

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 . . .

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." - Psalm 119:105

Happy New Year!



We welcome a new year in ministry on the heels of a beautiful, rich, and meaningful Advent season. It was an absolute joy to celebrate my second Advent/Christmas season as your pastor. Throughout November and December I prayed and reflected deeply about how our church community should enter into the year 2023, and the phrase that kept coming to mind was, "foster scriptural literacy." As I mentioned in worship a few weeks ago I believe one of the most tragic parts of modern Christian discipleship in the 21st century is how rampant biblical illiteracy is becoming. This problem is intergenerational and it is caused by a myriad of cultural and, social issues that I won't try to tackle in this note. Suffice it to say, I think we should respond both individually and collectively by engaging anew with God's word this year.

I believe, just as our founder John Wesley did, that "searching the scriptures" can be a means of God's Grace, and that doing this as a practice can lead all people to deeper belief in God, informing them about salvation and how to live out Christ's teachings. I also believe that having a daily practice of being rooted in God's word can help nourish us spiritually as we go through both the challenges and the joys of life. Lastly, I believe that familiarity with scriptures can help inform our witness, and how we share the good news of Christ by our actions and our words.

In this edition of the newsletter there are a couple of new ways that we will be engaging with God's word as a community; these include our worship together, a new weekly Bible study I will be hosting, and our read together initiative. My hope and prayer for you this month is that you will take advantage of at least one new way to be engaged with the Bible and that you will be on the lookout for other ways in the coming months as we continue together in ministry in 2023.

It is a privilege to continue to serve as your Pastor in this new year, and I look forward to seeing you around the church or in worship.

Lots of Hope!

Chris

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Sue's News - January, 2023

Wasn't December 2022 an exciting month at First UMC Madisonville?! We had a beautifully decorated church. We had Hanging of the Greens and a social time on the first Sunday of Advent which was actually November 27th. Our choir performed the Christmas cantata early in the month on December 4th. (I have already picked out the Christmas cantata for December 2023 and I am so excited about finding it. My favorite composer had had fallen off the grid but has now resurfaced. I can't wait to get started on it in the fall). A new adult Sunday school class began in December. We had not one, but two Advent studies during December. We had Breakfast with Santa for our children and opened the big event up to any children in the community who wanted to attend. We had wonderful sermons. We served hot chocolate during the Madisonville Christmas Parade. We had a wonderful Christmas family night supper on the night that we did our annual children's Christmas program. We did a food drive to benefit our Blessing Box. We had a beautiful Christmas Eve service with about 125 people in attendance. Our youth had a Christmas meal/party. Our United Methodist Women had a wonderful Christmas luncheon at Rarity Bay. We served several people through our Community Benevolence Fund. I am sure there are things that I have not put in this paragraph. December was a wonderful and special month at First UMC Madisonville.

January is always a time of new beginnings, and January 2023 is no exception. The 2023 calendar is wide open for exciting things that we want to do and plan to do at First UMC Madisonville. We already have many things penciled in. We have meetings scheduled for things that need to be discussed and acted upon to keep our church up and going. We have committees and groups that meet to make sure that our buildings are in tip top shape and committees that meet to make sure that we are on good financial footing. We have groups that make sure that we are doing things to bring people into our church and to take our church out into the community and into the world. We are in the process of restarting our Ignite program for our children on Wednesday evenings. The year 2023 is going to be another very exciting time for our church and we hope everyone feels this excitement. We are

moving forward and the momentum continues to build. I think everyone feels the excitement and commitment that we have now. WE ARE ALIVE!

January is the time that we get back in our routines. Choir will resume on Wednesday January 4th at 6 PM. We would love to have people join the choir. We are a fun and faithful group. Let me know if you would like to be a part of this wonderful group of people or just show up on the 4th. We will begin work on our Easter cantata soon.

A January tradition for our youth is their annual trip to Resurrection in Pigeon Forge. This year's dates are January 20 through 22. Please begin to pray for this big event and for all of our folks who will be attending.

We are looking ahead to upcoming events and services for the next few months. Continue to look at your emails, our website, newsletters and bulletins for what will be happening. WE ARE ALIVE!



Who Are They?

