

# The Flame



**OUR WORSHIP TIMES:**

- **Worship** 10:30 AM In-Person and On-Line at [1umcm.com](http://1umcm.com)
- **Youth Fellowship** Wednesdays at 6 PM

## From the Pastor's Study:

February is upon us! This means that we are entering a unique time in the life of the church. On the evening of February 22nd we will have a special evening worship service to recognize Ash Wednesday. This is traditionally a day set apart in the church year for penitence, spiritual reflection, and for new beginnings in the faith. Ash Wednesday also kicks off a 40-day season of the church that is called Lent. For some Christian traditions, this season has been used for new converts in the faith to prepare for their baptism (on Easter) and full membership in their local church. Most Christian traditions who observe Lent use it as a time to work toward turning away from things that distract us from God and build spiritual practices and habits that can sustain us through the coming year. At its heart, Lent is a time for evangelism and for true conversion—a time for growing through repentance, fellowship, prayer, fasting, and being signs of God's kingdom in this world.



As your Pastor I want to invite you to give yourselves the gift of having a Lenten journey of your own this year. Traditionally it is popular to give something up during this season, like chocolate or junk food...But what I want to invite you to do is set aside some time to reflect on a few things that you could give up so that you could have a deeper relationship with God. This might mean giving up daily social media to read scripture or to pray, or it could mean carving time away from work to serve someone else, or to spend more intentional time with family. In Sunday worship throughout the season of Lent we will be highlighting different ways that you can deepen your relationship with God through personal devotion.

This focus on our devotional life will be coupled with some deep engagement with scripture both in worship and at our Wednesday morning Pastor's Bible Study. (See more details about this ongoing class inside this edition.)

However you decide to participate in Lent, I hope you will do so with intention and care in 2023. The deep joy and hope that we all wish to experience at Easter as we celebrate Christ's resurrection, begins right now. As we enter this new season I hope that we can continue to grow together as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Throughout this month and all of Lent I invite you to keep these verses from Psalm 130 before you: *"I wait for the Lord, my soul waits, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning. O Israel, hope in the Lord! For with the Lord there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem."*

I pray that these words of scripture may guide us as we enter Lent, and eventually look toward Holy Week and Easter.

Lots of Hope,  
*Chris*

- Pastor  
**Rev. Chris Black**  
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**Bev Taylor**
- Organist  
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- Youth Leaders  
**Jerry & Vanessa Barr**  
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- Custodians  
**James & Kim Cox**

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## Sue's News - February 2023

Where did the month of January go? Didn't we just do our Christmas decorating a few days ago? Didn't the Christmas parade just pass by the church a Saturday or two ago? Didn't the choir just do our Christmas cantata a few Sundays ago instead of almost two months ago?

I am going to segue into worship service music and then into choir. I have talked about music and the part that it plays in the worship service before. I want to revisit the subject this month. I want you to think about the importance of music in worship. Think about our Sunday morning worship services. We are United Methodists and we are very methodical. We always have a prelude that signals the beginning of worship and the music sets the tone for us to calm down and really get into our worship time. We have a choral call to worship. We sing a hymn of praise. We sing the the Gloria Patri. We have a hymn of meditation after the prayer. We have special music during offering time which sometimes is the choir, a soloist, a small group or an instrumental special. We sing the Doxology. We have a closing hymn that reinforces Pastor Chris' sermon. We have a choral benediction and the service ends with a postlude. I think that if you go to a traditional service at almost any United Methodist church you would see this pattern. I am sure that if you go to a contemporary service it would be a different order. I don't get to do much Sunday morning visiting at other churches, but I remember that even on our mission trips to South Carolina the order of worship was almost identical to ours. You can see that music is a very important part of worship in United Methodist churches. Can you imagine a service without music?

Let me shift gears and get more specific. I want you to think about our choir (and possibly about being a part of our choir). The choir is a very faithful group that meets on Wednesday evenings (usually at 6 PM) in the sanctuary for

a one hour rehearsal. We work hard during that hour, but we also have a good time. Not everyone reads music, but everyone loves to sing. Not everyone is a soloist, but everyone loves to sing. Not everyone can be there every Wednesday night, but everyone loves to sing when they are there. Our commonality is that we love to

sing! And, I can truly say that we love each other and we love this church. We have a good time together. We share each other's concerns and joys. We are family.

