

# Crossville First

## United Methodist Church

The Church With the Window on the Heart of Our Town

### Jesus' Disciples Were Itinerants

Rev. Drew Shelly, Senior Pastor

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As you heard Sunday, April 7, Shannon, Annabelle, and I will soon be moving to Murfreesboro First United Methodist Church. We will miss all of you because these past five years have been a gift--full of joy, hope, and especially love. We will have much more to say before our last Sunday.

We are happy to hear that Rev. Steven Lee will come as your new Senior Pastor. Steven was my mentor during the ordination process, and he remains a close friend. He and his family will love you, and I know you will love them.

Since many of you are experiencing for the first time a United Methodist pastoral transition, I think it is important to share the Biblical basis for our system. Ed Camera, Stewardship Committee Chair, referenced an explanation.

Before ordination or licensing, each pastor covenants with the UMC to serve where the bishop sends them. UM pastors understand they are part of an itinerant system, and they will move multiple times during their years of service. Implied in the covenant is that the bishop and the cabinet will assess the big picture and will appoint pastors where their gifts and graces are most needed. Many of us assume the itinerant system is a holdover from an era of circuit riding pastors of the 1800s, when in fact, Jesus sent the first itinerant pastors.

In **Luke 9:1-6** we learn the story of the first sending of the twelve. Jesus empowered them, gave them authority to heal, and sent them on their way to preach the Good News and to heal the sick. Jesus commissioned (ordained) the twelve and sent them out to visit the villages with no promise of permanency. They were told to go. Three translations of **Luke 9:6** point to those who later would be called circuit riders.

**Verse 6 in The Message:** *Commissioned, they left. They traveled from town to town telling the latest news of God, the Message, and curing people everywhere they went.*

**Verse 6 in the NLT:** *So they began their circuit of the villages, preaching the Good News and healing the sick.*

**Verse 6 in the NRSV:** *They departed and went through the villages, bringing the good news and curing diseases everywhere.*

The passage in **1 Corinthians 3:5-9** provides another reason for the itinerant pastor. Paul wrote to the church at Corinth, urging them to focus on God rather than Paul, himself, or Apollos. He pointed out that both were minimum wage workers for God, and God had all the power. Paul stated that he plants seeds, and Apollos waters them, but God makes them grow.

So it is with our connectional church, whose foundation has been strengthened by the gifts and graces of generations of pastors. Each new pastor who comes to Crossville First United Church will add spiritual gifts and graces to its foundation, and it will grow stronger. In this time of transition, let us put our trust in God, who directs the sending of Pastor Drew and Pastor Steven to the exact places He wants them to go.

Ed's words help us understand that we are part of a larger connection within the Kingdom of God. We United Methodist pastors promise to go where we are sent for the sake of God's mission in the World. Itinerancy is a promise Steven Lee, Louis Davis, and I made and one which we have kept. We trust God with you through tears and heart-ache, and we look forward to the good which God is doing in this work.

Shannon, Annabelle, and I will treasure these last few weeks as we work together to prepare for Steven. Let's join in daily prayer for each other and for Steven as we make this transitional journey.

Love,  
Drew

## Finding Jesus and Being Returned to Him

Rev. Dr. Louis Davis, Associate Pastor

I pray this newsletter finds you and your family having a blessed Lent. As Easter approaches, I pray that we hear once again the entire story of what Jesus went through for each of us. (Yes, that includes YOU!) I've often heard Easter referred to as the Palms and the Passion, and, in such context, the temptation is to experience the Joy of Palm Sunday and go straight to the joy of Easter without going through the pain of Holy Week.

In prayerful reflection about the last days in Jesus' progression, we are planning a weeks' worth of services in our sanctuary. Each day at noon, Monday through Friday, we will take a few minutes to hear the Scripture for the day, sing a hymn, listen to special music, and share together in Holy Communion.

Without question, some of the events of Holy Week are disturbing to hear about, especially Thursday night and Friday night. On these two nights, we will force ourselves to consider the Passion Story of Jesus. I encourage you and your family to attend our services on these two nights, each at 7:00 pm. Our meaningful focus on the final, sequential events in Christ's earthly life will make the heart-swelling we experience on Easter the most joyful.

