

April 18, 2024

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



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF FRANKFORT**

211 Washington Street
Frankfort, KY 40601

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CAPITAL CITY METHODIST

Singing Our Alleluias

Dear First Friends,

Over the last few Sundays, I have made reference to the fact that Bishop Thomas Bickerton, the current president of the United Methodist Council of Bishops, recently encouraged United Methodists to acknowledge the full fifty-day season of Easter. <https://www.kyumc.org/newsdetail/celebrate-50-days-of-easter-join-in-50-days-of-celebration-for-our-resurrected-lord-18325619>

Specifically, we are reminded and encouraged to sing our alleluias throughout the season of Easter and to remember that Easter is not merely a one-and-done Sunday celebration with plenteous flowers, full-throated singing, and elevated worship attendance.

We observe forty days of Lent. It seems we could use fifty days of Easter!

I have emphasized since Easter morning that the resurrection is in great part a tremendous mystery, and it takes some time to work it out and work it through. No one saw Jesus get up out of the tomb. At least, if they did, none of the evangelists who wrote the four canonical gospels reported it. No, they simply saw Jesus. And even then, they were confused and scared.

I sometimes wonder why we are inclined to move on from Easter so quickly. Is it the mystery? Is it, in some measure, our struggle to believe? Is it that if Jesus really was raised from the dead, then God cannot be contained, and anything is possible, and we're not sure what to do with that?

We really don't need to figure Easter out. We simply need to keep on singing our alleluias. Because while not a lot is new, something has changed. There is still war, and hunger, and poverty, and sickness, and division, and hatred, and apathy, and meanness, and alienation, and loneliness, and injustice, and selfishness, and greed.

But we have the news that Jesus has overcome death and deadliness. They do not have the last word. Love has the last word, and love will win in the end.

I see it when we learn and grow together in Sunday School and small groups, when we care for one another in times of struggle and seasons of celebration, when we pray faithfully and fervently for persons on our prayer list, when we serve funeral meals that bring comfort to families and friends, when we listen to and care for our unhoused friends through our GAP ministry, when we make and share blankets for folks who are sick or struggling, when we serve meals at the KSU Wesley campus ministry, when we serve the women at Fresh Start, when we learn to pray for the power God has promised to give us, when our children share their musical gifts, and when we see new persons and families coming through our doors and we welcome them.

I see the good news of resurrection embodied when we ask, not "how can we bring back the past," but "how can we envision and try what we've never tried before," not "what do we want for ourselves," but "how and where is God calling us into the future so that together we can be an even better witness to the good news?"

Christ is risen! This is a mystery. It is better lived than understood. Let's continue singing our alleluias through this marvelous holy season and thereby live with even greater faith and surer hope!

Faithfully yours,
Pastor Tom



Our sympathy to the family of Charles Wade. Charles passed away on May 25. You may send your condolences to his wife, Claire Wade and daughters, Paula Wade and Shari Randle.

Thank You!

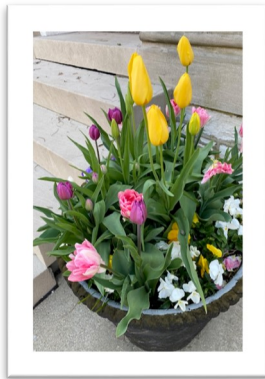
The family of Robert Eads would like to thank so many people who helped with his Celebration of Life Service. Thank you to Pastor Tom Corum And Reverend Jack Brewer for their guidance and words during the service. Roy Nance for his beautiful contribution of the Music. Thank you to Abbie Meyer, Mary Pat Dobbins, Rose Doerting, Brenda Rue and all who assisted in the reception after the service. Bill and Sylvia Elam as ushers for the service. All of the prayers and thoughts were greatly appreciated. Thank You Church Family.

*Dow and Myfanwy Eads
Carolyn, Lorenzo and Diana Eads
(Robert's children): Brandon Eads,
Niki Eads Carroll, Jeri Eads*

Thank you, to our Engage Lenten Leaders – Rev. Jack Brewer, Rev. Richard Smith, Elly Gilbert, Pastor Tom Corum, Karen Nance, Roy Nance, Amy Snow, Steph Sorrell, Tonya Kenner, Patti Blythe and Nicole Young.

