

# MISSION CELEBRATION RECAP

By Becky Ripley, Missions Committee Chair

What a wonderful Missions Celebration we had the last weekend of March! The entire weekend was filled with activity including 72 servings of lasagna, ten tables of artisan handiwork, 197 pairs of helping hands, eight classes focused on outreach, and three services of worship and celebrating God's call to be His hands and feet, which equaled one very full weekend at FCUMC! On behalf of the Missions Committee, I would like to thank the congregation for its support of the Missions Celebration weekend featuring our sixth annual Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event. As of March 30, our church has sponsored and

packaged over 220,00 meals during the six events. We have had the opportunity to hear from missionaries and see firsthand how our Faith Promise Pledges are put into action. Through these funds, our church continues to reach out globally, nationally, and locally. I know classes and other groups within the church are also supporting many important projects by their gifts, prayers, and hands-on activities. The Faith Promise monies are how our church as a whole reaches out to the least of these and continues to spread God's love into all of the world. Thank you for your support of our efforts.



THE SPIRIT  
FOUNTAIN CITY UMC  
MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER

## PASTOR, CORNERED

### A NOTE FROM TOM



“Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed!**” Another Easter has come and gone. Or has it? If we were Christians living in the 4th century, within a few hundred years of Jesus’ death and resurrection, we wouldn’t get off quite so easily. In the primitive Church, *every Sunday* was celebrated as Easter. One of the things that tells me is that we can’t get too much Easter. After all, take the resurrection out of the Christian faith...and there is no Christian faith. Therefore, in our simple affirmation, we not only proclaim that *Christ is risen!* For emphasis, we add **indeed!**

**Indeed, Christ is risen.** There might be other ways of making the same point: *Without a doubt...For sure...That’s a fact...* Having recently come through March Madness and another NCAA basketball tournament, we might use language like slam dunk (I’ll resist calling the name of the color analyst for college basketball who is well known for saying, “Are you kidding me?!”) At the risk of offending my grade-school grammar and spelling teachers, I might say something like, “Now, ain’t that sumpin!” If we were texting **indeed** on a

cell phone, we might use the Thumbs Up emoji. You could certainly add your own unique expressions of **indeed.**

In the Christian calendar, we have a way of measuring **indeed.** We call it the Season of Easter or Eastertide. Sometimes, we refer to it as The Great Fifty Days, because of the testimony in the New Testament book of Acts that after Jesus’ bodily resurrection, he remained on earth for 40 days before his ascension back into heaven. In Jewish tradition, 50 days was the period between Passover and Pentecost, a harvest festival. We recall that the Holy Spirit descended at Pentecost which became the catalyst for Christ’s Church.

So, what’s the point of all of this rambling? I’d say it has something to do with identity...in particular, identity with Jesus. Easter is more than a holiday. Easter is more than a Season even. Easter is a way of living. **Indeed!**

Peace of Christ.

### OUR GIFTS

#### WEEKLY OFFERING

Mar. 18-24	\$ 21,389.07
Mar. 25-31	\$ 13,905.40
Apr. 1-7	\$ 44,733.62
Apr. 8-14	\$ 28,669.62

#### FAITH PROMISE

Faith Promise Sunday will be May 26. Please use the blue envelopes in the pew racks to make your Faith Promise commitment.

	SUNDAY MAR. 10	SUNDAY MAR. 17	SUNDAY MAR. 24	SUNDAY MAR. 31	SUNDAY APR. 7	SUNDAY APR. 14
<b>Sunday School</b>	337	301	300	207	314	321
8:30 am Traditional Worship	162	123	107	101	161	204
11 am Traditional Worship	236	214	186	204	214	274
<b>11 am The Journey</b>	162	130	153	152	168	158
Celebrate Recovery	167	148	133	143	135	127
<b>TOTAL WORSHIP SERVICES</b>	727	615	579	600	678	763

#### OUR SYMPATHIES

We extend our sympathy to Brian Hitch in the death of his mother, Louise Harkness Hitch, on March 9.

We extend our sympathy to Bill and Brenda Miller in the death of their daughter, Emily Amanda Miller, on March 15.

We extend our sympathy to Sherry Ball in the death of her father, Henry Evans, on March 19.

We extend our sympathy to Bobby Keck in the death of his wife, Katherine Keck, on April 2.

We extend our sympathy to Eric Petersen and Blake Waring in the death of their grandmother, Betty Jo Uhlman, on April 5.

We extend our sympathy to the family of Rev. J. Spurgeon McCartt, former pastor of FCUMC, in his death on April 10.

We extend our sympathy to Mary Ann Merritt in the death of her husband, Von Merritt, on April 12.

**PRAYERS, PRESENCE,  
GIFTS, AND SERVICE**

## UPCOMING MAY DATES

#### THURSDAY, MAY 2

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm: UMW Spring Cleaning Sale Drop-Off (Gym)

#### FRIDAY, MAY 3

8:00 am - 3:00 pm: UMW Spring Cleaning Sale Drop-Off (Gym)

#### SATURDAY, MAY 4

8:30 am - 12:00pm: UMW Spring Cleaning Sale (Gym)

#### SUNDAY, MAY 5

5:30 pm: Senior Banquet (Gym)

7:00 pm: Children’s Music Ensembles (Sanctuary)

#### MONDAY, MAY 6

8:00 am: FCUMC Preschool Mother’s Day Tea (Wesley Hall)

#### TUESDAY, MAY 7

8:00 am: FCUMC Preschool Mother’s Day Tea (Wesley Hall)

#### FRIDAY, MAY 10

11:30 am: Adults 50+ Luncheon (Wesley Hall)

#### SUNDAY, MAY 12

8:30 am: Mother’s Day Pancake Breakfast (Old Fellowship Hall)

9:45 am: Safe Sanctuary Training (Wesley Hall)

#### MONDAY, MAY 14

10:00 am: UMW Ruth Circle (Rooms 134 & 135)

1:00 pm: UMW Sarah Circle (Rooms 134 & 135)

#### THURSDAY, MAY 16

1:00 pm: Adults 50+ Coloring (Room 137)

#### SUNDAY, MAY 19

9:45 am: Safe Sanctuary Training (Wesley Hall)

#### THURSDAY, MAY 23

11:00 am: Adults 50+ Mixed Media Artz (Room 207)

6:00 pm & 7:15 pm: Dance for Joy Spring Recital (Sanctuary)

#### SATURDAY, MAY 25

5:45 pm: Open Door Community Meal (Wesley Hall)

#### SUNDAY, MAY 26

Faith Promise Sunday

### EMERGENCY ON CALL

May 3-5: John Gargis  
(865) 310-4783

May 10-12: Tom Ballard  
(423) 585-7054

May 17-19: John Gargis  
(865) 310-4783

May 24-26: Tom Ballard  
(423) 585-7054

May 31- June 2: John Gargis  
(865) 310-4783

### STEPHEN MINISTRY

Gail Clift  
(865) 922-9408

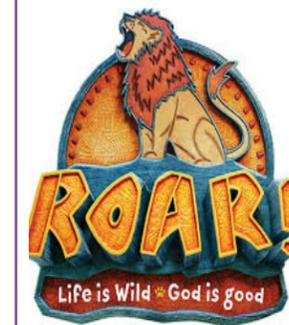
### INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Mary Bolton  
(865) 687-6277

Tom Harrington  
(865) 687-9460

# A LOOK AHEAD

MORE DETAILS AVAILABLE AT  
[WWW.FOUNTAINCITYUMC.ORG](http://WWW.FOUNTAINCITYUMC.ORG)



## ROAR VBS

Summer is almost here! Pencil us in for the week of **June 17-20** from 9am-noon for this epic African adventure that will engage the whole herd! Kids will explore God’s goodness and celebrate a ferocious faith that powers them through this wild life.

The link to register is available on our website. After completing registration, you will receive a confirmation email that will include information about pre-check in, snacks and daily schedule. Make Roar VBS part of your child’s summer plans! For more information, contact Donna Lewis at [donna.lewis@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:donna.lewis@fountaincityumc.org).

## MISSIONPALOOZA

Our rising fifth and sixth graders will participate in Missionpalooza again this year. This is a wonderful outreach and local mission opportunity where our kids learn to serve while articulating their faith to younger children. On **June 24-27** from 8:30am - 3:00pm, Fountain Kids will be conducting ROAR VBS for 35- 50 children at the Northridge Housing Complex, which serves children from Inskip, Christenberry Heights and Gresham Schools. This project is a transition to familiarity with our youth program here at FCUMC, and Donna Lewis and Daniel Doubleday will be jointly leading this event. Parents are welcome to come and serve alongside their children. Please contact Donna at [donna.lewis@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:donna.lewis@fountaincityumc.org) or Daniel at [daniel.doubleday@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:daniel.doubleday@fountaincityumc.org) for more information. We appreciate the Scroggie Mission Endowment Grant for financial assistance for Missionpalooza!

## IN MEMORY & IN HONOR

### GENERAL FUND

In Honor of Troy Lawson by Reuben & LouAnn Holland  
In Memory of Henry Evans by Pairs & Spares SS Class

### MISSIONS

In Memory of Emily Amanda Miller by Tom Harrington  
In Memory of Henry Evans by Tom Harrington

### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

In Memory of Charlotte Tarr by Martha & Bill Routh  
In Memory of Emily Amanda Miller by Martha & Bill Routh

### CHILDREN'S FUND

In Memory of Betty Jo Uhlman by Tim & Dottie McComas

## NEWS, NOTES, AND THE NOTEWORTHY

### MAY USHERS

#### 8:30AM TRADITIONAL

Bruce Luttrell - Head Usher  
Jeane Luttrell - Head Usher  
Liz Brown  
David W. Smith

#### 11:00AM TRADITIONAL

Claude Johnson - Head Usher  
John Mays - Head Usher  
Jeff Rudolph  
Carol Rudolph  
Carol Johnson  
Tom Hueser

### THE JOURNEY

May 5: Rod Jack  
Jennifer Jack  
Chris James  
JoAnn James

May 12: Jackie Benshoof  
Rich Brown  
Mark Sharpe  
Karmen Sharpe

May 19: Paul Makres  
Angie Makres  
Jen Smith

May 26: Richard Belew  
Stephanie Belew  
Julia Slack  
Tyler Slack

## ADULTS 50+ UPDATE

Join us for our luncheon on **Friday, May 10**, at 11:30am in Wesley Hall. The cost will be \$6.00 and our guest speaker will be Tom Harrington. He is a lifetime member of Fountain City UMC and a Smoky Mountain Park Volunteer Interpreter. He leads year round hikes and goes out at least once a week to do trail and wildflower reports. Enjoy fellowship and good food as Tom shares information about wildflowers in the Smokies, provides a magnificent PowerPoint presentation on them, and shows us easy ways to identify wildflowers. Please RSVP by Tuesday, May 7 by contacting the church office at (865) 689-5175 or email Jeanie Tillman at [jeanie.tillman@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:jeanie.tillman@fountaincityumc.org).

**Inskip Snacks!!!** If you would like to donate snacks for the Food Pantry at Inskip Elementary School there will be a donation box at our May Luncheon. Please bring items that are individually packaged and no peanuts please!

**Adult Coloring:** Spring is here and it is a great time for something new! If you have never been to our Adult Coloring group, come give it a try! We will meet on **May 16** from 1:00pm to 3:00pm in Room 136. No need to worry about bringing books or coloring pencils, we will have plenty of supplies on hand. Of course, you are welcome to bring your own. It is free and no reservations are needed. We hope you join us!



Give our **Mixed Media Artz Class** a try! Join us on **May 23** from 11:00am - 1:00pm in Room 207 as Betty Hueser leads us in the use a heavy body acrylic paint and a pallet knife to create this Rustic Barn painting. No art experience necessary. Painting can be messy so dress accordingly and bring your own lunch. The cost is \$10 and there is limited space available so RSVP by May 21!

For Adults 50+ Ministry events, please contact Jeanie Tillman at [jeanie.tillman@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:jeanie.tillman@fountaincityumc.org) or call the church office at (865) 689-5175.

**ABOUT THE COVER PHOTO:** Blooming flowers are a sure sign that summer is headed our way!

If you'd like to see one (or two or five!) of your photos grace the cover of future **The Spirit** newsletters, please email [kathleen.bloom@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:kathleen.bloom@fountaincityumc.org).

## OUR PRESENCE CELEBRATING WITH OUR FCUMC FAMILY

Our extended church family continues to grow! We invite you to rejoice in the following blessings with us!

Please join us in celebrating the baptism of Jason Edward Davis on March 12.

Please join us in celebrating the marriage of Erma Prather and Lewis Brewer on April 6.

Please join in celebrating the marriage of Sybil Tucker and David Lambert on April 13.

We at FCUMC have many great things to celebrate with our church family! If you have a celebration to include, please email [kathleen.bloom@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:kathleen.bloom@fountaincityumc.org).



Fountain City UMC would like to recognize the hard work and academic achievements of our extended church family! Join us in celebrating with these graduates!

### High School Graduates

Bradie Ankeny  
Zach Bowlin  
Maddie Bunnell  
Ethan Campbell  
Sarah Cook  
Jordan Crawley  
Meredith Glover  
Bailey Lemmons  
Stevie Makres  
Adam Marine  
Jackson Muncy  
Rhett Patton  
Kaylin Shipley  
Marina Shipman  
Kayley Siler  
Tyler Skinner  
Meredith Wormsley

### Post Secondary Education

Tyler Edwards  
Lindsey Goodin  
Emily Hardin (December 2018)  
Michael Hines  
Riley Patton  
Anna Ripley  
Sarah Smith

## IN SERVICE TO OTHERS

Do you knit or crochet? Would you like to learn? The Jubilee Project makes baby kits for new mothers, and they especially love handmade baby blankets to include in those kits. Sandy Failing would like to hear from you if you are interested in joining a group who will make baby blankets for this project. If you don't know how to knit or crochet, no worries! Sandy has been knitting and crocheting for over 50 years and is happy to include people who would like to learn. Contact Sandy at [stfailing@snet.net](mailto:stfailing@snet.net) or (203) 631-5211.



FCUMC Preschool staff, children and families had a collection drive for Rise Against Hunger. They collected \$150, mostly in coins for this Faith Promise

mission. Thank you to our preschool for your generosity!!

Fountain Kids and their parents partnered with Chase's Dream Diner to serve Easter dinner to Knoxville's homeless community on Saturday, April 13. Thank you so much to the United Methodist Women, Whobodies and FISH Sunday School Classes, Pam Walker, and Dale Harold of Ham 'N Goodys for providing this opportunity. It was a blessing as well as a hands-on,



in the trenches moment as we served 170 meals and shared the love of Jesus with outreached hands and smiling faces!

Please keep our youth group in your prayers as they prepare for their Puerto Rico Mission Trip on May 25-31 where they will help rebuild roofs.



## BEING PREPARED

tourniquets. Our basic first aid kits, for minor medical treatment, are maintained by our facilities management, preschool staff, as well as our children's, early childhood and youth ministries. These kits are located in the ministry directors' offices as well as throughout the church.

In 2018, we purchased four AEDs to go along with the one we already owned. An AED is a device that analyzes a heart rhythm and prompts the user to deliver a shock when necessary. The American Heart Association encourages every AED program to deliver defibrillation within three to five minutes after collapse. Our AEDs are located so that one can be reached within three minutes from anywhere in the building.



**TRAUMA KIT**



**FIRST AID KIT**

We have new signage identifying the locations of our medical devices and supplies. Look for the Trauma Kit symbol, the First Aid Kit symbol, and the AED sign to find the locations of these items. We are currently working on an awareness program for our devices and kits, which will focus on their locations around the building, basic kit contents, and familiarization with the medical equipment.

How can you help? Let us know if you are a medical professional so that our staff will know who might be available in the event of a medical emergency. Please contact the church office at (865) 689-5175. It is our hope that we will never have a need for these emergency items; however, we will be prepared if and when the time comes that they are necessary.

By John Patterson, Director of Church Operations

The safety and well-being of our church and community members who enter our doors are of utmost importance at FCUMC. In order to be properly prepared for any medical emergency situation, we have added several items to our emergency readiness plan. This includes the purchase of additional trauma kits, first aid kits, and automatic external defibrillators (AED) that can be found throughout the church. In the last six months, we have had several emergency situations in the church, mainly in the Sanctuary. We want everyone to become familiar with the kits and the signage that will let you know where to find them.

The four additional trauma kits that we acquired in March were purchased for use by professional personnel such as EMTs, doctors, and nurses. These kits include items such as bandages, gauze pads, ointment, blood pressure cuffs, stethoscopes, and

## FAREWELL TO PASTOR JOHN GARGIS

BY THE 2019 SPRC

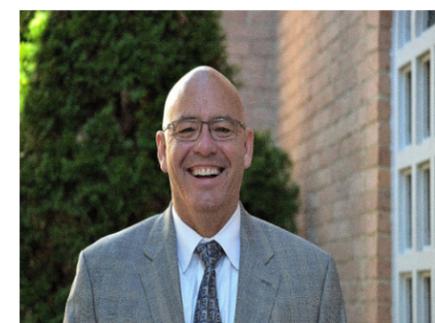
What is so unique about Pastor John Gargis and his time here at FCUMC? The answer is his effectiveness from the very beginning of his ministry. His friendly, warm, and open demeanor combined with an almost permanent smile and a willingness to stop and listen, helped him quickly build trust and relationships within and around the congregation. Early in his time here, he began a habit of just "showing up" in all kinds of places. On more than one occasion, he served food to the congregation at Wednesday night dinners, and worshipped in the aisles with the youth group at Resurrection in Pigeon Forge. We have heard stories of Pastor John taking kids swimming, bike riding, to football games and the movies, and so much more. On any given Sunday morning, you could spot him in the hallways, stopping to talk to the children or to give them a high five. His joy and enthusiasm for serving Christ showed in his attitude and it was contagious throughout the congregation.

The bulk of John Gargis's pastoral assignment centered on the ministry of Celebrate Recovery (CR). In the beginning, he worked with the group offsite in the general Fountain City area. However, as circumstances changed, he brought the whole ministry to FCUMC. The love and compassion he has shown for those with addictions, brokenness, or a desire to just "breathe free", brought a following of people from both inside and outside the church. With God's help, a lot of hard work, and the help of volunteers (often church members themselves), so many people at CR have been able

to break free of their addictions and destructive behaviors to start a new life...clean, sober, and often with a new sense of service for Christ. The number of people attending CR grew over the years from a small gathering of 25 to 35 people to its current state of 125 to 150 people on any given Tuesday evening. For Pastor John, the "success" wasn't about the growth in numbers or a strong ministry program, but was always about praying that God would guide "just one more" person to the doors of Celebrate Recovery North each week, so that "just one more" person could break free of sin and get wholeness and sanity back in their lives.

When we said farewell to Pastors Randy Frye and Amy Aycock, and hello to Pastor Tom Ballard, Pastor John was asked to bring his talents and passion to our contemporary service. Again, God blessed Pastor John's work (and the work of so many others) in developing what is now known as The Journey 4.0, a contemporary service that has brought a new energy and passion to our Sunday mornings. In the beginning, approximately 80 to 100 people worshipped at The Journey service. There are now 150 to 180 members consistently attending this service each Sunday. Again, the "success" isn't so much about the number of people as it is a new commitment, a new energy for worship, and a renewed passion for sharing the gospel of Christ.

Pastor John, on behalf of the entire congregation, the SPRC would like to offer our heartfelt gratitude on a job well done. You were effective from the start and simply improved over time. You have performed superbly. We wish you well, we pray for God's blessings and providence on your next assignment. You will be missed.



### JOHN'S CORNER

BY JOHN GARGIS, ASSOCIATE PASTOR

A calling is a funny thing. When you are called to do something, by default you are forced to leave something else behind. By the time you read this, I will have completed four years at FCUMC. Becky and I have been so blessed during our time here, and for me this has been a great season of learning and growth. When I first arrived, I had three types of sermons. One for the Traditional service, one for The Journey, and one for Celebrate Recovery. Now, I leave you with just one sermon. You have been so open and courageous with me in your own struggles, I grew to know there is only one story to tell. The amazing story of power, grace, and restoration is now written on my heart. This past year, the amazing "Journey Folk" have allowed me to share my heart. God moved in such a powerful way right before our eyes. This revelation of God fueled my calling and I am forever grateful.

I have experienced so many deep bonding moments with you. There are too many to count, but too divine to ever forget. Thank you Fountain City UMC, for being so loving to Becky and me. My prayer for you is to keep praying for "God to help you find one more."

Love, John