

# Downtown Family News

March 2020

downtown.1stumc.org 859-233-0545

## A Note from Todd

Lent is from a Latin word meaning 'lengthening' of days. Pretty straight-forward, isn't it?

It is the name we give to the season of not only more sunlight each day but also opening our hearts for more of the Son's light. We do so Downtown by continuing to journey with Jesus as we will encounter Jesus teaching, healing, forgiving, and even rebuking as he shares the Gospel message in word and deed.

Let me go ahead and turn our attention and our calendars to Holy Week, which is filled with opportunities to hear the story and experience the passion of Christ. On Wednesday April 8, we will again have an interactive walk through Jerusalem and the events of Jesus' last week beginning at 6:00 PM. Andover and Offerings both are hosting Maundy Thursday services beginning at 6:00 PM on their respective campuses. We are back Downtown for the powerful Good Friday service at 7:30 PM that

night evening. On Easter Sunday we are re-starting a sunrise service which begins at 7:00 AM in the Prayer Garden Downtown followed by a light breakfast before the 8:30 AM worship service.

My prayer is that you and I will turn special attention to our relationship with God through his Son Jesus during Lent. As the sunshine grows more warm on our face during these weeks so may it be with the love of Christ in our hearts.

-Todd

## Confirmation Update

It's hard to believe we are in the home stretch with our Confirmation class...Our Confirmands have been meeting faithfully since September and as they have been firming up their faith, they have been an inspiration to me and others. You may have noticed several of them leading this past month—serving communion, leading the call to worship, reading Scripture, serving as an acolyte and serving as the crucifer. Their

willingness to lead and share their gifts with their church family is a beautiful sight to behold.

As we enter into our final weeks of classes, I am beyond thankful for their parents, friends in faith and your prayers for them as they seek to grow closer to the Triune God and to each other. They inspire me and teach me every week. Please continue to hold Jack Baskette, Clara Brumfield, Will Cooper, Jacob Dudek, Whitley

Harris, Luke Holt, Kylie Howell, Charlie Koenig, Sam Koenig, Ben McKinney, Jon Jay Moore, Emery Nathaniel and Campbell Tippey in your prayers as they continue to grow in faith and love.

Gratefully yours,  
Carol Cooper

## 2 As Our Season Ends...Room in the Inn

Thank you, First Church, for "opening your doors" to the homeless. It has been a blessing to meet and serve the men that have stayed with us throughout this 16th winter season! We thank everyone who has helped to make our Room In the Inn ministry happen.....Facility Coordinators, Meal Coordinators, Overnight Hosts, and countless others who have given their time. Also, a huge thanks to

those that have donated money, gift cards and clothing.

The next months will be challenging to these men, as weather conditions are often miserable and the temptations they encounter, back on the streets, can be destructive. Please keep these, and others who are homeless, in your prayers.

Blessings,  
Hunt and Peggy Ray

## Lexington Singers Concert, Benefits Backpack Ministry

It's no secret that we love music Downtown. Sundays, special services, and concerts clearly show it. Our next concert on Sunday, March 22 at 4:00 PM will be a special event, as the Lexington Singers present "A Community in Song," a grassroots concert to celebrate diversity, harmony, and community.

Our church's connection to the Singers is a close one: you'll see familiar faces on the chancel that day, and the Singers hold their weekly rehearsal in our sanctuary on Mondays.

For the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, the Singers will collect monetary and food donations for our Backpack ministry as we partner together to address food insecurity among Lexington students. Suggested food items: fruit cups, pasta meals, cereal cups, sandwich crackers, granola bars. Please bring a friend and make a difference for the 60 students we serve.

**A Community in Song**  
**Sunday, March 22 | 4 PM**  
*Donations accepted for the*  
*Backpack Ministry*

### Downtown Leaders for 2020

#### Members of Administrative Council

Jeanne Badgett, At Large  
Steve Buck, At Large  
Jim Calvert, At Large  
Chas Jordan, Church Historian  
Judy Mathis, UMW President  
Jonathan Moore, Chair, Trustees  
Wayne Oates, Chair, Community and Leadership Development  
John Phillips, Chair, Staff Parish Relations  
Frank Scott, Scout Representative  
Ross Stinetorf, Ad Council  
Darren Wallace, Recording Secretary  
Elizabeth-Anne Van Arsdall, Lay Delegate/Annual Conference  
Dulaney Wood, Downtown Lay Leader

