

A year of listening. That is what 2018 is “officially” becoming. So far, the Herald Leader hasn’t called to see what this is all about, but I am sure they will! I want to make sure you know even if the Herald Leader doesn’t yet.

1. We have much to discern around the Downtown campus. For instance, what should we do with our aging infrastructure? Perhaps the more accurate question is “what do we do first” to keep the building a welcoming environment for all?
2. Outside the walls, we are listening as The United Methodist denomination wrestles with how it will be organized for years to come. The Commission on the Way Forward is set to release its findings and recommendations on this subject in July and that will move us into a whole new round of listening.
3. Personally, many in our congregation are in the midst of personal decisions such as career choices, moving, health, and many more that make listening paramount.

Listening begins as we show up regularly and put away distractions that threaten to obscure any message God may be communicating. So it’s important as we begin 2018 to commit, or commit again, to regularly attending not only worship but Sunday School and finding a place of service. Join me in refusing to be content with just our own opinions and instead wait on God to form in us His truth. It won’t be easy...how’s that for honesty. But nothing worthwhile ever is. That is why I am so glad we have one another to lean upon for encouragement and as an example of how to listen.

I am excited about what God is doing and I know he will continue to use you. I know this because God is able and you are faithful.



### Grow

#### **Financial Peace begins Wednesday, February 7th**

I would guess you have heard the name Dave Ramsey at least once. If not, no worries...Dave Ramsey is the financial guru of the time. He has helped millions of people get their finances in order and live a life free of debt. He struggled with finances himself, so he understands what it’s like to live paycheck to paycheck and what it’s like to avoid phone calls from collection agencies. Whether you are in this position, or just want to learn more about saving and planning, you are invited to join our Wednesday night class, Financial Peace University.

Megan & Nate Niespodziany have utilized FPU in their lives and long to help others in their financial journeys as well. I told them just the other day, if Keith and I would have participated in this early in our marriage, our journey would have looked very different. Thankfully, we did go through it (just years later), and it has helped us since then.

This class is an investment, but one well worth it! The class costs \$109 for the material, but in the end, you will know how to get of debt and live debt free in the future. Along with being debt free, you will learn how to save, encourage your children with their saving, and more. You can find more information at [daveramsey.com](http://daveramsey.com).

This class will begin **Wednesday, February 7th**. To register, go to: <http://www.fpu.com/1057880>.

The class will gather at 6:15 PM and begin promptly at 6:30 PM. It will be done at 8:00 PM and childcare is available.

The last class will be in the middle of April. If you have any questions, please contact me ([carol@1stumc.org](mailto:carol@1stumc.org)).

Grace & Peace,

Carol Cooper

#### **Lunch Book Study beginning January 31**

If you work Downtown during the week, we would love to have you join us for a Book Study over lunch (and invite your co-workers). Bring your lunch and we will have a short discussion over a book we’re reading. We will meet every other week, beginning at 12:15 and concluding at 12:50 PM so you can get back to work on time.

We are beginning with *A Year of Biblical Womanhood* by Rachel Held Evans. This is a light, fun read, and it’s not just for women :). If you can’t make it this time, be on the lookout for future books!

If you have questions, please talk with Carol Cooper or Lu-Ann Farrar.

#### **Next Steps Membership Class**

If you are interested in joining First Church, we invite you to our Next Steps class. This is our version of a membership

class and is a wonderful time to learn more about being United Methodist, First Church specifically, and what our hopes are for you as a follower of Christ. These classes will be held during the Sunday School hour and will begin on Sunday, February 25th. There are 5 classes total. While we understand something may come up where you have to miss a class, we do encourage you to try to be at all 5 of the classes.

If you have questions or would like to sign up, please let us know--email Todd (todd@1stumc.org) or Carol (carol@1stumc.org).

## Serve

**Altar Flowers** – We have plenty of dates available for the purchase of altar flowers for this year. There are dates available in every month except February. If interested in purchasing flowers, please contact Mike and Sheila Green at 859-271-4789 (Home), 859-533-5282 (Cell) or greenlex1961@yahoo.com. God bless.

