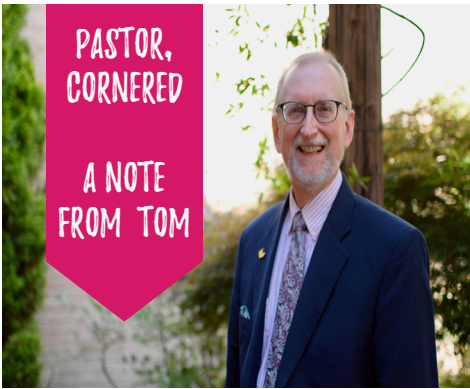




Our situation continues to evolve rapidly. For the most current information, please visit our website at [www.fountaincityumc.org](http://www.fountaincityumc.org) or call the church office at (865) 689-5175.

# THE SPIRIT

FOUNTAIN CITY UMC  
APRIL 2020 NEWSLETTER



If I were to nominate a “Word of the Year” for 2020, it would be UNPRECEDENTED. Over the last few weeks, I’ve heard it frequently, especially in framing COVID-19, coronavirus.

On March 15, due to health concerns, we suspended corporate worship. We were encouraged to find alternative ways to worship. I hope we all did so. Here are some ways that worship took place (outside the box) on that Sunday: One of our seasoned adults arrived for 8:30 am worship. I was in the parking lot and had a wonderful conversation that would not have occurred otherwise. I am so appreciative of folks who arrive with a spiritual hunger and thirst. Then, some of our faithful members showed up and did a prayer-walk around our church property as their act of worship.

The next person, who came by bus and regularly attends Celebrate Recovery, was planning to attend Journey. They were carrying their Bible as we met outdoors, but then we moved indoors to discuss FCUMC’s response plan to the health crisis. I was surprised when they asked if I could take their offering. Wishing to be an anonymous giver, they placed the offering in a plain white envelope, and I placed it away securely. Again, they mentioned missing worship. I told them that I had decided to donate a pint of blood that afternoon as an act of worship and they inquired how they might do so. I gave them the address of MEDIC.

I arrived at MEDIC myself in a couple of hours. Within 10 minutes, would you believe who walked through the door? It was that same person, Bible still in hand, having arrived by bus. I was disappointed when I was told that I had not waited long enough from my December date to donate again. It wasn’t until I was driving back that my next donation date struck me: April 10. That is Good Friday this year. Yes, Good Friday, the day we honor as Jesus shedding his own blood and dying on the cross.

It blessed me to wave at this person on my way out the door of MEDIC. In that moment, they were being screened. I hope they were able to donate. All in a day...making a financial gift and donating a pint of blood. This coronavirus thing is bringing out our best worship. Thanks be to God. Peace of Christ, Tom

## OUR GIFTS

WEEKLY OFFERING

Feb 10-16	\$19,799.76
Feb 17-23	\$19,413.70
Feb 24-Mar 1	\$34,786.73
Mar 2-8	\$26,380.78

	SUNDAY FEB 2	SUNDAY FEB 9	SUNDAY FEB 16	SUNDAY FEB 23	SUNDAY MAR 1	SUNDAY MAR 8
Sunday School	308	331	334	353	353	295
8:30 am Traditional Worship	137	142	146	154	167	138
11 am Traditional Worship	211	215	211	231	205	196
11 am The Journey	130	154	180	171	132	151
Celebrate Recovery	113	128	174	149	154	139
Total Worship Services	591	639	711	705	658	624
FEB 26 - Ash Wednesday	216					

## OUR SYMPATHIES

We extend our sympathy to Brenda Therry in the death of Cleveland Loy on February 16.

We extend our sympathy to Maxine Engle in the death of Betty Barnett on February 21.

We extend our sympathy to Ryan Pierce in the death of Tom Pierce on March 1.

We extend our sympathy in the death of Maxine Raines on March 4.

We extend our sympathy to Jean Payne in the death of Gene Payne on March 8.

We extend our sympathy to Amy Dendrinis in the death of Steve Dendrinis, Jr on March 11.

PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS,  
SERVICE, AND WITNESS

### FAITH PROMISE

Faith Promise Sunday will be April 26. Please mail your check to the church office or go to our website to give online to make your commitment.

# WORSHIP ONLINE

As our corporate worship services, classes, events and activities have been suspended until further notice, please continue to join us for Online Worship and stay in touch through our various Facebook pages.

