



CONGREGATIONAL  
PRAYER CONCERNS

The Asante family	Ann Kellman
Vivian Barnes	Gary Kellman
Janey Bassett	Kirk Kellman
Tia Bassett	Mary Byrd King
Juanita Bilyeu	Mike Lee
Nathaniel Bone	Annette Lynch
Robert Buck	Brian Maffett
Savannah Lynn Caylor	Sylvia McCann
Peggy Cho	Paul McLendon
Scott Crouch	Linda McConnell
Faye Curry	Harper Mynatt
Michael Curry	Larry Norton
Mary Mac Darnell	Rob Poteet
Ferdinand DiFurio	Mary Jo Rogers
Nadia DiFurio	Roxanne Self
Delaney Duncan	Hazel Smith
Hazel Dyer	Sarah Stockton
Brian Lee Foster	Bobbie Story
Elaine Funk	Tommie Thackston
Mary Garrison	Jessie Watts
Nate Griffis	Pam White
Hunter Harris	Harriett Wright
Joe Hix	
Bob Jones	

*Sympathy and Prayer*

Sympathy to Royce & Geneva Harris in the death of their son, Gregory Royce Harris.

Sympathy to the family and friends of B. C. North.

Sympathy to the family and friends of Marilyn Rhoton, former employee.

**Sunday Services**

**Worship Service:**

8:30, 10:55, and 11:00 a.m.

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

10:55 a.m. Service Broadcast on  
WATX-AM 1600

**Nursery Available**

**Sunday Worship and Sunday**

**School:** 8:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Children ages birth to 4 years

**Phone:** 931-526-2177

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**Email:** office@cookevillefume.org

www.cookevillefume.org

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FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

We all need reminders of God's presence, grace, and guidance along the way. Every once in a while, I get one of those "perspective" moments—moments when you can see how far you have come by the grace of God, relish the goodness of the present, and lean into a future God will channel and guide like the mighty flow of a majestic stream.

One of those "perspective" moments came to me a couple of weeks ago as I rediscovered my college Bible. I purchased it at the beginning of my sophomore year as the specific version of the Bible required by a religion professor. As I thumbed through the pages, memories flooded back to me. I remembered that in August 1981, I wrote a letter to God, surrendering to my call to ministry. I discovered notes in the margins of the Bible that reminded me of my growing awareness of the Biblical message. What really struck me most was the collection of Upper Room devotional pages torn out and stuck into my Bible on specific dates. It was daily markers of progress in a long journey. Each one is a marker of my growing desire to know, love, and serve God, and to mature as a person and Christian disciple. Each one was a message from God to a young sojourner. I remember how I tore out and kept the ones that really "spoke" to me.

One little hand-scribbled note was a devotional I gave to an unfortunate UMW group in Kannapolis, North Carolina. (Long story—it involved a girl and a seminary). Not long after my workmates at Kroger told me I wasn't "preacher material," my mentor at school sent me to talk to his minister, a Duke Divinity graduate. I met with him and he had some wisdom to share and put in a plug for Duke. Meanwhile, in the summer of '81, before I purchased my new study Bible, I met a girl in Florida—a good Methodist girl who lived in Kannapolis, NC not far from Duke. In February of the next year, 1982, with study Bible in hand, I decided to make a holy pilgrimage to see the seminary ... and the girl. She asked me to speak to her Grandmother's UMW. I did. I still remember the stunned look on their faces as I wrapped up my devotional from the hand-written note in my study Bible—in three minutes flat! Two thoughts: maybe I really wasn't preacher material ... and I did eventually find more things to say—as evidenced by how many of you wish on Sunday morning for the brevity of my youth! I discovered on that pilgrimage that everything is not what it appears. I stayed with the girl's pastor, who was an Asbury Seminary graduate. The preacher and the girl refused to take me to Duke. They literally said if I went to Duke Divinity School I was hell bound! In fact, they gathered around me, laid hands on me, and prayed that I would see the light and go straight to Asbury. The seminary visit didn't work out—and neither did the girl! It all scared hell right out of me—and I wound up going to Vanderbilt Divinity School in my stunned, disoriented state, ironically, which many consider the gate to hell.

