

# Crossville First

## United Methodist Church

The Church With the Window on the Heart of Our Town

### Summer Is Upon Us

Drew Shelley, Senior Pastor

Dear Crossville First,

Summer is upon us! We are grateful for a wonderful Easter Season--now capped by Pentecost Sunday. I especially appreciate Mari Davis for her sermon on Mothers' Day. What an empowerment it was to hear her story and to be reminded of the importance of the Village People. I thank God for Mari's own testimony and faith. She is a gift to us!

Our prayer is that this summer will be a full, rich experience of worship, growth, and loving our neighbors. As we think about our future, we must keep our Church Council in constant prayer. They are presently working through a book called "Simple Church." Its central thesis is that vibrant churches understand their own unique, simple, discipleship process which helps folks to be meaningfully engaged followers of Jesus. We are learning what this kind of engagement means for our church family.

Additionally, the Council continues to be mindful of how we are preparing for the future. At our May meeting, we heard a report from the Kitchen Committee (a subcommittee of the Trustees) which detailed needs for a kitchen renovation to help us live into the future that God dreams for us. The Council voted to secure an architect to help move from concept to fundraising to actual renovation. Peter Metts, a Methodist from Cookeville, has been secured to help us on this journey.

We continue to listen for congregational input and for clarity from the Holy Spirit as we understand what this project will enable us to do as we live into God's mission in this place. The Kitchen Committee, under the leadership of Howard Breeden, has done a huge amount of work over the last 18 months to understand our present needs, dream for the future, and begin the planning process.

Essentially, the Kitchen Committee and the Council affirm our hopes to renovate the kitchen for ***the mission to which God has called us***, and not just for our own needs. This affirmation means that the kitchen itself becomes a tool for meaningful ministries of food and hospitality within our larger community. I am grateful for church leaders who understand this call at a deep level and who work hard to ask the tough questions which keep us in the center of God's will for our church family. More clarifying details will be reported as we understand the needs, costs, and ministry possibilities ahead of us.

Finally, I remind you that as we move into the season of vacation, travel, and summer sports, we all need to stay connected. Remember that, even as you travel, YouTube, email, Facebook, and text messaging can help you stay plugged in to your church family. We love to hear from you as you travel, so send pictures and let us know how we can pray for you. Remember too, that staff members will be staggering their vacations across the summer, and occasionally you will find one or several of us out of the office.

Please know that you are loved!     Drew

## Where is your Focus?

Louis Davis, Associate Pastor

As I was reading some news articles, I started one that caught my eye. The title was "Scientists: How 11 Billion Gallons of Water Vanished from Lake in 90 Minutes."

Eleven billion gallons of water sounds like a lot. I was trying to wrap my mind around that number. By reference, the Dallas Cowboy's stadium can be filled with around 750 million gallons of water...or so. If my math is close to being right, I could fill that stadium almost 15 times.

I was going to find how and why 11 billion gallons of water would vanish in just 90 minutes. The article stated that certain scientists studied some lakes and found that the problem came from below. As water filled shafts which became ice-made and expanded outward, a major crack would occur. In one case, the water flowed outward faster than water cascades at Niagara Falls.

What is the point of all of this? Good question! To begin with, that act of nature is just amazing. Second, and more importantly, as I was reading this, two scriptures came to mind. The first is **Colossians 3:2**, "**Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth**" (NKJV).

How many times have we felt the pressure of life? Many times, of course. When we set our minds on the things of the earth, it does not matter how much or how

little are the burdens we have on us; we will crack and eventually be empty. Rather, let us make a habit now to set our minds on things above! Let us be like Peter, who, when in the first few steps of getting out of the boat, kept his eyes on Jesus and walked on water. Not until he changed his focus from Jesus to things that were below, did Peter start to sink.

The other reference that came to mind was **I Corinthians 16:13-14**, "**Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love**," (NKJV). With all the pressure on our lives coming from things of the earth, we certainly must be strong and stand fast in the faith. You may have already felt this, but, yet to come could be distinct times in our lives when we are going to have to be brave. That challenge not only means that we must go where no one else has gone or do something that no one else has done; it also means we are going to have to take a stand in faith, for the faith, even if no one else is standing. How can this be done in your life? By keeping your eyes on Jesus!