## View Worship for Traditional, The Journey and for Celebrate Recovery at

[www.fountaincityumc.org/03/online-worship](http://www.fountaincityumc.org/03/online-worship)

## Pastor Kristen's past sermons are available at

[www.kristenburkhart.com/sermons](http://www.kristenburkhart.com/sermons)

## Services and words of encouragement and support from Celebrate Recovery at

[www.facebook.com/CRNorthKnox](http://www.facebook.com/CRNorthKnox)

Our staff remains very supportive and adaptable. Be sure and follow all of our Facebook pages to stay up to date with what is happening throughout the week. You can find a list of our Facebook pages on our **Worship Online** post at [www.fountaincityumc.org](http://www.fountaincityumc.org).

### EMERGENCY ON CALL

Apr. 3-5: Kristen Burkhart  
(865) 357-6354

Apr. 10-12: Tom Ballard  
(423) 585-7054

Apr. 17-19: Kristen Burkhart  
(865) 357-6354

Apr. 24 -26: Tom Ballard  
(423) 585-7054

### STEPHEN MINISTRY

Gail Clift  
(865) 922-9408

### INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Tim Brown  
(865) 599-3429

Mary Bolton  
(865) 250-3923

Tom Harrington  
(865) 687-9460

### ABOUT THE COVER PHOTO:

The Dogwood bloom is a symbol of rebirth and resurrection. The four petals symbolize the cross on which Jesus was crucified before his glorious resurrection on Easter. If you'd like to see one of your photos grace the cover of future *The Spirit* newsletters, please email Kathleen Bloom at [kathleen.bloom@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:kathleen.bloom@fountaincityumc.org).

## NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday: 9:00am-1:00pm  
Friday: closed

Our FCUMC staff remains committed to service. The majority of our staff are working remotely and can be reached by phone or email. You can find staff emails at [www.fountaincityumc.org](http://www.fountaincityumc.org) under the *Who We Are* menu or on Realm.

## Your Giving Matters Ways to Give



### MAIL

to the Church  
212 Hotel Rd, 37918



### MOBILE

thru the  
Realm app



### TEXT

givefcumc \$amt  
to 73256



### ONLINE

[fountaincityumc.org](http://fountaincityumc.org)

Thank you for remaining faithful with your tithes and offerings so we can continue to be the church. Our operating expenses will continue, whether or not we have corporate worship.

Ashley Garren, Financial Assistant  
[ashley.garren@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:ashley.garren@fountaincityumc.org) 865-689-5175

The Hebrews and the Samaritan woman at the well would not have known what we know today. We know that water is essential. If we don't have enough, we become dehydrated, and somehow, we have to be rehydrated. Sometimes, that means going into the hospital and getting IV fluids. Other times, our bodies retain fluid, and we have to have that water removed in a controlled environment. We are delicate creatures when it comes to that balance.

## "THIRST QUENCHER"

EXODUS 17:1-7, JOHN 4:5-42

The Hebrews had been in crisis mode for several days beginning with their enslavement in Egypt. God heard their cries for relief, and in the words of the Scriptures, with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, God delivered them from their Egyptian captors. They had seen the hand of God working in their favor in a number of ways. God brought plagues upon Egypt as a means to convince pharaoh to let God's people go. God parted the Red Sea so that they could walk through on dry ground. God provided daily rations of manna and quail for their sustenance. But when they came to this rest stop called Rephidim, their memories seemed to dry up in equal proportion to their thirst for water. We might say they had abbreviated memories. Being thirsty for water is one thing, but aridness of soul is an even deeper issue.

When our throats get dry and our lips become parched, we can grab something to satisfy our thirst. Similarly, our souls can only be satisfied with the real thirst-quencher. The Samaritan woman, whose path intersected with Jesus at Jacob's well, admitted that there was a thirst in her soul that was much deeper than the depth of the well before which she stood. When Jesus told her about living water, she said, "Give me this water that I may never thirst again". Like so many whom Jesus encountered one-on-one, she knew that there was something missing in her life, a hole in her soul.

In so many ways, the Hebrews and this Samaritan woman resonate with the cries of all people in all times and in all places, including right here and now. Our souls are parched. At one time, they may have been "well-watered." And like our bodies, our souls don't become dry all at once. Over time, when we neglect our relationship with God, there comes a time when we realize just how thirsty our souls are. It's at that moment that we have to admit that we, too, suffer from abbreviated memory.

The thirst of our bodies cannot be quenched all at once, and neither can our souls. But we can start with a simple drink and a swallow as we re-orient our lives. It begins with a fragile trust that only God in Christ can quench the thirst of our arid souls. What we will find is that God will honor that fragile trust, reassuring us that in the power and the presence of the Holy Spirit, He will be with us on this faith journey.