The statue pictured here is one Abigail and I saw at a place called the Primacy of Saint Peter on the north-west shore of the Sea of Galilee. Why is this spot important? Of course, we do not know about its exactness, but the place commemorates Jesus' reinstatement of Peter as one of his Disciples as reported in John 21.

The monument depicts the happy outcome of the story, and what makes it so powerful, is understanding what happened leading up to the moment. During Jesus' arrest, Peter told Jesus that he would never leave Him, even if everyone else did. However, Jesus told Peter that he, himself indeed, would deny Jesus three times before the rooster crowed. According to the scripture, Peter's three denials happened exactly as foretold.

After the resurrection, Peter and others went fishing because that's what they knew how to do and what they returned to when they didn't know what else to do. When, looking up from their work, they saw someone on the side of the lake and realized it was Jesus, Peter jumped out of the boat and swam to Him.

In a conversation on the beach, Jesus asked Peter three times, "Do you love me?" The question was asked the same number of times that Peter had denied Jesus. In a sense, in that moment after Peter affirmed his love, Jesus reinstated Peter. During Holy Week, when this story is recounted, it intensifies what makes Easter so powerful.

Even though we mess up and may not be able to be righteous in our behaviors, we can find forgiveness in Jesus. We deny Jesus with our words and actions. We also deny Him through the lack of words and the lack of

action. However, we do not have to live in guilt. We can come to Jesus and experience the awesome power of freedom and forgiveness in Him.

Finding Jesus and returning to Him is what Easter is all about. We do not stay in the tomb of guilt; there is resurrection! The same spirit that raised Jesus from the dead is in you right now! Amen!

**May you and your family be blessed this Easter!**



### Crossville FUMC ASCP Recognized by UT and DHS

John Worley, Director of Child Care Programs

Our After-School Care Program, now a Tennessee, three-star awarded program, was invited to be a Department of Human Services (DHS) assessment training facility to help train persons to become new program assessors in Tennessee. We accepted the invitation and performed our first assessment training test on March 14. The exercise was a great opportunity for our own

teachers to see the training process required of state assessors as well as to have a practice run at being assessed.

Amy Melton, a supervisor with The University of Tennessee-Knoxville, College of Social Work, sent a letter of appreciation and a monetary gift to purchase additional supplies needed for our children. We are grateful to partner with UT and DHS in helping to train the next generation of assessors for childcare services across the state.

The time is shortening to begin our summer activities. Registration for the

Summer School Age Camp Program (SSCP) is now underway. Packets are available in the church office and in the childcare lobby for parents and guardians interested in registering their children. 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 old and entering grades K-6<sup>th</sup> are welcome.

For answers to questions, call Mr. John at 931-787-1253.

