

So, we are having one weekly service at 10:00 AM during the month of July. Hurray said some! Others groaned as the impact of getting up earlier or getting out later set in. And I believe most everyone asked “why”? Good question. Let me try and get at the why for July.

- 1) Allows us as a congregation to be in one place at one time. I often hear that “I don’t know them, they must go to the first (or second) service.” While our ultimate goal is not for everyone to know each other, I am excited about some cross-pollination opportunities.
- 2) Extended hospitality. Here is a crazy thought...what if July was a month we made an effort to invite our friends and neighbors? With one service and hospitality prior, this would be a great time to bring folks. It’ll be a relaxed atmosphere and an easy way for new people to gain a foothold here Downtown.
- 3) No coats or ties allowed. Well, that’s not really a reason why but I thought I’d mention it anyway!
- 4) Offers some relief for those who volunteer. We are hoping that July can be a breather for some of our congregation who serve weekly.
- 5) As much as we don’t like change, change can bring momentum if done well. As we make new habits for the month, we may find that when things return to normal in August we are more excited. At minimum we will be relieved to be back to “normal”!

There may be some other reasons that we find after the fact, but these are the main ones in my mind. Let me thank you in advance for your willingness to try July’s schedule.



### Grow

**Guest Speaker, June 10:** Human Trafficking is a \$150-billion-dollar industry, second only to drug trafficking. Sarah Tellis, the sister of our own John Phillips, will be discussing the issues surrounding modern day slavery/human trafficking and its impact on our communities and families, particularly women and children. This presentation will equip the body of Christ to respond to our unique calling to bring healing and freedom to those in need. She has been working in this area of ministry for the past 20 years, both nationally and internationally.

Sarah will speak in the Fellowship Hall during Sunday school hour, 9:30 to 10:30 am, on June 10.

The Mixed Media Sunday school class is hosting her visit and providing the coffee and doughnuts before she speaks. Please come meet and hear Sarah.

**Summer Small Group:** Join us this summer as we journey through the Book of Samuel. We will gather Downtown from 5:30-7:30 PM on Wednesdays through **August 8th**. We will take 30 minutes for a brown bag dinner and fellowship then 90 minutes of exploring the text together. This study requires no outside work and recognizes that many of us will be out some weeks with travel and other plans. Childcare will be available. Please let our Executive Pastor, Chad Foster, know if you are interested in participating by emailing him at [chad@1stumc.org](mailto:chad@1stumc.org) or texting him at 252-916-0250.



### It’s Time for VBS!

This summer you are invited to “discover your strength in God!” at **Hero Central VBS—July 22-26, 6-8:30 pm**. It will be a high-flying, super adventure as we explore bible stories and biblical principles that teach us how to find strength in God. It all starts **July 22 at 5:00 pm** with an opening celebration in the church parking lot. We’ll share some food and some fun. If you are interested in volunteering or if you want to register your child visit: <https://hc.cokesburyvbs.com/firstchurchlex> or email [cameron@1stumc.org](mailto:cameron@1stumc.org).

**Coming this Fall:** Learn more about your place in God's plan: this fall, Todd and Susan Nelson will lead a 10-week group on calling and spiritual formation. We'll have lots of discussion, read *The Call* by Os Guinness and *Celebration of Discipline* by Richard Foster, and do several other outside assignments.

This group is the first part of our 2-year Discipleship Intensive. If, after these 10 weeks, you choose to continue, you'll learn about the Biblical narrative, Christian theology, and ministry in the Methodist tradition. Discipleship Intensive requires high commitment: a 2-hour meeting and 4-6 hours of reading and preparation each week. Those who have completed DI say you can't do it without that time commitment. They also say it was worth it for them. Please contact Todd, [todd@1stumc.org](mailto:todd@1stumc.org), if you are interested or have questions.

## Serve

**Backpack program:** As this school year ends, we want to thank everyone who has supported the students at Deep Springs and Beaumont Middle through our Backpack Food program. Every donation – food, money, time packing and delivering - has made a difference! We met recently to review this year and make plans for the 2018-19 school year. Having received reports of increasing need at Beaumont, we decided to send 25 bags there each week (up from the 10 we have been sending). Thank you for your help in caring for these students – look for information about sign-ups for packing and delivering for next year toward the end of summer.

