

CAPITAL CITY METHODIST

A Big Enough Table



Dear First Friends,

I have been a United Methodist virtually all my life. It would be dishonest of me to say that I've never considered becoming "something else." I simply never have found enough reasons to carry through with such a thought.

All my life, The United Methodist Church has been what many describe as a "big tent church." That is to say, we have embraced (both denominationally and, more specifically, in our local congregations) Democrats and Republicans, white collar and blue collar, young and old, gay and straight, rich and poor, liberal and conservative. If you ask me, we have been among the very best at honoring differences and loving one another through them (and, when necessary, despite them). In my opinion, this is a biblically faithful church at its best.

Throughout my life and ministry, I have loved, appreciated, and admired both clergy and lay folks whose opinions and commitments were very different from my own. I acknowledged them to be a part of the same body, the same family, as that to which I belonged. I learned from them. I needed them. While honestly, I could have "done without" a few of them, I also can say I could have done without some with whom I strongly agreed. There is something deeper than our opinions and our particularities that makes us Christian. And that same something deeper motivates and drives whether we will live Christ-shaped lives or not.

I am weary and heartsick from the tribalism that has become a part of the very fabric of our nation's culture. It is dangerous. It is indicative of inner and relational sickness. It is, in my opinion, un-American. I also am deeply distressed by warring factions within the Church of Jesus Christ and particularly within The United Methodist Church. Human sexuality, and the assumed probability that The United Methodist Church will remove prohibitions against same-sex marriages and the ordination of gay clergy at its 2024 General Conference, is the presenting "issue." Other matters are mixed in, but I don't want to go off into the weeds just now.

I can't help feeling discouraged, disappointed, and deeply frustrated by individuals and churches leaving, or threatening to leave, The United Methodist Church over the church becoming too liberal, or progressive, around the matters at hand. Please understand, though I am on the more progressive side, I am not troubled by the opinions of those who disagree with me. What breaks my heart is that they—churches or individuals—would leave The United Methodist Church over this. I respect them and their right to do so, if the Spirit is moving them in such a way. It simply breaks my heart. (It may be important for me to say here that what I often feel is anger. However, I know that anger is a secondary emotion and what lies underneath it, in my case as in many, is sadness and grief.)

If you are reading my words and consider yourself a part of First United Methodist Church, please know and allow me to state clearly and unequivocally that I am your pastor. Your status and your opinions are secondary at most. I do not and will not discredit you for holding an opinion different from my own. Whoever you are, I love you—occasionally because it's my job but nearly always because I find you loveable. (Hint: I expect you to treat one another in the same way.)

Someone has suggested that a table may be a better image for the church than a tent. That we need to make sure the table is big enough for everyone. That's what I want. It's what I pray for.

The mission of The United Methodist Church is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The mission of First United Methodist Church of Frankfort is to glorify God by connecting people with Jesus Christ through spiritual nourishment and dynamic outreach. Our vision is that we seek to glorify God, follow Jesus, serve others, and welcome everyone. Our unity around these commitments, even while we may disagree as to the particularities, is a witness to the world.

I've been a United Methodist Christian virtually all my life. My walk with Jesus Christ draws me toward a table that is big enough for everyone who seeks Christ and the ministry of the church. I hope you find such a table appealing as well, and something worth striving for. After all, the rest of the world is watching.

Faithfully yours,
Pastor Tom



January 18, 2023

**Glorify God
By
Connecting People
With
Jesus Christ
Through
Spiritual Nourishment
And
Dynamic Outreach**



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF FRANKFORT**

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Choir Notes

Chancel Choir rehearsals are **Wednesdays at 7:15**. Please note this new time. We will continue this new time for the foreseeable future. Now is an excellent opportunity for new persons to join the choir. We will be beginning to work on the oratorio, "The Seven Last Words," by Theodore Dubois. This wonderful piece of music will be presented Palm Sunday, April 2. It is accompanied by string ensemble and organ.



Become certified in CPR and use of a defibrillator on Sunday February 5th from 4-6pm. Quickly offered high quality CPR can help circulate blood containing oxygen to prevent long term brain damage! Early defibrillation can help restore heart function with the goal of restoring life! This class is also a fundraiser for a medical mission trip with Crown Ministries for Sabrina James. Cost of the class is a minimum donation of \$15 to cover expenses with any donation above that will going directly to support Sabrina's expenses for the trip. There is a maximum of 28 students. To register, please text Sabrina James at 419-283-1399 or email Healthandsafetyark@gmail.com. If you are interested in donating directly without taking the class, please contact Sabrina or reach out to crown Ministries at

CROWN Missions, Inc.
PO Box 1445
Somerset, Ky. 42502
(606)271-0134
crownmissionsky@gmail.com



Thank you to the nearly 20 adults and youth who helped with the un-decorating of the sanctuary and Wesley Center January 7. This year the project was completed in record time, just under two hours. No one signed up ahead of time and no one was contacted individually, but your faithfulness and love of the church saw that the work was completed. Thank each of you for your efforts.

