

Worship OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, March 17

Second Sunday in Lent

Worship

8:30 & 11 a.m. – Nave

Rev. Chuck Starks

“Believe the Lord”

Genesis 15:1–12; 17–18

Wednesday Lenten Services

Downtown Community Lenten Services begin at 12 noon at a different downtown church each week in Lent.

Lunch is provided following each service.

Donations are appreciated.

Wednesday, March 20

Week 2: Immaculate Conception

Catholic Church

Wednesday, March 27

Week 3: St. John’s Episcopal Cathedral

Wednesday, April 3

Week 4: First Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, April 10

Week 5: First Baptist Church

General Conference Follow-up Sunday, March 24 at 9:40 a.m.

Over 120 responses were received at the General Conference Special Session debriefing that was held at Church Street on Sunday, March 3 between worship services.

Please join us on **Sunday, March 24 in the Nave at 9:40 a.m.** as those questions are addressed. All are invited.

CSUMC MISSIONS PRESENTS:

Missions Dinner and Celebration

MARCH 31 | PARISH HALL | 5-7PM
INFORMATION STATIONS IN WELCOME CENTER

Adults: \$10, Family: \$28

Call (865) 524-3048 to make reservations

The Missions Team will be hosting a dinner and celebration in the Parish Hall on **Sunday, March 31** to highlight all of the wonderful ways that Church Street has been in missions over the last year.

Our Soup Kitchen volunteers will make their infamous meatloaf, and invite you to share in a time of fellowship over dinner. Information Stations will be set up in the Welcome Center to provide opportunities and details about different mission areas, including the Hunger Helper Market and Beacon of Hope. We will have a short program to celebrate the various ways Church Street missions have served our neighbors, both local and distant.

To make a reservation for dinner, please call the church office at (865) 524-3048 or send a message to reservations@churchstreetumc.org; you may pay ahead or at the door. The cost will be \$10 for adults and \$28 for a family of 4. We hope that you will come join us to celebrate missions at Church Street!

Lenten Study with Revs. Jan Buxton Wade & Dawn Chesser

It’s not too late to join the Lenten Study group! Join us **Wednesday nights from 7:00–8:30 p.m.** in the Murphy Builder’s classroom (rm 204) as we study Dr. Amy-Jill Levine’s new book, *Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginner’s Guide to Holy Week*. Join us as we follow Jesus through the risk-taking events of holy week and into lives of deeper discipleship. Books are \$14.65 and available in the church office or from Dawn Chesser (email dchesser@churchstreetumc.org or call **865-524-3048**). If you’d like to join us this Wednesday, please prepare by reading the introduction and chapters one and two!

CLERGY

ORNER

Together, Let's Think About ... distractions

I confess that I am too easily distracted. I can literally have my day or week mapped out and a phone call or a knock on the door will set me upon a very different course. Usually when that happens, it is something of an urgent matter. It may involve making contact and inviting others to join in the conversation. It might also mean additional phone calls, emails and a meeting or two. So, it may be that something important was set aside to deal with something urgent.

Long ago I heard someone say, "the enemy of the important is the urgent." I have found that to be true. Yes, there are things that are legitimately urgent—a flat tire, a burst water pipe, a fall and a resulting broken bone, and the list goes on. However, we do not live in the Emergency Room day after day, thanks be to God.

The Emergency Room is important. But it is also a place where we go and are assessed, perhaps treated and released or triaged to another level of care or to go home. The ER is not a place to have your mail forwarded. The urgent must not be allowed to control your life.

The Apostle Paul gives us a great assurance in Romans 8. He considers all the major events we may face in life that could distract us from the most important. Then, in verse 37 Paul exults with this superseding reality, "in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."

Paul is quite confident that we never conquer through our own strength. We do so only through the strength of the One who has truly overcome. When His strength becomes ours, then amazing things happen.

Paul's point is simply this—don't allow yourself to become distracted with the urgent. Stay focused on the important. The important is always making the decision to walk with Jesus on His path.

Let's decide to walk with Jesus today!

—REV. CHUCK STARKS

Church Council Meeting

The regularly scheduled meeting of CSUMC Church Council will be held on **Tuesday, March 26 at 6 p.m.** in the Chapel. Voting Members of Church Council include the heads of each committee, as well as 10 members at large. However, *everyone* is invited to attend and there is time at the end of the regular agenda for comments from visitors. The regular minutes of the meetings are always available from the church office. We welcome all to participate in the work of the Church and spread the word of Christ.

—SALLY LIGHTER, CHAIR
CSUMC CHURCH COUNCIL

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** or at jcross@churchstreetumc.org.

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR CHURCH STREET?

