

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 . . .

March is now upon us! This means that we are entering a unique time in the life of the church. On the evening of March 2nd we will have a special evening worship service to recognize Ash Wednesday. This is traditionally a day set apart in the church year for penitence, spiritual reflection, and for new beginnings in the faith. Ash Wednesday also kicks off a 40-day season of the church that is called Lent. For some Christian traditions, this season has been used for new converts in the faith to prepare for their baptism (on Easter) and full membership in their local church. Most Christian traditions who observe Lent use it as a time to work toward turning away from things that distract us from God and build spiritual practices and habits that can sustain us through the coming year. At its heart, Lent is a time for evangelism and for true conversion—a time for growing through repentance, fellowship, prayer, fasting, and being signs of God's kingdom in this world.



As your Pastor I want to invite you to give yourselves the gift of having a Lenten journey of your own this year. Traditionally it is popular to give something up during this season, like chocolate or junk food...But what I want to invite you to do is set aside some time to reflect on a few things that you could give up so that you could have a deeper relationship with God. This might mean giving up daily social media to read scripture or to pray, or it could mean carving time away from work to serve someone else, or to spend more intentional time with family. In Sunday worship throughout this season I will be highlighting different ways that you could be involved in mission, service, and outreach within our local community. This focus on outreach will be coupled with some deep engagement with scripture in the next couple of months, which will happen during our Wednesday morning Pastor's Bible Study. (See more details about the class inside this edition.

However you decide to participate in Lent, I hope you will do so with intention and care this year. The deep joy and hope that we all wish to experience at Easter as we celebrate Christ's resurrection, begins right now.

As we enter this new season I hope that we can continue to grow together as disciples of Jesus Christ. As I write this article I have a passage of scripture from the book of Ephesians before me, "8For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— 9not the result of works, so that no one may boast. 10For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." -Ephesians 2: 8-10

I pray that these verses of scripture may guide us as we enter Lent, and eventually look toward Holy Week and Easter.

Lots of Hope,

Chris

- Pastor**
Rev. Chris Black
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- 1st Steps Coordinator
Erin Roberts
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- Pianist
Bev Taylor
- Organist
Mary Alice Huff
- Youth Leaders
Jerry & Vanessa Barr
 vbriummer@gmail.com
- Custodians
James & Kim Cox

Inside This Issue:

Sue's News	2
Ministry News	3-5
Memorials & Honorariums	6
We Support our Church by: Our Gifts Service & Prayers	6 7
Dates & Times	8
March Calendar	9
Contact & Announcements	10

Sue's News for March

March is here and we are going to be busy at First UMC Madisonville! I just looked at our church event and building use calendar for the next 4 weeks and, other than Saturdays, there are almost no days on the church calendar where something is not taking place in our building. Even on some of the days when we don't have anything scheduled, some group is having an activity that is a positive happening for our community. We are almost at the one year marker for being back in in-person worship (March 13). It has been a slow and steady process, but it almost feels like we are back to normal in many ways. We continue to be very careful, but we continue to move forward! How Exciting!

Wednesday March 2nd is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the season of Lent. We will have a covered dish soup and sandwich supper and a worship service on that evening. This is always a very special service, and I hope you will plan to be a part of it. This will be our first season of Lent with Pastor Chris, and it will be a very special and exciting time. You have lots of information in this newsletter about what will be happening in March. Be sure to read the article about Chris's Lenten Bible study and think about being a part of this group. It always seems like the weeks between Ash Wednesday and Pentecost Sunday fly by with many special days and events in between. Get ready!



I am already looking ahead to April and all that will happen. We have Houston Park and the Weiner Wagon reserved and our United Methodist Men primed to cook hot dogs for our community Easter Egg Hunt on April 16th. We have set the date for our Easter choir cantata for Sunday April 24 and we would love to have people join the choir as we continue to practice for this special service.

Save this newsletter so that you know what is going on in March and plan to be a part of all that is taking place. Check the website and bulletins for updates. Invite friends and neighbors to participate. We are definitely moving forward!

Sue



Who Are They???