Thank you, also, to Karen Nance and her volunteers for preparing the lunches during Holy Week.

A huge “Thank you” to the wonderful volunteers who helped trim, pull weeds, carry off brush, and just generally tidy up the church grounds on a cool Saturday in mid-March. The grounds have been so pretty all spring, a testament to the hard work carried out by these few hard-working helpers. Your work has been appreciated by so many. Thank you again.



Anna's Friends Travel to Smithtown

Our widow and widowers are invited to lunch at Smithtown Seafood in Lexington on Friday, April 26. Meet at the ATM in Brighton Park to meet the bus at 10:30. Bring \$5 for the bus and your lunch money. Contact Judie Blake or Rev. Tonya Kenner to sign up. Our May plans are traveling to Simpsonville for lunch and shopping at Little Mount Lavender on Saturday, May 18.

Fun Facts About Finances at FUMC

- Our budget for 2024 is \$914,798.
- We have 4 teams of 2 people that serve as counters for the weekly offering. Each team counts once a month.
- *The finance team is comprised of 16 members of our congregation
- Through your tithes and offerings, First Church directly financially supports the Emergency Food Pantry, KSU Wesley Foundation, Kings Center, ACCESS Soup Kitchen, ROSM, Fresh Start, Pioneer Pastors-Thailand ministry, Fuerzas Unidas Medical clinic in Honduras and the GAP Ministry.
- As of March 2024, First Church's mortgage balance is \$1,193,045.81 with a monthly payment of \$14,455.43.
- Only our bookkeeper knows what everyone gives to the church
- Approximately 55% of the apportionments that we pay the conference goes directly to support missions.
- November and December are our biggest giving months of the year.



1st Quarter Financials

Total Given to General Fund	\$149,450
Expenses	\$189,393
Needed to meet budget	\$227,034
Mortgage Balance	\$1,193,045

May Birthdays

1	Carolyn Fetter	16	Mason Alexander Jackson Starkweather	25	Katie Mabry Mark Wasson
2	Jenny Bryant David Sturm Carson Thomas	18	Junior Lewis Sadie Meyer June Payton	26	Larry Sturm
3	Marty Wayman Hayden Wilkerson		Ava Powell Harry Lee Wilson	27	John Gillig
6	Cheryl Meyer Henrietta Goins Thomas Jones	19	Jeff Raine Alanna McCrystal Alyssa McCrystal Jason Powell	29	Peter Doane Lucas Nance
8	Alex Goins			30	Ann Bennoit Addy McCoun
9	Jennifer Tracy	20	Mary Pat Dobbins Patrick Pewitt	31	Dick Smotheermon
11	Ali Higgs Myers Jeff Howson	22	Thomas Rhodes		
12	John Burris Lynn Faulkner Isabelle Powell	23	Scott Hankla		
15	Linda Jones	24	Paige Burton Barnes Paul McNees Dick Watkins		



Bereavement Committee

The Bereavement Committee is a group of church members who provide a simple meal or reception after a funeral/ celebration of life service held at our church. This food offering is a time when family and friends of the deceased can visit and share fond memories as they receive some nourishment after an exhausting time.

How can you help, as an individual or a church group?

- Food – we can call you about preparing food or donations of purchased food.
- Set-up, Serving, Clean-up – We always need people to help set up food tables, serve drinks and desserts, refill coffee cups. Clean up is a painless as we can make it – the more hands, the less work.
- Donate funds – Monetary donations are used to purchase food to fill in gaps from donated foods.

You do not have to help at every meal. You are welcome, always, but we understand if there are times you are unavailable to serve or cook.

Questions? More info? Want to help? Contact Tonya Kenner in church office (502-227-7430) or Rosie Doerting (502-229-0679) or Brenda Rue (502-319-3808).

