

FIRST THINGS

AUGUST, 2019

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
501 Church Street, Sweetwater, TN 37874
423-337-7903
Email: office1@sweetwaterumc.org
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“Glorifying God—Offering Christ Making Disciples—Serving Others”

Church Staff:

Ron Fisher, Pastor

Jacqueline Mason, Children’s Minister

Crystal Ragan, Youth Minister

Margareth Urias, Music Minister

All Christians, Ministers

Anne Wilson, Administrative Asst.

Melinda Hendricks, Custodian

Patricia Richesin, Organist

Janet Standridge, First Kids Director

REFLECTIONS FROM PASTOR RON

John Wesley wrote these words in his journal: "In the evening I went very unwillingly to a society in Aldersgate Street, where one was reading Luther's preface to the Epistle to the Romans. About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ, Christ alone for salvation; and an assurance was given me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death." Wesley always pointed back to that day when his "heart was strangely warmed" as the day he began his ministry and message of Methodism. John's older brother Charles had been converted about three weeks before this. He wrote nearly 5,000 hymns reflecting "heart faith."

John Wesley and Charles Wesley created a club while they were students at Oxford where they methodically tried to live out their Christian lives. They were mocked as the "Holy Club" by their fellow students, yet despite this persisted in striving to live lives of holiness, generosity, and social consciousness. The questions are worth reading and reflecting on as we examine how our lives express our devotion to God.

Am I consciously or unconsciously creating the impression that I am better than I really am? In other words, am I a hypocrite?

Am I honest in all my acts and words, or do I exaggerate?

Do I confidentially pass on to another what was told to me in confidence?

Can I be trusted?

Am I a slave to dress, friends, work, or habits?

Am I self-conscious, self-pitying, or self-justifying?

Did the Bible live in me today?

Do I give it time to speak to me everyday?

Am I enjoying prayer?

When did I last speak to someone else about my faith?

Do I pray about the money I spend?

Do I get to bed on time and get up on time?

Do I disobey God in anything?

Do I insist upon doing something about which my conscience is uneasy?

Am I defeated in any part of my life?

Am I jealous, impure, critical, irritable, touchy, or distrustful?

How do I spend my spare time?

Am I proud?

Do I thank God that I am not as other people, especially as the Pharisees who despised the publican?

Is there anyone whom I fear, dislike, disown, criticize, hold a resentment toward or disregard? If so, what am I doing about it?

Do I grumble or complain constantly?

Is Christ real to me?

Wesley died on Wednesday March 2, 1791, in his eighty-eighth year. As he lay dying, his friends gathered around him, Wesley grasped their hands and said repeatedly, "Farewell,

Reflections from Pastor Ron (Cont'd)

farewell." At the end, summoning all his remaining strength, he cried out, "The best of all is, God is with us," lifted his arms and raised his feeble voice again, repeating the words, "The best of all is, God is with us."

John Wesley and the other members of the "Holy Club" were sincerely seeking to have a closer walk with God. They regularly examined their spiritual lives and the motives of their hearts as they served Jesus. We should do the same. "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth." II Timothy 2:15

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Charge Conference will be held this year on Sunday, November 24 at 2:00 pm. It will be a cluster conference that will include several other small churches in the area. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

"YOUNG AT HEART" NEWS



YOUNG AT HEART VISITS MCKAY'S BOOKSTORE

Plenty of late night lamps were burning after Young at Heart paid a visit to McKay's Bookstore in Knoxville. But not to worry as these folks powered up on Olive Garden cuisine followed by chocolate brownie lasagna and strawberry cheesecake. A fun outing and great fellowship! Check your bulletin for future events...we hope to see you soon!

MUSIC



HYMN SING NIGHT

The Chancel Choir invites you to join us in the Sanctuary on Sunday, September 29th at 6:00 pm for another edition of our beloved *Hymn Sing Night* with Marcelo Urias from Cokesbury UMC.

We will be singing some of the favorite hymns of our faith. Please invite your family and friends for a special night of worship!

CHANCEL CHOIR

We are so excited to announce that the Chancel Choir will be presenting the Christmas Cantata "FANTASIA NOEL" on Sunday, December 15th.

This is a collection of the traditional carols with the most amazing arrangements. It's fresh but at the same time it has all the precious melodies of the Christmas season. All of these carols remind us of the JOY and HOPE we received through the birth of JESUS CHRIST!

All of you, your family and friends in the community are invited to join us for the Christmas Cantata. The commitment is to participate in the rehearsals on Wednesdays and in the performance on Sunday, December 15th. Books and rehearsal CDs will be provided for each participant. We would love to have you join us for this program. Rehearsals start on Wednesday, September 18th from 7:15 to 8:00 pm in the Choir Room.



