



The Messenger

A publication of
 Smyrna First United
 Methodist Church
 May, 2022

smyrna1stumc.org

FROM THE PASTOR

I've been thinking a lot about transitions lately. My youngest daughter Elizabeth graduates from Smyrna High School on May 16. And this summer she moves to Terre Haute, Indiana to begin studying biomedical engineering at Rose-Hulman. And just like that, Matt and I will be empty nesters after 24 years filled with the blood, sweat, tears, and a whole lot of joy raising three amazing children. We will begin a whole new season of life that frankly I can scarcely imagine. How will we fill the time now spent cheering EJ on as goalie at soccer games? Will Matt and I even still like one another after so many years since we were a couple? Change is unsettling.

I grieve over this coming change or life transition. What I wouldn't give to hold a tiny, sticky maple syrup-covered hand one more time or have my children bring me dandelion bouquets from the yard. However, I don't want to get so stuck in my grief over what I've lost that I fail to celebrate the good that is happening. I celebrate Elizabeth, James, and Rachel as the wonderful young adults they have become. It brings me great joy to see them finding fulfillment as they discern God's particular callings in their lives. And I look forward with anticipation to my future and things like planning vacations not dependent on the school calendar and more time to go to the symphony, TPAC performances, and even a Nashville SC game or two with Matt from time to time. I know this transitional time will bring blessings and new opportunities.

The Church is also in a significant transitional moment right now as we "graduate" from persevering through a global pandemic and a horribly divisive and toxic season of hostility. The Church and world are drastically different than they were just a couple

of years ago. We grieve over members we've lost, and the way things used to be. We're anxious and uncertain what the future hold for the United Methodist Church, and announcement of the postponement of General Conference until 2024 may have heightened that anxiety. Transition and uncertainty are hard to deal with. I get it.

But seasons of significant transition also bring significant opportunities. And just like I don't want to miss out on opportunities ahead as an empty nester, I don't want us to miss out as a church on opportunities to do the work of Jesus Christ in meaningful and profound ways right now. We cannot delay in doing the work God is calling us to. After all, doesn't Jesus repeatedly warn us of the danger of not being alert and prepared, for we do not know the hour of his return? I don't want grief and anxiety and a desire to play it safe and wait and "see what happens" tragically make us miss the presence of the risen Christ among us today through the power of the Holy Spirit that dwells within each of us. The world has changed. Our church has changed. And I'm sure we individually have changed. But Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The Gospel will always be good news to a world filled with bad news, pain, and suffering. We are still called to make disciples of Jesus Christ. We are still called to care for Jesus' sheep and the world that God loves. Let's get busy being Easter people, people of Resurrection, who offer hope and life to the world. And God will bless our faithfulness, and we will be better than OK. We will find joy, fulfillment, and purpose in the new season ahead.

Grace and Peace,
 Pastor Theresa

PRAYER REQUESTS

Church Family

Bob Seagraves	Deborah Mabry
Arlen Barrier	Sandra Curtis

Family Members & Friends

Elaina Thomas	Joe Martin
Lukas Cain	Erin Gagovski
Doak Sharrock	Mike Moore
Julie Spain	Kip Yount
Henry Ditinno	NancyWilliams
Marsha Reeder	

If you add a friend/family member to the prayer list, please keep the office updated on their progress. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month unless requested for longer.

Assisted Living/Home Bound

Nancy Cobb	Richard Nelson
Larry Coleman	Robert Patterson
Sandra Curtis	Don & Jean Pinc
Jane Hollins	Cornell Read
David Inman	



WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR MAY

8:30 Liturgist

May 1 Becky Jenkins
 May 8 Elizabeth Johnson
 May 15 Dorris Waldron
 May 22 Mike Ashworth
 May 29 Combined Worship 10 AM

8:30 Ushers

Jackie & Nadina Tharpe
 John & Norma Hawk
 Mike & Pam Ashworth
 Tom & Nita Wright

Communion

Jackie & Nadina Tharpe

11:00 Liturgist

May 1 Gary Dempsey
 May 8 Elizabeth Johnson
 May 15 Kelsie Jones
 May 22 Karen Yatuzis
 May 29 Karen Yatuzis

Coffee & Conversation

WIP's
 Trish Pendleton
 Sandra Abernathy
 Nadina Tharpe
 Combined Worship 10 AM

Communion

Gary & Mary Kay Dempsey

11:00 Ushers

Barb Huebel, Frank Pitts



ADOPT-A-ROAD

Cleaning up Enon Springs! We met on April 2nd at Gregory Mills Park and picked up trash along Enon Spring Road.