This person was born in Rensselaer, Indiana and worked there for 32 years for the newspaper. This person worked for a major retail store for 29 years, and moved to Madisonville in 2018 and loves traveling, reading, and mosaics. Who is this person? *(answer on page 8)*

Read Together in 2023

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. There will be book marks available in the

welcome center with each month's readings, and the readings for the week will also be printed in the bulletin. 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. Here are the readings for the month of January:

Read Together Schedule January 2023

Jan. 1st

Option 1: Revised Common Lectionary: First Sunday after Christmas Day

Isaiah 63:7-9; Psalm 148; Hebrews 2:10-18; Matthew 2:13-23

Option 2: Revised Common Lectionary: New Year's Day

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13; Psalm 8; Revelation 21:1-6a 8; Matthew 25:31-46

2 Genesis 1-2; Psalm 19; Mark 1

3 Genesis 3-5; Mark 2

4 Genesis 6-8; Psalm 104; Mark 3

5 Genesis 9-11; Mark 4

6 Genesis 12-15; Psalm 148; Mark 5

Revised Common Lectionary: Epiphany of the Lord Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14; Ephesians 3:1-12; Matthew 2:1-12

7-8 Revised Common Lectionary: Baptism of the Lord, First Sunday after the Epiphany Isaiah 42:1-9; Psalm 29; Acts 10:34-43; Matthew 3:13-17

9 Genesis 16-18; Mark 6

10 Genesis 19-20; Psalm 1; Mark 7

11 Genesis 21-23; Psalm 107; Mark 8

12 Genesis 24-25; Psalm 4; Mark 9

13 Genesis 26-27; Mark 10

14-15 Revised Common Lectionary: Second Sunday after the Epiphany Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-11; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42

16 Genesis 28-29; Mark 11

17 Genesis 30-31; Psalm 11; Mark 12

18 Genesis 32-34; Psalm 145; Mark 13 Genesis 35-37; Psalm 12; Mark 14

20 Genesis 38-40; Mark 15

21-22 Revised Common Lectionary: Third Sunday after the Epiphany Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1, 4-9; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23

23 Genesis 41-42; Mark 16

24 Genesis 43-44; Psalm 24; Galatians 1

25 Genesis 45-46; Psalm 108; Galatians 2

26 Genesis 47-48; Psalm 25; Galatians 3

27 Genesis 49-50; Galatians 4

28-29 Revised Common Lectionary: Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalm 111; 1 Corinthians 8:1-13; Mark 1:21-28

30 Exodus 1-3; Galatians 5

31 Exodus 4-6; Galatians

Max Lucado's People of the Bible Studies

These two studies will get us through winter and into summer with breaks for holidays and meetings. These are not studies for just women or just men. We can all learn from the studies of how God intervened to change lives to impact the world. Each chapter is about a different person.

1. **Ten Women of the Bible:** For women in Bible times being overlooked, marginalized, having your contributions discounted because you're a woman...it's just the way things were. In this 10-lesson workbook, Max Lucado tells some of his favorite accounts of women in Scripture and the remarkable way God broke down cultural barriers to use them in the unfolding of His story.

2. **Ten Men of the Bible:** The men depicted in the Bible were not perfect by any means. We find story after story marked by scandal, failure, and intrigue. Yet we also find many stories of men who were able to look beyond their circumstances, completely trust in the Lord and

follow Him wherever He chose for them. Like us, these men made both good and bad decisions along the way--and experienced both good and bad consequences--and we find our struggles and hopes in the pages of the Bible that tells their stories.

The study sessions are after church service beginning Sunday, January 22 with the fellowship of lunch. Please let Marlee Tierce know if you wish to join the study group: mtierce@aol.com or 423-884-2196 (landline). Marlee has a few books for use or purchase. Books are available at Cokesbury.com (\$13.99).

Mark your calendars for breakfast for dinner!

On Wednesday, January 25th at 6:00 p.m. we will be having our monthly family night supper in the fellowship hall, and we want to invite you to bring your favorite breakfast dish!

This could be biscuits with gravy, fruit salad, bacon, egg & sausage casserole, etc. Pastor Chris will be making pancakes to share. This dinner should be a wonderful time to be together during one of the coldest months of the year.



