

THE FLAME



OUR WORSHIP TIMES:

- **Worship** 10:30 AM
On-Line at 1umcm.com
- **Youth Fellowship**
Wednesdays at 6 PM
Check with Vanessa Barr for details

RELIGION — or JESUS CHRIST?

A radio ad for a church caught a listener’s attention: “Because you’ve heard about Christianity, you might not be interested in religion. Well, it might surprise you—Jesus wasn’t interested in religion either. But He was big on relationship and teaching us to love one another.” It continued, “You may not like everything about our church, but we offer authentic relationship, and we’re learning to love God and each other. You’re welcome to visit.”

Many people understand the term “religion” as a bunch of rules that make you look good to God and others, and they are not very interested in that kind of “religion.” The ad had a good insight, in that Jesus had real problems with the religious leaders of his day, because they were committed to following a list of rules that they were convinced would satisfy and please God. He said the Pharisees, guided by tradition and rules but not by love for the Lord, “outwardly appear righteous to men, but inside [they] are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness” (Matt. 23:28). They didn’t have the love of God in their hearts (John 5:42). Jesus wanted relationship with them, but they were “not willing to come to [Him]” (5:40).

It is true— Jesus was not very interested in following rules to look outwardly spiritual, to please God or other people. Jesus was interested in relationships— that each of us might have a personal relationship with God, and with Jesus the Risen Savior Himself. He offers a personal, intimate relationship with Himself to all who come to Him, and complete forgiveness and unconditional love and eternal life to everyone who trusts in Him. We are reading and preaching through the Parables of Jesus in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke this month, to see more of what Jesus taught about “Faith, that is MORE than religion”. See you Sunday at the “Finding Jesus, more than Religion” place.

Keith G Knight



Pastor
Rev. Keith Knight
Keith_Knight1985@aol.com

Administrative Assistant
Reba Dopkins
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

Inside This Issue:

Sue’s News	2
News You Can Use	3
Memorials & Honorariums Birthdays & Anniversaries	4
Second Mile Giving	5
We Support our Church by: Our Gifts, Service & Prayers	6
February Calendar	7
Electronic Giving Info	8

. . .for February

I am writing this on Sunday afternoon. I have spent the morning at the church with our online worship team as we did our 48th online service. 48th! Looking back to last March, who would have thought this would be our situation on the last Sunday of January in 2021! I am so glad that we have been able to have the online services. We have connected with some folks (like Mable Graham who now lives in Mississippi) who we have not seen in many years. We have some of my former youth group (like Mary Witt Butler) who join us almost every Sunday and some of our folks who have recently moved (like Art and Penny Fowler) who are joining us almost every Sunday until they have the opportunity to find a church family in the Knoxville area. We have had some folks with no previous connection to our church joining us. I always enjoy viewing the service later and seeing comments from at least some of our friends who have joined us on Sunday morning. It has made me feel more connected to our congregation over the last almost 11 months. I know that it is not the same as being together in our sanctuary on Sunday morning, but it still gives me a connected feeling.

The Church is the People!

Our reopening task force will be meeting in the next few days to begin working on plans for our eventual reopening. We are closely monitoring the number of new and active cases of Covid in Monroe County. Being safe is our top priority. When we do reopen, it will be the responsibility of every person in attendance to make sure First UMC Madisonville is a safe place. Maximum capacity in our fellowship hall and sanctuary/ gathering area has been determined and will be monitored. Safe social distance seating will also be determined. There are many safe practice guidelines that we will put into place. We want all in attendance to feel comfortable and safe. We will keep you updated as preparations are made.

We continue to pray for those on our prayer lists and for many others. We try to keep our prayer lists up to date and we appreciate our church family letting us know when there are prayer concerns. I know that lots of people are praying. Please keep praying. Always remember that the church is not the building. The church is the people!

Sue

Music / Program Director



Stay Safe!!

Please continue to practice social distancing and wear a face mask.



Face Masks – washable & reusable - (given to us by the county health dept) are available at the church. If anyone needs one or two they are available.

Reba is still making cloth masks for anyone who would like one or more.

Just call 423-519-6628 to make arrangements to pick up either kind.

Vaccinations—Watch or listen to the news about when and where you can get the COVID-19 vaccine. By getting a major percent of Monroe county residents vaccinated we can reduce the number of cases.

Remember—Wash your hands often, use sanitizer, stay away from large crowds, social distance, and *wear a mask!*

Church Office Hours

During the month of February the staff will continue to work from home as much as possible. Please do not hesitate to call any one of us to let us know how we can help you.

For Pastoral needs - please call Pastor Keith at 865-803-2547 or email him at keith_knight@aol.com

For Prayer requests - please call Sue at 423-337-1830 or email her at

sue@firstumcmadisonville.org Let her know your praises also so we can all rejoice with you.

