



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

- 17 Club 456 Bowling
- 24 Children's Sabbath
Taco Fiesta—Youth Choir Fundraiser
- 28 Stephen Ministry Training

BOO BASH 2017



It's that time of year again!

As you are shopping, please consider purchasing candy for our annual trunk or treat. Contact Tamika Parker at 526-2177 to donate candy or to volunteer to bring and decorate your car.

Sunday Services

Worship Service:

8:30, 10:55

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

10:55 a.m. Service Broadcast on
News Talk FM 94.1/AM 1600

Nursery Available

Sunday Worship and Sunday
School: 8:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.
Children ages birth to 3 years

Phone: 931-526-2177

Fax: 931-372-9905

Email: office@cookevillefumc.org
www.cookevillefumc.org

FROM OUR PASTOR

In my conversations with people, folks sometimes ask me about “the competition.” Usually, they are referring to other churches in our area, over one hundred strong, with new churches being launched all the time. However, I’ve never viewed other churches as the competition. For one thing, we are all brothers and sisters in Christ. In the end, we are on the same team. And, most of the churches around us have a different culture than we do. As a centrist mainline church, we reach a different constituency than most of the churches in our area. So, our competition is not other churches. The real competition that threatens our church (and every other church in America) is nominal Christianity and the growth of the “nones.” Let me explain.

The primary competition for the health of American churches is nominal Christianity. Nominal Christians profess faith in Christ. They hold membership in a church. But they rarely participate in the life of their congregation. If these people ever got serious about their membership vows (to be faithful to God and church with their prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness), every Sunday would be like Easter, and the ministry, mission and impact of American churches would dramatically and exponentially explode. This group, more than any other “competitor,” prevents the American church from reaching its potential.

The second major competitor for American churches is the rise of the “nones.” The “nones” are the fastest-growing religious group in America. These are the people who have no religious affiliation. Their numbers are dramatically increasing, especially among young people. Research has discovered that a primary cause behind the growth of the “nones” is negative reaction to religious-right fundamentalism. The “nones” believe that American churches are arrogant, judgmental, closed-minded, overly political, anti-women, anti-gay, anti-Muslim, and anti-science. Therefore, they have abandoned the church, although not necessarily the spiritual life.

I wish I had easy solutions for dealing with nominal Christianity and the rise of the “nones.” The best way I know to reach these two groups is two-fold. First, congregations and Christian believers need to live like Jesus. When we embody a vibrant, Christ-centered, joyful, loving, orthodox but open-minded, grace-filled, non-judgmental, service oriented Christian faith and lifestyle—people will be attracted to Jesus and his church. Second, we need to boldly and intentionally invite and welcome nominal Christians and “nones” to connect with our congregation, including worship, small groups, service projects, special events, WNL dinners, music groups, etc. If we do, many will visit, and some will connect with Christ and our congregation. This effort, more than anything else, is the greatest challenge and opportunity facing the American church today, including Cookeville FUMC.

Finally, it was good to receive Jeff, Shannon, Bonza Rose and Wilson Auberson as new members. Welcome to our church family.

~ Martin

BY OUR PRESENCE

Sunday, September 3, 2017

Total Worship Attendance: 500

Sunday, September 10, 2017

Total Worship Attendance: 461

BY OUR GIFTS

Sunday, September 3, 2017

Budget fund receipts \$35,903.30

Building fund receipts \$1,790.00

Hurricane Relief \$16,690.00

Sunday, September 10, 2017

Budget fund receipts \$30,536.00

Building fund receipts \$635.00

HURRICANE HARVEY RESPONSE

Your generosity towards those affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma has been amazing. To date we have received over \$16,000 through FUMC for flood buckets, for our local Disaster Response Team, and to UMCOR's efforts. We will be continuing our efforts as there is still so much to do and so many to be helped. Our plan is to compile more flood buckets, to continue to support our local Disaster Response Team, which will be mobilized to a stricken area in the next few days, and to responding according to the needs as UMCOR directs. If you wish to help, your contribution will be put to good use. You may give money through the church office towards relief efforts, or give directly to UMCOR. Visit our website at www.cookevillevumc.org and you will be linked to the UMCOR website.

RADIO BROADCAST

Unable to make it in to Sunday worship service? Our 10:55 a.m. service is broadcast live each Sunday from News Talk FM 94.1, and uploaded to www.cookevillevumc.org later in the week.

