



August 22, 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/fumc.frankfort

CAPITAL CITY METHODIST

Stepping Into the Future: A prayer centered time to listen

I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.

(John 15: 5)



We are entering a significant time in the life of FUMC. As we move into the future, we face a worldview that is increasingly secular, disillusioned and distrustful of organized religion. We know that our numbers have decreased post COVID and after the split in the UMC. This could be a time to throw up our hands and retreat in despair. Many congregations are doing just that.

But instead, we have chosen, as we have so many times in the past, to trust in God’s guidance and vision to guide and lead us into the future with hope and faith as we discover ways to serve, worship and be in the world sharing the light of God’s love with those who need it. We strive to create a sustainable ministry for now and for years to come.

Stepping forward and becoming the church God envisions us to be *in this place* and *at this particular time* will take courage, faith, listening, discerning God’s will and then formulating a plan of action that is grounded in God’s vision and direction.

Please join us for three gatherings where we will pray and listen to one another and to God using a method called *Appreciative Inquiry*. This will be an important time as we *Step into the Future* grounding each choice and decision we make in the wisdom of God.

It will be challenging, exciting work and ALL of you are welcome and encouraged to come.

We welcome you on Sunday or Wednesday evenings (choose one or the other session each week) and childcare will be available.

Time and Place: 6:00 pm, Asbury Hall of the Wesley Center

Dates:

- Sunday Evenings: Aug. 25, Sept. 8 and Sept. 15
- Wednesday Evenings: Aug. 28, Sept. 11, and Sept. 18

Questions: Please reach out to Rev. Tom Corum or Rev. Dr. Leanne Hadley.

As we prepare for these meetings together, may our prayer be: *God, help us to open our hearts, minds and souls to your vision. For we trust you, and only you, to guide our path into the future. In the name of Christ, Amen.*

For an introductory video, scan the QR code here:



Welcome Our Sunday School Teaching Team



We are so excited about this new school year and I could not be more impressed with our 2024- 2025 Sunday School Teaching Team! We will be introducing more experiential based lessons this year, so please let Rev. Dr. Leanne Hadley 719-930-3598 know if you have any questions or suggestions!

Sunday School Coordinator: Steph Sorell

Steph is currently attending seminary and will serve in this role as part of her internship! She brings a ton of experience and joy with her!

Nursery Staff: Nicole Young and Patti Blythe

Primary Ages: Holly Brunson and Jill Burton

Older Elementary: April Trent

Youth: Donna Jackson and Tori Brown

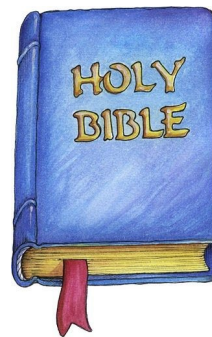


Pix from First Spark Pop-Up Zoo

Do You Have Toys You Want or Need to Get Rid of?

We are adding some creative times into our Sunday School hour. We need “open ended” building toys that kids and youth can create with such as Legos, Magnetic Tiles, art supplies, etc. **No need to buy these ... just look around your house and see what your kids left when they moved out, that they no longer use, or have outgrown.** Please call or text Leanne Hadley if you have any questions. 719-930-3598.

Third Grade Bible Presentations and Lunch with our Pastors



On Sunday, August 25, at both worship services, we are honored to present each of our third graders with a Bible of their own! It is an important milestone in a child's life.

Pastors Tom and Leanne would like to have lunch and a time of “getting to know your Bible” from 12:15 pm - 1:30 pm. Please RSVP to Leanne asap at 719-930-3598.

United Women In Faith Sponsor GAP Picnic



FUMC's United Women in Faith is sponsoring our second annual GAP picnic on August 27 at 6 PM at Cove Spring Park. All women of the church are invited. There will be a pot luck meal with fried chicken and drinks provided. Marcey Broderson will present an update on the GAP ministry. All attendees are asked to bring \$20 Kroger gift cards for the GAP team to distribute.

First Spark (Youth Ministry) Happenings!

We will meet Sunday evenings at the Lighthouse. Please check out the Youth Facebook page and watch your email for updated information.

- Sunday, August 25, September 8 and 15: Dinner at 5 pm and we will participate in the Stepping Into the Future Gatherings at 6 pm! We need our Youth voices as we move forward!
- Sunday September 1: No meeting. Happy Labor Day weekend!

