

# THE FLAME



## OUR WORSHIP TIMES:

- Sunday School 10 AM
- Worship 11 AM
- Youth Fellowship and Ignite—Wednesdays at 6 PM

## FOLLOWING JESUS in the AGE of CORONAVIRUS

Everyone is struggling these days, trying to figure out what we should do. Should we just try to ignore the coronavirus, a somewhat flu-like infection, and just carry on with life as usual?? Unfortunately, many people in a number of southern and western states have tried to do that in the last three or four weeks, and the number of people becoming sick with COVID-19 and the number of people really ill have flooded hospital emergency rooms and Intensive Care Units in several of these states, to a dangerous level. The strain on doctors, nurses, and hospitals with this great rise in numbers of sick people threaten to swamp the health care system in these states. Like influenza—the seasonal flu—lots of people who catch it will only get mild symptoms, like a bad cold, or no symptoms at all (the “a-symptomatic” people). But unlike influenza, COVID-19 seems to be two to four times as lethal to some people who get it, and doctors, nurses, and medical experts often do not know why some people become so ill and even die from COVID-19.



What should we do?? We hear that 10 million people in the world have, or have had, COVID-19. That works out to only One Seventh of One percent of the world’s population—percentage wise, still a small figure. In the USA, about 2.6 million have, or have had (and are recovered from) the COVID-19 virus. That is about Two Thirds of One percent of the U.S. population—a little higher than the total percentage of humanity on the planet who have COVID-19, but still not as nearly as awful as the Bubonic plague of A.D. 1346 to 1353, when approximately 30 to 50% of the population of Europe died. And yet, we do not want this pandemic to ever get even close to the “Black Death” that plagued 14<sup>th</sup> century Europe, at a time when Christianity had finally spread to nearly all European peoples, in Scandanavia and eastern Europe and Russia.

What are Christians to think, and to do, about this pandemic? Do we just sit at home and hope that we don’t get “coronavirus,” or hope that a cure, a vaccine, can be created soon?? Or, should we try to get back to our daily lives, and risk the kind of rapid growth of the illness like California, Arizona, Texas, and Florida have seen recently?

Thankfully, the Bible can give us some hope and insight into the difficult times we are having right now. James, in the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter of his letter, found in the New Testament between *Hebrews* and *I Peter*, encouraged believers to be patient and wait in the Lord, regardless of their trials or troubles—*“Therefore, brothers and sisters, you must be patient as you wait for the coming of the Lord. Consider the farmer who waits patiently for the coming of rain in the fall and spring, looking forward to the precious fruit of the earth. You also must wait patiently, strengthening your resolve, because the coming of the Lord is near.”* (James 5:7–8, CEB)

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**Haley Allen**  
**Roger McNeece**

Custodians  
**James & Kim Cox**



## Inside This Issue:

Sue’s News	2
Birthdays & Anniversaries Memorials	3
News You Can Use	4
Second Mile Giving	5
July calendar	6
We Support our Church by: Our Gifts, Service & Prayers	7

*Pastor (Continued on Page 6)*

## We Are the Church!!

If we were in a normal year, summer would be about half over. The kids would have physically been out of school for about 5 or 6 weeks and they would have about 5 or 6 weeks to go before they return to school. At this point, although they have been in school through online teaching, our kids have been home for almost 4 months and we are not sure when or how they will return to school at the end of summer break.

Many people are still staying at home as much as they can. Some people are venturing out more and more. It is definitely not a normal summer. Yet, First United Methodist Church Madisonville continues to move forward. Remember, as our theme song for many years states—**THE CHURCH IS NOT A BUILDING. THE CHURCH IS THE PEOPLE!**

Over the last few months I have seen the people of our church continue to reach out and meet needs in the church and in the community. I am afraid to mention names for fear of leaving someone out, but I can tell you some of the things that have taken place. We have put in place a calling team who have been making contact with folks in our church to say hello and to find out if there are needs. We have had 2 deaths in our church family in the last few weeks and our folks have responded with food, calls, cards, a shoulder to lean on and other acts of kindness. We had folks come in on a Saturday to sweep and clean up the columbarium area before Alan's service. We had people who put together, built and stocked a Blessing Box that is now located on our property on the Tellico Street side. We have had folks finish up plans for the flag pole that will be dedi-

cated to the memory of Lee Johnson and all other veterans. We have gotten our outdoor sign fixed without having to probably pay hundreds of dollars if we had had to call in a company person. We have been able to provide a weekly worship services on line with the assistance of our church members. We have worked on repairing part of our playground area that will again be used by our children and the children of the community. We have had folks continue to provide volunteer time at Good Shepherd Center and the Monroe County Animal Shelter. We have continued to support the Good Shepherd Center as a church through donations. I know I am leaving out lots of things that have been going on, but as you can see, the church is really not the building. The church IS the people.

