THEFLAME



Letter from the Bishop...

My Dear Holston United Methodist Brothers and Sisters,

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you." John 14:15-17

After graduating from Candler School of Theology in 1975, I began serving as a clergy member of the Holston Conference. During these past 45 years, there has never been a time that compares with the challenges of the Covid-19 global pandemic. As the medical community has mobilized to address this health crisis, the church has attempted to adapt to unimagined changes that have become new realities.

Our hearts have broken as we have heard the stories of so many precious lives that have left us too soon. We have witnessed how the virus has spread through nursing homes, meat packing facilities, factories, agricultural communities, and yes even churches.

There seems to be some evidence the spread of the virus is slowing down because of social distancing and persons staying at home, but it continues to be a threat to the health and well-being of all people, in every age group. By its very nature the church is one of those places where the virus can be transmitted easily as we gather and express our love for one another through hugs, shaking hands, and singing. Our Church Family is those significant people in our lives that we need to be around.

Taking Steps Forward Faithfully and Safely represents the best information we currently have to guide us in LETTER FROM BISHOP TAYLOR beginning to reopen our church buildings. The most difficult decision I have made as an episcopal leader has been the suspension of all in-person worship services. No one loves to go to church more than I do, but in order to protect the health of our families, friends, and communities it has been necessary for us to stay away from large gatherings. The message has been clear, "Do your part, Stay apart."

I understand many of you have not agreed with the decisions the cabinet and I have made in response to this crisis. This has not been an easy time for anyone. We have made decisions based on the best information we could gather from medical professionals.

(Continued on Page 3)

OUR WORSHIP TIMES:

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

Pastor Rev. Keith Knight Keith Knight1985@aol.com

Administrative Assistant Reba Hall

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

Custodians
James & Kim Cox



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Sue's Thoughts	
Memorials & Honorariums 2020 Graduates	
Bits and Pieces	
Birthdays & Anniversaries	6
Pastor's Column News You Can Use	7
Second Mile Giving	8
We Support our Church by: Our Gifts, Service & Prayers	9

...about Alan Johnson and family

It is almost midnight on Sunday May 31st as I sit down to write this for the June newsletter. I have had my evening nap and I am ready to go for another few hours. This day will be one that I will not forget. This is the day that we laid our dear friend Alan Johnson to rest. It has been a long day. First we had our on line worship service. (When we began these services back in March, Alan and Jan came to the church on Sunday mornings to be a part of the service as they helped with the singing of the hymns for the service.) Then I was privileged to be able to attend Alan's family service. Then we had his inurnment service at our church columbarium. At that service we were able to come back together as a church family (outside wearing masks and practicing social distancing as Alan would have wanted) after being physically apart for two and a half months. It was a big crowd. It was a very special crowd. Alan would have been pleased. As we were preparing for the columbarium service, I kept thinking that Alan would have been the one helping us get it ready for the service. Under normal circumstances he would have been the one coming to the church early to make sure the building was the right temperature and to make sure that the building was unlocked for Jeff and Barry and the rest of the funeral home guvs that we love so much. He would have been with us in choir practice as we prepared the music for the celebration of life service. He would have stayed around after almost everyone else had left to lock up. Today was surreal. When we do get back to having church services and when we do get have a choir again, I know that I will look to the last chair on the left of the top row and think about Alan. It will never be the same but I know he will be with us in spirit and will be singing his favorite songs with us. He is now part of God's heavenly choir! God's gain is definitely our loss.

Please continue to pray Jan and family. Jan is very special to me. Our friendship goes back to our junior high days when we had monthly youth meetings with what was then churches in our part of the Hiwassee Sub-District. I was a part of the Sweetwater Methodist youth group and she was a part of the Madisonville Methodist youth group. We talk about these good old days often. Jon Mac was a part of the youth group when I was our youth leader. We had lots of great times together. We attended many Resurrection weekends and went on our first trip to Johns Island together. Jon Mac and Joey and Adam Pennington rode in my van. I remember when we got there we all wondered what we had gotten ourselves into. We sort of thought about turning around and going back home. We had never been on a mission trip before and it is sort of scary the first time you go when you unload your stuff into a day care center, blow up your air mattress, make your little nest and realize that you are going to be taking showers outside in wood stalls for a week! I think that my boys and I will all agree that we had a great week and fell in love with the people of Johns Island. I was able to spend a little time with Jon Mac this weekend and I am so proud that he was one of my boys. Joe Alan is one of my boys, too. I remember him standing at the bottom of the Upper Room stairs on Sunday mornings waiting for Jan and Alan to come down from Sunday School. Now I get to see him often when he comes with a group from Tri County Center to do some chores in our church building. He is a fine young man.

