



THE FLAME

November Issue

From the Pastor's Study...

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18)

November is traditionally a month when we are encouraged to give thanks and consider all the ways we have been blessed. During the next couple of months we also usually find more time to gather with family and friends to share, eat and visit.

Every time I think about all the unique traditions of this month I am reminded of the verse offered above from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians. He is encouraging the early disciples {and us nearly 2,000 years later} to adopt a simple path of walking through our daily lives in constant conversation with God, but with gratitude on our hearts and lips. As I considered this, I was reminded of a quote from St. Therese of Lisieux who said, "Prayer is an aspiration of the heart. It is a simple glance directed to heaven. It is a cry of gratitude and love in the midst of trial as well as joy." Her words point to the tremendous power that prayer can have in our everyday lives and in our relationships with others. This month I hope you can find some daily moments to talk with God, and to find ways to say thank you to God for the blessings in your life, even when things are challenging. This simple path of prayer mixed with gratitude can be a beautiful way to mark the days of November as disciples of Jesus Christ.

I hope you will be on the lookout for opportunities here at the church to pray for one another, to study, to worship, and to be in fellowship together. November is a time in the church year that often previews the deeply rich season of preparation called Advent. This year, Advent will begin on Sunday, December 1st. My hope as your Pastor is that the month of November, and the upcoming season of Advent, will be a time for us to continue to grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ together via the simple path offered above. May we grow deeper in love with God and with one another through prayer, and may others come to know about God's love through how we rejoice and give thanks as a church community.

See you around the church!

-Chris



Worship

Sundays

10:30am-11:30am

Sanctuary

Midweek Communion

Wednesdays

12:00pm-12:30pm

Sanctuary

Wednesday nights

Choir Rehearsal

6:00pm-7:00pm

Sanctuary

IGNITE Kids Ministry

6:00pm-7:30pm

Classroom

United Methodist Youth

6:00pm-8:00pm

Youth Room

Sue's November News

Every time I sit down to write my news for the newsletter I comment on how I can't believe another month has passed. I think October 2024 went by twice as fast as it really did. Planning for the rest of this year has taken place, and planning for the year 2025 will soon take place.

I am writing this article on October 28th. Last night was our big Trunk or Treat event that we had been working toward for several weeks. We are still putting away the things we used for that event and moving forward. We will celebrate Thanksgiving together with a big covered dish supper on Wednesday November 20th. Do you realize that Advent begins on Sunday, December 1st, just a little over a month from now? There will be lots of special things going on over the next few weeks as we begin to prepare for the Advent/Christmas season.

One exciting thing coming up in Madisonville will be the November 29th lighting of the downtown Christmas tree on the square. This year a community choir is being put together to sing at this event. Our friend Charlie Hicks will be directing this choir. There will be three rehearsals with the volunteers. I have all the information. If you would like to be a part of this choir, let me know and I will let you know the details. I hope we will have a lot of singers from our church in this community choir!

Make sure that you stay connected with us so that you will not miss out on anything. Please read your emails and texts and bulletins. Get in the habit of scanning through our church calendar that is on our website www.lumcm.com. It is updated often as new events and opportunities are added. November and December are going to be very exciting months at First UMC Madisonville.

-Sue

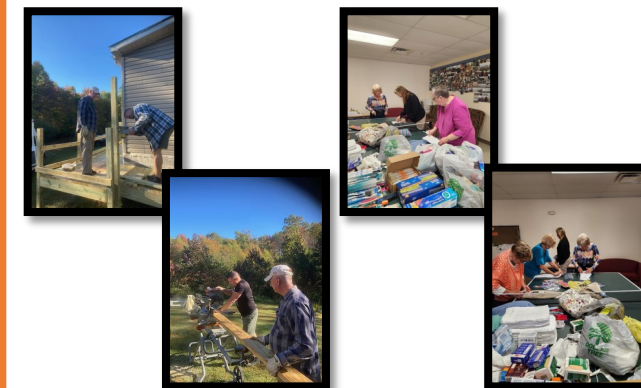


Moving Forward Stewardship Campaign begins in November

For 3 weeks in November, during our worship time, we will have an emphasis on the power of stewardship. In the midst of this we will also look ahead to our ministries in 2025. This unique financial campaign will be coupled with a sermon series from Rev. Chris Black that will have a special focus on what it means to equip our vision for our church and to make it a reality. The financial stewardship campaign is titled "Moving Forward." This title was chosen because our goal is not merely to maintain our ministries. We desire for God to lead us into the future, which means strengthening current programs and beginning new ministries that connect people to Jesus Christ. We believe the Holy Spirit is calling us to make a difference in the Madisonville community in 2025 and beyond. Our campaign will begin on November 3rd continue through November 10th, and culminate on commitment Sunday, November 17th. More details and resources are available in the gathering area.

Celebrating Missions in October!

