

# 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 Check with Vanessa Barr for details

## From the Pastor's desk . . .

Happy New Year! It has been wonderful to welcome a new year in ministry with you on the heels of such a beautiful, rich, and meaningful Advent season. As I mentioned in our last newsletter, January will be a little different for both you and me because Julie and I will be welcoming our 2nd daughter sometime around January 16th. I am planning on taking 3 Sundays away to be with Julie, Sydney, and Molly. While I am away I will still be available for emergency pastoral care needs and will be checking in with the office often. After my initial 3 Sundays away, I will be back in the office on a flex schedule for 3 weeks and will preach and lead worship as normal (albeit with a little less sleep than usual). This flexible time will give me the chance to help meet needs at home as they arise. During my three Sundays away you will have the privilege to hear from a few of my very favorite preachers from my youth who are now retired.

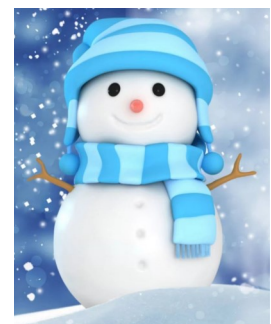


During my first Sunday away you will be led by the Rev. Jim Whedbee, who was my pastor at my home church of Fountain City United Methodist. Many of you who watched my ordination service will recognize him. On the second Sunday, I am away you will hear from my good friend and former District Superintendent, the Rev. Dr. Stella Roberts. I have known Stella since 2004 and was taught by her husband, Sam, at Tennessee Wesleyan during my time there. On my third Sunday away you will hear from Bishop Richard Looney, who I got to know briefly during my time as a student pastor at 1st Centenary UMC in Chattanooga, TN. All three of these preachers are absolutely wonderful and have blessed and challenged my faith in different ways. I know if you attend worship your faith will be blessed and challenged as well. On page # 4 you will find a little more detail about them and their ministries here in Holston.

My prayer for you, while I am away, is that each week the Holy Spirit would move in you and in our guest preachers and that your own relationship with Jesus Christ would be deepened and strengthened.

Lots of Hope!  
Chris

- Pastor  
**Rev. Chris Black**  
cblack@firstumcmadisonville.org
- Administrative Assistant  
**Reba Dopkins**  
adminassist@firstumcmadisonville.org
- Music/Program Director  
**Sue Hamilton**  
sue@firstumcmadisonville.org
- Pianist  
**Bev Taylor**
- Organist  
**Mary Alice Huff**
- Youth Leaders  
**Jerry & Vanessa Barr**  
vbreummer@gmail.com
- Custodians  
**James & Kim Cox**



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. . . for January

January is always a time of new beginnings, and January 2022 is no exception. The 2022 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. The year 2022 is going to be a 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 practice has resumed and we are practicing on Wednesday evenings 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.

A January tradition for our youth is their trip to Resurrection in Pigeon Forge. This year's dates are January 21-23. 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!

*Sue*



Who Are They???

*We will continue to profile a family or person in our church each month. See if you can identify them from the info that we give you.*

They have been married 51 years and have 2 children and five grandchildren. She was born in the Chattanooga area. He was born in Dayton, TN and moved to Athens as a child. They both graduated from Hixon High School and attended Hiwassee College. They had a business in Sweetwater for over 30 years. Through their business they made a baseball uniform for the Baseball Hall of Fame. She worked for the State of Tennessee for almost 14 years before retirement and he had a second career as a senior site manager for a staffing agency. Who are they?

(Answer on page 5.)

New Members!

We are happy to welcome Richard & Armida Conley who joined our church family officially on Christmas Eve, 2021. And on Sunday, January 8, 2020 Walter Alekzander Liszeski was baptized and joined our church family as a professing member. Please keep these new members in your prayers.



**Church Council 2022**

Chairperson: Peter Alliman  
 Recording Secretary: Phyllis Harrell  
 Lay Leader: LeeAnne Strickland  
 Lay Member to Annual Conference:  
     Marlee Tierce  
 Finance Committee Chairperson:  
     Jeff McMillan  
 SPRC Chairperson: Kevin Taylor  
 Trustees Chairperson: Mike Tallent  
 Nominations & Leadership Development:  
     Rev. Chris Black  
 Treasurer: Reba Dopkins  
 Financial Secretary: Bruce Christopher  
 UMW Representative/Chair:  
 UMM Representative/Chair: Ray Nelson  
 Youth Representative: Cole Strickland  
 Staff Representative: Sue Hamilton  
 At-Large Members to Church Council:  
     2022-Rick Rathburn  
     2023-Gayle Rathbun  
     2024-Lindsay Liszeski

**Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)**

2022: Matt Deaton  
     Chal Thompson  
     Jerry Barr  
 2023: Rick Rapking  
     Peter Alliman  
     Steve Tweed  
 2024: Kevin Taylor (Chair)  
     Jennifer McKenzie  
     Dora Nelson  
 Lay Leader: LeeAnne Strickland  
 Lay Member to Annual Conference:  
     Marlee Tierce  
 Staff Liaison: Rev. Chris Black

**Board of Trustees Committee**

2022: Kevin Taylor  
     Carol McKenzie  
     Richard Beaubien  
 2023:Carolynn Greenwood  
     Ray Nelson  
     Mike Tallent (Chair)

2024: Bob Marshall  
     Jerry Barr  
     Greyson Strickland  
 Staff Liaison: Rev. Chris Black

**Nominations and Leadership Development Committee**

Rev. Chris Black, Chair  
 LeeAnne Strickland, Vice Chair  
 2022: Larry Davis  
     Ben Barger  
     David Kefauver  
 2023: Wanda Barger  
     Lindsay Liszeski  
     Jerry Barr  
 2024: Richard Beaubien  
     Jan Lowry  
     Kathleen Cornett

**Finance Committee:**

Chairperson: Jeff McMillan  
 Pastor: Rev. Chris Black  
 Lay Member to Annual Conference:  
     Marlee Tierce  
 Church Council Chair: Peter Alliman  
 SPRC Chair: Kevin Taylor  
 Trustee Representative: Jerry Barr  
 Lay Leader: LeeAnne Strickland  
 Financial Secretary: Bruce Christopher  
 Treasurer: Reba Dopkins  
 Building Fund Chair: Alfred Greenwood  
 At-Large Member: Mark Radosevich  
 At-Large Member: Chal Thompson

**Communications Liaison:**

Mark Radosevich

**Church Historian:**

Mike Tallent



## Memorials

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



The **Building Fund** in memory of:

**Bill Sloan** from:

Duane & Reba Dopkins  
Angela Tallent

**Reaves Bingham** from

Chad & Margaret Chester

The **General Fund** in memory of:

**Billy Williford** from:

Roger & Laurie McNeece

The **Building Fund** in honor of **Sue Hamilton, Bev Taylor and Mary Alice Huff** from Angela Tallent

## The Christmas Joy! Fund from:

Lawrence Johnson in memory of Martha Russell Johnson

Steve & Kathleen Cornett in memory of Jim and Betty Cornett

Laurie & Roger McNeece in memory of Emma Tate and in honor of Marilyn DePew

Jill & Peter Alliman in memory of Joyce & Bill Bricker and Leola & Peter Alliman

Janet Tweed in honor of Rebekah & Patrick Fox, Sarah Tweed and Carrie Robbins and in memory of Paul Robbins and Frank & Marie Tweed

Duane & Reba Dopkins in honor of Sue Hamilton, Bev Taylor and Mary Alice Huff and in memory of Ted Hall and Jan Dopkins

Greyson, Cooper, Cole and Quinn Strickland in memory of Kay Grubb

Alfred &Carolynn Greenwood in honor of our children—Lindsay Lizeski, Nathan & Adrienne Greenwood and our grandchildren—Zander & Zeke Lizeski and Abigail & Eloise Kathryn Greenwood and in memory of Charles & Kathryn Greenwood, Hugh & Juanita Hickey and Clifton Greenwood

Marlee Tierce in honor of Laurie McNeece, Sue Hamilton, Reba Dopkins, and Richard Beaubien and in memory of Rick Tierce and John & Elizabeth Cox

Kerry & David Rice in memory of our parents; Walter & Gladys Rice and John Downy

Wes & Sandy Hibbert in memory of Wes' parents and Sandy's parents  
Barbara Pennington in memory of Robert Pennington and Jim Pennington  
Frank & Carol McKenzie in memory of their parents

**Guest Pastors** who will be filling in while Pastor Chris is out with family:

### **Rev. Jim Whedbee**

Jim Whedbee grew up in Knoxville and attended college at Tennessee Wesleyan University, and he went to seminary at Vanderbilt Divinity School in Nashville, Tennessee. As a pastor, he served appointments in the Tri-Cities, Chattanooga, and Knoxville. He also served as Knoxville District Superintendent and as pastor to Fountain City United Methodist for 10 years before retiring in 2012. Jim currently lives in the Halls community with Judy to whom he has been married for 50 years. He has two daughters who live locally and 5 grandchildren. In his spare time Jim is very active as a volunteer at *The Volunteer Ministry Center* in Knoxville and enjoys reading, playing the piano, and staying as active as possible.