It is now about 12:30 AM on June 1, 2020. I am going to give it up now and go to bed in a little while. As we put together the rest of the newsletter, I will try to put together some "news" information. Over the last few days I have been thinking more about the past than I have about the future. I know that Alan would want us to look forward. I am so sad that he will not be a part of our planning as we move forward over the next few weeks and months. I know that when I think about the future, I will be thinking about what would

Alan do. He will still be leading us in many many ways.

2020 Graduates

- ⇒ Ethan Louis Kefauver
 Grandson of David and Mary Kefauver
 Page High School, Franklin, TN
- ⇒ Julia Grubb
 Granddaughter of Sam and Kay Grubb
 Maryville Christian School
- ⇒ Leia Holland
 Granddaughter of Joan Holland
 Florida Gulf Coast University
 Physical Therapy
- ⇒ Blair Barger Granddaughter of Ben and Wanda Barger Granddaughter of Linda Thomas, University of Kentucky, College of Health Sciences, Physician Assistant Studies
- ⇒ Emily Elizabeth Ramsey
 Granddaughter of Mary Alice Huff
 Belmont University, B. S. in Social Work
- ⇒ Matthew Thorn
 Grandson of Ray and Dora Nelson
 Sinclair College, A. A. S. in Nursing
- ⇒ Kimberly Leamon
 Granddaughter of Lois Green
 San Francisco Conservatory of Music,
 Masters in Voice Performance

We have 3 youth who will enter high school— Hunter Cavett, Quinn Strickland and Lily Maiuri.



Memorials and Honorariums

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



The **Building Fund**

In memory of:

Grady Graham by Mable Graham **Tom Summitt** by John Summitt

In honor of:

Our Local First Responders by
John Summitt
Art & Penelope Fowler by
Mary Alice Huff

..Bishop (Continued from Page 1)

The guidelines we are providing in this document have been developed in consultation with medical experts and church leaders from our conference. They are members of our congregations familiar with our churches and the needs of our communities. As we continue to navigate through these uncertain times, I ask we continue to pray for all those who grieve and have been most impacted by this virus in the death of loved ones and/or the loss of employment. I am confident God will continue to accompany and guide us as we seek to take steps forward faithfully and safely. I am thankful for all the ways our churches and people continue to be the means of grace that the church alone provides. I am sure this is not the final word on how we will find our way beyond this pandemic. Our hope is always in Jesus who came so everyone would have life and have it in its fullest.

May we continue to be His people and nothing less. God's grace, mercy, and peace is always more than sufficient,

Dindy Taylor

During our time at home...

When Sue and I started working on the newsletter for June we asked you to share some of the things that you have done to occupy your time and things that you have done with your family during the time that we have been asked to be 'safe at home'. I have spent my time making cloth face masks for several people. If you still want/need one or two please let me know. I have several and will make more if I can find elastic. Thank you to those of you who have shared your thoughts with us as we share the "Bits and Pieces" of our spring and early summer. *Reba Hall*

Pat Rapking:

I can say that it hasn't bothered me one little bit to have to stay home. I have stayed so busy starting seeds for my tomatoes, lettuce, spinach, cucumbers, carrots, beets and flowers - all of which I'm growing in my front yard in big pots. I've helped Karen make a frame that holds ten 5-gallon buckets and have planted her lettuce, carrots, tomatoes and cucumbers (and catgrass for her cats). We have both shared with friends and neighbors (let me know if you'd like to grow one in a pot). I've also spent a lot of time and money (lots!) having work done in and on my house. Rick has helped Karen finish building a 13 ft. wide bookcase that Dave started 6 or 7 years ago. In my/our SPARE TIME, we have gone ahead making plans for the churchwide "fiesta" that we originally planned for August. Even with the uncertainty, we are still planning ahead. In April we celebrated Kyleigh's birthday in their front yard as we practiced our social distancing.

I don't know if I've done anything to enrich anybody's life but I've sure done my share to boost the economy! Does that count?



Marlee Tierce:

When I went through school and did successful work in the Biology classes, there was no mention of viruses. When I began my teaching career, there was nothing in any of the science books about viruses. I'd taught several years before the word virus even hit the classification charts, because a virus does not have the same parts as a cell. It is basically newly found and misunderstood. Why can't they cure a cold, we mutter as we drip and sneeze? Because we don't understand virus speak. We didn't have the tools to study them until the microscope technology caught up with the discoveries.