There is more to it than that. Such trust is a decision of the mind, but there also needs to be a movement of the heart in terms of discipline. I call this profound risk. We must put our faith into action in some way. Our thirst may be quenched by joining one of our Sunday school classes or study groups. Our thirst may be quenched by making a decision to be more committed to corporate worship. Our thirst may be quenched by making a decision to start tithing or to take a step in that direction. Don't misunderstand what I am saying. These disciplines don't earn us favor with God. Rather, these are examples of ways that we respond to this thirst-quenching God.

There are so many things out there which claim that they are thirst-quenching. And, perhaps they are, for a moment or for a season. But there will come a time when we look beneath our feet and see that we are at a place equivalent to Rephidim or Jacob's well. In that moment, we realize how thirsty we are. We will admit that our souls are parched and need refreshment. Nothing else will quench that thirst besides Jesus Christ. May God give us the capacity to allow our lips to touch Christ's life giving and life-sustaining water.

Peace of Christ, Tom

# FOUNTAIN KIDS

## Parent Cue App

Families love the Parent Cue App! If you have not downloaded this free app, please don't miss out. On Saturday mornings during our suspension of in-person services and activities, you will receive an email that includes all the weekly videos for the kiddos.

## Wednesday Night Live

Please join us! When you receive an email with a ZOOM invitation for the class, please accept the invitation and make note of the code and instructions.

**For our 3 and 4 year olds:** You will receive an email invitation from Miss Jenny.

**For our Crosstrainers:** You will receive an email invitation from Miss Mary Catherine.

**For our 3rd-5th grade Kids Club Kiddos:** You will receive an email invitation from either Miss Misty Brown or Mr. Ed Ripley.

Wednesday Night Live Jesus Funtime will begin at 6:30 p.m. each week and will last approximately 30 minutes. Parents are invited to "attend" with the kiddos. We want to see you all!

## Rocky Railway VBS - June 22-25

Get on board for our Camp Rocky Railway VBS chugging into town June 22-25! Registration is open for volunteers and child participants. Click on the Rocky Railway VBS link in the *Happening Now* section of our website.



## KRISTEN'S CORNER

By Rev. Dr. Kristen Burkhart, Associate Pastor of Discipleship



Whew. Things have been turned upside down since our last newsletter. Thank you all for your patience as we seek to be TV Evangelists now. As things are changing, I am reminded to search for things that comfort us and lead us back into the comforting arms of our Lord. Music is one of those things that comforts me during difficult times. My favorite song to listen to when all seems lost is *Hold Me Jesus* by Rich Mullins which appeared on his 1994 CD titled "*Simply Rich Mullins*". It was also covered by Big Daddy Weave on the 2006 album "*Every Time I Breathe*".

***"Well, sometimes my life just don't make sense at all. When the mountains look so big and my faith just seems so small."*** This virus seems so big and there is not much we can do but stay at home, right?

***"So, hold me Jesus 'cause I'm shaking like a leaf. You have been King of my glory; won't you be my Prince of Peace."*** Have you been out to the store and in the middle of shopping and began thinking about all that was going on and it caused your peace to shake?

***"And I wake up in the night and feel the dark. It's so hot inside my soul, I swear there must be blisters on my heart."*** Have you had trouble getting to sleep, staying asleep, or sleeping too much? Do you feel isolated and anxious?

***"Surrender don't come natural to me. I'd rather fight You for something I don't really want, than to take what You give that I need. And I've beat my head against so many walls now, I'm falling down. I'm falling on my knees."*** Do you like to have a plan and be organized and prepared? Do you feel your house walls getting closer?

***"And this Salvation Army band is playing this hymn, and Your grace rings out so deep, it makes my resistance seem so thin."*** Can you remember the last hymn or song you heard in worship with us at FCUMC? Does it have new meaning now that we have been apart from our worshipping communities?

***"You have been King of my glory, won't you be my Prince of Peace."*** Prince of Peace, we come to you asking for your guidance, peace, understanding, and diligence as we seek to combat this virus and seek to love our neighbors and continue to be witnesses to your peace. Amen. Peace be with you! – Pastor Kristen

## Trusting God Each Day by Seth Charles, CR-North Ministry Leader

As I struggle to figure out how to do ministry during this time of uncharted territory, I am truly reminded of how powerless we really are. I realize that often I spend most of my waking day thinking I am in control of things. Thinking I know what is coming next and how I will handle it. Unfortunately, this leaves no room for God to work in our lives. It can be a frightening place to be, living in the unknown, unaware of what is going to happen next.

