THE SPIRIT
FOUNTAIN CITY UMC
MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER
We're now into the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic. We have learned to adapt, albeit sometimes kicking and screaming. There is probably more hope now than at any point in the last few months. Case numbers are coming down while vaccine numbers are going up.

You may not remember it, but in 2020 our last Sunday in corporate in-person worship coincided with the first Sunday of Lent. In some ways, 2020 became an “extended” Lent. What I mean is that Lent is a time of deep reflection and spiritual introspection. It offers intentional time of growing closer to God through acts of self-denial. Honestly, when we are more or less forced to deny ourselves of those practices that we dearly love, much of the time we grow angry because we have lost control. If we choose to deny ourselves, that’s one thing. But when we are told to deny ourselves, even if it is for the greater good of our neighbor, that’s something else altogether.

It has been my observation that this extended Lent has brought out both the best and the worst in us. One day, we are more understanding and caring...the next day more argumentative and confrontational. We are such a fickle bunch!

When Jesus rode into Jerusalem the last time, the gospels record that folks were laying down their garments, pulling off tree branches, and shouting words of salvation, “Hosanna, blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!” But by week’s end, the folks in Jerusalem were shouting even louder, “Crucify him!” Again, we humans have a fickle strand woven into our DNA.

This year, the whole month of March includes the Christian Season of Lent. I hope we are learning the practices that are important while letting other practices go. I trust that the opportunities of this past year to silence our hearts and listen to God speaking have not been wasted. There’s still time, you know. God still speaks. May we be intentional about listening. In the words of our Lord, “Let those with ears listen.”

Peace of Christ, Tom
Lent is a season of reflection and preparation, repentance and fasting. By observing the 40 days of Lent, we attempt to replicate Jesus Christ’s sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days.

As we look to our faith during this time of self examination and spiritual growth before the celebration of Easter, the Society of St. Andrew is providing 2021 Lenten Devotional Booklets with devotionals, activities for families, inspiring stories and information about our faith. You can download the booklet, and sign up to receive daily email devotions on their website at https://endhunger.org/lent/.

We invite you to read and give in support of the Society of St. Andrew’s feeding ministries during this Lenten season, reflecting Jesus’ own concern for the least, the last and the lost.

HOLY WEEK

As Christians, we spend Holy Week recalling the events that lead to Jesus’ Crucifixion and ultimate Resurrection. This year, we will have in-person and live stream worship services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday.

On Palm Sunday, March 28, we celebrate Jesus’ entry into the city of Jerusalem, a journey that would end in His sacrificial death on the cross for our sins. We will have both Traditional & The Journey services at 11am.

On Maundy Thursday, April 1, we will commemorate the day on which Jesus Christ shared the Last Supper with his 12 apostles and washed their feet in order to demonstrate the importance of serving others. Our worship service will be at 7:30pm.

Good Friday, April 2, marks the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ. We will have our Tenebrae service at 7:30pm while we observe the increasing darkness as a symbol of Jesus’ death.

On Easter Sunday, April 4, we will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He is Risen, Indeed! Please stay tuned for details on our Easter Sunday services.

Our extended church family continues to grow! We certainly have a lot to celebrate as a congregation. You are invited to rejoice in the following blessing with us!

Join us in celebrating the new membership of Tim Rounsaville. He joined our church body on February 10, 2021. Welcome Tim!

If you have a celebration to include, please email kathleen.bloom@fountaincityumc.org. Photos are always welcome!

For more details check out our website:

WWW.FOUNTAINCITYUMC.ORG

Don’t forget to sign up for our weekly E-Spirit by completing the Stay Informed box on our website’s homepage!
As we navigate another unique season of Faith Promise missions giving at FCUMC, these missions continue to need our support for their life-changing ministries around the world. So, we are embracing these changes. We will highlight twelve of our partners’ ministries in this newsletter. (Look for information on the remaining partners in the April edition of The Spirit.) In addition, our partners are coming to us via short videos to tell us about the impact our giving has had on their important outreaches. These videos are available on our website and our YouTube channel, and we encourage you to view them all at your convenience.

Our Faith Promise giving is THE fund for our church’s mission outreach and members of the Missions Committee select the ministries receiving funds. Our Faith Promise partners are local, national, and global missions spreading Christ’s love to those they serve. The World Is Our Parish and these are a few of our partners that FCUMC is giving to out of love.

