



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February

17	President's Day
18	Ladies Bunco Night
20	YAH Luncheon
23	Composer's Concert
25	Shrove Tuesday
26	Ash Wednesday
28—March 1	Discovery Weekend

Worship Service Volunteers

Have you thought about serving as a liturgist? Have you thought about serving as an usher? There are places of service in all areas of the life of the church and your special gifts are needed. Please contact Kathy Evans, music@cookevillefumc.org. We welcome and need new people in all areas of Worship support.

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@cookevillefumc.org
www.cookevillefumc.org

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FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

I have been trying to gain a greater understanding of what is influencing trends of division rather than common sense and spiritual common ground. It seems like everywhere we turn, there is more pulling us apart than uniting us. Binary choices between just two alternatives seem very popular—either/or. So, why is the trend toward only one extreme or another, with no room in between? Why isn't there a larger middle where we can meet on a variety of issues?

I ran across a book that helps explain the seemingly binary choices. The book is by Ezra Klein titled *Why We're Polarized*. It analyzes data and historic trends—mostly political. However, the political polarization is determining how we think of ourselves, our prevailing values and vision, where we live, and those with whom we associate or do not associate—in a phrase, who we think is acceptable to us and who is not.

Polarization is about values, perceived identity and “self-sorting.” Klein points out that as late as 1976, there were “liberals” and “conservatives” in both political parties—across a spectrum within each party. “Moderates” still existed—in both parties. Over the last forty years, our culture has increasingly self-sorted into “liberals” and “conservatives”—if you only consider two broad categories. Klein found that “conservative” indicates being more “fixed” while “liberal” indicates more openness or “fluidity.” Thus, within politics and religion these days, the cultural trends are trying to sort us into groups either labeled “liberal” or “conservative.” What's interesting, is that this “self-sorting” into like-minded groups is even happening geographically and economically. Proof of that? Look at locations of Whole Foods and Cracker Barrel franchises.

The point is, we are separating in almost every category of our lives—into “self-sorted” groups perceived as increasingly different and even hostile. We increasingly fear “others.” Even more distressing is the fact that in the areas of politics and religion, the trend is toward “negative partisanship” that demonizes the opposing group. Klein points out that ordinary people like you and me are fearful of being “associated” with a politically or religiously incorrect group labeled as the “unacceptable” other. Group identity is increasingly viewed as “righteousness.” In reality, self-righteousness, idolatry and injustice are masquerading as various forms of “sorting.”

As the UMC debates its process of division and as we move more deeply into a highly partisan election season, I find it increasingly necessary to point to Jesus and read his red letter instructions. In John 17, he prays for the unity of his followers. In the *Sermon on the Mount*, he tells us to “love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us.” I John says, “God is love” and “whoever does not love does not know God.” So, when did politics and religion become a blood sport? In a “polarized” time of “self-sorting,” I'm all for reading Jesus' red-letters and taking scripture seriously as Christians who claim to follow Jesus. I'm all for actually inserting some Jesus-red-letter scripture into our religious and political conversations. Is the Jesus of scripture relevant to our political and religious self-sorting and daily life-choices? We'll see.

~ Kevin

BY OUR PRESENCE

Sunday, February 2, 2020

Total Worship Attendance: 472

Sunday, February 9, 2020

Total Worship Attendance: 473

BY OUR GIFTS

Sunday, February 2, 2020

Budget fund receipts \$27,067.25

Sunday, February 9, 2020

Budget fund receipts \$26,035.60

Capital Improvement fund receipts \$4,440.00

Wednesday Night Life Meals

Dinner is served each Wednesday from 5-6 p.m. in the Christian Life Center. Cost: \$5 per person; \$20 family maximum. Reservations are required. Make your reservations by calling the church office, or online at www.cookevillefumc.org.

February 19: Baked ham, salad, macaroni and cheese, black-eyed peas, cherry cobbler

February 26: BBQ chicken, salad, hashbrown casserole, banana cake (no nuts)

February Backsliders Speakers

16 Dr. George Chitayo

23 Pat Wallace

Save the Date!



FUMC Kids Summer Day Camp

→ Club 456 Camp:
June 2, 9, 16, 23

→ Children K-6th Camp:
June 4, 11, 25



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

CHILI COOK-OFF

Thanks to everyone who helped make our first annual chili cook-off, held on February 2, a rousing success. Twenty-six chili teams and cookie bakers too numerous to count provided fabulous food. Dozens of wonderful items were auctioned off to the highest bidders. And the fellowship was fabulous. While the Judge's Pick for Best Chili went to Moore Chili, the overall winner of the Golden Ladle went to the music team Chili Con Certo! When the dust settled and all the money was counted, we raised more than \$6,000! All these funds will go to our local Habitat for Humanity and to the Red Bird Build project in eastern Kentucky.



