



Crossville First

United Methodist Church

The Church With the Window on the Heart of Our Town

Thanksgiving! Already?

Louis Davis, Associate Pastor

What? Thanksgiving? Already? In some ways it is hard to believe that Thanksgiving is upon us and soon we will start Advent. We have much to look forward to as we begin this foretelling season.

I am excited to spend Thanksgiving with my family and the church family this year. The time at the church, with people I know and don't know, has become highly valued by my family and me. Thanksgiving was a special time in my growing up because I got to see most of my cousins, aunts, and uncles. I remember going to my grandparent's house where kinfolks would gather. I can still describe the feeling I had getting into trouble because I wanted to taste everything...before it was set out. Those were good times.

Nowadays, we don't often make the trip to Grandma and Grandpa's house on Thanksgiving, and I have been unable to visit my cousins for a long time. Traditions are wonderful to have, even when you cannot repeat what you did in the past. Just writing this description brings back many great memories.

Countless events mark changes since my childhood and youth. We have new traditions, and we are making new memories. One thing I love now-a-days is that our daughters are making their own special dishes. It is wonderful to see how important that preparation is to each one, whether it be a pie, a main or side dish, or a cheese ball. One thing that has not changed very much gets me in trouble still. I try to be helpful by tasting each food before it is served. Instead of being yelled at by Mom and Grandma, I am now yelled at by my wife and seven daughters. Just imagine! These are good times!

I do not know your treasured traditions as a family, or even if Thanksgiving is a happy time for you. Some among us will be experiencing Thanksgiving for the first time, or repeating it, without a loved one. Situations may have changed for personal relationships or for living arrangements. Like me, you think back to what Thanksgiving used to mean and to focus on what is being missed.

I want to encourage you, though, to focus on what you have. Even if you do not have family to go to, or family who are not coming to visit, you have a church family who loves you. Regardless of whether you discount the love the church family has for you, you can believe this. Your Father in Heaven loves you very, very much! Whenever you feel that you don't have reasons to be thankful for, or even if you do, you and all God's children can be thankful for God's gift of love through Jesus Christ.

If you need a personal someone through this season, please let me know. I will do what I can, but I remind you about the wonderful gifts in our Stephen Ministers. They are ready and willing to talk with you and to walk with you through these days. Who knows, this may be a new memory for you! Do not hesitate to call or to email me if you would like additional information.

To begin the Advent season, we will have a three-week, noon-time study on Wednesdays in room #226, starting December 5 and focusing on three birth stories. We will meet promptly at noon and depart at the end of the hour to accommodate persons who attend but must return to work.

We are also eager about several upcoming worship opportunities. Please watch your bulletins or call the church office for more information. At this season of the year, many opportunities appear for service in the church and in the community. If you need promptings for ideas on how to serve, please let me know.

As you read this, know you are loved! May this Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas season be a time of great blessing for you and your family. Let us focus on the reason for the season.

Noon ADVENT Study
Begins Wednesday, December 5th, Room 226

Confirmation Class Says, “We like our church!”

Donna King, Next Generation Ministry

Members of the Confirmation Class responded to the question: “What do you like about our church?”

Amber Petrovit: “I like learning about God and doing games at Wednesday Night Live.”

Abby Baker: “I like hanging out with my friends during Sunday School. And, I love all the celebrations we have!”

Cheyenne Shencavitz: “Our church always welcomes you with open arms! We have great people that make great friends!”

Jonny Petrovit: “I like going to this church because the people are nice.”

Aliza Davis: “Our church has an amazing youth group that two of my sisters are a part of. The ushers always greet you with a smile and warming hearts. And, I love all the people who are a part of the church.”

Alex Stryker: “I like being an acolyte and carrying the cross.”

Confirmation Class Fall Gathering

The Confirmation Class gathered Sunday evening, November 4, at the home of Annabelle, Shannon, and Pastor Drew. Faith Friends, confirmands, and parents gathered to enjoy a special time of food, fellowship, and fun. A campfire kept feet and toes warm while fellowship and fun kept hearts warm as the group enjoyed the crisp autumn air and roaring campfire. Roasting and toasting hot dogs and s’mores over the hot coals kept hungry folks busy making the perfect outdoor fare.

Everyone then assembled inside for a special time of fellowship as the Faith Friends offered their own experiences of being in Confirmation Class. Pastor Drew described the importance of the confirmation experience. Miss Donna taught the group a song while accompanying herself on the guitar. The evening ended with more singing and a special “flossing” contest.

For those who might not know the term, “flossing” is the name of a high-speed dance that has nothing to do with dental hygiene. However, Miss Donna did show off her teeth-flossing skills much to the delight of the children who have been praying she would learn the dance!

We Learn and Serve

Kami Farley

My name is Kami Farley, and I am in the Credo class. Every third Sunday we have an offering to help raise money to give to mission organizations.