Triple L

Triple L (Living Longer and Liking It) meets Thursday, February 16, at 11:30 a.m. in Asbury Hall of the Wesley Center. The program will be led by First Church member, DJ Wasson, who serves as Chief of Staff and Legislative Liaison for the Kentucky Public Protection Cabinet.

Anna's Friends



The widow and widowers fellowship, Anna's Friends will meet for lunch at the Frankfort Country Club on Saturday, January 21, at 11:30. Our February 18 lunch outing will be to the Kentucky Castle in Versailles. Contact Rev. Tonya Kenner or Judie Blake to sign up for these lunches.

Caring for Parents Meets Monthly

Our Caring for Parents support group meets on the fourth Thursdays in the Todd House Parlor. Our next meeting is Thursday, January 26, at 7:00. We come for support and encouragement as we continue to make decisions to support our aging parents. Contact Rev. Tonya Kenner for more information.



Retro Game Night

Join us for some Sunday night fun as we celebrate "Retro Game Show Night" and honor our special guests, the students and parents of the Wesley Academy of Music. Relive shows like "Kids Say the Darndest Things", the "Newlywed Game", and "Family Feud" as we raise money and awareness for this special mission.

A potluck dinner will be served at 5 pm in Asbury Hall. The meat will be provided with FUMC members being asked to provide side dishes. The students of the Wesley Academy will provide desserts.

Want to Host a Foreign Exchange Student?

The EF Exchange Year program is currently looking for host families! International exchange students from Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Japan, Austria, Sweden (just to name a few) have signed up to spend 5-10 months in the US next school year (2023-2024). This year, we have 4 students in Franklin County and we are hoping to have more next year!

This is a great opportunity to share our town, schools and culture with young people from around the world -- and learn from them in the process. Anyone can host! Singles, families with younger children, families with high school aged kids and empty nesters.

Welcome an international student into your home this fall!! For more information about the program, please email natalie.lile@efexchangeyear.org or visit here: <https://efexchangeyear.org/iec/natalie-lile/>. Talk to Greg and Missy Hardison about their experiences this year with two exchange students.

Thailand NOW- Serving the Thai people with the love of Jesus

What is Thailand NOW? It is the new name for the Thailand Methodist Mission which began in 2005 when a clergy couple from the Kentucky Conference felt called to the mission field. Mike and Sherri Morrissey met with the Board of Global Ministries and were assigned to Thailand since the United Methodist Church had no presence there. They began the process of learning the language, culture and making friends with Thai Christians. They began to plant churches, developing and training lay pastors using the Pioneer Pastors program. It is the vision of the Pioneer Pastor movement that every county have at least one thriving Thai church. With the prayers and support of Christian people, God has enabled Thailand NOW pastors and leaders to plant 47 new churches in previously unreached counties in Thailand (plus many more in counties that already had one church). The need is still great because 75% of counties (sub-districts) in Thailand are still unreached, having no Christian churches. The country is 95% Buddhist, 4% Islam and 1% Christian but the faith is exploding (see <https://msmorrissey.blogspot.com/>). The number of Christian churches increased from 2,250 in 2000 to 8,317 in 2022. Thailand NOW takes seriously the Great Commission in their new church plants. New church plants in turn have the passion to plant other new churches thus the Kingdom grows by multiplication.

Thailand NOW also takes the Great Commandment seriously. With the love of Jesus in their hearts they have a passion for “the least of these”. With the leadership of the Morrisseys, it has established three Blessing Homes (Pattaya, Isan and TaParya) to rescue the most at-risk children from being trafficked in the sex trade in Thailand. The ones most at-risk are pre-teens and early teens without strong parental supervision. They also have Special Blessings Korat for special needs children. Thailand NOW has implemented the Abundant Life Savings Program (akin to the Dave Ramsey program) to teach financial budgeting and savings to families and small business owners. This proved invaluable during the pandemic when people could not work but Thai Christians who had savings could buy food and share with others. Phase two of the construction of the Abundant Life Training Center is scheduled to be completed this summer.

