

Worship OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, February 24

Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Children's Sunday

8:30 & 11 a.m. – Nave

The Children of CSUMC

"Celebrating the Church"

2 Timothy 3:14–17

Noonday Worship

includes Holy Communion open to all

Wednesday, February 27

12 p.m. – Chapel

Rev. Dawn Chesser

Wednesday Fellowship Lunch is

served in room 118 following the service.
Lunch is \$8 and includes salad and dessert.

For lunch reservations, call 524-3048 or
email reservations@churchstreetumc.org.

Children's Sunday is February 24

Church Street's children will lead us in worship on Sunday, February 24 during both services. The "message" will be shared in a creative way by the children and they will serve as readers, ushers, greeters and more. The children's choirs will sing at both services. You are invited to be a part of this meaningful worship experience led by some of the youngest at Church Street.

Coming Soon: Lenten Countdown

Jesus taught us that "It is more blessed to give than receive."

As a mother, I believe one of the most important things my husband and I can teach our daughters is how to give joyfully. It is a practice that is developed, beginning with those first lessons of sharing when children are toddlers. As children grow, there are opportunities to talk about how they can give and be a blessing to others. Lessons on giving help to develop empathy and compassion.

They help us to step outside our own experiences and consider what others are going through. They help children see ways in which they can make an impact on the world through actions both big and small.

As you enter the season of Lent, I hope you will consider developing the habit of giving as part of your family's weekly practice. This year, the missions committee will have a "Lenten Countdown" drive for Beacon of Hope and Sharing Shop. Each week, families will select items from a list and add them to their boxes. On Palm Sunday (April 14) the congregation will pray over the completed boxes. We hope this practice will be an opportunity to give with intentionality. Be specific with your thoughts and prayers as you add items to the collection box and think of the people who may receive the gifts.

Notice that I call giving a "practice." Just like any habit, the more we practice giving the easier it becomes. After Lent is over and your Easter eggs have all been eaten, continue to find ways to give. Jesus taught us to give not only to help others but also because of what it does for us. During Lent and beyond, I hope you will allow yourself to feel the joy that giving brings! —GABE BLAKE



General Conference Special Session: Feb. 23–26



The purpose will be to receive and act on a report from the **Commission on a Way Forward** based on the recommendations of the Council of Bishops. For details and a link to the report, visit www.umc.org



How to contact Holston Conference Delegates

If you wish to write to the delegates of the Holston Conference you may send an email message to:

delegation@holston.org

Messages are forwarded to each member of the Holston Conference delegation.

"General Conference is the top policy-making body of The United Methodist Church, typically meeting every four years. At the request of General Conference 2016, the Council of Bishops set a plan for addressing the overwhelming number of proposals related to same-sex marriage, the ordination of gay clergy, and related topics. The bishops subsequently created the *Commission on a Way Forward* and set a Special Session of General Conference in 2019."

(from the Holston Conference website, <https://holston.org/umc/general-conference/>)

- Information can be found at Holston.org/GC2019 (full reports, videos, resources)
- **Live video stream** of General Conference:
<http://www.umc.org/who-we-are/general-conference-2019-live-video-stream-english>
- **Please be in prayer** every day of General Conference, especially on **Saturday, Feb. 23**, the first day of General Conference, which is being devoted to prayer by our district.
- Church Street will offer a report on **Sunday, March 3 at 9:40 a.m. in the Nave.**
- The TN Valley District will offer a report at **Powell UMC on Sunday, March 3 at 3 p.m.** The delegation will send a video message, plus one delegate will be present.

SINGLES EVENTS

Fourth Friday Game Night

Friday, February 22 at 6:30 p.m.

Join us in CLC 124 for an evening of fun and relaxation. Bring a snack to share and a drink for yourself (ice, cups and tableware provided). Host is John Waddell: [865-405-8538](tel:865-405-8538), j7waddell@aol.com.

Singles Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 26 at 7:30 p.m.

at Shoney's on Western Avenue.