As we go through this life, let us stand true to the Word of God, the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit, and the love of Jesus. In doing so, no matter what we are called to do, devastating cracks will not form, and we will always have the life-giving water of Jesus Christ!

### In Recognition and Appreciation

Mari Davis

One recent day, I had an enjoyable dinner at church in the parlor with my husband, Pastor Louis and daughters, Alivia and Amelia, while baby Ansley was jumping and squealing in an exersaucer. From our position, I heard laughter and indistinguishable voices traveling up the halls, evidence that our church youth were having fun and that a meal was taking place.

The chatter and apparent camaraderie reminded me of the first churches we served as newlyweds. The youth from our Prospect-Liberty-Rehoboth UMC charge came to our home for joint gatherings. As college students at the time, we, ourselves, were still considered youth-age, yet were given the great and privileged position of serving them and their families as their pastor. We loved those kiddos and their families!

Now, thanks to Facebook, we get to see them as hardworking adults, many with their own children.

Meanwhile, at Crossville FUMC, we are delighted that we know and share such a compassionate team of leaders in Next Generation Ministries who are working with our youth and children, loving them as their own: laughing with them, shaping them, mentoring them, and challenging them to deepen their relationships with Christ.

Thank you, Next Generation team, for investing in these youth, children, and families!

### Glory in Nature

Julia MacManus, Garden Club Co-Chair

The Garden Club had a record turnout of nineteen people May 12 for the annual spring flower planting, re-mulching, and trimming. The youth were a huge help with some of the heavy work.

Those whose hands and hearts worked together were David Brenner, Doug Hensley, Jim Everitt, Nancy Luckett, Kris Burk, Pam and Bruce

Raffel, Jeanette Parsons, Scott Looney, Wayne Russel, Ann Barnett, Barb Duncan, Ann Grogitsky, Jill Kemmer, Sue Patton, Tyler Looney, Isabella Mangano, Tristan Robbins and me, Julia MacManus.

Favorable weather that day and since is stimulating beauty and new images for church members, church neighbors, and passers-by to see the evidence of God's creations. The Garden Club welcomes new members and helpers in this satisfying work.



Garden Club finished the job May 12.

# Summer-at-a-Glance

## May

20 <sup>th</sup>	ACES Training	12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Small Sanctuary
20 <sup>th</sup>	Society Mtg.	5:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
27 <sup>th</sup>	The Church at Work	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Parking Lot

## June

6 <sup>th</sup>	WNL Kick-Off	5:00 p.m.	Gym
9 <sup>th</sup>	County-Wide UM Picnic	11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Campground
13 <sup>th</sup> - 15 <sup>th</sup>	TN Annual Conference		

## July

8 <sup>th</sup>	Society Mtg.	5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	Sanctuary
16 <sup>th</sup> - 19 <sup>th</sup>	VBS	5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Various
20 <sup>th</sup>	VBS Cookout	5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Cumberland Mt.
25 <sup>th</sup>	Last Summer WNL	5:00 p.m.	State Park
29 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Brunch	9:40 a.m.	Gym
			Gym

## August

1 <sup>st</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup>	UMM Yard Sale	8:00 a.m.	Annex
12 <sup>th</sup>	Society Mtg.	5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.	Sanctuary
22 <sup>nd</sup>	WNL Kick-Off	5:00 p.m.	Gym

## Noteworthy Items

- Men's Bible Study 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month 8:30 a.m. 226
- WNL summer semester June 6<sup>th</sup> - July 25<sup>th</sup> (No WNL July 4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>)
- Youth *Together Tuesdays* begin June 5<sup>th</sup> - Times TBA
- The church office will be closed on May 28<sup>th</sup> and July 4<sup>th</sup>.