### **Rev. Dr. Stella Roberts**

Stella Roberts grew up in Greenwich, Connecticut, and attended West Virginia Wesleyan College, graduating with a major in Bible and Religion. It was there that she met Sam, who became her husband after graduation. They both attended Yale Divinity School, then returned to West Virginia, where they were ordained and began their pastoral careers. Since then, Stella served local churches in West Virginia, New Jersey, and Tennessee, and served as a District Superintendent and a Director of Connectional Ministries before retiring in 2015. In retirement Stella has enjoyed reading, playing the mountain dulcimer, listening to music, and taking lots of walks with their German Shorthaired Pointer, Lolli.

### **Bishop Richard Looney**

Richard Looney is a retired United Methodist pastor and Bishop. He served eleven appointments in the Holston Conference and twelve years as the resident bishop of the South Georgia Area. International experiences include study in Edinburgh, Scotland; travel in more than 48 countries; and five years as a member of the Methodist-Catholic dialogue team. Preaching in Asia, Africa, Europe, Great Britain, Latin America, and North America confirms the conviction that the Gospel is good news for the whole world. A recent book, *The Fun of Being Looney*, catalogs a lifetime of humorous experiences and stories.

**Meetings**

**United Methodist Men**

The United Methodist Men will meet on Sunday, January 9th at 9:00 AM in Fellowship Hall. All men of the church are invited. Breakfast will be served. For more information I can be contacted at 928-660-1061. Ray Nelson, President



*Happy Birthday*

- 1 GG Marshall
- 3 Carolyn Peters
- 4 Art Fowler
- 7 Beth Pence
- 10 Kat Ahart
- 11 Jerry Barr  
Peter Alliman
- 13 Frank (Butch) McKenzie
- 16 Jill Peters Reeves  
Mary Margaret Mason
- 18 Chal Thompson
- 19 Laura Alliman Gregg  
Cathy Saunders
- 21 Eva Hendershot
- 23 Jan Johnson  
Laurie McNeece
- 24 Christy Hall Buchanan
- 25Carolynn Greenwood  
Emma Grace Watkins
- 27 David Kefauver
- 28 Gavin Curtis Watkins  
Regina Warfel
- 30 Ann Barker  
Chris Black

**Board of Trustees**

The Trustees will meet on Monday, January 10th at 6 PM in the conference room.

**Finance**

The Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 11th at 6 PM in the conference room.

**United Methodist Women**

The **United Methodist Women** will meet on Sunday, January 16 at 11:45 AM (immediately after the worship service) in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be provided. All women of the church are invited to attend.

**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 and Boy Scouts**

The **Cub Scouts** meet on Monday evenings at 6 PM in the Community Room on our lower level. For questions, please call Leona Layman at 423-462-4024. The **Boy Scouts** meet at 7 PM in the Community Room.

*Watch your e-mail and the bulletins for more info/reminders on these meetings.*

*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 the office at 423-442-2471 or email [adminassist@firstumcmadisonville.org](mailto:adminassist@firstumcmadisonville.org). Please leave a message if we are not there to let us know when your birthday or anniversary is.



The answer is: Ben & Wanda Barger

. . .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

- **shelf stable foods**
- **fresh produce**
- **toiletries**

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.

If you would like to be a volunteer, contact Dora Nelson at 928-660-1009.

## Spending Your Spare Time

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

- empty prescription bottles for the animal shelter or other organizations who use them
- used or new jigsaw puzzles for the nursing home and others
- used eye glasses
- 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

Bring these items to the church and we will see that they are delivered to the organizations who can use them.



## Blessing Box

We welcome your assistance in keeping this box supplied with things like:

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

## Community Café

The next time we are asked to assist with this meal will be January 18th. We need to provide cornbread, slaw, fried potatoes, and **home made** desserts. Please have food at the Presbyterian Church by 4:30 PM. Call Dora Nelson at 928-660-1009 if you will help provide food.