Helen Roberts-Evans
is a missionary of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church, serving as director of the Department of General Education and Ministry of the United Methodist Church in Liberia. She was commissioned in October 2009, having initially gone to Liberia as a mission volunteer in July 2008. Helen was born in Liberia and her return as a missionary was a lifelong dream. Helen’s work includes meeting needs in such areas as teacher training, scholarships, resources, new school construction, and school building renovation and repair.

Habitat for Humanity Knoxville
believes everyone deserves to have a decent and affordable place to call home. Habitat provides families in need of affordable housing an opportunity to build their own homes alongside volunteers, and to pay an affordable, no interest mortgage. Through our support, families in Knoxville are able to build strength, stability, and self-reliance for generations to come.

Willow UMC
and The Willow Community Food Pantry’s mission is to be an outpost of the United Methodist Church in Alaska, and as Christ’s disciples responding to God’s love by their witness, stewardship and outreach with and for all persons and creation. Because of the outreach efforts of the Willow Community Food Pantry, Willow UMC is seen as a trusted source of help for those in need, and a caring place for children, youth, families, and adults. Willow UMC’s main focus is love of God and love of neighbor.

Henderson Settlement
In 1925, Hiram Frakes, a Methodist minister, came to the Laurel Fork Valley in southeastern Kentucky with a dream of educational, economic, and spiritual reform. Local families donated 123 acres of land and Frakes started a school for the area which opened with 13 students. That was the beginning of Henderson Settlement in Frakes, Kentucky. Their focus is on making a long term and sustainable difference in the lives of those with whom they work, and encouraging and helping them and their families grow spiritually, economically and socially.

Rise Against Hunger
They may look like simple bags of rice and soy, but Rise Against Hunger (RAH) meals represent the hopes and dreams of people worldwide. RAH volunteers are the heart of a mission to end hunger and they could not send millions of meals around the globe each year without our help. RAH engages hundreds of thousands of volunteers globally to meet the needs of children and families who are counting on all of us.
Samaritan Hands is a Christian ministry designed to help those who find themselves by the road of life around the world. The work of Samaritan Hands began in 1984 when their founder, Dr. Jerry Russell, made his first trip to Guatemala. The need he saw was great: nearly 75 precious children all living in the space of the average American bedroom, and getting ready to be evicted from even this meager existence. A deserted building was located, refurbished and put into immediate use, giving the children a secure place to live and grow. Today the work of Samaritan Hands continues to reach throughout Guatemala with a new orphanage in Chichicastenango and short-term volunteers in mission groups going annually. Their dream is to continue spreading the love of Christ around the world to all people.

UMCOR
As the humanitarian relief arm of The United Methodist Church, UMCOR assists churches with becoming involved globally in direct ministry to persons in need. UMCOR responds to disasters in the United States and around the world by working with communities and local partners. When a disaster overwhelms a community’s ability to recover on its own, UMCOR provides essential relief supplies and supports long-term rebuilding efforts.

Wesley Foundation is the United Methodist presence on the University of Tennessee campus which strives to be an open, diverse Christian community, promoting spiritual growth, and extending God’s love on campus. Wesley Foundation is a place for United Methodist students to gather, worship, share in fellowship, serve and grow in their faith.

Fountain City Ministry Center
The mission of FCMC is to glorify God and transform peoples’ lives through helping Knox County residents in need return to a more self-sustaining lifestyle. FCMC is a cooperative effort of Fountain City area churches, including FCUMC, who provide financial support, volunteers, and donations. FCMC depends on FCUMC volunteers to serve our neighbors.

Project Crossroads has a history of service to those in need. In 1988, a group of local churches through the Marion Area Ministerial Association started an outreach program to address some of the housing needs in Marion, Virginia and to coordinate available resources and church volunteers. In October of 1992, the ministry was incorporated as an ecumenical mission under the name of Project Crossroads with an emphasis on the spiritual nature of missions. In July 1993, Project Crossroads became a full-time mission of the Holston Conference. Through the years, Project Crossroads has grown in outreach and ministry to meet the needs of those in their communities. As they serve those with need, they are serving Christ, and His presence is made known in that encounter.

