part time when you work in a church setting. You try to always be available to take care of needs that come up with the folks in your congregation. It has been an exciting, fulfilling and sometimes very emotional 48 years. I hope and think I have a few good years left in me!

I have been thinking back about Christmases past. We were in the old building fellowship hall when I came here until we built the building in the early 90's. We had our covered dish dinner in a tiny little downstairs room that we called a fellowship hall. Our kitchen was probably no larger than a 12 by 12 room that included all the appliances and cabinets. We made it work. In the early 90's we built our new building that included our present fellowship hall and a big kitchen. We thought were really uptown. We had room to spread out and breath. Later in 2007 we spent the Christmas season (fire) across the street at the Cora Veal Center. We had a huge covered dish supper that was attended even by our Bishop Swanson. I remember my little kids played the bells

and Penelope Fowler assembled a group of former bell ringers to play a song or two. This event brought some joy during a very sad Christmas season for our church. We finally got to present our Christmas cantata in January 2008 at Buckner Memorial United Methodist Church on the Hiwassee College campus.

One of my favorite memories of Christmas time at church was when nephew Grant was just a little boy. We came to the Christmas Eve service after he had opened up one of his presents early—a pair of light up shoes. I will never forget him prancing around in the darkened sanctuary in those shoes! He was so proud of them. I also remember Grant and me coming back to the 11 PM Christmas Eve service a few times. The travel time between home and church was so special. That time really felt like Christmas was upon us.

We have probably done close to 48 cantatas and children's Christmas programs during my time and every one of them has been special and unique. I think about all the adults who have been in my choirs. Many of them are singing in the heavenly choir now. Many of the kids who were in my children's choirs have kids and even grandkids now. We now have a new set of children who will dress up like shepherds, angels, wise men and Mary and Joseph and create more special memories.

I could probably write a book about my Christmas memories here at First UMC Madisonville. I will stop here and tell all of you what a special place this church is to me. Thank you all for being my special friends and family. I hope everyone has a great Christmas season.

Sue



Christmas Cantata on December 4th

Please mark your calendars to be in worship on December 4th for our annual Christmas Cantata! Our church choir has been working diligently and joyfully during the last month to lead us in worship on the 2nd Sunday of Advent. They are excited to share the piece "Bethlehem Morning" created by Russell Mauldin and Sue Smith. We hope you will make plans to be in worship with us for this celebration of the Advent season through song.

Covered Dish Dinner and Children's Christmas Program

On Wednesday evening December 14th at 6 PM we will come together as a church family for our annual Christmas covered dish dinner and children's Christmas program. Mia Sage Beason and Sue are putting the children's program together, and we hope that every child in our church will be a part of the program. We will have music, singing and our Christmas play where every child in attendance can be a part of the play. After the program Pastor Chris' Advent Study group will meet back in the fellowship hall. Bring plenty of covered dishes for dinner and join us for this exciting evening.

Children and Youth Ministry Gobble, Gobble and Ho, Ho, Ho!

We have some fun and exciting activities planned for our children and youth. We wrapped up November with a Thanksgiving meal for our youth and their families. Thank you to all who contributed to the feast. It was absolutely delicious!

Breakfast with Santa, Dec. 10

Mark your calendars and spread the word. Santa will stop by on Dec. 10 between 9:30 and 11 a.m. to hear all our kids' wishes. Plus, we'll have all kinds of crafts, including reindeer hats, snowmen ornaments, popsicle Christmas trees,

Christmas gift tags and dowel rod ribbon trees. We'll also have a special station set up to learn about working with leather. In between crafts, the kids can play games like the reindeer hoop toss and snowball bowling. We are going to have so much fun!

If you can help with crafts, games and breakfast foods, please let Sue Hamilton, Lee Anne Strickland, Erin Roberts or Vanessa Barr know. If you can help with food, please let Carolyn Greenwood know. We appreciate all the support and help! (Youth can earn an activity point for Resurrection by helping!)

Youth Christmas Dinner and Secret Santa, Dec. 21

We'll share some Christmas cheer and reveal our Secret Santas.

And more to come in 2023!

Our goal is to fire up IGNITE again in January. This is for our children from Kindergarten to 5th grade. If you are interested in helping with the program, please talk to Jennifer McKenzie or Vanessa.

Resurrection 2023 is Jan. 20-22 for our youth.

We are so excited to head back to Pigeon Forge for a faith-filled weekend. Watch for emails and texts with details. If you have any questions about what we have going on for our children and youth or if you'd like to help with the ministry, let us know!

