

# the focus

A BIWEEKLY PUBLICATION OF  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
AUGUST 24, 2011 ISSUE

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## Musicians

Justin Hanson, Organist  
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## Facilities

Rebecca Paris,  
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## The Gathering

*"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."*

Matthew 18:20

**Wednesday Nights**  
**Aug. 24 - Nov. 16**  
**Adult, Youth & Children's Studies**  
**6:00 - 7:00 p.m.**

## CHILD AWARENESS SUNDAY

in association with the Carl Perkins Center, Sunday, September 4th is designated as Child Awareness Sunday at FUMC. The Center's mission is to provide support to families in preventing and dealing with child abuse in West Tennessee, and to help parents and children meet the practical needs of preserving and improving the quality of family life.



The Center is instrumental in giving children back their childhood and letting them know that someone cares. They give children the gift of hope for a future...without pain.

Blue ribbons will be distributed at worship services on Sunday, August 28th. We encourage you to wear the

Exchange Club



ribbon showing support for this critical need. On Sunday, September 4, the communion offering will be gifted to the Carl Perkins Center. Envelopes will be provided for your gift.



**ARE YOU A CAREGIVER?** Many of us are and don't even realize it. Do you check on an aging parent or ailing relative several times a week? Do you pick up their prescriptions or grocery items? Do you have their power of attorney and help them make decisions about moving to assisted living or a nursing home? Are you balancing a job, taking care of your spouse and children, and meeting the needs of that aging, ailing or disabled loved one? Then you are a caregiver.

In April of this year, our church applied for a grant for care giving ministries from the Center on Aging and Older Adult Ministries at the United Methodist General Board of Discipleship. This grant would assist us in providing education and support for persons in our congregation and community who are caregivers to aging parents and ailing or disabled spouses and relatives.

Serving as a caregiver to a loved one can take a tremendous physical, emotional, and financial toll. Receiving education on what to expect as a caregiver and how to deal with the legal, healthcare, and family issues that may arise can help. In addition, having a support group of other care-givers who are experiencing some of the same challenges can provide a safe place to share those burdens and receive encouragement and prayers.

Our church was one of two in the Memphis Annual Conference who received grant money. We received \$2,000 to devote to this ministry. Thanks to Margaret Fleming for preparing the grant application and for her vision for this ministry. As a first step in beginning this ministry, one of the Wednesday evening study group options will be "Family Caregiver Education and Support" which will meet from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the Chapman room on the lower floor of the Sanctuary building starting on August 24.

Each week, there will be 10-15 minutes of educational information provided which can be helpful to caregivers and the opportunity for sharing within the group for 45-50 minutes. Facilitators for the group will be Margaret Fleming, retired Director of TCCA and Carol Roy, who has served as a facilitator and educator for caregiver groups for over ten years. You are invited to be a part of that group.

## ATTENDANCE AND GIVING

### August 14, 2011

MorningSong -	90
Sunday School -	
Traditional Worship -	134
MorningSong Offering -	\$ 2,600.00
Traditional Worship Offering-	\$ 2,613.00

### August 21 2011

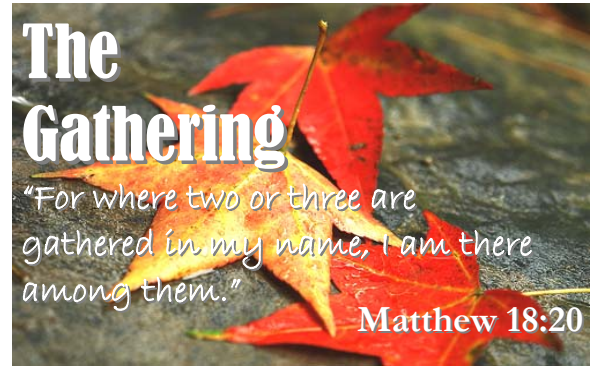
MorningSong -	113
Sunday School -	146
Traditional Worship -	153
MorningSong Offering -	\$ 2,223.00
Traditional Worship Offering-	\$ 2,229.37

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT STUDIES

Studies for adults, youth and children will meet from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Children will have 30 minutes of study time and 30 minutes of music. Youth will gather with Jason Smith for their time of study together.