Friday Fun Night and Dance

Friday, March 1 at 8 p.m.

The Singles Ministry will host its monthly dance on **Friday, March 1 from 8–10:30 p.m.** in the gym. Music will be played that is suitable for line dancing, swing, ballroom, country couples, and freestyle dance. Doors open at 7 p.m. for a line dance or couples dance lesson, starting at 7:15 p.m. Your \$8 admission (\$5.00 for students) includes the dance, lesson, soft drinks, snacks, birthday cake, and door prizes.

Everyone is welcome! For more information, contact Barb at barbarastinnett@charter.net.

Last Chance for Disciple Fast Track Letters of Paul

The Disciple study on the Letters of Paul has begun. This is your last opportunity to join the group. We meet on **Sunday afternoons at 4 p.m.** for about 2 hours including a snack supper. The study book for the in-depth class is \$15. Participants are expected to read scripture daily as well as the study book. If you are interested in taking this class, please contact Rev. Rick Isbell at risbell@churchstreetumc.org.

2019 College Scholarship Applications

Scholarship applications are available now on the CSUMC youth website at: <https://churchstreetyouth.wordpress.com/forms/>. Completed applications along with two references are required, and are **due March 24** to Jenny Cross's mailbox in the main church office. Announcement of recipients will be early May. If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Cross at [865-521-0287](tel:865-521-0287) or at jcross@churchstreetumc.org.



CPR & AED Training Monday, Feb. 25, 6–9 p.m.

Church Street will host a CPR-AED Training Session on **Monday, February 25 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in CLC 120** for all those who signed up. The session costs \$35 per person (payable night of the class; cash and checks) and will certify participants in CPR and AED training for two years. For questions, contact John Hollingsworth at [865-806-4477](tel:865-806-4477).

IMPORTANT NOTICE:
If your cell phone, home phone, address, or email has changed, please notify the church office
865-524-3048

Calendar: Sunday, Feb. 24 – Saturday, March 2

Worship

Worship
Sunday, 8:30 am, Nave
Sunday, 11 am, Nave
Rejoice! TV Broadcast
Sunday, 8:30 am, WVLT-TV
Noonday Service with Communion
Wednesday, 12 pm, Chapel
(Lunch follows in room 118)

Sunday School–9:40 AM

Music

Youth Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, 4 pm, rm 306
Primary Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, 5:15 pm, rm 308
Chorister Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, 5:15 pm, rm 306
Adult Handbell Rehearsal
Sunday, 6:15 pm, rm 303
Parish Adult Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, 7 pm, rm 306

Meetings & Ministry

Stephen Ministry Training Group
Sunday, 1:30 pm, rm 201A
Benevolence Team
Monday, 12 pm, CLC 124
Sharing Shop
Monday, 12 pm, Gym
Endowment and Planned Giving
Monday, 5:30 pm, rm 201A
CPR/AED Training
Monday, 6 pm, rm CLC 120
Soup Kitchen
Thurs, 11 am, Parish Hall
Staff-Parish Relations Committee
Thursday, 5:30 pm, rm 201A

Beacon of Hope

Benevolence Team
Tuesday, 12 pm, Vestal UMC
BOH Sharing Shop
Thursday, 9 am, Vestal UMC

Youth

NightLife
Sunday, 5:15 pm, Lower CLC
Wesley House Tutoring
Tuesday, 4:15 pm, Wesley House
Youth Band
Wednesday, 6:45 pm, CLC 11
High School Prayer Breakfast
Thurs, 7:15 am, Chik-fil-A (W. Hills)

UMW

Lydia Circle
Friday, 12 pm, Chiles Rm

Spiritual Growth

Letters of Paul Study
Sunday, 4 pm, Chiles Rm
Dr. Wender's Bible Study
Sunday, 4 pm, rm 204
Men of God
Tuesday, 10 am, rm 202
Women's Bible Study
Wednesday, 9:30 am, rm 201A
Meditation & Prayer Group
Wednesday, 10:30 am, rm 211