Thank you, *Vanessa*

Take Note! Our plans for Sunday, December 25th

Since Christmas Day has fallen on Sunday morning, we want to invite you to stay home and enjoy a day of rest, relaxation, and time with family and friends. So, there will be no worship on Sunday morning December 25th. We would love to see you in worship with us on Saturday night, December 24th, for our annual Candlelight & Communion Service at 7:00 p.m.

What we are thankful for:

Last month just before our Thanksgiving family night supper some folks shared what they are thankful for on slips of paper that were placed in a basket. Here are the responses from our church community:

-Thankful for our church family and Good health

-Family

-I am thankful for my family, church, and Christ in my life.

-I am thankful for a loving God where I can go in time of need and in time of fulfillment.

-God's love and Compassion

-Family friends and Church Family/Friends

-I am thankful for my husband.

-I am thankful for my wonderful wife of 56 years and counting.

-I am thankful for family, friends, and all of my church family.

-Dear God, thank you for each new day for your guidance: for strength, health, for my family and so many dear friends...For love, faith, hope, and trust in you. For our dear pastor, and family, and our loving church. Most of all for sending Jesus so we can have eternal life. Amen

-Family!

-Church Family!

-I am thankful for my family, church family, and my work.

-I am thankful for what the future might hold.

-I pray that the next year brings us all more to be thankful for.

-I am thankful for all of the answered prayers. I am thankful for ancestors/parents who raised us to believe. I am thankful for the path the Lord has given me. I am thankful for the church and all of the people. I am thankful for family, friends and the future.

Sermon Series coming in January:

In January Pastor Chris will be exploring what it means to strive to live a balanced life as a Christian disciple. His five-week sermon series called: "*A Healthy Balancing Act*" will focus on 5 aspects of life. He will talk about what it means to be balanced 1. physically, 2. mentally, 3. emotionally, 4. financially, and 5. spiritually. Each Sunday he will relate a portion of scripture to the theme for the week. Please mark your calendars to be part of this fun and challenging series.

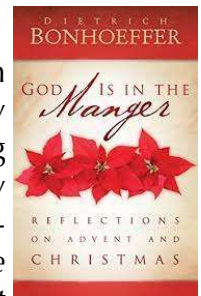
An Advent Study for Sundays:

The Angels of Christmas explores the four angelic visits surrounding the birth of Jesus with Zechariah, Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. In this study, the reader will explore the visits and dive deep into the history of the angel Gabriel and other angels-in the Old Testament. The Angels of Christmas uses these four angelic appearances to discuss God's presence in history and our lives today. The messages of the angels hold meaning for listeners both then and now. The study began Sunday, November 27th and meets each week after church. Please let Marlee Tierce know if you would like to participate in this study so she can have the books on hand. mtierce@aol.com; 423-884-2196; or let her know at church.

Advent Study on Wednesdays

Pastor Chris Black will lead an Advent Study on Wednesday evenings at 7:15 p.m. beginning on November 30th. The study will be based on a daily devotional entitled "*God is in the Manger: Reflections on Advent and Christmas*" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Each week we will explore a different theme, engage with scripture, and reflect on some thoughts and meditations from the pastor & martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer. This study promises to be a

Continued on page 5



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Here are the themes for each Advent week:

December 7th: "Mystery"

December 14th: "Redemption"

December 21st: "Incarnation"

"timeless and moving reminder of the true gift of Christmas." The books are available for order on Amazon or at Cokesbury. The church office will try to have a few copies on hand for purchase depending on availability. If you have questions about the study, then please feel free to email Pastor Chris



Come enjoy the Christmas Parade with us!

On Saturday, December 3rd the City of Madisonville will be having their Kiwanis Christmas Parade beginning at 7:00 PM. The parade route will come right by our church office area and the parking lot on E. Walnut Street. So, beginning at 6:45 (ish), some of us will be gathered in our lower parking area, and on the lawn by the office to enjoy the parade. There will be hot chocolate for as long as it lasts, so bring a chair and come join us

For those of you who may not know...

Allen Reedy is our own Floyd Reedy's son. Allen and Julia Reedy are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary, and would like all of you to join them!

Details here

Friday, December 30, 4-6 PM at the Madisonville Presbyterian Church.

Please RSVP to allenandjulia50@gmail.com



Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Service

Christmas Eve worship here at First United Methodist Church of Madisonville will be held at 7:00 p.m. in our Sanctuary. We will have communion together and celebrate the birth of our Savior through song, scripture, sacrament, and light. We hope you can join us for this beautiful service of worship on one of the most holy nights of the Christian year.