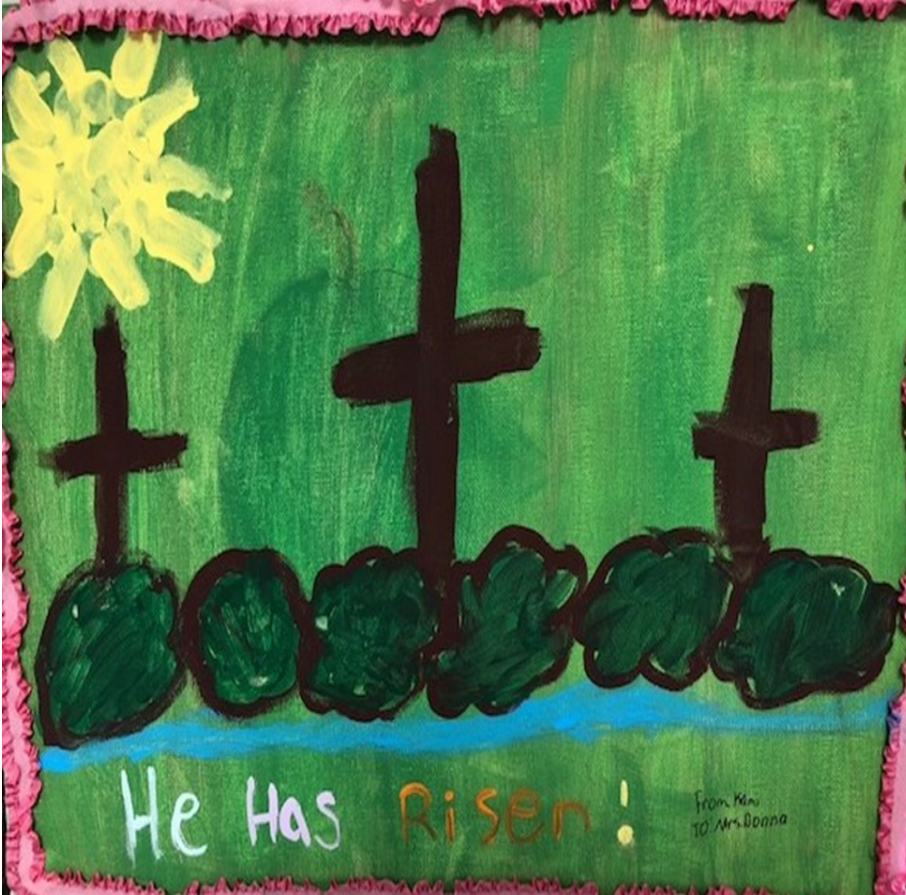


## Happy Easter from Children's Ministry

Donna King, Next Generation Ministry

### *HE HAS RISEN !*

Painting by Kami Farley, Credo Class



Calling all children from the smallest ones through 6<sup>th</sup> graders. We're going to have an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 20, from 10:00 am 'til noon. We'll have fun of all sorts, including some really spectacular "egg-cellent" door prizes.

We will hunt eggs in the family life center/gym.

Help us find them all! Don't be late!

### Credo Class Retreat

Donna King, Next Generation Ministry

Just where is Cedar Crest Camp? Members of the Credo Class found the Tennessee Conference UMC's Next Gen Conference Center in Lyles, Tennessee in an off-the-main road location in the northern edge of Hickman County at sundown on April 5. The setting and friendly surroundings kept them until April 7 for a spirit-filled weekend. Altogether about fifty confirmands from surrounding UM Churches attended the retreat.

With the help and guidance of certain youth leaders from conference churches, the young people studied the traditional topics about what is the meaning and what are the expectations of joining the United Methodist Church. The format had participants grouping into break-out sessions for discussions and for hands-on activities, such as creating personal stoles.

An emphasis prevailed for instilling in each one the privileges of self-expression

and roles of leadership in worship. In meeting such goals, members of our Credo Class accepted opportunities to pray aloud, read scripture aloud, and to serve communion. Such spirit-filled actions added to the achievements of purpose for the retreat.

Stories of merriment as well as worship were generated about the entire venture and retreat. Getting to and returning from Cedar Crest Camp apparently had challenges and rewards for all. Reportedly, Mari Davis and her youngest daughters chauffeured the class along unknown backroads and across creek beds to by-pass Lyles, a mere dot on some maps. Don Moore readied one of the church vans



and fetched home the tired, but contented class members and teacher, Donna King. Selected pictures and comments were posted on Crossville FUMC Facebook.

## Bill Oglesby Appeared in My Dream

Pam Kenner

I desperately wanted to attend the Celebration of Life for Bill Oglesby, but I needed to be in Kentucky. The night of the service, I decided to find it on our YouTube channel and watched the entire hour and 15-minutes. It was as wonderful, and I was glad to experience it online. Afterward, I fell asleep and dreamed.

I saw a big white expanse of space with one individual in a white robe facing away from me. My mind knew it was Jesus. A loud sound filled the space, like billions of butterfly wings flapping together.

Walking toward Jesus was Bill Oglesby in his own white robe. Bill had a huge smile on his face, and, as he came nearer to Jesus, he grabbed the sides of his robe just about where his pockets would be and did a little shimmy as if to indicate, "Look, Jesus, I have a white robe, too!"

When the two met, they embraced with great affection and clapped each other on the back with both hands. I could not tell if Bill was

happier to see Jesus or if Jesus was happier to see Bill. Jesus turned Bill so that now both their backs were to me. Jesus put his right arm around Bill's shoulders and escorted him BLAMELESS to the foot of the throne.