Keep an eye out for the next clean up. Many hands make light work!!



Look for this sign at the corner of Lowry and Enon Springs Road.



Look for this sign at the corner of Nissan and Enon Springs Road.



The Sparrow's Nest
Mother's Day Out



Hello Families of Preschoolers!

Fall classes will begin August 15, 2022.
Registration has begun!
Registration fee is \$90 per student
Tuition is \$170/month.

Classes meet Monday and Wednesday, 9 am - 2 pm,
August through May.
Pre-K graduation is set for May 11, 2022.



Kristen Bowen

MEET OUR NEW STAFF

Kristen Bowen is the new Director beginning with the 2022-2023 school year.

Betsy Jordan is the new Pre-k teacher.

We are so excited to have both these talented, loving & Christian ladies join our staff.



Betsy Jordan

We would love to be a part of your child's education!
Check out our website: smyrna1stumc.org

For questions contact sparrowsnestdirector@gmail.com or call 615.459.2844.

A ministry of Smyrna First United Methodist Church.



Emely Tenorio	05/03
Emma McClung	05/04
Dale Inman	05/06
Carol Smith	05/07
Mary Holloway	05/09
Regina Medlen	05/09
Melissa Owens	05/09
Jo Motley	05/10
Carrie Brooks	05/13
Micah Jordan	05/13
Donna Nelson	05/13
Cathy Pickens	05/13
Kim Honey	05/14
Oren Oliver	05/15
Linda Carol Taylor	05/19
Bailey Knotts	05/20
Suzanne Williams	05/21
Nadina Tharpe	05/24
Shirley Cobble	05/25
Derwin Brownlow	05/26
Scott Seagle	05/26
Tyler Wooding	05/26
Camron Phelps	05/27
Maria Tenorio	05/27
Mike Ashworth	05/29
Lane Cronan	05/31
Jennifer Phillips	05/31

MISSIONS COMMITTEE NEWS

Help us fill flood buckets on Sunday, May 1 following the 2nd service. We will meet in fellowship hall. These buckets will be used to help those affected by natural disasters, i.e. flooding, tornado, fire, etc. UMCOR flood buckets help to care for the most vulnerable people during times of crisis.



If your birthday or anniversary is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please notify the church office: sandra.phelps@smyrnafirstumc.org



Greg & Sissy Motley	05/04
Tom & Nita Wright	05/24
Larry & Karen Yatuzis	05/26
Dub & Marjorie Raborn	05/28
Danny & Michelle Martin	05/31



PROJECT TRANSFORMATION
SFUMC June 6-July 28 (Mon-Th)

Project Transformation operates summer programs serving rising 1st-6th grade students in neighborhoods throughout Davidson, Montgomery, Rutherford and Shelby Counties. The program focuses on enriching the mind and body with an emphasis on literacy and social-emotional health. Each day, students read one on one with church volunteers and participate in activity-based curriculum. Students also participate in daily enrichment activities including recreational play and exercise, creative arts, and interaction with our young adult interns and church volunteers, who inspire and encourage students.

To register, go to projecttransformation.org/Tennessee



BLOOD DRIVE at Smyrna First, Thursday, May 26th, 10 am - 4 pm in fellowship hall. Sign up at redcrossblood.org

FAMILY MINISTRY



This Month In KidMin

The school year is wrapping up and so is regular children programming! Starting on May 29, Children will be in the sanctuary until August when things start back up again! There will be a table in the back again where they can play, build with legos and color.

Upcoming Events

Youth Sunday: 5/8

Graduate Sunday: 5/8

All Families outing to

Karin's Kustard: 5/15

Reminders

Youth Sunday will be on May 8!! Youth will be leading worship this day, please attend to show your support and youth please let Kristi know if you would like to participate and haven't yet!

Important Dates

5/1: Regular Programming

5/8: Youth Sunday-No youth

5/15: All Family Ice cream--
end of regular programming
until August!



Huge thank you to everyone who contributed to the egg hunt! We were able to serve and love so many families from our church and our community and we couldn't have done it without all of your help! Thanks the the men's ministry for grilling for us, Journey Home, Kona Ice, Youth for showing up to help out and Emily Williams, Lane Cronan, Becky Jenkins, Carey Eisher, Betty Cooley, & Theresa Johnson for all the help!!

GENERAL CONFERENCE UPDATE

It is always my intention as the pastor and spiritual leader of our congregation to keep you informed and be transparent about what is happening. Part of our time at a recent district clergy meeting focused on what to communicate to local churches about what is happening in the UMC and how we can respond in this time of anxiety and uncertainty about our denomination. The bottom line: It's bad, but there is hope.

