



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DECEMBER

- 23-26 Offices Closed for Holiday
- 23 *The Longest Night* Worship Service
- 24 Candlelight Worship Services
- 25 Christmas Day
- 31 Offices Closed for Holiday

JANUARY

- 1 Offices Closed for Holiday
- 7 Trustees Meeting
- 13 Youth Parent Meeting
- 15 Widowed Person Ministry
- 16 Wednesday Night Life

January Backsliders Speakers

- 6 Jan Fritz
- 13 Steve Frye
- 20 Bob Bell
- 27 The Glorylanders

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

I'd like to thank our Staff Parish Relations Committee for planning my retirement reception on Sunday. Thanks also to Rob for a funny but good natured and affirming "roasting." Thanks to all of you for your kind words, notes, and gifts. I'm also grateful for the lovely hand-crafted pen with our church name engraved on it.

I can't think of a better way to leave FUMC than baptizing my grandson, preaching on the Great Commandment, and leading the Sacrament of Holy Communion. It was a good day for me and my family.

United Methodist policy requires that retiring pastors not attend church events at their previous congregation for at least a year. It's a good policy, allowing the new pastor to get established without interference from the old one. However, Paula and I are staying in Cookeville, and I'm sure we will see many of you around town.

It has been a privilege to serve as your pastor for the past five and a half years. You are in my prayers during this time of transition. Thank you again for your kindness, loyalty, faithfulness and generosity, and for a fine farewell.

In Christ's Love,

Martin

KIDS MISSION DAY



The Kids Mission Day on December 12 was a success in many ways. Club 456, their younger siblings, and Youth Group students took time out from their busy holiday schedules to bring light and hope to those in need in our community. Over 100 Blessing Bags were packed with nutritional items, water, and a community resource list for those in need of

quick meals throughout the weeks to come. Newborn bags for new babies and their mothers were also created and delivered to Cookeville Regional Hospital. Christmas cookies were baked and decorated for delivery during our Christmas Caroling.

The children truly enjoy this project and look forward to it each year. Thank you to everyone in the congregation who donated items or funds during The Table services, which helped support this amazing annual project.

BY OUR PRESENCE

Sunday, December 9, 2018

Total Worship Attendance: 646

Sunday, December 16, 2018

Total Worship Attendance: 450

BY OUR GIFTS

Sunday, December 9, 2018

Budget fund receipts \$89,440.00

Building fund receipts \$2,400.00

Sunday, December 16, 2018

Budget fund receipts \$35,520.98

Building fund receipts \$3,930.00

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

If there is inclement weather, the church office will make a determination whether activities will be cancelled for weather related purposes. If an activity is cancelled, an announcement will be posted on the homepage of the church web-site by Noon and the activity leader will be informed. Participants should contact their leader or the church office with any questions. When activities are cancelled, the facility will not be open nor will anyone be available to open or close the facility.

The Food Pantry will follow the Putnam County School District. If schools are closed for weather conditions on a Tuesday in which the Food Pantry is normally scheduled for distribution, the Food Pantry will be closed. This is for the safety of both our patrons and volunteers.

Save the Date!

Women's Retreat, March 8 – 10, at Beersheba Springs Assembly. More details to follow soon!

Holiday Hours

All FUMC facilities will be closed December 24 - 26 and December 31 - January 1, with the exception of Christmas Eve services on December 24.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS

Marvin Barker	Elaine Funk	Karen Macke
Vivian Barnes	Mary Garrison	Pat Maxwell
Janey Bassett	Nate Griffis	Brittany McCloud
Craig Benich	Alda Harris	Wayne Nichols
James Buck	Joe Hix	Winnie Peterson
Robert Buck	Alma Jean Johnson	Margaret Phipps
Randy Cavanaugh	Bob and Laura Lee	Mary Jo Rogers
Peggy Cho	Jones	Sarah Stockton
Anna Cunningham	Jan Jordan	Keith Walker
Delaney Duncan	Ann Kellman	Katie Ward
Kurt Eisen	Nancy Kellman	Ron Winningham
Brian Lee Foster	Mary Byrd King	

Sympathy and Prayer

Becky Moore and family on the death of her mother, Virginia Crouch

Missionaries

Eric and Liz Soard

THE LONGEST NIGHT



First United Methodist Church is planning a special worship service for those living through loss during the holidays. Whether the loss is new or took place a long time ago, FUMC invites the community to join with others for The Longest Night service in Wesley Chapel at 6 p.m. on Sunday, December 23. All are welcome.

