



Volume 65, Issue 9 • April 23, 2020

## 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	MaryDell Sommers
Brian Lee Foster	Sarah Stockton
Elaine Funk	Bobbie Story
Mary Garrison	Tommie Thackston
Nate Griffis	Jessie Watts
Hunter Harris	Pam White
Joe Hix	Harriett Wright
Bob Jones	

### *Sympathy and Prayer*

John Ramsey, Juanita Bilyeu, & Mary Bennett in the death of their brother and to Josh Carwile in the death of his grandfather, Albert Ramsey.

## 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@cookevillefmc.org  
www.cookevillefmc.org

## FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

One of the things we have to get used to is continual change. The COVID-19 Pandemic has totally disrupted our lives. We are adjusting. We are all finding ways to cope—but it is challenging. Change is inevitable. Yet, it is helpful to remember the difference between change and transition.

Change has to do with external conditions and events. Life is fluid. Although we seek routines and predictable patterns, change inevitably comes. It is exterior and often beyond our control. Transition, on the other hand, happens internally. Transition is about how we feel about change and process it with our thoughts and emotions. Transition is always a process of adapting and coping. It is our internal work of adjusting our expectations, routines and relationships.

Right now, we are facing a tremendous amount of congregational change requiring internal processing—as a transition process. Naming and claiming our emotions along the way is important. Adjusting to both exterior changes and interior emotions about the change, often experienced as loss or a feeling of things being chaotic, is where we draw on our mental, emotional and spiritual resources for healthiness. Here, again, is a recap of a number of adjustments that will happen over the next several months, bringing both change and the need for a process of transition:

- Earlier this week, we announced that Adam and Jessie Daniels will be leaving us June 30 to return to Athens, Georgia. We wish them well as they fulfill new career opportunities there. Our Youth Director position will be posted by mid-May, with the hope of hiring a new staff person by mid to late July.
- On June 30, Janet Worley, our Music Assistant, will retire. We appreciate Janet's dedicated service and wish her well. A new music assistant will be hired prior to August.
- By August 1, Kathy Evans will transition to three-quarter time initially. A gradual shifting of her responsibilities will happen over the next two years.
- By August 1, Kevin Salter and Cass Roberts will become Co-directors of the Chancel Choir and the Youth Choir. Kevin is Choral Director at Algood Middle School. Cass is Choral Director of White County High School. Kevin and Cass will rotate as Chancel Choir Director in segments of time from August -January, and then from February – June, 2021. By January, both will transition to directing the Youth Choir and Kathy Evans will work with them in the planning our 2021 tour. Kathy Evans will continue to direct Children's Choirs and Hand Bell Choirs through 2021.
- By August, the Staff Parish Relations Committee will evaluate progress in our transition and needed adjustments. By January 2022, the SPR will determine the process for hiring permanent music staff, to be in place no later than August, 2022.

If we dedicate ourselves to being encouraging, optimistic, nurturing and gracious, all of the changes and transitions we face will actually draw us together more closely. Bonds of trust, love, and shared life and faith can be strengthened. Change is inevitable. How we transition through change makes a difference. Please join me in prayer, conversations, discernment, and shared encouragement as we navigate change and transition together.

~ Kevin

## BY OUR PRESENCE

*Sunday, April 12, 2020*

Total Online Worship Views: 543

*Sunday, April 19, 2020*

Total Online Worship Views: 356

## BY OUR GIFTS

Actual Receipts for Two Weeks \$61,425.27

Actual Expenses for Two Weeks \$102,196.01

## 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!

## Altar Flower Sponsorship Available

We have an altar flower sponsorship available for May 31. It's a 5th Sunday, so will be only for this year. Interested? Contact Patricia in the church office at 526-2177.

## 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).

## A MESSAGE FROM KATHY EVANS, MUSIC DIRECTOR

Those of you who know me well know that I can sleep any place, anytime, and in the presence of anyone. No matter the circumstances, when my body says "sleep".....I sleep. Not so on the night of Monday, March 23. I tossed and turned all night. I could not shake the questions that kept rolling over and over in my mind. Were we for sure going to be able to live stream worship on March 29, with a skeleton crew in the sanctuary? What if it all changed quickly?