YOUNG AT HEART LUNCHEON

Thursday, February 20, 11 a.m. in Jeff Wall Hall

Heart Stories - Warm your soul in chilly February as you listen to wonderful stories from the heart. The members of the Mining Your Memories class will share stories they have written - gentle, delightful and poignant. Enjoy their memories, and be remind of your own. Luncheon cost: \$5. Make reservations by Tuesday, February 18 at 523-2177.

WHAT IS LENT?

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word lencten, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry.

Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others.

Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

Source: <http://www.umc.org/what-we-believe/what-is-lent-and-why-does-it-last-forty-days>

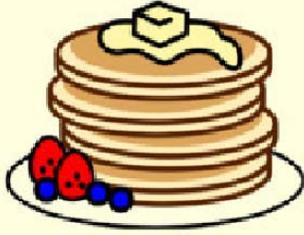
CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER CONCERNS

Vaughn Barnard	Mary Garrison	Brian Maffett
Vivian Barnes	Nate Griffis	Sylvia McCann
Janey Bassett	Geneva Harris	Paul McLendon
Tia Bassett	Hunter Harris	Linda McConnell
Juanita Bilyeu	Joe Hix	Larry Norton
Robert Buck	Jim Hughes	Rob Poteet
Thomas Case	Bob Jones	Mary Jo Rogers
Savannah Lynn Caylor	Ann Kellman	Mollie Rogers
Peggy Cho	Gary Kellman	Roxanne Self
Scott Crouch	Kirk Kellman	Hazel Smith
Faye Curry	Nancy Kellman	Sarah Stockton
Mary Mac Darnell	Mary Byrd King	Jessie Watts
Delaney Duncan	Teena King	Pam White
Hazel Dyer	Mike Lee	Harriett Wright
Brian Lee Foster	Annette Lynch	
Elaine Funk	Karen Macke	

Missionaries

Eric and Liz Soard

SHROVE TUESDAY



Join us for Shrove Tuesday - the Feast Before the Fast February 25, 5-6:30 p.m. in the Christian Life Center Fellowship Hall!

What is Shrove Tuesday? Shrove Tuesday (also known as Pancake Day) is the last day before the period that Christians call Lent. It is traditional on this day to eat pancakes.

FUMC KIDS CORNER

CHILDREN'S UNPLUG AND FOOD LAB



UnPlug & Food Lab meet Wednesdays in Jeff Wall Hall 5-7 p.m. UnPlug Club is for children ages 4 years - 6th grade who need and want to go "off the grid" for a few hours. UnPlug is devotions, games, crafts, homework help, and this year... Kid-Friendly Meal Time with our Food Lab!

At Food Lab, kids help make their own dinner and then enjoy it around the table with friends while playing, crafting, and finishing homework. Contact Shannon at 526-2177, for more info!



SECOND HARVEST

Thank you to members of FUMC Youth, who helped unload the Second Harvest delivery truck for the Food Pantry last weekend!



CHURCH EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday, February 16

- 8:30 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School — Class Rooms
- 10:55 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary
- 4:00 p.m. Youth Praise Band — Wesley Chapel
- 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Class — B214
- UMYF — Youth Room
- 6:00 p.m. Wesley Foundation Meal — Wesley Foundation

Monday, February 17

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study — B213
- 9:00 a.m. Discovery Planning Day — Youth Room
- 10:00 a.m. Beginning Bridge, Diamonds (ALL) — Parlor
- Bridge for the Beginner, Hearts (ALL) — Jeff Wall Hall
- 11:00 a.m. The Journey (ALL) — B210
- 12:00 p.m. The Road Back to You — B213
- 3:00 p.m. Contemplative Prayer — B214

Tuesday, February 18

- 9:15 a.m. Early Childhood Music — C206B
- 2:00 p.m. Cookeville Dulcimer Society — B214
- 2:30 p.m. Food Pantry — Wesley Chapel
- 3:00 p.m. Strength and Balance (ALL) — Gym
- 6:00 p.m. Ladies' Bunco Night — Jeff Wall Hall