And now we are in a crash course learning way too much from reporters who didn't learn about viruses in school either. They are trying to explain something of which they have no knowledge, so they begin with the cut and paste mistakes. We've all read them with alarm as they try to help us through this pandemic.

So remember that instead of believing everything we read on the screen and in the news, that what we need to believe is in God's word. Yes. During this time of isolating and changing much of what we are doing, we have time for prayer, Bible study, praise, and quiet reflection. Do listen to the still small voice. I look forward to the church service on Sunday mornings and really appreciate all those who make this possible. I am spending time with crafts and jigsaw puzzles. I am enjoying a clear calendar and phoning friends each week.

Margaret Chester:

During this time of being at home I have read by FaceTime to my granddaughter twice a week. Have done a Wednesday at noon Bible study with Rev Michael Bingham, Aldersgate UMC, Greenville, SC (Chad's cousin). Sewed, crafted, made strawberry preserves, and cleaned a lot!

Peter Alliman:

"Dear Folks—I am OK"

When I "mostly" retired in 2017 I figured that by now the "mostly" would not have been an adverb I'd still be using as a modifier. But now going on my fourth year, unfortunately "mostly" still describes my retired status. Because Jill and I have been "mostly" staying home these days, and because the court systems have been "mostly" shut down, I've had some time to begin clearing and organizing our garage.

Several years ago we moved our cars out of the garage and moved our "stuff" in and as a result our vehicles have not seen the inside of the garage since. We have a variety of "stuff" in our garage ranging from books, trophies, drawings, and clothes belonging to kids, grandkids and an assorted number of relatives, friends and others.

When my mother died in 1999, my brother and I packed up what was left of our folks' belongings put them in a U-Haul and drove them down to TN where they became part of the "stuff" stored in the garage. The plan was for us to go through it at some future date to be determined. As I suppose usually happens in such circumstances, that date has still yet to be determined, but I guess it's only been 21 years, so maybe we'll get to it sometime in the not too distant future.

So with this spare time I've recently had, I decided to start going through some of my Mom and Dad's "stuff" just to see what treasures I could discover. Well, I wasn't disappointed and since Reba wants stories of what folks have been do-

ing, and because this is especially fitting in the Memorial Day sea-

son—here you go.

My Dad got out of high school just as the Depression struck. Soon after graduating he joined the Navy, and, I can assure you "saw the world." From China in the 30's, the Pacific throughout WWII, to Korea, Europe, Cuba, and all ports in between, he literally saw it all. Among the treasures I unearthed from the "stuff" in the garage was a

78 year old postcard and Navy Department Vmail written by my Dad.

The postcard contained the following in Dad's handwriting: "Dear Folks, I am OK." It was signed "Peter J. Alliman" and someone had added a note "USS St. Louis". The second document was a Vmail that said the following: "Dear Mother: Just a line to let you know that I'm still alright and hope you are the same. Love Peter." The first post card was dated Feb. 1, 1942. This was the first communication my grandparents had from my Dad that he was still alive after Pearl Harbor was attacked on Dec 7, 1941. My Dad's ship the St. Louis was a light cruiser and one of only a handful of ships to escape Pearl Harbor on December 7—almost two months before. For that it was always called the "Lucky Lou."

The Vmail was dated December 12, 1942. About a month after the last decisive naval battle in the campaign known as the Battle of Guadalcanal. This battle was the first major land and sea campaign in the Pacific and lasted from August, 1942 through February 9, 1943. As with the post card, I assume this was the first word my grandparents had from my Dad that he was "still alright."

Right now in this time of the Plague, I count my blessings not my sorrows. My blessings are a wonderful loving family, past and present, and a wonderful loving church family, past and present. Please stay safe and well. And count your blessings.



Dora & Ray Nelson:

One thing I have done is cook. Imagine that?

I made soup a few times and shared with our single neighbors. Cleaned out a couple closets and dresser drawers.

Since strawberries have gotten ripe, I have gotten some a few times and had strawberries and pancakes for breakfast. That is my favorite breakfast. I have made fresh strawberry pies 3 times and am making one again today. That is my favorite pie. I also shared them with neighbors.

We got our garden ready and planted. It is growing well. Have harvested lettuce, radishes, onions. The green beans are at the top of the 6 foot trellis and blooming. Will pick soon.