**God's Table**, our monthly potluck dinner for our friends in the community, will be on February 20, 2018. Please bring a dish and a friend to our Fellowship Hall around 5:30 pm. Plan to stay and help prepare and serve the meal, if you are able. For more information, contact Melinda Kemp, 278-3570 or melindakemp@twc.com.

**Room in the Inn** needs new men's underwear, undershirts, thermal shirts and pants, socks, gloves and hats, and toiletries such as travel size shampoo, toothpaste and deodorant. We are also accepting used coats to help the men during this cold winter. Please contact Amy Rutenberg at (859)389-8284 or amyrrutenberg@yahoo.com.

**The Belle Bennett Circle** "Greeting Card" meeting will convene February 14, 2018 at 10:00 AM in Room 111. Please plan to attend and enjoy the fun and fellowship!

## Health Ministry

Proverbs, Chapter 4, instructs us to "Hear," "Guard," "Give attention," "Acquire," "Watch," "Take hold," "Look." We are to be focused on listening, learning, and following God's Word, in regard to wisdom, health, and living a Godly life. As followers of Christ, we are called to be His hands and feet to the world, seeing and hearing the needs and pain of others. Hearts whisper to us all the time. Do we hear those whispers in the tone of a voice or the expression of the eyes?

The Health Ministry team will offer a series of activities/programs throughout this new year called "Whispers of the Heart." Watch for program announcements for caregivers, brown bag Sunday with pharmacists, stretching and relaxation, caring interaction with our homeless, and more. Please take time to read Proverbs, Chapter 4, and join us in learning to be still and listen- to God, and to the hearts around us.

## Intercessory Prayer at 1<sup>st</sup> UMC

Our church is strongly committed to intercessory prayer. All 3 communities practice this weekly within our services. Downtown, while members in the sanctuary are worshipping the Lord through music, liturgy and the preaching of the Word, our intercessors are in the Prayer Room, praying that the Lord would bless every aspect of our time together and make it a time of inspiration, growth and challenge. They also receive the individual prayer requests that are turned in during the hymn we sing in preparation for prayer. Those requests are presented before the throne of grace by our more-than 30 intercessors.

What happens then? Those requests are compiled with the requests from Andover, Offerings, God's Table and Room in the Inn into one list for the week. The printed list is placed in the Prayer Carousel in the Gathering Hall and available to be taken home and prayed over. But that's not all. Did you know that we have nearly a hundred members who have signed up to receive each week's list by email and pray for those requests?

Since the beginning of last year, we have been following up our prayers with notes of encouragement and hope to those who signed their prayer requests. Currently, our seven volunteers are doing as many as they can, but we are somewhat limited by the small number of volunteers. If you would be interested in joining this ministry of encouragement and could write a couple of notes note per week, please let Helen Rhea Stumbo know (helenrheastumbo@gmail.com).

As we all know Ash Wednesday is this month, and the season of Lent begins. As we move through this time of personal reflection, you are invited to stop by the Prayer Room for some quiet time.

Let's all join in prayer for all the opportunities we have to impact our community and the world for the Kingdom!

Some things to think about:

God shapes the world by prayer. The more praying there is in the world the better the world will be, the mightier the forces against evil. — E.M. Bounds

To get nations back on their feet, we must first get down on our knees. —Billy Graham

## **Church Family**

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Dorothea Oatts, who passed away on January 16.

Many thanks for the condolences and cards after my mother's recent death. It is so hard to lose a parent, but the love shown me by my church family has meant so much. I appreciate all of you. *Brenda Nally*

## **Kids Day Out Preschool**

Our Kids Day Out Preschool has openings. If you are looking for a Christian-based curriculum preschool, we would love to have your kids join us. Children ages 1-4 are welcome. The Preschool is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30-3:30 PM and the cost is \$250/month. If you are interested or know someone who is, contact Debbi French ([debbi@1stumc.org](mailto:debbi@1stumc.org)).