# CHILDREN and YOUTH SUMMER CALENDAR

## June—July— August

### Children's Special Dates

#### **June 4**

Begin Sun Sch Attendance Contest

#### **June 6 4:00-5:00 p.m.**

Acolyte Training

#### **June 6-25, July 11 5:00-6:30 p.m.**

Wednesday Night Live (WNL)

#### **July 16-19 5:00-8:00 p.m.**

Vacation Bible School

#### **July 20 VBS Celebration 5:00-8:00 p.m.**

Cumberland Mountain State Park Pavilion #1



#### **July 25 5:00-6:30 p.m.**

Resume Wednesday Night Live

#### **August 12 9:45 a.m.**

Sunday School Promotion.

#### **August 22 5:00 pm**

WNL Fall Kick-off



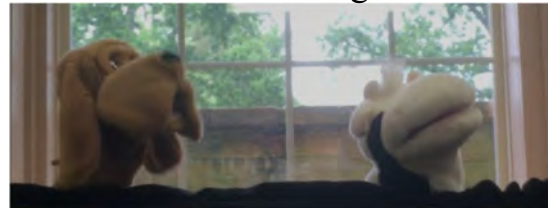
### Youths' Weekly Events:

#### **Tuesdays, June 5th—'til summer's end**

***Together Tuesdays***, Variable times, TBA

#### **June Wednesdays:**

Puppet Show for the Summer School-age Camp Program



#### **June 6th- July 25th**

Wednesday Night Live Summer Semester

(No WNL July 4th and 18th)

#### **Sunday Nights all Summer**

Youth Praise Band 4:00- 5:00 p.m. and

Youth Group meeting 5:00- 7:00 p.m., dinner included.

### Youths' Special Dates

#### **Sunday, June 3rd:**

Youth Leading Worship in East Tennessee

#### **Monday, June 11th OR Monday July 9th:**

Surprise Mission Trip - All Day *(Waiting Confirmation)*

#### **Friday, July 6th:**

Salvation Army Bell Ringing (Christmas in July) - Merchandise Side from 5-7 p.m.

#### **Friday, July 13th:**

Salvation Army Bell Ringing (Christmas in July) - Both Doors 5-7 p.m.

#### **Monday, July 16th - Friday, July 20th:**

Youth Helping with Vacation Bible School



## Showing Up: The Value of Presence

Carol Donalson, Chair Stephen Ministry

We all go through tough times. We struggle with illness or disability or face together with them the serious illness of a child or spouse. Our children rebel and sometimes cut ties with us. We see a family member going down a destructive road. We lose jobs, friends, homes, savings. We lose parents and siblings. Many such struggles are mutually experienced with caring others.

Losing *something* we love is hard. Losing *someone* we love is harder. Alas, when hard times come, you sometimes hear messages from others that aren't much help. You may hear,

- "It'll all work out for the best because God is in control."
- "Maybe it was God's will."
- "It's really a blessing that he isn't suffering anymore."
- "You'll get over it in time."
- "Maybe if you would just \_\_\_\_ (fill in your own blank)"
- "I know *just* how you feel."

The person saying these things means well. In our better moments, we know that we cannot know God's will; we cannot know what is a blessing to another; and we cannot know what is another person's feelings. Yet, we say those things, wanting so much to comfort our friends in their difficult times.

One of the greatest gifts we can give one another through hard times is our presence. We don't have to say anything. Our presence is often enough to provide comfort, and that warm posture is what Stephen Ministry is--a caring presence

in tough times.

One of the best definitions of what Stephen Ministers do is that Stephen Ministers **SHOW UP** and keep showing up, long after the funeral, when the cards stop coming. We show up when the extended family goes home, and the house feels empty. We show up through the long journey of grief.

We show up throughout times of illness and despair. We walk with our care-needs receiver throughout the long stress of caring for a relative or during the anxiety and burden of a wayward child. We are here to listen and uphold, to pray with you and for you. We will NOT tell you what to do, and our Stephen Ministers will NEVER tell you they know just how you feel!

If you are going through a tough time in your life, the Stephen Ministers at Crossville FUMC are here to walk with you. We are trained, compassionate, and committed to serving. If you want to be connected, or you want to recommend a connection, inform Pastor Drew or Pastor Louis or talk with Bill Dorstewitz or any other of our Stephen Ministers.

