



Crossville First

United Methodist Church

The Church With the Window on the Heart of Our Town

Charting Our Pathway to Discipleship

Drew Shelley, Senior Pastor

Dear Crossville First!!

Our prayers are with you for a great summer. I hope you are enjoying many opportunities to be out-and-about in God's creation on our plateau. In Sunday's worship service, July 8, we introduced ALPHA, a *Pathway to Discipleship*. I want to write a few words about the concept.

Your leaders have realized that, when it comes to making disciples, we are *accidentally fruitful* more often than being *intentionally* fruitful. The Discipleship Formation Team has created a very simple, very clear, three-part Pathway to Discipleship to help us accomplish our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of Crossville and the world!

It starts with something called ALPHA. Alpha is about the beginning—the basics, those questions we and others sometimes have that we struggle to answer: *Who is Jesus? Who is God? What is the Holy Spirit?* If God is so good and loving, why is evil so real? I'm content with my life now, why do I need God?

The beginning of this pathway is a 14-weeks experience of table fellowship, sound teaching, and video-driven discussions that communicate exactly what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. It culminates with an invitation to choose to follow Jesus, or to keep searching within a loving community of faith.

The second step is a set of directives called the Blue Book. It is beautifully simple and has been around a long time. It's eleven weeks of learning the habits and practices of a disciple of Jesus. The focal points are prayer, Bible study, scripture memory, worship, and disciplines of faith that put us in the presence of God so that we can be more connected to what God is doing in us and around us.

The third step is Journey 101 and comes in three parts, Knowing God, Loving God, and Serving God. It pulls together that most important commandment—the one that we Methodists call Sanctification, 'Loving God and Loving Neighbor.'

As excited as we are about embracing ALPHA, we are also challenged by the importance that each of us goes through this Pathway to Discipleship. By doing so, we can understand how it works and can invite others on the same journey! Altogether, the steps are concrete and simple to use in our work of making disciples. We look forward to following this Pathway together. Our work starts August 22 when we begin our fall sessions on Wednesdays. Details about time and activities are available from the church office and from the church website online.

Finally, the goal of this Pathway to Discipleship is that persons who experience it will come out 'on the other side' as believers who can say:

- I know that I am a disciple of Jesus, and I know how to help others become a disciple, too.
- I have a growing, adult Christian faith, and I'm ready to take responsibility for myself and others on this journey.
- I have discovered the work God has for me to do both in the world and in the church and am ready to be deeply engaged in it together with this community of faith.

With joy on the journey!!! Love, Drew

Being Valuable to GOD

Louis Davis, Associate Pastor

1st Peter 2:9 (NKJV) *“But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”*

Do you realize how valuable you are to God? And how loved you are by Him? The Scripture says that you (*yes You, the one reading this now*) are a part of something amazing. You are a chosen nation, you are a royal priesthood, you are a holy nation, you--*again, yes, you--*are God's special person. How great is that thought? I know sometimes that it feels like what you do does not matter. You might feel that you have nothing to offer. This one scripture (there are many, many more) says just how precious you truly are.

Summer season is a very busy time in the life of the church. With Vacation Bible School, our Wednesday and Sunday commitments, and other church activities, not to mention the things we have planned for our own families, we get so lost in the 'stuff' that we cannot see why we are doing what we are doing. I pray that all we do is for God.

In fact, **1st Corinthians 10:31** says, *“Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.”* Sometimes, what we do may seem tiring or even hard, but we are to glorify God in all that we do.

Being a chosen generation, royal priesthood, holy nation, and chosen people, we are to live in a way that glorifies God. 1st Peter 2:9 continues to say that being who we are in God, we get to *proclaim the praises of Him, who has called us out of the darkness* into His light. We have this chance to share our story of how we were once lost, but now are found. We get to tell how we were once blind, but now we see.

In every experience we have—in all that we do and in all that we say—may we remember who we are and whose we are! To God be the glory!!!!

Barnabas Ministry at Crossville First UMC

Pam Edwards, Nurture Committee Chair

The *Book of Acts* reports that Barnabas was born a Jew in Cyprus and named Joseph at his birth. He became an early Christian who encouraged believers in their faith and in how to remain true to the Lord. He traveled with Paul on missionary journeys and defended Gentile converts. He became known as Barnabas, the son of encouragement and consolation, offering comfort, compassion, sympathy, and solace.

Like him, our Barnabas Ministers support and uplift members of our congregation who have been integral, active members of this church, but who are now physically limited or unable to regularly attend worship service and Holy Communion.

Through meaningful interaction and consistent relationship building, our Barnabas Ministers acknowledge and celebrate that their care receivers still have much to contribute to the life of the church and are an important part of who we are as a community of faith. Our Barnabas Ministers provide a key connection with church life for at-home and nursing-home members.

The tasks addressed create and strengthen the connection. Barnabas Ministers visit their designated church members individually every other week with updates on news about happenings in the church and with means for staying in-

formed through worship service bulletins, monthly newsletters, CFUMC website, emails, and phone blasts from the church.

Barnabas Ministers make personal phone calls, send encouraging cards and notes, pray with their care receivers, and invite them each to pray for the concerns of the church. If possible, they take elements for Holy Communion or bring their care receivers to church on Communion Sundays. Above all, Barnabas Ministers enter the lives of their care receivers with love and compassion, and the relationships provide means for spiritual growth and faith which are often transforming for both giver and receiver.

Members of the congregation, having a heart for this special service, are invited to join eight Barnabas Ministers who currently attend twenty church members known as care receivers. Both men and women are needed and welcomed into the ministry. Please contact me, Pam Edwards, or Pastor Louis Davis for getting started.