Volunteer Ministry Center
With over 9,000 individuals in Knoxville accessing homeless services every year, there are many who are at risk of dying on the streets without specialized services focused on both achieving and sustaining housing. Every year, Volunteer Ministry Center’s (VMC) Street Outreach Program reaches out and engages with hundreds of those experiencing homelessness and living on the streets of Knoxville in order to connect them with housing services. The Foyer, VMC’s low barrier housing, focuses on emergency shelter, providing overnight safety to the most vulnerable of our homeless neighbors who are not accessing traditional shelter services. Minvilla Manor provides 57 apartments for formerly chronically homeless individuals with disabilities, and the Dental Clinic provides comprehensive dental care at no charge for the homeless and low income in our community. Volunteer Ministry Center is dedicated to ending and preventing homelessness in Knoxville.

Celebrate Recovery (CR) is a Christ-centered, biblically-based program of recovery for individuals or family members that are struggling with life’s hurts, habits and hang-ups. FCUMC is home to CR-North which meets on Tuesday evenings for worship followed by Open Share Groups. We also live-stream our meetings on our CR-North Facebook page. This is a safe space with no judgment or condemnation. A place to find community and for people in recovery to get their lives back.
Our March 2021 Theme is “The Great Bake Off”

Life App: Patience is worth waiting for, and we CAN wait. It’s part of life. Thankfully, we don’t have to wait on our own. God can give us the patience to wait well. After all, God is patient. God is in control and knows what’s best for us. Even though God’s people had been waiting for years for the promised Savior, God sent Jesus at just the right time.

Week 1: We kick off the month with Luke 2:25-35. God’s people waited for hundreds of years for the Savior. God promised Simeon that he’d get to see the Messiah before he died. We believe he waited a long time. But finally, when Mary and Joseph came to the temple with baby Jesus, Simeon saw what he’d been waiting for. Waiting is just a part of life: in lines, for school to let out, to take a turn on the playground. Sometimes it can be more difficult to wait than others. We pray that kids will remember that they don’t have to wait on their own. God is with them while they wait.

Week 2: Exodus 32:1-35. Moses met with God on Mount Sinai. He left his brother, Aaron, and the rest of the Israelites to wait. Rather than waiting patiently for Moses to return, the entire nation of Israel rebelled. They built a golden calf and began to worship it instead of worshiping God. Due to their lack of patience, God judged an entire nation. If only they had remembered how God rescued them from Egypt and trusted Him while they waited. We can’t stop waiting, but we can choose how we respond. A good way to discover patience is to think about what’s true about God: God loves us and knows what’s the best for us. God cares for us and is with us. We can trust God no matter what. Pray that kids remember what’s true about God when they have to wait.

Week 3: Genesis 25:24-34. We find one of the best examples of what happens when you’re not patient in the story of Esau. After a hunting trip, Esau was exhausted and hungry. And wouldn’t you know, his brother Jacob had a pot of stew cooking on the fire. Jacob takes advantage of this situation and offers a bowl in exchange for Esau’s inheritance. Turns out, Esau couldn’t resist. He lost something extremely valuable because he was impatient. Through the story of Esau, we pray that kids will discover why it’s important to have patience and wait. We will face moments when we want to rush and take the first choice that comes our way, but that might not be God’s best for us. We pray kids will discover that when they wait, they can experience something even better than they can imagine.

Week 4: We finish the month with Palm Sunday. By this time, God’s people had been waiting hundreds of years for God’s promise of a Savior to come true. In Matthew 21:1-11, we see that people were starting to believe that Jesus was that Savior. God’s promise was finally coming true. So, when He entered Jerusalem on a donkey, just like the prophesy foretold, they celebrated and worshipped Jesus. Of course, this all turned out very differently from what they expected and they’d have to wait a bit longer to understand, but they could find joy because God was faithful.

Weekly Lenten CHRIST Anagram Challenges
Each week specifics will be posted on Fountain Kids Facebook page for the CHRIST anagram letter of the week. Please visit our Facebook page with your children to discuss each week’s anagram.