The holidays are not a joy-filled time for everyone, and for many the loss of loved ones and other life losses can make the holidays seem even more painful than ordinary days. Whatever the loss, whether from the death of a loved one, loss of health, or job or financial loss - many people look for a way to make it through a long season where grief doesn't seem to fit in with the parties and other activities associated with this time of year.

The Longest Night Service is intended for those who seek to reflect on both the sorrows and joys of the season through meaningful music and a compassionate message, finding hope for the days ahead. For information contact Noel Poston, noel@cookevillefumc.org or Rev. Rob Wheeler rob@cookevillefumc.org.

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER: A PRIMER FOR YOUR JOURNEY

Wednesdays, begins January 16, 6-7 p.m.

Contemplative prayer is the opening of mind and heart, emphasizing prayer as a personal relationship with God, a way for coming into God's presence through stillness and listening. Learning to become aware of God in our daily lives, through our relationships with others, the work we do, through scripture, and in the world that surrounds us takes intention and practice but it is not difficult.

Participants learn the importance of listening to and being still in the presence of God. This class is for beginners who want to learn more about the prayer of silence, solitude, stillness, simplicity and service.

Each week we will explore the foundations of prayer practices such as centering prayer, Christian meditation, lectio divina and more. The hour includes a brief video or audio presentation, group discussion, and up to 20 minutes of silent prayer. Participants will be encouraged to develop a daily contemplative prayer practice. Reading is optional but helpful.

For more information, contact Noel Poston in the church office.



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

WEDNESDAY NIGHT LIFE MEALS



Wednesday Night Life dinners will resume January 16. Make your standing reservations now by calling the

church office, or go online to www.cookevillefumc.org (click on the front page slide). Dinner is served from 5-6 p.m. in the Christian Life Center. Cost: \$5 per person; \$20 family maximum.

2019 CALENDAR DONATIONS

If you receive any 2019 calendars from local businesses and won't be using them, please consider donating them to the food pantry! We will distribute the calendars in our annual Christmas Food Distribution boxes.



WIDOWED PERSON'S MINISTRY

For a few months now, a group of men and women who have lost their spouse either recently or in years past have been meeting to offer support and encouragement to one another and others who have lost their life partner. God is guiding us as we go, learning what is helpful and which resources and ideas contribute to the "new normal" of being a widow or widower.

While this is not a grief support group, participants do find relevance and relief from being among others who can best understand and offer ideas for how to cope with such a loss.

We would love for you to join us. Our next meeting is Tuesday, January 15, 2-3 p.m. in B206.

For more information contact Noel Poston in the church office.

BARNABAS MINISTRY

For those who can no longer come to church, participating in communion is no longer an option—unless they have a Barnabas Minister. Once a month, Barnabas Ministers bring communion and visit with our church family members who are either unable to leave their home or are in a local care facility. We are always on the lookout for those who would like to become a Barnabas Minister, as well as those who would like to have a Barnabas Minister.

Barnabas Ministers will tell you how sharing communion with others blesses them every month, and those who receive communion and visits love seeing someone from their church family.

For more information about this caring ministry or other ways you can share your gifts of compassion with others, contact Noel Poston or Rev. Rob Wheeler in the church office.

