

My family will tell you a couple of things about me. Well, maybe more than a couple, but at least two things will surely come up. The first is that I am a devoted fan regardless of the team's record. I am not a bandwagon fan. My college football team hasn't won a National Championship since the year after Bear Bryant left to coach at Alabama. And no...I didn't listen to that game on the radio!!! The other thing is that I love summer. I enjoy the different schedules, late evenings of sunlight and I especially love the heat. Add some humidity and it doesn't get much better!

But as August approaches and the new school year dawns, I also get excited for fall. It is the season that Downtown gets into full swing again as we wrap up vacations and settle into new rhythms. Did you know that the first Sunday after Fayette County schools begin is historically one of our highest attended non-holiday Sundays of the year, just behind Mother's Day and All-Saints Day?

As a result, we have learned that this is a time folks are making plans for fall. Allow me to encourage you to make discipleship plans as well. To help you, *Fall at First-Downtown*, which runs August 5th through November 25th, will be a season full of opportunities for growth and community engagement and will continue our year-long focus of listening. You will soon be receiving a calendar of events for the fall along with a Sunday School and Wednesday evening class listing. Take time to pray and plot out what will be your next step. Maybe that is to find a Sunday School class or a place to serve? Perhaps you looking to join First Church? Whatever your next step is, there are many folks ready to help you take it whether it be staff, the Downtown Leadership team, or Sunday School teachers. We would love to help you make *Fall at First-Downtown* a season of personal growth and community engagement.



Grow

You're Invited:

Worship, Grow, Serve...you may have heard these 3 words before. We talk about them and how our church invites each person to be involved in all three of these areas of ministry. Throughout the month of May, you heard Serve Moments and how our church partners with other ministries around the Lexington area. Throughout August, we are excited to have different people sharing a Grow Moment with us through worship.

August is our Grow emphasis month. We, your pastors, have a hope for every person in our church to be involved in a Grow Group of some kind—Sunday School, small group, K Group, book study, etc. And, we are excited to share about these groups with you. Be on the lookout for a publication detailing all the different groups and information about them. Come to worship in August and hear how lives have been transformed through being involved in a Grow Group.

I personally believe journeying through life with other members of the Body of Christ makes the journey much more beautiful. The prayers lifted for one another, the friendships formed over discussion and times together, the help from those around us in our times of need...the list could go on and on. This is my hope with our Grow Groups. If you aren't involved in one, I would love to talk with you and help you find one. If you are interested in leading something new, I would love to talk with you about how we can get that started.

August 19th will be our Sunday School Open House—this is a great time to pop into one of our Sunday School classes and hear what they are about. We will be ready to show you to a class, get you information on classes, or help in any way we can!

You're invited...to come and grow with us—to grow deeper in your relationship with God and with the Body of Christ. Looking forward to seeing you soon! Grace & Peace, *Carol Cooper*

Downtown Student Ministries Updates

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Ephesians 2:10) That was our memory verse for our youth Serve trip this summer to Henderson Settlement. It was a point of reflection for us as we sat around the table as a group each night during the week of June 24-30, reflecting on the work we had done, the fun we had, and the challenges we had overcome together. Good works prepared in advance for us to do. And you were a part of those good works. Thanks to you, our church family, and your generous support, Beth and Zach Lambin, and baby Eli (5 months old) now have an extra room on their house that almost doubled the original size and that will allow Eli the opportunity to move around and grow. And, by unanimous decision, our group voted to return next year to help another family! It was a great experience for all involved and we could not have done it without you.

And yet, it doesn't stop there. While we were on our trip I had the opportunity to sit down with Elizabeth Moore and to hear and see her ideas for renovating to the Youth Cafe (room 215). Through her efforts and those of many students and adult volunteers, the Youth Cafe is receiving a top-to-bottom overhaul! It is going to be a great space to facilitate building relationships and spiritual growth together. Please, take the opportunity to come look at our new space and talk to our students about it. *Cameron Bibb*

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, if you are interested or have questions.

Serve

We are excited to begin work for our Backpack Program for the 2018-2019 school year, but **we need your help!** With generous donations and careful planning, we are going to do our best to serve 50 students at Deep Springs Elementary and 25 students at Beaumont Middle School this year which will be an increase of 15 children from last year. With more children served, we will **need more hands and feet** to help pack and deliver the food each week. This mission takes 2-3 hours of your time, and you can sign up to do it once a month, once a quarter, or as often as you would like. We will happily show you the ropes and partner you with someone, or you can find a packing buddy on your own. We will continue to need food and monetary donations this year and are ever so grateful for the wonderful support in the past. However, we **really need** more volunteers to do this fun and fulfilling work if we are going to reach our goal of 75 served. The list below is just a guideline. We will happily accept any of these items at any time or whenever you find them on sale. Other ideas for donations are raisin boxes, Jif-to-Go packs, Vienna Sausages, tuna salad packs, microwaveable soups.

