

A Note from Pastor Todd

As I recently carried the last load from my old office to the new one, it hit me that this was really happening. What had been an idea about 18 months ago has turned into a reality. I have always loved new beginnings. From the first day of a new school year to a brand-new pair of running shoes to a freshly purchased half-gallon of ice cream (which is why I needed the running shoes!), there is something about new beginnings that bring me a sense of optimism. This month of July has been no different. I am excited to start this journey with you as your Senior Pastor/Downtown Pastor!

My immediate focus has turned to answering the question, "How do we start well together?" In that spirit, let me be so bold as to ask for your help in doing just that by...

1). Praying. Everything we do begins and ends with prayer. I covet your prayers for me and my family. Pray especially for God's will to be done and his Kingdom to come here at 200 West High Street and in your home as it is in heaven. Please pray also for God's leading as I become acquainted with my new role.

2). Be patient. While I have been around First Church for 13 years, I've been the Senior Pastor/Downtown Pastor for all of a month now. I have much to learn and you have much to teach me.

3). Keep on keeping on. One of the great benefits of Mike Powers and I serving together this past year is continuity. While this is a new day for First Church and in particular the Downtown Community, it is also not a new day. Our course is set and now our primary task is to continue what we have set out to do.

4). Telling others. Help get the word out about what God is doing in your life through the ministry of First Church. Acts 1.8 calls us to be "witnesses" in order to spread the Good News. My consistent prayer is for us to be a people who do just that. No better time than the present to begin.

Again, I am excited and humbled for this new role with you. I am confident that the good work God has been doing through us these past 228 years will continue because I know God can be trusted and you are faithful.

Pastor Todd

A Note from Pastor Mike

To our friends at First Church,
Once again we are deeply touched by another expression of your love and generosity. Thank you for the unexpected love offering. With the vouchers to the Reds' games, your giving to the Foundry Community Center in Bowling Green, and now this gift, you have done more than enough in showing us your kindness and best wishes at the conclusion of our time with you and itinerant ministry in the UMC. Because of your faith and God's faithfulness, the best is yet to come for First Church. Our love and prayers for all.

Mike and Sherry

Worship

August 06	<i>Deep and Wide: Called</i> Todd Nelson preaching, Communion	Mathew 4:18-21
August 13	<i>Deep and Wide: Worship</i> Todd Nelson preaching	Mathew 26:6-13
August 20	<i>Deep and Wide: Serve</i> Todd Nelson preaching	Mathew 25:31-40
August 27	<i>Deep and Wide: Grow</i> Todd Nelson preaching	Mathew 10:24-27

Grow

Downtown Children Ministries

Cameron Bibb, cameron@1stumc.org

Blessing the Backpacks, August 13 — School is getting ready to start and we want everyone involved to get a great start. So, on Sunday, August 13 we will take a moment to bless backpacks and pray for school administrators, students, teachers, and parents in our worship services. Bring your backpacks!

Children's Choir — Look! Children's Choir is moving to a new time this year. Starting September 10th children's choir will be at 9:35am-10am on Sunday mornings. Throughout church history the story of God has been transmitted through song. This will be a great opportunity for children to learn to sing their faith.

Downtown Student Ministries

Cameron Bibb, cameron@1stumc.org

As I prepare to enter into my sixth month here at Downtown I am reflecting on where we've been together and looking forward in anticipation to another six months of growing in Christ and growing in unity together as a church family with you. I am grateful for being a part of the Downtown family and for many of you whom I have had the opportunity to meet and get to know these past months. Through mission trips, fun trips, VBS, and more the relationships I have begun to build with you have blessed my life and those of my family in so many ways. As we move forward in the second half of the year I want to be a catalyst for discipleship for you and your families. Our youth and kids will be returning to school soon and our normal routines will begin to start again—it's easy to get caught in the cycle. I encourage you to pause. Take a deep breath and remember where your source of life resides, in the power of the Holy Spirit. I am excited about this Fall as we begin to return to God's story, sing God's story, reach outside of our walls, and serve our neighbors. I am here to help you and your family grow closer to Christ and follow him. One of the ways we as Christians do this is by praying for one another. Please let me know how I can be praying for you. Be on the look out for the August Downtown Student Ministries calendar, which will be attached to a forthcoming email.

Grace and peace,
Cameron Bibb
Downtown Family Pastor

Serve

Altar Flowers

We have the following dates available for the purchase of altar flowers: October 1, 22 and 29 and December 31. The cost is \$80.00 per week. If interested in purchasing flowers, or if more information is needed, please contact Mike and Sheila Green at 859-271-4789 (Home), 859-533-5282 (Cell) or greenlex1961@yahoo.com.

Wednesday Night Dinners

We need monthly meal preparers for dinners to buy and prepare food for our fellowship dinners. Also volunteers to setup, serve & cleanup. Your help is greatly needed & appreciated to make this vital ministry work. Contact Laura Ferrell @ lferrell52@gmail.com or 608-8176 for information & signup.

Church Family

Save your spot for Family Camp, September 29-October 1

Time for fellowship, worship, campfires and hiking at Aldersgate Camp in Ravenna. Family camp is for folks of all ages, with or without kids. Email Carol Cooper, carol@1stumc.org, to save your spot. Deposits of \$75 are due by August 20.

Health Ministry

New Program Series

August will begin our new, whole church, Health Ministry program series: “Wiser, Stronger, Servants of God”.

Our Kickoff event is Thursday, August 24, 2017, 11am to 1:30pm, with a free luncheon program on our Andover campus. Bluegrass Care Navigators is providing a program on Planning for your Future with Hope. Topics include Living Wills, finding community resources, and exploring various health care choices. A physician, chaplain, and other resource people will be available for questions. The PBS Documentary on the book, “Being Mortal” by Dr. Atul Gawande is the foundation of this program. Pre-registration is required. Watch for details coming soon.

Additional Programs Include:

August: Solar Eclipse on Monday August 21, 2017- Solar eclipse glasses and information available now.

September: Virtual Dementia tours, “Brown-bag” medicine reviews with Pharmacists, CPR/ First Aid classes

October: Flu shots

All activities are for all campuses and locations/times/dates will be announced. Please watch bulletins/emails/ Health Ministry room for details.

Kentucky United Methodist Home Update

Every single day the Methodist Home touches the lives of over 150 young people through its many outreach and in-home counseling and preventative programs along with its residential and independent living programs.

The Methodist Home’s annual golf scramble is scheduled for Friday September 22nd at the Golf Club of the Bluegrass, so mark that date on your calendars and get your foursome together! You can register online at the Methodist Home’s web site.

For more information on how you can support the Methodist Home, please visit www.kyumh.com or their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/KYUMH.

“We believe every individual is an individual of worth, entitled to God’s gift of wholeness of life.”

Wayne Oates

wayne.j.oates@gmail.com

Don’t Miss!

August 13: Coffee with the Pastors, 9:50 AM in the Library. A time to learn more about Downtown and First Church and for our pastors to get to know visitors and guests better. Invite guests you meet to come every second Sunday.

In and out of town this summer?

Our weekly email updates will keep you informed about what is happening Downtown. Sign up by emailing info@1stumc.org.



August 2017

We are a church that makes disciples -
across the street and around the world.



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The deadline for the September newsletter is August 22. Please send submissions to info@1stumc.org. Thank you!