

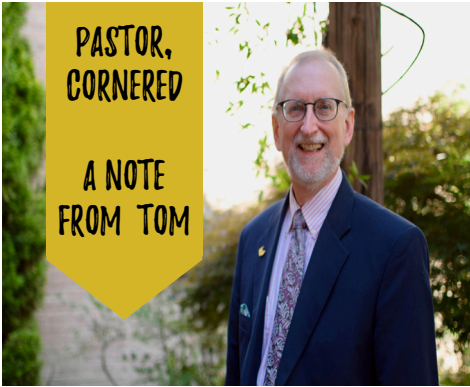


# THE SPIRIT

FOUNTAIN CITY UMC  
AUGUST 2020 NEWSLETTER

PASTOR,  
CORNERED

A NOTE  
FROM TOM



*“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ’s, then you are Abraham’s offspring, heirs according to promise” (Galatians 3:28-29). Do you believe that?*

*“Racism is the combination of the power to dominate by one race over other races and a value system that assumes that the dominant race is innately superior to the others. Racism includes both personal and institutional racism. Personal racism is manifested through the individual expressions, attitudes, and/or behaviors that accept the assumptions of a racist value system and that maintain the benefits of this system. Institutional racism is the established social pattern that supports implicitly or explicitly the racist value system. Racism, manifested as sin, plagues and hinders our relationship with Christ, inasmuch as it is antithetical to the gospel itself..Therefore, we recognize racism as sin and affirm the ultimate and temporal worth of all persons” (Social Principles of The United Methodist Book of Discipline). Do you believe that?*

*“On behalf of the whole church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin? Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves? Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?” (UMC membership vows renouncing sin and professing faith). Do you (still) respond in the affirmative?*

*“On behalf of the whole church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin? Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves? Do you confess Jesus Christ as your Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?” (UMC membership vows renouncing sin and professing faith). Do you (still) respond in the affirmative?*

These days, we are battling at least two epidemics: COVID-19 is acute. The other, racism, is chronic and has been present much, much longer than coronavirus. Both are a matter of life and death. We can choose to ignore one or the other or both. We can choose to face one or the other or both.

One day when Jesus was sharing a meal with sinners, he was challenged by the religious authorities of his day. He responded with stinging words that still are uncomfortable: “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick...I desire mercy, not sacrifice...I have come to call not the righteous but sinners.” Do you believe Jesus?

Peace of Christ, Tom

## OUR GIFTS

### WEEKLY OFFERING

June 22-28	\$18,279.82
June 29 - July 5	\$18,300.94
July 6-12	\$14,622.00
July 13-19	\$18,917.63

## OUR SYMPATHIES

We extend our sympathy to Debbie Gillenwater Sneed and family in the death of her mother, Margaret Gillenwater, on July 2.

We extend our sympathy to Karmen Sharpe and family in the death of her father, Sam Myers, on July 4.

We extend our sympathy to Jetta Hueser and family in the death of her mother, Marjorie Cardwell, on July 6.

We extend our sympathy to Betty Wildman in the death of her sister, Virginia Breazeale, on July 9.

We extend our sympathy to Ron Mills and family in the death of his father, Carroll Mills, on July 14.

PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS,  
SERVICE, AND WITNESS

## FAITH PROMISE

Faith Promise Sunday will be August 23. Please mail your check to the church office or go to our website and click on “GIVE ONLINE” on our homepage to make your commitment.

## ABOUT THE COVER PHOTO:

A beautiful sunflower field at Ijams Nature Center. Photo by Ashley Garren. If you'd like to see one of your photos grace the cover of a future *The Spirit* newsletter, please email [kathleen.bloom@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:kathleen.bloom@fountaincityumc.org).



Please join us for our online worship services!

**View worship for Traditional and The Journey at [www.fountaincityumc.org/03/online-worship](http://www.fountaincityumc.org/03/online-worship)**

On this FCUMC website page, there is a link to our YouTube Channel where you can view worship and informational videos. While you are there, please subscribe to our YouTube Channel!

**View worship for Celebrate Recovery North at [www.facebook.com/CRNorthKnox](http://www.facebook.com/CRNorthKnox)**

Don't forget to follow all of our Facebook pages to stay up to date with what is happening throughout the week. Please share and like our posts! You can find a listing of our Facebook pages on our **Worship Online** post at [www.fountaincityumc.org](http://www.fountaincityumc.org).