Now, let me get even more specific. We have begun to work on our Easter cantata WHEN I SURVEY THE WONDROUS CROSS which we plan to present on the Sunday after Easter (April 23rd), and we would love for you to join the choir as we get ready for this special presentation. I have CDs that you can take home after choir practice and listen to as you learn the music. It is a beautiful cantata and we would love to have more voices in the choir. We would love to have you sing with us on Sunday mornings, too. Just let me know if you have any questions.

*Sue*



## Who Are They?

He was born in Monroe County and grew up in Tellico Plains. She was born in and grew up in Romania. Together, they have 3 children who live in Washington D. C., South Carolina and Tennessee. He retired a few years ago from the position of Assistant Vice President for the University of Tennessee Institute of Public Service. She is now a high school chemistry teacher and has been a chemical engineer. They love to travel and relax at home and watch their favorite shows on TV. He loves to visit with people. She is a great cook and baker. Who are they?

*answer at the bottom of page 8*

## Resurrection 2023: Showing Up to Grow in Faith

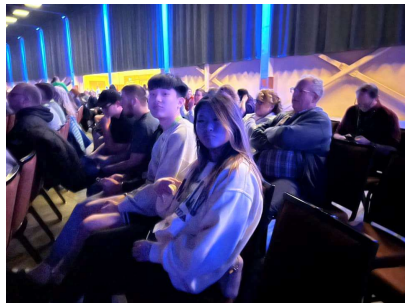
The Friday of Resurrection is one of the busiest days for our youth group and our leaders. The youth get out of school and make their way to church. Our leaders are taking half days off work or leaving early to make it to church by 4 p.m. We quickly (that's a relative term) load our luggage and food into vehicles, and the youth pile in the cars. We make our way to Pigeon Forge to our cabin, unload, hurry to get the best room, eat dinner and race to the first session. It's the same each year, and that rush sets us up for what is a fast-paced, no-sleep kind of weekend.



This year, FRVR FREE kicked off the sessions with amazing music. Youth run to the front to get as close as possible, and

there is nothing like watching about 5,000 kids jumping with hands in the air praising Jesus. What an awesome sight! Our youth thought this was one of the best bands we've had at Resurrection. Check them out on your music app!

Then we got down to business with Rev. Dr. Stephanie Hand, who brought us challenging and thought-provoking messages throughout all four ses-



sions. She urged us to forgive quickly and love deeply. She dared us simply to show up and let God use us and our talents as needed. She told us that God can make any situation – good or bad – better and that we all have a calling. She



asked if we're listening to what God is calling us to do. She capped it off by reminding us that we all have greatness in us.

The youth enjoyed time together at the cabin playing pool/billiards, watching movies in the mini theatre and swimming in the indoor pool. Some ventured to The Island to shop, take on the ropes course and jump from the high platform.



Resurrection energizes us, and I hope it helps us continue our walk with Jesus, help others in their discovery of Jesus or support them as their faith continues to grow.

To top this amazing weekend off, we have some youth who stepped forward Sunday to share that they feel they are being called to ministry. WOW!



Our youth felt that Rev. Hand really reached them with her messages and spoke to them spiritually. Please take a moment and

ask our youth and our leaders about the weekend. We all came away with our cups full – possibly running over. And as the youth leader, I love hearing youth ask if we're going back next year already..

## Community Café Notes from Dora Nelson

Valentine's Day 2023 marks our church's turn to show love for our community. It is our turn to help provide food for Community Cafe's is Tuesday Feb 14, 2023. They are serving a chicken casserole. We are providing tossed salad, bread, dessert and fresh fruit.,

We still need bread, as well as someone to do provide dessert (no Little Debbie or Hostess cakes please), Let Dora Nelson know if you can help.

## Read Together in February:

This year Rev. Chris Black invites you to join him in participating in Bishop Debra Wallace-Padgett's "Read Together" initiative. This initiative challenges us to read through the whole Bible in one year. (Plus the Revised Common Lectionary readings for each weekend.) Participating in this initiative as a whole congregation can uniquely bind us together as Christ's disciples all while rooting us more deeply in scripture. Even if you didn't read every assigned readings January you are welcome to jump back in! There will be book marks available in the welcome center with this month's readings, which are listed below. As always if you have a question about a passage or verse you are reading then please call (or text) Pastor Chris or stop by the church office.

