



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MAY

- 25 Red Cross Blood Drive
- Youth—Dollywood Trip
- 29 Youth Choir Tour

JUNE

- 3 Youth Choir Tour Concert

Elevator Update

Due to a change in state codes, the elevator in the Christian Life Center will be out of service until all upgrades are made. Thank you for your patience.

Food Pantry

Please consider adding these items to your grocery shopping list so we may help provide needed items to our friends and neighbors:

- Bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste
- Grocery and newspaper bags that are clean and flattened

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
Fax: 931-372-9905
Email: office@cookevillefume.org
www.cookevillefume.org

FROM OUR PASTOR

I recently shared an assessment of FUMC with our Staff Parish team. I'd like to share some of that with you in this week's article.

On the one hand, FUMC does many things well and is vital in a lot of areas. We do significant ministry here, both within the congregation and in the community. I'm constantly amazed at the large number of people engaged in service to God, church, and community in this place. Many of our members have rich spiritual lives. We love each other well. Our people are generous with their time and money. We made two important staff hires over the past year and both are doing well (Associate Pastor and Youth Minister). We continue to make progress in our children and youth ministry. We have many strong programs. We experience little conflict. Overall morale is strong. And the list of positives goes on and on.

On the other hand, FUMC, like the vast majority of churches in America, faces real challenges. Our biggest challenge continues to be our inability to effectively reach new people. For example, in spite of significant growth in Cookeville over the past few decades, our membership and attendance remained static. Our median age is double the median age of our community and we have an extremely small number of first time guests. This decades-long lack of evangelism is certainly not unique to FUMC. Most mainline churches struggle with the same problem. The challenge is compounded by recent cultural changes. Fewer people attend church in America than ever before, and those who do attend participate less often. With few exceptions, the overall church in America is in serious decline. Clearly, we are facing strong cultural head winds against evangelistic success. However, part of our challenge at FUMC is the prevailing culture here. Reaching people for Christ and church is not a priority for most of our congregation, and hasn't been for many decades. And we are comfortable with old methods of "doing church" that are not as effective as they used to be. We need to make significant adaptations to thrive in a rapidly changing world, though it will challenge the status quo.

I've come to realize that my primary attempted strategies for revitalizing FUMC, which were extremely effective in my past pastorates (including vibrant blended worship, creating a culture of bold invitation, and claiming our niche as a centrist, open-minded alternative to religious right fundamentalism), have not been embraced by FUMC. These strategies, for whatever reason, have not gained much traction. Therefore, we need to figure out different strategies that will be effective in this unique congregation and community. I will work towards that end in the months ahead, through prayer, dialogue, and discernment with staff and lay leadership, including creating a future directions team to make plans for a more promising future at FUMC.

In Christ's Love and Service,

~ Dr. Martin Thielen

BY OUR PRESENCE

Sunday, May 13, 2018

Total Worship Attendance: 392

Sunday, May 20, 2018

Total Worship Attendance: 526

BY OUR GIFTS

Sunday, May 13, 2018

Budget fund receipts \$112,000

Building fund receipts \$740.00

Sunday, May 20, 2018

Budget fund receipts \$16,907.29

Building fund receipts \$865.00

Early Service Ushers

Are you interested in being in the rotation for Ushers at the early service? Your help is needed! Scheduling is now taking place for the months of June, July and August! Contact Kathy Evans, music@cookevillefumc.org, 526-2177. The opportunity awaits you!

Volunteer Opportunities

It is time to schedule for liturgists for both services for the months of June, July and August. This involves leading the Call to Worship, reading the scripture and other worship readings. Now is a great time to volunteer and become involved in worship! You are needed and welcomed! Contact Kathy Evans, music@cookevillefumc.org; 526-2177.

Backsliders Speakers

Upcoming speakers for the Backsliders' 9:45 a.m. Sunday School Class, Jeff Wall Hall, where all are invited.

May 27 Todd Arnold

June 3 Addison Shock

June 10 Adam Daniels

June 17 Donna Paramore

June 24 Josh Poplar

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS

To request prayer or to add someone to the prayer list, contact the church office or use the prayer cards in the pews. Names will remain on the list for two weeks, unless otherwise specified.