Reba is putting the church calendar back into this newsletter. There is still not a lot officially on the calendar, but we do have a few things. The youth have been zooming every Wednesday night for many weeks and we will have zoom Bible School this month. We have some small groups/committees that will be meeting in one fashion or another. We continue to have Sunday morning worship. We are proceeding very carefully.

Please continue to pray for our church and all other churches as re-opening decisions are being made. I know that everyone's goal is to keep people safe and healthy. Pray for all the decisions that are being made.

*Sue*



Memorials & Honorariums

In the month of June donations were made to:



The Building Fund in memory of:

J. Alan Johnson by:

- David & Kathy Blankenship
John Summitt & Joan Holland
Regina Warfel
Reba Hall
Mary Alice Huff
Lois Green
Jeff McMillan
Alfred &Carolynn Greenwood
Barbara Penland
Ann Byers
Marlee Tierce

Jim Pennington by:

- Laurie & Roger McNeece
Marlee Tierce
Reba Hall
Alfred &Carolynn Greenwood

The General Fund in memory of J. Alan Johnson by Mike & Gabi Tallent

The General Fund in honor of Clifford Lynch by Bruce & Judy Christopher.



Dear Church Family, Thank you for all of the phone calls, texts, emails and prayers.

I read Psalms 46:5 recently. This verse spoke to me during this stressful time. 'God is within her, she will not fall.'

I feel that your spirit has and is surrounding me and holding me up. That strength is very important to me as I try to hold on tightly to my faith. I am grateful for your love and support.

Peace in Christ, Jan M. Johnson



Happy Birthday

- 1 Wesley Taylor
4 Sarah Tweed
6 Rhonda Davidson
7 Vijay Kanabar
9 Matthew Harrell
10 Roxanne Guin
11 Faye Watson
12 Charlie Lee
14 Gini Tallent
Karen Rapping
16 Amelia Rapping Childers
18 Judy Christopher
Bob Marshall
Sandy O'Neill
20 Susan Sherrer
23 Janet Tweed
25 Shane Cavett
26 JaKailah Morris
27 Kevin Collins
29 Patrick Rapping
Carol Bourlard
31 Carol Rapping

Happy Anniversary

- 4 Roger & Laurie McNeece

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.





## Contact Info

We are working in the church office more and more. If you can't reach us there please call or email us at the numbers/email addresses listed below:

For Pastoral needs - Please call Pastor Keith at 865-803-2547 or email him at [keith\\_knight@aol.com](mailto:keith_knight@aol.com).

For Prayer requests - Please call Sue at 423-337-1830 or email her at [sue@firstumcmadisonville.org](mailto: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 or email her at [adminassist@firstumcmadisonville.org](mailto:adminassist@firstumcmadisonville.org).

If we do not answer our phone - leave a message - we will call you back.

*Pastor (Continued from page 1)*

And James could not forget that Old Testament pillar of patience— *“You have heard of the endurance of Job. And you have seen what the Lord has accomplished, for the Lord is full of compassion and mercy.”* (James 5:11)

So, sisters and brothers, take heart! As believers in past generations have waited on the Lord for salvation and rescue from trying times, we can join them, and let these times teach us to be patient in the Lord, and wait in on good and godly people who seek to do God's will, and bring relief and rescue from this dangerous virus. We can, and should, follow the guidance of health care professionals— wear masks when in public, follow 'social distancing' guidelines, and if you have any kind of condition that compromises your immune system— if you are receiving treatments for any illness, either cancer or emphysema, or anything, or you are 65 or older— stay home, as much as possible!

Let us join together in Spirit, this Sunday!

*Keith G. Knight*

## Upper Room

The July/August Upper Room devotional books are in the white tote at the front entrance to the church. Stop by at your convenience and pick up what you need. There are plenty to share with friends, family and neighbors.



## Congratulations!

Kevin and Sami Collins were married on Saturday, June 20, 2020 at Cooper's Cove in Townsend, TN. Kevin grew up in our church, and when he started dating Sami in high school, she became part of our youth group as well. After college, the couple moved to the Nashville area for work, but relocated to the Washington, DC area last August when Kevin entered graduate school at George Mason University. The newlyweds had planned a honeymoon to the Bahamas which was canceled due to the Coronavirus, so they spent several days exploring the areas around Townsend, Gatlinburg, and Pigeon Forge instead. That Bahamas trip will be an anniversary celebration next year. Upon returning home, the couple began packing and moving again! They have found a new apartment in Manassas that is much larger and will be easier for Sami to continue telecommuting to her job in Nashville, and is a bit closer for Kevin to drive in to campus. Their new address is **7221 Royal Fern Circle #202, Manassas, VA 20111.**

Please keep this young couple in your prayers as they grow in their life together.



. . .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 are - -

- ◆ sugar
- ◆ canned pasta products
- ◆ bath soap



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 (There is a barrel for them at the front entrance of the church.)

Staples is not accepting spent ink/toner cartridges at this time for recycling. Please dispose or recycle on your own until further notice.