Pastor's Weekly Bible Study starting in January

On Wednesday, January 18th through May 10th at 11:00 a.m. in the sanctuary the Rev. Chris Black will begin hosting a weekly home style Bible study class. During the first "semester" of this class (from January-May) Pastor Chris will offer an in-depth exploration of the gospel of Mark. 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

Beason Baby Shower!

There will be a drop-in baby shower for Mia Sage and Bryan and little baby girl to be on Sunday January 15 from 1:30-3:00 PM in the gathering area. Mia says that her colors are purple and sage green, but gifts of any color will be greatly appreciated. Mia Sage's number is 423 836-2640 if you want to ask her questions. (Carolynn Greenwood, Jan Johnson and Sue)



Painting Workshop for Seniors

The Monroe Area Council for the Arts (MACA) is providing a free Acrylic Painting Workshop for Seniors on Saturday, January 14th, 2023 from 10:00 AM to Noon in our Fellowship Hall. Instructors will be Mia Sage Beason and Jan Lowry. There is a limit of 20 participants, so please call (423) 442-3210 or email maca491@gmail.com to reserve a spot. This project is supported in part by the Arts & Culture Alliance and the National Endowment for the Arts.



Ignite Is Coming!!!

We are excited to announce that our Ignite program for K-5th grade will be starting back in February! This children's ministry will include music, Bible stories, crafts, games, and more. We will meet each Wednesday night for summer at 6:00 PM in the fellowship hall. Following supper, the Ignite activities will be from 6:30 PM—7:30 PM. Stay tuned for the exact date we will be kicking this new program off, and for more information. If you are interested in volunteering to help with food, teaching, crafts, or other activities with our kids, please contact Carol or Jennifer McKenzie. We look forward to great happenings in 2023 with our kids!

Church Leadership for 2023

Church Council

Chairperson: Peter Alliman

Recording Secretary: Phyllis Harrell

Lay Leader: Lee Anne Strickland

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Marlee Tierce

Lay Member to Annual Conference (Alternate) Sue Hamilton

Finance Committee Chairperson: Jeff McMillan

SPRC Chairperson: Kevin Taylor

Trustees Chairperson: Mike Tallent*

Nominations & Leadership Development: Rev. Chris Black

Treasurer: Richard Beaubien

Financial Secretary: Bruce Christopher

UMW Representative/Chair: Janet Ruppel

UMM Representative/Chair: Rick Rapping

*Trustees will hold a vote for 2023 chairperson at their January meeting.

Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)

2023: Rick Rapping
Peter Alliman
Steve Tweed

2024: Kevin Taylor (Chair)
Jennifer Mckenzie
Dora Nelson

2025: Lindsay Lizeski
Brian Beason
Kim Townson

Lay Leader: Lee Anne Strickland

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Marlee Tierce

Staff Liaison: Rev. Chris Black

Board of Trustees Committee

2023: Carolynn Greenwood
Ray Nelson
Mike Tallent (2022 Chairperson)

2024: Bob Marshall
Jerry Barr
Greyson Strickland

2025: Chad Chester
Wes Hibbert
Regina Warfel

Staff Liaison: Rev. Chris Black

Nominations and Leadership Development Committee

Rev. Chris Black, Chair
Lee Anne Strickland, Vice Chair

2023: Wanda Barger
Lindsay Lizeski
Jerry Barr

2024: Richard Beaubien
Jany Lowry
Kathleen Cornett

2025: Don Browder
Veronica Veneble
Bethany Williford

Children & Youth Planning Team:

Co-Chairs: Vanessa and Jerry Barr
Staff Liaisons: Rev. Chris Black, Erin Roberts, Sue Hamilton
Carol McKenzie
Janet Tweed
Jennifer Mckenzie
Dora Nelson
Larry Davis
Kathleen Cornett
Patty Williford
Bethany Williford
Tate Sherrer

Our Service

Trustee of the Month

Mike Tallent is the Trustee for January.