Wednesday, February 19

- 6:00 a.m. Men's Group — C112
- 9:00 a.m. Hope Academy
- iPhone II (ALL) — B210
- 9:15 a.m. Early Childhood Music — C206B
- 9:30 a.m. Bridge II (ALL) — Parlor
- GriefShare — Magnolia House
- 10:00 a.m. iPhone I (ALL) — B210
- Playtime for Preschoolers — Gym
- 10:30 a.m. Mining Your Memories — B213
- 11:00 a.m. Cooking with Chef Chad (ALL) — Off Campus
- 1:00 p.m. Cooking with Chef Chad (ALL) — Off Campus
- Barnabas Meeting — Conference Room
- 1:30 p.m. Vietnam: A Broader History (ALL) — B213
- 2:00 p.m. Introduction to Machine Sewing (ALL) — Off Campus
- 3:30 p.m. Knitting — B206
- 4:00 p.m. Choir Club — Music Suite
- 5:00 p.m. WNL Dinner — Christian Life Center
- Children's UnPlug — Jeff Wall Hall
- 5:30 p.m. Teen Ringers — C209
- 6:00 p.m. Disciple I — B017
- Illumination Bible Study — B210
- Life Stuff: A Conversation with Brene Brown — B012
- Living a Praying Life — B206
- Slow Kingdom Coming — Youth Room
- The Good and Beautiful Life — B214
- Youth Choir — Music Suite
- 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir — Music Suite

Thursday, February 20

- 9:15 a.m. Early Childhood Music Class — C206B
- 9:30 a.m. Senior Adult Council Meeting — B213
- 11:00 a.m. Young at Heart Luncheon — Jeff Wall Hall
- 1:00 p.m. The Good and Beautiful Life — B210
- 2:00 p.m. Stepping Up (ALL) — Gym
- 3:00 p.m. Gentle Yoga — Gym
- 5:45 p.m. Evening Ensemble — Music Suite
- 6:30 p.m. Gospel Ensemble — Music Suite

Friday, February 21

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

Saturday, February 22

- 10:00 a.m. GriefShare — Magnolia House



Composer's Weekend
at FUMC
featuring
MARK MILLER
Sunday, February 23



165 East Broad Street
Cookeville, TN 38501

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Join us as composer Mark Miller makes his return visit to FUMC! He will work with our youth and adult choral groups and ensembles on Saturday and lead in worship on Sunday. The concert will be held Sunday evening, February 23, at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

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

MUSIC MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

 We have a place for you and welcome new members! Rehearsals begin this week! Contact Kathy Evans at music@cookevillefumc.org.

LADIES BUNCO

Ladies, please join us for *Ladies Night Out Bunco* to benefit the Redbird Build. We will play Bunco and enjoy food and fellowship. Bunco is an easy, social dice game. No experience is necessary. Our night out will be Tuesday, February 18 at 6 p.m. in Jeff Wall Hall. Bring a finger food to share and your monetary donation for the Red Bird Home. The Red Bird Mission serves those in need in the UMC conference in Kentucky. Please pre-register by contacting Paula Lilly at h2olilly@charter.net or 931-267-5296. Deadline to sign-

FUMC KIDS EVENTS—SAVE THE DATE!

- February 25 — Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- February 26 — Ash Wednesday
- April 5 — Palm Sunday
- April 9 — Maundy Thursday
- April 10 — Good Friday
- April 11 — Easter Egg Hunt
- April 12 — Easter Sunday
- April 25 — Mother Daughter Banquet
- April 26 — Confirmation Sunday

FOOD PANTRY WISH LIST

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

- Dish detergent, band-aids, baby food
- Grocery bags that are clean and flattened, and plastic newspaper sleeves.

ANGELS ATTIC

Angels Attic requests donations of :

- Blankets—any size
- Coats and jackets for children, men and women

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 26, 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

The official beginning of Lent is marked by Ash Wednesday. This is an opportunity to set our hearts on the sadness of sin and death in the context of the gift of redemption given through Jesus Christ. The ashes that mark our foreheads are a reminder of the idea of “from dust to dust,” and that through the infinite goodness of God’s grace, eternal life is available to each of us. Historically, ashes have been a sign of mortality and the need for repentance. Traditionally, the ashes come from burning the palms used in the prior year’s Palm Sunday service, which are then mixed with water or oil. Some practices include naming a temptation or personal struggle or sin, and burning it along with the palms. Forgiveness through repentance and God’s grace are represented with a cross that is applied to the forehead of each worshipper.