The first organization we served was Grace Place United Methodist Church. This is a real United Methodist Church inside the women’s prison in Henning, Tennessee. The inmates do most of the things a real Methodist church does, and they even have a UMW group. The pastor there is Rev. Diane Harrison, and she was Pastor Drew’s youth leader!

The second was the Gideons International organization. This offering helped the Gideons to buy Bibles and put them in places like prisons or hotels. More people get to hear God’s word.

The third organization was the Mossy Foot Project. We helped people in Africa, who suffer the Mossy Foot Disease, get shoes that fit.

We thank you for your help in giving your donations.

A Thank You Note

Dear Crossville First United Methodist Church:
5th and 6th Grade Sunday School Students,

Thank you so much for your recent gift to the ministry of The Gideons International! We are so impressed, not only that you raised \$656.61, but that you are seeking to ADVANCE the kingdom of God at such a young age.

We think you all are awesome, and it is an absolute privilege to partner with you in this mission to win others for Christ. Keep your eyes on Him, for He is our great reward!

In His service,
Meredith Tighe,
Donor Stewardship
Associate

Music Matters

Kimberly White, Music Director

Hanging of the Greens for Advent: Sunday, December 2 marks the beginning of the Christian year with the start of the season of Advent, when we await in joyful expectation for the coming of Christ.

With much anticipation we prepare for a musical celebration of Christ’s birth. Our choirs will proclaim the season with a special **Hanging of the Greens Service at 6:00 pm led by the Chancel Choir, Children’s Choir and Choral Bells.**

The choirs will perform many renditions of beautiful music composed for the season. The special service will enrich the Advent season by explaining the symbolism of the items used to decorate and enhance our sanctuary and church building.

Let us begin this new Christian year as a community by gathering in awe and worshipful anticipation of the coming of our Lord. For this service of worship and proclamation, we pray for our circle to widen as congregants come with extended families, friends, and neighbors.

Recognizing—Supporting--Loving our Leaders

The SPPRC asks the congregation to recognize our pastors and staff persons with an end-of-year something extra, a love gift that expresses our support and appreciation for their labors and spiritual guidance. If you want to contribute, please write a check with “Staff Bonus” on the memo line and place it in the offering plate or bring it to the church office. Be assured that your gift will be greatly appreciated by our hardworking church staff. **Deadline is December 2nd.**

Connected through Barnabas Ministry

Fannie-Mae Lowery

Our Barnabas Ministry features Mrs. Lillie Davenport Beyer and her contact, Cheryl Callis, who meet often and share life experiences. Lillie celebrated 95 years in June 2018. She is the surviving member of a large family of eight children, six boys and two girls, with Lillie being the sixth one. Her active mind affords us the joy of knowing facts about our church's history and her personal strengths.

Lillie and her husband, Thomas Beyer, became members of Crossville First Methodist Church in 1949. They had one daughter, Jan, and Lillie taught a first grade Sunday School Class from the time Jan was in first grade until she went to college. Jan died as a young mother with two children, Daphne and Charles, but these grandchildren have given Lillie a total of four great grandchildren. After Tom died in 1988, Lillie has continued being an involved church member for 69 years.

Her story begins in the late 1940s when this congregation met in the little white church on the corner of Neecham and Main. Then they built the edifice with the steeple on top and later erected the connecting, larger sanctuary now in use with its Window on the Heart of our Town. Most of Lillie's years in active church life centered around our referenced Small Sanctuary.

Named events and customs define actions such as when the trustees bought chairs from a factory located on the lot where now stands the public library. In the early 1950s, the small church kitchen was situated in the basement just below the pulpit. When worship services began, women working in the kitchen had to whisper, oth-

erwise the preacher could hear them. She enjoyed occasions for worship and visitation among churches across our Methodist District.

Lillie joined the former Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS) and learned much about missions and service. The WSCS, which later became United Methodist Women (UMW), was instrumental in acquiring a kitchen sink and some dishes still in use. The women accomplished this feat by hosting a variety of fund raisers, such as banquets for civic groups at a time when restaurants and caterers were few.

As changes emerged, Lillie became a member of the Martha Group in the UMW. She said, "I remained a member until I was the last one from that group still living."

In those busy years, Lillie, a clever seamstress, created costumes for Jan, who performed at the Cumberland County Playhouse. Word of her talent spread, and Lillie fashioned many stage costumes, made sale items for the FCE club, and stitched doll clothes for her offspring. Always an avid gardener, she grew, and home canned, much of her food.

After 2016, Lillie joined the FUMC Memoir Writing Class for senior adults. She was a good writer to begin with, and her stories were penned as a legacy for her grandchildren. Samples of her writing are posted on the FUMC Blog.

In her 90s, Lillie enjoys word puzzles and coloring books for adults, and she admits being surprised at how much these activities are soothing and time passing. She colored a Christmas-themed book for her great grandchildren, and they paged through it for



hours. As a collector, Lillie displays figurines of angels, birds, old-time high-top shoes, and china platters.