- The petition known as The Protocol is one petition of many dealing with human sexuality that has been submitted to General Conference (GC). It has NOT been voted on or endorsed by the UMC and won't be until GC meets (now 2024). GC is the only body that speaks for the whole denomination.
- The UMC Book of Discipline that outlines our doctrine, polity, and procedures has not changed since 2019.
- The idea for a new traditionalist denomination called the Global Methodist Church (GMC) came out of the proposal of The Protocol. The GMC originally planned to launch after GC.
- After it was announced that GC was delayed until 2024, they decided to up the launch date for this new denomination to May 1, 2022.
- The Commission on General Conference, not the Council of Bishops, is the group that makes decisions about whether/when GC meets. They postponed GC mostly over challenges of international delegates to obtain visas.
- At this moment in time, the GMC is not an active functioning denomination. Many questions remain about how it will function and exactly what their doctrine, polity, and procedures will be.
- Churches have absolutely no obligation of any kind to vote about becoming GMC any more than we are obligated to vote to be Presbyterians, Baptists, Nazarenes, etc.
- In the Stones River District, seven churches have already disaffiliated, and three more will soon likely disaffiliate from the UMC.

We discussed how we are powerless over much of what is happening in our denomination. We cannot control the negativity and hostility from both sides of the debate and bad and false information that is plastered all over the internet. However, I also acknowledge that it's not healthy to "bury our heads in the sand" and ignore that things are tough. I know many people are anxious. One of my greatest challenges in leading in this environment is how to acknowledge and address our struggles but at the same not get so bogged down in things we can't control that we neglect being faithful in our missional work that we can control. I ask for your continued prayers for me and us as a church as we keep moving forward.

However, there is hope! Our hope is found in that God still does mighty work in chaos and darkness. God creates out of darkness and chaos. God is at work among us right now. God isn't waiting for General Conference to meet in 2024. The best thing we can do is to press on in the work God is calling us to do, so we can be as healthy and fruitful for the kingdom of God as we can be in preparation for wherever God leads the people called Methodists.

With love and care for you all,

Pastor Theresa

SPRC REPORT

The SPRC continues to receive and review resumes and schedule interviews for the worship leader position(s) since Jamie Bobick announced her decision to resign a few months ago. We are thankful that Jamie has graciously offered to extend her time with us through the end of June as we continue working through the hiring process. We ask for your continued prayers and support in this process as we seek to hire the right person(s) for this important role.

SAVE THE DATE

**We will all meet together for
worship on
Sunday, May 29th
at 10:00 AM in the
Sanctuary, followed by
a picnic and ice cream!!**

Information Tech/Communications Team

We have been working diligently to eliminate the mic crackling issue. To that end, we had Tom Stotler, Excel Ind., out for a consultation. As a result of his visit, we have ordered a new connector for one of our mics and have ordered a new Contryman E6 wireless mic. The connector should arrive April 28. The new mic should be delivered between May 3 and May 11.

In the next few weeks, we will be training 2 new people on the workings of the Sound Booth. We are always looking into new ways to improve the quality of our work in the booth, like switching the content of our monitors to show the children during Children's Sermon. For our online worshipers, we are using a "count-down to service" overlay so they know when our service is truly live.

If you have been checking our Facebook page, you know that we have tried to feature some content that was a bit educational and dealt with people, places or events of importance to us as Christians, such as Black History Month, Women's History Month, daily prayers during Lent and some background on our Holy Week observances. If anyone has suggestions as to subjects we can research and put on our church page, please contact us.



The Journey Home



Founded in 2006, The Journey Home is a Christian ministry that serves the homeless and disadvantaged of Rutherford County by helping to rehouse and provide resources and relationships that encourage faith, economic stability, wholeness, and reintegration into community life.

Journey home has opened an office in Smyrna at 108 David Collins Drive.

Recently the following from SFUMC helped furnish a home for a struggling single mother in our community through The Journey Home: Micah & Sarah Jordan, Matt Johnson, Jared Cashion, Donna & Tim Sweeney, Karen & Andy Ferris, Mike Lawrence and Robert Honey.

More information: LoveGodServePeople.org



Vanco Mobile Faith Engagement

If you are currently giving to the Church through your smartphone by using the **Give+ app**, please be advised that this application is no longer available. You should begin using the new app immediately by going to the Apple App Store or Google Play store and downloading "**Vanco Mobile.**" Your log-in credentials will be the same in the new app as you used in the old. Also recurring gifts that you have already set up in Give+, will be transferred automatically to Vanco Mobile once you log-in.