Just as the sun began to brighten the sky, I headed into work and began making sketches and plans: we had to have a backup plan. What could we record and put into a video? Where would we need musicians? What can we do to make people feel the presence of God? How can we put the sanctuary into the homes of our congregation? Totally uncharted waters!

A quick conversation with Dr. Kevin Conrad went something like this, "We've got to go to plan B and be prepared for this weekend." A panic call to Alex Netherton, our sound tech, was delivered with great urgency. HELP! We began the process that has developed into a rhythm over the past few weeks: anything and everything that can be recorded remotely has taken on a new identity.....readings, scripture, instrumental recordings, art work. We were facing Holy Week and the challenge of making worship happen on Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. And thus began the new normal!

We were in the midst of a rehearsal with the brass for Easter when the Governor issued the stay in place order. We immediately went into recording mode and captured the music for Easter Sunday. Since we were all dressed casually for a rehearsal you only heard the brass and did not see them.

Anything that is recorded remotely comes to us via cell phone or email attachment. Dr. Conrad has been recording his sermons on Thursday afternoons. Many of the musical selections have been recorded in the sanctuary. However, we have tried some different approaches. With the flute and violin solos, I have recorded the accompaniments in the sanctuary on the cell phone, sent it to the soloist where they have recorded their part with the accompaniment and returned it to us via cell phone. Some of the anthems we have used were recorded in earlier services.

Once we complete all of the video clips, Alex Netherton takes all of the components and edits them into a video that becomes Sunday worship, and is uploaded to YouTube. Throughout the weeks we have tried to tweak and correct an experience that glorifies God and gives our congregation a sense of being in the sanctuary. As we move through the process we are recording instrumental and vocal selections for future use and experimenting with online group recordings which require a tremendous amount of editing.

This past Sunday we used a recording of individual voices that Cass Roberts and Kevin Salter coordinated. See the article that Cass has written in this publication. There is also an article by Ellie Batson who did the painting that was featured in the Maundy Thursday video.

It's a new normal for sure! Giving thanks daily for my iPhone! See you in 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.



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

## YOUTH MINISTRIES UPDATE

In these very strange and stressful times, the youth of CFUMC have been trying our best to stay in touch any way we can! Though we can't meet in person, our Wednesday small groups have met on Zoom for the last two weeks. Text Adam at 931-808-6804 if you have a youth that would like to join any of these groups!

4 p.m.: High School Girls

4:30 p.m.: Middle School Girls

5 p.m.: Co-Ed Group

5:30 p.m.: Middle School Boys

6 p.m.: High School Boys

In addition, we have also rebooted our Alpha course that meets on Sundays at 6 p.m. Alpha is a video series that we are able to run through Zoom and explores the basics of the Christian faith while letting youth ask questions related to the topic of that week. If you would like to join this group on Sundays, text Adam and he will send you a link.

## KEEPING CONNECTED ONLINE

Keeping a congregation connected during a pandemic can be quite the challenge, but thanks to modern technology, church staff and several classes have been able to maintain communication. Pictured below: The Covenant Class met last weekend during the Sunday School hour (top), as did the Foundations class (middle). The Confirmation class met for the first time online (bottom).



## UPDATE FROM THE FOOD PANTRY TEAM

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.

## ELLIE BATSON, LITURGICAL ARTIST

I was honored when I was asked to draw for the new online service. When I was told to draw Jesus in the garden, I decided to portray Him as a lamb in the middle of a darkened, purple garden. I enjoyed playing with the colors and foliage within the piece. The dark blues, greens, and purples really reflect the somber tone of the liturgical season. Yet within all the darkness is a brightly colored lamb, with a faded halo around His head. Even though the lamb is saddened and kneeling, He is still the brightest object in the picture. Overall, I hope that my artwork was able to bring a smile or thought to many people watching, and I'm so thankful to have been given this opportunity.