For other needs - please call Reba at 423-519-6628 (cell), 423-420-9828 (house) or email her at adminassist@firstumcmadisonville.org

If we do not answer our phones - **please leave a message** - we will call you back.

Committee Meetings

Board of Trustees

The Trustees will meet by phone conference on Monday, Feb 8th at 6 PM. Mike Tallent will be sending out the contact info—watch your e-mail.



Finance

The Finance Committee will meet by phone conference on Tuesday, Feb 9th at 6 PM. Jeff McMillan will be sending out the contact info—watch your e-mail.



Lent February 17 (Ash Wednesday) thru April 3

Here are some interesting facts about the Lenten season:

Lent is the period of 40 days before Easter in the Christian calendar. Sundays are not included in the count. It falls on a different date each year because it is dependent on the date of Easter Sunday.

Why 40 days? The number is significant in Jewish-Christian scripture: in Genesis, it took 40 days and nights of rain to cause a flood which destroyed the earth; the Hebrews spent 40 years in the wilderness before reaching the Promised Land; Moses fasted for 40 days before receiving the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai; Jesus spent 40 days of fasting in preparation for his ministry.

Lent is derived from an Old English word which means "lengthen." The last week of Lent is called Holy Week.

Violet is the symbolic color for Lent, with altars, statues and other religious paraphernalia veiled in violet fabric.

Why violet? The color is associated with mourning, which anticipates Christ's pain

and suffering on the cross; and royalty, which celebrates Christ's resurrection.

In most Christian denominations, Lent starts with Ash Wednesday, which is derived from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of the faithful as a sign of repentance to God. The ashes are made by burning the blessed palms that were distributed the previous year on Palm Sunday.

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent, a time when many Christians prepare for Easter by observing a period of fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline.

Through the service of ashes on the first day of Lent, we come before God recognizing our humanity, repenting of our sin, and remembering who we are and who we can be.



Memorials & Honorariums

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



The **Building Fund** in memory of:

Betty Cornett by:
John Summitt & Joan Holland
Duane & Reba Dopkins

Irad Lee by:
Duane & Reba Dopkins
Wayne & Lucille Peery
Pat Rapking

Brian Hembrick by:
Duane & Reba Dopkins

Ruth Roberts by:
Marlee Tierce

Billy Williford by:
Duane & Reba Dopkins
John Summitt & Joan Holland
Pat Rapking

Jane Kyker Barham by:
Wayne & Lucille Peery

Joyce Turner by:
Pat Rapking

Glenn Moser by:
Pat Rapking



We received a note from Dick Turner thanking those who made donations to our church in memory of Joyce and also the UMW for the brick given in her memory. He misses Tennessee but is settling into life in Pennsylvania with his family.

FEBRUARY

Happy Birthday

- 1 Suzanne Benton
- 3 Emily Pennington
- 6 Margaret Marshall
Floyd Reedy
- 7 Mary Fowler Wise
- 8 Regan Jung
- 9 Nancy Byrum
- 10 Hunter Cavett
Elida Houvenagle Chittum
- 12 Mat Vinyard
- 16 Beth Fowler Lewis
Jeff McMillan
- 17 Bethany Williford
Merritt Sherrer
- 18 Cooper Strickland
Cole Strickland
- 20 Zeke Liszeski
- 22 Reba Dopkins
Danny Gibson
- 24 Rick Saunders
- 25 Emma Tate
- 27 Heather Houvenagle
Elise Kile

Happy Anniversary

- 17 Rick & Carol Rapking
- 27 Bob & Margaret Marshall
- 28 Mat & Stephanie Vinyard

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.

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



. . . 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 at this time

- **GREEN BEANS**
- Canned tomato products



Donations for the GSC may be delivered to them Monday –Thursday, 10AM –Noon. If you cannot deliver to them during these hours you can drop your donations at the church any time. There is a blue tote at the front entrance to the church to put them in.

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
- 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
- aluminum cans—proceeds from sale will benefit our children's programs

Blessing Box

If anyone wants to help keep the box filled, we welcome your assistance with things like:

- canned food with pull tabs
- crackers
- toilet paper
- non-perishable foods
- bottled water
- small snacks
- baby wipes
- toiletries such as: bath soap, deodorant, toothpaste, tooth brushes, socks

Food for Friends

Right now we have many people and families on our prayer list. We have had quite a few people who have been hospitalized or homebound. A good meal is always appreciated. If you would be willing to fix a meal or part of a meal, please let Sue know at sue@firstumcmadisonville.org or by phone at 423 337-1830 or call the church office at 423 442-2471. Sue will make a list and organize the list. Thanks in advance for supporting this food ministry.



