



May 16, 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

Office Hours: 9am—3:00pm M-T

www.fumcfrankfort.org

Twitter: @fumcfrankfort

Facebook: www.facebook.com/fumcfrankfort

CAPITAL CITY METHODIST

More to Do

Dear First Friends,

We have sung our alleluias for six Sundays now. The Easter season has officially come to a close. We have recalled Jesus’ ascension into heaven and his promise to send the waiting disciples power from on high.

Meanwhile, the General Conference of The United Methodist Church (the one that was postponed from 2020, and then postponed again, and then postponed again) finally met in late April and early May in Charlotte, NC. The General Conference, which takes place every four years and is made up of an equal number of ordinary clergy and ordinary laity from around the world, is the only body that can speak or make decisions for the entire United Methodist Church.

Among many decisions made (too many to present in detail here, and frankly I do not know them all!), fifty-year-old language labelling homosexual practice “incompatible with Christian teaching” was removed from *The Book of Discipline*. This change neutralizes our official position and allows for diversity of thought within the same denomination and within individual congregations.

Also removed was language barring “self-avowed practicing homosexuals” from being ordained. Decisions about candidacy for ministry and ordination (now minus prohibitions aimed at one very specific population) will continue to be in the hands of Annual Conference Boards of Ordained Ministry where they have been and where they belong. Similarly, United Methodist churches and clergy are no longer prohibited from holding or performing same-sex marriages (nor are they required to do so). In other words, churches and clergy (minus prohibitions on same-sex marriages) continue to have the authority to decide who they will marry and who will be married in a United Methodist Church facility.

These are changes that many of us here at FUMC celebrate, some will question or feel some uncertainty about, and a few may find discouraging. Let me say that, for this and any other United Methodist Church, far more is the same than has changed. In fact, all of it could fly past you without your even knowing it. What these particular changes do is allow space for people of diverse opinions to continue to belong to the same denomination and the same congregation. For the record, it’s been that way for as long as I can remember. What we have done as a denomination is removed harmful language and restrictions aimed at one singled-out segment of our church.

The General Conference also granted Deacons the right to preside over the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion in the settings to which they have been appointed; approved a new pension plan for clergy; and forwarded to Annual Conferences for approval a new regionalized structure that would put United Methodists all over the world on equal footing, rather than continuing as a U.S.-centric denomination with non-U.S. Conferences in something of a satellite, or secondary, position. Among other things, the plan would allow the various regions to make *some* adaptations to *The Book of Discipline* to fit their context, which Conferences outside of the United States already have the authority to do. (It is important to note that this *does not* include changing the essence of our doctrines or theology.) Regionalization is an expression of the global nature of our denomination and declares that no one region stands above the others. Implementation of this plan will require approval by a majority of voting members of all United Methodist Annual Conferences together.

Now...if you are still with me, first of all, thank you. Second of all, as an observer during the last four days of General Conference, I want you to know how positive, unified, and encouraging the spirit of General Conference was. There were no demonstrations. No individual or group “did a victory lap” after any of the decisions. The spirit in the room, and throughout the spacious observers’ section, was one of respect, love, and joy. Yes, there were differences of opinion expressed.

(continued on page 2)

(continued from page 1)

No, not all of the more conservative voices were from African countries, and not all of the more progressive voices were from the United States. What I witnessed was one, diverse, truly global church worshipping, making decisions large and small by way of genuine Christian conferencing, and praying in many languages. Oh yes, and under General Conference rules, a request for prayer always takes precedence over any other matter before the body. And it did, every time.

Now, before I finish, let me not allow this recognition of the global church at work to obscure our life together here at FUMC in Frankfort. On Sunday, May 19, seven young people will confirm their faith in Christ and their commitment to Christ through the ministry of FUMC. Tonya and I have delighted in meeting with this Confirmation Class and their Faith Friends since last fall. They are truly great people who are already contributing much to our life as a congregation. We are better and more faithful because of them. As I invited on Sunday, May 12, let us commit to praying for them and for our church after the manner of Ephesians 1:15-23.

And all of this said, this pastor's article isn't finally about General Conference or Confirmation. It's simply one more reminder that we still have work to do, that whatever any of this means to us, God is still calling the church to be the body of Christ in the world. God is still using people like us to lift up Jesus Christ and to participate in God's kingdom work of love, peace, reconciliation, and service here in this world, that we may further the new creation where God's will is done on earth as it is in heaven.

So, in the words of Bishop Will Willimon, words I have been inclined to quote as of late, let us, First United Methodist Church of Frankfort, persist in asking God to reveal to us what portion of Jesus' ministry in this world has been assigned specifically to us. Our mission does not begin or end with us. It begins and ends with what the Holy Spirit assigns us to do.

The season of Easter is officially concluded, but Pentecost is on its way! God is still on the move! (One more) Alleluia!