No words were spoken, but I KNEW what was happening, just like I knew the man whose face I couldn't see was Jesus. The foot of the throne was made of something that looked like Mother-of-Pearl subway tiles.

At that moment, I was back in the sanctuary with everyone at Bill's service, and it was as though we had all been watching the heavenly event on the big screens. Suddenly, a column of smoke began encircling the heads of all in the room, and, though there were no audible sounds, I knew the Spirit was telling individuals, "This is your future. This is your destiny. This is your eternity." But to some in the room it said, "This COULD be your future."

I knew then that our work is not done because among us are those who do not know the saving grace of Jesus. Thanks for reminding us, Bill ; ).

Bill Oglesby (6/8/1949 - 2/12/19) was chair of Church Council, a position previously held. In prior years he was Lay Delegate to Tennessee Annual Conference, Chair of Staff Parish committee, member of United Methodist Men, and many other leadership roles. Beginning 1977, when Bill and Sally established themselves at Crossville FUMC, Bill began his active duty to serve the congregation in some capacity.

## I PRAISE GOD

John Brown

I praise God for the mornings  
For the noon and evenings, too.

I praise God at night  
For He watches over me and you.

I praise God in the summer  
In the fall and winter, too.

I praise God in the spring  
When He makes creation new.

I praise God for the Bible  
And for the saints in their pews;  
I praise God that He hears all prayers  
And He appreciates our views.

I praise God for the birds  
With their melody of chime and rhyme.  
I praise God for all and everything  
For He is always so near and so, so kind.

(Refrain)

I PRAISE GOD; I PRAISE GOD  
ALL THE TIME AND IN MY HEART

(J. Carlyle Brown, all rights reserved. March 22, 2019)



## God Has a Plan

Sharion Mercer, Lay Leader

Our news of the reappointment of Pastor Drew has hit us hard. Many are grieving, and that is healthy. Some who are new to Methodism are having a hard time understanding the appointment process. Rest assured, the same God who sent us Drew and Shannon Shelly is the one sending us Steven Lee and his family. We were a troubled church when Drew came to us. He leaves us healthy and strong, and we are thankful.

Amidst our sorrows, we must keep Drew and Shannon covered in prayer as they embark on a new adventure they did not ask for. Not only is there the huge task of moving, but Shannon must make decisions about how to continue her professional practice, and Drew must acquaint himself with his new church as quickly as possible. They will leave family members who are heartbroken. **There is much to pray about.**

On the other hand, a congregation in Dickson is losing a beloved pastor and his family. Steven, Crystal, and their three sons will also leave extended family behind and move to an unfamiliar place. We are a vibrant and diversified church in Crossville with an extraordinary array of ministries. Steven will be bombarded with information to help him prepare to lead us. **There is much to pray about.**

Louis and our staff will adjust and extend all their help possible to our new pastor. Change is hard. **There is much to pray about.**

What we are experiencing is the plan which Holy Scripture teaches us in the New Testament. Pastors moved from church-to-church, building and strengthening congregations. Our lay leadership is strong and prepared to continue leading work areas and ministries. We are mightily blessed and will continue to be blessed as we strive to do His work in this place. We have one immediate task to do. **There is much to pray about.**



## Oh, The Blood of Jesus, by Martha K. Hale

It was the Easter Season. In 1995 I was serving as the pastor of the Dorton United Methodist Church, a small community church east of Crossville. I discovered that the neighboring church, Oaklawn Baptist Church, was planning a production of the Passion play, and I decided it would be a nice outing for the members of my church. Being in the same community, many of us knew each other, and the Dorton Methodist folks were happy to go and support their friends who attended Oaklawn.

I called a friend of mine who attended Oaklawn to ask about the upcoming play. She told me her husband would be portraying the part of Jesus. She also said it was rather a humbling part for Terry to play, but he was willing to give it his best.

Somewhere in our conversation she mentioned about how realistic the beating of Jesus would be, and she talked about how they wanted to use some kind of fake blood. Before I went into the ministry, I had worked at the Cumberland County Playhouse. I remembered the Playhouse had a recipe for blood that looked real but was easily washable. My friend at Oaklawn said she would look into it.