Our Prayers

Our Active Military Personnel

Nathan Greenwood—US Navy
 David Hargett—US Army
 Zach Johnston—US Army
 Wesley Taylor—US Army
 Adam Thornton—US Coast Guard Reserves

Those in Nursing Homes or Assisted Living:

Wood Village, Sweetwater
 Mary Margaret Mason
 Pat Harvey
 Gerri Benton

Morning Pointe of Knoxville,
 Memory Care Unit
 Judy Lee

Ouachita Health Care
 Shirley Nappier (Harold Hunt's m-in-law)

Madisonville Health & Rehab Center
 Sam Grubb
 Joe Grubb

Life Care Center of Blount County
 Howard Harvey

Dominion Senior Center—Athens
 Emma Tate

Our Gifts

For January (thru the 24th)

General Operating Fund:

Needed: \$21,340 **Rec'd:** \$ 12,701

Building Fund:

Needed: \$4,084 **Rec'd:** \$ 4,685

Memorial Fund: \$ 1,000

Designated: \$ 1,112

Our Presence

Online Streamed Worship Service

Average for the month
 Views — 95

Registered and in person — 35

(Please register your attendance! We have to turn in records to the Conference office and we know people are watching but don't know who.)

On-going Prayer Concerns:

Sharon Amundson
 Vickie Anderson
 Barbara Baiz
 Charles Baker
 Janet Bales
 Susan M Blalock
 Jay Browne
 Cooper Burks
 Nancy Byrum
 Betty Carey
 Becky Chester
 Jane Daily
 Greg Davis
 Marilyn DePew
 Tony Ellison
 Courtney Farmer
 Marjorie Fezlar
 John H Ford
 Shane Garrett
 Tammy George
 Kerry Gladden
 Mable Graham
 Mike Gregory
 Richard Hall
 Ashley Harmon
 Betty Hicks
 Jennifer Hicks
 April Hill
 Bill Huddleston
 Brad Hughes
 Dr Bob Hunt
 Logan Hunt
 Peggy Hyatt
 Jan Johnson
 Joe Alan Johnson
 Tim Johnson
 Pauline Kauffman
 Gay Layne
 Doug Lottes
 Nancy Manning
 Doris Melton
 Christopher Miller
 Freida Naylor
 Dora Nelson
 Maria Nelson
 Mary Nelson
 Norman Nelson
 Susie Nelson

Barbara Pennington
 Kristin Pennington
 Gerald Phillips
 Bill Poole
 Sue Price
 Barbara Raper
 Barbara Roberson
 Donna Roberson
 Meredith Robinson
 Catherine Reed
 Darlene Reed
 Kevin Reynolds
 Paul Robbins
 Maria Rosian
 Nancy Saggio
 Francis Scott
 Susan Sherrer
 Carolyn Sherrill
 Tonya Wells Spires
 John Stratton
 Todd Strickland
 Mike Summitt
 Debbie Tucker
 Dick Turner
 Alexander Wade
 Faye Watson
 Jo West
 Peggy White
 Selena Wiggs
 Eli Zinck

Mitch & Lisa Borden
 Pat & Gary Cloud
 Casey & Mike Deaguero
 Wendy and Rick Garland
 The Grubb Family
 Christine Hendricks and
 son-Randy
 The Leamon family
 Mary Margaret and
 Dickie Mason
 Sandy & Mike O'Neill
 Carol & Rick Rapping
 The Drew Teague family
 Michael and Becky
 Wacaster
 Curwood Witt & family
 The Williford family

February 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3 UMYF at 6 PM	4	5	6
7 Online Worship 10:30 AM at lumcm.com	8 Trustees 6 PM	9 Finance Comm 6 PM	10 UMYF at 6 PM	11	12	13
14 Online Worship 10:30 AM at lumcm.com	15	16	17 UMYF at 6 PM	18	19	20
21 Online Worship 10:30 AM at lumcm.com	22	23	24 UMYF at 6 PM	25	26	27
28 Online Worship 10:30 AM at lumcm.com	<p>Our Online Worship services will continue until the weather breaks or we have at least a 2 week reduction in the number so COVID-19 cases in Monroe County. Our Online Worship at lumcm.com is at 10:30 AM. You can also listen on the radio at 91.1 FM at 10:30 AM if you are in the vicinity of our church. The order of worship may be a little different from what we have been experiencing but it will still be First United Methodist Church.</p>					



First United Methodist Church
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Office Hours: 8 AM to 1 PM



Our website:
www.1umcm.com

Follow us on:
Facebook

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FirstUMCMadisonville/](https://www.facebook.com/FirstUMCMadisonville/)

Twitter

[https://twitter.com/
FUMCMadville](https://twitter.com/FUMCMadville)

Each year Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. In 2021 Ash Wednesday falls on February 17. Often called the Day of Ashes, Ash Wednesday starts Lent by focusing the Christian's heart on repentance and prayer, usually through personal and communal confession.

*First United Methodist Church
Madisonville, TN*

ELECTRONIC GIVING

If you would like to give electronically GO TO 1umcm.com click on ONLINE GIVING

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

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 from your checking or savings accounts,

approximately 3% more of your gift will go to ministry

compared to a credit/debit card transaction.

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

