



# Crossville First

## United Methodist Church

The Church With the Window on the Heart of Our Town

**Drew Shelley, Senior Pastor**

### 2019 At Crossville First United Methodist Church!

Dear Friends:

I want to thank you, our lay leaders, and our incredible staff for the generous gift of 2 weeks to think, pray, dream, and listen for God's voice speaking through the life of our church. Few pastors are afforded such a privilege, so I want you to know how much it means to me.

I am also thankful for those of you who attended the 2019 Dreaming and Visioning Sessions. You have given me much to consider as we imagine God's call on our church in the new year! I'm still processing all the notes from those sessions - but have heard a consistent theme already. We are looking forward to a new year being disciples of Jesus, loving and serving our neighbors, transforming our community, and having a good time together!

This Pathway to Discipleship which begins with ALPHA marks the beginning of a new chapter in our church's history. I feel sure the biggest part of the new year will include understanding how this journey will shape each of us. I am loving the ALPHA experience! I'm part of the Wednesday night group, and I love the discussions we are having around our table. It is fascinating to see how quickly we move from the basics of our Christian faith into deep theological conversations about the practical things of life - and how our faith shapes those things. I hope you are enjoying your ALPHA experience - or that you will plan to be a part of the next session which will begin in January.

On a different note, I want to share something that happened recently at a Lunch with the Pastors (this is our gathering for folks new to the church). In fact, it happens at almost every one of them. Louis and I love to hear people say, "Oh, we came to visit and heard the most wonderful sermon!" Kimberly and Scott love to hear people say, "Worship was just so moving. We kept coming back for more!" And we hear those things from time to time, but most of all, and most importantly, we hear what we heard last Sunday, "My goodness, we came as guests but left as friends. The people were so loving, kind, and accepting." The truth is, people often test drive a church because of the preaching and worship, but when you ask them why they've kept coming back, it's always because of the people!

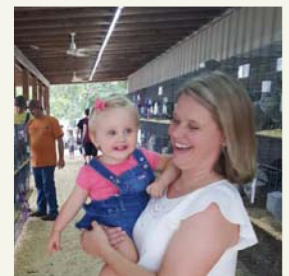
Sisters and brothers, remember to pray for each other! Be at peace, be full of joy, and trust that God loves you completely.

Much love,  
Drew

### Profiles in Leadership

This month, I'd like to celebrate our Discipleship Formation Chairperson, Shannon Shelley. Shannon is married to Drew; together, they have one, little daughter Annabelle Jane Shelley. Shannon took the helm of the Discipleship Formation Team about 2 years ago, and together with her excellent team, has led our church deeper in the work of disciple-making. Last year, the Church Council charged the Discipleship Formation Team with developing a Pathway to Discipleship that would help us live into our mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of Crossville and the world. Shannon and her team rose to that challenge and presented to us the Pathway to Discipleship that has started unfolding in our midst. This has been a labor of love for Shannon because her calling and passion is discipleship.

Shannon was raised by her mom, Sharon Franklin, and her wonderful family right here in Crossville. She was raised at Central Baptist and Fredonia Baptist Churches. She now makes a very fine Methodist - though her husband says he had to go into the ministry to get her out of the Baptist Church! Let's thank God for Shannon and her work and hold her in our prayers as she continues serving out of her giftedness.



# Take Time to Be Holy

Louis Davis, Associate Pastor

Your pastors, staff, and church leaders have been in conversation over several months around a unique concept, the focus of which is how we operate as a church family. We have been reading a book called “Simple Church” to help get our minds around the notion that being simple is a good thing. Now, I believe we are on the right path to become a “simple” church.

The Pathway to Discipleship is part of that process. A funny comment overheard when ALPHA began was, “I thought we were trying to be a simple church. We are busier now than ever.” Those standing with me laughed because we could not disagree.

Lots of activity goes on at Crossville First, and as we define our discipleship process, we may seem to be very busy. We have four ALPHA sessions in progress, which altogether means 35 tables, each with eight people, going through the lessons. With so many moving parts to ALPHA, you might stop to wonder if it could make your head explode. Just joking, of course, --somewhat!

I share with you what I have felt in my own life over the last several weeks. Most of my attention was on ALPHA. I wanted to do my best because I feel ALPHA will bless the church. I also wanted to do my best because many people were preparing for the exploration. Thus, I was doing good work for a good cause.

Generally, we stay on task giving effort to important causes. However, for untold reasons, the work begins to be a chore instead of actions that makes us feel good. In my heart, a realization holds that we experience a tension. We are busy, but the duty begins to weigh heavy on our lives. Why does this happen?

Here is my own answer and maybe, also, the one

for you. The reason I feel so tired from the expected work is because I am not taking time to be with God. I am doing a lot of work for God, but I am not using my time to pray, study, and listen.

A beautiful song from our United Methodist Hymnal, #395, is “Take Time to Be Holy.” Its words and verses remind us of resolutions in seeking God.

