

First United Methodist Church's history is long and storied. From our deep roots beginning with Francis Asbury to the rich heritage of church planting, community involvement, and leadership development, there is much to celebrate. We stand upon the shoulders of generations of people who served with great impact. Even this past month we were reminded again as we celebrated the lives of two members, Cameron Peck and Clara Eslinger, who demonstrated what faithfulness to Christ and therefore the Church looks like.

What I love about First Church is that our legacy propels us forward instead of holds us back. Our vision for what can be is rooted in the pictures of what has been. That's why we feel so strongly that Sunday School is the center of our growing in

Christ. It is the reason we keep exploring a fourth community as a way of spreading the Good News and why we launched the *Fellows* leadership development program.

You have heard the expression that if we don't learn history we are doomed to repeat it? I believe that can be a positive statement as well in our context as we look to where God has worked in the past and offer our gifts in those directions today. I pray that our history repeats itself along the lines of new communities and growing leaders. I pray that history repeats itself as we grow deeper through our times of study and doing life together in Sunday School. Will you join me in that prayer?



View from the Chancel

Each Sunday I am overwhelmed with the view I behold as I look out over our congregation—as I see the face of Christ looking back at me in each and every person. I get to see the smiles and laughter when Pastor Todd tells a cheesy joke in his sermon; I get to see the care and love when a friend who has been out sick returns and you welcome them back with open arms; I get to see the tears (even through my own) when something in worship moves us deeply; I get to see the excitement of the children as they come forward for their special time in worship.

On August 19th, this view was extra special as our 3-year-olds and 2nd graders received their Bibles. I watched as one 2nd grader opened his Bible and then hugged it closely to his chest, so thankful to hold God's Word. I listened as one 3-year-old asked if he got to keep the Bible and it would be his very own. I watched the glimmer of excitement in their eyes and the joy they shared as they unwrapped the gold wrapping paper to discover the greatest treasure there is, and I was filled with hope. These children knew they were opening a gift that will change their lives. Oh, that we would all open God's Word with such hope and excitement.

Grace & Peace, *Carol*

Grow

Membership Sunday—September 23

Are you interested in joining First Church-Downtown? We would love to have you do so! If you would like to join the church and have not yet talked with Carol or Todd, please come to a time of sharing on either Sunday, September 9th or 16th during the Sunday School hour. We will meet in the library and share with you about what it means to take this wonderful step.

During these meetings we will give an overview of what it means to join First Church, our hopes for this step in your faith journey, and what it means to be United Methodist. If you cannot make it to one of these meetings but would like to join, please let Todd or Carol know (todd@1stumc.org or carol@1stumc.org) and we can set up a time to get together. If September 23 doesn't work for you to join, let us know and we will work with you on a date that will work for your schedule.

We look forward to sharing in this journey with you!

Wednesday Nights begin September 5

Our short-term small groups offer the opportunity to connect with others and learn more about God's work in Scripture and the world. Join us on Wednesdays beginning September 5 – meal at 5:30 PM and groups at 6:15 PM.

Fall options include:

- **K Groups** – small group growing in faith together through prayer, study, devotion and fellowship
- **Growing Deeper in Prayer, led by Todd Nelson** – a time of learning about prayer and of spending time in the practice of prayer
- ***The Good and Beautiful God, led by Carol and Keith Cooper*** – a book and spiritual discipline study by James Bryan Smith that invites us to examine what we tell ourselves about God in light of what Jesus himself reveals
- **Book of Ephesians Study, led by Chad Foster**
- ***Parables from the Back Side, led by John Stumbo*** – study based on the book by Dr. Ellsworth Kallas
- **Walking Group** – meet in the Gathering Hall and walk around downtown. Great exercise and great fellowship
- **Crafty Hands and Hearts** – bring your knitting or other crafty projects
- **Handbell Choir, led by Brock Terry** – rehearses at 6:15 and presents beautiful instrumental music in services periodically throughout the year
- **Chancel Choir, led by Brock Terry** – rehearses at 7:00, sings at the 11:00 AM service weekly and at special services throughout the year