August	Pasta meals (no dry Mac n Cheese)	January	Individual-size cereal
September	Individual-size cereal	February	Pasta meals (no dry Mac n Cheese)
October	Fruit cups	March	Fruit Cups
November	Pasta meals (no dry Mac n Cheese)	April	Cereal/granola bars
December	Peanut Butter/Cheese cracker packs	May	Pasta meals (no dry Mac n Cheese)

Contact Cindy Dominick, cdominick@twc.com or Lisa Oates, lisa.m.oates@gmail.com for more info. Again, thank you for your generous hearts.

Altar Flowers – The following dates are available for the purchase of altar flowers: September 30, October 14, October 28, 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. God bless.

Our next God's Table meal will be on Tuesday, August 21, 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.

Kentucky United Methodist Home – Save the Date

The Methodist Home's annual golf scramble is scheduled for Friday September 7th at the Golf Club of the Bluegrass, with tee times at 8:00am and 1:30pm. Lunch will be provided by Outback Steakhouse. Entry fee is \$75 per person if you register before August 27th. So all you golfers, mark your calendars and get your foursome together! You can register online by visiting www.kyumh.org. All proceeds go directly to supporting the mission and ministries of the Children's Home. *"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)

Woodhill Tutoring Program

The Woodhill Tutoring Program will begin its 6th year this fall. So many children and families have been ministered to through this program that provides one-on-one assistance with language, reading and math. The students have also have received encouragement and growing self esteem, too. One young girl started in this program in 1st grade and is now moving on to middle school. Think about that! We walked with her from learning sight words to calculating fractions and are almost as proud of her as her grandmother who is raising her.

The teachers who refer these students celebrate the difference they see: “ _____ has improved so much! She misses a lot of school so for her to have that extra practice after school has definitely helped her get to grade level and I am so grateful for that.”

We also celebrate the wonderful volunteer tutors who have given hour after hour to provide nurturing structure for students with sometimes-short attention spans and that all nine tutors have committed to return this coming school year. We provide two days of tutoring each week for each student from 3:00 PM to 4:30 PM. Currently we have the capacity to serve 10 students but have not been able to serve that many only because of lack of tutors. Would you consider serving one day a week as a tutor? We would provide training and support. If you are at all interested and just want to talk contact Kathie Beach at kathrynbeach99@gmail.com or at 299-4227.

Church Family

We celebrate the recent baptism of George Bradley, son of Joseph and Audrey. It is always a special day when we welcome a new member to the church family in this way!

We offer sympathy and prayers for the family of Ann Kennedy, who passed away on June 11, 2018; the family of Libby Polack, who passed away on June 26, 2018; the family of Bob Musgrave, who passed away on June 28, 2018.

Annual Picnic: Mark your calendar now. Our **Annual Downtown picnic** is scheduled for **Sunday, August 12, 2018 at 4:00 pm**. We will celebrate the end of summer and the beginning of the school year at Shillito Park Shelter #2 (next to a park playground, water fountains, and restrooms.) The church will provide fried chicken, bread, plates, utensils, and iced down water. We hope you will bring a dish to share, a comfy chair, and some friendly conversation. Enjoy games of corn hole, 9-square, ladder ball, and more. We will gather at 4:00 pm and eat around 5:00 pm. This is a great time to enjoy the fellowship of our church family and get to know each other better. The park is located at 300 W. Reynolds Road. Lexington, KY 40503. Come join us for the fun! *In case of inclement weather, the picnic will be held in the church Fellowship Hall.*

2018 Fall Fellowship Suppers for 8

Have you ever wished you knew more of our church family? Some of our members have been sharing suppers in homes and having a great time together over the past months. We hope you might want to join them this fall.

Fellowship Suppers for 8 is a wonderful way to get to know each other better. You will have the opportunity to gather once a month for four months and make new friends. Here is how it works:

1. Sign up in the Gathering Hall before or after Sunday school in August or call Carol Gill at 859-251-4235 or send her an e-mail at carolpgill@yahoo.com.
2. Sign up by Sept. 9th. Whether you're married or single, anyone and everyone can participate!
3. After everyone has signed up, we'll arrange groups of 8. You will be informed of your group members by e-mail or phone.
4. Typically the informal suppers will occur at a different house each month for four months. The host home will provide the meat and drinks; the other guests will provide sides, salad, and dessert.
5. These meal times are designed to build friendships and encourage fellowship with people you may otherwise not have the chance to know.
6. At the end of four months, there will be an opportunity to sign up again for another round.

Contact Carol Gill if you have any questions.

Mini Bus Update:



The FUMC Board of Trustees voted to have the Ford mini bus completely refurbished. Work is nearing completion, so we wanted to share a few pictures. We hope to have the Ford back and available as comfortable, reliable transportation for groups soon.



August 2018

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 21. Please send submissions to info@1stumc.org. Thank you!

Don't Miss!

August 5: We return to our regular schedule – 2 services, 8:30 and 11:00 am, with Sunday School at 9:50.

August 12: Blessing of the Backpacks in services.
Picnic at 4:00 pm at Shillito Park Shelter #2

August 19: Promotion Sunday for our children/students
Sunday School Open House
Kid's Choir begins, 9:35 am