GUEST PARKING

On Sunday mornings, please leave the reserved "Guest Parking" spots for our guests. We appreciate your help in making FUMC a more welcoming congregation that practices hospitality to our guests.



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

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.

Ongoing

Betty Sue Allen	Nate Griffis	Brian Maffett
Marvin Barker	Dan Hearn	Pat Maxwell
Vivian Barnes	Faith Holdredge	Evangeline O'Kain
Martha Sue Bonner	Mary Ann Huffines	Laura Packard
Lida Canella	Virginia Hunter	Susan Pangle
Ron Carlson	Norma Inman	Jenny Partin
Kayla Colson	Alma Jean Johnson	Winnie Peterson
Ed Edenfield	Jan Jordan	Roger Sachse
Dave Evans	Anna Karch	Gene Evelyn Warren
Pat Evans	Mary Byrd King	Ronnie Winningham
Brian Foster	Levena Kline	Hazel Wyatt
Virginia Gibson	Jeannine Lynn	

YOUTH NEWS—FALL EVENTS

Youth Group Mission Trip (October 1-4) — For this year's mission trip we'll be focusing on local service projects and spending time serving in Cookeville.

SYNERGY (October 27—29) — SYNERGY is our annual fall retreat, a weekend of outdoor adventure, worship, fun with friends, spiritual growth, and so much more. The word "synergy" describes the idea that when we work together combining positive attitudes, more can be accomplished than by working alone. We'll grow with each other and with God.

Lock-In (November 10 — 11) — Join us for an all night extravaganza! We'll meet at the church at 9 p.m. and then head to the town for some activities! We will end up back at the church for fun and games in the gym, a movie in the youth room, snacks, and more. We'll have breakfast in the morning. The event will end at 8 a.m. It's guaranteed to be awesome! Cost is \$20. For more information on these or other Youth events, contact Adam Daniels in the church office (526-2177) for more details.

Breakfast With Santa (December 9) — Save the date!

Youth Christmas Party (December 10) — Save the date!

THE DISASTER RESPONSE TEAM WANTS YOU!



We are actively recruiting new members for our disaster response team and hope you will consider becoming part of this important ministry. Early Response Teams (ERTs) provide immediate assistance in the aftermath of a disaster. We need persons who can cook, use a chainsaw, provide support and encouragement for survivors, tarp roofs, drive vehicles and equipment, drag limbs, clean our

flooded houses, maintain equipment, and provide logistical support. Our primary mission is to support disaster operations in the Tennessee Conference. When possible, we also deploy to major disasters across the southeastern United States. Travel is not required. Team members choose when and where they can serve.

Join the team! All you need to do is attend training. The ERT Basic Course will be offered at FUMC on Saturday, September 30, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the CLC. There is no charge and lunch will be provided. For more information about our disaster response ministry or to register for the training, contact Ken Hunter at 931-783-0065, or khunter.disaster@gmail.com.

CARING CORNER

NEW! VISITATION TEAM

Sometimes someone we know can no longer drive or have the ability to move about, either temporarily or permanently. We are called as a church to continue to support and love our members facing this situation.

We now have the opportunity through our new Visitation Team - consisting of Stephen Ministers, Barnabas Ministers and other loving church members (along with our pastors) ready to visit you in your home on a regular basis. This team has a desire to bring companionship and love to you if you may feel disconnected from our church family because you are homebound or a resident of a local facility. These friends are willing to offer prayer, a listening ear, Communion or just a chance to share in conversation on a weekly basis.

If you know of someone who would like a companion from the Visitation Team or if would like to be a part of this team yourself, contact Noel Poston or Rev. Rob Wheeler in the church office.

CENTERING PRAYER

Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer in which we experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. It is an attempt to present the teaching of earlier times in an updated form. Centering Prayer is not meant to replace other kinds of prayer; rather it casts a new light and depth of meaning on them. It is at the same time a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship.

This is an ongoing group that meets Wednesdays, 4 – 5 p.m. Previous experience with Centering Prayer or having attended an Introduction to CP workshop is required for participation in the weekly group meetings. For more information contact Noel Poston at noel@cookevillefumc.org or visit www.centeringprayermidtn.com.

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.

