



## Crossville First United Methodist Church

The Church With the Window on the Heart of Our Town

### Renewed Sights and New Horizons The Rev. Drew Shelly, Senior Pastor

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

I pray this March 2019 issue of the Crossville FUMC Newsletter finds you experiencing a blessed Lenten Season. This year, our shared prayer is that we reconnect with an unhurried God in the midst of our busy lives. Opportunities abound for worship, study, and daily prayer practices which remind us of the simple power inherent in life as followers of Jesus. If you have questions about this sacred season or simply want to dig deeper in your own journey of faith, your staff and pastors stand ready to help.

Around the world, Christians are making room in their lives to experience an increased awareness of the grace of God. For some, this means giving up habits or practices which may have become distracting to the life of faith. For others, making room means adding new practices of faith with intentionality.

In my own life, I am prayerfully focusing on *gratitude* during the season of Lent. I fear that my overpacked schedule often does not leave room for the proper place of thankfulness in my life. Beginning Ash Wednesday, I want to offer at least one meaningful, intentional expression of gratitude each day. In sharing my plan with you, I am inviting a gracious accountability during this special season. I hope you will find at least one Lenten accountability partner to provide encouragement for your own journey.

In that vein, I want to begin the Season of Lent by publicly thanking the Rev. Dr. Louis Davis and our wonderful staff here at Crossville FUMC. As most of you know, I have been engrossed in a Doctor of Ministry program for more than four years. On Sunday evening March 3, I submitted my final draft of my Project Paper, which is subject to last minute scrutiny and revisions. I owe Louis and the staff a profound debt of gratitude for their patience with me across those many moments when my mind has been elsewhere. The last several months have been especially intense, and they have graciously covered for me in so many ways.

I offer them my sincerest apologies for those moments when I have not been as present as I should have been and my deepest gratitude for encouraging me along this journey of spiritual and intellectual growth.

If all goes well with this final draft of Church Leadership and the Crisis of Theological Identity, I will graduate May 13, 2019 at the Washington National Cathedral.

Maybe then, Louis will let me get some stripes on the sleeves of my robe, too!

Much love,  
Drew

## To Israel and Back

The Rev. Dr. Louis Davis, Associate Pastor

Thank you so much for enabling my daughter Abigail and me the privilege and opportunity to travel to Israel at the end of January. I think I am finally getting back to normal rhythm while Abigail seemed to adjust much quicker. We experienced a magnitude of sights and sounds that are almost hard to put into



words. One thing that blessed me was hearing Abigail relate how she felt at some of the places. Of course, we talked as we traveled, but she truly blessed me to hear her explain how the different places made an impact on her.

The FUMC youth were gracious to allow Abigail and me to describe special highlights of our trip. Along with just hanging out with our amazing youth, we enjoyed the hour they gave us to report. In getting ready for the exchange, I went through the pictures and realized we had seen and visited a lot of sites while we traveled the Holy Lands. I jokingly asked Doug Hensley and Scott Looney how much time they allotted us, and amazingly, we used every minute. I thought we would finish in less time.

I will continue to report on our trip as the oppor-

tunities arise, but I want to describe now this picture of Abigail and me positioned in a small boat on the Sea of Galilee. That day the water was rough, and I could not help but think about the story of Jesus when he was on the same sea one night. In high wind, the water was very rough and the disciples, some of whom were professional fishermen, were scared.

They woke Jesus saying, “Don’t you care that we are about to die?”

I’m sure we often feel the same way. We might think Jesus does not care. However, He spoke to their storm as he speaks to your storm now, “PEACE!”

During this Lenten Season, I pray that we all hear the same word from Jesus. Let the PEACE of God rule in our hearts. As we journey together through this reflective time, I ask, “What in your life needs some peace? What can we do now to prepare our hearts, our lives, our bodies for that peace?”

Maybe that peace comes in joining a small group or Sunday school class. Maybe it is attending one of the Bible Studies we have in progress. Maybe it is attending worship regularly. Maybe, we need to give up something in our lives and give that time to God? Whatever you recognize for change, may you desire to know the One who knows you and loves you very much. May you and your family have a blessed Lent!

By way of visual expression, I offer this picture of the Sea of Galilee at PEACE! The same Jesus who calmed these waters can bring PEACE to you now. Let it be so...AMEN!



## The "BIG SIX"

Donna King, Next Generation Ministry

The Confirmation Class continues to focus on the six actions in service named by Jesus to his disciples (Matthew 25: 34-40). Knowing that his time is near, Jesus instructs them to (1) feed the hungry; (2) give water to the thirsty; (3) invite the strangers; (4) clothe the naked; (5) tend the sick; and (6) visit those in prison.

Throughout their year of preparation, members of the Confirmation Class have addressed contemporary ways to carry out these commands. In February, they presented a request to the finance committee, asking to collect money through the Third Sunday Penny Offering on March 17 to benefit Living Waters of the World. This non-profit organization, based in Franklin, TN, trains, equips, and supports volunteers in forming partnerships for global, clean-water missions. Such partnerships empower international communities to install and sustain water purification systems and to customize health education programs that transform lives.