CHURCH EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday, December 23

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School — Classrooms
- 10:55 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary
- 6:00 p.m. *The Longest Night* Worship Service — Wesley Chapel

Monday, December 24 — Offices Closed

- 5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service — Sanctuary
- 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service — Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 25 — Offices Closed

Wednesday, December 26 — Offices Closed

Thursday, December 27 — No Events Schedule

Friday, December 28

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

Sunday, December 30

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School — Classrooms
- 10:55 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary

Monday, December 31

Offices Closed

Tuesday, January 1

Offices Closed

Wednesday, January 2

- 6:00 a.m. Men's Group — C112
- 10:00 a.m. Playtime for Preschoolers — Gym
- 3:30 p.m. Knitting — B206

Thursday, January 3

- 5:45 p.m. Evening Ensemble — Music Suite
- 6:30 p.m. Gospel Ensemble — Music Suite

Friday, January 4

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

RICHARD ALAN CAMPBELL, JR. MEMORIAL MUSIC FUND

The instrumentalists for worship services are provided through the Richard Alan Campbell, Jr. Memorial Music Fund. The fund was established in 2005 by Richard and Carolyn Campbell in memory of their son, Richard Alan Campbell, Jr. The Memorial Fund was established to provide a source of funds for the musical enhancement of worship services at First United Methodist Church. Anyone wishing to contribute to this fund for future services may contact LuAnn in the church office.

2018 CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions intended for the church for 2018 must be in the office by noon on Friday, December 28, placed in the offering on December 30, or postmarked by December 31, 2018. If you have questions concerning your giving, contact LuAnn at 526-2177 or email luann@cookevillefumc.org.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

First United
Methodist Church of Cookeville

165 East Broad Street
Cookeville, TN 38501

COOKEVILLE METHODIST
(USPS 563-600) Published biweekly,
except Christmas week at
First United Methodist Church
165 E. Broad Street
Cookeville, TN 38501
Periodicals Postage Paid at Cookeville, TN 38501
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Cookeville Methodist
165 E. Broad Street, Cookeville, TN 38501



Monday, December 24
at 5 p.m. and 7 p.m.
in the sanctuary.

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

SUNDAY MORNINGS IN JENKINS CHAPEL

While we know there are no magic answers for the problems and concerns we carry on our hearts and in our heads, talking with someone who cares and prays for and with you does make a difference. Stephen Ministers are trained to use their gifts and experience to listen and keep confidence, and to pray with you or for you, if you want them to.

Stop by inside Jenkins Chapel on Sunday mornings following either worship service and find relief for your soul. We are here for you.

For more information about Stephen Ministry, contact Noel Poston, noel@cookevillefumc.org, or call the church office at 526-2177.

FUMC KIDS EVENTS—SAVE THE DATE!

January 13 — 3rd Grade Bible Presentation

February 10 — Sunday School GLOW Sunday

March 5 — Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

March 6 — Ash Wednesday

April 14 — Palm Sunday

April 18 — Maundy Thursday

April 19 — Good Friday

April 20 — Easter Egg Hunt

April 21 — Easter Sunday

April 29 — Confirmation Sunday

AN INVITATION FROM OUR PRAYER TEAM

Knowing someone is praying for us can have a powerful effect in our lives. In most cases, congregational prayer requests are announced during Sunday morning services and published in the bulletin. Sometimes we receive requests for individuals who prefer to keep their situations private, yet still desire prayer. These individuals and their prayer requests are maintained on a separate prayer list that is not published. Each week a group of dedicated friends offers prayer for those on both the published and the unpublished prayer lists.

If you know someone who would like to receive prayer, whether it's someone from this congregation, a family member, friend, or neighbor, let us know, and we will include them in our prayers.

The Prayer Team meets on Tuesdays at 9 a.m. in Jenkins Chapel. For more information, or to have your name or someone else's added to the Prayer Team list, contact Noel Poston, noel@cookevillefumc.org.

KROGER CARD—FOOD PANTRY BENEFITS

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!

Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com to register your card. You will be asked for the NPO number for God's Grace Food Pantry, which is **96948**.