

THE FLAME



OUR WORSHIP TIMES:

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



LEMONADE— and the GRACE of GOD?

Many people are saying, “We have never seen anything like this before!

What should we do?? How should we handle this?”

We were told weeks ago to stay home and go out to work or stores no more than we have to, and recently Gov. Lee of Tennessee has said we can begin to loosen the restrictions, and ease back towards life as usual, while still being careful to “socially distance” where possible, and wear masks when possible. Because of all the challenges we have due to this very contagious virus, we need to lean on the Lord more than ever, and also use the good common sense that God has given us. However, let us remember that God is always with us, regardless of the circumstances. He is with us, to help us **THROUGH** our circumstances. In fact, God always wants to help us make the **BEST** of things, in spite of circumstances. God wants to help us make lemonade, out of the lemons of circumstances. Remember Paganini. . .

Niccolo Paganini was an Italian violinist, who lived 1782-1840. A greatly admired musician, he was playing a difficult piece of music before a large audience, when one string of his violin suddenly broke. He continued to play, improvising beautifully. Then two more strings broke, yet he continued to improvise and play beautifully to the end of the piece—playing on one string! When the long, tremendous applause eventually stopped, Paganini nodded at the conductor to begin the encore. The violinist looked at the audience, lifted his instrument and shouted with a smile, “Paganini . . . and one string!” With that, he placed the violin under his chin, and played another beautiful piece of music— with that one string.

Someone recently said, “The longer I live, the more convinced I become that life is 10 percent what happens to us and 90 percent how we respond to it.” Just read Acts 16:22-34 about Paul and Silas. They were jailed for preaching the gospel. Yet they approached their imprisonment by praying and singing praises to God. An earthquake knocked down the doors of the prison, and they had the opportunity to witness to and baptize the jailer and his family! The next day, the authorities set them free.

(“Lemonade” continued on page 5)

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Look What's Happening at First United Methodist Church!

I am writing this as I sit in my office on Sunday April 26th after the morning worship service. It looks like rain will be here soon. There is very little traffic in town. It is quiet and peaceful in my own little space here but I know what is going on in the world and I just can't totally relax. I know this is how we all feel. Phyllis Harrell texted me this morning and asked for prayers for her cousin Ashley Harmon. Ashley is in her thirties and is in the hospital with Covid-19. Phyllis said Ashley took all the precautions and she did not have the typical symptoms that we are told to look for. She did not have a fever. It came on her very suddenly with a vengeance. I think hearing about Ashley makes it all hit home. We don't know her but we all love Phyllis and her family. We are all in this together. Continue to pray.

I have been working on a church phone calling list for a while now and it is almost complete. I still have names and numbers to give to a few more people who will help with calling folks. I know that some of you have already had a call or two. I know that my callers are enjoying the conversations and I hope those receiving calls are happy too. In the next few days I hope everyone is getting "checking on you" calls. If I have missed putting someone on a list, please let me know.

I think everyone is enjoying the Sunday morning worship services from First UMC Madisonville. Our Sunday morning crew is Pastor Keith, Reba, Richard Beaubien, Jan and Alan Johnson and I. After every service Richard tries to see how the delivery can be improved. If you have any sug-

gestions, please let us know. Some folks have asked about having some special music in the service. We are working our way through making sure that we have all licensing issues identified and in place. We have privileges right now to use hymns from our Methodist hymnal and its supplements and one other hymnal that the choir often uses. Licensing is a very complicated and expensive area. We have to tread very carefully. So, for right now, just sing out on those old favorite hymns!

It is very difficult to look forward and project into the month of May and beyond. We are still in a holding pattern from the Holston Conference as to when we can get back together. Our goal is to keep everybody safe. We know that some businesses will be opening up in the next few days and that we have to be very careful as we go about our daily lives. We will continue to be in touch with all of you and let you know how we will proceed over the next few weeks. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with Pastor Keith, Reba or me if you need anything. Be safe!