Singles

Bridge Group
Monday, 6 pm, rm 201 C
Yoga Class
Monday, 7 pm, rm 204
Singles Council Meeting
Tuesday, 7:30 pm, Shoney's
Line Dance Lesson
Thursday, 6:30 pm, Gym
Friday Night Fun Dance
Friday, 8 pm, Gym

Leisure Activities & Fellowship

Open Gym
Sunday, 4 pm, Gym
Wednesday Lunch
Wed, 12:30 pm, room 118
Please RSVP to 524-3048

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR CHURCH STREET?

Newsletter Deadline:
Please submit written articles that you wish to be published in the Feb. 26 edition of *The Messenger* by **Sunday, Feb. 24 at midnight** to: julie@churchstreetumc.org

What Matters Most, A Study of Philippians by Karen Ehman

The world has always been full of trials, disappointments, temptations, fractured friendships, and financial hardships. Yet Paul's letter to the Philippians shows we can discover contentment and joy in the midst of it all by prioritizing what matters most—Christ.

Join us for this 7-week workbook and DVD study as you discover how to: **Banish anxiety and worry** by implementing biblical practices, allowing you to rest in the peace of Christ. **Reset** your negative patterns of thinking and **renew** your mind, adopting the attitude of Jesus. **Experience lasting joy** despite difficult circumstances. **Transform your life** by discovering your priorities and learning how to live them out.

This class will begin on **Wednesday, February 27**. We meet in room 201A from 9:30–11:30 a.m. The cost of the workbook is \$13 and will be handed out the first day of class. Childcare is available but must be requested prior to class starting. Please contact Juanita Cowles at **865-712-3262** or by email at **Juanita.cowles@att.net** to sign up or for more information.

Come Discover Church Street UMC

The next Discover Church Street class for all prospective members will be held **Sunday afternoon, March 3 (exact time to be announced) in the Chiles Room**, located off the Parish Hall.

This is a great time to get to know more about the ministries of Church Street, The United Methodist Church and the process for joining this church. The class is led by Dr. Chuck Starks, Senior Pastor. You will be given informational materials, a building tour and supper. You will also have opportunity to ask questions.

Please contact the **Rev. Rick Isbell**, Minister of Discipleship, risbell@churchstreetumc.org or **521-0266** for more information or to let him know you plan to attend.

Sunday School Teachers Needed

Come and help with **1 lesson** for a **5-week rotation** with the 1st through 5th grade classes. Contact Katryn Bancroft at kbancroft@churchstreetumc.org if you would like to help or want to find out more about serving in our children's ministry program.

CONVERSATIONS ON RACE Upcoming Events

Book Discussion

Sunday, March 3, 5–6:30 p.m.

It's time to start reading *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide* by Carol Anderson. This academically challenging and spiritually and emotionally harrowing book is well worth your time. We will meet in room 201C on March 3, to discuss this book after covenanting together for respectful and authentic conversation. Celia Ferguson and Rev. Leah Burns will facilitate the discussion.

Meet the Author

Sunday, March 10, 5–7:00 p.m.

Speaker Rev. Rob Lee, descendant of Gen. Robert E. Lee and author of *A Sin by Any Other Name: A Reckoning with the South's Past and Future*, will be at Church Street on Sunday, March 10. Join us in the Parish Hall at 5:00 p.m. for a presentation by Rev. Lee and an introduction to his new book, which will be available from booksellers in early April.



Souper Bowl Champions!

Thanks to all who tackled hunger by donating to the Souper Bowl of Caring.

The BOH Food Co-op was thrilled to receive **over 700 items of food**, plus additional donations and grocery gift cards.

Your gifts make a big difference to those struggling with food issues in the Vestal neighborhood.

Pictured at left: Over 700 canned food items were collected during this year's Souper Bowl of Caring!

Pictured at right: Condiments (mustard, ketchup, etc.) collected by the Confirmation Class. These were an awesome addition to our Souper Bowl of Caring.