Anna's Friends (A group for anyone who has lost a spouse)

UPCOMING lunch: Saturday, Sept. 21st, at Eckert's Orchard and lunch in Versailles.

If you have lost a spouse or significant other and would enjoy the company of those who have traveled the same road, please join us for food, laughter and support! Please let us know if you would like to be added to our email list. Please contact Leanne Hadley (719-930-3598) or Judie Blake (502-330-8151) if you want to join us or have any questions.

Bible Study with Rev. Dr. Leanne Hadley Begins September!

Dates: Thursday Mornings (Sept. 12 – Nov. 24)

Time: 10:00 – 11:30am

Place: Todd House Parlor

We will be using the book, *Reckless Love: Jesus' Call to Love Our Neighbor*, by Tom Berlin. Copies of the book will be available at the first session. For more information about the book, watch this short video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cncMzwPlqaA>



HOMECOMING SUNDAY
A Time to Celebrate FUMC
With Our Church Family and Friends!

Sunday, Sept. 29
(Fifth Sunday of September)

One service at 10:00am in the sanctuary
Come worship, sing and enjoy our service!
We will have a special Little Church Time
with all children during the service.

Outdoor Street Celebration! 11:30am - 1:00pm
Live music, food hot off the grill, games for all ages
Social media photo spot
BEST Dessert Contest
Church family and Friends Group Picture
And FUN!

Plan to come and please invite new friends
and any church friends you haven't seen in a while!

Financial Report

July Financial Numbers

Tithes and offerings:	\$92,606.56
Expenses:	\$68,474.19

January-July Numbers

Tithes and offerings:	\$397,166.57
Expenses:	\$490,937.56
Amount needed for budget thru July	\$529,743.05
Mortgage Balance as of 7/31/24:	\$1,077,787.34

Volunteers Needed

Every week our offerings are counted by a team of two volunteers. They are usually counted on Monday mornings. We are looking for a counter to help on the 4th Monday of the month. It takes less than two hours, and you only have to count one time a month! Training is provided! If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Jana Sturm at janadsturm@gmail.com or at 502-227-0400.

Thailand Now Update—August 2024

Amid back to school preparation and our budgetary concerns, both of which involve some stress, it can be uplifting to learn about the BLESSINGS that occur through the Thailand Now programs which have been supported by FUMC members for many years.

Mike and Sherri Morrissey, the missionaries who direct the Christ-centered work of Thailand Now, spoke at our church last summer. Their blog, available at Thailandnow.org, reveals very specific outreach of all three aspects of their ministry:

- PIONEER PASTOR PROGRAM—planting churches in unreached counties in Thailand.
- BLESSING HOME CENTERS—saving and protecting vulnerable children from being trafficked in the sex and drug trade.
- ABUNDANT LIFE FINANCIAL TRAINING PROGRAM—helping Thai Christians manage family and business finances through applying Biblical principles.

The most recent blog posting on July 26, 2024, features many heart-warming stories, including pictures, from those who have been blessed by the work God has authored through the Morrisseys. If you need a joy-filled moment, check it out. If you want to contribute in any amount, that can be done by mailing a check to Thailand Now, P.O. Box 56, Mannsville, KY 42758 or through online giving at <http://thailandnow.org/donate-2/>.

Nominations and Leadership News



The Nominations and Leadership committee of our church is tasked with helping members discern their gifts that they can use in service to God. Every fall we begin our work to support our church's ministries by pairing members' gifts and talents to our committees. We are

starting our work now and ask each of you to pray about what area God is calling you to serve....such as Trustees, Finance, Staff/Parish, Outreach or Worship! Please feel free to get with any member of our Committee who will be glad to talk with you further! Members include Tom Corum, Leanne Hadley, Jill Burton, Travis Trent, John Gilbert, Jane Orr, Shelley Mauer, Susan Coblin, Stephanie Stafford, Bobbye Brown and Holly Brunson. Exciting things are happening, and our church truly needs your service to *'step into the future'*!