He was born in Flint, Michigan and she was born in Chicago, Illinois. They have 2 sons. He has always been a computer guy and she was a career K-2 teacher. He loves golf and she has always had a passion for reading and walking for exercise. He once worked for Jewish Family Services for 7 years. He was Willie the Wildcat at Northwestern University. She at one time worked at the University of Missouri in the entomology department where they identified bugs. He currently has a very important job each week here at the church. 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—the answer is on page 8



Ash Wednesday Dinner & Service this Week

Ash Wednesday - which falls this week on March 2, 2022, marks the beginning of the 40 day season of Lent. Worship on this

day emphasizes a dual encounter: we confront our own mortality and confess our sins before God within the community of faith. We will focus on the dual themes of sin and death in the light of God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ.

While the use of ashes as a sign of mortality and penance may be new to some, it has a significant history in both Jewish and Christian worship. The imposition of ashes can be a powerful way of participating in the call to repentance and reconciliation. We hope you will join us for a special service of worship this coming Wednesday evening at 6:45 p.m. in our sanctuary.

Before the service, at 6:00 PM, plan to join us in the Fellowship Hall for a light soup/sandwich dinner. Soup will be provided, so please plan on bringing along sandwiches, salads, breads, or desserts to share with the congregation. This will also be the dinner for the youth group.

An Announcement from the Trustees Committee:

The trustees of First United Methodist Church are pleased to announce that our parsonage at 111 Philpott Street has been sold. As many of you know the sale of our parsonage was authorized by a vote of the Church Conference on July 18th 2021, and the trustees were designated by that body to oversee the selling process. The property sold for \$325,000. These

funds paid off the remaining parsonage mortgage debt of \$70,835 and the commission on sales of \$10,835. It should be noted that Bill Howe, our sales agent, did not charge our Church a commission. Of the remaining amount, \$200,000 will be invested at the Holston Foundation for future clergy housing allowances and the remaining \$44,000 has been deposited into the church general fund.

A Note from Reba

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for the reception that was given for me on Sunday, February 20. The food and fellowship were wonderful. The cards and gifts that I received were over the top! This church family has always been supportive of me at times in my life when I really needed lifting up. It has been my pleasure to serve this church for the past thirteen years. I look forward to continuing to serve the church as your Church Treasurer. I love all of you and will continue to support this church and church family in any way that I can.

Reba

Community Café Time Again!

It is our church's time to prepare for the Presbyterian Community Café on Tuesday, March 8, 2022. They will be serving pinto beans. We need sides, consisting of dessert, diced onions, and chow chow. Volunteers have also said they will make fried potatoes and cornbread already. Please let Dora Nelson know if you can help. These items need to be at the Presbyterian Church by 4:30 PM. We are serving about 30 people.

Dora's email is doraexplr1@gmail.com

Pastor's Bible Study During Lent

Rev. Chris Black will offer a special Bible Study class that will meet on Wednesday mornings during Lent, at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall. You are invited to join him each week as he dives deeply into a couple of Lenten scripture passages with whoever decides to show up. The class should be a wonderful compliment to the themes and scriptures explored during our Sunday morning worship from week to week. If you have questions about the class then please feel free to email Chris at cblack@firstumcmadisonville.org

Below is the class schedule and the themes that he is planning to explore:

Wednesday, March 9th

Theme: *Jesus offers salvation: there is value in seeking, questioning, and openness.*