What is my point? My old college Bible has stories to tell. Stories of my life. Stories of my budding faith. Stories of my desire to obey and serve God. Almost forty years later, I see with amazed perception and perspective that all are stories of grace—the flow of God's continual loving action in my life—and in yours. In our present circumstances, I hope God grants you "perspective" moments. Moments when you can see how far you have come by the grace of God, relish the goodness of the present, and lean into a future God will channel and guide like the mighty flow of a majestic stream.

~ Kevin

## BY OUR PRESENCE

*Sunday, April 26, 2020*

Total Online Worship Views: 423

*Sunday, May 3, 2020*

Total Online Worship Views: 349

## BY OUR GIFTS

Actual Receipts for Two Weeks \$72,786.80

Actual Expenses for Two Weeks \$29,920.67

## Online Giving

During this time of social distancing, we have several ways for you to continue supporting the ongoing ministries and operating expenses of your church.

- Mail your check to 165 E Broad St. Cookeville, TN 38501
- Automatic draft on the 5<sup>th</sup> and/or 20<sup>th</sup> each month.
- Online giving by credit card
- Online giving through recurring donations

Please call LuAnn in the church office at 526-2177 if you would like to setup automatic draft or have any questions about other options. Online giving is available through our website at [www.cookevillefumc.org/giving](http://www.cookevillefumc.org/giving). Thanks for your continued support during these different times!

## Get the Newsletter Online!

Consider getting the Cookeville Methodist digitally! In addition to helping us save on postage and printing costs, you'll get the newsletter in full color before the printed copy has even been folded! Email [office@cookevillefumc.org](mailto:office@cookevillefumc.org) with "Newsletter" in the subject line with your first and last name. Every other Tuesday you'll receive an email with a link to the current newsletter. You can also find it (along with past editions) on our website at [www.cookevillefumc.org/resources/fumc-newsletters](http://www.cookevillefumc.org/resources/fumc-newsletters).



For updated information, please visit us online at [www.cookevillefumc.org](http://www.cookevillefumc.org) or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM

In a short amount of time, the COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way families all over our country function. Things considered normal - school, extracurricular activities, eating out, birthday parties, playdates and church - have been redefined, and a new normal had to be created. This new normal comes with a lot of fear and anxiety and we have a big responsibility to comfort and empower the children of our church whose lives have changed so much. It is a time to teach children about helping others, showing compassion, and putting God first over all else. It is a time for families to reconnect, for parents and church leaders to show children that a church is not just a building we go to on Sunday morning. The church is a community of believers who show up for each other no matter what the situation might be.

The Children's Ministry at FUMC looks very different right now! We have Sunday school in our jammies on Sunday morning and we watch church on YouTube! We go to Zoom meetings in the afternoons to listen to songs, hear words of encouragement, and see our holy church friends. The favorite new thing is when off a HUGE ziplock bag is dropped off at each house, full of new Sunday school lessons, games, crafts, and treats. It is very different than what we are used to but it accomplishes the same goal - to let the children know that they are loved and that they are a child of God.

While much is still uncertain about how the future will look, one thing that will not change is the ability for us to be there for each other in new ways. We are unsure when Sunday school will start back or how day camps at church will look but FUMC is working hard to create awesome experiences to uplift and encourage children and families. Spoiler alert and something to look forward to: this summer, a traveling Vacation Bible School will come to you! More information coming soon.

FUMC is praying daily for your family. You are loved and missed. It is a difficult time but we are all in this together. We will continue to strengthen connections and create new ways to show love for each other! If your family would like to receive Sunday school bags or receive more information about links to virtual meeting times, please contact Shannon Auberson at [children@cookevillefumc.org](mailto:children@cookevillefumc.org).

## SUPPORT OUR DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM

During all that has been going on in Cookeville the past couple of months the Disaster Response Team has been hard at work within our community and beyond. Our Disaster Response Team was on the ground the day after the tornado. We worked closely with teams from all over the United States.