Thailand NOW is an excellent example of Jesus’ admonition in Acts 1:8 “... to be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” If you want to be a part of a ministry that is highly successful in “making disciples for Jesus Christ,” pray for Thailand NOW and give your financial support. Send checks to Thailand NOW, P.O. Box 56, Mannsville, KY 42758 or give online <https://thailandnow.org/>.



See display in Wesley Center Gallery Hall.

Larry Epley
Outreach Team

FUMC Scrapbook



First Spark Progressive Nativity



Fish Group at Soup Kitchen



Children's Moment



Variety Circle Christmas Party



Christmas Caroling

What Have the Trustees Been Doing?

The Board of Trustees have been busy during the past year. This newsletter is to give you, the congregation, an idea of what the trustees have accomplished over the past year.

- A new wireless fire alarm system was installed in the Todd House that will communicate with the City of Frankfort Fire Department.
- A Ring doorbell camera and a keypad deadbolt have been installed at the Todd House entry door. An alley camera was added to enhance the view of Catfish Alley. All of our cameras are now linked and can be viewed on a cellphone. These views are also being recorded for later viewing.
- Land line phones were activated for Josh Golden, Chris Powell and the Wesley Day School.
- A new dedicated fax line was linked to the copier and Duplicator Services provided a fax function to the existing copier.
- A leaking boiler tank located in the Basement Mechanical room was replaced.
- We also had a plumbing leak in the basement that needed to be repaired.
- The carpets and chairs in the Wesley Center, not included in the Meyer Contracting contract, were cleaned in July.
- We have had a significant amount of HVAC failures on the campus. Of course, all of these failures occurred when we had extremely hot weather this past summer. Repairs to the rooftop units that serve both floors of the Wesley Center have had their fans replaced. The Averill House has new inside and outside units to provide air conditioning. The Todd House has had both compressors repaired or replaced.
- The moveable wall has been repaired in Asbury Hall.
- The front gutter and fascia at the Averill House have been repaired.
- The maintenance and tuning of the organ have been completed. This was coordinated by Roy Nance.
- John Gilbert performed an ADA checklist which will help us in the future with facility planning.
- We have an extremely hard-working group of women that initiated, pitched in and cleaned the Averill House to make it usable for Pastor Jamie to spend a few nights as he needed. The Averill House to be used for Classes. The Lighthouse was in need of a cleaning and repurposing as the Boy Scout Troop has disbanded. Abbie Meyer, Rosie Doering and Mary Pat Dobbins cleaned, painted and made minor repairs with assistance from Ron Alvis and Scott Meyer on both the Averill House and the Lighthouse. Greg & Missy Hardison also participated in the cleaning and painting in the Lighthouse.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the efforts of Jana Sturm, Paul Mauer, Ron Alvis and Scott Meyer in all their efforts in making all of these projects happen.

A big thanks to all the Trustees including Melissa Toppass and Wil Rhodes for providing support in making all these projects possible.