## CHURCH OFFICE HOURS FOR AUGUST

Our office staff is working remotely during the following hours in August:

**Monday-Thursday: 8:30am-5:00pm  
(closed for lunch from 12:00-1:00pm)  
Friday: 8:30am-12:00pm**

Your calls to the church office phone number will be answered during the hours listed above. To contact staff members directly, please email them. You can find staff emails on Realm or on our website under the *Who We Are* menu on our home page. If you need to meet with a church staff member in person, please make an appointment directly with that staff member.

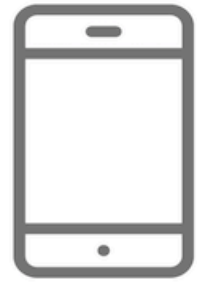
Thank you for your continued financial support. We encourage you give online at [www.fountaincityumc.org](http://www.fountaincityumc.org) or mail your check. However, if you must drop off your check during the week, please contact Ashley Garren at [ashley.garren@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:ashley.garren@fountaincityumc.org) and she will make plans to meet you at the church.

We will continue to re-evaluate our office hours and will announce any changes in the weekly *E-Spirit* and on our website at [www.fountaincityumc.org](http://www.fountaincityumc.org).

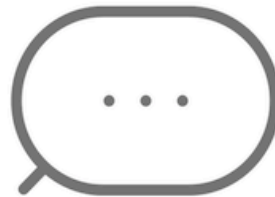
## Your Giving Matters Ways to Give



**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

### STEPHEN MINISTRY

Gail Clift (865) 922-9408

### INTERCESSORY PRAYER

Tim Brown (865) 599-3429

Tom Harrington (865) 687-9460

### EMERGENCY ON CALL

Aug 7-9: Tom Ballard  
(423) 585-7054

Aug 14-16: Kristen Burkhart  
(865) 357-6354

Aug 21-23: Tom Ballard  
(423) 585-7054

Aug 28-30: Kristen Burkhart  
(865) 357-6354

# WEDNESDAY NIGHT DISCIPLESHIP

## FALL PROGRAMMING

Just about everything we are doing in our lives during this pandemic looks quite different than before. FCUMC Wednesday Night Discipleship is no exception. But we have a plan! Whether you are a Fountain Little, Fountain Kid, FCUMC Youth, or enjoy our adult classes, our discipleship programming this fall is adapting with you and your families, and we will have something for you!

### FOUNTAIN LITTLES FIRST LOOK

**September Series:** Trusting that God has a plan for us helps us have peace, purpose, courage, and patience when things don't go like we think they should. It helps us persevere and follow God even when things around us are hard.

Bottom Line: God has a plan for me. *"For I know the plans I have for you says the Lord."* Jeremiah 29:11, NLT

**October Series:** When we are faced with tough situations, it's important to think about what is true. No matter how big our situation is, the truth is that God will always be bigger. God is always with us, caring for us, and listening when we talk to Him.

Bottom Line: God's got it. *"God is with you wherever you go."* Joshua 1:9, NLT

### FOUNTAIN KIDS - Super September

Our September teaching theme is community and compassion. Our activities will be adjusted to the circumstances at that time but rest assured, whether it's virtual or in-person, we will meet and learn about Jesus!

Jesus showed us the greatest example of love when he laid down His life for His friends. With His words and actions, He showed friendship and compassion to everyone He met. That is how we can reflect Jesus' love.

### September Scripture:

*A friend loves at all times. They are there to help when trouble comes. Proverbs 17:17*

### FOUNTAIN KIDS - Outrageous October

Our October teaching theme is community and transformation. Once again, our activities will be adjusted to our circumstances in October.

Because we know that God is good, we can live life with integrity. Who we are in private should match who we are in public. When we trust God, we can be truthful in whatever we say and do.

### October Scripture:

*Anyone who lives without blame, walks safely. But anyone who takes a crooked path will get caught. Proverbs 10:9*

### YOUTH

Our youth are currently meeting on Instagram at 6pm on Wednesdays and Zoom at 6pm on Sundays. We will take the week of August 12 off, and we will begin meeting on Instagram at 7pm on Wednesdays and Zoom at 7pm on Sunday nights beginning on August 16.

We will resume our plans for outdoor activities on Sunday afternoons/evenings when Knox County UMC churches are allowed to return to in-person meeting, and will release a calendar of events when we have clearance to do so.

### ADULTS

Jesus trained the disciples and then sent them out into the world. They adapted as they did ministry in sets of two. We are honored to do ministry with you this fall as we continue to adapt as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Adult Discipleship Ministries will begin in September and will last for six weeks. We will be offering different opportunities on Wednesday and Sunday evenings. Following the six weeks, we hope to offer Advent Bible Study options as well. Look for more information in September's **The Spirit** newsletter.