## Building Use

We received the following note from a group that used our building during December:

*Dear Congregation,*

*Here at Nurture the Next, our vision is to see all children in Tennessee thriving in safe, stable, and nurturing families and communities. We provide free and confidential in-home services, parent mentorship, educational classes, and crisis support. Most families we serve are isolated and at-risk. Sometimes the simplest things mean the most. Every year, families look forward to gathering for an evening of decorating cookies, creating gingerbread houses, taking pictures with Santa, and spending some much-need time together.*

*A Strong community is one that gathers to support one another. Your church has graciously opened its doors to us year after year at no cost. My heartfelt thanks to every member for allowing us an evening of warm memories that will forever be cherished. We are so lucky to have your support. Churches like yours truly make the world a better place. Thank you for a lovely evening filled with laughter and conversation. I am still smiling.*

*Beyond grateful, Morgan Ellis*

Raising the next generation, together.

**Our Service****Trustee**

The Trustee for the month of January is Richard Beaubien. If you have questions or concerns please contact him.

**Altar Flowers**

If you would like to provide flowers for the Altar sometime during this year, please contact Kim Townson at [townsonkjwp@gmail.com](mailto:townsonkjwp@gmail.com) or 423-442-2036. She has the schedule and will be happy to hear from you.

January schedule is:

Jan 16 Jill & Peter Alliman in memory of Jill's son Nate and their grandsons Lucas & Tee.

Jan 23 Kathy Sands Blankenship in memory of her parents C.S. & Jo Sands.

Jan 30 Kim Townson in memory of Gene Pennington, Kennard Watson, and Jim Layman—all would be celebrating a birthday this day.

**Our Gifts****For December****General Operating Fund:**

**Needed:** \$21,340 **Rec'd:** \$ 34,335

**Building Fund:**

**Needed:** \$4,084 **Rec'd:** \$ 6,800

**Memorial Fund:** \$ 100

**Designated:** \$ 955

**Our Presence****Online Streamed Worship Service**

Average for **December**

Views - 62

Online registered - 13

In person - 88

**THE CHANGES ARE HERE!*****Reba Dopkins to retire this month.***

Our long-time church administrative assistant Reba Dopkins' last day in the office will be Monday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. All of us have been blessed in some way by Reba's work and ministry here among us. She cares deeply for this church and its people and plans to continue to be part our choir, worship, and other ministries. She also plans to continue to serve as our treasurer for at least another year. This month we hope that you will find ways to express your love and appreciation for Reba as she enters this new phase of life. A reception to thank and honor Reba for her work among us has been tentatively scheduled for Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup> following worship, we hope you will mark your calendars and make plans to join us.

***Richard Beaubien to join the staff at 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist Church***

The Staff Parish Relations Committee, along with Rev. Chris Black, are pleased to announce that Richard Beaubien has been hired for the position of Church Office & Technology Coordinator. He will take the place of our long-time Administrative Assistant Reba Dopkins, who is retiring at the end of January. Many of you are very familiar with Richard and are well aware of his selfless commitment to our church. (Especially during our closure due to COVID-19.) He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in administration, leadership, communications, and technology that will benefit our future in ministry and mission. Richard will officially begin his time in the office on February 1<sup>st</sup> but will be around during the month of January to shadow with Reba and learn from her. Please feel free to stop in and visit with them both during this month!

## **On-going Prayer Concerns:**

Kat Ahart  
Sandy Anderson  
Barbara Baiz  
Karen Balsinger  
Bill Beason  
Nancy Byrum  
Betty Carey  
Bob Carl  
Jane Daily  
Ryan Davidson  
Greg Davis  
Marilyn DePew  
Bob Ferris  
Marjorie Fezlar  
Blair Gifford  
Jimmy Goddard  
Nelson Green  
Roger Green  
Mike Gregory  
Nancy Hedegaard  
Kevin Hershman  
Betty Hicks  
Jennifer Hicks  
Brad Hughes

Kim Hughes  
Dr Bob Hunt  
Logan Hunt  
Peggy Hyatt  
Jan Johnson  
Joe Alan Johnson  
Gay Layne  
Pamela Madden  
Doris Melton  
Freida Naylor  
Maria Nelson  
Mary Nelson  
Jack Newman  
George Norton  
Maverick Patton  
Barbara Pennington  
Kristin Pennington  
Lee Anne Perry  
Sue Price  
Alan Reedy  
Brad Reedy  
Kevin Reynolds  
Donna Roberson  
Maria Rosian  
Audrey Schepker  
Francis Scott