#### Finance

Kerry Lucas  
Barbara Mack  
John Stumbo

#### Lay Leadership

Andrew Bledsoe  
Lana Staples  
Peggy Whyte

#### Trustees

John Kimmons  
Kevin Osborne  
Brenda Nally  
Jonathan Moore, Chair

#### Endowment Foundation

George Gill  
Mary Ellen Harden  
Stan Key  
Gary Koch  
Hollie Phillips  
Tracy Spencer  
Matthew Wood

#### SPRC

John Phillips, Chair  
Dulaney Wood

**High Street Neighborhood Center**

Caltha Mikesell  
KaraBeth Moore

**Vision Team**

Jonathan Moore  
Wayne Oates  
John Phillips  
Dulaney Wood

**Downtown Leadership**

Frances Abell  
Kacie Bledsoe  
Jeff Fox  
Toni Greider  
Kerry Lucas  
Brenda Nally  
Phil Nally  
Kimber Whyte  
Dulaney Wood, Downtown Lay Leader

## Two By Two

Do you recall times when you did something in an attempt to help another person in some way, but found that you were the one who received the blessing? That has been our experience in being part of the Two by Two Ministry that began in our church this fall. Each month we visit our group of individuals. Some are in health care, and some live in independent cottages. With all of them we share smiles and laughter, family stories about children and grandchildren, memories of years gone by and prayers for family and special needs.

We have been struck by the gracious manner in which we have been received into their homes, be it a room, an apartment, or cottage. The sense of hospitality we are shown has warmed our hearts. The strong faith each has displayed while sharing some of their life journey has been an inspiration. They reach out to others with kindness when they are ill or are becoming “forgetful.” We have even sung favorite old hymns together while our special friend played the piano. We have eaten lunch in the dining hall and

been introduced to neighbors and friends. We have celebrated a birthday with cupcakes and singing in their resident group. And every time they greet us with warm smiles and the sense that we are their valued friends. Indeed, we have received more blessings from them than we ever give to them. We are very grateful for these special friends who have enriched our lives.

Rita Elder and Carol Gill

## Announcements

**The Belle Bennett Circle** will meet on Wednesday, March 11 at 10:00 AM in the Parlor. Our guest speaker this month will be Misty Beard, Community Engagement and Communications Manager for God’s Pantry Food Bank. Let’s be informed about our community and the part the Pantry plays in helping to provide food for our neighbors. We will gain an understanding of how we care for those in need. Join us, the fellowship is warm; we would love to see you there.

**Family Movie Night: Friday, March 13!** Doors open at 5:30 PM (Welcome, Popcorn, drinks); at 5:45, we’ll watch the Toy Story Night of Terror Short (it is Friday the 13<sup>th</sup>!) and then our feature, Frozen 2 begins at 6:00. Bring some friends – we’ll see you there!

**Dates Available for Altar Flowers:** May 17, June 7, July 5 and 19, August 16 and 30, November 29 and December 6 and 27. If interested in purchasing altar flowers, please contact Mike and Sheila Green at 859-271-4789 (Home), 859-533-5282 (Cell) or [greenlex1961@yahoo.com](mailto:greenlex1961@yahoo.com). The people we deliver flowers to really appreciate it. God bless and thanks to all that support this ministry.

**Are you aware of our church’s endowment foundation?**

The FUMC Endowment Foundation is a charitable entity organized to permanently support the programs and needs of First United Methodist Church of Lexington that are not included in the annual budget of the church. A Board of Stewards elected by the Church Charge Conference manages the investments and approves requests for distributions. For more information, or to make a donation, contact the church office at (859) 233-0545 or [endowment@1stumc.org](mailto:endowment@1stumc.org).



Downtown First United Methodist  
Church  
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Lexington, KY 40507

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## March Calendar Highlights

### Wednesday Nights

Dinner | 5:30 PM

Groups | 6:00

### March 13

Family Movie Night

Doors Open at 5:30

Popcorn and drinks provided.

Feature at 6:00 PM

### Recovery Meetings

AA: MTWF, 7:15 AM

NA: TW, 7:30 PM

NA: Sa, 11 PM

### March 8

Coffee with the Pastors

A time for coffee and conversation to get to know one another better. 9:50 AM in the Library

### March 22

A Community in Song, 4:00 PM, by The Lexington Singers

The Lexington Singers will collect food and monetary donations for our Backpack Ministry as we work to address food insecurity for 60 students at Deep Springs Elementary and Beaumont Middle.

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