

What a great Membership Sunday this past weekend as a new group of people joined First Church. These new folks are finding a place to call home and are joining our commitment to serve God through the local church with our prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness. Many of our new members commented that they feel as if the Downtown community is home for them because of how they were initially greeted. Each week you demonstrate that genuine hospitality is a reflection of who you are and not a church program! Thank you for welcoming and receiving those new to Downtown so well.

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And we are getting the chance to do that each week. We regularly have between 20 and 50 people attend a worship service each week that are not members or regular attenders. Now, of course, some of those are out-of-town guests, but a majority are not. So each week we have the opportunity to welcome new people into our midst and share with them the love of Christ. This is a blessing that I do not take lightly. It is also a sign that God continues to be at work and for that I am grateful to God and for you.



Grow

Come Grow with Us

Throughout the month of August our church celebrated our Sunday School classes and how lives are being transformed through Grow Groups. On August 19th we held a Sunday School open house and were excited by the energy and readiness to dive into Sunday School this fall. Two new adult Sunday School classes have begun, and many of our existing classes have seen growth. In fact, we had to do some room shuffling to make space for our Contemporary Issues Class when they outgrew their classroom.

Getting involved in a Sunday School class is not something we exclusively invite new members to...many of our members who have been a part of First Church-Downtown for a long time are now ready to get involved in a Sunday School class. It's never too late. If God has been nudging your heart and your head and you have been reluctant to get involved, let me say it again: It's Never Too Late. All are welcome.

Sunday School is a great way to get to know a smaller group of people within the church—it's a great way to invite people into our lives to help us traverse the difficult times and help us celebrate the joyful times—it's a great way to grow closer to God and to learn more about what it means to love God and neighbor in all we do. If you are looking for a Sunday School class, please let me know. I would love to help you find a place to grow.

Grace & Peace, *Carol*, carol@1stumc.org

Family Ministries

Show Up.

There are slogans aplenty to go around, just about every company or organization has one. Apple's used to be *think different*. And of course, there's Nike's trademark *Just do it*. This fall at Downtown our volunteers and staff for our Kids Ministries and our Student Ministries have adopted the phrase *Show up* as a slogan and a way of ministering with and to our children and youth. Since our kickoff on August 19th, these adults have been committed to showing up on a weekly basis both **consistently** and **randomly**. Consistently they show up on Sunday mornings during the Sunday school hour in Youth Café, Kids Choirs, Kids large group and small groups, children's worship and nursery, and on Sunday nights as small group leaders for middle and high schoolers. We are all learning how showing up consistently communicates and builds trust with kids and teenagers, and that trust helps to form a relational bond that becomes a foundation for discipleship. And this

practice is not exclusive to Sunday. During the week these adults are showing up randomly in the lives of these kids and teenagers through prayers, text messages, phone calls, snail mail, and social media. Showing up randomly communicates that they are not forgotten but are loved and belong to a community.

Show up. That's our slogan, our mode of operating this semester, and it may even carry us into the spring. How can you show up in the lives of the children and teenagers around you? *Cameron*

Family Ministry Events for October

October 14 – Children's Sunday

Come be led in worship by our children through song and liturgy. 8:30 and 11am services.

October 21 – Fall Festival

Inflatables, costumes, games, food, everything you could want out of Fall at Downtown. 4pm in the Downtown Parking Lot. Rain location: Fellowship Hall.

Serve

Greetings First Church Family!!

We are just weeks away from opening our hearts and doors for the 15th season of Room In the Inn! First Church has led the way, from the very beginning, sheltering homeless men during the cold winter months...November through March. By welcoming small groups of homeless men, we strive to be the heart, the hands and the face of Jesus Christ to those we serve by offering unconditional love and fellowship to those who are otherwise ostracized by society.

If you want to make a difference...this really is the place for you! We provide a safe, warm and comfortable place to sleep, a hot evening meal, breakfast and sack lunch, as well as conversation and community. All of this prepares our guests to face another day. Many of them have jobs, but not enough income to afford shelter...RITI has helped them achieve a fresh start.

