

FIRST THINGS

SEPTEMBER 2021

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
501 Church Street, Sweetwater, TN 37874
423-337-7903
Email: office1@sweetwaterumc.org
Website: www.sweetwaterumc.org

**“Glorifying God—Offering Christ
Making Disciples—Serving Others”**

Church Staff:
Rev. Dr. Bradley H. Scott, Pastor
Crystal Ragan, Associate Pastor
Margareth Urias, Music Minister
Melinda Erwin, Custodian

Pam Haislip, Administrative Asst.
Jacqueline Mason, Children’s Minister
_____, Organist
Janet Standridge, First Kids Director

NOTE FROM PASTOR BRAD SCOTT

Giving It Away

When I was a young man I read a quote in a Guidepost magazine that said:

“Give little of yourself to others and eventually very little of yourself will be worth having.”

It was attributed to someone named George Allen. I tore that little piece of the magazine out and carried that quote in my billfold for over a decade. It helped me keep my perspective as a servant of the Most High God. God requires us to give of ourselves.

In my own acts of giving I have found myself serving the Lord’s church in numerous ways. I could list them, but that wouldn’t serve much purpose. What is important is that God has blessed me in every act of service in ways that I didn’t expect. It seems the more you give to the Lord, the more God gives back to you. There’s a joy

that develops in a generous heart. And that joy is the oil that keeps faith moving.

How’s your joy today? Mine has been through the wringer in the past several months. But I find that when I focus on God’s joyous blessings in my life, I have less time to complain about the other things that beset us all. Let this month be a time to focus on the joy of the Lord. The Bible says “The joy of the Lord is your strength.” (Nehemiah 8:10). Keep your focus on the joy and keep giving joyfully to the One who saves you. You will be blessed.

See you Sunday,
Pastor Brad Scott

Email: pastorbradscott@gmail.com
Phone (cell) 276-722-0346



Pastor Brad will be offering a Podcast Bible Study this fall. Look for the link which will be posted on our church Facebook Page.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT CONNECTION

If you are new to the church and have never attended WNC, you are in for a nice treat. There are many activities offered to suit the needs of all ages.

The Preschool Bible and Choir (ages 2-5) will meet on Wednesdays starting Sept. 22 at 5:00-5:30 pm in the classroom across from the church office.

The Children's Choir (ages K-5) will meet on Wednesdays beginning Sept. 22 at 3:15 -4:15 pm in the choir room in preparation for the Children's Christmas Musical.

Youth Praise Team will meet on Wednesdays in the choir room, starting Sept. 8 at 6:00-6:30 pm.

Dinner and fellowship in the FLC start at 5:30 pm. Nathan Hendricks will prepare the meals with assistance from Geri Babb, and Nancy Kemble will provide desserts. We still need some volunteers to offer a hand in clean up.

At 6:15 pm adults are welcome to attend an Adult Study group as listed below.

If there is interest, Miss Jacqueline will offer WEB (Wednesday Evening Bible) at 6:15 for kids (K-5th grade). We will also have a nursery available at 6:30 for the little ones, if needed, but are still in search of someone to handle the nursery.

Looking forward to this time together!

WNC STUDY GROUPS

STUDY GROUPS will run from Sept 8-Oct 27, 2021

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE CHOSEN?

Facilitated by Vanessa Metzmeier

Classroom to be announced

Being chosen by Jesus has beautiful and far-reaching implications—although it says even more about the Chooser than the ones chosen. We are loved because He is love. We are saved because He's merciful. We belong to the family of God because Jesus invites us, making the Bible and all its promises as true for us today as it was for God's chosen nation. This is the official companion study to season 1 of *The Chosen*, the groundbreaking television series about the life of Jesus.

A LOOK IN THE MIRROR

Facilitated by Tony Martini

Classroom to be announced

"A Look in the Mirror" will be a class "FOR MEN ONLY". We will take a closer look at ourselves and see if we need to change what we find, or keep doin' what we're doin'. No book purchase required. Everything we need is found in the Word of God. Serious talk, occasional laughter, and of course, some sort of candy.

THE DANIEL PLAN

Facilitated by Melinda Erwin

Classroom to be announced

The Daniel Plan is an appetizing approach to achieving a healthy lifestyle through faith, food, fitness, focus, and friends. The concepts in this book will encourage you to deepen your relationship with God and develop a community of supportive friends who will encourage you to make smart food and fitness choices each and every day. This results in gradual changes that transform your life.



Message from Miss Jacqueline

TASK

Task is open for grades K-5. We will be meeting outside at 3:15 for the next few weeks. If it's raining we will not meet. There will be no TASK on September 14. We would appreciate it if anyone would help provide a snack (fruit, veggies, cookies, fruit drinks- that would be wonderful!

ADOPT-A-SCHOOL

We once again have Sweetwater Elementary School in the Adopt-a-school program. We will be showing appreciation and support to the teachers and staff throughout the school year. We already have September taken care of, and are looking for helpers for other months. Monetary gifts are always appreciated to help us purchase items such as hand sanitizer, lip balm, snacks, etc.



