

Vol. 84 + No. 9
March 4, 2022

COVID COMMUNITY TRACKER
 As of 3/4/22: **MEDIUM** Community Level (Knox County)

Low	Medium	High
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines Get tested if you have symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you are at high risk for severe illness, talk to your healthcare provider about whether you need to wear a mask and take other precautions Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines Get tested if you have symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wear a mask indoors in public Stay up to date with COVID-19 vaccines Get tested if you have symptoms Additional precautions may be needed for people at high risk for severe illness

We are thankful that the rates of infection in our community and across the country are on a decline again and that the strain on our healthcare workers and systems are easing! Thank you for your ongoing flexibility in a pandemic with many fluctuations and for taking care of yourselves and your neighbors.

Our Covid task force has been following data and trends from our local and state public health departments to help us stay safe during worship. Late last week, the CDC announced new community level metrics due to higher vaccination levels or immunity from infection in our communities. The new CDC guidance provides metrics to prevent medically-significant disease and prevent potential strain on healthcare systems rather than local county level

transmission rates.

In the transition to the new Covid-19 community level measures released yesterday, Knox County is now in the **Medium Category** indicating that masks are not required indoors. *Notably, the CDC says that people with Covid symptoms, a positive Covid test, or exposure to someone with Covid, should wear a mask.* See graphic above [from the CDC website](#) for a helpful visual.

Additional precautions for those at high risk for severe disease may be discussed with your healthcare provider. This guidance is not for healthcare systems or public transportation.

As we have experienced, the pandemic has forced us to adapt quickly at times, to new variants and surges. As we look ahead to what's next, we hope we will keep an open and adaptable mindset that we may need to return to stronger mitigation factors. We ask that you continue to be a good neighbor, understand that everyone's risk tolerance is different, and that some may feel more comfortable wearing – or are still advised to wear – a mask and keep a safe distance from others. Peace and blessings to you as we continue to give thanks for the gift of our scientific and healthcare communities and the love and grace extended amongst this church family.

Programming During Lent

Church Street will offer three opportunities for study, prayer and reflection this Lenten season. Please register in advance so that our leaders can ensure we have adequate space and supplies for everyone wishing to participate.

- **Witness at the Cross: A Beginner's Guide to Holy Friday, by Amy-Jill Levine.** This online (Zoom) only class will be co-taught by Rev. Andy Ferguson and Julie Thornburg. Sundays, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3 and 10 at 4:30. To join the class, please contact Rev. Tim Best (tbest@churchstreetumc.org or 865-521-0279).
- **Praying the Psalms in Lent.** Each week in our program, led by Rev. Tim Best, we will read and learn to pray the Psalms together, as well as reflect and discuss them as part of our Lenten spiritual exercise. The class will meet on Wednesdays, March 9, 16, 23, 30 and April 6 in room 204 at Noon. Please contact Rev. Best know if you plan to attend (tbest@churchstreetumc.org or 865-521-0279).

Pastor Jan's Pilgrim study is currently at capacity.

Our **Lenten devotional booklets** are a wonderful opportunity to dive into prayer and reflection this Lenten season. Beginning with Ash Wednesday, each Sunday of Lent and each day of Holy Week, we will share the devotions by email and on our website. You may pick up a hard copy in the narthex, Welcome Center or Chapel hallway, while supplies last. If you would like a hard copy mailed to you, please call the church office (available while supplies last).





Call to Prayer & Self-Denial Service

United Methodist Women welcomes Rev. Brooke Hartman, Discipleship Pastor at Concord UMC, for our Call to Prayer and Self-Denial Service.

Tuesday, March 8, 11:00 am, Chapel
Lunch afterwards in Parish Hall.

Habitat Blitz Day Coming Up!



Church Street will join with several other UMC churches in our district **beginning Saturday, March 12**, as we build a new Habitat home for a local family! This important mission project is a wonderful example of our United Methodist connectional system and how working together with volunteers from sister churches in our area, we can support neighbors in need.

Register and sign up for one or more of the build dates online by clicking the link below. This is an opportunity for volunteers age 16 + to participate in building a new Habitat home for a family in need.