Wednesday, March 16th

Theme: *Jesus as living water.*

Wednesday, March 23rd

Theme: *Jesus shows how compassion can be more important than rules.*

Wednesday, March 30th

Theme: *Jesus gives life: There is hope in the midst of despair.*

Wednesday, April 6th

Theme: *Jesus loves abundantly, and invites us to love abundantly too.*

Wednesday, April 13th

Theme: *Jesus reverses expectations.*

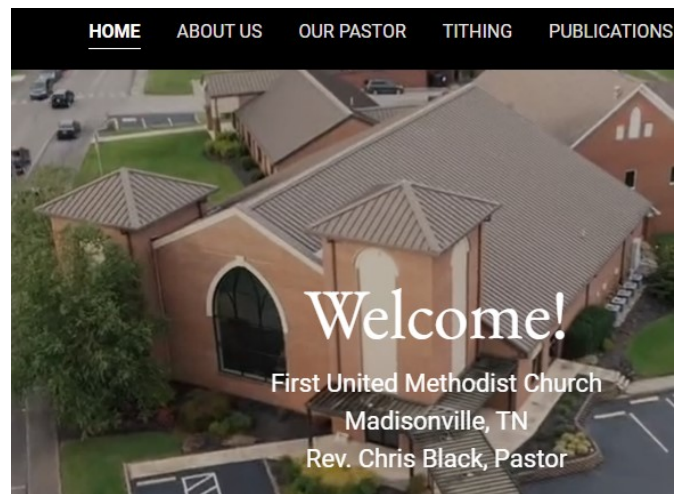
From the Ministry of Technology

by Richard Beaubien

There is much to report from the technological side of the church! Since the start of COVID, the First United Methodist Church of Madisonville has made quantum leaps from where we were to where we find ourselves technologically today.

Have you seen our website 1umcm.com re-

cently? The first and most obvious update is the looping video drone shot made by our own First



UMCM Air Force Drone Captain Hunter Cavett. —it really makes our site shine, and we can ALL be proud of it. Look forward to more work from Hunter to be featured at 1umcm.com, and on our YouTube channel.

Also on 1umcm.com—near the bottom of the main page is an expanded calendar of events. Now with our new church database system, all of our First UMC events are auto-magically (that's a word I made up) synced along with state and national events and holidays with the calendar online. If you click on any event, an info box will pop up telling you the "who, what, where, why, and how" info you need to know for that event. Check out the entry for Ash Wednesday (for example). We are still fleshing out details for some events.

Did I mention the new church database? Well, it's not new; it's called "PowerChurch", and it's the same system Bruce Christopher has been using for years to keep track of donations and tithes. In it, we can keep track of congregants contact information and attendance records.

PowerChurch will allow us to analyze better to help us to serve you better, and efficiently plan activities and events. We are still loading church data into it, so there is still much to do.

— *continued next page*

Church Technology (continued)

One of PowerChurch's most powerful features is the communications module. We now have mass and one-to-one texting capabilities, so, if (for

example) the electricity were to go out on a Sunday morning, we could mass text all of you and let you know what our plans for worship service are before you leave home. The text would be coming from our main number at (423) 442-2471 so you can know to trust it. We can even target and send messages to specific groups of people, for example, the parents of anyone with a child between the ages of 8 and 12, are signed up for a youth activity. We will also limit our mass texting to emergencies and very time-sensitive events, leaving other communications to arrive by email and/or snail mail.

One problem we have though is that we don't have everyone's mobile phone number — and for that matter everyone's birthdates (with birth YEAR) or anniversary dates (again, with the YEAR), or emails. Please look forward to helping us out with upcoming data collection efforts for info that you are willing to share, so that we can get the most out of PowerChurch.

For those of you who actually prefer to communicate through texting, no problem! We have you covered. If you text the church phone number during business hours, one of us will see it instantly and can respond back to you individually via text. AND FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT want to receive text messages, you may "opt out" of future messages simply by replying with the word "STOP" or by letting me know.—in a manner similar to how you can opt-out of mass emails from the church

The key to successfully communicating with you is to make sure we are sending information in the way that YOU want to receive it., whether that way is by texting on your smartphone, email, or written on a post card: we will adapt to the way YOU want to hear from the First United Methodist Church of Madisonville.

Rev. Black to hold Listening Session on Sunday School

On Sunday, March 27th at 9:00 a.m. the Rev. Chris Black will hold a listening session in the sanctuary. The focus of the conversation will be on the future of the Sunday School ministry of our church. If you are interested in sharing your perspective, ideas, or your interest in Sunday School here at 1st UMC then please feel free to drop in for the conversation. If you have questions then please email Chris at cblack@firstumcmadisonville.org.

Smash Hit: Black & White Birthday Gala



Kudos to the entire team who transformed the Fellowship Hall last Saturday into the five-star dining/ballroom of the Ritz! Together, the event raised \$1,795 for the upcoming Youth Mission trip. The food, music, and decorations were all perfect.



Several of from our congregation, as you can see here, showed up decked-out in splendor.

Our Service

Trustee

The Trustee for the month of March is Carolynn Greenwood. If you have questions or concerns please contact her.

