



Crossville First

United Methodist Church

The Church With the Window on the Heart of Our Town

Our Congregation at Work

Drew Shelley, Senior Pastor

Dear Crossville First!

I hope this June Edition finds you doing well! What a great joy it was to be **The Church at Work** on Memorial Day Weekend. It was a gift, and I am thankful to have been a part of it!

You'll find a wonderful article written by our own Gregg Rector which tells the story of the day.

We will be returned from Annual Conference by the time you read this newsletter, and I think it is appropriate to review terms in the present dialogue about human sexuality within the United Methodist Church. Many of you know (or have heard) that a special General Conference is proposed in February of 2019 to address the debate on human sexuality within our Methodist Connection.

The delegates to General Conference will hear the recommendations from a group called "The Commission on the Way Forward" and will make decisions which will affect the fullness of our Methodist Connection.

There is much to discuss regarding all the points of this issue! Therefore, Louis and I will be hosting conversations in October 2018 for the purpose of keeping everyone in the loop. A few of you who have already begun asking questions, which is most appropriate. We want you to know that there will be a forum for deeper conversation as we go along.

As news is spread via social media and multiple news outlets, please remember that the only entity which can speak on behalf of the United Methodist Church is the General Conference of the United Methodist Church. My hope and prayer, through all these exchanges, is that we remain focused on the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of Crossville and the world! That is our real work.

Finally, I am excited to whisper Good News about a Pathway to Discipleship which our Discipleship Formation Team has put together. I can't tell you how many times people have asked me, "Exactly what does it mean to make disciples of Jesus?" By the time this Team finishes with us, we will all be able to tell anybody what that means! I praise God for it, and I am so excited about it. You'll be hearing much more in the coming weeks and months. Stay tuned...Much love, Drew

Follow-up to "Building Strong Brains"

Donna King, Next Generation Ministry

Thirty-five people attended our "Building Strong Brains" Lunch and Learn on May 20. This program is a state-wide initiative from the State of Tennessee, the Tennessee Department of Health, and the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth. Based on peer-reviewed research, the session focused on how negative events called adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) affect brain development, behavior, and lifelong health.

As we look for ways to deepen our ministry with children, youth, and families, we learn the good news of how the presence of one caring adult can make a positive, lasting difference in lifelong outcomes for those affected by ACEs. It's all about building relationships!

Giving and Receiving the Gift of Rest

Louis Davis, Associate Pastor

I thank Pastor Drew, the staff, and the family of Crossville FUMC for allowing my family and me to be on vacation last month. It truly was a blessing. I was reminded how we all need to “rest” in the Lord.

In fact, Jesus said to come to him **ALL “those who are burdened and heavy laden I will give you REST!” (Matthew 11:28).**

Why do we need rest? Maybe because we are tired and worn out from all the things we do. Or, maybe we need rest for work that yet must be done. For example, once our family planned to take a very long trip and decided to leave at night. That meant I needed to take a nap beforehand so that I would be rested enough to drive as long as I could. The trip ended up being a great one.

You might be wondering, “why is he writing so much about rest? Now I feel like taking a nap.”

In this article I want to share something with you and hope you take time to pray about the matter. It is the Barnabas Ministry at Crossville First United Methodist Church. You may already be doing this service and not realize it.

Before I answer, “What is Barnabas Ministry?” let me answer the question, “Who was Barnabas?” He was the apostle who introduced Paul to the other apostles after Paul’s dramatic conversion experience. Barnabas is known as the son of encouragement and consolation for the work he did with the church in Antioch.

When we think about what Barnabas Ministry is, we think about simply being with each other. You, the members of CFUMC, do a great job of that. The Barnabas Ministry is a way in which members of the congregation encourage one another within the life of the church. This act is particularly important for our members who are not able to participate in worship on a regular basis.

Our active Barnabas Ministers serve to more fully connect our home-confined and nursing home members with their church home and the regular activities of church membership.

You will be hearing more definitions of what you could do as a Barnabas Minister in another article, but please be praying about it now. Please ask questions you have about engaging in this wonderful ministry here at this church.

Summer Comings-and-Goings for Children

Donna King, Next Generation Ministry

Summer weeks present opportunities to be flexible and creative for children and their church school teachers. Certain ideas and adjustments are announced so that families and volunteers can plan for enriching experiences with children.