Adult studies:

- *What United Methodists Believe* with Rev. Bill Franklin - Cockrill Gift Room
- *Study of Romans - "Don't Conform, Be Transformed"* with Rev. Tim Carpenter - Enjoy Classroom
- *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World* with Brenda Wrather - Now Classroom
- *Family Caregiver Education and Support* with Margaret Fleming and Carol Roy - Chapman Room



## THURSDAY WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP

The next session for the Thursday morning study group will be August 25 to September 29th. Join Grace Phelps in the Cockrill-Gift classroom from 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. weekly. This session's study will be *"Surprised by Hope: Rethinking Heaven, the Resurrection, and the Mission of the Church."* In six sessions, explore the full scope of what God's Word has to say about Christian hope in the Kingdom of God. Study books are \$9.00.

**FARM BID** - The Smith Farm (FSA 2353) bidding process is complete. On August 16, the trustees approved Ed Timberlake's (as farm manager) recommendation to accept The Templeton Farms high bid of \$248.26 per acre. This contract will begin January 1, 2012 ending December 31, 2014. The contract does provide for an extension for two additional years with FUMC approval. The Templeton's have just completed a six year contract with FUMC for the Smith Farm beginning in 2006 and ending December 31, 2011 at a rate of \$151.55 per acre. The Smith Farm was gifted to FUMC in 1982 by provision of Mrs. Ruth Wiseman Smith's estate. The farm is located in the Dunlap area and totals 465.5 acres with a tillable acreage of 431. In this bidding process there were six bids received with the low bid of \$201.99 per acre.

# Go Getters

The next event for Go Getters will be a potluck supper in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 5.

Hosts for the evening are Doris Ann Gray and Tobie Smith. The guest speaker is FUMC's own Mike Morrison, Director of Habitat for Humanity.

Morning Song

ON THE SQUARE

SERVICE OF PRAISE

SUNDAY @ 8:30 A.M.

AT THE CHAMBER CENTER

## MEMORIAL AND HONORARIUM TRIBUTES

### In Honor of **Kendy Erwin**

Samaritan Fund by Sue Jones

### In Memory of **Virgie Fleming**

Samaritan Fund by Patsy Fleming

### In Honor of **Maurice Smith**

Samaritan Fund by Skip and Kendy Erwin

### In Memory of **Mary Neal Thorn**

Samaritan Fund by Patsy Fleming, Diane McIntyre, and Richard and Jennifer Thorn.

### In Honor of **Martha Jean Thornton**

Samaritan Fund by Skip and Kendy Erwin

### In Honor of **Robert Yoakum**

Samaritan Fund by Skip and Kendy Erwin



## DISTRICT LAITY EVENTS...

**“Overview of the Call to Action”** - Thursday September 15, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. At the Colonial Park United Methodist Church (Sanctuary), 5330 Park Avenue, Memphis. Coffee and light refreshment will be served at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Childcare is available, reservations required. Call Tammy (901) 590-4820.

**SPRC Training** - Monday, October 3, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Bartlett United Methodist Church, 5676 Stage Road, Bartlett. Chairperson and all members of the Staff/Pastor Parish Relation Committee are invited to attend. Training includes...basic work of committee, building relationships with pastors, evaluation process, submitting preferences, and team concept. Dinner is provided. RSVP to Tammy at (901) 590-4820 by Sept 29.



United  
Methodist  
Women  
FAITH • HOPE • LOVE IN ACTION

### UMW GENERAL

**MEETING** - The UMW General Meeting will be on Thursday, September

1st, in the Fellowship Hall at 11 a.m. Guest speaker will be Christian Counselor, Dr. Faye Bequette. Cost per meal is \$6.00. RSVP to your Circle chairperson by August 26.



### PLASTIC BAGS NEEDED!!!

Both locations of our food pantry are in need of plastic grocery bags. If you've been saving bags, please bring them in this week if possible. Cardboard boxes are located in the hallway outside the sanctuary to receive your bags. Thank you!