Serve

You're Invited to An Acolyte/Crucifer Thank You Lunch and Training

Who? Anyone who has been an acolyte or crucifer over this past year and any new child or youth 3rd grade and older who would like to serve in this way

What? Free Lunch
Training and new Ideas for those continuing to serve

When? Sunday, September 9th—12:00-1:30 PM

Where? Fellowship Hall for food and Sanctuary for training

Why? Being an Acolyte or Crucifer is a beautiful way to serve during the church service. Those serving help bring the light of Christ into our Worship and lead us as we go out into the world to be the Light of Christ for others. Those carrying the cross help us all remember the crucified, risen and ascended Christ we come to worship each Sunday. This opportunity begins for our 3rd graders and is something we would love to see our youth continue throughout their years here.

Questions? Contact Carol, carol@1stumc.org or 859-233-0545 x227

Backpack Program: The school year has begun, and so have our weekly deliveries to Deep Springs and Beaumont Middle. Thank you to all who make this ministry possible – through prayer, donations, packing and delivery. In September, we suggest donations of individual-sized cereals. The collection basket is in the Gathering Hall near the Welcome Center. 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: October 14, November 25, 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, September 18, 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:

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. 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)

Stephen Ministry Training

Beginning September 9th, First Church will offer a Stephen Ministry training. Stephen Ministers are congregation members trained by Stephen Leaders to offer high-quality, one-to-one Christian care to people going through tough times. A Stephen Minister usually provides care to one person at a time, meeting with that person once a week for about an hour. Twice a month, Stephen Ministers gather with their Stephen Leaders for supervision and continuing education.

The training will take place at our Andover Campus on Sunday afternoons from 2-4:30 PM.

If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, please call or email Carol Cooper (carol@1stumc.org or 859-233-0545 x227).

Belle Bennett Circle will meet on Wednesday, September 12 in the ladies parlor at 10:00 AM. Our program will be presented by Wesley Village. We are looking forward to a wonderful time of fellowship as we come together again after our summer break. We welcome all who would like to join us. For more information contact: Joyce McKinney at 224-4609.

Health Ministry: Flu Shot Sunday scheduled for Sunday, October 14th! Mark your calendar and plan to get your flu shot, provided by Wheeler Pharmacy. Details and sign up forms available starting September 9th. Blood pressure checks continue on the fourth Sunday of each month in our Health Ministry room (room 13) downstairs. Come by, say hello, and check your numbers! More information and announcements on Facebook at FUMC Downtown Health Ministry.

Church Family

Welcome to the Family! We are excited to welcome Sloane Triplett, son of Brock and Laura and brother of Caroline and Scarlett, who was born on July 20. We are also excited to welcome Benjamin Bibb, son of Cameron and Brittan and brother of Ellie and Elijah, who was born on August 10.

We offer sympathy and prayers for the family of Cameron Peck, who passed away on August 3, 2018 and for the family of Clara Eslinger, who passed away on August 14, 2018.

Upcoming

From the Prayer Action Team:

Put November 10th from 9:00 to 12:00 on your calendars now—so you won't miss it!

Dr. Steve Seamands will be leading a seminar on "Healing Essentials." In our seminar, by considering Jesus' miracle of raising Lazarus, we will be exploring basic key issues related to healing: Why does God heal and not heal? How does healing happen? What are common obstacles to healing? What is the relationship of faith and healing? And what is the role of the community in healing?

Come learn more about what part you can play in Jesus' ongoing healing ministry. And come expecting to experience healing in your own life.

A thought on prayer: "Prayer isn't preparation for the battle.prayer IS the battle!"



September 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kris Hobson
Administrative Assist.
kris@1stumc.org
233-0545 x 246

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

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

Dr. David Cooper
Organist
davidcoopertls@yahoo.com

Church office
233-0545
info@1stumc.org

The deadline for the October newsletter is September 18. Please send submissions to info@1stumc.org. Thank you!

Don't Miss!

September 5: Wednesday Nights begin – dinner at 5:30 PM and Groups at 6:15 PM. See note under Grow or find details in the Fall @ First Downtown booklet.

September 9: Blessing of the Drivers

September 23: Membership Sunday

September 28: “Nerd Night” Lock-in, grades 6th-12th.