- 1 Exodus 7-9; Psalm 105; Ephesians 1
- 2 Exodus 10-12; Ephesians 2
- 3 Exodus 13-15; Psalm 114; Ephesians 3
- 6 Exodus 16-18; Ephesians 4
- 7 Exodus 19-21; Psalm 33; Eph. 5
- 8 Exodus 22-24; Psalm 109; Eph. 6
- 9 Exodus 25-27; Psalm 90; Phil. 1
- 10 Exodus 28-31; Philippians 2
- 13 Exodus 32-34; Philippians 3
- 14 Exodus 35-37; Psalm 26; Philippians 4
- 15 Exodus 38-40; Hebrews 1 Leviticus 1-3
- 16 Psalm 27; Hebrews 2

- 17 Leviticus 4-7; Hebrews 3
- 20 Levit. 8-11; Psalm 110; Hebrews 4
- 21 Levit. 12-14; Psalm 111; Hebrews 5
- 22 Levit. 15-18; Psalm 31; Hebrews 6
- 23 Leviticus 19-20; Hebrews 7
- 24 Leviticus 21-23; Hebrews 8
- 27 Levit. 24-25; Psalm 81; Hebrews 9
- 28 Levit. 26-27; Psalm 112; Hebrews 10

***A link to the schedule has also been placed at the top of our webpage 1umcm.com.***

## Correction from January:

In printing our 2023 leadership group in the previous month's issue we neglected to print the 2023 committee on finance. Here is the complete listing of 2023 leaders:

- Chairperson, Jeff McMillan
- Appointed Pastor: Rev. Chris Black
- Lay Member of Annual Conference: Marlee Tierce
- Church Council Chair: Peter Alliman
- SPRC Chair: Kevin Taylor
- Trustee Representative: Mike Tallent
- Lay Leader: Lee Anne Strickland
- Financial Secretary: Bruce Christopher
- Treasurer: Richard Beaubien
- Building Fund Treasurer: Alfred Greenwood
- At-Large Member: Chal Thompson

## From the Church Office

Our apologies for the tardiness of this newsletter. This last month we have been busy building out our new accounting and payroll system in PowerChurch (our church management software). The entire first week of the month has been filled with the first end-of-month with the new software. Now that everything has calmed down, we anticipate getting back to a more normal schedule.

PowerChurch allows us to automate a great number of otherwise time consuming reporting functions and enhanced communications capabilities - some of which you may have already noticed!

## Lent Begins this Month...but what is it?

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. (The Saturday before Easter Sunday.) Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, meaning "lengthen" and refers to the lengthening days of spring. The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by new converts and then became a time of penance by all Christians. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, growing as disciples and extending ourselves, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of ourselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter." This is why you will see the designation "Sunday in Lent" rather than "Sunday of Lent" in the naming of these Sundays. On each Lord's Day in Lent, while Lenten fasts continue, the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection. *(This content comes from UMC.org)*

## Ash Wednesday Worship & Family Night Supper, Feb. 22nd

Ash Wednesday is a unique day in the church year where we gather to mark the beginning of the 40 day season of Lent. Our worship together will be a time to put aside past sins and failures through repentance, and to kick off a period of time to foster new beginnings in our relationship with Jesus Christ. In worship will focus on the dual themes of sin and death in the light of God's redeeming love in Christ.



While the use of ashes as a sign of mortality and penance may be new to some, it has a significant history in both Jewish and

Christian worship. The imposition of ashes can be a powerful way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. We hope you will join us for a special service of worship this coming Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. in our sanctuary.

Before the service, at 6:00 PM, plan to join us in the Fellowship Hall for a light soup/sandwich dinner. Soup and bread will be provided, This will also be the dinner for the group. Please mark your calendars to join us!