A Call to Prayer and Self Denial Service

On **Tuesday, March 12 at 11:00 a.m.** in the Chapel, United Methodist Women invites all who wish to participate with us in this special service.

Our guest speaker will be **Caryl Griffin Russell, MSN MDiv**, who is an ordained elder of the Holston Conference. The message she will share is entitled:

“The Healing Power of a Woman’s Touch: Love in Times of Turmoil.”

Caryl served at First Broad Street UMC in Kingsport and as the Director of the Wesley Leadership Institute, which provides continuing education for pastors and lay leaders in the Holston Conference. Caryl lost her daughter Beth in a laboratory accidental exposure to a monkey virus while Caryl was in seminary. Her daughter’s preventable death led Caryl to working with people facing crises and end-of-life situations, finding hope and life in that journey because of her experience of God through the faith community during this dark hour in her life. She and her late husband, William C. Griffin, MD, established the Elizabeth R. Griffin Foundation and Caryl serves in the extension ministry of the Foundation, which reaches around the world. The foundation works with global leaders, the Gates Foundation, universities, the United Nations, and corporations addressing some of the world’s most imminent threats to health security and seeking the development of effective, practical, and sustainable solutions to meet international standards of practice.



The offering collected during our service will support programming and advocacy for children by the United Methodist Women worldwide.

A luncheon will follow the service. Please [contact the church office \(524-3048\)](mailto:aralston1025@tds.net) for lunch reservations by Friday, March 8. If childcare is needed, please contact Elaine Ralston, aralston1025@tds.net or 803-1637 by March 5.

Confirmation Class Retreat at Junaluska

On Feb. 9 and 10, fifty Confirmation students and their parents participated in a fun weekend of learning, fellowship and worship at Lake Junaluska, NC. The overall theme for the weekend was **“Ways We Experience God.”** Through small group activities, students and parents explored the Trinity, hearing and doing God’s word and responding to God’s love. The weekend culminated in a worship service led by Rev. Dawn Chesser where students and parents served each other Holy Communion.

The entire group of students and parents also went to the World Methodist Museum, learned about the history of Lake Junaluska and had fun playing a rousing game of “Ships & Sailors” on Saturday night. The group *really* had fun being together at this special place and getting to know one another better. See what some of the participants said about the retreat below.

I enjoyed coming to this retreat! It was a blast! I thought my small group was so fun! I loved getting to know my group members more.
— LILLYANN FREEMAN

Confirmation Retreat was a special time for our family to pause and think on how we can grow in Christ and help use our gifts to serve our family, church, and community. We are grateful for this time to slow down and focus on our family and our relationship with Christ.
—KRISTEN & PETE PEARSON

This trip was so much fun! I bonded so much with all my friends and family. I honestly feel closer to God!
— ANNA CLAIRE ELLIS

Fellowship the ability to combine families throughout the church to commune in the pursuit to growth in their understanding of God’s love and how each person can witness this love to others.
—JAMES CARROLL

This weekend has been wonderful. I got to know my friends and dad better. The activities were wonderful and fun as well. Thank you!!!
— GARRETT CARROLL

CLERGY CORNER

Together, Let's Think About ... The Greatest Thing

To consider **The Greatest Thing** we must first decide where is our starting point? If we begin from our own perspective then we shall likely reach a different conclusion than if we begin with our neighbor's (relative, co-worker, acquaintance or client) perspective.

The Greatest Thing could be something tangible like a job, house, getting rid of debt, improving our health or growing an investment. On the other hand, it could be something intangible like love, acceptance, relationship, forgiveness or peace.

Whatever we believe to be **The Greatest Thing** will bring our living into focus. All aspects of our life will be viewed by what we have decided to be **The Greatest Thing**. That decision will give our life direction. We will walk a different path than others who haven't yet made this all-important decision. Nothing else will shape our lives like this one decision.