The team has been cutting trees, moving debris, tarping roofs, helping families search for personal items, moving furniture, hauling supplies and providing a caring Christian presence. Our team travels and serves all over the United States. Their work has touched so many individuals, families, and businesses, both directly and indirectly. During this time, artist Ellie Batson had an idea for a fundraiser. Ellie designed a T-shirt that is now available for purchase of \$20. Please show your support for our Disaster Response Team and order today. First come, first served. Sizes available are S-2XL. To place an order, email [Tamika@cookevillefumc.org](mailto:Tamika@cookevillefumc.org) with name, number of shirts needed and size, then mail your check with "T-shirt" written on the memo line to the church office. We are asking that you order by Monday, June 15. Pick-up date will be Thursday, June 18 from 10 a.m. - noon in the drive-through of the Freeman Building. Thank you for your support, and please continue to pray for our Disaster Team. God uses us for His work today and always.

## LIVING THROUGH THE STORM

Here in Cookeville "living through a storm" is how many have described the past few months. Anna (17) and Audrey Kate (11) Hale truly have lived through a storm. The March 2 tornado traveled through their neighborhood. Anna and Audrey Kate were witnesses to this amazing act of nature, but even more impressive is the memory they have of how their parents, first mentors and models of discipleship, did not question how to react. When parents Jason and Michelle Hale were asked how they managed to rally so quickly Michelle said, "That's what we do. We were safe and there was no time to question what had happened. Making sure everyone else was safe was what we were called to do." Weeks later, in the midst of the Stay at Home order, distance learning, and COVID-19 pandemic, Shannon Auberson, Director of Children and Families, interviewed Anna Hale to see how they were weathering this new storm.

### ***Tell me your thoughts about worshiping from home on Sunday morning?***

It's very different. I definitely miss our little balcony crew and seeing everyone's reactions to the sermon, music, etc. and there's something about getting ready and putting on our "Sunday best" that I miss.

### ***Give me one positive and one negative of this experience.***

A positive is definitely the beautiful weather and having more time to spend with family. One negative is continuing to see debris from a month ago, along with occasional battles with survivor's guilt and knowing it could've been us.

### ***What is your biggest fear?***

Leaving someone on a bad note. After a tragic event that took lives in seconds, I often find myself afraid of not appreciating people enough or saying the wrong things at the end of a conversation because you never know what could be your last.

### ***What is your biggest hope?***

I'm hoping for a sense of normalcy. I know with the tornado, and now the pandemic, that nothing will be exactly the same, but I'm just waiting for everything to calm down and reach the new normal.

### ***How has Staying at Home helped you prioritize the most important things in your daily life's routine?***

Being at home has really pushed me to focus on spending time with family and self-care. I think we often get so caught up in work/school. I know I do. We forget to cherish the simple things. So having coffee with my mom in the mornings, or sitting at the dinner table and laughing with my family, are just some of the little things I prioritize now.

### ***Do you see yourself slowing down to enjoy family and friends more once our routines return?***

For sure. I try to make family and friends a priority, but again, schedules around here are tough sometimes. But with these recent events, I think everyone knows the importance of spending more time with people close to them.

## FOOD PANTRY

God's Grace Food Pantry is still in operation. We are adhering to the safe practices of social distancing, which makes this ministry look extremely different. Our guests are important to us, and we miss seeing them on a weekly basis. As brothers and sisters in Christ, we value their safety and wellbeing and also long to help them meet their basic needs.

This is new territory for all of us. Our Pantry team discussed several options and decided on the appointment system. This is similar to a plan used in many pantries in our area and across the country. We speak with the guest by phone and discuss their needs, which allows us the opportunity to create a box specifically for their family. Just prior to their pickup appointment time, the box is set outside the door. While this may appear impersonal, Tamika is able to wave through the window and offer signs of peace and encouragement. We are also including a note with a scripture and devotion.

Meanwhile, it's time to make plans for the future. We anticipate a growing need for our pantry and want to be prepared. We are discussing ways we can help Second Harvest by packing emergency boxes for their warehouses and our pantry. As this COVID-19 emergency continues, we will explore other ideas and ways we can be most helpful to our community. Stay tuned for updates during these ever-changing times. We place our hope and faith in God, who sustains us as we continue to fulfill our calling to share the story of grace in the heart of town.