## Building for Others

The **Son Seekers** Sunday School class has installed a Blessing Box at the edge of the lower parking lot. If anyone wants to help us keep the box filled, we welcome your assistance with things like:

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



The **United Methodist Men** have helped Faye Watson by providing the funds for a ramp at her home. If anyone wants to help the UMM in their projects please talk to Ray Nelson about how you can help.



We are blessed to have **Duane Dopkins**, a recent addition to our church family from Buckner Memorial UMC, the builder for both of these projects. Thank you, Duane, for sharing your talents with us.

We also want to thank Dixon Printing for providing the signs for the Blessing Box at no charge.



# July 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 VBS Zoom at 7 PM UMYF Zoom at 6:30 PM	2	3	
5 Online Worship 11 AM at lumcm.com	6	7	8 VBS Zoom at 7 PM UMYF Zoom at 6:30 PM	9	10	11 Jim Pennington inurnment service 1:30 PM
12 Online Worship 11 AM at lumcm.com	13 Trustees 6 PM In the Youth Rm	14 Finance Comm 6 PM Phone Conf	15 VBS Zoom at 7 PM UMYF Zoom at 6:30 PM	16	17	18
19 Online Worship 11 AM at lumcm.com	20	21	22 VBS Zoom at 7 PM UMYF Zoom at 6:30 PM	23	24	25
26 Online Worship 11 AM at lumcm.com	27	28 <i>Deadline for August Newsletter Info.</i>	29 VBS Zoom at 7 PM UMYF Zoom at 6:30 PM	30	31	

**Our Prayers****Our Active Military Personnel**

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

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

Mary Margaret Mason—Wood Village Assisted  
 Living, Sweetwater  
 Judy Lee—Northshore Heights, Knoxville  
 Edna Bonifacius—Asbury Place, Maryville  
 Gerri Benton—Wood Village Assisted Living,  
 Sweetwater  
 Steve Cavett—River Oaks, Room 307, Loudon  
 Pat & Howard Harvey—Wood Village Assisted  
 Living, Sweetwater  
 Shirley Nappier (Harold Hunt's mother-in-law)  
 Ouachita Health Care

**On-going Prayer Concerns:**

Sharon Amundson	Barbara Pennington
Catherine Ashton	Kristin Pennington
Barbara Baiz	Linda Plemons
Charles Baker	Bill Poole
Janet Bales	Carol Rapping
Wanda Barger	Barbara Roberson
David Beaubien	Donna Roberson
Avery Benton	Meredith Robinson
Steve Berrong	Catherine Reed
Susan M Blalock	Paul Robbins
Nancy Byrum	Maria Rosian
Gene Carson	Susan Sherrer
Becky Chester	Tonya Wells Spires
Jane Daily	John Stratton
Greg Davis	Todd Strickland
Marilyn DePew	Mike Summitt
Debbie Denton	Emma Tate
Tony Ellison	Debbie Tucker
Courtney Farmer	Alexander Wade
Marjorie Fezlar	Faye Watson
John H Ford	Bill & Jo West
Danny Gardner	Peggy White
Tammy George	Selena Wiggs
Mable Graham	Jesse Woodby
Clifton Greenwood	Eli Zinck
Richard Hall	Bobbie & Ronnie Arp
Ashley Harmon	Wendy and Rick Garland
John Harmon	Rev. Mark Hicks and family
Betty Hicks	Christine Hendricks and son-Randy
Bill Huddleston	The Leamon family
Brad Hughes	Margaret & Bob Marshall
Dr Bob Hunt	Mary Margaret and Dickie Mason
Logan Hunt	Sandy & Mike O'Neill
Peggy Hyatt	Dwaine & Carolyn Peters
Jan Johnson	Ruth Porter and family
Pauline Kauffman	The Drew Teague family
Angie Kyle	Joyce & Dick Turner
Gay Layne	Michael and Becky Wacaster
Irada Lee	Jimmy Williams and donor family
Doug Lottes	Curwood Witt & family
Mckinzie	
Doris Melton	
Susan Miley	
Christopher Miller	
Freida Naylor	
Maria Nelson	
Mary Nelson	
Norman Nelson	

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

**Needed:** \$20,862 **Rec'd:** \$ 15,297

**Building Fund:**

**Needed:** \$4,034 **Rec'd:** \$ 2 580

**Memorial Fund:** \$ 1,000

**Designated:** \$ 182

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

Average for the month

Views— 114

Registered— 46

**Our Commitments****For July . . . .**

. . . .will be announced if and when we are back  
 to our normal schedule of events.



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madisonville.org](http://www.firstumc<br/>madisonville.org)

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We hope all of you have a safe and happy  
**Fourth of July!**

## **BIBLE SCHOOL**

We are again joining forces with Madisonville Presbyterian Church to provide Bible School for our children. This one will be different! It will be virtual and will be with the children at home through Zoom. The live sessions will take place on the five Wednesday nights in July at 7 PM. It is going to be fun! The theme is COMPASSION CAMP.