Calendar: Sunday, March 17 – Saturday, March 23

Worship

Worship
Sunday, 8:30 am, Nave
Sunday, 11 am, Nave
Rejoice! TV Broadcast
Sunday, 8:30 am, WVLT-TV
Downtown Lenten Service
Wednesday, 12 pm, Immaculate
Conception Catholic Church

Sunday School—9:40 AM

Music

Adult Handbell Rehearsal
Sunday, 6:15 pm, rm 303

Beacon of Hope

Benevolence Team
Tuesday, 12 pm, Vestal UMC
BOH Food Co-Op
Thursday, 9:30 am, Vestal UMC

Meetings & Ministry

Stephen Ministry Training Group
Sunday, 1:30 pm, Ft. City UMC
Benevolence Team
Monday, 12 pm, CLC 124
Food for Kids Packing Project
Tuesday, 5:30 pm, rm 118
Finance Committee
Tuesday, 6 pm, rm 204
Missions Team
Wednesday, 6 pm, rm 201A
Soup Kitchen
Thursday, 11 am, Parish Hall
Staff-Parish Relations Committee
Thursday, 5:30 pm, rm 201A



Spiritual Growth

Letters of Paul Study
Sunday, 4 pm, Chiles Room
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
Lenten Bible Study
Wednesday, 7 pm, rm 204

UMW

UMW Book Review
Wednesday, 2 pm, rm 204

Youth

— Spring Break —
Youth activities resume their regular schedule next week
High School Retreat: March 21–23
Middle School Fun Day: TBA

Singles

Bridge Group
Monday, 6 pm, rm 201C
Yoga Class
Monday, 7 pm, rm 204
Line Dance Lessons
Thursday, 6:30 pm, Gym
Singles Game Night
Friday, 6:30 pm, CLC 124

Newsletter Deadline:

Please submit written articles that you wish to be published in the March 19 edition of *The Messenger* by **Sunday, March 17 at midnight to:** communications@churchstreetumc.org

Food for Kids Project

We need volunteers to help pack food into totes for the Food for Kids project on **Tuesday, March 19 at 5:30 p.m. in room 118**. Totes are delivered to South Knox and West Haven elementary schools and distributed to youngsters identified by the program. This requires 10–12 volunteers and about an hour to complete the packing. Packing can be done by children, so this is an excellent way for families to volunteer together. It is also a great ministry for small groups and Sunday School classes who enjoy working side-by-side on a meaningful project.

Contact **Beth Stubbs** by text or phone at **865-207-8772** if you would like to help or need details.



SINGLES EVENTS

Fourth Friday Game Night Friday, March 22 at 6:30 p.m. in CLC-124

Join us for game night on each fourth Friday for an evening of fun and relaxation. Enjoy Mexican Train dominos, Phase 10, Monopoly, Sequence and other fun games or bring your favorite game. Bring a snack to share and a drink for yourself (ice, cups and tableware provided). We will gather at 6:30 p.m. for fellowship and play until about 9:30. Host is John Waddell: **865-405-8538**, j7waddell@aol.com for questions.

Singles Council Meeting Tuesday, March 26 at 7:30 p.m. Sullivan's on Northshore at Morrell

If you would like to help with the Singles' budget requirements, you may do so by contributing to Church Street UMC noting "Singles Ministry" in the memo. Thank you and God bless you for any and all help you can provide.



UMW Book Review Wednesday, March 20 at 2:00 p.m. in room 204

Verna McLain will review the book *Nobody Cries When We Die* by Patrick B. Reyes. The UMW book review is an informal, informative, and fun event. If you've never attended one, this is the month to start!

CONVERSATIONS ON RACE Book Discussion

All are invited to join us Sunday, March 31, 5:00 p.m.

We will meet at Second United Methodist Church to discuss *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. Celia Ferguson and Rev. Leah Burns will facilitate the discussion.

IT'S CANDY TIME!

It is time to start collecting candy, tattoos, and small prize items to stuff into the Easter eggs for this year's Egg Hunt. If you would like to contribute items, please bring them to Katryn Bancroft's office or the front office by **Wednesday, April 3rd**.



P.S. The Easter Egg Hunt is scheduled for 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 20 at Whitlow Park in Sequoyah Hills.

4th & 5th Grade Lock-in

We will be holding a lock-in for our fourth and fifth graders at the church **Friday–Saturday, March 29–30**.

We will play games, have a Bible study, watch a movie, do some crafts, and just have a good time of fellowship.

The cost is \$20 per child, which includes dinner and breakfast, as well as all the supplies we need for our activities.

Children may bring a friend if they wish to do so (registration required).

If you would like to chaperone, or if you would like to participate in another capacity, please contact Katryn Bancroft at kbancroft@churchstreetumc.org. The link to sign up is: <https://goo.gl/forms/bUveYvkhifAyKt7A3> or scan the QR code to be taken to the form.