Sue



2020 Graduates

If you have a 2020 graduate in your family please send that information to Sue so that we can recognize all of our 2020 graduates.

Memorials and Honorariums

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



The **Building Fund** in memory of:

Gene Bourlard by:
John Summitt & Joan Holland
Blair & Linda Clements

Jack Porter by:
Barbara Penland

The **General Fund** in memory of:

Gene Bourlard by:
Alfred & Carolynn Greenwood
Barbara Penland
Wayne & Lucille Peery

Bob Lopez by:
Alfred & Carolynn Greenwood

Camp Wesley Woods in memory of **Jack Porter** by Reba Hall.



Happy Birthday

- 1 Elizabeth Benton
- 2 Lee Anne Strickland
- 4 Jeffrey Houvenagle
Mike O'Neill
- 5 Bev Taylor
- 7 Britney Williford
- 8 Nancy Knight
- 10 Todd Strickland
- 11 Jill Alliman
- 13 Lucille Peery
Troy Dearmon
- 21 Stephanie Vinyard
- 22 Steve Cornett
- 25 Pat Rapping
Angela Tallent
Hunter Jozwiak
- 26 Samantha Kadau
- 30 Jo West
Hannah Harrell
- 31 Ben Barger
Kayana Donegan

Happy Anniversary

- 15 Paul & Pam Barker
- 16 Kevin & Sarah Kile
- 19 Dwaine & Carolyn Peters
- 25 Keith & Nancy Knight
- 27 Blair & Linda Clements
- 29 Harold & Carolyn Hunt
David & Jackie Hargett
- 30 Shane & Megan Cavett

Upper Room

I want to share with you a portion of a letter we received from *The Upper Room*:

Dear Upper Room Family,

Greetings in the name of our risen Savior! The Resurrection is the centerpiece of our hope, and if we ever needed hope, now is the time. We pray for the health - physical, emotional, and spiritual health - for our Upper Room family and the world. We hope you will pray with us, too, as we all work remotely to keep the ministry of the Upper Room present and vital.

We may be a community in crisis, but we are also a community in Christ, and that makes all the difference. Please know that we are in this together. (excerpt from a letter from Pete Velander, Executive Director Upper Room Editions)

They have made some of their products available to all at no charge for the time being. <https://www.upperroom.org/covid-19> will give you the on-line copy of the May-June issue of the Upper Room at no cost. There are many other things on their website that you may find useful - some free and some that you have to subscribe to.

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) to let us know when your birthday or anniversary is.



United Methodist Men
United Methodist Women



If we are given permission from Bishop Taylor for small group meetings:

The **United Methodist Men** will meet on Sunday, May 10, 8:30 AM in our fellowship hall. If you have any questions, please call Ray Nelson at 928-660-1061.

The **United Methodist Women** will meet on Sunday, May 17 at 9:30 AM in the fellowship hall. If you have questions about the United Methodist Women's organization, their ministries and how you can serve, please contact Laurie McNeece, President, at 423-420-1054.

Watch your e-mails and bulletins over the next couple of weeks for something definite.

First United Methodist Church, Madisonville



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 423-442-2471.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Prayer Ministry Team

My prayer game has gained a few notches since I find myself praying more and more throughout the day. I am able to spend time realizing how the Lord is answering my prayers, guiding my thoughts and actions. What a joy and relief that He is always there no matter what the outcome of the situation. I feel His presence in my days.

There is no meeting scheduled in the near future, but please think of how this period of adjusting and waiting is going.

What a great time for you to write a few words about waiting and praying during this unique period in history. Please send those stories, poems, etc. to me as soon as you get some completed. I want to compile our Advent booklet with stories in our new normal. Advent is a time of waiting and a time for hope. There is no need to wait until September to begin filling the files with thoughts, prayers, and poems about how the Lord is helping you get through these days. Write about the peace, comfort, and blessings you have received in this time of fear and anxiety.