Our Service

Trustee of the Day

Different Trustees will be on duty each week-end for the rest of the year. They are as follows:

December 4th	Bob Marshall
December 12th	Ray Nelson
December 19th	Greyson Strickland
December 24th	Kevin Taylor

Altar Flowers

If you would like to provide flowers for the Altar sometime in 2023, please contact im Townson at townsonkjwp@gmail.com or (423) 836-5385

Our Gifts

For November, 2022

General Operating Fund:
Needed: \$ 21,920 **Rec'd:** \$ 19,456
Building Fund:
Needed: \$ 4,084 **Rec'd:** \$ 5,493
Memorial Fund: \$ 280
Designated: \$ 560

Our Presence

Worship Service

Average for **November, 2022**

In person - 86

Online - 12

Memorials & Honors

In the month of **November** donations were made to:

The Community Assistance Fund in honor of :
 Chris Black by Dick & Armida Conley

The Building Fund in memory of:
Lawrence Johnson by Kevin & Bev Taylor
Lawrence Johnson by Alfred &Carolynn Greenwood
Lindsay Kefauver by Kevin & Bev Taylor

Community Assistance Fund (CAF) Report

Since we restarted the Pastor's Community Assistance Fund before Easter this year, we have been very active. We have provided gift cards from businesses that do not sell alcohol or tobacco, and we otherwise make payments by credit card or check directly to landlords or service providers - not to the CAF clients themselves, and we do not make payments to hotels or motels.

The Community Assistance Fund has received \$3,968 in donations this year/ \$280 in November, and has to date made a total of \$2,684 this year/\$481 in November in disbursements to those in need. We have gift cards for food and gas from Subway, McDonalds, Walgreen's and United Grocery Outlet (UGO) to have available in the office when people show up with immediate needs for food, gas or other items.

Additionally, every week we get calls out of the blue from people with specific needs, and have been able to help them. The price of gas has prompted a number of calls for assistance, and we are seeing an uptick in calls from the elderly and families with as children asking for assistance with medical bills and prescriptions, utilities, and housing needs. While we cannot fill all of those needs, your generosity makes it possible for us to be able to immediately say "yes" to people in need, and to be Christ's hands and feet every day.



On-going Prayer Concerns:

Richard and Rose Lain
(Ruppel friends)
Liszeski family's Aunt Toni
Matthew Dill and family (Nelson friends)
The family of Lawrence Johnson
John and Dana Wiggins
Pat Rapking
Sheila Tallent
Gina Bradea (friend of Gabi Tallent)
Gerald Leichty (Regina Warfel's cousin)
Joey Kelley and family
C. A. Clark (Greenwood's uncle)
The Pyros family
Phil (Melanie Slouka's family)
Bob Ferris (Kat Ahart's neighbor)
Janie & Jack Thomas
Dr. Thomas Cox
Tom Jensen (Gabi Tallent's friend)
Harry Kious (Friend of the Nelsons)
James Harrell (Mason/Tallent friend)
Dick Butler (friend of Carolyn Peters)
Mary Ann & Ken Nelson
Barbara, Joanne and Toni (Ruppel friends)

Our Active Military Personnel:

Shawn Gregg—US Army
Nathan Greenwood—US Navy
David Hargett—US Army
Robert Haller—US Marines
Zach Johnston—US Army
Adam Thornton—US Coast Guard Reserves

If you would like addresses for our church family members who are in the military, nursing homes, or assisted living, please call the office.

Steve Oaks and family
Tom & Denise Washburn
Frank Dossett
Trip Tolbert
Infant Elsie Mae Rose & family
Norman Nelson
Terry Steinrock
David Ginsburg
Stephanie Dean
Mary Nelson
Stella VanZile & Family
Allison Slouka
Ray Sammons
Annalese Bryant
April Stinnett
Jennie Schutte
Pam (Janet Ruppel's friend)
Stan & Kay Collett
Ronnie Gay
Shelby Nelson
Jeff Smith
Karen Paxton
Jim Bromwell
Sharon Torbett Allmon
Dustin & Becky Seay
Lee Anne Perry
Sandra Coleman
Joe Alan Johnson
Joe Grubb
Scott Turney
Fred Schwartz
Dr. Mike McCoy
Brad Hughes
Sandy Hampton (Penland friend)

Alliman friend Kayla and her children
Chris Hull (Nelson friend)
Valerie Stratton (Nelson's sister-in-law)
Mable Graham
Barbara Raper
Kat Ahart
Barbara Baiz
Karen Balsinger
Joseph Certo
Roger Green
Brad Reedy
Mari Rosian (Gabi's mother)
John Stratton (Nelson family)
Todd Strickland
Dick Turner
Jo West
Pat & Gary Cloud
The Kapileo family
The Leamon family
Sandy & Mike O'Neill
Carol & Rick Rapking

If you have placed a family member or a friend on our prayer list and they have reached a point where they can come off, please let Sue know.