LOCK-IN
REGISTRATION



Have you remembered
Church Street
in your will?

Jubilation is coming in May—register now!

The Holston Conference retreat for adults (50+) is coming **May 6–8** to Pigeon Forge, TN. This popular event for mature adults has a little something for everyone. The event will take place at MainStay Suites in Pigeon Forge. It features Bishop Ken L. Carder (former senior pastor at Church Street) as the featured speaker and worship leader. The multiple workshops address a variety of topics and the entertainment features Rev. Brad Hyde (aka Forrest Gump) and Jimbo Whaley & the Greenbriar Band.

Registration and complete information brochures can be found around the church. **Registration deadline is March 29.**

CHURCH WIDE RUMMAGE SALE

HOSTED BY MUSIC, CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

APRIL 5 & 6 | 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

CHURCH STREET GYM

SALE WEEK:



RECEIVING DAYS

- March 31 - April 2
- items received in the Youth Area (lower CLC)
- Sunday: 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- Monday & Tuesday: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM



SORTING DAYS

- April 3 & 4
- items sorted & priced in the Youth Area (lower CLC)
- Wednesday: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
- items moved to the gym and displayed
- Thursday: 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM



SALE DAYS

- April 5 & 6
- items sold & distributed in the gym & CLC hallway
- bake sale & coffee in the CLC hallway
- Friday & Saturday : 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**WE ARE NOT ACCEPTING: TVS,
COMPUTERS, OR BOOKS**

PLEASE CALL OR TEXT KATIE HEATHERLY AT
(615) 712-4925 TO SIGN UP TO HELP



**On Sunday, March 10 we
celebrated Girl Scout Sunday**

During both worship services we recognized our Girl Scouts along with their service in the community. Girl scouts also assisted in the services.

THANK YOU GIRL SCOUTS — WE APPRECIATE YOU!



BucsWorth Men's Choir of East Tennessee State University

Friday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the Nave

The East Tennessee State University **BucsWorth Men's Choir** is an award-winning and nationally recognized choral ensemble. BucsWorth is a founding partner of the Men in Song Choral Festival, an annual event for male singers that draws over 200 voices from throughout the region.

The program will include a variety of classical and contemporary repertoire, including selections from Luigi Cherubini's *Requiem in D Minor*, *Love Was My Lord and King*, a trilogy by Gwyneth Walker, *How Great Thou Art*, and much more.

Communication Needs In the Interim

While we are operating without a full-time communications director, please continue to send *Messenger* articles to Julie Hill at communications@churchstreetumc.org. For all other communication needs, please send to Doris Lively at dlively@churchstreetumc.org, who will forward the request to the Communications Team. Thank you!



What is a Reconciling United Methodist?

I am a Reconciling United Methodist. So, what does that mean? It means I and many others, **“envision a renewed and vibrant Wesleyan movement that is biblically and theologically centered. As committed disciples of Jesus Christ, we strive to transform ourselves and the world by living out the Gospel’s teachings of grace, love, justice, and celebration of all God’s children. Living in**

to our shared baptismal covenant, Reconciling Ministries Network equips and mobilizes United Methodists to resist evil, injustice, and oppression as we seek justice for people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.”

Reconciling Methodists are from all walks of life, with diverse backgrounds and identities across the spectrum.

Reconciling Ministries Network, which is made up of mainly United Methodists, was born out of a meeting of Affirmation: United Methodists for Lesbian/Gay Concerns in Boston in 1982. The model of a local church adopting a statement affirming people of differing sexual orientations and inviting their full participation in the life of the local church was adapted for United Methodist congregations. In the 1990s, the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns voted unanimously to become a “Reconciling Commission,” the first such action taken by a national UMC board or agency.

After the formation of United Methodists of Color for a Fully Inclusive Church and the Parents Reconciling Network in the early 2000s, the Reconciling Congregations changed its name to Reconciling Ministries Network. Today there are almost 1,000 Reconciling Communities and 36,633 Reconciling United Methodists.

For those of us who have become Reconciling United Methodists, we know that **our witness is vital**; that our belief that **the United Methodist Church should be a space of welcome and affirmation for all who enter its doors**, no matter their sexual identify or gender, is central to being the church we are called to be. **We are simply and profoundly a group who advocate for and provide support to our LGBTQ brothers and sisters**, of whom there are many in our congregations every Sunday. Our friends, many of whom were raised and baptized in the UMC, are part of our Reconciling group and part of our family. We are passionate about justice and will continue to work toward full inclusion in all aspects in the life of our church for everyone. **If you would like to know more about RMN**, please contact me. There are several “Reconcilers” who would love to come to your class or have a personal conversation. Please do not hesitate to reach out. We fervently desire to be in conversation with all who wish to learn more.