## VIRTUAL ACAPPELLA CHOIR, BY CASS ROBERTS

You might have heard some extra voices in the choir this week. That is because the music staff tried something different. With the governor's *Stay at Home* order in place, getting a choir together would be difficult, not to mention irresponsible. Instead, we wanted to find a way to produce an anthem safely and conveniently.

On Tuesday, a recording was sent to choir members. It was a recording of the anthem for the week being played on the organ. No voices. Instructions were sent to the singers. They were to record themselves singing along to the organ track, though the organ track couldn't be held. In order for the final product to be correct, singers listened to the organ track using headphones and sung into a separate recording device, such as their phone.

On Friday and Saturday, all of the recordings were layered together by Alex Netherton, the same person who produces our video worship services. Thus, we were able to produce an acapella anthem with 11 people while everyone was safe at home. The virtual choir included: Ella Frost, Isabel Womack, Jessica Welch, Miranda Davis, Laurie Watson, Kevin Salter, Cass Roberts, Will Gentry, Josh Voiles, Tommy Elliott, and Christian Godfrey.

# Save the Date!

# First United

Methodist Church of Cookeville

165 East Broad Street  
Cookeville, TN 38501

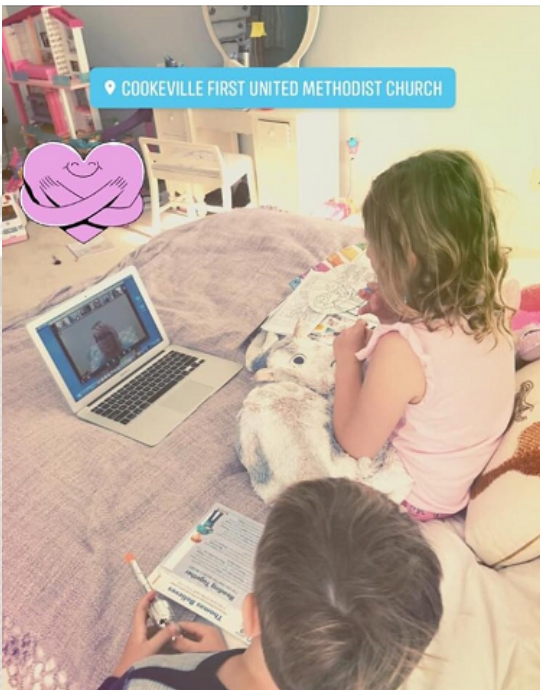
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Join us Mother's Day evening, May 10, on our YouTube channel as we do a video broadcast hymn from our sanctuary! Stay tuned for details, which will include an online bracket event—replacing March Madness with May Madness. Sweet 16, Elite 8, Final Four, and Championship of favorite hymns!

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

Thank you **Cookeville FUMC Kids** for making children's church happen yesterday morning for our kiddos in their jammies! My kids are going to be better at zoom than I am by the time this is done!



Kennedy & Palmer Wheaton participating in the children's Sunday School Jammie J.A.M. Zoom class last Sunday. Jammie J.A.M. stands for staying in PJ's for some Jesus And Me time!

## COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

Team Members: Heath Waters (chairman), Susan Ray, Angela Clark, Gina Padgett, Jessie Daniels, Rachel Smalling.

Our task is to develop new ideas for branding strategy and design, refresh our website content, appearance, and function, and develop new strategies and plans to better get our message out in a variety of ways. At our first meeting we had a lengthy discussion about the desire of our Vision 2020 Team to consider updating our "Brand" and preparing ourselves for any future changes or adjustments that may be made throughout the larger denomination. The Vision Team thinks it is appropriate that we take steps to consider what we might literally look like (logo, print, web) to get out in front of any unknown changes to define ourselves rather than simply react. This has been done at other United Methodist churches all over and you can see several fairly close - Franklin, Providence in Mt. Juliet, West End, and loads of others in the denomination. We also discussed the need of more signage around the building so folks can know where they are and where to go. We mentioned several areas for needed improvement: Technology (app, better communication opportunities), Social Media, Website improvement, overall visibility through marketing efforts and community involvement, updated printed materials, public relations work (newspaper, etc.). We are in the very beginning stages, but we hope that we can have an impact on creating growth and prosperity for our church in the future.