Marvin Barker	Dan Hearn	Pat Maxwell
Vivian Barnes	Joe Hix	Evangeline O'Kain
Craig Benich	Mary Ann Huffines	Winnie Peterson
Robert Buck	Bishop Holliman	Margaret Phipps
Randy Cavanaugh	Alma Jean Johnson	Glenn Ramsey
Anna Cunningham	Jan Jordan	Mary Jo Rogers
Ed Edenfield	Mary Byrd King	Gene Evelyn Warren
Brian Foster	Jeannine Lynn	Julia Woodford
Mary Garrison	Karen Macke	Hazel Wyatt
Nate Griffis	Brian Maffett	

Sympathy and Prayer

Stephanie Brasfield, family and friends on the death of her husband, Mike Brasfield.

FUMC TO PARTICIPATE IN JAIL MINISTRY

FUMC has the opportunity to participate in God's Jail Ministry, which has a twenty-year history with the Putnam County Jail. Our role will consist of expanding their male support team, which provides weekly opportunities for a scripture and prayer-based ministry, to the inmate population. At some point in the future, a female support team may be needed.

Jail Ministry has been a cornerstone of the Methodist movement since the days of John Wesley. The ministry takes place on Sundays from approximately 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Putnam County Jail. This is a very meaningful and important opportunity for our church. Please prayerfully consider becoming a part of this wonderful ministry. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Tamika Parker or Rob Wheeler in the church office at 526-2177.

ANGELS ATTIC UPDATE

With the reopening of Wesley Chapel, we will be resuming our Angels Attic clothing ministry. If you have any of the following items we would appreciate receiving them:

Infant thru age 3 clothing, towels, sheets (any size), men's Levi's

Your continued generosity is what makes this wonderful ministry so successful. If you have any questions about Angel's Attic or would like to volunteer two hours per month, please contact Tamika Parker in the church office at 526-2177.

YOUTH SUMMER EVENTS

May 29 - June 3 Choir Tour

June 8 Summer Kick-off at Adam and Jessie's

June 10 - 14 Vacation Bible School

June 30 - July 1 Slide the City

July 5 United Methodist Day at Nashville Shores




For updated information, please visit us online at www.cookevillefumc.org or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

WESLEY CHAPEL REOPENS

Recently, there were concerns of air quality in Wesley Chapel. After consulting an air quality expert and performing appropriate testing, we were assured that Wesley Chapel is in fact safe. Because of the results received, the ministries that are housed in that building, including God's Grace Food Pantry and the Angel's Attic clothing ministry, will resume May 29. We appreciate your concern and patience as we have worked through this issue and are always grateful for your service to our church and community. Anyone wanting to serve in either of these ministries, please contact Tamika Parker at 526-2177.

SAFE SANCTUARY TRAINING

 Safe Sanctuaries Training will be held in the Christian Life Center on Sunday, July 22 from 5 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. This training is open to church leaders and ministry volunteers and will be led by Julie Meyer, a Safe Spaces Trainer, from the Tennessee Conference Office. Church leaders and volunteers interested in participating should register online at cookevillefumc.org or contact the church office at 526-2177. Dinner is available for \$5 per person.

YOUTH CHOIR TOUR

HOMECOMING DINNER AND CONCERT

Join us on Sunday evening, June 3, at 5 p.m. for a covered dish dinner in the Christian Life Center to welcome home the Youth Choir from their tour to Washington, DC. Meat and drink will be provided. Please bring a side, salad or dessert to share. The Homecoming Concert will be held in the sanctuary at 6 p.m. This year's program features *Cotton Patch Gospel* and choral favorites from this year's repertoire. A performance you will not want to miss!

YOUTH NEWS

Sunday Mornings: Middle School meets in the Youth room downstairs in the Freeman Building at 9:45 a.m. Adam is leading a discussion on the big themes of Scripture using "The Bible Project."

High School meets in the back room at Poet's at 9:45 a.m. Woody Welch is teaching on "Gospel Christianity."

Sunday Night: We share a meal together at 5 p.m., introduce the week's text, then break into small groups to chat about the teachings of Jesus.

High School Girls' Small Group: On Sunday Nights, our intern, Makayla Clark, is leading a small group for all girls interested in getting together to share their lives, stories, and love for God. This group meets at the same time as our Sunday UMYF. High School girls have the option to choose to join the girls only group or participate in the regular devotional time. For more information, talk to Makayla on Wednesdays or Sundays.

Stay up to date—download our App on iTunes or Google Play!