—PAT BELLINGRATH
patbellingrath@gmail.com

What qualifies as Special Needs Parking in Magnolia Lot?

- Any vehicle displaying a valid, state-issued permanent or temporary handicapped placard or license plate
- Any vehicle in which the driver or a passenger has a chronic and/or temporary condition for which “special needs parking” accommodation is reasonable and appropriate. Examples include, but are not limited to: expectant mothers; parents with infant(s) and/or toddler(s); reliance on assistive equipment for ambulation (including crutches or canes); cardiovascular, pain, respiratory, balance, and neurological conditions; vision impairments; weakening effects of surgeries, cancer treatments, etc.

Georga Palmer Dishner’s poems

The following are the two poems Pastor Palmer shared in her sermon on Sunday morning, March 10.

“Communion”

Before the sacred altar of earth,
Worn velvet—smooth by time’s
deft hand,
Come, kneel with me and find
renewed birth,
Hear soul-stirring Angelic band;
For dawn is here . . . my soul needs leaven
Only the wooded shrine can give,
That it may swell with joy to Heaven
And loose the bonds . . . to freely live.

While all the trees are washed
shining bright,
Where bird and bee . . . butterfly flit;
A million fireflies sparkle the night,
Like lanterns, light earth bit by bit.
Yes, this is dawn . . . and I need the hour,
Bow down with me amid grass blade,
Accept earth’s wonders, feel the power . . .
Commune with our God . . . unafraid.

Within my heart wells transient joy,
The cares of the world cannot destroy.

“Thank you, Lord”

Dear Lord, I thank you for the gift
Of living in a beautiful world.
For the excitement . . . variety . . .
And the wave of a flag all unfurled.
Thank you for right of devotion . . .
Being loved and respected in return . . .
For the friendliness of neighbors . . .
The humbleness of feelings to yearn
For forgiveness for neglect
In serving well . . . fellowmen and You . . .
I thank you for love of music . . .
For senses to learn, to live and do.
But above all . . . I am thankful
That despite my faults You understand
Unworthiness . . . my afflictions . . .
And extend to me Your Healing Hand.

From *Heritage Echoes*
by Georga Palmer Dishner

Our Prayers

Home from the hospital

Shirley Smith

Christian love and sympathy to:

Emilee Hughes on the death of her grandfather, Bruce Simmons, who died on March 7.

Our Presence: March 10

Sunday School 327
Sunday Worship 600

Our Gifts: March 3

Received toward Budget \$ 50,695.60
Building for Christ Campaign \$ 1,975.00
Other \$ 5,609.49

Altar Flowers

Sunday, March 17

The Chancel altar flowers are given in loving memory of David Alley, Sr. and our parents by Jeannine Alley.

Golf Cart Driver Needed

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.

LECTIONARY READINGS

March 17

Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18
Psalm 27
Philippians 3:17–4:1
Luke 13:31–35

March 24

Isaiah 55:1–9
Psalm 63:1–8
1 Corinthians 10:1–13
Luke 13:1–9

Our Church Family

Baptism

Lyla Jean Hemphill, daughter of Kathryn and Michael Hemphill, was baptized during the 11 a.m. service on Sunday, March 10, 2019.

Memorials

In memory of:

- **Jim Lees**
Building Fund: Bob & Mary Carmichael
- **Dr. Lynne Taylor**
Music: Lisa & Jeff Kleven
Paul & Lucy Williams
Mary Jane Williams
Lynda & Marshall Crippen and Nell Brooks
Diana Devine
Alan & Louise Thorndike
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Brakebill
Verna McLain

SASH Health Care Workers Database

Occasionally, situations occur on our church campus requiring medical attention either temporarily or until first responders arrive. To help in such situations, the Safety, Accessibility, Security and Health (SASH) Committee is compiling an updated list of willing members who are qualified health care providers. This includes physicians, nurses, EMT/Paramedic, firefighters, etc.

In the event of an emergency or medical crisis during worship services or Sunday School, this list would be available to clergy, staff and ushers to summon the assistance of a nearby qualified church member. Circulation of this list will be carefully controlled and accessible to only those responsible groups.

If you are a health care provider who is willing to be part of this database—and if you have not recently signed up for this list through your Sunday School class—please email SASH's coordinator **David Tutor, MD** at eastnurgentcare@yahoo.com the following information: your name, professional title(s) (e.g., MD, RN, LPN), email address, any special credentials/certifications (e.g., CPR, AED), Sunday School class, and the worship service (8:30 or 11:00) you attend more often. Alternatively, you may call the church office with that information.

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

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 Katriyn 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 521-0299

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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