Altar Flowers

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

Since it is now Lent, we will not have flowers on the Altar.

Our Gifts

For February

General Operating Fund:

Needed: \$21,920 **Rec'd:** \$ 23,471

Building Fund:

Needed: \$4,084 **Rec'd:** \$ 3,420

Memorial Fund: \$ 0

Designated: \$ 3,133

Our Presence

Worship Service

Average for **February**

In person - 88

Online - 15

Memorials

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

The **Building Fund** in memory of:

Howard Harvey from:

Richard & Mary Margaret Mason

Roger & Laurie McNeece

Pam & Loyd Morgan

Linda Kent

Martha Giles

Jarrett & Celeste Sharp

Michael & Dianne Calahan

Steve & Marsha Standridge

John Summitt & Joan Holland

Art & Penelope Fowler

Roger & Laurie McNeece

Lynn David & Mary Alice Larue

Tom & Mary Hendershot

Johnson Construction

The **General Fund** in memory of :

Martha Johnson from

Lawrence Johnson

Announcing the Kiwanis Chili Cook-off

On Thursday, March 17th from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM, the church is hosting the Kiwanis Chili Cook off—a supper to raise money for children in Monroe County. Tickets: \$10.00 for Adults, \$5.00 for kids (12 and under). Contact Sue Hamilton for tickets (423) 337-1830 or email at sue@firstumcmadisonville.org



On-going Prayer Concerns:

Kat Ahart
Sandy Anderson
Barbara Baiz
Karen Balsinger
Nancy Byrum
Bob Carl
Joseph Certo
Ryan Davidson
Marilyn DePew
Nelson Green
Roger Green
Betty Hicks
Jennifer Hicks
Logan Hunt
Gay Layne
Pamela Madden
Freida Naylor
Maria Nelson

George Norton
Maverick Patton
The Perry Family
Brad Reedy
Maria Rosian
Audrey Schepker
Francis Scott
John Stratton
Todd Strickland
Mike Summitt
Dick Turner
Jo West
Mchael Williamson
Eli Zinck
Pat & Kelly Burnette
Pat & Gary Cloud
Christine Hendricks
The Kapileo family
The Leamon family
Judy Maiuri's nephew
Dustin

MaryAnne & Ken Nelson
Sandy & Mike O'Neill
Carol & Rick Rapping
Chad Scrivner
John Summitt &
Joan Holland
Faye Watson & Family
Wanda Williford
Curwood Witt & Family

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 continuing prayer list for two weeks.

Our Active Military Personnel:

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

Judy Lee
NHC Farragut
Sam Grubb
Life Care Center of Athens

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

Those in Nursing Homes or Assisted Living:

Pat Harvey
Mary Margaret Mason
Wood Village Assisted Living

Expecting, or Know Someone Who Is Expecting?

Join "Nurture the Next" Tuesday, March 3rd at 2:00 PM in the Community Room for an easy introduction to prenatal yoga. Prenatal yoga can increase the strength, flexibility, and endurance of the muscles needed for childbirth. It can also decrease lower back pain, nausea, and headaches. Limited yoga mats will be provided for those who do not have one. Please wear loose, comfortable clothing that allows you to move easily, and bring a small towel and bottle of water. Please call or text (423) 333-6929 to register. Nurture The Next recommends that you consult with your obstetrician before beginning this activity.

Meetings

United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men will meet on Sunday, March 13th 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 (423) 210-0992 Mark Radosevich, President



Board of Trustees

The Trustees will meet on Monday, March 7th at 6 PM in the conference room.

Finance

The Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday, March 15th at 6 PM in the conference room.

United Methodist Women



The **United Methodist Women** will meet on Sunday, March 20th 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

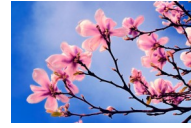
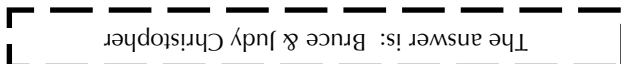
The chancel choir practices on Wednesday evenings at 6 PM.

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. ANY CHANGES WILL BE REFLECTED LIVE ON THE CALENDAR AT

1umcm.com



March

Happy Birthday!