## FCUMC Compassion Volunteers

Want to love your neighbor during this stressful time? Sign up to run errands, call, or write notes to our homebound and those in isolation, all on a flexible time schedule.

Go to [www.fountaincityumc.org](http://www.fountaincityumc.org) and click on **What's Happening Now** to sign up.

## CHANCEL CHOIR NEWS



The Chancel Choir has fellowship meetings every Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. via Zoom Video Conferencing.

## KRISTEN'S CORNER

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



Throughout the summer months, we are looking at the family of God in the book of Genesis. Our focus has been on Abraham and his descendants, and I keep coming back to one story that was not in the preaching lectionary.

*Genesis 19:24-26 Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the Lord out of heaven. And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground. But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.*

My question in that story is, "Why does Lot's wife look back?" As I search for answers, more questions arise. Did she really deserve to die for looking back at her home? Why a pillar of salt and not a rock, a tree, or simply death?

In the Jewish tradition the Midrash says, "She sinned with salt, and she was punished with salt." How did she sin with salt? Rabbah R. Isaac in **Reform Judaism: A Pillar of Salt: A Text Study** explains sinning by salt by saying "On the night that the angels visited Lot, Lot said to his wife, 'Give these guests a bit of salt.' But she replied, '[Besides entertaining guests], is it your wish to introduce into Sodom another vile custom [that of seasoning their food]?' What did she do? She went around among all her neighbors, saying to each one, 'Give me salt. We have guests,' intending thereby to have the townspeople become aware of the presence of guests in her home [and penalize Lot for it]. Hence, she herself became a pillar of salt."

In the Christian tradition, L. Steven Cheait, Ph.D. says "the verse may be a mistranslation of the Hebrew word 'malach' which means vanish. 'Melach' is the Hebrew word for salt (similar because salt vanishes in water), but the Hebrew language did not use vowels at the time and so the context of the verse could have been lost. With other uses of 'malach' throughout the bible, it seems more reasonable to assume that 'salt' is a mistranslation here." In the scripture, we are unsure if her death is a punishment for valuing her old life, her hesitation in obeying, or her unwillingness to leave her life quickly.

I wonder how many of us are turning back, or wanting to, since the onset of the pandemic. Some of us have gone from "we want things back to how they use to be" to "we want the new normal". I'm not sure if those are possible. What I think God is asking us is why we are looking back? Is it for God's kingdom work? Or do we need to look for Jesus in front of us? What new things can come out of the pandemic that will glorify God?

It is my hope and prayer that we would ponder this story and evaluate why we look back. Is it for a holy purpose? Or is it for our unwillingness to change or adapt to God's calling? Lord, in your mercy, help us to discern your will. Amen.

Pastor Kristen

# FOUNTAIN KIDS

## Wacky Wednesdays in August!

Wednesdays will be extra special for Fountain Kids during the month of August. Miss Donna and Miss Jenny have something creative and fun planned every week. Check out the schedule:

### Phone a Friend - August 5

Between **10am and noon**, Miss Donna and Miss Jenny will personally call the children of Fountain Kids! If you have been receiving our mailings, you are on the call list. We can't wait to talk to each kiddo!

### Bags of Fun Delivery - August 12

Yes! Bags of fun will be delivered to the children at home. Keep up with the projected times on the Fountain Kids Facebook page.

### Midweek Video - August 19

You asked for it and you will get it! A mid-week video featuring the antics of Miss Jenny and Miss Donna will be released at **6:30 pm**.

### Virtual Block Party - August 26

Fountain Kids will host a virtual block party at **6:30 pm**. Details coming soon!

### More news and notes from Fountain Kids:

- Weekly packet mailings, Sunday videos, and fun Bible videos by Miss Jenny and Miss Donna will continue during August. Please feel free to share our Fountain Kids Facebook posts with your friends.
- Beginning on August 17, Fountain Kids will host a Week of Prayer. Stay informed by visiting our Facebook page, and check out the weekly *E-Spirit* for details.

Finally, we are calling on all FCUMC church members, friends, and family to pray for our children, teachers, school administrators, and our community. While you are having your morning or evening walk or quiet time, please pray. While you are riding your bike or sitting on your deck, patio, or porch enjoying God's creation, please pray. Please take a moment (or a few) this month to reflect on the amazing and exploring minds of our children, the excitement of learning that we see in their eyes, and the pure joy of their belly laughs.