To date the Confirmation Class has received monies collected from the Third Sunday Penny Offering to support their intentions for service according to Jesus' instructions. The previous collections have benefited five recognized entities that meet Jesus' commandments:



Aliza Davis, Kami Farley, Cheyenne Schencavitz

1. Grace Place United Methodist Church, a ministry inside a women's prison;
2. Mossy Foot Project, a service to help the sick;
3. UMCOR Hurricane Relief, giving shelter to survivors;
4. UMCOR Hurricane Relief, aide to clothe survivors; and
5. Heifer International, animal projects to sustain the hungry.

From the list of the Big Six, one more action remains: helping those who are thirsty, which led the class to choose Living Waters for the World.

On March 17, contributions to the Third Sunday Penny Offering will be a worthy gesture to assist our confirmands in meeting their six calls to serve others as Jesus instructed his disciples.

## Summer for Children at FUMC

John Worley, Director of Childcare Programs

Registration for our Summer School Age Camp Program (SSCP) is now underway. If you are interested in registering your children, packets are available in the church office and in the childcare lobby. Last year we filled to our maximum capacity of 99 children and had a waiting list. Do not get left out! Register now! Ages 5-12 yrs. and entering grades K-6 are welcome. Call Mr. John for answers to your questions at 931-787-1253.



ASCP/SSCP has upgraded payment option services to families. Through our ProCare system, we are now able to take credit/debit card payments on site and online. Parents and sponsors may set up automatic payments online through our new parent portal as well. The portal gives parents increased visibility to their child's records, schedule, breakfast, lunch, and snack menus, attendance, and payment/billing history at the touch of a button. We hope this move gives parents new flexibility and relieves some of the stress of making childcare payments and keeping up with multiple calendars and newsletters. Additional upgrades are on the way as we work toward making ASCP/SSCP the best childcare program around. Blessings.

## United Methodist Women Plan March Events



On March 23, 2019, the United Methodist Women's (UMW) circle at Crossville First will host an annual event, District Day Apart, in the sanctuary. The featured speaker will be our beloved former associate pastor, Rev. Sommer Worley, who now serves at Christ United Methodist Church in McMinnville, TN.

This event is usually well attended by UMW members from circles in churches across the Caney Fork River District. To that expected number, we especially invite all women in our church to greet as well as to attend and hear Pastor Sommer. Registration begins at 9:00 am in the narthex, and

the meeting convenes at 9:30 am in the sanctuary. Lunch will be provided for registered attendees.

On March 31, the local UMW circle will celebrate the 150th Anniversary of UMW at the 5th Sunday Brunch at Crossville First. Globally, United Methodist Women, whose mission is fostering spiritual growth, developing leaders, and advocating for justice, is the largest denominational faith organization for women, having 800,000 members approximately.

Members of the UMW at Crossville First continually sustain their mission through participation in the global ministries of the United Methodist Church. At the 5th Sunday Brunch, the local circle will have displays signaling how their members do their work at local and worldwide levels. In marking the 150th Anniversary, the local UMW invites the congregation and visitors to celebrate on March 31 at the 5th Sunday Brunch.

**UMW Annual  
District Day Apart  
March 23, 2019**

## The Easter Bunny needs your help!

**Wanted: Large plastic Easter Eggs...the bigger, the better! 3-inch eggs would be great.**

**Wanted: Individually-wrapped candy to fit inside the eggs. No chocolate or peanut butter candy, please.**

**Little Bunnies love Skittles, Airheads, Sour Patch, Sweet Tarts, and similar bits that won't melt at our Easter Egg Hunt April 20.**

**Deadline to donate April 14**



**Look for donation barrels in the narthex and back entrance by the annex.**

## Hispanic Ministry Worship and Service

Rev. Janet Martinez, Tennessee Conference UMC

In a regular act of worship, a group of Hispanic women meet each Second Thursday for Bible study, prayer time, and fellowship, gathering at times in the morning and in the evening. Some women in the congregation have begun a Bible study through correspondence with the Christian Academy of the Air originating from Texas. For each person who engages in this Bible study, someone who is in jail receives it for free in any part of the world.

A worship service to embrace the beginning of Lent occurred on Ash Wednesday for members of the Hispanic community. They came together to accept the symbol of repentance, the mark of the cross in ashes on one's forehead. Worshipers prayed and shared privately in their belief when they assembled to start the Season of Lent.



**STUDY  
AND  
WORSHIP  
TOGETHER**



### Music Matters

**Kimberly White, Director of Music**

The Chancel Choir is rehearsing music for the special Good Friday Service for April 19 at 7:00 pm and for the Easter Sunday celebration on April 21. If you are interested in singing with us for these two services, please join us in our preparations on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary. Furthermore, if you would like to be a part of the chancel choir each week, please

join us on Wednesdays at 5:45 pm.

The Children's Choir will join the Plateau Women's Chorus for a selected piece during the group's series of spring concerts. One performance will be at Crossville First United Methodist Church on Sunday, April 7, at 5:30 pm in the sanctuary. Please plan to attend this special musical event and support our children as they join in concert with the talented musicians in the Plateau Women's Chorus.

### Email for Clergy and Staff

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