January Birthdays

18 Mike Gill
Diana Kelley
Liam Stafford

19 John Howard
Lee Troutwine

20 Lynn Baker
Amanda Jones
Leanne Scott

21 Ava Goins
James Hale
Madeline Powell
Noah Strunk

22 Burton Barnes
Leah Hughes
Robin Lawhorn
Judie Miller

23 Luke Woodyard

24 Tina Bailey
Matt Doerting
Saundra Epley
Mary Powell
Charlotte Rhodes
Caroline Rhodes

25 Rachel Hughes
Paula Miller

27 Norman Honaker

28 Jackson Nance

29 Philip Sturgill

30 Brady Sturm

31 Jordan Allen
Danny Maggard
Lois Powell

February Birthdays

2 Alisa Friedly Reed
Dorothy Hanson

3 Joseph Alexander
Ben Hurley
Karen Kinman

5 Nicole Burgess
Glenna Hughes

6 Byron Brewer
Bob Wilcher

7 Layne Allen
Kate Alvis
Margaret Doyle
Jan Wahrer

8 Mendy Covington
Ben McDonald
Emily Powell

10 Earl Arp
Jack Barnes
Matthias Jones
Kim Suter

11 Ashley Lawhorn
Courtney Sturgill

12 Sara Callaway
Samuel Stafford
Travis Trent

14 Logan McDonald

15 Mary Arp
Will Doerting
Betsy Powell
James Russell
Emma Stevenson

16 Owen Powell
Samuel Stafford

April Trent

17 Bill Elam

18 Sandra Bush
Laura Leigh Goins

19 Max Alexander

21 Nancy Schaffner

22 Catherine Clements

23 Graham Clements
Ruth Derrington

24 Nancy Collett
Jane Kelly

25 Anne Matz

26 Charleigh Deaton

27 Ann McCabe
Wanda Meeks
Courtney Rempfer

27 Gregory Meyer
Gena Stokley
Jessica Tillett

27 Lyda Parker Moore
Miles Patterson
Gena Stokley

29 Diana Gregory
Grace Trent

Ruth Spurrier Memorial Event December 5-7, 2022

First United Methodist Church of Frankfort welcomed 49 middle and high school students to the Ruth Spurrier Memorial Shopping Event on December 5, 6, and 7th. Each year our congregation partners with Kohls Department Store to provide winter clothing, coats, shoes, gloves, and other essential items to at-risk youth from each middle and high school in Franklin County. This year marked our 8th year serving Franklin County in this way. Previously the Ruth Spurrier Event was an annual toy sale in the gymnasium at First United Methodist Church, but after careful review and an evaluation of community needs, the event was transitioned to serve an older, often neglected youth population. In addition, we moved away from offering toys to offering essential winter items that are desperately needed by the students we serve. The event is made possible by generous support from the Outreach Committee and with supplemental support from the Hope Circle and countless volunteers who donate time, talents and service to this event. In addition to the shopping where each student has the opportunity to spend \$200 each on new essential clothing items, volunteers from the youth program collect backpacks throughout the year for the students and stuff them with essential hygiene items and school supplies.

To help facilitate this event, the Family Resource and Youth Service Center director or other designated school administrator identifies students at each school who have the greatest needs for winter items. This year, in addition to the schools we typically serve, we added William Cofield High School, an alternative school for at-risk students in Franklin County. This brought our total to 8 different schools in Franklin County. They include: Second Street School, Frankfort High School, Western Hills High School, Franklin County High School, Bondurant Middle School, Elkhorn Middle School, Willam Cofield High School, and The Academy.

Sarah Vivian, principal at The Academy, an alternative school serving at-risk students, has spoken extensively about the impact this program has on her students. "You can see their faces light up when they realize what an incredible gift this is," she said. Vivian continued, "our students have so many needs, from clothing, to supplies, to personal hygiene. That's why this event is so important to us...it has all of that. The fact that this is offered at Christmas time is also important because many of our students don't have extravagant gift exchanges at home."

Following the event in December, Ronnie Nolan, First United Methodist Church volunteer, spent about an hour with a student and his teachers, outside of Kohls, while waiting for a family member to pick up the student. During that time they laughed together, spent time talking about the students future plans, and how the program impacted them and their family. Nolan commented, "the most impactful thing about that conversation was listening to the student talk about how much this event meant to him. He was a rowdy kid, you could tell that, but his teachers showed genuine love for him, encouraged him, and we all just spent time laughing together. It was a great ending to the last day of shopping and it put this entire event into perspective for me." Moments like this are plentiful during the event, with multitudes of volunteers from FUMC assisting students with shopping during the event, and even more volunteers coordinating the event during the months leading up to the shopping days! The Ruth Spurrier Memorial Event volunteer team is grateful our Church has made such a large financial commitment to this event and we appreciate the opportunity to partner with the community to be Gods hands and feet as we humbly serve others.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



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Frankfort, KY 40601

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Rev. Tom Corum

- *Pastor*

Tonya Kenner

- *Minister of Christian Education*

Amber Logan

- *Wesley Center School Director*

Josh Golden

- *Director of Music and Worship*

Chris Powell

- *Director of Contemporary Worship*

Roy Nance

- *Organist*

Greg & Melissa Hardison

- *Youth Directors*

Jessica Tillett

- *Administrative Assistant*

Diana Gregory

- *Newsletter Editor*



January 29 is Fifth Sunday

One Worship Service

10:00 am

Asbury Hall

Mission Moment on Thailand

Reception in Gallery Hall Follows
Featuring our Outreach Fair
Special Offering for United Methodist Homes
For Children and Youth



United Methodist Men News

The United Methodist Men will hold their next meeting Monday, February 6, in Asbury Hall. The session will start with a meal at 6 p.m. (\$10).

February's program will be given by Steve Mims, who will be discussing St. Vincent de Paul. Good Shepherd's St. Vincent de Paul Society serves those in Franklin County who are indigent and need food, clothing, furniture and/or financial assistance. St. Vincent de Paul operates a food bank and thrift store on Wallace Avenue.

UMM members will also be traveling by bus to the Bluegrass District UMM meeting on Monday, February 13, at Junction City UMC. Be watching for more information on the trip.