



Crossville First United Methodist Church

The Church With the Window on the Heart of Our Town

Announcing Good News Drew Shelley, Senior Pastor

Dear Crossville First:

I have two updates to share with you!

Gregg Rector: Many of you know him, our always helpful and friendly sound and media tech who keeps things going on Sunday mornings. The Staff-Pastor Parish Relations Committee elevated Gregg to the position of Audio Visual Production and Engineering Director.

Gregg has been employed by the church for 13 years, holding several support-staff positions. Over time, his responsibilities have shifted as his own sense of God's call and his giftedness have surfaced.

The work required for Sunday worship services, the church website, the YouTube channel, and a host of other media ministries is quite significant. Gregg excels in this work with talent and proficiency. His desire is to ensure that the Good News of Jesus Christ is communicated with excellence and professionalism through every available means.

Many of Gregg's previous duties are now parceled out to our custodians and other staff persons. He still opens the church early for us each Sunday morning and makes sure that we have coffee in the Narthex. We celebrate Gregg and his wife Julie and praise God that we serve together in ministry. Please join me in congratulating Gregg Rector on his new position.



Gregg Rector

Food Ministries: About 18 months ago, the Trustees created a Kitchen Committee to study our growing and changing food service needs. Many of you would be astounded to know the amount of work done in that kitchen in a given week. The inputs are remarkable as well as quite stressful in coordinating large events, especially since the duties are handled entirely by volunteers.

For a recent 5th Sunday Brunch, 387 people were served in an hour. This level of labor intensive activity is part of the reason why the 2017 Charge Conference approved a budget that included hiring a knowledgeable Food Service Manager to lead and organize functions as well as to press outward into the community with a ministry of food and hospitality.

The Kitchen Committee, along with the Trustees, is planning for a kitchen remodel to facilitate our readiness for the continued growth we are experiencing. Essentially, they are strategizing how to accommodate several envisioned actions.

- Serve 500 people competently in an hour for events such as 5th Sunday Brunch, Church-Wide Meals, Thanksgiving Dinner, neighborhood gatherings, and others.
- Assume the year-round responsibility for preparing meals for Wednesday Night Live.
- Provide consistent high-quality food for persons of all ages and groups of all sizes who participate in meal-time meetings and events that happen in our church on a weekly basis.
- Provide beverage and snack service for routine and ad-hoc meetings.
- Support future food service ministries such as meals for homebound persons and hot meals for those in need in our community.
- Institute a training program for unemployed or underemployed persons who want to learn food service skills and find stable jobs.

Our present facilities have served us well for many years, but they are now stretched beyond limits for production efficiency and economy. The Kitchen Committee solicited feedback from kitchen-user groups and are now hard at work developing a reasoned, phase-by-phase guide to accomplish our goals.

Soon, you'll be seeing the committee's draft plan of action through drawings and sketches. If you have thoughts or input on the matter, you may reach out to the committee chairman, Howard Breeden, whose contact is available through the church office.

The consensus ultimately serves our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of Crossville and the World. **We remember that people who break bread together in the name of Jesus most often encounter Jesus in the breaking of that bread!** Let's be in prayer for all this good work!

Love, Drew

Means for Doing Good

Louis Davis, Associate Pastor

Hebrews 13:16: “Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”

I think I do the best I can according to what the first part of that verse says, **“Do not neglect to do good.”** How many times, though, have I/we let an opportunity pass us by to do good? This observation is not to make anyone feel bad, but to prompt a self-examination of personal behaviors.

Sometimes I neglect to do good and then become aware of my actions; other times I am not aware at all. As this verse continues, part of it is about sharing what we have. Now I’m stepping on my own toes. Nevertheless, these sacrifices are what please God.

Before you skip the rest of this message, let me say that one of the greatest things we can share with others is our time. **Time**, more than anything else, is something we are hesitant to offer because we find the easier duty is to give our money. Sharing our time is an action altogether different.