I have taken a friend to the Amish market for fresh veggies and picked up things for that friend a couple of times.

I call friends and text to keep in touch.

I pray for family and friends and have grieved with all of you as Alan Johnson suffered from Cancer and then sadly rejoiced as he transcended to heaven. He said he was ready and would be content with what ever happened. If God called him home he was ready. Pray we can all say we are ready when our time comes.

Enjoyed a short visit from our son Scott and his fiance, Julie. They are planning an October wedding.

Will continue to pray for this virus to run its course and we can get to Church. I sure miss my church family.



June Happy Birthday



- 1 Melanie Slouka
- 2 Mike Pence
- 5 Abigail Greenwood
- 6 Wanda Barger
- 10 Nathan Greenwood
- 12 Charlotte Lee Eric DePew
- 13 Todd McConkey
- 20 Kimberly Buckett Alan Holloway
- 21 Darrell Benton
- 24 Sue Hamilton
- 27 Richard Mason
- 28 Allan Benton
- 30 Kathleen Cornett

Happy Anniversary

- 12 Tom & Beth Lewis Peter & Jill Alliman
- 24 Steve & Janet Tweed
- 26 Billy & Patty Williford

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 at home as much as possible until we are all able to meet in our church building again. If you need something please do not hesitate to call or send an email to one of us:

<u>For Pastoral needs</u> - Please call Pastor Keith at 865-803-2547 or email him at <u>keith knight@aol.com</u>.

<u>For Prayer requests</u> - Please call Sue at 423-337-1830 or email her at <u>sue@firstumcmadisonville.org</u>. 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@firstumemadisonville.org.

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

Church Family Covered Dish Supper



Due to the continued affect of the Covid-19 virus, we will not have the Wednesday Night supper together on June 10, 2020.

As soon as it is felt it is safe for our congregation to gather, we will gladly resume the pot luck dinners.

With lots of folks cooking new dishes during their isolation, we might have something new to share. If you have not tried something new, try one. You might have a casserole, cake or bread, etc. you want to bring.

I am looking forward to hosting our all Church suppers again soon. I miss you!

Stay safe and may God's Peace fill you with LOVE, Laughter and

Joy Beyond Understanding.

Dora

Re-Opening—by the Grace of God

Dr. Alexander Whyte was scheduled to preach that Sunday. The weather was unusually bad—rain mixed with snow, high winds, and cold temperatures. "I don't see what the preacher could possibly find to



be thankful for this morning," said one member as she made her way into the church. But Dr. Whyte, forever an optimist, had no trouble coming up with the proper prayer. "We thank thee, O Lord," he began, "that it is not always like this!"

We have all been frustrated by the restrictions in all areas of life that we have had for over two months because of the coronavirus pandemic, that has not only hampered our nation, but has truly troubled the entire world. We are glad that some, like the preacher in the above story, find a way to always look on the bright side and thank God in SOME way!

But—this is serious business. Over 100,000 people in the USA have died from this virus, and although some have said that many of these people had some complication from which they would have died anyway, some medical professionals tell that several thousand people who died in January and February of "unknown causes" may well have died from this virus. Regardless of the exact count, the COVID–19 virus has been a devastating disease in this country, and nations around the world.

That is why Bishop Mary Virginia "Dindy" Taylor, along with the nine District Superintendents of the Holston Conference, have been working for several weeks, along with a number of medical professionals, to design a method for United Methodist churches, to re-open church buildings for worship, Bible study, and fellowship, with means to reduce or prevent passing the virus from one to another, and causing the same kind of spike of illnesses that overwhelmed the hospitals and health systems in some major cities in this nation in March and April. Their 29 page plan to "Re—open the Church buildings of the Holston Conference" can be reached by a link on our church's website, at **1 umcm.com.** We are putting together a Task Force, of a dozen or more members of our congregation, to map out a plan to carefully and safely reopen our church building, for Worship, Sunday school, Bible study, and fellowship in the name of Christ.

See you Sunday on—line at the place of "God's great grace."

Keith G. Knight

Second Mile Giving...

. . .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
- dish washing liquid, and personal care items such as:
- bath soap
- shampoo
- deodorant

Call the church (423-442-2471) or Reba (423-519-6628) to find out when someone will be at the church for you to drop off your donations and we will see that they get delivered to the Good Shepherd Center.

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.