## SAMARITAN FUND -

### August 5, through August 19, 2011:

- 2 households received total of \$65 in food and baby items (paid to the vendor).
- 3 households received lodging totaling \$188.00 (paid to the vendor).
- 1 household received \$44.88 in prescriptions (paid to the vendor).
- 1 household received \$50 assistance with rent (paid to the vendor).
- 8 households received utility assistance totaling \$751.06 (paid to the vendor).

### Grand Totals January 1, 2011 through today's date:

- 3 individuals received \$344.82 for bus ticket to return home (paid directly to the vendor)
- 22 individual received \$455 total in groceries (paid directly to the vendor).
- 27 households received lodging (totaling \$1,677.99 and paid to the vendor).
- 11 households received \$560.00 in miscellaneous items (paid to the vendor).
- 3 households received \$104.27 in assistance with prescriptions (paid to the vendor).
- 22 household received \$2,192.70 in rent assistance (paid directly to the vendor).
- 120 households received assistance with utilities totaling \$10,013.83 (paid to the vendor)
- 29 households received a total of \$685 in vehicular gas (paid directly to the vendor).

Total households assisted: 236  
Total amount expended: \$16,033.61.

The current balance of the Samaritan Fund is \$106.54

### Stories of interest:

- Last week, three appeals were made to the emailing population in regards to assistance needs. All three appeals were met by your generous gifts. One appeal was issued at 9:21 a.m. that morning and by 10:47 a.m. the same morning, the need was met. Thank you for your generosity.
- One of the e-mail appeals last week dealt with a single mother with children. The day of the appeal, her electricity was disconnected AND she was taking her GED practice test. This week, this mother came by the office to simply thank FUMC for the help with her electric service for her family. She also wants everyone to know that she received passing marks with her GED except for the writing portion. She was very happy with her results.
- With school resuming, let's remember all educational employees. They provide a tremendous ministry through their positions to each other and the children. Their ministry includes nurturing and so much more than education.



**EMMAUS WALK** - The Men's Bible Class will sponsor two FUMC members in the 2011 Emmaus Walk to be held in October.

The Walk to Emmaus offers today's disciples a parallel opportunity to rediscover Christ's presence in their lives, to gain fresh understanding of God's transforming grace, and to form friendships that foster faith and support spiritual maturity.

The walk is open to females or males. Interested walkers may contact Arnold Bull at 476-4601 or Dave Marshall at 476-3401.

## THANK YOU . . .

*I am so thankful for all the prayers, calls, food, cards and grocery shopping during my convalescence after I broke my arm. One dear friend even offered to clean house and I know how she dislikes cleaning house. It is so wonderful to be part of such a caring church family.*

*God Bless,  
JoAnn Anderson*

*My sister, Janet Baker is now in rehabilitation. She asked that you please keep praying for her. She is so discouraged because she has to use her walker everywhere she goes. This is just going to take time and lots of prayers. She wants us to know that she loves her prayer shawl from First Methodist Covington. Paul and I thank you also for your prayers and the prayer shawl ladies that spend their time making our loved ones feel so special and loved.*

*Mary Jane Crotty*

## AUGUST/SEPTEMBER YOUTH CALENDAR...

Wed. Aug 24	6:00 p.m.	Youth Group
Sun., Aug 28	5:00 p.m.	Youth Kick-Off
Wed. Aug 31	6:00 p.m.	Youth Group
Wed. Sep 7	5 - 9 p.m.	Dutton Concert - Collierville
Sun. Sep 11	6:00 p.m.	Youth Group
Wed. Sep 14	6:00 p.m.	Youth Group
Sun. Sep 18	4 - 8 p.m.	Laser Tag - Memphis
Wed. Sep 21	6:00 p.m.	Youth Group
Sun. Sep 25	6:00 p.m.	Youth Group
Wed. Sep 28	6:00 p.m.	Youth Group

WORSHIP BROADCASTS

Live radio broadcast of the Traditional Worship on WKBL AM 1250 @ 11 a.m.

Traditional service: Delayed broadcast on KBJ Cable TV, Channel 5 (city) and 19 (county). Sundays at 1:00 p.m. and Tuesdays at 12 Noon.