- 3 Rick Rapping
Art Slouka
- 4 Penelope Fowler
- 6 Duane Dopkins
Nicholas Radosevich
- 8 Bruce Christopher
Richard Beaubien
- 9 Greyson Strickland
- 10 Samantha Bucket-Veliz
- 13 Kevin Taylor
- 15 Lindsay Greenwood Liszeski
- 18 Jordan Watkins
- 20 Chalmers Thompson
- 22 Charles Harrell
- 24 Joe Alan Johnson
- 26 David Hargett
Jillian Pence
- 27 Zaiden Kadau
- 29 Joe Grubb
Jennifer McKenzie
- 30 Wayne Peery
Patty Williford

Happy Anniversary

- 18 Butch & Carol McKenzie
- 25 Kevin & Bev Taylor


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

March 2022

OFFICIAL Calendar with Updates /Changes @ 1umcm.com

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Ash Wed. Supper 6:00 PM Worship 6:45 Choir 7:30 PM	3 Pre-natal Yoga 2 -3PM Community Room	4 Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) 5:30 PM Community Room	5
6 In Person & Online Worship 10:30 AM	7 Trustees 6PM Cub Scouts 6 PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Community Room	8 <i>Lion's Club Eye Exams</i> 8:30 AM Community Room Community Café 4:30 PM Presbyterian Church	9 Pastor's Bible Study/ Lent 10AM Fellowship Hall UMYF at 6 PM Choir 6 PM	10	11 Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) 5:30 PM Community Room	12
13 CLOCKS JUMP AHEAD 1 hour! UMM Breakfast 9 AM in the fellowship hall Worship 10:30 AM	14 Cub Scouts 6 PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Community Room	15 Finance 6 PM	16 Pastor's Bible Study/ Lent 10AM Fellowship Hall UMYF at 6 PM Choir 6 PM	17 Kiwanis Chili Supper Cook-off 4:30—6:30 PM, Fellowship Hall	18 Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) 5:30 PM Community Room Youth Lock-In 7PM,-12AM Youth Room	19 Youth Lock-In 12AM,-10AM Youth Room
20 In Person & Online Worship 10:30 AM UMW after worship in the fellowship hall	21 <i>Cub Scouts</i> 6 PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Community Room	22	23 Pastor's Bible Study/ Lent 10AM Fellowship Hall UMYF at 6 PM Choir 6 PM	24	25 Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) 5:30 PM Community Room	26
27 In Person & Online Worship -	28 <i>Cub Scouts</i> 6 PM Boy Scouts 7 PM Community Room	29	30 Pastor's Bible Study/ Lent 10AM Fellowship Hall UMYF at 6 PM Choir 6 PM	31		

 <p>The First United Methodist Church</p> <p>Madisonville, Tennessee</p>	<p>143 College Street Mailing Address: P O Box 157 Madisonville, TN 37354 Phone/Text: (423) 442-2471 Fax: (423) 442-2434</p>
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<p>F o l l o w u s a t:</p>	<p>Website: 1umcm.com</p> <p> Firstumcmadisonville</p> <p> Firstumcmadville</p> <p> @1umcm</p> <p> Firstumcmadisonvilletn</p>
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IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

1st Steps Children's Ministry Begins

The "1st Steps Ministry" is a new weekly childcare ministry that will give our children an opportunity to grow as disciples in their own way. During worship, following the children's moment, all children ages 3-9 are invited to join our new 1st Steps Coordinator Erin Roberts (and another adult) for a fun devotion, activity, song, craft, and/or game.

All participants will remain with Erin and her group for the duration of the worship service, and parents/guardians will be able to pick their children up following worship in the 1st Steps Room which is located downstairs in our education wing.

Volunteers for Our Crib Nursery Are Needed!

It is now time to get our crib nursery, and our toddler room for 6 month-2 year olds going again. We are in need of at least 2 volunteers a week who would be willing to keep the crib nursery and/or the toddler room. If you are interested in volunteering for this ministry please look for the yellow sign-up sheet in the Welcome Center. If we can get enough volunteers our hope will be to begin this ministry sometime in March.

If you have questions or are interested in volunteering in either of these ministries, then please contact Rev. Chris Black at cblack@firstumcmadisonville.org.