JR. HIGH FOOTBALL MEAL

We have been contacted about preparing a meal for the football team at junior high. If you would like to help with this, please let me know.

- Miss Jacqueline



NEEMA MISSION

You have been generous in supporting the Neema Mission in Uganda. Through your donations we sent them \$3,075 to repair their well and to provide food and other necessities for the children they serve.

HAITI EARTHQUAKE

You may donate directly to help those affected by the earthquake in Haiti through UMC Global Ministries. Go to umcmmission.org and in the Search bar type "Haiti Undesignated" or "00483A".

AFGHANISTAN

If you would like to help provide humanitarian aid to people in Afghanistan in the wake of the Taliban takeover, you may also go to umcmmission.org. Type "Afghanistan Undesignated" or "00545A" in the search bar.

Your donation will go where there is the greatest need in these counties.

FALL MARKET: A GATHERING OF ARTISANS

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FLC
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 9AM-3PM**

Spaces will be available for rent for artisans wanting to showcase and sell their handmade wares. Lunch (hot dog & chili) and baked goods will be available for sale. A few tables will be set up for dining.

All proceeds from the rental fees and food sales will be donated to the 2021 Angel Tree Project.

Not interested in renting a space? You can still help!
Volunteers are needed to help in the kitchen and to provide baked goods.
Guidelines/application forms are available on church entry tables.

Nancy Kemble 302-373-1955

For more information contact:

Pam Haislip 937-620-2885

Donna Eakin 850-766-3964

YOUTH NEWS

Hello Church !!

It has been a while since I have written.... And I want to thank Pam for always covering for me. She does such a wonderful job at taking care of us !!

We have not missed a beat in the Youth Area of church. We have been careful by sanitizing hands, masking when needed, and taking to mostly outdoor activities. Although it is a little scary since school has started back and so many of our younger ones are now getting sick!

A little update... Steve and I have joined the Isaiah House Team, and my kids have embraced this ministry, taking it as their own! Our fund raising efforts this year have been devoted to this ministry. So many of our trips have been taken to the property where the house is being built.

We have studied Gods Word, prayed, planted and walked this property in eager expectations of children "feeling the presence of God in that place".

Church, if you don't already know... we have an AMAZING group of kids. This small group is devoted to each other, to our church and to our Savior. They never complain or question when it's time to work or time to serve. It is just assumed, THIS IS WHAT WE DO !!!

When our numbers dropped in attendance, I had to take a step back and examine my heart. I soon realized I had taken great pride in "the numbers".

But let me tell you, Father God straightened me out real quick. He reminded me of my rightful place, which is seated at His feet. He reminded me that these are His children, not mine. And He reminded me that I am not in charge, but HE IS !!

So this small group that is so devoted to being here for Youth every week, is beyond special. Do you know what happens with small numbers? You have more to invest !!! More time, more one on one conversations, more face to face connections, breaking down barriers and bringing forth new life. So I tell you today.... I am eternally grateful for "small numbers" in this season of my life and I am so thankful that God opened my eyes and my heart to it.

So regardless of where you are right now, whatever season it may be, embrace it. If God didn't have a plan for you right now, He wouldn't have put you in it !!

"For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven. Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God's work from beginning to end. So I concluded there is nothing better than to be happy and enjoy ourselves as long as we can." Ecclesiastes 3:1, 11-12 NLT

With so much love and affection for you, The Body of Christ,
Crystal Ragan



**SPECIAL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
TO OUR SENIORS BORN IN SEPTEMBER**

Sep 5 Pat Richesin
Sep 8 Greer Heatherly
Sep 10 Carolyn Meeks
Sep 10 Jim Thomas
Sep 12 Betty Williams
Sep 16 Joe Sherlin
Sep 18 Jimmy Kemble
Sep 22 Betty Tallent



MELINDA'S MUSINGS

Hey Folks!

I've really missed our trips and get-togethers! We are hoping to have an outing in the near future, but will have to wait for COVID numbers to drop.

In the meantime, if I can do anything for any of you, please feel free to call or text me at 423-337-1642.

Love, Your Sister in Christ,

Melinda

COVID-19 UPDATE

We want to remind you that the COVID-19 pandemic is still with us and appears to be in a period of resurgence with the spreading of the Delta variant. Monroe County is now in the high category. New CDC guidelines, which we must follow, recommend masks for vaccinated and unvaccinated persons at all indoor public events. Consequently, as of August 1, we ask that you wear masks in our church building when in close proximity to others. We will keep you informed if/when we reinstate any of our other COVID-19 protocols.

Please be considerate of our fellow members and refrain from attending services if you are feeling ill or have been in contact with anyone who has COVID. We have done an excellent job of not spreading the disease within our congregation, so far, and want to continue to watch out for each other in this way.