***Verse 1 - Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord; abide in him always, and feed on his word. Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak, forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.***

***Verse 2 - Take time to be holy, the world rushes on; spend much time in secret with Jesus alone. By looking to Jesus, like him thou shalt be; thy friends in thy conduct his likeness shall see.***

***Verse 3 - Take time to be holy, let him be thy guide, and run not before him, whatever betide. In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord, and, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word.***

***Verse 4 - Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul, each thought and each motive beneath his control. Thus led by his spirit to fountains of love, thou soon shalt be fitted for service above.***

I just love this song, and I believe it reminds us to be in relationship with God...not just working for God. I encourage you (and myself) to take time to be holy. Do not neglect your relationship with Jesus. Read His word, be in conversation with Him, pray, listen, and worship Him daily. Do all this every day, even for a few minutes. I know we will notice a difference in how we view our work.

May you be blessed, and may you be a blessing!

## ALPHA Value for Youth

Doug Hensley,  
Next Generation Ministry

Given today's societal circumstances, many youths—teens and young adults (AD)—are restless, insecure, jaded, and desperately searching for meaning to explain all the hurt and suffering they see around them. They seek insights to their very existence. Sadly, many leaders within churches or other religious settings offer nothing more substantive than the vaporous teachings of the world.

In some churches, “youth group” has become synonymous with over-the-top games, entertainment, and shallow teaching. They are told, “Yes, life here on earth is a mess, but don't worry, one day you'll die and go to heaven. Your ‘things’ will be

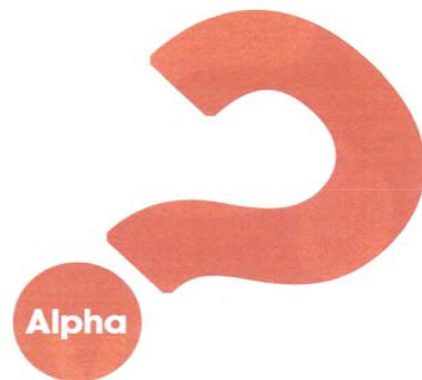
all right.” Followed by, “Want to see how many marshmallows I can stick in my mouth?”

Do we really believe the faith of our youth is so pointless that the best God has for them now is a temporary escape from the world on Wednesday night and Sunday morning? This kind of escape ministry just reinforces a belief in the meaninglessness of contemporary life.

I am firmly convinced that **ALPHA** is what today's youth need most, and likewise adults do also. Its message teaches Christ Jesus is the Lord. He is the one in whom the fullness of God is found, and He is the one in whom we are filled (Col 2: 9-10). Moreover, Jesus is the one who gives meaning to this life.

As we embrace this wonderful focus called **ALPHA** at our church and seek to

minister to all generations who starve for meanings, my prayer is that we will not lose sight of the reality that what these youth and everybody else in the world needs is **JESUS**.





## Our Focus on Children

Donna King, Next Generation Ministry

**Wednesday Night Live:** Have you heard about all the great things the children are doing at Wednesday Night Live? We have super people on board who show our children what it means to know Christ and to make Him known. We are doing a kid-friendly version of the ALPHA topics as well as working on special missions



ant, Shana Mason, Jane Franklin, Summershea Shadden, Shirley Lechnowsky, and Jeannine Schley.

**Children's Church Reminder:** All children, birth through Grade 6, are invited to come down front in the sanctuary to hear the Children's Message. Afterward, only children PreK through Grade 2 should leave the sanctuary with leaders to attend our Children's Church and then should be picked up from the Children's Church room at the end of each service. Older children are expected to return to sitting in the sanctuary.

**Confirmation Class:** The Credo/Confirmation Class journeyed around town on August 5, surprising several people by doing random acts of kindness. The class visited two local laundromats and blessed those they met by paying for and folding their laundry. They also visited

UGO grocery store and Walmart and paid for groceries for several shoppers whom they encountered. Many thanks are deserved by their teachers, Jerry and Teresa Graham, for the time they spent during the past year teaching the children ways to practice what they learned about spreading the love and kindness of Jesus to strangers.

A new Confirmation Sunday School Class is now in session for all 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students with Donna King being the new teacher.

### Seven Things John Wesley Expected Us to Do for Children

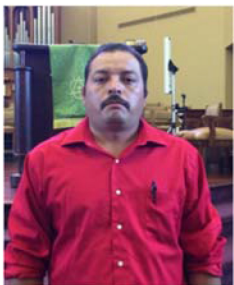
- Teach them intentionally
- Know them personally
- Pray for them intensely
- Mentor families meaningfully
- Challenge ourselves continually
- Shape our ministries appropriately
- Care for them practically

John Wesley believed in ministry to children and so does our congregation! These are exciting times for children's ministry, and we have many opportunities for youth and adults to serve. All kinds of options, maybe only 25 minutes of your time, occur once every two months. Spoiler Alert: You will receive the bigger blessing! For more info, email [donna@crossvillefumc.com](mailto:donna@crossvillefumc.com) or call 931-484-3537.