Special Offering in June

Peace with Justice

When you give on Peace with Justice Sunday, your gift makes possible our critical kingdom work in the world. Because you give:

- Methodists spearhead a peace ministry uniting Arizona border communities
- United Methodists in Liberia are being equipped to implement the denomination's Social Principles to address social-justice issue
- Pennsylvania students are educating their community about sex-trafficking at home and abroad

These initiatives, and hundreds of other ones, are possible because you give.

Your Giving Makes Possible the Proclamation of Christ's Peace

Will you continue to support Peace with Justice Sunday? Will you empower local Christians—in Pennsylvania and Arizona and Liberia—to build the kingdom of peace that Jesus ushered in? In Jesus' inaugural address, standing in his home synagogue in Nazareth, he detailed his game plan,

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18-19)

Through your giving good news is proclaimed to—and experienced by—the poor.

Thanks be to God!

Your gifts may be mailed, included in your online giving, or dropped off at the office. Please call before you come by to be sure someone is there.

Our Prayers

Our Active Military Personnel

Adrienne Greenwood—US Army
Nathan Greenwood—US Navy Reserves
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

Our Gifts

For May General Operating Fund: Needed: \$20.862 Rec'd: \$ 20.663

Building Fund:

Needed: \$4,034 Rec'd: \$5,774

Memorial Fund: \$ 1,000 Designated: \$ 884

Our Presence

Online Streamed Worship Service

Average for the month Views—139 Registered—46

Our Commitments

For June

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

On-going Prayer Concerns:

Sharon Amundson Bobbie & Ronnie Arp Catherine Ashton Barbara Baiz Charles Baker Janet Bales Wanda Barger David Beaubien Avery Benton Nancy Byrum Gene Carson Jane Daily **Greg Davis** Marilyn DePew Debbie Denton Tony Ellison Courtney Farmer Marjorie Fezlar Danny Gardner Tammy George Mable Graham Clifton Greenwood Richard Hall Ashley Harmon John Harmon **Betty Hicks** Bill Huddleston Dr Bob Hunt Logan Hunt Peggy Hyatt Jan Johnson Pauline Kauffman Angie Kyle Gay Layne Irad Lee Doug Lottes Margaret & Bob Marshall Mary Margaret and Dickie Mason Mckinzie

Susan Miley Christopher Miller Freida Navlor Maria Nelson Mary Nelson Norman Nelson Sandy & Mike O'Neill Barbara Pennington Jim Pennington Kristin Pennington Dwaine & Carolyn Peters Bill Poole Carol Rapking Barbara Roberson Donna Roberson Catherine Reed **Paul Robbins** Maria Rosian Tonya Wells Spires John Stratton Todd Strickland Mike Summitt Emma Tate Joyce & Dick Turner Michael and Becky Wacaster Alexander Wade Bill & Jo West Peggy White Selena Wiggs Eli Zinck

Wendy and Rick Garland
Rev. Mark Hicks and
family
Christine Hendricks and
son-Randy
The Leamon family
Ruth Porter and family
Jimmy Williams and
donor family
Curwood Witt & family

Please let us know if anyone can be taken off this list or if anyone needs to be added.

Doris Melton





First United Methodist Church 143 College Street Mailing Address: P O Box 157 Madisonville, TN 37354

Phone: 423-442-2471 Fax: 423-442-2434 Office Hours: 8 AM to 1 PM Monday thru Friday

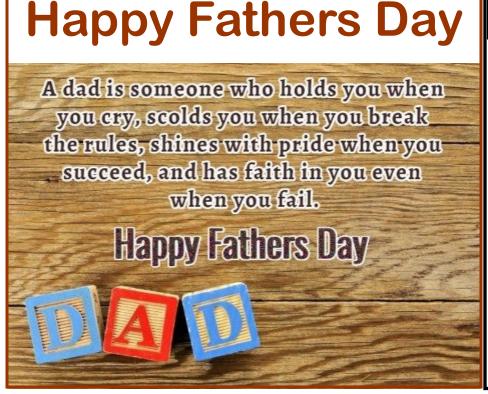
Our website: www.firstumc madisonville.org

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https://twitter.com/ FUMCMadville



First United Methodist Church, Madisonville, TN



ELECTRONIC GIVING

If you would like to give electronically GO TO firstumcmadisonville.org click ONLINE GIVING

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

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, approximately 3% more of your gift will go to ministry compared to a credit card transaction.

FOR ASSISTANCE, please call Reba Hall at 423-519-6628.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