September Birthdays

1	Mary Doris Steve Pewitt	15	Finn Lowe Katie Smith Jaida Snow Eric Wayman	24	Carrie Bass Joseph Gaddis Caroline Powell Evan Ramey Bethany Smith
2	Sheila Burnett	3	Paul Kenner	16	Betty Connor Zach Criswell Janice Osborne
4	Libbie Drake John Norfleet	5	Yvonne Bailey	17	David Abney Houston Hancock
7	Grace Higgs Boyd Phillip Shepherd	7	Grace Higgs Boyd Phillip Shepherd	17	David Abney Houston Hancock
8	Emily Clouse Malicote Phyllis Hail Randy Tillett	19	Bryce Burton	27	Christina Huntington Whitney Lawson
9	Shirley Norfleet	20	Jordan Criswell Stephanie West	28	Rita West Renee Thomas
10	Vivien Kurtz Ramona Ramey	22	Nancy Atcher Matthew Clements Jack Gilbert Sam Gilbert Michael Lewis	29	Tom Barbour Susan Buffin Samantha Criswell Bill Salyers Jenny Salyers Josh Toppass James Harry Wilson
13	Scotty Tracy	23	Tracey Doyle		
14	Melody Stephenson D.J. Wasson				



CELEBRATIONS AND GREAT CHALLENGES

The GAP Team continues to be amazed and appreciative of the great generosity of our FUMC congregation per funds donated, Kroger cards given, personal supplies shared, prayers prayed, etc. Your support has allowed us this year to assist with Kroger cards totaling \$16,340. This assistance has helped close to 100 unhoused people.

Now, to be honest, the challenges are increasing. The numbers of unhoused persons seeking our help is dramatically rising. We are not hurting for funds for Kroger cards yet, but we have had to reduce the number of persons referred to us and implement a plan which limits the frequency with which persons can seek our help. In other words, given these particular challenges, we do continue to need FUMC people to help us...with \$20 Kroger cards, with personal needs per the list Abbie prepares, and with prayers for the ministry.

The unhoused themselves face greater challenges as well. The new Kentucky Safe Act is already causing disruptions for many of our homeless as they find it harder to secure a sleeping or abiding spot. It seems this legislation ends up penalizing the homeless for circumstances so often out of their control. Even if they can afford some level of housing, Frankfort and Franklin County does not offer the wide possibilities one might think.

Your GAP team takes very seriously the joy of sharing Jesus' love with our unhoused friends, as do you. We are deeply grateful that the Church Council voted to continue providing the GAP ministry with outreach funds despite the financial distress our church is currently facing. We all desire to do everything we can to provide prayer, encouragement and some level of assistance. Thus, whatever our level of Kroger card assistance, we are here with loving hearts, food bags, personal items in our store, etc. We all will do all we can with the resources God provides!!

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

211 Washington Street

Frankfort, KY 40601

502-227-7430

www.fumcfrankfort.org

Rev. Tom Corum

- Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Leanne Hadley

- Associate Pastor

Dr. Beth Wilson

- Director of Music and Worship

Chris Powell

- Director of Contemporary Worship

Roy Nance

- Organist

Jessica Tillett

- Administrative Assistant

Diana Gregory

- Newsletter Editor

Church Directory

We have begun gathering the photos and information for a new church directory. The information in the church database has not been updated in several years, so now is the time.

We are committed to keeping everything super simple. There will be no big portrait company, long wait times for pictures or cumbersome surveys to complete. Updating our records and producing a new directory will be straightforward.

When you come to church on one of the listed Sundays, you can review and update your information, and we will have someone take an individual or family snapshot. If we don't have your information, we will have blank information cards you can fill out. As I said, we are going to keep it super simple.

When we are done, we will produce a PDF copy of the directory to email to everyone participating. We have no intention of posting the information online. If people want to purchase a printed copy of the directory, we will see if we can get a volume discount from a local printer.

So, pick your Sunday if you want to dress up, or stop by when you can on one of the Sundays listed. We will be set up upstairs before GNN at 8:30 and downstairs in Gallery Hall before the 11 o'clock service at 10:30.

If you are homebound and want to be included in the directory, contact Jessica in the church office (502-227-7430 or (info@fumcfrankfort.org), and we will see what we can do. We want everyone to be included.

If you would like to submit your own photo – you can send it to John Heltzel at jwsh57@gmail.com, Subject: Church Directory Photo. You will still need to update your information for the database, and we can work that out.

We will also visit each Sunday School class to take group photos sometime in September. Once we select a date, we will announce it.

We are planning to have everything concluded by the end of September. We plan on collecting photos on the following Sundays:

- 25 August
- 8 September
- 15 September
- 22 September
- 29 September