Carolyn Sherrill  
Tonya Wells Spires  
John Stratton  
Valerie Stratton  
Todd Strickland  
Mike Summitt  
Dick Turner  
Jo West  
Peggy White  
Selena Wiggs  
Michael Williamson  
Eleanor Lane Willson  
Eli Zinck

Pat & Kelly Burnette  
Pat & Gary Cloud  
Jo Curtis & Boyd Curtis  
Frank & Betty Dossett  
Christine Hendricks  
and son-Randy  
Christy & Jason  
Humberd  
The Kapileo family  
The Leamon family  
Judy Mairui's nephew  
Dustin

Dora & Ray Nelson  
MaryAnne & Ken  
Nelson  
Sandy & Mike O'Neill  
Pyros Family  
Carol & Rick Rapping  
John Summitt &  
Joan Holland  
The Venable family  
Faye Watson & family  
Curwood Witt & family  
Bishop Debra Wallace-  
Padgett and all Holston  
Conference Clergy

**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.**

## **Our Active Military Personnel:**

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

## **Those in Nursing Homes or Assisted Living:**

Pat Harvey  
Mary Margaret Mason  
*Wood Village Assisted Living*  
Judy Lee  
*Morning Pointe of Knoxville,  
Memory Care Unit*  
Sam Grubb  
*Life Care Center of Athens*  
Howard Harvey  
*The Groves at Oak Ridge*

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







# JANUARY 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2	3 <i>Cub Scouts 6 PM</i> <i>Boy Scouts 7 PM</i> <i>CM Rm</i>	4	5 UMYF at 6 PM Choir 6 PM	6	7 <i>AA 5:30 PM</i> <i>CM Rm</i>	1 <hr/> 8
9 UMM Breakfast 9 AM in the fellowship hall In Person & Online Worship 10:30 AM	10 Trustees 6 PM <i>Cub Scouts 6 PM</i> <i>Boy Scouts 7 PM</i> <i>CM Rm</i>	11 Finance 6 PM <i>Lions Club/GSC</i> <i>Eye Exams 8:30 - 2:30 Cm Rm</i>	12 UMYF at 6 PM Choir 6 PM	13	14 <i>AA 5:30 PM</i> <i>CM Rm</i>	15
16 In Person & Online Worship 10:30 AM UMW after worship in the fellowship hall	17 <i>Cub Scouts 6 PM</i> <i>Boy Scouts 7 PM</i> <i>CM Rm</i>	18 <i>Community Café</i> <i>4:30 PM Presbyterian Church</i>	19 UMYF at 6 PM Choir 6 PM	20	21 <i>AA 5:30 PM</i> <i>CM Rm</i>	22
23 In Person & Online Worship 10:30 AM	24 <i>Cub Scouts 6 PM</i> <i>Boy Scouts 7 PM</i> <i>CM Rm</i>	25	26 UMYF at 6 PM Choir 6 PM	27	28 <i>AA 5:30 PM</i> <i>CM Rm</i>	29
30 In Person & Online Worship 10:30 AM	31 <i>Cub Scouts 6 PM</i> <i>Boy Scouts 7 PM</i> <i>CM Rm</i>			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p><b>Online</b> Worship service will continue at <b>1umcm.com</b> at 10:30 AM.  <b>In-Person</b> (in the sanctuary) Worship Service at <b>10:30 AM</b>.</p> </div>		



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us  
at:

Website: **1umcm.com**



Firstumcmadisonville



Firstumcmadville



@1umcm



Firstumcmadisonvilletn

## **BLACK AND WHITE BIRTHDAY GALA**

Mark your calendar for February 26, 2022 starting at 5PM for a church wide birthday party.

In the cold dreary weeks between Christmas and Easter most of us need something fun to lift us out of the doldrums. What better way to brighten our mood than to have a birthday party for the entire church family! This will be a fund -raising event for youth missions and an excuse to get all dressed up, put on the glitz or just your best pair of jeans and skinny tie. We can all celebrate our birthdays without having to tell how old we are.

There will be a four-course meal catered by Carolyn Peters and music from each decade starting with the 1930s--see if you can name that tune! Guests will be seated with others sharing the same birth month. This will give us the opportunity to get better acquainted with new or potentially new members as well as members you haven't visited with in a while.

Be on the lookout for more information soon in future bulletins or newsletters.



If you have questions or want to volunteer to help, please contact Karen Rapping at [karen.s.raping@gsk.com](mailto:karen.s.raping@gsk.com)