

THE MESSENGER of the First United Methodist Church
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THE PASTOR'S PEN

A Word from the Pastor—
CHEST OF JOASH—A TOOL for TRANSFORMATION!

I am thrilled about the **transformation** that is occurring throughout our beloved church facility. We have reached a point where we cannot help but take notice of what is occurring. It is amazing how bright and welcoming our Education Building has become because of the new windows throughout. The next time you arrive for worship or Sunday School you will be amazed by how welcoming the restrooms are becoming. Soon construction will begin on the third floor of the Education building as we begin the joyful task of **transforming** it into a bright, spacious and welcoming center for our children. Not far behind this work will be the creation of a new youth ministry area. The former staff offices in the Barrett building (most recently referred to as the Kid's Corner and Children's Church and Library) will be retooled to meet the needs of our teens. When the wheels of **transformation** start they move quickly.

During April, we have been observing "Chest of Joash" month. We have been challenged to follow the example of the Israelites in 2 Chronicles 24:7-16 who joyfully responded to their leader, King Joash. He told the priest to construct a chest and to place it in the Temple so offerings could be received to restore the House of the Lord to its original beauty. The people remembered God's blessing and gave and the **transformation** began! During the previous 5 weeks, we have placed cash, checks, and also 12-month commitment cards into the chest. This Sunday, May 6 following the 11:00 service we will be celebrating with a congregation-wide potluck lunch. During the morning services, we will learn more about the story of "Joash's Chest" and we will have another opportunity to place our offerings into it. During the meal, we will have the "Big Reveal" when we announce the total of money received, and the estimate of giving commitments made for the coming twelve months. If you haven't responded yet I hope you will prayerfully consider doing so. We hope to pay as we go for as long as we can. Cash is Good! So far all the work that has been done and the materials secured has been done with funds on hand!

Perhaps you noticed my use of the word **transformation** above. It is an important word that I hope will not only describe what is occurring to our facility but will remind us of why we have this church home. Paragraph 120 of *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church* states:

The mission of the Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

I hope as we watch our facility being **transformed** we will remember why we exist. We are in this community for the purpose of introducing those around us to the one who can **transform** a life into something beautiful and good. That someone is Jesus. It is all about Jesus! The work we attempt means nothing apart from him. We have begun a good work; let us see it to its completion.

THANK YOU FOR A MINISTRY WELL DONE!

By now you are aware that Rev. Jon Hand has announced his intent to retire from full-time ministry at Annual Conference in June. We are truly grateful for Jon's ministry among us. Jon, Anita and Sean are members of our First Church family and will always be so. Neither we or they know what God has in store for them in the days ahead but we can all be confident that God and the Hands will be faithful. I hope you will use the opportunity of the weeks ahead to express your gratitude and affection for them.

MORE SURPRISES AHEAD!

I am pleased to say that I will be returning as your pastor for the coming year. I believe God has some wonderful surprises in store for us. I encourage you to stay tuned for future announcements regarding other pastoral appointments that our Bishop may make to our church.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Steve



FIRST FRUITS

The Mission Committee is collecting **CANNED VEGETABLES** for Good Samaritan the month of **May**. Please bring your donations any Sunday in May. Your donations are always greatly appreciated!



UNITED METHODIST WOMEN

UNITED METHODIST WOMEN cannot thank our congregation enough for the wonderful support given to our April 21st UMW retreat. Special thanks are due Susan Walton, retreat facilitator; Sharon Conroy, Retreat Committee Chair; Cirled 31 for providing the breakfast snacks; the Open Door Class for donating live floral table arrangements later used as door prizes; and to Katie Silver for providing complimentary items for the tables and communiqués to the ladies of our church. It was a team effort, and that's why it was so successful. Ladies from several community churches participated, which made for wonderful fellowship among participants. A special thank you to Carolyn Watkins, UMW President, for her thoughtful, spiritual leadership.

STEWARDSHIP IS A LIFESTYLE, YTD AVERAGES 2018

Sunday School Average: 143 Worship Average: 249
Weekly Needed: \$10327.00 Weekly Average Received: \$9805.00