Faithfully yours,
Pastor Tom

Mountain Mission Truck



The Mountain Mission Truck will be here on July 2. You may bring items to Light House porch on Sunday, June 30. Due to low donations, which has caused our inventory to dwindle, we are

desperately low on the following items:

- Bed Sheets
- Comforters
- Blankets
- Pillows
- Towels
- Wash Cloths
- Bed Spreads
- Quilts
- Whatnots (bric-a-brac, knickknack, collectibles, things that make a home a 'home')
- Socks and Underwear (Children's, Men's and Women's)
- Purses
- Prom Dresses (Prom will take place in April/May)
- Swimwear
- Crafting Supplies (Yarn, material, etc.)
- Pots and pans

Anna's Friends Travel to Lunch

Our widow and widower group travels to Simpsonville to Little Mount Lavender on Saturday, May 18. Meet at Walgreen's west at 10:30. Our June outing is to Hall's On the River in Winchester on Saturday, June 22, at 10:30. Meet at Brighton Park's ATM. Contact Judie Blake or Rev. Tonya Jennings Kenner to sign up.

Caring for Parents Meets May 23

Our support group for those providing care support to their parents will meet on Thursday, May 23 at 7 in the Todd House Wood Parlor. All interested are invited to attend.



Fifth Sunday
June 30
Worship at 10
Asbury Hall
No Sunday School



Our sympathy to the friends of
MARTHA BOWERS. Martha passed
away on May 9.

Our condolences to the family of
TERRY MAGEL, who passed away on
May 2. You may send your
condolences to his wife, Sandy Magel.

Births

Congratulations to Bryce and Samantha Burton on the
birth of their son, Emmett Todd Burton on April 24.

Congratulations to Eric and Becca Raine Lowe, big
brother Finn and big sister Evie on the birth of Isla Jane
on May 10.

Thanks

Thank you, Church! Our Camp Is Sweet Bake Sale
raised \$1246 toward our camp fees to pay half for children
and youth attending. This will be added to our budgeted
items to pay for the camper fees. Anything beyond what
is needed will be donated to Aldersgate Camp. Check out
more at aldersgatecamp.org.

You're Invited

Dear FUMC Friends,

*Have you met Paul McNeese? Paul and Betty have
been members of FUMC for over 53 years. We love it!*

*Well, Paul will be celebrating his 90th Birthday on
May 24th! His family would love for him to get a lot of
cards (90?). (He has always said a birthday card should
have a dollar bill in it.) Can you help him out?*

*On Saturday, May 25th we will be having a "meet &
greet" for Paul. Stop by, give him a hug, a card, have a
cupcake and a cup of lemonade. He would love to see
you!*

*114 Nicklaus Drive will be open after 2:00pm for
visiting.*

*God Bless all of you!
Betty, Lisa and Family*

*The family of Helen Chadwick
Invites friends to a celebration
Of her 90th birthday
On Sunday, June 2
1-3 pm
At the Women's Club
200 Washington St.
(across from Todd House
No gifts, please.*

Celebrate with Us

Cameron Kenner's last Sunday as FUMC's Director of
Youth will be on May 19. We will recognize him and his
time over the last year as Director of Youth at
the 9:00 and 11:00 services that Sunday. Cameron we
wish you all the best and will miss you!

Josh Golden's last Sunday as Director of Music and
Worship will be June 23. We will be recognizing Josh at
the 9:00 and 11:00 services for his time over the last 2
years as Director of Music and Worship and have a
reception for him in Gallery Hall immediately following
the 11:00 service. Please join us and wish Josh well on
his upcoming wedding and move to California.

Tonya Kenner is retiring on June 30 after ministering
to our FUMC family for 34 years. June 30 is a fifth Sun-
day and will have one service at 10:00 in Asbury Hall. To
celebrate Tonya's retirement, we will have a potluck lunch
following the service with the church providing the meat.
Mark your calendars and plan to join us on June 30.

Interfaith Food Drive

The next Interfaith Food Drive for the Franklin
County Emergency Food Pantry is Sunday, June 9. The
Food Pantry is volunteer run and open 5 days a week,
except holidays. Please help us stock shelves for
neighbors in need. With so many families needing help
and higher food costs, your donations are important. The
most needed items at this time are: canned chicken, meat
or tuna, peanut butter, soup, boxed instant oatmeal,
canned fruit, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, canned beans,
canned vegetables and rice (one pound bags or Minute
rice. Please check expiration dates.

Frankfort First United Methodist Church

Invites you to

Reverend Tonya Jennings Kenner

Retirement Celebration

Sunday, June 30, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.

Asbury Hall

Followed by Potluck Lunch Immediately after service.

*Congratulation letters and cards for Tonya may be
mailed to Jana Sturm or brought to the service.*

May Birthdays

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



Volunteers Needed

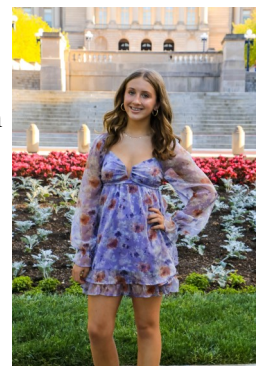
We will be planting the church flowerpots soon! They only stay pretty because of our volunteers who water them. We each water a week at a time on a schedule. Last year we had 8 people, so each of us only had to water three times during the summer. We can show you the hoses, etc. Contact Rosie Deoerting (502-229-0679 or Abbie Meyer (503-696-4244).