There are multiple Saturdays and opportunities in March, April and May to help with construction -- check the link below for all the volunteer opportunities by date! Contact Pastor Palmer with questions. **Register by scanning the QR code above.**

Hearing Aid Repurposing Project (HARP) Update

If you are having problems hearing and cannot afford the high cost of hearing aids, Parish Health's HARP team can help you. If you have unused hearing aids that are no longer being used, you can donate them to this program and they will be repurposed and used by anyone who needs them. Please contact Verna McLain, HARP coordinator, by phone or text at 865-659-0612 or email at vmbmhas@gmail.com. You will be sent an application. Used hearing aids can be dropped off at the church office or arrangements can be made to pick them up at your home.

What are your favorite apps? Share them with Ladies Lunch and Learn at Beacon of Hope!

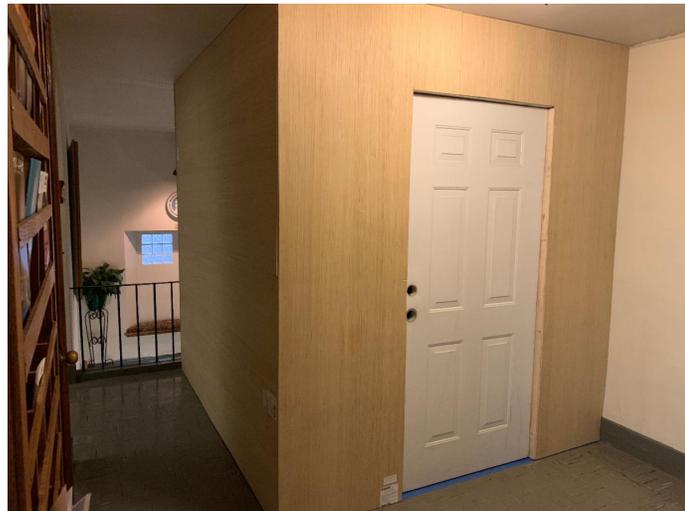


Our neighbors in the Vestal community who participate in the Ladies' Lunches at Beacon of Hope could benefit from your app suggestions! In March, we will be sharing some different ideas about free apps they can download (Google play and app store) to their phones to help them with things like exercise,

grocery shopping, breathing, brain games, etc. If you have a "go-to" app that you love that is free and these ladies might benefit from, **please email communications@churchstreetumc.org with the name of the app and what it does** (please reply ASAP). Thank you!

Chancel Enhancement Update

Construction in the nave for the chancel enhancement accessibility has begun! The photo at right captures the temporary walls and passage to the stairs being constructed outside the nave to ensure dust isn't spread everywhere.



Thank you for your patience as we embark on this improvement to our nave accessibility. We will share updates and photos throughout the process!

Worship Opportunities

Sunday, March 6
First Sunday of Lent

8:30 & 11 am at 900 Henley Street
Holy Communion

10 am on *Rejoice!* WBXX-TV & 11 am on YouTube
www.YouTube.com/ChurchStreetUMC

Rev. Catherine Nance
Luke 4:1-13 NRSV

Music

In the Nave, 8:30 a.m.

O for the Wings of a Dove from Hear My Prayer
Parish Youth Choir, Alana Johnson, soloist

In the Nave, 11 a.m.

Hear My Prayer, Moses Hogan
Parish Adult Choir

Online and Rejoice

God, Have Mercy, Antonio Vivaldi (arr. Hal Hopson)
Maria Thompson, soprano, and Connor Cowart, tenor

Lectinary Readings for this week:

Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Psalm 91:1-2,9-16, Romans 10:8b-13, Luke 4:1-13

Sunday School News

New Group Begins Sunday: If you are new to Church Street, are without a current Sunday School “home,” or are interested in joining a new small group, we invite you to join a new cohort, led by teacher Rev. Hank Jenkins and group leaders Joy Jenkins, Sara Hughes and Ryan Hughes, that will begin meeting in the CLC 122 (Craft Room) this **Sunday, March 6** during the Sunday School hour. At this first gathering, the group will explore possible studies to embark on together as they further their Christian discipleship and fellowship together. All are welcome!

Classes Combining: The Isbell and Covenant Sunday school classes have decided to officially combine! The group will be known as the Covenant class and is a welcoming class for all people, with a primary focus on adults aged in their 30s or 40s. Serving married and single members as well as those with children and without children, the Covenant Class enjoys Bible and book studies paired with discussion and fellowship. They meet during the Sunday School hour in Room 309-E.

We invite you to share news from your Sunday School class with the wider congregation! What studies or speakers or events are happening with your group? Reply to this email with the info.