18th Annual Father Daughter Dance
Saturday, April 10, 2021

It's time to register! Don't miss our 18th annual Father Daughter Dance. It will be an outdoor event held in the choir entrance parking lot. Registration will be limited due to safety protocols. Reserve your spot today by visiting www.fountaincityumc.org and selecting the Father Daughter Dance graphic. Don't miss this sweet event!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Mark your calendars for VBS! Fountain Kids Vacation Bible School, TREASURED: Discovering You’re Priceless To God, will take place June 14-17.
KRISTEN’S CORNER
Rev. Dr. Kristen Burkhart, Associate Pastor of Discipleship

It is that time of year again….March. What do you first think of when you hear the month of March mentioned? Unpredictable weather, birds migrating, plants starting to grow, yard work around the corner, animals mating, insects starting to show up, or maybe for you basketball fans – March Madness? Don’t forget that in March we spring forward and lose an hour of sleep no matter how hard we try.

I have heard the idiom “In like a Lion and out like a Lamb.” I always tie it to the weather, because you know “April showers bring May flowers” and March does not want to be left out. One of the earliest references to this phrase is in Thomas Fuller’s 1732 compendium, Gnomologia. Don’t run to the library to get a copy of it now or to Amazon to download it. But the book does have some proverbs about March like, “March many-rain’d and blow’d/ But March grass never did good.”

Before I lose your attention, I want to propose we look at this saying a little differently this year. March is in the middle of Lent and we continue to make our way to the cross with Jesus when we will celebrate the Resurrection on April 4.

What if we looked at this statement as a description of the two aspects of the nature of Jesus Christ? Jesus is both the conquering Lion of the tribe of Judah (Hosea 5:14) and the Lamb who was slain (John 1:29 & 26). As we continue on our Lenten journey, can we recognize that Jesus is both fully divine and fully human? As we continue on our journey of discipleship, what would it mean to claim Jesus as Lord?

It seems to me we had a lot of time with one or the other side of this in 2020 and continuing into 2021. It is my hope and prayer that even if things feel like they need a roaring Lion we will also be able to see the Lamb. And if things feel like we are weak and helpless like a Lamb, we would remember that our God is roaring like a Lion. May you experience both this Lenten season.

God Bless, Pastor Kristen

ABOUT THE COVER PHOTO: The crocus is one of the earliest blooming flowers of spring. Yes, please! 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.

A NOTE OF THANKS TO JEANIE TILLMAN

Please join us in thanking Jeanie Tillman for her five years of service as Director of Adults 50+ Ministries at FCUMC. Her last day was January 25, 2021. Jeanie was passionate about her ministry and we wish her the best in her future endeavors. Thanks Jeanie!

MARK SEALS IS NAMED DIRECTOR OF JOURNEY/CR & CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY

Mark Seals has accepted a full time position at FCUMC. As the mastermind behind the evolution of our online services from pre-recorded to live stream, Mark has been instrumental in helping us reach more people for the glory of God. Congratulations Mark!

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FOUNTAIN CITY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

IN MEMORY & IN HONOR

GENERAL FUND
In Memory of Nancy Cloud by Mark & Karen Cloud
In Honor of Rick Harrington by Mary Emma Scott
In Honor of Tom Harrington by Mary Emma Scott
In Memory of Allen Smith by Dolores Smith
In Memory of Hollis McLain by Dolores Smith
In Memory of Hollis McLain by Conrad & Wanda Majors

FLOWER FUND
In Memory of Frank Jennings by Bryan Payne

FOUNTAIN CITY MINISTRY CENTER
In Memory of Hollis McLain by Tom Harrington

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS FOR MARCH
Our office staff is working remotely during the following hours in March:
Monday-Thursday: 8:30am-5:00pm (closed for lunch from 12:00-1:00pm)
Friday: 8:30am-12:00pm

EMERGENCY ON CALL
Mar. 5-7: Tom Ballard (423) 585-7054
Mar. 12-14: Kristen Burkhart (865) 357-6354
Mar. 19-21: Tom Ballard (423) 585-7054
Mar. 26-28: Kristen Burkhart (865) 357-6354
(Please call. Do not text.)

STEPHEN MINISTRY
Gail Clift (865) 922-9408

INTERCESSIONARY PRAYER
Tim Brown (865) 599-3429
Tom Harrington (865) 687-9460

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John Fine, Facilities Staff
Todd Graves, Facilities Staff