I want to highlight two means wherein we can use our time to share the love of Christ. One is being a part of the Prayer Team. This group meets at 8:30 a.m. in the small sanctuary every Wednesday morning for about 30-45 minutes. We pray for the names and situations that are submitted throughout the week. If you are looking for something good to do that makes a difference, joining the Prayer Group would be a power-filled step.

The second one I want to define is the Door Step

Ministry, also known as the First Time Visitor Ministry. For those who have been on the receiving side, you know what a blessing it is to receive a visit from someone, to have conversation, and to be given a bag of goodies. The tucked-in gift of home baked bread makes me want to be a first-time visitor every Sunday.

A small, but very dedicated, group works hard to call on people who visit the church for the first time. Regrettably, they cannot reach everyone because, honestly, they need additional help. This simple gesture of direct action for doing good takes very little time but has a major impact on someone’s life.

When you volunteer for the Door Step Ministry, you can first accompany an experienced member to see how a house call is conducted. You may be like me, nervous about going to visit someone you do not know and starting a conversation. However, the benefits on the receiver’s life, your life, and the life of the church outweigh any feelings of inadequacy.

While these two opportunities exist for doing good by giving your time, many other means are also open. Whatever it is that God is leading you to be a part of and to take action to do, you can remember these words from Hebrews 13:16, **“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.”**

Hooray Hallelujah!

Anne Looney Cook

Our pastors, Rev. Drew Shelley and Rev. Dr. Louis Davis were reappointed to serve Crossville First United Methodist Church for the 2018-2019 conference year. A letter from Rev. Dr. William McAlilly, Bishop of the Tennessee Conference UMC and Rev. Donna Parramore, Superintendent of the Caney Fork River District proclaimed the good news which was read to the congregation during

worship services April 15. The letter was read by Jeanne Stevens, chair of the Staff-Pastor Parish Relations Committee, to a host of members who erupted with a standing ovation.

What a gift of tandem, spiritual leadership we have in this duo of pastor and associate pastor, who are continuing their services to our church. Their talents and commitments bless us every day.

Comments about New Media Equipment

Gregg Rector

Audio Visual Production and Engineering Director

My team and I are very grateful to work with the new sound equipment that was installed at the end of 2017. As the last few kinks are worked out, we look forward to new and exciting ways to enhance and improve the worship experience for everyone, starting with our faithful congregation who gather in the sanctuary.

Next, we plan to reach our members who are unable to attend worship services and activities. Going further, we want to expand our outreach to those who are looking for a church

family and whom we may be able to reach with our growing online presence.

Our library of in-house created content and our presence through the church website and social media give substance to our capabilities through our electronic platforms. We are refining and increasing these options for upholding our church mission. We are thrilled to be on this journey as messengers together and to witness how God’s plans unfold as our ministries grow and stretch beyond what we might imagine.

Excitement Spent and More Is Pending

Catherine Robertello

We were blessed on a beautiful, warm and sunny day, Saturday, March 31, to celebrate the **Easter Egg Hunt** at the Methodist Campground. The Men's Bible Study group cleaned up the pavilion a few days beforehand, and everything was ready for the children.

Donna King, Alice Peebles Hawes, and Jane Hurlburt organized more than 60 children by age groups and channeled them through a full afternoon of Easter-themed fun. Donna Carlisle and Randa Haddad helped the children decorate cookies. Susan Robinson and Lynn Hintz led the children in a craft activity. Isabella Mangano and Tristan Robbins enlivened the Easter story with an intensity through storytelling. Jennie Bilyeu and Suzann Griffith served shaved ice in a rainbow



together to create this special event.

Parents and family members snapped lots of photos as the children rotated through the stations and chased down the Easter eggs. Soon, copies of their pictures were posted and remain on social media.



Save the date: Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be held **July 16 to 20** from 5:00 to 8:00 pm. Children will take a journey back to ancient Babylon where they will encounter Daniel, an Old Testament hero, and discover what incredible adventures he had as a captive in a strange country.