## Introducing New Members

Rev. Janet Martinez, Hispanic Ministry

With joy we announce our newest members in the Hispanic Ministry of the Tennessee Conference of the United Methodist Church. In August, Alfredo Cardenas, Rosa Garcia, Maria Garcia, and Maria Niño accepted Christ as Lord and professed their desire to serve Him. These new servants are connected to other members in the local church through family relationships and cultural ties. They are precious to us, and we celebrate their commitment to join the Hispanic Ministry in full standing.



Alfredo Cardenas, husband of Mayra Magdaleno. They have four children: Samanta, Edgar, Emmanuel and Axel.



Rosa Garcia, Maria Garcia and Maria Niño.

## Garden Club's New Help

Julia MacManus

We had another very successful Second Saturday Garden Club Workday on September 8. Sue Patton got busy with her pruners while Nancy Luckett brought out her electric hedge trimmer, but she switched to manual trimmers when no electric sockets were near. Working around all four sides of the church property, Jeannette Parsons, Ann Grogitsky, and I weeded, spread herbicide, and trimmed.

Meanwhile, Josie, our newest helper got bored helping Kris Burk trim trees and left us. She decided to drop in on the Marriage Enrichment Seminar that was going on in the old sanctuary, where she found the door ajar. Inside she found a nice air-conditioned room, boxes of chocolate iced doughnuts, and lots of friendly people having lively discussions. What fun!!

Trouble was, she forgot to tell the rest of us where she was going, causing garden club members to scour the neighborhood calling for her. After 30 minutes, imagine Kris's relief when he thought to check inside the church and found Josie.

Let me explain: Josie is a mixed breed Airedale dog. She was thrown out of the Garden Club but she plans to attend the next Marriage Enrichment Seminar. She said, "That's one happenin' meeting."

## Free Dental Clinic

### Donald G. Hooie, DDS

On Saturday morning, September 8, 2018, my associates and I at Hooie Dental provided free dental care to persons who wanted to visit us for examination and treatment. We saw and treated several cases in extreme need for help to gums and teeth.

In offering the annual free clinic across several years, Hooie Dental has attempted to help our neighbors practice good personal dental care by teaching procedures for good dental health and by providing on-the-spot assessments and essential treatments. The free clinic is an



Upper teeth damaged; gum inflamed.

intentional effort to improve one-at-a-time the health of individuals in our community.

Attention about the free clinic was posted on social media to attract persons

with dental conditions which they are unable to manage or afford, and, who without preventive or corrective care, suffer physical impacts beyond their teeth and gums. This year the free clinic was promoted additionally through the Crossville FUMC network using robo-calls and email messages to members. Such a communication effort afforded church members a means to volunteer as “helpers” in managing the intakes, rotations, and friend-of-dentist moments, or to be served.

Please keep this effort in mind for 2019 and pray for our brothers and sisters in need of dental care as well as pray for us at Hooie Dental who strive to meet a community health need.

## The Woman at the Post Office, A Memoir Vignette

Anne Looney Cook

She stood in the corner in the vestibule of the Crossville Post Office on a cold January day, bundled against the challenging weather. I gave her a glance as I went inside, assuming she would exit through an opening door.

The post office is a site where people hurry about, but it's also a social place where folks meet and greet and show courtesy in opening the swinging doors. My purpose was to check for mail and go about several errands. However, my time inside was like finding a friend in Walmart, and our talking took several minutes.

When I started to leave the post office, I realized that she was still in her spot inside the tall plate glass windows near the seldom-used public telephone. From there, she could look at incoming people and slowing vehicles. She had an expression of resolve to be on lookout but also one of furtiveness about her circumstances.

“Do you need help?” I asked.

“No, I’m waiting for someone to pick me up,” she said.

“Have you been waiting long?” My assumption told me so.

“A while now, but she’s supposed to be on her way.”

I stepped closer to hear her soft-

spoken words as well as to tighten our space in the entryway.

“Can I take you where you need to go? In this weather, I’d be glad to help you get there.”

I saw a bulging, distressed backpack stashed behind her on the floor in the corner. She wore several layers, and her frayed jacket was missing a button or two. She had a thin scarf tied around her hair, but graying tufts squiggled out around her ears. Her appearance overall was a khaki drab monochrome.

We exchanged a few more words, but she quietly refused my offer and repeated her expectation for being picked-up.

My heart went out to this small woman who appeared to want to recede from the bustle of post office patrons while she waited for the person she claimed would take her away.

She spoke again to decline my offer, and I noticed something distinctive. What she needed as much as a ride was a toothbrush, but I did not have one to give her. Such a simple thing I wished for her in that moment.

As I walked away, I vowed to keep a few in my car and thereafter offer a toothbrush as a handout to someone like the woman waiting at the post office.

Story incident occurred January 2015; posted on church Blog. A. L. Cook



Upper incisors broken, decayed.

### Email for Clergy and Staff

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