**“YOUNG AT HEART” NEWS
(CONT'D)**

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

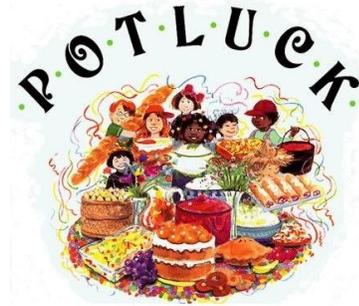
- Sep 5 Pat Richesin
- Sep 8 Greer Heatherly
- Sep 10 Carolyn Meeks
- Sep 10 Jim Thomas
- Sep 12 Betty Williams
- Sep 16 Joe Sherlin
- Sep 22 Betty Tallent



YOUNG AT HEART POTLUCK LUNCHEONS

will resume on Sunday, October 6 at noon in the FLC. It will be a chance to visit with friends and enjoy a great meal. Hope to see everyone out for our first fall luncheon.

We will NOT be having a luncheon in September as it would fall on Labor Day weekend.



**YOUNG AT HEART
MYSTERY TRIPS**

Coming this fall.....Young at Heart Fellowship Mystery trips. We will meet at the church and bus to lunch or just dessert from time to time locally starting in the fall. Sign-up sheets will be in the Sunday School classrooms and the Conference Room.

The first Mystery Trip
will be announced soon.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please welcome Jim and Nancy Kemble to Sweetwater UMC. The Kemble's recently transferred their membership from Cornerstone UMC in Bear, Delaware. They are currently in the process of moving but Jim has temporarily remained behind in Delaware to sell their home. Until he arrives you can find Nancy attending early service. Please be sure to greet them both and welcome them to our church family.



**The “Who Am I” for August was
Nancy Lange**

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

PROJECTION IN THE SANCTUARY

A million thanks to Pam Morris for building the beautiful platforms, (that match the wood in our church perfectly,) on which the projectors sit and the virtually invisible shelf on which the screen stands. Pam has been working tirelessly to build and set this up for weeks, and today, with the help of Lea Watson, we are pleased to unveil this amazing setup for our special folks who attend the traditional service. You will now be able to have the words to the hymns on the screen and to watch special video presentations. Please thank Pam and Lea for all their work when you see them.



STAINED GLASS WINDOW REPAIR

A special thank you to the men of the church who removed the stained glass windows above the doors at the front of the church and put them back after they were renewed and repaired. Leslie Little did a wonderful job of renewing and reconditioning these beautiful, treasured windows.



EVENTS FOR THE LADIES

LADIES BREAKFAST
Saturday, September 14
9:00 am @ TBD

Ladies, bring some friends and join us for a yummy breakfast and fellowship. It's a great place to get to know new people.

DEEPER WOMEN WORSHIP

Women's Conference
Saturday, September 21, 2019
Truelove Barn
2379 Keith Valley Road, Cleveland TN
8:30 am—5:30 pm
Cost is \$45 and includes
T-shirt, breakfast, lunch & snack
Register by September 3 at
www.Godsongministries.com

**SECOND TUESDAYS
FOR WOMEN
OF ALL AGES**

Second Tuesdays is a place to connect with other women on the second Tuesday of each month in Knoxville. You are welcome to join us at 6:45 pm for light refreshment and good conversation, then we'll dive into worship and the Word. If you are interested, please meet in the church parking lot on Tuesday, September 10, and we can carpool. We must leave by 5:15 pm. Contact Karen Sadikoff for further information.

The location sometimes changes, so if you are driving separately, remember to check with Karen.



KIDS NEWS



FIRST METHODIST COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S CHOIR

I'm very happy to announce that our Children's Choir is open to all the kids in the community. You don't have to be a member of the church or attend services on Sunday to have your child participate in the Children's Choir.

The only commitment is for the kids to attend rehearsals on Wednesdays from 5:00 to 6:00 pm and to participate in the Christmas Musical that will be presented on Sunday, December 8th at 5:00 pm in the Family Life Center. ALL KIDS grades K-5th are invited! Rehearsals start on Wednesday, September 4th. Call Miss Margaret at (423) 337-7903 if you have any questions.

We would love to have your child join our
**FIRST METHODIST
COMMUNITY CHILDREN'S CHOIR!**

TASK KIDS

We are excited to have the kids back from summer vacation to join TASK on Tuesdays from 3:15-5:00 pm. Please have the kids bring a canned good each month for our blessing box. Please calendar: We will not have TASK on September 24.

PRESCHOOL BIBLE & CHOIR

The Preschool Bible and Choir will begin on Wednesday, September 4 at 4:30 pm. Please calendar: We will not have Preschool Bible or Choir on September 25.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

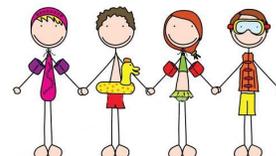
We invite the children and the adults to attend Sunday School. If your child is in Kids Rock or Sunday School, please make sure the teachers have your cell phone numbers. If you leave the premises during this time, please make sure your child's teacher is aware.