## KROGER CARD FOR THE FOOD PANTRY

Did you know God's Grace Food Pantry can receive cash back from purchases using your Kroger Rewards Card? And you can still keep all your points and benefits! If you have not signed up your Kroger Plus Card, please do so today. Our food pantry receives a check from Kroger each quarter, and the best part is you still get to keep your gas points for your personal use!

You can register on line at [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com), or by phone at 1-800-465-7643. You will need the NPO number for God's Grace Food Pantry, which is 96948. Please register your card today! If you need assistance with this or have any questions, please contact Tamika Parker at 526-2177.

## MAY MADNESS, BY CASS ROBERTS

Over the past few months, we have heard the phrase "cancelled due to concerns about COVID-19" countless times. From concerts to graduation ceremonies, no event has been too big to be affected by this pandemic. In fact, the bigger the event, the more dangerous it is since more people means more chances to spread the virus. This is why, on March 12, the NCAA decided to cancel the 2020 March Madness basketball tournaments.

You may not expect the choir room to be filled with sports fans, but take one scroll through the music ministry fantasy football group chat and you'll find enough evidence to change your entire perception of the department. So when we were looking for new ways to safely involve the congregation in worship, we decided to combine two seemingly unrelated events into one. This month we are bringing you the 2020 May Madness Hymn Sing.

A couple of weeks ago, we asked via Facebook for your favorite hymns. Those have been compiled into a bracket of 16 which will be released this week on the music department's Facebook page. All week you can vote for your favorite hymns as they battle head to head. Finally, the full group of 16 hymns will be featured in a virtual hymn sing broadcast from our YouTube channel this Sunday evening.

This is the perfect opportunity to make sure you are following us on Facebook and YouTube. Our YouTube channel is Cookeville FUMC and our Facebook page is called Music Ministry Cookeville FUMC. There you can see the bracket and vote on every matchup.



# May Madness Hymn Sing



## First United

Methodist Church of Cookeville

165 East Broad Street  
Cookeville, TN 38501

**COOKEVILLE METHODIST**  
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Cookeville Methodist  
165 E. Broad Street, Cookeville, TN 38501

### Mother's Day Sunday, May 10 at 7 p.m.

Join us on our YouTube channel as we do a video broadcast hymn from our sanctuary! See details in this newsletter, which include an online bracket event—replacing March Madness with May Madness. Sweet 16, Elite 8, Final Four, and Championship of favorite hymns!

*Open hearts. Open minds. Open Doors. The people of The United Methodist Church.*

### HOW TO ACCESS SUNDAY SERVICES

Visit [www.cookevillefumc.org](http://www.cookevillefumc.org), and click the *Sunday's Service and Devotionals* slide. From there, you will be taken to a page that lists all the previously recorded sermons. Click on the date of the sermon title you want to watch, and you will be redirected to our YouTube page and the list of sermons. You can also live stream our service each Sunday on YouTube under *CookevilleFUMC*. There is a link to that page above the sermon titles on our web page.

Don't have Internet access? We also broadcast via radio at 11 a.m. on NewsTalk FM 94.1.

### YOUTH MINISTRIES UPDATE

### THANK YOU, MASK MAKERS!



In an effort to help people during the COVID-19 outbreak, a team from FUMC started sewing masks in late March for our hospital workers and patients. The team started with members, then grew to include a few people from the community. Our deepest thanks to all those who donated supplies, including the Backsliders Sunday School class, and to our volunteers: Joann and Gordon Fraser, Linda Hardison, Jan Fritz, Teena King, Barbara Tolleson, Linda McConnell, Sandra Ragland, Ron McMinn, Diane Decker, Nancy and Larry

Hutson, Gaynell Sachse, Kay Starkweather, Kay's neighbor Molly, Anna Galicinski and her mother, Jessica Oswalt, Diane Duncan, Lauren Alley and Patricia Chiroux. And a very special thank you to Dee and Arlin Potocnik, who lead the group. These dedicated and hardworking people have worked truly long hours to show their compassion for our local medical personnel and the health of the community in a very practical way. From start to finish, each mask takes about 30 minutes to construct. To date, they have created nearly 1,000 masks to help protect the people of our community! Heroes, one and all!