Children’s Sunday School Assembly

Starting June 24, all Children’s Sunday School classes will meet in the gym at 9:45-10:00 am for songs, stories, and surprises! At 10:00, they’ll dismiss to their regular classes.

Wednesday Night Live

Wednesday Night Live’s summer session began June 6, with supper at 5:00 pm. Children’s activities are planned from 5:30-6:30 pm. Many of our activities will focus on being a “doer” and not just a “hearer” as the children work on projects that will be an encouragement in sharing and serving those who are less fortunate.

Kid-Friendly Menus Planned for Wednesday Night Live

6/13: Deli turkey sandwiches from Kroger, watermelon, ice cream sundaes

6/20: Chicken tenders, mac and cheese, ice cream sandwiches

6/27: Hot dogs, fruit, ice cream

7/11: Meatball subs, salad, fruit, cookies

7/25: Hamburgers with all the trimmings from May’s Cafe

Penny Offering

A big shout out goes to our Credo Class when they declared Heifer International as their designated missions project during the Children’s Moment on the third Sunday in May. They collected \$1,690 for the Penny Offering and are planning to buy a goat. They may have enough to buy a whole herd! The Credo Class already has another mission project in mind for third Sundays to come; so, don’t forget to have change in your pocket for their collections!

Great News from Summer School-age Camp Program!

John Worley, Director,

WE ARE FULL! For the first time since I became involved in the Summer School-age Camp Program, we have officially reached our licensing limit of 99 children enrolled in our program. These 99 children from the local community give us an opportunity to teach them about Jesus’ love.

We apologize to those whom we were unable to enroll for Summer 2018. However, if requested, we will put names on a waiting list for children whose registration paperwork is filled out should we have openings as the summer progresses.

When the scholarship fund

began for the two ministries, After School Care Program and Summer School-age Camp Program, we were able to support three scholarships through church member contributions. Two years ago, the funding base grew, and we were able to offer scholarships to six children.

Now, I am happy to announce that we awarded 12 scholarships to children in our community to attend our programs this summer. That doubled the previous number of scholarships available! Thank you to those who gave and who continue to give to the scholarship fund.

To members and friends who intend to donate to the ASCP/SSCP Scholarship Fund, your donations are a great way to reach out to the community and support those children who would otherwise not be able to attend. Our daily activities unfold a faith-based curriculum where they experience the love of Christ.

Your prayers and gifts are sought after. Each offering is a blessing.

In Christian Love!



The Church at Work

Gregg Rector, A/V Production and Engineer Director

On May 27th Crossville First United Methodist Church held its first **Church at Work** Sunday. The effort, which was organized by church leaders and the Missions Committee, began with congregants gathering early in the church's sanctuary for prayer and song.

As the numbers began to swell, a palpable excitement began to carry through those assembled. Perhaps it was a bit of nervousness in the attempting of something new, mixed with an overwhelming amount of love and joy. When the abbreviated worship service ended, the work groups began to split off.

The jobs off campus included mulching and nature trail cleanup at Martin Elementary School; landscaping at WyndRidge Nursing Home and at the Bread of Life; litter pick-up along Northside and Interstate Drive; and preparing and delivering food to the jail which fed inmates and emergency responders as well as nearby residents in need, who live in a low-income housing.

Those who stayed at the church remained hard at work assembling items for baby baskets, writing letters to our deploying service men and women, and making crafts with our children. As the groups dispersed and the work began, it was immediately apparent that

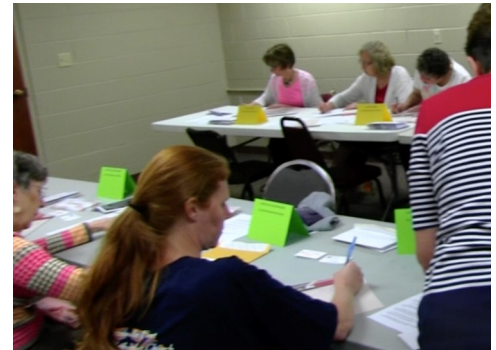
the Lord was at work. Even though the crews were all working very hard, they were enjoying each other's company and were together accomplishing more than any would have thought of doing alone.

Twenty-three bags of litter were picked up. Almost four hundred meals were served. Multiple loads of mulch were shoveled and spread, and two landscaping jobs beautified their locations. Forty-nine baskets for newborns and their families were made to be given through Plateau Pregnancy Services and the hospital. More than one hundred letters

of love and encouragement were written to be forwarded to military personnel pending deployment and to their families.