KIDS ROCK

If you would like to teach Kid's Rock, please let Jacqueline know. We welcome your help in this area.

NEED NURSERY WORKER

A nursery worker is needed for Wednesday evenings after the WNC meal from 6:00-7:45 pm. If you are interested, please contact Miss Jacqueline.



WEDNESDAY NIGHT CONNECTION

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

The Preschool Bible and Choir (ages 2-5) will meet from 4:30-5:00 pm in the classroom across from the church office starting September 4th.

The Children's Choir (ages K-5) meets on Wednesdays from 5-6:00 pm in the choir room in preparation for the Children's Christmas Musical.

Dinner and fellowship in the FLC start at 5:30 pm. Chef Arthur Cox will prepare the meals and we will need a few people to help serve each week and maybe offer a hand in clean up.

Then at 6:30 pm adults are welcome to attend an Adult Study group as listed below.

The children (ages K-5) can attend WEB (Wednesday night Bible) with Miss Jacqueline. We will also have a nursery available at 6:30 for the wee ones but are still in search of someone to handle the nursery.

WNC STUDY GROUP TOPICS STUDY GROUPS will run from Sep 11-Nov. 6, 2019

CALLED by Susan Robb

Facilitated by Ron Fisher

God calls us to a life that we could never imagine on our own. Samuel, Esther, Jonah...they all lived pretty ordinary lives...until they didn't. In *Called*, Rob shows us how God interrupts the lives of ordinary men and women, calling and empowering them to lives of service they never would have imagined on their own. And she shows us that the same God who called six of the Bible's most iconic characters calls us too, to bring hope and transformation to the world. Discover how to hear and respond to the unique call God is placing on your life.

Book - \$12.00

New Wesley Classroom

FINDING GOD FAITHFUL by Kelly Minter

Facilitated by Karen Sadikoff

No doubt there have been or will be, times in your life when your circumstances lead you to wonder if God is there, if He cares, and if things are slipping out of His control. Surely similar thoughts ran through the mind of Joseph as he suffered through betrayal, false accusations, and imprisonment. But throughout his story, we are constantly reminded of God's faithfulness. No matter what we walk through, God's presence is constant; His provision is enough; and His purposes are unstoppable.

Book - \$14.00

Frazier Classroom

GREATER by Steven Furtick

Facilitated by Kristi Correll

Are you dissatisfied with the kind of Christian life you've settled for? In *Greater* Pastor Steven Furtick draws on the biblical story of Elisha to give you the confidence to know that nothing is impossible with God, the clarity to see the next step He's calling you to take, and the courage to do anything He tells you to do.

Book - \$14.00

Old Wesley Classroom

FOR MEN ONLY, Vegas rules apply

Facilitated by Tony Martini

Come join us for a chance to talk about our BORING day-to-day lives, including such topics as "The Old Ball and Chain," kids, money, work, and "Same Thing, Another Sunday." Is this the "abundant life" we are promised in John 10:10?

Bible

Starting Point Classroom

2019 FALL AND WINTER UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Aug. 25	Engage	10:30 am in sanctuary
Wednesdays Sep. 4-Dec. 4	Preschool Bible & Choir Children's Choir	4:30-5:00 pm in classroom 5:00-6:00 pm in choir room
Wednesdays Sep. 4-Nov. 6	WNC dinners New Pricing	5:30-6:15 pm in FLC \$7 (Adults & children 12 & up) \$3 (Children 11 & under) \$20 Family maximum
Wednesdays Starting Sep. 11-Nov. 6	Adult Group Studies	6:30-7:30 in various classrooms
Wednesdays Starting Sep 11-Nov. 6	WEB for K-5 (Wednesday Night Connection)	6:30-7:30 First Kids Classroom
Sunday, Sep. 29	Hymn Sing	6:00 pm in sanctuary
Sunday, Oct. 6	"Young at Heart" Potluck	12:00 noon in FLC
Oct. 7-11	Fall Break for schools	
Wednesday, Nov. 13	Service Banquet	6:00 pm in FLC
Sunday, Nov. 24	Charge Conference	2:00 pm in Sanctuary
Sunday, Nov. 24	Cokesbury Thanksgiving Program	6:00 pm @ Cokesbury
Tuesday, Nov. 26	Community Thanksgiving Service	7:00 pm venue TBD
Nov. 27-29	Thanksgiving break	
Sunday, Dec. 8	Children's Christmas Program	5:00 pm in FLC
Sunday, Dec. 15	Christmas Cantata	10:30 am in FLC