We need at least 80 volunteer leaders, youth and adult, to help guide 150 children on their adventures in Babylon. Children and leaders will participate in a memorable Bible-times marketplace, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, dig into Bible-times snacks, visit Daniel in his place, and build Bible experiences to remind us of God's Word. Plus, everyone learns to look all around themselves for evidence of God through means of awareness called "God Sightings." Each day concludes at Celebration—an in-spirit time of upbeat worship that gets everyone involved.

She says, "Welcome to Our Church"

Anne Looney Cook

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When the doors at the front entrance on Braun Street open on Sunday mornings, Nancy Hartman awaits visitors and church members who have questions and comments as they enter. On the opening day for the present sanctuary, Nancy claimed her role at the welcome desk, and she has now served there ten years.

Before affirming her position, Nancy attended a conference in Washington, DC which defined the slogan of the United Methodist Church, "**Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.**" Nancy is exuberant, declaring, "My goal is to greet people. I want to assure them of their place in our midst, to answer their questions about what to expect, to help them find a Sunday school class or nursery, to explain where and who has a place for them, and in many other ways to welcome them to our church."

Nancy described one interesting encounter when a new family arrived. She began her overture by pointing out coffee and snacks in the Narthex and

suggesting times and places for classes.

The family surveyed the activities at play and asked, "Where is the church?" Nancy realized they sought the sanctuary.

The doors were closed from the Narthex and the question had merit. She flung open the doors and showed the visitors in. That weighted situation gave rise to the planned times now in place to have open the sanctuary doors for anyone seeking where to enter.

Nancy Hartman's spiritual gifts are further expressed in services which are manifest in the Clothing Closet, the Men's 127 Yard Sale, and other ways to help people with her welcoming smile and great personality.



Lunch and Learn: *Bridges Out of Poverty*

Donna King, Next Generation Ministries

Bridges Out of Poverty is an opportunity to learn about challenges faced by people in poverty and is addressed to people in economic classes from middle to wealth who will benefit from improved understandings of how to help the impoverished.

The program, Bridges Out of Poverty, is based on the research and life's work of Ruby K. Payne, Ph.D. Dr. Payne, founder of *aha! Process*, is an author, speaker, publisher, and career educator. Recognized internationally for *A Framework for Understanding Poverty*, her foundational book and workshop, Dr. Payne has helped students and adults of varied economic backgrounds to achieve academic, professional, and personal success.

Cindy Putman, the Ready to Learn Project Manager at WCTE-

TV/PBS, will be our facilitator. She is a certified trainer for Bridges Out of Poverty and will help us understand the mindsets of economic classes and the overcoming of hurdles of poverty.

Join us on April 29 as we begin to deepen our knowledge and sensitivity about those whose lives are affected by poverty and how we might minister to them effectively. Lunch will be provided at noon, and the session begins at 1:00 pm.

Registration is through the church website or by calling the church office at 931-484-3537. The deadline is Wednesday April 25. Contact Donna King at donna@crossvillefumc.com for more information.

Read All About It

Anne Looney Cook

The FUMC newsletter carries information about what is happening at Crossville First United Methodist Church, giving details and pictures that highlight activities and promoting spiritual and social gatherings. Our congregation is large, our community outreach is growing, and our mission is to transform our known environment.

What gets published here depends on regular submissions from clergy, staff, lay leaders, editor, and occasional reporters. Readers assume the continuity of these kinds of inputs for updates and forward postings, but more is called for.

The range of news sources is beyond imagination when we consider participation by members in the vast array of meetings that occur every day, week, and month. The nature of involvements and possibilities is challenging to report by a few leaders, and much good news goes without being told.

This newsletter is published monthly with the due date for submissions being every Second Tuesday, but items are appreciated any time for the next printing. It is a tangible means to broadcast our church's news in a form that lets readers enjoy it at a preferred

pace and creates content for perpetuity. Copies are shared with visitors, prospective members, and collectors, including the office of the Caney Fork River District UMC.