This week our denomination's delegates will convene in St. Louis for a Called Session of General Conference. Important issues will be brought to the table, debated, considered and decided. Untold hours of time and energy have gone into this process. The question is this, of all the results that could take place, what will be **The Greatest Thing** that could happen?

It seems to me that the life of Jesus speaks to **The Greatest Thing**. He was consistently looking for the glory of God. In the Wilderness of Temptation, feeding the multitudes, through many healings or His own death and resurrection Jesus was always acknowledging the glory of God. I believe that is **The Greatest Thing**.

During General Conference will we be looking for the glory of God? Or, will we be looking for "sides" and who is "lining up where"? Will we be looking for "agendas"? Or, will we praying for God to make God's Self known and reveal God's glory? When all is said and done, I believe that is **The Greatest Thing**. Let's walk with Jesus today.

—REV. CHUCK STARKS

It's Time!

"For everything there is a season, a time for every matter under heaven."

In the past couple of years since Sue retired from her position on staff, people have casually asked me when I was thinking about retirement. One kind and generous gentleman in the congregation made it his habit to ask me occasionally if Church Street is the place from which I would retire in the future. Well, I can answer both of these questions in two words, "it's time."

After much thought, prayer and conversation with my family and after 43 and a half years in ministry, I have decided to retire from my position and full time ministry at Church Street as of July 1, 2019. Instead of trying to tell everyone with whom I have been in ministry at Church Street these past 27 years, this is the best way to tell everyone at the same time. What this means is that I will take official retirement status at the upcoming Holston Annual Conference, June 9-12 at Lake Junaluska and take whatever vacation time I have between then and July 1. It is my intent for my last Sunday to be June 16.

It has been my honor and privilege to serve on this church staff since August 1992. For the past 27 years, I have sought to be faithful to my calling into ministry and to serve this congregation in making disciples of Jesus Christ. I have had numerous responsibilities that changed and evolved over the years. I have served with seven senior pastors, worked along side countless other staff persons and attended too many meetings to even fathom. I had the opportunity to serve with my wife on the staff while she was Director of Children's Ministries. Our time together on staff was an unbelievable experience that we never thought would happen in our ministry. The members of this congregation have helped me grow in my ministry and together we have accomplished things that I never thought possible. Sue and I have raised our children and grandchildren in this congregation.

Please do not read anything into this decision. This decision does not have anything to do with the future of The United Methodist Church nor does it have anything to do with Church Street UMC. It is just my time to retire and I have peace with this decision. After some time away, I will continue to participate in the ministries of Church Street as appropriate and will continue to worship with my family here. I will place my Charge Conference relationship at Church Street.

I want to thank the SPRC Committee, the church staff and the entire congregation for their support over these past many years. It has been a most remarkable and very rewarding journey in Christ's ministry.

—REV. RICK ISBELL, MINISTER OF DISCIPLESHIP



Rick is shown here in his natural environment: **teaching**. From simple messages presented during the Moments with God's Children on Sunday mornings to in-depth Bible studies delivered to seasoned adults, Rick Isbell is known and appreciated for his knowledge, wisdom, humility, preparation, skill and humor. Thank you Rick! You will be missed, but we look forward to sharing this new journey with you, Sue and your family.

Our Prayers

In the hospital

UT: Lena Harrison

Christian love and sympathy to:

The family and friends of Dr. Lynne Taylor who died on February 14.

Doris Lively, Keith and Kevin Bailey, and the family on the death of Alvis (Junior) Lively, who died on February 14.

J. Bryan and Ann Davis on the death of Bryan's sister Nora Lee Knight, who died February 17 in Arkansas.

Our Presence: February 17

Sunday School 322
Sunday Worship 587

Our Gifts: February 10

Received toward Budget \$ 39,063.77
Building for Christ Campaign \$ 26,515.00
Other \$ 842.00

Golf Cart Driver Needed on Sundays

We need a volunteer to help on Sunday mornings driving the golf cart for the 10 a.m.–12 p.m. shift. To help or for more details, contact Daniel Burtch at daniel.burtch79@gmail.com. Drivers must be 25 years or older.