Acts 11: 21-24 “... *they (the church in Jerusalem) sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast devotion; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were brought to the Lord.*”

ASCP News

John Worley, Director

Our After-School Care Program is changing to keep pace with our growing community of children. Beginning in August, we will add after-school care bus service for Pleasant Hill Elementary School. We already have children who attend our programs from Pleasant Hill and adding that school to our list makes sense, especially when they do not have an after-school care program on site. To make room for those students, we will discontinue service to Homestead Elementary. But, not to fret, Homestead Elementary has their own After School Program, CCQCP, which can accommodate the children at that school. We look forward to welcoming Pleasant Hill students into our ministries.

Angels for After School is back! In August, you can once again help our after-school care children with craft supplies, toys, games, and other needed items that we use each day. Angels, located in the Narthex, await your pick-up, purchase, and return to church of the items listed on the Angel. Last year the program was a tremendous success and helped us be able to share Jesus in many new ways with the children.

Please consider helping the children by taking an angel.

Youth Trip to Smoky Mountain Children's Home

Doug Hensley and Scott Looney, Next Generation Ministry

On June 9, the FUMC youth group traveled to lead a worship service at the Smoky Mountain Children's Home in Sevierville, Tennessee. They performed music and conducted a call to spiritual reverence for about 45 children and teenage peers.

For almost a century, the Smoky Mountain Children's Home, SMCH, has served the needs of an estimated 30,000 children and youth. Approximately 72% of the children and youth placed in SMCH care have been abused, abandoned, or neglected. This special home provides a chance to restore and bring healing to each of the children and youth who live there.

As part of our trip, we toured the facilities and had a glimpse into the routines and possibilities for those who live on the campus. The staff who work there and the residents need our prayers. We think of **1st Peter 2:9**, "call them out of darkness into His marvelous light!"



Calling Volunteers

Donna King, Next Generation Ministry for Children

We would love to have you join us in children's ministry! Age, gender, and agility won't interfere with your loving our children in classrooms and learning activities where you are needed. Our teachers and helpers at Crossville FUMC are volunteers who are eager to share the love of Jesus or just have big fun with our wonderful children.

Our vision reflects the message from Mari Davis who said, as a child, she "came to church for the snacks and crafts, and what she got was love and a whole lot of Jesus!" To carry forth our children's ministry, we need helpers, particularly in these areas.

Grades 1-2 Sunday School Class Volunteer: Rosalee Dyer is the teacher, and you would be an extra set of hands. Look at your calendar for serving on a weekly or monthly rotating basis or on every Sunday. You'll be a blessing and get a blessing!

Grades 5-6 Credo/Confirmation Class Teacher(s): This is a 12-month commitment.

10:45 am Service Children's Church Volunteer: Suzann Griffith is the teacher and does an excellent job every Sunday. This is on a monthly rotating basis or every Sunday. You'll love working in Children's Church with Suzann and her awesome bunch of children!

However experienced or talented you are, and you want to serve, please contact Donna King at 931-484-3537 or email donna@crossvillefumc.com and volunteer to express your love for our children.



The United Fund of Cumberland County is offering a Bridges Out of Poverty Workshop on Saturday, July 21, at Roane State Community College/Crossville from 8:30-3:30.

This interactive workshop will help members of the community better understand the limitations of living in poverty and how we as a community can enable change. The workshop offers many insights into the mindsets of people in poverty and the hidden rules by which they live. It is **FREE**, and lunch will be provided.

For registration information, contact Holly Neal at hollyneal@cumberlandunitedfund.org or call 931-484-4082.

Support for Tennessee Army National Guard

Robin Piacine



The Crossville unit, 278th G-Troop, of the Tennessee Army National Guard received outstanding farewells as they began their deployment to Poland on Sunday, July 15, 2018. Members of First United Methodist Church, led by Associate Pastor Louis Davis, boarded the church bus and joined with other members in the parking lot of First National Bank. A growing throng of local citizens and church members lined US Hwy 127-N in support of the men and women.

Members of our Veterans Outreach Mission at FUMC handed out American flags to well-wishers who needed one while waiting for the convoy. From Elmore Road to I-40, the parade out-of-town was led by a local law enforcement team with lights flashing, followed by a variety of vehicles and motorcycles decorated in red, white, and blue.



When two large commercial buses carrying the 278th finally drove by, we waived our flags and shouted encouragement. Crossville proved itself again among the most patriotic towns in America as evidenced by the fantastic turnout early on a Sunday morning.

Following the sendoff, the Veterans Outreach Mission at FUMC will work with designated community coordinators to aid the unit. We anticipate donating care package items for guard members while providing support to families having emergent needs. Frequent updates to church members through the newsletter, web-



site, and other means will describe what is needed for our soldiers in Poland and for their local families.



Don to the Front Line

Submitted

When the local demand is for quick action, and the commander-in-charge devises a plan to meet the need, many wonders befall to create a happy solution.

Pastor Drew promoted a civic cause to the church membership: Join the community of Crossville in a big send off to the Tennessee Army National Guard 278th on July 15 when the unit departs on a lengthy deployment to Poland. The publicly announced early morning timing would not disrupt church worship services at 8:30 or 10:45.

Military commands, though, changed departure time to occur smack in the middle of the early service at FUMC, creating cross-purposes between members being regular worshipers or being proud citizens in celebrating their local, loyal military unit's departure for Poland.

Quick minds at church targeted one man with multiple talents, including being

a licensed bus driver with experience handing the church bus. He was summoned to the front line on short notice to render a one-bus relay that could be seen but hardly described for the record scramble. His mission was to transport church members between an observation spot at First National Bank and delayed arrivals for early worshippers.

Don Moore rose above the murmur of what-ifs and how-nows, and he performed exceptional feats of crowd relay on Sunday July 15 when a resounding number of church members waved flags as well as sang hymns in church time.



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