To expand news about the happenings within our church, volunteer reporters need to step forward and identify their group's purpose and functions that reflect their work. Likewise, reporters can spotlight individuals whose quiet service deserves recognition. Bringing notice to actions and service, whether new or ongoing, is important to elevating the substance of the CFUMC monthly newsletter.

Reporters may submit outlines or full write-ups, with or without pictures. Help is available in developing a composition, and reporters get bylines. The most important action is describing the happenings of the classes, focus groups, committees, and special interest groups. Without shared news, the congregation is without knowledge of the unique missional efforts taking place throughout the church.

News and reports are requested and may be submitted electronically to Anne Looney Cook at sewrite39@yahoo.com or in writing to the church office. Names and means of contact must accompany the newsletter contributions.

The Two Became Three on the Walk to Emmaus: Luke 24:13-35

Martha K. Hale

It must be all over, Jesus is dead,
Let's just go home and lie down in bed.
Grieved and hopeless, with no longer a plan,
Confused to discover, Jesus was only a man.

Seven miles to walk to get to our home,
We feel such despair, and we're all alone.
Perhaps we should have stayed with the others,
There is comfort in loss by being with brothers.

Onward they went, their heads bending low.
A Man joined them in walk, One they didn't know.
He heard their sad story and wasn't concerned.
As He taught from the prophets their hearts suddenly burned.

They wanted to hear more from the Man that day.
They invited Him in and asked Him to stay.
They sat down to eat, and in breaking the bread,
Jesus was there! Their Lord wasn't dead!

Weren't they tired from their journey, worn down by cares?

No, let's hurry back. We have great news to share!
The Lord is alive! It's really all true,
He came to die, for me and for you!

When two come together in fellowship sweet,
Always remember that it's Jesus we meet.
For if two or three gather in Jesus' name,
Today and forever, He is always the same.

His Words do encourage and lift our hearts
His presence is with us and never departs.
Expect Him to join you any minute or hour.
He is alive! and His Spirit empowers.

He re-frames your story when all looks so bad,
Simply study His Word to see what it has.
Invite Him to walk on this journey with you,
Jesus will come, and His truth gets you through.

Easter Bunny Surprised the Garden Club

Julia MacManus, Garden Club Co-Chair

The Easter Bunny left very colorful Spring flowers in many of our outside flower pots. Surely, as you came through the major entrances to the church on Easter Sunday, you saw the beautiful splashes of color that appeared that morning. The potted flower surprises at the main doors, Neecham Street door, and office entrance still hold blossoms. The Easter Bunny, by the way, looked a lot like Sharon Phillips.

The Garden Club's Spring Spruce-Up is scheduled for Saturday, May 12, starting at 8:00 am and finishing by 12:00 pm (noon). The several tasks that day require members and prospective gardeners to bring their own tools, those such as wheel barrows, garden gloves, garden rakes, brooms, weeders, leaf blowers, pruners, trowels, and shovels to get the work done efficiently.

The campus around our church is seen every day by hundreds of persons driving or walking by. The images of tender care to the outside borders, shrubs, and flower beds accen-

tuates the concept that caring people worship here. The ministry of the Garden Club gives visible evidence of the mission to transform Crossville and the world.

Music Matters

Kimberly White, Director of Music

The Tale of the Three Trees, a children's musical based on an American folk tale, tells the story of Jesus in a fresh and timeless way. The production features speaking parts, solos, and small group vocals. It will be performed Sunday, April 22 at both worship services. Parents, friends, and church members who appreciate music, love the children for their enthusiasm, and want to uphold our rising generation have a supreme opportunity to reinforce the Children's Choir. You will not want to miss this special day of worship at 8:30 am, 10:40 am, or both times. After many practice sessions, show time is at hand. You might go home humming the tunes.

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