All this community work was in the span of just a couple of hours. Some were reluctant to leave their work, as the joy of service to the Lord by serving others blossomed and took on a life of its own and radiated from each member. Seeing a worshipping community of Christ *being Christ* in the civic community is a truly wonderful and remarkable thing to behold. Each sweaty brow was hung above a smile colored by love, one that couldn't be faked. Hopefully the seeds for many fruitful ministries were planted on Sunday, May 27, as the hunger for "how can I help?" seemed to continue to grow throughout the morning.

The Apostle James wrote, "I will show you my faith by my works," and this was scripture in action. While it may not have replaced the weekly Sunday worship service, the collective action radiated a transcendent beauty when the church, not just hearing about Christ's teachings to love God and to love neighbor, went forth doing the hard and satisfying work of living it out. None greater or lesser, like the hands and feet of Christ, our congregation, equipped with many tools and the Holy Spirit, showed the local community that God loves them, and so do we at Crossville First United Methodist Church.



Youth in Summer Missions and Worship

Doug Hensley, Next Generation Ministry

When we wrapped another school year, I remind everyone that we did not wrap up youth activities too. In fact, summer time is exactly when youth activities pick up. Over the summer you will be able to read and see photos of the youth in action. We begin with news about the beginning of their summer missions and worship services.

On June 3rd the youth went to Orchard View Baptist Church in Oliver Springs, TN to lead Sunday worship. There by invitation, they sang songs, performed magic tricks, used puppetry, and gave personal testimonies. The invitation was a request for demonstrating ways to communicate with other youth. The experience was a true blessing for everyone.

The youth are starting again their Together Tuesday special activities. These are times when they go out into the community and share the love of God. Evidence in stories and photos about the youths' Together Tuesday missions will be featured regularly in the FUMC Newsletter.



A popular service to our younger children continues during the summer weeks for the kids in the ASCP/SSCP. On Wednesdays the youth teach and perform songs, entertain with stories, and create lessons using puppets for the 99 children. Photos capture the youth in action leading the youngsters.

The Youth of our church deserve your prayers and volunteer support as they go into the world to share the love of God with others in their missions and worship.

Hispanic Ministers Train Lay Servants

The Rev. Eliud Martinez and the Rev. Janet Martinez conducted training courses in Lay Servant Ministries May 11-12, 2018 with nine women from the Caney Fork River District. Five women participated in the Basic Course taught by Pastora Janet while four women participated in the advanced course on Evangelism taught by Pastor Eliud.

Among the Lay Servants now at work, some are teaching Bible study with adults, children, and youth; others are being worship leaders; and still others do food ministry with Bread of Life.

These Lay Servants are putting into action their faith and love through serving God.



Left to Right: Mariana Aguilar, Maria Niño, Rosaura Garcia, Maria Garcia, Rev. Janet Martinez (Basic course instructor), Rev. Eliud Martinez (Advanced course instructor), Rev. Donna Parramore (Caney Fork River District Superintendent), Silvina Perez, Martha Pastor, Mayra Magdaleno, Valentina Fuentes.



Volunteer with Children

Donna King, Next Gen Ministry

Calling Volunteers who love Children: We need you joining us in our children's ministry program!

Our vision is to reflect Mari Davis' Mother's Day sermon when she said, "I came to church for the snacks and the crafts. What I got was love and a whole lot of Jesus!"

If you're interested in sharing the love of Jesus with our wonderful children or just want big fun with little ones, please connect with Donna King.

Our Next Generation Ministry needs volunteers in these areas:

Grades 1-2 Sunday School Class Volunteer: Rosalee Dyer is the teacher. To be an extra set of hands, you can sign up for one month or longer.

5th and 6th Grade Credo/Confirmation Class Teacher(s): This is a 12-month commitment for one or more persons.

10:45 Children's Church Volunteer:

Suzann Griffith is the regular teacher. You can commit to be an every Sunday volunteer, or a limited time, or on a rotating basis. You will love doing Children's Church with an awesome bunch of children!

Wednesday Night Live Volunteers:

You never know what you might be doing, but we can promise that you will have fun as you interact with the many children who attend WNL! Think supper table buddy, puppet show pal, circle time, and partner play.

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