A special thanks to all those who participated in missions and outreach in October. A few of you helped with driving bottles of water to flood relief sites in the Holston Conference. Some of you helped with the Community Cafe to serve food or welcome folks. Some of you helped with building a wheelchair ramp in the Coker Creek Community. Others of you helped put together 201 hygiene kits to meet emergency needs, and many of you have plans to continue to help in November. And some of you have done things to help others that no one knows about. As a church we are living into being the hands and feet of Christ in our community. Again, thanks to all of you who were in a Christian mission in October, and who are making plans to continue being in missions in November.



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We Support Our Church By...

Our Gifts:

- Building ramps with Safer Homes
- Driving fellow church friends to appointments
- Volunteering in the community

Our Presence:

- In church average for October-97
- Attending Community Events
- Joining First United Methodist sponsored events

November 3rd
Glenda Parker

November 10th
Janet Tweed

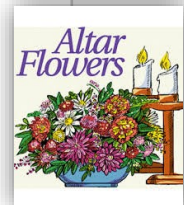
November 17th
Kris Browder

November 24th
OPEN



November 3rd
Communion Sunday

November 10th
In memory of David E. Holland by the Holland/Summit Family



November 17th
In memory of our parents by Gabi & Mike Tallent

November 24th
Margaret & Chad Chester

Ways To Give...

- ◆ Monetary giving in Church
- ◆ Monetary giving online
- ◆ Volunteering with one of the many ministries at First United Methodist

A huge Thank You to all who helped make our Trunk or Treat a huge success! Check out some fun pictures from the event.



Addition of a new (but historic) quilt

We hope you will take some time to check out the new historic addition to our gathering area. This quilt, from the early 1930's, features sewn in signatures from many of our members from that time. There is also a very interesting story about how the quilt came to be back home with us. A special thank you to Carolyn Peters, Jill Reeves, Bev & Kevin Taylor, Mike Tallent, and Don Browder for working so hard to make this possible and to help tell the story of this unique artifact.



Let's Eat Together!

On Wednesday, November 20th we will be having a covered dish dinner at 6:00pm to celebrate Thanksgiving. This will be a time to gather as a church family, share a meal, and be in fellowship with one another. Bring a dish or two of food to share. Pastor Chris may be bringing a ham and we will be cooking 2 turkey's to share. This dinner should be a wonderful time to be together and offer thanksgiving as a community. This will also be the supper for our Ignite Kid's and youth group. Choir practice will begin at 7:00pm this evening.



We Support Our Church By Our Prayers...

Below are prayer requests for members and their families that were shared with the congregational care staff.

- Families of Joan Holland, John Summitt & Curwood Witt
- Mable Graham
- Ann Byers & Family (Jan Johnson's sister)
- John and Judy Maiuri
- Kat Ahart & Barbara Baiz
- Hurricane & Flood Victims in the Southeast
- Annida & Dick Conley & Family
- Leamon Family (Lois Green)
- Doug Riddle (Patty Jones' Brother)
- The Houvenagle Family
- Wayne and Lucille Peery
- Betty Byrum Hicks
- Mary Margaret Mason
- Tara Stewart's sister Laura and family
- Shirley Leverton (Larry Davis's sister)
- Allen and Julia Reedy and Family
- Baby Thomas (Ray & Dora Nelson's great grandson)
- Ray Sammons (Melanie Slouka's brother)



Continued Prayers and Praise for our:

- Choir Ministries
- Youth Ministry
- Community Café Ministry
- United Women in Faith
- United Methodist Men
- IGNITE Children's Ministry
- Small group Ministries
- Church
- Military Personal
- Unspoken Prayer Requests

Sunday November 3rd is All Saints Day

Each year on the first Sunday in November, churches around the world name those faithfully departed members who have passed away within the past year. During worship on November 3rd we will be honoring the saints of our church, along with the loved ones in our church family who have passed away. We encourage you to take a moment and offer a prayer of thanksgiving for their lives.



John Summitt, Joan Holland & Curwood Witt



Advent is coming!

The season of Advent begins on Sunday, December 1st this year. Followers of Jesus often use the days leading up to Christmas to celebrate and prepare for the coming of Christ. Our congregation will mark the 4 weeks in Advent leading up to the Christmas season in some very rich, unique, and fun ways both on Sundays and throughout the week. Please be on the lookout for all the ways we will be preparing as a community to celebrate the birth of our Savior. The last Sunday of the liturgical year will be "Reign of Christ" Sunday on November 24th.



Charge Conference in November

On Sunday November 10th at 12:00pm our church will be having a Charge Conference in our sanctuary. This is the yearly meeting that our District Superintendent presides over to receive formal missional/ministry reports, and to hold votes on various church business items including (but not limited to) Pastor's compensation and nominated leadership for the upcoming year. The charge conference is one of the unique connectional points between the local church and the broader Annual Conference. All are welcome to attend the meeting, but only those in our congregation who are members of the church council or current/retired clergy may vote.