Calendar

*See the calendar listings below. **Meetings occur on Zoom**, unless otherwise noted as an in-person event. If you would like a link to one of the following Zoom meetings, or if your group would like to set up a Zoom meeting, please contact Kate Spencer at kspencer@churchstreetumc.org or 865-521-0268, she will help set you up on the church account!*

Ongoing Worship, Sunday School, Children, Youth & Music Meetings:

- **Worship:** Sunday at 8:30 & 11 am, Nave; *Rejoice!* at 10 am (WBXX); YouTube at 11 am
- **Sunday School Class Meeting On Zoom at 9:40 am on Sunday:**
 - **Partners**
 - **Epworth**
- **Sunday School Classes meeting In-Person**, at 9:40 am Sundays:
 - **Covenant** - room 309-E
 - **Discovery** - CLC 124
 - **Friends in Christ** - room 202
 - **Followers** - room 310
 - **Murphy Builders** - room 204

Upcoming Meetings & Events:

- **Witness at the Cross Study:** Sundays, 4:30 pm, Zoom
- **Singles Bridge:** Monday, 6 pm, 201-C
- **Circle 10:** Tuesday, 10 am, Room 204
- **UMW Call to Prayer & Self-Denial:** Tuesday, 11 am, Chapel

- **Pathfinders** - CLC 120
- **Potter's Wheel** - Chiles room
- **Youth** (CLC)
- **Children** (Children's classrooms)
- **Sunday School Classes Meeting in person and online (hybrid)** currently, at 9:40 am on Sundays:
 - **Open Door** - Parish Hall
 - **Parables** - room 118
 - **Crossroads** - room 201-A
 - **Seekers** - room 201-C
- **Children's Programming:** Sundays, 3:45 pm, Gym
- **Parish Youth Choir Rehearsal:** Sundays, 3:45 pm, Choir Rehearsal Room
- **Children's Choir Dinner & Rehearsal:** Sundays, 5:00 pm, Choir Rehearsal Room
- **NightLife:** Sundays, 5 pm, CLC Lower Level
- **Parish Adult Choir Rehearsal:** Wednesdays, 6:30 pm, Choir Rehearsal Room
- **Youth Band Rehearsal:** Wednesdays, 7 pm, CLC Lower Level

Looking Ahead - Church Council will meet on Tuesday, March 22 at 6 pm by Zoom.

- **Congregational Care:** Tuesday, 6 pm
- **Praying the Psalms Group:** Wednesdays, 12 Noon, Room 204
- **Trustees:** Wednesday, 5:30 pm
- **Pilgrim Road Lenten Study:** Wednesday, 5:30 pm, Room 204
- **Soup Kitchen:** Thursdays, 11 am, Parish Hall
- **Stephen Ministers:** Thursday, 3:30 pm
- **Lydia Circle:** Friday, 1:30 pm, Chiles Room
- **Stephen Ministry Training:** Saturday, 9 am
- **Habitat for Humanity Blitz:** Saturday, 8 am, Off Site

Our Prayers

Recently Hospitalized:

Rick Armbrister

Birth:

Cambridge Andrew Harris, son of Andy and Sarah Harris, was born on February 10. Paternal grandparents are David and Patti Harris.

Our Presence

February 27 & March 2

Online Worship - 175

In-Person Worship - 467

8:30 am - 211

11 am - 234

Nursery - 22

Ash Wednesday Services - 190

Our Gifts

February 27

Contributions toward Budget - \$33,483.67

Building Fund - \$100.00

Other - \$1,682.07

Memorials

Delaina "Dee" Humphrey Malcolm

Missions: Caroline & Evan Bowers

Charlotte Kagley Powell

Memorial Fund: Charlie & Karen Sterchi

Rose-Delia Rios

Memorial Fund: Len & Pat Bellingrath

Altar Flowers

The Chancel Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of Carol and Jess Brown by Sharon Butler, Donnie Brown, and Kit Brown.

All are welcome at Church Street !

We believe every person is of sacred worth and created in God's image. We welcome and celebrate the gifts God has given to all persons without regard to race, color, national origin, ethnicity, age, gender, disability, status, economic condition, sexual orientation, gender identity, or religious affiliation. We respect diversity of opinion and expressions of Christian faith. We believe God loves everyone unconditionally! As God loves us, so let us love and serve in the name of Christ.

Church Street United Methodist Church

www.churchstreetumc.org

P.O. Box 1303, Knoxville, TN 37901

Office: 865-524-3048 **Fax:** 865-521-0288 **Pastor On-Call:** 865-320-9100

Please call the church office to reach a specific member of our staff.

See what's happening on our social sites:

