This month we are introducing an exciting new sermon series entitled, “Questions Christians Ask.” For seven weeks we will address issues such as:

“If God is good, why do bad things happen?”
“Is the Bible still relevant?”
“Is believing the same as faith?”
“If I am a Christian, why do I still sin?”
“If I can worship God anywhere, why do I need to come to church?”
“What does baptism matter?”
“What happens when I die?”

John, Amy, and I are looking forward to exploring those questions with you; and we have decided to spend 4-6 weeks each year addressing similar topics. This is where we need your help. At our last Sermon Planning Day, we developed this set of questions. As we plan for next year’s series, we invite you to submit your questions to us. Don’t wait until next year...as you think of questions you have had about faith and life, send them to us. We will review each of them and develop our next “Questions” series based upon the inquiries you share.

Our goal in this series is to help us more firmly connect our faith with everyday living by deepening our relationship with God. We are also developing our next “Questions” series based upon the inquiries you share.

UPCOMING SEPTEMBER DATES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4
Church Office closed in observance of Labor Day
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
9:30 am : MOPS Kick-Off Meeting (Room 135)
9:30 am : UMW Unit Meeting (Wesley Hall)
6:30 pm : ELL Registration & Class (Room 111)
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6
6:00 pm : GED New Student Testing (Room 106)
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8
11:30 am : Adults 50+ Luncheon (Wesley Hall)
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
5:30 pm : Youth Ocoee Whitewater Trip (Off-Site)
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11
6:00 pm : GED New Student Testing (Room 106)
7:00 pm : Preschool Parents’ Meeting (Gym)
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
10:45 am : UMW Unit Meeting (Wesley Hall)
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21
1:00 pm : Adults 50+ Coloring (Room 137)
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22
8:00 pm : Youth 5th Quarter (Gym)
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
5:30 pm : Open Door Community Meal
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
3:00 pm : Knoxville District Conference (Sanctuary)
4:30 pm : District Superintendent Reception (Gym)

YOUTH WHITewater RAFTING TRIP
SATURDAY | SEPT. 9 | 1:30PM-10:00PM

Our youth group will be hitting the rapids on Saturday, September 9! Sign-ups are going on now! The cost of the event is $60.00 per youth, which includes dinner. Meet at the church after lunch at 1:30pm to head down to Ducktown, TN. We’ll be rafting with Adventures Unlimited until about 7:00pm in the evening. The river-soaked crew should arrive back at the church by 10:00pm. If your youth is interested in participating, please visit http://www.fcumcyouth.org to sign up, or email daniel.doubleday@fountaincityumc.org. Remember, all participants must have a notarized waiver release on file!

UMW UNIT MEETING : CREATION CARE
TUESDAY | SEPTEMBER 12 | 10:45AM

This month, our UMW Ruth and Sarah Circles will have a Unit Meeting on Tuesday, September 12, beginning at 10:45am in Wesley Hall. UMW will host a very special guest, Sara Orellana with Narrow Ridge Earth Literacy Center. Sara will be speaking about something she is passionate about: caring for and sustaining this beautiful creation God has given us.

During her presentation, Sara will introduce Narrow Ridge, a ministry dedicated to studying, teaching, and promoting the importance of caring for God’s creation. During her presentation, Sara will address how we can take care of God’s creation.

Please join us in learning more about how to take care of God’s creation!
NEWS, NOTES, AND THE NOTEWORTHY

SEPTEMBER USHERS
8:30AM SERVICE
Scott & Twilla Womack, Head Ushers
Bruce & Jeane Luttrell

11:00AM SERVICE
Gene Patton & Robert Smiddy, Head Ushers
Mary Brabson
Coni & Wanda Majors
Sue McKenzie
Jay Wormsley

THE JOURNEY
Kodi & Jennifer Jack
Doe Doe Seals & Samantha Hurst
Mark & Karin Sharp
Chris & Joanne James
Rich & Jenny Brown
Doe & Elizabeth Kose
Richard & Stephanie Below
Sonja & Richard Rock

IN MEMORY & IN HONOR
GENERAL FUND
In Memory of Bradley Gattis by Tom & Charlotte Schumpert
In Memory of Bradley Gattis by Mary Emma Scott
In Memory of Tom Hodge by Charlotte West, Brenda Thomas, and
Eleanor Thurman

SCHOLARSHIP FUND
In Honor of Becky Addington by Christian Fellowship SS Class
In Memory of Mary Griffin by Mark Biagi
In Memory of Bradley Gattis by Mark Biagi, Frank & Jenny Fowler

THE NET
In Memory of Bradley Gattis by Conrad & Wanda Majors

FOUNTAIN CITY MINISTRY CENTER
In Memory of Jane Griffin by Tim Harrington
In Honor of Martha Kerley by Benny & Brenda French, Pete & Liz
Brown
In Memory of Mary Jane Griffin by Christian Fellowship SS Class

YOUTH FUND
In Memory of Bradley Gattis by Annanter
In Memory of Bradley Gattis by Tim & Dottie McComas

MELTON SCHOLARSHIP
In Memory of Bradley Gattis by Charlotte Muñoz
In Memory of Tom Hodge by Eleanor Thurman
In Memory of Bradley Gattis by Sherman & Elizabeth Morton
In Memory of Tom Hodge by Charlotte Muñoz

CHOR FUND
In Memory of Jane Griffin by Sue Jones
In Memory of Mary Jane Griffin by Ed & Lucy Milden, Bill &
Martha Routh, and John & Anna Mays

CELEBRATE RECOVERY
In Honor of Steve Ferguson by Mark & Doe Doe Seals

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
In Memory of Mary Jane Griffin by Mary Emma Scott

SEPTMBER 50+ LUNCH & LEARN

Everyone is invited to attend the Adults 50+ Ministry luncheon on
Friday, September 8, at 11:00am in Wesley Hall. The cost of the meal is $6.00. Please RSVP by Tuesday,
September 5th, by emailing jeanie.tillman@fountain-
cityumc.org or calling the church office at (865) 689—5175.

This month’s lunch-and-learn will feature guest
speaker Victoria Boyle. Her topic will be Dispelling
the Myths of Hospice: How Hospice Can Assist Caregivers. Victoria is a registered nurse and the
Community Educatror with Smokey Mountain Hospice.

She has a story to share that is exciting and
resourceful about the financial, psychological, and
physical burdens of caring for chronically ill elderly
loved ones with little to no assistance. She will share
how hospice can help both patients and their families
during a difficult and trying stage in life.

This is a great opportunity for friends and family (you
don’t have to be 50+ years young to join!) to enjoy a good
meal while learning more about hospice care.

We will also be collecting snacks for Inskip Elementary
School Food Pantry during this luncheon! Please bring
items to the collection box in Wesley Hall between
11:00am and 1:00pm on September 8. Kids are often
brought to school late with no breakfast. The school
cafeteria closes by 8:00am and teachers like to offer
students a snack on the way to class to help them
focus on classwork instead of hungry bellies!

Item suggestions: Slim Jims, granola bars, packs of cheese
 Crackers, animal crackers. Items must be individually
wrapped and easy to eat with their hands. No peanut
butter please!

ABOUT THE COVER PHOTO: The photo on the cover of
this month’s Spirit was taken by Walden Buttram when
Walden, Jessie, and their family went on a whirlwind tour of
Europe this past summer! Jessie’s brother is stationed
at Ramstein Air Force Base in Germany and played tour
guide to this bunch of sightseeing Americans. The photo
was taken at The DonQuartier in Salzburg, Austria (one of
Jessie’s favorite stops on the whole trip - seriously, I
would have taken my family there, it was so beautiful!)

If you’d like to see one (or two or five!) of your photos
grace the cover of future Spirit newsletters, please email
jessie.buttram@fountaincityumc.org.

O U R P R E S E N C E
CELEBRATING WITH
O U R F C U M C F A M I L Y

Every so often, we as a congregation have the privilege to witness
the next generation be baptized into the United Methodist faith.

Join us in celebrating these children, and in the vows we recite at every
baptism: to so order our lives after the example of Christ. Welcome to
the UMC tradition!

We rejoice in the baptism of
Harriss Stephens on
July 9, pictured here with
his parents Fashion and
Greg.

Child of blessing, child of
promise, baptized with the
Spirit’s sign, with this water
God has sealed you unto
love and grace divine!

We rejoice in the baptism of
Chelsea & Dawson
Charles on July 23,
pictured here with their
parents Seth and Joy.

Joy also joined our
church on July 25 with a
profession of faith. Join
us in welcoming them!
We look forward to
their prayers, presence,
Gifts, service, and witness!

We rejoice in the baptism of
Jacey, Gabby, & Ben
Monterroso on July 30,
pictured with their aunt
Coni Bernal.

Coni also recently joined
FCUMC on July 25 with
a profession of faith.
We look forward to
the blessings this family will
bring our church body!

SEPTEMBER DONATIONS
SHOEBOX COLLECTION ITEMS

We are continuing to collect items for our Operation Christmas Child
shoebox drive in November! This
month’s donations are note pads,
pencil sharpeners, and erasers.

In November, we will fill hundreds of
boxes with basic necessities and toys
to send to poverty-stricken countries
through Samaritan’s Purse. Please
drop off items at the Children’s Desk
or in the marked boxes near church
entrances. For more
information on OCC,
please contact Betsy
Castelberry or Beth
Petersen.

PHOTO BY KATHRYN PADEN

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THOUGHTS FROM MARY FRANCES TUCKER

Although the Christian Fellowship Class started during 1946-47 with returning veterans of World War II, it soon became a coed class of both men and women. C. K. Lewallen was the first teacher, followed by Doc and Betty Jenkins, Pat and Martha Milliron, J. Walker Hale, Bob Graubman, Bob Winegar, John Needy, Dr. Frank Trotter, Bob Godwin, Dr. Ray King, Jack King, and Dan Kelly. We now have three rotating teachers, namely Mahan Archer, Carol Sewell, and Dave Danford.

The worship center we originally met in was built and presented to the class by Dr. and Betty Jenkins. Our class was located in the educational wing of the church for years and recently moved to Room 138 to make it more handicapped-accessible for many of the members.

The class just celebrated its 70th year on Saturday, August 12th, by having a get-together in the Wesley Hall. Our celebration invited all members still living, as well as some who have moved, but attended all the same. It was a wonderful time to fellowship and renew friendships with those we had not seen in a long time. A delicious meal was provided by Doug Shipman and his dedicated family.

Some of the organizational class were Cecil and Dan Kelly, A.B. Cox, James and Bob Lawson, George Taylor, Wilda Willingham (Johnson), Howard Mynatt, Clara and Elizabeth Lawson, Z. T. Canaday, Tom Johnson, David and Bob Smith, and Jack Sterling, as well as Louise and Charlie Potts being the only married couple.

Guy and I were married in 1951 and became members of the Christian Fellowship Sunday School class. And we have been members ever since.

FELLOWSHIP OF SUNDAY SCHOOL SAINTS

BY JESSIE BUTTRAM

One of my favorite things about this whole Director of Communications gig at Fountain City UMC is catching wind of all of the interesting stories going on in our church body.

So I was excited to hear about our very own Christian Fellowship Sunday School class celebrating their 70th (!!) anniversary this past August. FCUMC is unique in that we have a very active adult Sunday School hour, and learning about the long history of that involvement was just plain fun.

One Sunday last month, I snuck into their class under (my press pass gets me in everywhere) and the (honest) guise of “taking photos for the newsletter” and (honest) guise of “taking photos for the newsletter”. Some of the organizational class were Cecil and Dan Kelly, A.B. Cox, James and Bob Lawson, George Taylor, Wilda Willingham (Johnson), Howard Mynatt, Clara and Elizabeth Lawson, Z. T. Canaday, Tom Johnson, David and Bob Smith, and Jack Sterling, as well as Louise and Charlie Potts being the only married couple.

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CORNERS OF YOUR FIELD

BY DEE DEE SEALS

Leviticus 19:9-10 instructs farmers to leave the “corners of your field” unharvested “for the needy and for the stranger” to reap. That is the starting block for the program Corners of Your Field through Knoxville Area Rescue Ministries (KARM). This program partners with over 42 different East Tennessee nonprofits. Most are churches in Knox County although other groups participate.

Fountain City UMC has partnered with KARM for a few years in this manner. The way the program works is, when you donate your unwanted or unused items, such as clothes, kitchen items, furniture, etc. and you mention our church as your affiliate church, FCUMC receives KARM gift cards. Through April, May, and June KARM stores received 157 donations of goods and time from those connected to FCUMC. Because of these donations and others, KARM provided 63,337 meals and 27,052 nights in a bed for men, women, and children during the second quarter of 2017.

We give to KARM so that others may receive a hand up, not a hand out. Another way we have partnered with KARM is by assisting with Coats for the Cold. We will again this year be a drop-off point for this much needed program helping keep our neighbors warm during winter. Watch for upcoming dates for ways you can help donate coats this year. If you have any questions about this program please do not hesitate to call Dee Dee Seals at (865) 689-5175.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY MOVES TO FCUMC

BY JOHN GARGIS, ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF EVANGELISM

Three years ago, Rev. Jim Bailes and I were praying for a “nontraditional service” in a “nontraditional setting” on a “nontraditional night.” As God would have it, I heard Randy was interested in starting a Celebrate Recovery ministry. Combining our prayers, my own testimony, and my decade of helping launch a few of these ministries, I gave Randy a call. Over the next six months, we continued to pray and began to plan this new ministry. Quickly, we saw the Lord was way out in front of us. It was all we could do to keep up with Him.

We secured a location on our first visit. Our worship leader was soon in place and brought his wife, who sings like an angel. It was as if the startup funds required to launch a ministry were just waiting for our request. Within weeks, our new leadership team gathered to work the 12 Steps in preparation for the service.

Our God-given vision was to open this new ministry up to all the churches, rehabilitation centers, half-way houses, and housing complexes in our community, and to be a friendly place for those attending Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) or Narcotics Anonymous (NA) to feel “at home.”

CELEBRATE RECOVERY IS FOR ALL WHO STRUGGLE, NO MATTER HOW, NO MATTER WHY.

Each week we have over 20 children who are taught the same topic their parents are receiving in a child-friendly format. The little ones play in the nursery. There are rooms full of parents and spouses learning how to take care of themselves. CR has bold expectations with high integrity. CR welcomes people with no addictive issues who simply pray. Women meet to discuss their desire to “fix” others. And, of course, CR has men and women struggling with addiction.

Today, all the glory goes to God. Each week we average over 100 people who bless us with their presence. We feel so blessed to call FCUMC the new home of CR. It’s clear God continues to go before us and has prepared this body for this time. Pray for those newcomers who come to our door and say, “please help me get my life back.”

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Fountain City UMC as a church partner received $600.00 in gift cards from these donations. The cards can be used to buy items at any KARM thrift store. Our church can now assist those who come in with unmet needs with our KARM gift cards. Our program ministries have also been able to give these gift cards to those who might benefit from some shopping in our KARM stores. Children’s, Youth, Celebrate Recovery, AA Group, GED Ministry, ELL, and Family Promise are just a few of the groups who have been blessed with a gift card. One of the many benefits of using the gift card is there is no stigma attached to it. People are buying what they need in the sizes and styles they want. It is a program that feeds itself.

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