MorningSong on the Square: Delayed Broadcast on KBJ Cable TV, Channel 5 (city) and Channel 19 (county). Mondays at 6:00 p.m.

Also, live streaming of the traditional service is available at [www.covingtonfumc.com](http://www.covingtonfumc.com), as well as streaming of past services, at any time.

## COUNSELING

Counseling is available for individuals or couples. Cindy Pease, M.H.S.P., Licensed Professional Counselor, Nationally Certified. For appointment call the FUMC office 476-9694, ext.18.

*Fees are based on ability to pay.*



**FUMC CALENDAR AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 6, 2011**

**Wednesday, Aug 24, 2011**

5:00 p.m. Fellowship Meal - Fellowship Hall  
 6:00 p.m. Bible Studies  
 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl - Go Classroom  
 6:00 p.m. Youth Group  
 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice  
 7:00 p.m. District Laity Meeting - Men's Bible Classroom

**Thursday, Aug 25, 2011**

7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast  
 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study - Cockrill Gift  
 1-3:00p.m. Altar Guild - Sanctuary/  
 Cockrill Gift  
 5:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Education Bldg.

**Saturday, Aug 27, 2011**

9:00 a.m. Food Pantry - Trust Co. Bank, Brighton

**Sunday, Aug 28, 2011**

8:30 a.m. MorningSong Worship  
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service  
 12:10 p.m. Brief SPR Committee Meeting - Fellowship Hall  
 4:00 p.m. Parent's Meeting with Charlotte Quinley and Pastor - Fellowship Hall  
 6:00 p.m. Youth Group Kick Off

**Tuesday, Aug 30, 2011**

5:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Education Bldg.

**Wednesday, Aug 31, 2011**

6:00 p.m. Bible Studies  
 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl—Go Classroom  
 6:00 p.m. Youth Group  
 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

**Thursday, Sep 1, 2011**

7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast  
 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Studies-Cockrill Gift  
 11:00 a.m. UMW General Meeting-Fellowship Hall  
 1-3:00p.m. Altar Guild - Sanctuary/  
 Cockrill Gift  
 5:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Education Bldg.

**Saturday, Sep 2, 2011**

9:00 a.m. Food Pantry - Covington

**Sunday, Sep 4, 2011**

8:30 a.m. MorningSong Worship  
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

**Monday, Sep 5, 2011 - Labor Day**

Church office closed  
 6:00 p.m. Go Getters Potluck - Fellowship Hall

**Tuesday, Sep 6, 2011**

5:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Education Bldg.

**FUMC Regular Office Hours:  
 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday**

*September 1 - September 15*



Sep 1	Jasper Hunter Mike Newman Cayden Ray	Sep 9	Callie Freeman Cindy Pease
Sep 3	Nancy Peeler Haylee Timberlake	Sep 10	Pete McDow Kevin Smith
Sep 4	John Posey Laura Thornton	Sep 11	Bob Lakey Alex Rejaei
Sep 5	Therica Robinson	Sep 12	Mary Ann Gulley Scott Jackson
Sep 7	Stephen Clark	Sep 13	James Bull IV
Sep 8	Debbie Winberry	Sept 15	Sarah Newman



**UPPER ROOM PRAYER SCHEDULE**



**August 28**  
**Morning Song Service**  
Bob and Shirley Hensley

**Traditional Service**  
Arnold Bull and Tom Rogers

**September 4**  
**Morning Song Service**  
Wanda Lakey, Elizabeth Posey  
and Kathy Wallace

**Traditional Service**  
Dawn Carpenter and Kendy Erwin

**September 11**  
**Morning Song Service**  
Ray and Janice Newbill

**Traditional Service**  
John Wallace

"Leading Others to Christ,  
Learning to Be Disciples,  
Loving through Service."

**MISSION STATEMENT OF  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST  
CHURCH**

A BIWEEKLY PUBLICATION OF  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 145  
CHURCH ST.  
COVINGTON, TN 38019

[www.covingtonfumc.com](http://www.covingtonfumc.com)



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