In most instances, names will remain on the ongoing prayer list for two months.

Those in Nursing Homes or Assisted Living:

Pat Harvey, Mary Margaret Mason & Nancy Byrum
Wood Village Assisted Living
Judy Lee
The Nursing Center at Little Creek
Sam Grubb
Life Care Center of Athens
Marilyn DePew
Life Care Center of Blount County

Meetings

United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men will meet on Sunday, December 11th at 8:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. All men of the church are invited. Breakfast will be provided.



Board of Trustees

The Trustees will meet on Monday, December 12th at 6 PM in the conference room.

Finance

The Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday, December 13th at 6 PM in the fellowship hall.

United Methodist Women



The United Methodist Women not meet in December. A Christmas luncheon is being planned. - more info as it becomes available.

Youth Fellowship

The United Methodist Youth Fellowship meets on Wednesday evenings at 6 PM.

Choir Practice

The chancel choir practices on Wednesday evenings at 6 PM.

Cub Scouts Den 100, and Scouts BSA Troop 10

The **Cub Scouts** meet at 6 PM on Mondays, in the Youth room.

The **Scouts BSA** meet at 7 PM on Mondays in the Community Room.

Watch your e-mail and the bulletins for more info/reminders on these meetings. ANY CHANGES WILL BE REFLECTED LIVE ON THE CALENDAR AT 1umcm.com

December 2022 *Happy Birthday!*

- 1 Mia Barr
- 2 Storm Millsaps
- 3 Mable Graham
- 5 Lucas Killen
- 7 Kathy Hall
- 13 John Sherrer
- 15 Bryan Beason
Camden Kadau
- 17 Linda Clements
- 19 Vanessa Barr
- 27 Mary Alice Huff
- 29 Catherine Barger

Happy Anniversary

- 29 Colin & Mimi Pfrogner
- 31 Lee Anne & Todd Strickland

Are we missing your name?

We would like to hear from you if your name is left off of the birthday or anniversary lists. Please call or text the office at (423) 442-2471 or email rbeaubien@firstumcmadisonville.org.

Please leave a message if we are not there to let us know when your birthday or anniversary is.



December 2022

OFFICIAL Live Calendar with Details and up-to-date Updates /Changes
at the bottom of 1umcm.com

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2 AA 5:30 PM Community Room	3 Eagle Scout Project—Blankets for Isaiah 117 House 10:00 AM — Fellowship Hall
4 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM, Conference Room Christmas Cantata 10:30 AM Angels of Christmas 11:45 AM, Youth Room	5 Nurture the Next - 4:30 PM FH Cub Scouts 6 PM Youth Rm Scouts BSA 7 PM Comm. Rm	6	7 UMYF at 6 PM Choir 6 PM Pastor's Advent Studies 7:15 PM, Fellowship Hall	8	9 AA 5:30 PM Community Room	10 Breakfast with Santa 9:30 AM Fellowship Hall Beason Family 3PM—Fellowship Hall
11 UMM 8:30 AM, Fellowship Hall Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM, Conf room Worship 10:30 AM Angels of Christmas 11:45 AM, Youth Rm	12 Passion Sisters 9AM Trustees 6 PM, Conf Rm Cub Scouts 6 PM Youth RM Scouts BSA 7 PM Com Rm	13 Lion's Club Eye Exams 8:30 AM—12 Noon Community Room Finance Committee 6 PM, Fellowship Hall	14 Christmas Covered Dish 6PM, F Hall Children's Christmas Program 7:00 PM Main Sanctuary Pastor's Advent Studies 7:30 PM, F Hall	15	16 AA 5:30 PM Community Room Monroe Animal Hospital Xmas—6PM, Fellowship Hall.	17 Lynch Family 12 Noon Fellowship Hall
18 Adult SS 9:30 AM, Conf rm Worship 10:30 Angels of Christmas 11:45 AM, Youth Rm	19 Cub Scouts 6 PM Youth Room Scouts BSA 7 PM Community Room	20	21 UMYF at 6 PM Choir 6 PM Pastor's Advent Studies 7:15 PM, Fellowship Hall	22	23 AA Christmas Celebration 5:30 PM Fellowship Hall	24 Christmas Eve Worship Service 7PM, Main Sanctuary
25 Christmas Day	26 Passion Sisters 9AM Cub Scouts 6 PM Youth RM Scouts BSA 7 PM Com Rm	27 Monroe Friends of Animals—pet food 12 Noon, gravel parking lot	28 UMYF at 6 PM Choir 6 PM	29	30 AA 5:30 PM Community Room	31 New Year's Eve



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Joy to the World
the Lord is come