Altar Flowers

January 8th Jan Johnson, in memory of her grandmother Azalea Foley Patrick

January 15 Jan Johnson, in memory of her grandmother Emma Rose McMurray

January 22 Lee Anne Strickland and Joe Grubb, in memory of their mother Kay Grubb

January 29 Mike & Gabi Tallent in memory of their parents

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 December, 2022

General Operating Fund:

Needed: \$ 21,920 **Rec'd:** \$ 21,665

Building Fund:

Needed: \$ 4,084 **Rec'd:** \$ 7,338

Memorial Fund: \$ 365

Designated: \$ 1,000

Our Presence

Worship Service

Average for **December, 2022**

In person - 106

Online - 10

Memorials & Honors

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

The Building Fund in the memory of Lawrence Johnson by:

Duane & Reba Dopkins

John Summitt & John Holland

Community Assistance Fund (CAF) Report

December—and its weather—has made heavy demands on the Community Assistance fund. 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 \$4,333 in donations this year/ \$365 in December, and has to date made a total of \$3,670 this year/\$1,037 in December 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. This month, we got many more calls for assistance to pay with electrical utilities.

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 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 Leichy (Regina Warfel's cousin)
Joey Kelley and family
Family of 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
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, January 8th 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, January 9th at 6 PM in the conference room.

Finance

The Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 10th at 6 PM in the fellowship hall.

United Methodist Women



The United Methodist Women will not meet in January 2023.

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

January 2023

Happy Birthday!

- 3 Carolyn Peters
- 4 Art Fowler
- 6 Averie Waller
- 10 Kat Ahart
- 11 Peter Alliman
- Jerry Barr
- 13 Frank McKenzie
- 14 Molly Black
- Sandy Hibbert
- 16 Mary Margaret Mason
- 18 Chal Thompson
- 19 Bryden Kadau
- Kathy Saunders
- 21 Veronica Venable
- 23 Jan Johnson
- 25 Carolynn Greenwood
- 27 David Kefauver
- 30 Ann Barker
- Julie Black
- Alexander Dockery

Happy Anniversary

- 15 John & Susan Sherrer

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.

January, 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	2	3	4 UMYF at 6 PM Choir 6 PM	5	6 AA 5:30 PM Community Room	7
8 UMM 8:30 AM, Fellowship Hall Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM, Conference Room Worship 10:30 AM	9 Trustees 6 PM, Conf Rm Cub Scouts 6 PM Youth Rm Scouts BSA 7 PM Comm. Rm	10 Lion's Club Eye Exams 8:30 AM—12 Noon Community Room Finance Committee 6 PM, Fellowship Hall	11 UMYF at 6 PM Choir 6 PM	12	13 AA 5:30 PM Community Room	14
15 Adult Sunday School 9:30 AM, Conf room Worship 10:30 AM	16 Cub Scouts 6 PM Youth RM Scouts BSA 7 PM Com Rm	17	18 Pastor's Bible Study 11:00 AM, Sanctuary UMYF at 6 PM Choir 6 PM	19	20 AA 5:30 PM Community Room Resurrection	21 Resurrection 2023
22 Adult SS 9:30 AM, Conf rm Worship 10:30 "People of the Bible" Studies 11:45 AM - Fellowship Hall Resurrection 2023	23 Cub Scouts 6 PM Youth Room Scouts BSA 7 PM Community Room	24	25 Pastor's Bible Study 11 AM, Sanctuary Breakfast for Dinner at 6 PM, Fellowship Hall UMYF 6 PM	26	27 AA 5:30 PM Community Room	28
29 Adult SS 9:30 AM, Conf rm Worship 10:30 "People of the Bible" Studies 11:45 AM - Fellowship	30 Cub Scouts 6 PM Youth RM Scouts BSA 7 PM Com Rm	31 Monroe Friends of Animals—pet food 12 Noon, gravel parking lot				



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FAITH
ONE
HOPE
LORD

Resurrection 2023

Dates and Venue

January 20-22, 2023

LeConte Center, Pigeon Forge, TN

Resurrection is an awesome annual event of worship and spiritual growth for youth and youth mentors. Each year over 12,000 youth and volunteers come together in Pigeon Forge, TN, to celebrate the God of The Resurrection. Through inspirational words and music led by nationally-known speakers and musicians, young people encounter the Lord in new

and deeper ways. Resurrection is hosted by the youth ministry of the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church. Most of the youth and adults who attend Resurrection come from the geographical areas of the Holston Conference which includes northeast Georgia, eastern Tennessee, and southwestern Virginia. For many, Resurrection is an opportunity for conversion, decision, and revival. For others, it becomes a moment of realization that their faith needs to grow deeper and more serious. For more information, contact Vanessa Barr at vbruemmer@gmail.com