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## Responses to Bridges Out of Poverty

Donna King, Next Generation Ministries

More than 80 people attended the Bridges Out of Poverty workshop on April 29. After the presentation, a murmur of immediate responses was favorable about an awakening to discoveries for accepted terms of definitions, statistics, and comparisons among social and economic circumstances. The time allotted for the presenter, Cindy Putman, was tantalizingly short for a depth of information, but her delivery aroused much interest and many questions.

In case you missed the presentation, the United Fund is providing an extended training and simulation session for free on Saturday, July 21, from 8:30-3:30. While the program will be in Crossville, the exact place is to be determined and announced shortly.

This opportunity is a great way to begin to understand the mindsets of people living in poverty and how we can be more effective in ministry with them. To register, contact Holly Neal at [hollyneal@cumberlandunitedfund.org](mailto:hollyneal@cumberlandunitedfund.org) or by calling her at 931-484-4082.

Real life situations of poverty were explored in a PBS Frontline program, called **Poor Kids**, at <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/poor-kids/>. Through the stories of three families, told over the course of half a decade, the film explores what poverty means to children in America.

Also, four new books to support your efforts in ministry to those in poverty are now in the church library.

- **Helping Without Hurting in Church Benevolence**
- **When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty without Hurting the Poor...and Yourself**
- **What Every Church Member Should Know About Poverty**
- **Toxic Charity**

## GARDEN CLUB WORK



Isabella Mangano drilled roots.



David Brennan moved mulch.



Pam Raffel planted petunias.

## Our Summer Focus on Children

Donna King, Next Generation Ministries

### Time to Get Ready, Get Set, and GO!

Our summer focus is on generating lively days, friendly competitions, exploration, learning, and celebrating at VBS, and marking transitions to classes for the next age levels. The planned activities will excite children and their adults, will be energized by the Youth Group, and will be supported by loving volunteers.

### Sunday School Attendance Contest

Children, this contest depends on you, so be sure and invite someone you know, or have just met, to come to our church. Some of these friends might need a ride to church. Then, if you can do so, be sure and offer to help them get here. Beginning June 4, the children's Sunday School class that has the best attendance during June and July will get a fun surprise from Mrs. Donna!

### Wednesday Night Live

Our summer session will start June 6 and stretch to July 25. Supper will be at 5:00 p.m. with classes starting at 5:30 and ending at 6:30 p.m., which is a little different during the summer. Because of special events, there will be no Wednesday Night Live on July 4 or July 18.

### Vacation Bible School

Mark your calendars for July 16-20 for a fun week of learning about Daniel, a special character in the Old Testament whose actions taught lessons that still inspire us today.

On Monday through Thursday, children will join their tribes at the annex each night for dinner at 5:00 p.m. Then, they'll work their way through a Babylonian marketplace to learn about Daniel's courage in captivity. On Friday night, parents are invited to join the tribes and VBS volunteers at Cumberland Mountain State Park Pavilion #1 for a hamburger/hot dog cookout.

The VBS leaders are asking for volunteers to assist them in all sorts of tasks. To be a helping hand and to claim your preferred role, please contact Cathy Robertello or Donna King. As Pastor Drew is fond of saying, "It's going to be good!"

### Promotion Sunday

Children, you can expect to be honored for what you have accomplished and where you will be in the next Sunday School year. Join us at 9:45 a.m. in the sanctuary on August 12 for Promotion Sunday. Children, youth, and adults from all classes are invited to join in the fun as we honor our children and youth who are moving up to their next classes and to discover which children's group won the summer attendance contest!

**Reminder:** The Children's Special Dates are noted in the insert in the newsletter and are also posted separately in highlighted forms among church publications leading to the dates.



Children's Musical, "The Tale of the Three Trees," April 22, 2018.

**VBS**  
Going to Babylon.  
Going to find Daniel.

### Email for Clergy and Staff

**Drew Shelley, Senior Pastor**  
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**Gregg Rector, A/V Production and Engineering Director,**



Beersheba Springs

## SAVE-THE-DATE!

Church-Wide Fall Retreat—Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>