CHURCH EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday, September 17

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School — Classrooms
- 10:55 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary
- 12:00 p.m. Club 456 Bowling — Off Campus
- 5:00 p.m. Disciple I Fast Track — B213
- The Grand Sweep — B206
- Youth Fellowship — Youth Room
- Women's Sunday Evening Bible Study — C111
- 5:30 p.m. Preparing for Adolescence — B214

Monday, September 18

- 3:30 p.m. Chair Yoga
- 5:30 p.m. GriefShare — B206

Tuesday, September 19

- 9:15 a.m. Early Childhood Music Class — C206B
- 2:00 p.m. Cookeville Dulcimer Society — B210
- 2:30 p.m. Food Pantry — Wesley Chapel

Wednesday, September 20

- 6:00 a.m. Men's Group — C112
- 9:00 a.m. Hope Academy
- 9:15 a.m. Early Childhood Music Class — C206B
- 9:30 a.m. GriefShare — YMCA
- 10:00 a.m. Playtime for Preschoolers — Gym
- 10:30 a.m. Mining Your Memories — B213
- 3:30 p.m. Knitting — Christian Life Center 401
- 4:00 p.m. Centering Prayer — B214
- Choir Club
- 5:00 p.m. Wednesday Night Life Dinner — Christian Life Center
- 6:00 p.m. A Hopeful Earth — B213
- Invitation To The Old Testament — B214
- Methodists and Controversy — B210
- Wesley Class Meeting — B206
- Women's Bible Study — Christian Life Center 401
- Youth Choir
- JAM (Jesus and Me) — Gym
- 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir — Music

Thursday, September 21

- 9:15 a.m. Early Childhood Music Class — C206B
- 10:00 a.m. Senior Adult Council Meeting — B213
- Stephen Ministry Training — B206
- 11:00 a.m. Young At Heart Luncheon — Jeff Wall Hall
- 1:45 p.m. Jubilee Ringers — Sanctuary
- 3:30 p.m. Chair Yoga — Gym
- 4:45 p.m. Sanctuary Handbells — Sanctuary
- 5:45 p.m. Evening Ensemble
- 6:30 p.m. Gospel Ensemble

Friday, September 22

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



First United
Methodist Church of Cookeville

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Taco Fiesta!

A Youth Choir Tour Fundraiser

Sunday, September 24

10:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Dine in or take out.

Beef, chicken, toppings, drink and dessert!

Tickets at the door. Adults \$9, Children \$4

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

YOUNG AT HEART LUNCHEON



Thursday, September 21, at 11 a.m. in Jeff Wall Hall. *The Unique Tennessee Music Box*, presented by Harry Smith.

Come learn about this unique instrument, made primarily in

Tennessee during the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Researched and built by Harry Smith, this authentic replica has been vetted by the Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University. Don't miss this informative and fun presentation, plus a "Grade A" meal! Cost: \$5 per person. Reservations by Monday, September 18. Make your reservations online at www.cookevillefumc.org/upcoming-events or call the church office at 526-2177.

FUMC KIDS SUNDAY SCHOOL

- Nursery — Main Sanctuary Building C116
- Preschool Sunday School (age 2 by July 31 thru preschool) — Jacob's Ladder Green Room
- Kindergarten - 1st Grade — CLC 404
- 2nd-3rd Grade — CLC 406
- Club 456 — CLC 401

JERE WHITSON PARTNERSHIP

As students were wrapping up their summer fun and teachers were preparing for the first full day of classes, FUMC, adopters of Jere Whitson Elementary School, participated in Jere Whitson Back to School Bash. We were able to provide three translators for the event, school supplies for the students and \$100 for every classroom teacher for their classroom. We are looking forward to a great school year at Jere Whitson. We are currently looking for people to serve at Jere Whitson Elementary. Do you have an hour a week, like to read, beautify a yard, and do something of lasting benefit? Whatever your gifts and interest, there is a place for you. To find your place, contact Tamika Parker in the church office.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIFE DINNER

To make your dinner reservations, call the church office at 526-2177, email us at office@cookevillefumc.org, or sign-up online at www.cookevillefumc.org. Reservations must be made no later than noon on the Monday prior to the dinner.

September 20: Salad, baked ham, macaroni and cheese, black eyed peas, cherry cobbler

September 27: Salad, baked ziti, green beans, chocolate cake