## **2018 Downtown Leadership**

We are grateful for these who have committed to serve in leadership in 2018:

### **Downtown Leadership Team**

Dulaney Wood, Downtown Lay Leader  
Frances Abell, Grow  
Carol Gill, Fellowship  
Kerry Lucas, Finance  
Bryan Mullins, Serve  
Phil Nally, Worship  
Brenda Nally, Property

### **Church-wide Leadership**

Lisa Oates, Recording Secretary, Administrative Council  
Wayne Oates, Chair, Community and Leadership Development  
Ross Stinetorf, Chair, Staff Parish Relations Committee  
Bill McKinney and Jonathan Moore, Co-chairs, Trustees  
Bill Mattingly (Andover), Chair, Finance  
Tracy Spencer, Chair, Endowment Board of Stewards  
Chas Jordan, Historian  
Judy Mathis, UMW President  
Frank Scott, Scout Representative

### **Downtown Representatives**

#### **Administrative Council**

Jeanne Badgett  
Steve Buck  
Keith Cooper  
Jay Harden

#### **Staff Parish Relations**

Betsy Lampe  
John Phillips  
Ross Stinetorf

#### **Trustees**

John Kimmons  
Bill McKinney  
Jonathan Moore  
Dave Muse  
Brenda Nally

#### **Finance**

Kerry Lucas  
Barbara Mack

#### **Lay Leadership**

Jill Faulconer  
Lana Staples  
Mallory Wood

#### **Endowment Board**

Bob Fleming  
George Gill  
Mary Ellen Harden  
Gary Koch  
Tracy Spencer  
Matt Wood

#### **High St. Neighborhood Center Board**

Judy Chilton  
Laura Ferrell  
Mary Mowery  
Diona Mullins

*Mark your calendars for our next Downtown Hall meeting on **Sunday, February 25, at 6:00 PM.** Come for a time of informal conversation, listening, and dessert with Pastor Todd in West Chapel.*



**February 2018**

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



First United Methodist Church  
200 West High Street  
Lexington, KY 40507

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit  
Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Lexington, KY  
Permit No. 5

Todd Nelson  
Sr./Downtown Pastor  
todd@1stumc.org  
233-0545 x 224

Alexis Scott  
Treasurer  
alexis@1stumc.org  
233-0545 x 223

Taylor Goodwin  
Downtown Fellow  
taylor@1stumc.org  
233-0545 x 246

Carol Cooper  
Assistant Campus Pastor  
carol@1stumc.org  
233-0545 x 227

Beckie Sigmon  
Financial Secretary  
beckie@1stumc.org  
233-0545 x 223

Debbi French  
Director, Kid's Day Out  
debbi@1stumc.org  
233-0545 x 233

Cameron Bibb  
Family Pastor  
cameron@1stumc.org  
233-0545 x 229

Barry Prince  
Communications/Assist  
barry@1stumc.org  
233-0545 x227

Dr. David Cooper  
Organist  
davidcoopertls@yahoo.com

Brock Terry  
Minister of Music  
brock@1stumc.org  
233-0545 x 240

Daphne Maurer  
Administrative Assist  
daphne@1stumc.org  
233-0545 x 246

Chad Foster  
Executive Pastor  
chad@1stumc.org  
233-0545 x 225

Cassidy Baas  
Downtown Fellow  
cassidy@1stumc.org  
233-0545 x 246

Church office  
233-0545  
info@1stumc.org

***The deadline for the March newsletter is February 20. Please send submissions to info@1stumc.org. Thank you!***

### Souper Bowl Fundraiser, February 4th - Downtown Student Ministries

"Hard," "eye-opening," "life-changing"—these are just a few of the words that our students used to describe their experience of serving through Henderson Settlement last summer. During the week we were there we completed construction on a room for a three-year-old little girl named Trinity. In addition to building a physical structure, we also spent time building relationships with the family, with each other, and with God.

This summer we are excited to be returning to Henderson Settlement in Frakes, KY where we will tackle a new project and get to know another family, again participating in the work God is doing there. We invite you to join us in this endeavor by participating in our **Souper Bowl fundraiser on Sunday, February 4th, starting at 10:45am** in the Fellowship Hall. Soup, fixings, and drinks will be served. All donations received will go toward funding our trip and project costs, including purchase of materials to complete the project. Thank you in advance for any support you are able to provide. - *Cameron Bibb*, Downtown Family Pastor

**FEB 11 4:00**



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY  
MEN'S CHORUS

Dr. Jefferson Johnson, Conductor

LAFAYETTE MADRIGAL SINGERS

Ryan Marsh, Director