We must be completely honest...it takes a small army to run this ministry. We need your help! Every Monday night we need 2 adult men to spend the night with our guests at the 323 House (on our Downtown campus). We also need people to make our beds, make sack lunches, or help preparing the Monday evening meal. And most importantly, we need people to come and simply have dinner with the men.....this works for ALL ages!

Room In the Inn has been an experience that has blessed our entire family. We invite YOU to come and be blessed! Thank you, First Church!

Please contact us @ skipeg9@aol.com, krfrcpa.cpa.com or (859) 806-9456 *Peggy and Hunt Ray*

Room in the Inn is in need of the following supply donations: Men's underwear and undershirts, socks, thermal pants and shirts, winter hats and gloves. We are also accepting men's jeans, coats, sweatshirts, tennis shoes and boots. Please contact Amy Rutenberg with questions (859) 333-4260, amyrrutenberg@yahoo.com.

Backpack Program: In October, we suggest donations of individual-sized fruit cups. We include a fruit serving in each bag each week. 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 - October 14 is open for the purchase of altar flowers. If interested in providing flowers for that day, 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, October 16, 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, 859-333-8095 or melindakemp@twc.com.

The Belle Bennett Circle will meet in the parlor on Wednesday, October 10, at 10:00 AM. We welcome everyone to join us as we gather in Christian love and learn together. Our program will be presented by Cindy Dominick on the Backpack ministry. We will learn how the lunches are packed and sent each week to the schools that we support. Learn with us about feeding our school children in this important ministry. Call Joyce McKinney, 224-4609, for information or if you would like a ride to the meeting. We look forward to seeing you!

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!

Church Family

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

Joining our church family through membership on September 23: Andrew and Kacie Bledsoe; Jane Carter and Jane Garverick; Steven and Ashley Delucia, Elayna and Deacon; Bob and Mona Denham; Rachel Joyner; Barry and Kathy Mayfield; Steve and Maria Shockey; Tyler and Holly Shockey, Sutton Claire; Judith Wade. We are so glad you have made FUMC Downtown your church home!

We offer sympathy and prayers for the family of John Elder, who passed away on September 17.

Upcoming

From the Prayer Action Team:

SAVE THE DATE!! Plan ahead and put this on your calendars: November 10, 9:00 – 12:00 PM.

Recently retired Professor of Christian Doctrine from Asbury Seminary, Dr. Steve Seamands focused his teaching on equipping students for ministry using healing prayer and a heart for worship. We're delighted that Dr. Seamands will return to First UMC to lead 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.

Each Sunday during the month of October, we will be highlighting the persecution of Christians around the world and encouraging us all to join in prayer together for brothers and sisters in Christ who suffer for their faith.

Stay in Touch

Want to make sure you know the latest? Keep up with Downtown through: our weekly bulletin; weekly sermon notes; our web site, downtown.1stumc.org. Want to receive our weekly email or weekly prayer list? Sign up by emailing Barry, barry@1stumc.org, or pick up a printed copy of the prayer list in the Gathering Hall. On Facebook? Follow First United Methodist Church Downtown Campus and [1stumcdowntownkids](https://www.facebook.com/1stumcdowntownkids). Our Student ministries are on Instagram [@downtown_student_ministries](https://www.instagram.com/downtown_student_ministries). Listen to sermons (again) at downtown.1stumc.org/podcast/.

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October 2018

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October Calendar

- 2: Lay Leadership Team meeting, 6 pm
- 3: Wednesday Night Dinner and Groups
- 7: World Communion Sunday
- 9: Vision Team, 7:30 am, Foundation Board of Stewards, 6 pm
- 10: Wednesday Night Dinner and Groups
- 14: Children's Sunday, both services; Flu Shots
- 16: God's Table; Staff Parish Relations Committee, 6 pm
- 17: Wednesday Night Dinner and Groups
- 21: Fall Festival, 4 pm
- 23: Monthly newsletter deadline; Trustees, 6 pm
- 24: Final Fall Wednesday Night Dinner and Groups
- 28: Blood Pressure checks after services
- 30: Finance Team, 6 pm