CHURCH EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday, May 27

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School — Classrooms
- 10:55 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. The Grand Sweep — B206

Monday, May 28

Memorial Day — Offices Closed

Tuesday, May 29

- Youth Choir Tour
- 9:00 a.m. Prayer Team — Jenkins Chapel
- 9:30 a.m. GriefShare — Dyer Funeral Home
- 2:00 p.m. Cookeville Dulcimer Society — B214

Wednesday, May 30

- Youth Choir Tour
- 6:00 a.m. Men's Group — C112
- 10:00 a.m. Playtime for Preschoolers — Gym
- 3:00 p.m. Knitting — B206
- 4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer — B214

Thursday, May 31

Youth Choir Tour

Friday, June 1

- Youth Choir Tour
- 8:00 a.m. Dipsy Doodle Men's Breakfast — Dipsy Doodle Restaurant

Saturday, June 2

Youth Choir Tour

Sunday, June 3

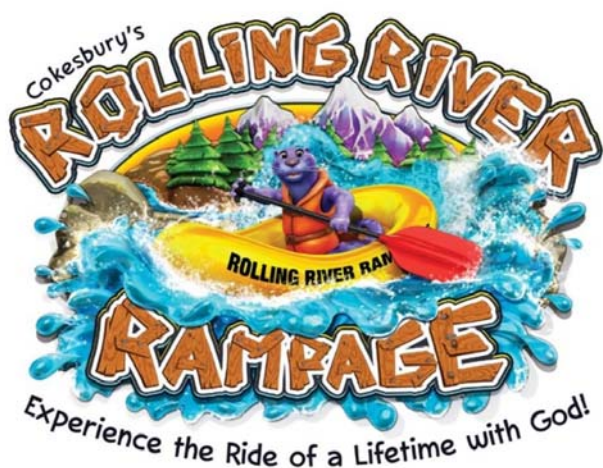
- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School — Classrooms
- 10:55 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary
- 5:00 p.m. The Grand Sweep — B206
- Youth Choir Tour Dinner—Christian Life Center
- 6:00 p.m. Youth Choir Tour Performance — Sanctuary

WAYNE EVANS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Applications for the Wayne Evans Memorial Scholarship are now available on the church website, www.cookevillefumc.org. The scholarship will be awarded to a member of the Cookeville First United Methodist Church who will attend Tennessee Technological University during the 2018 fall term. Completed application information is due May 31, 2018.

Prior to his death in 2011, Wayne was an active member of Cookeville FUMC. The scholarship was established in his memory and is awarded annually to a deserving member of the church family. For additional information: music@cookevillefumc.org or 931-526-2177, ext. 204.

Register Now For VBS 2018



First United

Methodist Church of Cookeville

165 East Broad Street
Cookeville, TN 38501

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June 10 - June 14, 6-8 p.m.

Register online at www.cookevillefumc.org or email children@cookevillefumc.org for more info.

VBS for Pre-K through 5th grade will kick off with a family dinner in the CLC on June 10 at 5 p.m. Sign-in will begin at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

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

EMERGENCY PASTORAL CARE

If you are a church member and need to reach a pastor after hours or on weekends for emergencies of death, imminent death or life-changing tragedies, call 372-8347. The call will be forwarded, so please be patient as it connects—you will hear a dial tone as the call is forwarded. You may be asked to leave a message, in which case your call will be returned as soon as possible. For all other pastoral care needs, your call will be returned on the next business day, or you may always call the church office during normal business hours, 526-2177.

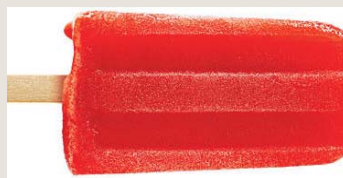
THANK YOU FROM THE YOUTH CHOIR

Thank you for your generous support of the Youth Choir Tour. Your contributions help underwrite this year's trip to Washington, DC. The 50 youth and adults will depart on Tuesday morning, May 29, and return on Sunday evening, June 3. The commitment to preparation, study, performance, and growing together provides an invaluable experience for all participants in this year's Youth Choir Tour. I am grateful for your support of these young people.

~ Kathy Evans



PRAY, PLAY, AND POPSICLES



Every other Sunday this Summer, FUMC KIDS Sunday School classes will walk to Dogwood Park for a devotional, time to play, and popsicles! Dates: June 10, 24 and July 8, 22. We will meet in the Sunday School wing at 9:40 a.m. and return by 10:45 a.m.



July 15—Bring the family!



Children's Retreat
October 20-21