CR's Step 1 of the 12 asks us to admit we are powerless to control things in our lives. This humble, painful admission can be one of the most freeing events in our lives. Freedom in finally realizing that we do not have to control everything in and around our lives. A concept that sounds easy enough, but when practiced, proves to be new territory for many of us.

The recent events of this world and the coronavirus pandemic give us a labyrinth of opportunities to admit our powerlessness. In recovery language, we have been given many opportunities to work Step 1. Furthermore, the steps go on and we enter Step 3 which states, "We made a decision to turn our lives and our wills over to the care of God."

The pivot point of Christianity and recovery is the greatest and most important decision we as Christians will ever make. We make the once in a lifetime decision to turn our lives over to Christ. Along with this decision, we also make the decision each day to turn our wills over to the care of God. When we don't know what to do next, our best course of action is to turn it all over and to trust God with our lives. Or as we say at Celebrate Recovery, "Let go and let God".

To my previous question, "how do we do ministry during this time?" I believe the answer to this question is to trust God. Trust that God is in control of our ministry and our lives the same as he was before the coronavirus.

## OUR PRESENCE:

CELEBRATING WITH OUR FCUMC FAMILY

We certainly have a lot to celebrate as a congregation. You are invited to rejoice in the following blessings with us!

We celebrate the wedding of Sarah Ridenour & John Mays on Saturday, March 7. Congratulations!

Join us in celebrating new members, Jay & Bonnie Andross. They joined our church body on March 8. Welcome!

Join us in celebrating new members, Rebecca Jackson-Leach & Justin Leach. They joined our church body on March 8. Welcome!

Join us in celebrating new member, Ron Jones. He joined our church body on March 19. Welcome!

## ALL IN FOR CHRIST SPOTLIGHT



One of the most important events in our church family is Confirmation. Our confirmands have been learning what it means to become a church member and answering and living into the vows of prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Our hope is that this process launches them on a lifelong journey of stewardship.

The Confirmation curriculum discusses how, as Christians, we are called to give to God "what is right, not what is left", and how faith-filled, first-fruits giving is our opportunity to return to God a small portion of God's abundant blessing in our lives. It also discusses how we put our gifts to use by living a life of Christian service. Service is the most visible way in which we witness to people in our community and give them the experience of God's love.

The class is also being blessed and shown an example of membership vows in action by the Confirmation mentors who have been helping them on their journey – Tim and Cathy Brown, Seth and Joy Charles, Jessie Buttram, LeRae Collins, Susan Todd, Kristen Burkhart, and Daniel Doubleday. Thank you all for showing our confirmands what being **All In For Christ** means!

CAMP WESLEY WOODS  
NEEDS OUR SUPPORT



Since 1959, God has used Camp Wesley Woods to help kids begin relationships with Jesus and grow in their faith journeys. Out of 848 campers in 2019, 361 of them attended on some form of scholarship. We can help give the gift of camp so that every child who wishes to camp at Wesley Woods can experience the love of Christ in a unique way. A donation of \$385 provides a full week of camp for a child but every gift in any amount makes a difference. Please go to [www.campwesleywoods.com](http://www.campwesleywoods.com) and click on the **DONATE NOW** button in the top right corner to make a donation. Let's make a difference in the life of a child. **And don't forget to register your child or grandchild for camp while visiting the Camp Wesley Woods website!**



As Christians, we spend Holy Week recalling the events leading up to Jesus' death by crucifixion and his ultimate Resurrection. **We will provide Online Worship on our website for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.**

We have communion servings available, each with a wafer and cup individually wrapped. You can come by and pick them up beginning on Monday of Holy Week during our new office hours and hold until Maundy Thursday. Please let us know an approximate arrival time via email or phone call prior to coming to the church, then text or call upon arrival. We will bring communion servings to your car. Please park in office parking lot (Door #3). Thank you!

**FOR MORE DETAILS  
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE**  
[WWW.FOUNTAINCITYUMC.ORG](http://WWW.FOUNTAINCITYUMC.ORG)

**ADULTS 50+ UPDATE**

In accordance with the guidelines that FCUMC has adopted in response to Covid-19, we will not be hosting events in April. Please stay connected with one another and do not hesitate to reach out if you need assistance. We are all in this together.

Jeanie Tillman, Director



**MEDIC Regional Blood Center** needs our help! Due to the cancellation of many of their scheduled blood drives, supplies of blood are diminishing. But we can help! According to the FDA there is no intrinsic risk of the safety of the blood supply due to Covid-19, but there is risk to the availability of blood for patients in need.