The Sharing Shops

Thank you for continuing to share with our neighbors. Currently, we need:

- shampoo
- deodorant
- laundry detergent
- dishwashing liquid

We are NOT accepting clothing at this time.

Thank you for your generosity!

LECTIONARY READINGS

February 24

Genesis 45:3–11, 15
Psalm 37:1–11, 39–40
1 Corinthians 15:35–38, 42–50
Luke 6:27–38

March 3

Exodus 34:29–35
Psalm 99
2 Corinthians 3:12–4:12
Luke 9:28–36 (37–43)

Our Church Family

Baptisms

Iris Rebecca Blake, daughter of Aaron and Gabrielle Blake, was baptized on Sunday, February 17, at the 8:30 a.m. service.

Caroline Ellis-Marie Hughes, daughter of Ryan and Sara Hughes, was baptized on Sunday, February 17, at the 11 a.m. service.

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Lynne Taylor

Joined: 4/7/2002 Died: 2/14/2019

Honorariums

In honor of:

- **Rev. Chuck Starks**
Soup Kitchen: Lena & Bob Harrison
- **Shirley Kanipes**
Singles Ministry: Anonymous

Memorials

In memory of:

- **Jim Lees**
Building Fund: Ann Warwick
Larry & Loretta Best
Barry & Nancy Christmas
Memorial: Harvey & Marilyn Liberman

Altar Flowers

Sunday, February 24

The Chancel altar flowers are given in memory of Jama McDonald Hollingsworth by John, Cindy and Sarah Grace Hollingsworth.

Meditation Group Forming

Both clergy and health professionals continue to outline the benefits of adding the practice of personal meditation to our lives. Stress reduction and inner calm are prime motivators for many adherents, but studies also indicate benefits such as lowered blood pressure, improved sleep, a heightened immunity to colds, and an overall sense of well-being. If you are interested in becoming part of this church group, or if you have questions, call or email Gene Flinter at **865-579-3304** (home), **865-743-7363** (mobile), gnsflint@charter.net.

Contact Us

Church Office (865) 524-3048

Hours: Mon.– Fri., 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Fax number (865) 521-0288

Pastor On-Call Number (865) 320-9100

For emergencies, call the On-Call Number and the pastor on call will answer or you may leave a message and the pastor will return your call.

www.churchstreetumc.org

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Instagram: [churchstreetumc](https://www.instagram.com/churchstreetumc)

Staff Directory

Dial 521-0 + extension

Senior Pastor Chuck Starks–260
Senior Associate Pastor Dawn Chesser–279
Associate Pastor Palmer Cantler–298
Minister of Spiritual Enrichment Jan Wade–264
Minister of Discipleship Rick Isbell–266
Visitation Pastors
Rev. Larry Best: 865-705-2993
Rev. Andy Ferguson: 865-236-0951
Director of Music Ministries Tim Ward–276
Music Associate/Organist Edie Johnson–277
Children's Ministry Katelyn Bancroft–282
Child Care Coordinator Sarah Burtch: 865-567-0913
Youth/College Ministries Jenny Cross–287
Preschool Director Beth Libby: 524-3511
Church Administrator Kate Spencer–268
Bookkeeper Francine Jenne–267
Administrative Assistant Kelly Woods–262
Ministers' Secretary Emerita Loretta Best–280
Executive Secretary Doris Lively–271
Receptionist Brenda Flenniken–270
Part-time Secretary Eileen Weber–278
Director of Communications Julie Hill–299
Sterchi Lodge Caretakers
Jack & Barbara Bratton, 828-622-3524
Maintenance Supervisor Keith Bailey–295
Head Custodian Jeffery Rose–274
Custodians: Dedra Ellison, Robin Crain,
Kevin Bailey
Beacon of Hope Dona McConnell: 599-5047



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