## Pastor's Weekly Bible Study Continues:

Throughout February Rev. Chris Black will continue to host a weekly home style Bible study class at 11:00 a.m. in our Sanctuary. Even if you haven't attended yet you are welcome to drop in anytime! During the first "semester" of this class (from January-May) Pastor Chris will offer an in-depth exploration of the gospel of Mark and will utilize images/stories from his trip to Israel to illuminate the scripture in new ways. It doesn't matter if you're new to the Christian faith, or have studied the Bible for years you are welcome to attend. If you have any questions about the upcoming class please email Pastor Chris at [cblack@firstumcmadisonville.org](mailto:cblack@firstumcmadisonville.org)

## Our Service

### Trustee of the Month

Carolynn Greenwood and Wes Hibbert are the Trustees for January.

### Altar Flowers

**February 12** Provided by Kim Townson

**February 19** Volunteer needed

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

## Our Gifts

For the month of January, 2022

### General Operating Fund:

**Needed:** \$ 21,920 **Rec'd:** \$ 18,809

### Building Fund:

**Needed:** \$ 4,084 **Rec'd:** \$ 3,743

**Memorial Fund:** \$ 1,157

**Designated:** \$ 250

## Our Presence

Average Attendance for **January, 2023**

In person Worship - 76

Online Worship - 6

Youth - 17

## Memorials & Honors

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

### **The Building Fund**

in memory of C.A. Clark from Kevin & Bev Taylor

### **The Memorial Fund**

In the memory of Bud Green by the Ruppels  
In honor of Pastor Chris' mom by the Browders

## IGNITE for Children in Grades K-5

We are excited to announce that our IGNITE program for K-5th grade children will begin on Wednesday night February 8th. This children's ministry will include music, Bible stories, games and more. IGNITE will meet each Wednesday night for supper at 6 PM in the fellowship hall. Following supper, the IGNITE activities will in the room across the hall from Pastor Chris' office from 6:30-7:30 PM.



The logo for the IGNITE program features the word "ignite" in a lowercase, black, serif font. The letter "i" is replaced by a stylized red flame that rises and curves to the right, ending in a black crossbar that forms the top of the letter "t".

If you are interested in volunteering to help with food, teaching, crafts or other activities with our kids contact Carol or Jennifer McKenzie.

**PARENTS/GUARDIANS** - If you are interested in bringing your child to IGNITE there is a registration process required by our Safe Sanctuaries policy. You may register your child online at <https://youth.1umcm.com>

**On-going Prayer Concerns:**

Matthew Dill and family (Nelson friends)  
 Carol King (Laurie McNeece's aunt)  
 Eleanor Willson (Cheek's great granddaughter)  
 Kay Ashley (Wanda Barger's sister in law)  
 Donna Bowers (Kefauver friend)  
 Mike Brooks (Rice family)  
 Betty Byrum Hicks  
 Andrea Freeburn and family (Hibbert's niece)  
 Barbara Kauffman (Peter Alliman's cousin)  
 Sandy Underwood (Carolyn Peter's cousin)  
 Robert Scott  
 Carl Stedham (Kathy Isbill's brother)  
 Katie (Lee) and Jared Givens' son Grady  
 Sheila Tallent  
 Gina Bradea (friend of Gabi Tallent)  
 Gerald Leichty (Regina Warfel's cousin)  
 Bob Ferris (Kat Ahart's neighbor)  
 Janie & Jack Thomas (Hamilton family)  
 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 (Dopkins' friends)  
 Steve Oaks and family  
 Tom & Denise Washburn  
 Frank Dossett  
 Trip Tolbert  
 Infant Elsie Mae Rose & family  
 Norman Nelson (Ray's brother)  
 Terry Steinrock  
 David Ginsburg  
 Stephanie Dean  
 Mary Nelson  
 Stella VanZile & Family  
 Alyssa Slouka  
 Ray Sammons  
 Jennie Schutte  
 Stan & Kay Collett  
 Ronnie Gay  
 Shelby Nelson  
 Jeff Smith  
 Jim Bromwell  
 Sharon Torbett Allmon  
 Joe Alan Johnson  
 Joe Grubb  
 Scott Turney  
 Fred Schwartz  
 Dr. Mike McCoy  
 Brad Hughes  
 Sandy Hampton (Penland friend)  
 Mable Graham  
 Alliman friend Kayla and her children

Chris Hull (Nelson friend)  
 Valerie Stratton (Nelson's sister-in-law)  
 Barbara Raper  
 Barbara Baiz  
 Karen Balsinger  
 Joseph Certo  
 Brad Reedy  
 Mari Rosian (Gabi's mother)  
 John Stratton (Nelson family)  
 Todd Strickland  
 Jo West  
 Pat & Gary Cloud  
 The Kapileo family  
 The Leamon family  
 Sandy & Mike O'Neill  
 Carol & Rick Rapping

**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.*

**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.**

**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, February 12th 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, February 13th at 6 PM in the conference room.