MEDIC Mobile will be onsite in the FCUMC office parking lot on Hotel Road on Wednesday, **April 8** and Thursday, **April 9** from **10 am - 5 pm**. All donors must make an appointment and appointments are limited. Each donor will receive a free MEDIC gift and Texas Roadhouse appetizer. To make an appointment or for details on the precautions that MEDIC will take to ensure the safety of donors during our blood drive, please go to our website at [www-fountaincityumc.org](http://www-fountaincityumc.org) and click on **"How To Get Involved Right Now"**.

We might not be having corporate worship during Holy Week, but there is still an opportunity to give sacrificially. Blood is the most precious gift that anyone can give to another person — the gift of life.

# IN MEMORY & IN HONOR

## GENERAL FUND

In Memory of Peter Love by Pairs & Spares SS Class  
In Memory of Paul Tarver by Sherry Thomas Bell & Tina Thomas Dotson, Dixie Bopp, and Reuben & Louann Holland

In Memory of Jack Sterling by Bettye Lane  
In Memory of Betty Barnett by Dolores Smith  
In Honor of Christian Fellowship SS Class by Louise Nelson

In Memory of Megan Stinnett by Lili Holbert, and Reuben & Louann Holland

## CHOIR FUND

In Honor of Bill Miller by Gary & Patty McMahon

## UMCOR

In Honor of Sandy Morgan by Gary & Patty McMahon

## CELEBRATE RECOVERY

In Honor of Seth Charles by Tom Cloud

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In Honor of Christian Fellowship SS Class by Bill & Martha Routh

## SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Memory of Gene Payne by Fred & Billie Graves, Mary Frances Tucker, Francis & Jennifer Goswitz, Jim Cumby, Bob Cantrell, The Neighborhood Family, Betsey Creekmore, Warren & Kathleen Payne, RB & Susan Schumpert, Bill & Martha Routh, and Conrad & Wanda Majors

## SOUND AND TAPE MINISTRIES

In Memory of Barbara Smith by Bill & Martha Routh, Terry & Mary Smith, and Don & Suzie Durham

## PRESCHOOL FUND

In Memory of Ashley Oakes by Becky Renfro, and Jeff & Emily Thompson

In Memory of Barbara Smith by John & Karen Needy

## FOUNTAIN CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**WEBSITE:** [www.fountaincityumc.org](http://www.fountaincityumc.org)

**PHONE:** (865) 689-5175

### FCUMC STAFF

Tom Ballard, Senior Pastor  
[tom.ballard@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:tom.ballard@fountaincityumc.org)

Kristen Burkhardt, Associate Pastor of Discipleship  
[kristen.burkhardt@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:kristen.burkhardt@fountaincityumc.org)

John Patterson, Dir. of Church Operations  
[john.patterson@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:john.patterson@fountaincityumc.org)

Jeanie Tillman, Dir. of Adults 50+ Ministries  
[jeanie.tillman@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:jeanie.tillman@fountaincityumc.org)

Donna Lewis, Dir. of Children's Ministries  
[donna.lewis@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:donna.lewis@fountaincityumc.org)

Daniel Doubleday, Dir. of Youth Ministries  
[daniel.doubleday@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:daniel.doubleday@fountaincityumc.org)

Leslie Hill, Dir. of Music Ministries  
[leslie.hill@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:leslie.hill@fountaincityumc.org)

Doug Shipman, Dir. of Food Services  
[doug.shipman@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:doug.shipman@fountaincityumc.org)

Mark Seals, Dir. of The Journey Worship  
[mseals777@yahoo.com](mailto:mseals777@yahoo.com)

Alycia Truett, Dir. of Preschool  
[alycia.truett@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:alycia.truett@fountaincityumc.org)

Kathleen Bloom, Dir. of Communications  
[kathleen.bloom@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:kathleen.bloom@fountaincityumc.org)

Seth Charles, Celebrate Recovery Ministry Leader  
[seth.charles@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:seth.charles@fountaincityumc.org)

Jenny Cook, Early Childhood Coordinator  
[jenny.cook@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:jenny.cook@fountaincityumc.org)

Melissa Greene, Administrative Assistant  
[melissa.greene@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:melissa.greene@fountaincityumc.org)

Ashley Garren, Finance Assistant  
[ashley.garren@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:ashley.garren@fountaincityumc.org)

Maxine Engle, Receptionist  
[maxine.engle@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:maxine.engle@fountaincityumc.org)

Ralph Paden, Facilities Manager  
[ralph.paden@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:ralph.paden@fountaincityumc.org)

John Fine, Facilities Staff  
Todd Graves, Facilities Staff