Meet Confirmation Student Blakely West

Blakely is the daughter of Stephanie and Thad West. She has three siblings: Brooklyn, Bayla, and Beckham. She is an eighth-grade student at Capital Day School, where her favorite subject is Spanish and she participates in Golf and Yearbook and is a KUNA Sponsor and Student Council President.

Brooklyn's favorite pastimes are being at the lake with family and spending time with friends. Her favorite color is pink, and her favorite food is chicken tenders. Brooklyn's favorite song is "Willow," and her favorite movie is "The Princess Diaries."

Brooklyn's favorite thing about FUMC is the people. She describes God as loving, and she feels closest to God in church.



The Kings Center Update

Every weekday, a yellow school bus pulls up to the Kings Center on the corner of 3rd and Logan Streets, and 20-30 children come pouring out! Most are hungry for a snack and a hug from our director, Deneen Petty. Our after-school program provides a safe place, a healthy snack, homework help, and many enrichment activities. Monthly cards and birthday bags from secret angels encourage our children and help them to feel special.

We have recently hired two part-time people that will help to expand our programming, assist with facility management, and start a database to help meet the individual needs and interests of the children we serve. Here are some comments from our kids when they were interviewed:

1st grader: *I have the brain of an elephant—I remember things really fast!*

5th grader: *I can speak outside my comfort zone.*

1st grader: *I can teach others to make a paper airplane that will really fly!*

5th grader: *If I had a camera, I would take pictures of people from different cultures doing things together; I like to see people getting along.*

Things they'd like to do this summer: *camping, swimming, horseback riding, cooking, fishing, flying a drone, singing, painting, arts & crafts, gymnastics.* We are presently looking for volunteers who may want to help with any of these experiences. We would like to create some family-oriented activities like *Bowling Night or Canoeing on the Elkhorn Creek.*

This summer will include weekly trips to the Grand Theatre to enjoy various arts & music programs, weekly trips to the library for our **Book Buddy** program, weekly trips to the KSU/4H program and other fieldtrips to JSP, Farmer's Market, VFW and historical tours of Frankfort. We will celebrate the beginning of summer programming on Friday, June 6, at a Block Party. This will be in connection with **FRESH START**. There will be music by a DJ, games, food, art activities from 5-8 pm.

The Kings Center is free of charge for all children in Frankfort and Franklin County. We thank FUMC for your ongoing support that provides a safe and nurturing environment for our children.

(GAP) Challenges Ahead for those “Living Rough”

Last month, the GAP ministry (God Answers Prayers Through Compassionate People) saw a slight downturn in the number of individuals who sought assistance from our church. However, there's a lot of community consternation over funding issues for the Simon House and the Access Soup Kitchen and Men's Shelter. Both of these critical services are at risk due to loss of funding. Both are still operating this month, but their continued operations are in jeopardy.

Combined with the legislative initiative to criminalize “sleeping rough” and construction anticipated this summer in areas that currently have illegal homeless camps, our GAP ministry is deeply concerned. We continue to offer hope to the homeless through Kroger cards, brown paper bags loaded with a day's worth of food and essential supplies from our Supply Closet. We stand ready to help those who obtain housing with housewares from our Welcome Home room.

The GAP ministry is deeply grateful for the outpouring of kindness and the many donations that our congregation brings to church each week. *Thanks* cannot begin to express the gratitude of those who are struggling today, and need the reassurance and prayers offered by staff directly and by those prayers offered up daily by our church.

Current Needs:

Kroger Cards in \$20 denominations

Small Tent that would sleep 2 comfortably (some pup tents are too small except for children)

Brown Paper Bags: pop tarts, cheese or peanut butter crackers (nabs), chips

Essential Supplies: shampoo, deodorant, small baby powder, small flashlights, toothpaste, feminine pads, shaving cream, sunscreen, small bottles of OTC pain medicine, allergy or cold medicine, antifungal powder/cream, dog food (one of our most requested supplies; we repackage into gallon bags)

Always Welcome: backpacks, duffle bags, reusable water bottles, towels and sheets (clean used linens are fine!). Books of faith or uplifting reading materials are also eagerly sought.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

211 Washington Street

Frankfort, KY 40601

502-227-7430

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!

Bring your supper and a drink.

Donations accepted for Children's Ministry.



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 (5:00-8:30) - Beginning with Pizza Party

June 8 (9:30-2:00) - includes lunch and snack

June 9 (10:00 -12:00) - during Sunday School and
11 o'clock worship includes snack

Ages 4 through rising 5th Grade

Youth and Adult Helpers Invited!

Please register by June 1 to help with preparations.