Silent Auction to Benefit the Youth Program

Thank you to everyone who donated artwork to the Silent Art Auction to benefit our youth program. We're especially grateful to Gail McDaniel who donated many beautiful art prints from her moms' estate (Wanda Lippert).

We've transformed Gallery Hall to showcase many beautiful pieces from artists like Ben Hampton and Larry Dodson who each painted scenes from rural America. Wildlife artists Charles Spaulding, Jim Oliver, Gene Gray and Imogene Farnsworth are represented along with watercolor favorites from Paul Sawyer. There are beautiful floral plates and decorative wall art. There's literally something to delight everyone!

This is a silent auction so you need to place your bid and keep an eye on your favorites until the end of April; the last day to bid is Sunday, April 28. The sale will benefit our youth program and help with costs for the trip to Lake Junaluska this summer.

FISH for LIFE House

Our fourth and fifth graders will meet at Fazoli's for lunch on Sunday, April 21, at noon before traveling to the LIFE House to volunteer. We will be able to walk some of the dogs and play with the cats as well as help with whatever else is needed. The whole family is invited to join us. We will finish by 2:30 or so. Donations of dog/puppy/cat/kitten food, collars, leashes, cleaning supplies, treats, etc. are welcome. Our final meeting of the school year is on Sunday, May 19, as we learn about First Spark Youth at 4:00.



The United Methodist Men will have its final session before summer break on Monday, May 6. The meeting will start off with a meal as prepared by Karen and Roy Nance at 6 p.m. in Asbury Hall. Following the meal Rev. Tonya Kenner will discuss her decades of service to the church and congrega-

tion as she prepares for retirement.

Also to be discussed at the meeting will be the coming trip by bus Monday, May 13, to the Bluegrass District UMM meeting in Versailles. More information on this to come. If you are a man in the Methodist church, come and be a part of our mission-minded ministry for its final session of the season. Join us!

Spring at the GAP

Winter and cold weather are finally fading, and spring has arrived for Frankfort's homeless. Our GAP (God Answers Prayers Through Compassionate People) Program has offered comfort and assistance to nearly 70 individuals each month through the bitter winter. The program provides Kroger cards in multiples of \$20 for those who are living rough and offers them an opportunity to browse a room stocked with essentials. Supplies like small flashlights, toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoo, and toilet paper help individuals who are struggling to make ends meet. We thank each of you who have donated supplies to this effort.

In addition, we offer each individual a brown paper bag with enough food to satisfy their needs for a single day. This supplements the resources they receive from other sources. A big thank you to the Upper Room Class for preparing our brown paper bags.

We've been concerned as the Simon House has been unable to fund their operation and are aware that chronic low-income housing issues in Frankfort continue to limit availability to those who can least afford expensive rent. Despite this, two of our homeless neighbors were able to secure housing this last month. These individuals were able to shop our "Welcome Home" resource room where the United Women in Faith have supplied pots and pans, plates and glasses, silverware, and essential housewares to ease the transition from living in a car or a tent. We have been very grateful for these supplies; they were ready and waiting as our unhoused friends gained housing.

- **Current needs for our Brown Paper Bags:** single serve proteins (peanut butter, pop top cans or pouches of chicken, small cans or pouches of SPAM, beanie weenies, etc. A generous donation of tuna means we have plenty of tuna right now!). In addition, we can always use fruit cups, single servings of cookies, pop tarts, and packages of peanut butter or cheese crackers.
- **Current essential needs:** small shampoo (larger than travel size is fine), small flashlights, shaving cream, and small baby powder.
- **Current Welcome Home supplies needed:** towels and sheets (clean used any size). Small houseware items are always needed. We lack resources to handle furniture.
- **Always needed:** \$20 Kroger gift cards

Fresh Start

Fresh Start (formerly the Franklin County Women and Family Shelter) is growing and First United Methodist Church is excited to be a partner in this ministry. Fresh Start provides transitional housing opportunities to single women (18 years old and older) and families (adults 18 and older) with children younger than 18 who are experiencing housing insecurity, homelessness, and life crises due to persistent barriers, such as substance use disorder, unemployment, acute and chronic mental and physical health conditions, loss of family/social connections, etc.