Scan this QR code to access the VANCO donation page for a one time online donation or to set up recurring donations.

FNANCIAL UPDATE BUDGET VS ACTUAL

Apr. Tithes & Offerings Received	\$ 31,078.00
Apr. Budget Needs	\$ 36,196.00
Apr. Over/(Under) Budget	\$ (5,118.00)
YTD Balance Forward	\$ 18,201.00
YTD Over/(Under) Budget Needs	\$ 13,083.00

SALT

Senior Adults Living Triumphantly
For all who are 55+



Save the Date-May 19th
SALT lunch with
Cindo De Mayo theme:
Tacos with all the trimmings
dessert and drinks.
Musical group The Pickers
will provide entertainment.

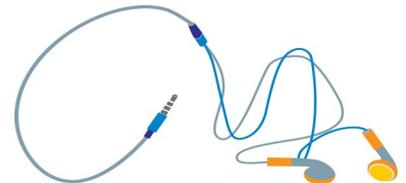
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:

8:30 AM Modern Worship
 9:30 AM Coffee & Conversation
 10:00 AM Sunday School
 11:00 AM Traditional Worship
 5:00 PM Youth (thru May 15th)

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE:

9:00 AM Mother's Day Out
 9:00 AM Community Bible Study
 (thru May 4th)
 3:00 PM Food Pantry
 6:00 PM Hand Bells
 7:15 PM Chancel Choir



Stay Connected

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

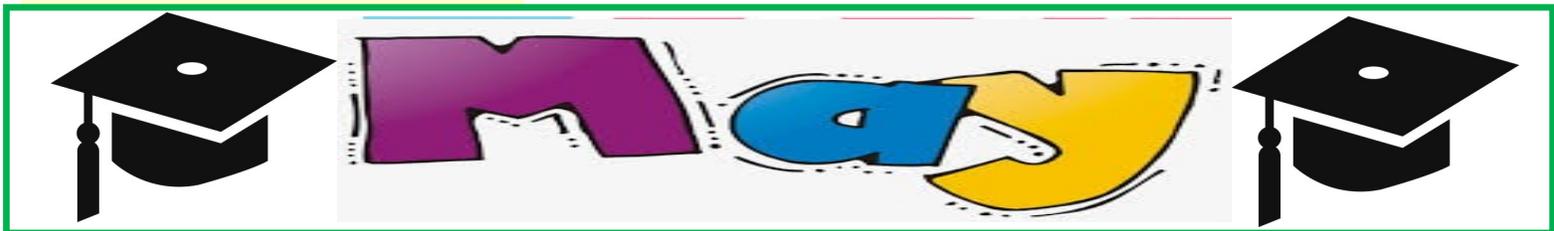
www.smyrna1stumc.org
 Also look for us on facebook and Instagram
 @sfumc.tn
 and Twitter @sfumc_tn

MONDAY SCHEDULE:

9:00 AM Mother's Day Out
 6:00 PM Scouts (thru

THURSDAY SCHEDULE:

10:00 AM Morning Glories
 (throughout the year)
 6:00 PM Praise Band



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 COMMUNION See Schedule	2 See Schedule	3 9:30 Church Staff Mtg.	4 See Schedule	5 See Schedule 5:30 Pack Backpacks	6 12:00 SALT Planning meeting	7
8 YOUTH SUNDAY See Schedule Mother's Day 7:30 am Men's Breakfast 5:00 Youth Dismissed	9 See Schedule	10 9:30 Church Staff Meeting 6:30 Finance Team conf. room #213	11 See Schedule 7:00 Worship Team conf. room #213	12 See Schedule	13	14
15 See Schedule UWF 12:15 FH 5:00 Youth Family Event	16 See Schedule	17 9:30 Church Staff Meeting	18 See Schedule 9:00 MDO End of Year	19 See Schedule 12:00 SALT Lunch Fellowship Hall 6:30 SPRC	20	21
22 See Schedule	23 See Schedule	24 9:30 Church Staff Meeting	25 See Schedule	26 See Schedule	27 1:00 Fellowship Hall Reserved ↓	28
29 COMBINED WORSHIP 10 AM followed with a Picnic & Ice Cream	30 Memorial day Church office Closed.	31 9:30 Church Staff Meeting				FH=Fellowship Hall

Complete Cleaning Crew is on campus every Friday, 1:00-5:00 pm to clean our buildings.