Current health issues mean using caution to get around. Since she no longer drives, she enjoys having Cheryl and others come to visit. She anticipates receiving cheerful cards and the church's monthly newsletter, but she appreciates Cheryl's personal visit to keep up with news that happens in between mailouts.

Lillie said, "I don't know what I'd do without Cheryl. We are good friends, and I look forward to our times of fellowship." Both women said they would continue their visits even if the Barnabas Ministry ceased. Friends and admirers, who want to contact Lillie Beyer, may call her at 931-484-5462, but she advises callers to let the phone ring several times.

If you are inspired by Lillie's story and want to know more about Barnabas Ministry, Pastor Louis Davis is the one to reach. Skills needed are a loving heart and personal time to visit our home bound or assisted living members. No special training is required, and in serving, you will make new friends.

Altar Flower Policy

The Pastors and staff of First United Methodist Church of Crossville, Tennessee, recognize the privilege of persons in the congregation to arrange for flowers to be placed in the Chancel area to enhance the worship experience each Sunday. Starting January 2019, congregants will be responsible for the following three-step procedure in deciding arrangements.

1. Complete a form in the church office to register the date or dates desired for flowers to be named in honor or in memory of loved one(s).
2. Next, the responsibility of the congregant is to notify Hatler Florist and Gift Gallery at 931-484-5101, 202 Stanley Street, to order the flowers for the date you registered.
3. Pay directly to Hatler Florist and Gift Gallery.

Faithfully,

Drew Shelley, Senior Pastor and Louis Davis, Associate Pastor

For Veteran's Day at CFUMC

HONOR OUR AMERICAN VETERAN

John Brown

At times it is hard to think what to say
And just as hard to think how to say it.
We all have our thoughts and consciousness,
Yet we must strive on how to make them all fit.

When Jesus was asked when He preached and prayed
The times of his return to end all war frays,
He said there would be wars and rumors of war
And this response is still hope to all who still pray.

We as a nation began to exist in war and revolution
Then had to fight the War of 1812 with conviction
Because England abused the freedom for us to exist as a nation
And later by Manifest Destiny we fought another war with the Mexicans.

Then came that great and terrible Civil War
When brothers killed brothers with guns and swords.
Then on toward the Spanish American War
To become a world power and to not be ignored.

Then we were drawn into the First World War
Because Germany torpedoed and sank our special boats.
We were later drafted and pulled into our largest war
Because Japan treacherously defiled the U.S. Navy at our harbor called Pearl.

Korea was the next war which many tried to forget
Yet we could not because we found out how hard it hit.
Because so many suffered the cold and the dear,
Who were our fathers, brothers, and sisters whose sacrifice we still feel.

Later came the Vietnam War
Where many Americans died without honor and were blamed,
And sadly, some are still dying from their illnesses and pain
Even those who served still wonder and still many are disdained.

All the wars in the Middle East
Came about to protect our national interests.
These include the Gulf, Afghan, and ISIS wars
Of which the war on terror extends with death still more.

It is only right to honor those who served and fought
All those who gave some and some who gave their all.
Yet we know wars will never be ceased
Until our Lord Jesus Christ begins his earthly peace.

We who believe know this peace will come.
Yet until that day, we must always
HONOR OUR AMERICAN VETERAN.

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November 11, 2018

Hispanic Celebration for 15th Birthday

Rev. Janet Martinez, Hispanic Ministries

On October 27, 2018, we celebrated the fifteenth birthday for Samantha Adamaris Magdaleno with a service conducted in the sanctuary by Rev. Eliud Martinez and Rev. Louis Davis. The Praise Band provided music during the service. Samantha and her parents posed for a keepsake picture of the service, and Samantha said "Thank You" to the church family.

In the Hispanic culture, the occasion of one's fifteenth (15th) birthday marks a long-held celebration anchored in a history worth sharing. Highlights are given here to explain the importance and joy of honoring the young person.

The exact origin of the 15th birthday celebration is unknown, but it probably dates back more than 400 years with roots in the pre-Columbian rites of passage of some native tribes in Mexico, specifically the Maya, Aztec, and Toltec.

When a young man reached 15 years, he was given a shield and sword. He became a warrior and a full member of the society. A young woman, upon reaching 15 years, was ready for adulthood and was presented as a vital part of the society. In her capacity for motherhood, she could provide warriors. The ceremony for the young woman included thanksgiving for the future wife and mother and her commitment to carry out her responsibilities in the tribe.

Missionaries eventually put the rite for the young woman into a Christian context, at which time she could reaffirm and consecrate her life to the service of the church and the community. This rite has remained in our Christian worship and continues to be celebrated in Hispanic congregations.

A growing trend provides this type of rite to young men to give them opportunity to reaffirm faith before God, family, and community, and to commit service in mission, church, and community. This celebration can serve both young

adults. For those who have been baptized, this may be an occasion of gratitude and remembrance of the covenant of water and word declared at an earlier age. Traditionally, several symbols are used in this celebration, such as the candle, the salt, and the Bible.



Samantha Adamaris Magdaleno

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