Since July 2023, Fresh Start has enrolled 23 single adult females, one adult male, and one infant. A closer look at the clients shows that 17% were persons of color, 4% were Hispanic, and 79% were white. Ninety-six percent had documented disabilities.

Fresh Start's growth means they have been and will continue to add new staff members to help the residents. Noel McCutchen, Director of Administration, began work in February 2024 and Pauline Shackelford, Family Support and Enrichment Specialist, joined them in November 2023. They are currently seeking a full-time Director of Administration to assist with day-to-day operations, a part-time Family Support and Enrichment Specialist, and a full-time Peer Support Specialist.

Opportunities continue to expand for the residents. They have implemented a Farm Fresh Cooking and Education program for residents through their KY Opioid Abatement Settlement award. This program provides funding for each of our residents to order up to \$20 per week for 32 weeks of local food from Franklin County Farmers Market and a monthly education and cooking demonstration of how to use some of those delicious products. These monthly sessions are scheduled to take place at different locations as a way to provide positive, healthy connections outside of our facilities for our residents. The first cooking/educational session was held in April at FUMC, facilitated by Tonya Kenner.

We had a simple supper and a funny skit about how not to pray. One of our members told her story of how Jesus turned her life around. We listened to the women's concerns, and they wrote their prayer requests which were submitted to the FUMC prayer list. The meal is a blessing we could not offer at the jail, but it requires more planning and effort. They enjoyed our time together and invited us to return.

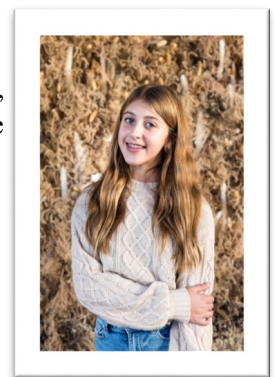
We are inviting women who may be interested in joining our team to contact either Nancy Watkins at 502-320-9333 (watkinsnc39@gmail.com) or Elly Gilbert 859-576-7588 (elly.gilbert@gmail.com). We need all kinds of talents, including crafts, art, musical talent, and meal planning skills. We need women with a passion for scripture and for applying it to the lives of other women who are overcoming addiction and striving to become independent. If you feel the Lord nudging you, contact one of us to explore your fit with what God is doing at Fresh Start.

Meet Confirmation Student Brooklyn West

Brooklyn is the daughter of Stephanie and Thad West. She has three siblings: Blakely, Bayla, and Beckham. She is a seventh-grade student at Capital Day School, where her favorite subject is Science and she plays volleyball and golf.

Brooklyn's favorite activity is volleyball. Her favorite colors are purple and pink, and her favorite food is sushi. Her favorite song is "Hands Tied" by Taylor Swift and her favorite movie is "Clueless."

Brooklyn's favorite thing about FUMC is how quiet it is. She describes God as big and powerful, and she feels closest to God at her grandma's house.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

211 Washington Street

Frankfort, KY 40601

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www.fumcfrankfort.org

Rev. Tom Corum

- *Pastor*

Tonya Kenner

- *Minister of Christian Education*

Josh Golden

- *Director of Music and Worship*

Chris Powell

- *Director of Contemporary Worship*

Roy Nance

- *Organist*

Cameron Kenner

- *Youth Director*

Jessica Tillett

- *Administrative Assistant*

Diana Gregory

- *Newsletter Editor*



Kids Night Out
End of School Year Party
Saturday, May 18, 5:00 to 8:00 pm
Join the Fun!



Pentecost, Sunday, May 19
Good News at 9 and 11:00
A Celebration of
High School Graduates
Scholarship Recipients
Confirmation Class



Vacation Bible School
Running for the Prize!
A Study of Paul and Celebration of the Olympics

June 7 (5:00-7:30)
June 8 (9:30-2:00)
June 9 (10:00 -12:00)

Ages 4 through rising 5th Grade
Youth and Adult Helpers Invited!
Church-wide Potluck at noon on June 9