### Finance

The Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday, February 14th at 6 PM in the fellowship hall.

### United Methodist Women



The United Methodist Women will meet on Sunday, February 19th at 11:45 AM (following worship) in the Fellowship Hall. All Women of the church are invited. lunch will be provided.

### Youth Programming

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

IGNITE Youth (K-5) 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](http://1umcm.com)**

## February 2023

### Happy Birthday!

- 3 Emily Pennington
- 6 Floyd Reedy
- 10 Hunter Cavett
- 16 Jeff McMillan  
Brennon Venable
- 17 Merritt Sherrer  
Bethany Williford
- 14 Molly Black  
Sandy Hibbert
- 18 Cole Strickland  
Cooper Strickland
- 20 Zeke Liszeski
- 22 Reba Dopkins  
Daniel Gibson
- 24 Rick Saunders
- 27 Heather Houvenagle  
Elise Kile
- 28 Magaret Chester  
Ruby Beaubien

### Happy Anniversary

- 14 Scott & Veronica Venable
- 17 Rick & Carol Rapping

### 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](mailto:rbeaubien@firstumcmadisonville.org).

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



# February, 2023

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 UMYF at 6 PM Choir 6 PM	2	3 AA 5:30 PM Community Room	4
5 UMM 8:30 AM, Fellowship Hall Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM, Conference Room Worship 10:30 AM People of the Bible" Studies 11:45 AM - Youth Rm	6 Cub Scouts 6 PM Youth Rn Scouts BSA 7 PM Comm. Rm	7	8 UMYF at 6 PM IGNITE 6 PM Choir 6 PM	9	10 AA 5:30 PM Community Room	11
12 UMM 8:30 AM Fellowship Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM, Conf room Worship 10:30 AM People of the Bible" Studies 11:45 AM - Youth Rm	13 Trustees 6 PM, Conf Rm Cub Scouts 6 PM Youth RM Scouts BSA 7 PM Com Rm	14 Lion's Club Eye Exams 8:30 AM—12 Noon Community Room Finance Committee 6 PM, Fellowship Hall	15 Pastor's Bible Study 11:00 AM, Sanctuary UMYF at 6 PM IGNITE 6 PM Choir 6 PM	16	17 AA 5:30 PM Community Room	18
19 Adult SS 9:30 AM, Conf rm Worship 10:30 AM UMW 11:45 AM - Fellowship Hall	20 Cub Scouts 6 PM Youth Room Scouts BSA 7 PM Community Room	21	22 Pastor's Bible Study 11 AM, Sanctuary Soup & Bread Dinner 6PM FH Ash Wednesday Service 7PM	23 Kiwanis Chili Cookoff 4:30 - 6:30 PM, Fell. Hall	24 AA 5:30 PM Community Room	25
26 Adult SS 9:30 AM, Conf rm Worship 10:30 "People of the Bible" Studies 11:45 AM - Fellowship Hall	27 Cub Scouts 6 PM Youth RM Scouts BSA 7 PM Com Rm	28 Monroe Friends of Animals—pet food 12 Noon, gravel parking lot				



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## Jubilation 2023 Registration is now open!

Jubilation is an annual retreat in Pigeon Forge that is geared for older adults. It can be a time of renewal, fellowship, laughter, and even a rich time to have your Christian faith deepened. If you are interested in more information or registering to attend, please visit: <https://www.holston.org/jubilation> or call the church office.



*Ed Kilbourne*

**A Retreat for Saints and Sages:**  
**Featuring storyteller and folk theologian Ed Kilbourne**  
**April 24-26, 2023**  
**Black Fox Lodge**  
**Pigeon Forge, TN**  
**Registration deadline March 1, 2023**