**Altar Flowers** – The following dates are available for the purchase of altar flowers: September 30, October 14, October 28, November 18, November 25, December 9 and December 16. If interested in purchasing flowers for one of these dates, please contact Mike and Sheila Green at 859-271-4789 (Home), 859-533-5282 (Cell) or [greenlex1961@yahoo.com](mailto:greenlex1961@yahoo.com). God bless.

**Our next 2 God's Table meals** will be on June 19 and July 17, 2018. Please bring a dish and a friend to our Fellowship Hall around 5:30 pm. This monthly meal is open to anyone who is hungry. 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](mailto:melindakemp@twc.com).

**Annual Conference Offering:** Each year, all churches in the Kentucky Conference are invited to participate in a mission offering at Annual Conference. The Mission Offering for 2018 Annual Conference will support leadership development for our Campus Ministries.

Our campus ministries are committed to developing passionate spiritual disciples who are leaders in our local churches, in our communities, in our annual conference and in the world. The Kentucky Annual Conference has ten campus ministries that are committed to discovering young people, developing them into disciples and sending them to transform our communities and the world.

Of this year's Mission Offering, 45% will be used in intentional development opportunities for our campus ministers and students, 45% will be sent to each individual campus ministry for local leadership development, and 10% will be given to Africa University for the development of leaders in our churches in Africa. We will be taking up gifts for this special offering on **Sunday, June 3rd, 2018**.

**Want to help make others feel welcome on Sundays?** The blue tables in the Gathering Hall are your spot! We know there are folks who want to share their love of Downtown by helping others find a place here – whether that's the sanctuary, Coffee with the Pastors, or the nursery. If you'd like to be a part of the Welcome Center team, call the office, 233-0545 or email [barry@1stumc.org](mailto:barry@1stumc.org). We'll make sure you have the details you need at hand. If you want to learn to check children in to the nursery, we can walk through those steps as well.

## Prayer requests

Each Sunday, we hear our pastors remind us that the yellow prayer cards are prayed over on Sunday mornings and throughout the week. As you may know, our office volunteers compile those requests with the ones from Andover and Offerings and email the list to people who have committed to praying. There are currently just over 100 people from our 3 worshipping communities who receive that list and pray weekly. Members of our Prayer Action Team follow up with notes to several people each week, and ultimately the cards end up on Todd's table, where he includes them in his personal prayer time. What you may not know is that every week we hear from people who have made requests and who are so grateful for your prayer support. Recently, a member who has undergone medical treatments included their thanks in a conversation with the pastors. Another emailed "we feel the prayers of our church family and they are working." We celebrate that God has created us for community and that praying for and with one another is such a big part of our

community. If you would like to receive the weekly prayer list, email [info@1stumc.org](mailto:info@1stumc.org) to let us know or pick up a printed copy in the Gathering Hall.

### **Health Ministry Team**

Blood Pressure checks will continue on the Fourth Sunday of each month, after each worship service, in room 13. If you need basic CPR and/ or First Aid training, please contact Carla Kimmons at [cmcard@hotmail.com](mailto:cmcard@hotmail.com) or call 859-368-7134. Hands-only CPR training and practice is also available.

### **Church Family**

**We celebrate** the recent baptism of Rhett Brown, son of Andrew and Hannah and brother of Ellie Kate. It is always a great day when we welcome another member of the church family!

**Welcome, Elizabeth-Anne!** I am Elizabeth-Anne Van Arsdall and graduated from the University of Kentucky this past May with an undergraduate degree in Equine Science and Management. This Fall I will be attending Asbury Theological Seminary for my Masters of Divinity. Until then, I will be getting married this July as well as working at First United Methodist Church as an Isaiah Project Intern for the next ten weeks. I am already familiar with this church; when I moved to Kentucky at the age of eleven my family and I went to First United Methodist Church for many years and enjoyed it. There is a lot of change happening in my life but I am excited to see what God will do!



June/July 2018

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



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*The deadline for the August newsletter is July 17. Please send submissions to info@1stumc.org. Thank you!*

# July Downtown

Sunday School 9:00 AM

Worship 10:00 AM

## Time Together

- Sunday mornings
- Fourth at First, 4<sup>th</sup> of July
- Hero Central VBS, July 22-26

We are looking forward to sharing summertime with you!

Watch the bulletin and weekly emails for more details. Did someone say "Waffle Sunday"?