This will be a historic publication documenting how we supported each other, prayed for each other, and grieved with each other as COVID-19 closed our doors but drew us closer together. Please send your entries to our 2020 booklet, [The Power of Prayer](#).

You can email me at mtierce@aol.com or mail them to Marlee Tierce, 555 Rarity Bay Parkway #301, Vonore, Tennessee 37885. Listen as the Lord leads you to tell the stories.





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:

For Pastoral needs - Please call Pastor Keith at 865-803-2547 or email him at keith_knight@aol.com.

For Prayer requests - Please call Sue at 423-337-1830 or email her at 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.

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

("Lemonade" continued from page 1)

How do you respond when life hands you a bunch of lemons? Yes, the old saying is, "Use them to make lemonade!" But Paul and Silas did not just make lemonade out of lemons. They threw a party to celebrate the lemonade, and saw God work in incredible ways to bring people to Christ, and glory to God! We do not want life's adversities to discourage or immobilize us— instead, let us as individuals, as families, and as the church together (the body of Christ) make lemonade, and throw a continuous party to celebrate God's amazing grace! In these days, ask God every day to help each of us, like Paul and Silas, or like Paganini, to take the lemons of trying circumstances, and make lemonade, and even throw a party about God's amazing grace.

See you Sunday on-line at the place of "lemonade and God's grace".

Keith G. Knight

Church Family Covered Dish Supper

With all that is still going on all around us and with the continued directions from Bishop Taylor about not having the church open at this time, we will not be having our Church Family Wednesday Night Supper again this month.

Please continue to hold all of our church family in your prayers as we wait and watch, knowing that God is waiting and watching with us and for us, for the time when we can all be together again in worship and fellowship.

Love and Prayers,

Dora Nelson,
Coordinator



Hey Kids,

We hope your are watching the children's message each Sunday!

We are saving the Children's Bulletins and the candy/snacks for you until we can all be together again!

. . .is an opportunity to help over and above your regular tithes and offerings to the church.

Good Shepherd Center

The need at The Good Shepherd Center pantry at this time is - -

Kid-friendly food items

- ◆ instant oatmeal
- ◆ pudding, jello and fruit cups
- ◆ pull-tab cans of ravioli and spaghetti
- ◆ cereal bars
- ◆ pop-tarts
- ◆ raisins or other dried fruit
- ◆ other similar products



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

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 May Brothers Reunited



Seven year old, Trevor, and his brother, Shawn (6), grew up with a skewed picture of love. They were removed from their home when it was clear that the boys had been victims of the worst forms of abuse. Adoption came quickly for the brothers. However, after several years, the adoptive couple divorced and said they could no longer care for Trevor or Shawn. They surrendered their rights and the boys were once again without a family.

Trevor came to Holston Home after a report of bad behavior. Although Trevor had no history of behavior problems in school, he was relentlessly picked on and bullied by other kids. When he came to Holston Home, we learned that Trevor was a very fearful, meek, and mentally beaten down young man. He had been born with a medical condition that affected his eye sight, coordination, and strength. With his thick glasses and quiet spirit, Trevor quickly became one of the most beloved students on campus.

Trevor flourished at Holston Home. With a new set of contact lenses, and a fresh haircut, his confidence took an upward turn. He learned how to stand up for himself and we watched as much of his fear vanished. But no matter how much Trevor loved it here, we all knew he needed to be back living with his brother who he loved very much. Eventually both boys were accepted in to a new home. Trevor was so excited and is looking forward to starting high school with his brother in the fall.

Your gift this month will help young children like Trevor and Shawn become part of a caring family.

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 Gifts

For April

General Operating Fund:

Needed: \$20,862 Rec'd: \$ 19,051

Building Fund:

Needed: \$4,034 Rec'd: \$ 2,190

Memorial Fund: \$ 1,000**Designated:** \$ 630**Our Presence****Online Streamed Worship Service -**

Average for the month

Views—182

Registered—55

Our Commitments

For May

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

Our Prayers**On-going Prayer Concerns:**

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

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

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