As we enjoy our summer fruits and vegetables, let us remember the fruits of the spirit:  
Galatians 5:22 *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.*

## FAMILY PROMISE OF KNOXVILLE PASTA & BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

Pasta & Bluegrass is going virtual this year! Family Promise Knoxville (FPK) is hosting a weeklong festival on Facebook (@FamilyPromiseofKnoxville) including a number of fun, meaningful, and communal activities throughout the week of August 16. From cooking at-home-recipes with local chefs to toe-tapping bluegrass bands, FPK has you covered for a week of celebrating their broad network of congregations and volunteers; while also tracking which congregations have the most FPK spirit and which congregations can raise the most money on their behalf.



To donate online, go to [familypromiseknoxville.org](http://familypromiseknoxville.org) or mail your donation to P.O. Box 10184, Knoxville, TN 37939-0184. Please don't forget to share that you are from FCUMC since it's a competition! FPK will announce the winning congregations on the evening of Saturday, August 22. Let's help Family Promise Knoxville celebrate 15 years of serving families with children experiencing homelessness.

## THE FCUMC SAFETY TEAM

We would like to recognize our safety team and our church staff, and say thank you for all of the hard work and extra time that they have put into planning the reopening of our church. Although we were unable to continue with in-person worship during July, the safety team and staff members continue to meet almost weekly via Zoom Video Conferencing, and are preparing for our eventual reopening. In following Holston Conference guidelines, the team has the health and safety of church members in mind as they work through our reopening protocols.

### FCUMC Safety & Security Team

Jimmy Villerreal, Chair

Ralph Adcox

Bill Alley

Richard Bock

John Bolton

Keith Burroughs

Ryan Dykeman

Lee Iglehart

Bruce Luttrell

John Meade

Ed Owens

Gene Patton

Debbie Pickett

Robert Smiddy, Trustees Chair

David Smith

Jeremy Stewart

Charles Thompson

### FCUMC Church Council Chair

Arlene Garrison

(Staff members are listed on the back of this newsletter)

## OUR PRESENCE

### CELEBRATING WITH OUR FCUMC FAMILY

Our FCUMC family continues to grow. We invite you to rejoice in this blessing with us!

Please join us in celebrating the birth of Angela Grace McTeer, daughter of Will & Charito McTeer, on July 3. Big sister is Chelsea.

### NO FELLOWSHIP MEALS THIS FALL

For the health and safety of all church members and church staff, and in accordance with Holston Conference protocols, we will be unable to host our Wednesday Night Fellowship Meals during the fall. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate these difficult times. We will keep you updated with the latest news through our weekly *E-Spirit*, on our Facebook pages, and on our website.

For more details  
check out our website:

[WWW.FOUNTAINCITYUMC.ORG](http://WWW.FOUNTAINCITYUMC.ORG)

## Adults 50+

A Message from Jeanie Tillman, Director of Adults 50+ Ministries



Greetings friends! Our amazing leadership team has planned some terrific outdoor events for our Adults 50+ ministry. Great effort has gone into preparing events that will be appropriate and safe for our participants. We can't wait to get the green light that everything is safe for us to move forward! While we are eager to get them on the calendar, they have been placed on hold once again. Our team will continue to strategize and adjust our plans as necessary. We miss you! Be safe and stay healthy. Jeanie

# IN MEMORY & IN HONOR

## GENERAL FUND

In Memory of Joe W. Black, Jr. by Powell High School, John & Karen Needy, David & Johnnie Burkey, and Reuben & Louann Holland

In Memory of Marcella Finch by David & Johnnie Burkey, and Reuben & Louann Holland

In Memory of Nancy Cloud by Mark & Karen Cloud

In Memory of Sue McKenzie by Reuben & Louann Holland

## SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In Memory of Joe W. Black, Jr. by Sherman & Elizabeth Morton

## MISSIONS FUND

In Memory of recently deceased members of Christian Homebuilders Sunday School Class by Eleanor Thurman

## FOUNTAIN CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

212 Hotel Road, Knoxville, TN 37918

PHONE: (865) 689-5175

EMAIL: [spirit@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:spirit@fountaincityumc.org)

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

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Ralph Paden, Facilities Manager

[ralph.paden@fountaincityumc.org](mailto:ralph.paden@fountaincityumc.org)

(865) 357-6347

John Fine, Facilities Staff

Todd Graves, Facilities Staff