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

May 1 Allie Vaughn Marvin & Linda Mulkey	May 17 Ian Stewart, Todd Payne
May 2 Gina Austin	May 18 Wanda Bean
May 3 Bobby & Doris Elder	May 19 Tommy Grant John & Cheri Anderton
May 4 Jerry & Sharon Conroy	May 20 Scout Wiggs Harvey & Linda Little
May 6 Jenny Weddington, Wyatt, Payne, Jeff Stevenson Jeff & Leah Harrell	May 22 Mary Westerhof, Julie Stewart
May 7 Dave Tapp, Suzanne McDowell, Eden Johnston	May 23 Larry Majors, Adelyn Rae Knight
May 9 Marvin Mulkey, Charlotte Rhoton Stephenie Swann, Bryson Charles	May 24 Monette Bonner, Margaret Moon
May 11 Hannah Tapp Stacy & Margie Stevenson	May 25 Celeste Knapper, Zach Smith John & Marilyn Rampy, Chris & Dianna Ogden
May 12 Mike Rose, Ava Lynch, Lucille Ellis Kevin & Laura Lockmiller Jim & Nita Penland	May 26 Kevin Sulouff
May 13 Lil Claire Getty	May 27 Thomas Ore Buddy & Jean Perry, Tom & Donna Ore, Eddie & Heather Crenshaw
May 14 Linda Moorehead Don & Mary Eleanor Shadow	May 28 Joella Carr, Benjamin Stewart, Knox Lockmiller Justin & JoCarole Woodall
May 15 Linda Burkman	May 30 Matt Clark
May 16 Sandy Campbell, Shirley Rhoton, Cheri Anderton	May 31 Becky Greer Ed & Heather Synder, Philip & Kristy McAbee

NOTES FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Ah, May, at long last! What a strange winter it has been for southern middle Tennessee! As late as April 17th we were still having some sub-freezing overnight temps while soaring to 70+ temps in the daytime! Winchester's Easter Sunday on April 1, normally quite cold or even at freezing, was 50 degrees at sunrise service!

I am reminded of the relatively small area that is God's Holy Land. Deserts stand in stark contrast to the mountains and seas. Small areas have full-on winter, while other areas less than an hour's drive away are 20 degrees warmer. The local geography has areas ranging from 800 feet below sea level to 2500 feet above sea level. Such contrast in the land also means numerous micro-climates that make the area very fertile for planting. All of this diversity is in found in a region that is only slightly larger than our 5th smallest state in the USA, New Jersey!

God is in control! It turns out that diversity of climate and geography, whether here at home or in the Holy Land, is another way in which God provides for us. We may not always understand God's actions, but we know that the Lord looks after us. We praise him for his love and grace, as we smile at God's warmer weather to come. **

For the information of those who have been unable to attend at FUMC lately, I have chosen to retire at the end of the conference year and give some valuable time to my family. I still have two months remaining in the Associate Pastor's and Music Ministry chairs, and I am thankful for these past nine years. My grandparents, Dick and Laura Pingston,, Sr., sang in the Chancel Choir and were active as teachers here at FUMC throughout my childhood and teen years. I am honored to have followed their legacy with my tenure here. Join me in prayer for the next chapter at FUMC, and know that I love you all. Peace, Jon

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT WESLEY PRESCHOOL

We are pleased to announce that Wesley Preschool will be having our graduation program on Wednesday, May 23th at 10:30 a.m. in the gym. We would love for you to join us as we celebrate another successful year.

Our graduates for 2018 are

William Bishop
Mayson Cates
Eva Chiu
Gunner Haddon
Kashus Kozen
Jace Padgett
Jayleigh Smith



Golden Cross Foundation offering is on Mother's Day, May 13. The Golden Cross Foundation is self-funded with no conference apportionment support. Its main purpose is to assist Older Adults in the Tennessee Conference. Pat Brandenstein

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Calling all Super Heroes and Super Helpers! VBS is June 25-29, Contact Jennifer Smith to volunteer or for pre-registration information. Our 4th and 5th graders will have VBS missions and we are collecting Large Diapers for Crisis Pregnancy Center and canned food for Good Sam and Campora for these mission. Donations can be brought to kids Corner.

Summer reading outreach program is being planned for June 5, 7,12, and 14 and July 10,12, and 17. Volunteers needed! Contact Jennifer Smith for details.

Wednesday evening programs continue through May 16th. After that stay tuned for other summer fun activities.

YOUTH NEWS

Congratulations to our 2018 Graduating Seniors



*Emma Curtis
Kelly Denton
Alexis Holt
John Michael Rampy
Garrett Shaw
Leanne Turpin
Drew Waggoner
Bethany Watkins*

Senior Recognition Sunday—May 13th
Senior Banquet—May 14th 6PM

Youth Wed. Night 6-7
May 2, 9, 16

Youth Sunday Night
May 6& 20

DO YOU SHOP AT KROGER? Please register your Kroger Plus card number with our youth participant number 88525. This can be done either by logging into www.kroger.com/communityrewards or by calling 800-576-4377, option 3. Participant number 88525 is the number for Winchester FUMC Youth Group. **THE YOUTH EARN FREE MONEY!!** We currently have 35 families in the church supporting the youth through this program. Thanks!!!