The afternoon of the performance came. Several of us from the Dorton Methodist Church carpooled the mile down Highway 70 East to Oaklawn Baptist Church. We sat together, and I found myself sitting at the end of a row on the inside aisle. I remember wearing a simple black skirt with one of my nice white blouses, one I hadn't worn much. Yes, it was a blouse, not a shirt. Ladies called them blouses when they were made of a nicer fabric than cotton, and blouses usually had softer lines and more relaxed collars, plus they cost a little more than a shirt.

The Passion Play began. The set was simple, but it was well done. The costumes had been created even better, especially for the guards around Jesus. As the story unfolded,

Jesus was pushed from place to place, beaten, yelled at, and totally scorned by the religious leaders and the crowds. When it came time for Jesus to carry His cross to Golgotha, Jesus was positioned with two guards at the back of the fellowship hall. They began their movement down the aisle, being very close to us sitting in the assembly. Jesus was dragging his cross. The two guards were flogging him on his back.

As they passed where I was sitting, I was shocked to look down and see that a few spots of blood had splattered onto my white blouse. My first thought was "Oh my; my white blouse! Blood stains. It's ruined." Then I remembered this was a washable recipe for fake blood.

All at once I had a revelation: I had been splattered by the blood of this Jesus character as he passed because I had been so close to him. About 2000 years ago, the real Jesus was driven through the many spectators who had swarmed around Him as He was taken to the place of His crucifixion. They must have been splattered by His blood, but they did not know how precious His shed blood was.

In the small fellowship hall, splattered by that fake blood of a man portraying Jesus, I sat there with tears falling from my eyes. For me, the Passion play had become inhabited by the presence of the Holy Spirit. The words of that old hymn, "Where You There When They Crucified My Lord?" exploded into my mind. In that moment, I WAS there!

I knew the blood on my blouse would wash out, but that didn't matter anymore. What did matter was knowing that the precious blood of Christ would never be gone from my life.

Oh, the blood of Jesus, it washes white as snow. And He shed that blood for me,  
and for you.

## A Biblical Look at a Busy Life

Doug Hensley, Next Generation Ministry

I have been thinking a lot about our busy lives and about the time-out chair for Lent we have been talking about in Sunday worship services. From this mindset, I want to share a thought.



In **Daniel 6:10** we read the following, scenic verse: **"Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime."**

Let's consider Daniel for a moment. He was one of the most gifted administrators of the great Persian empire, in charge of the King's affairs and the major affairs of the entire government. Now if anyone was ever really busy, it was Daniel. Despite all this, he made a point to set himself apart from the world and to pray three times a day.

Daniel's distinct, personal action awakened me. I mean, how busy are we, really? And what are we doing, really?

The answer I see is like this. If we are neglecting the important things of God, we're simply doing more busy work than God intended! Let's keep our priorities in order! Let's be a people of prayer! We need time-out to know God before our work is done.

### Music Matters

Kimberly White, Director of Music

**Save the Date: June 25-28, 2019**  
**Worship Fine Arts Camp for rising**  
**2nd to 6th graders.**  
**More information coming soon.**

## Hispanic Congregation Grows

Reverend Janet Martinez, Tennessee Conference UMC

The congregation in Hispanic Ministry at Crossville FUMC happily announces the reception of Brianna Trejo Sanchez as a new member after her baptism on March 16, 2019. Brianna's parents, Jesus Trejo and Cristian Sanchez, and her Godparents, Alfredo Cardenas and Mayra Magdaleno, presented her with sacred vows of commitment to God to guide Brianna in her Christian development.



Rev. Eliud Martinez officiated and proclaimed the victory of her placement among the other Christians in the Hispanic United Methodist Church.

L – R: Godparents, Alfredo Cardenas and Mayre Magdaleno; Rev. Eliud Martinez; Brianna's Parents, Jesus Trejo and Cristian Sanchez

## Calling Garden Lovers

Julia MacManus

Spring is an exciting season for the Garden Club. Our purpose is to tend and beautify our church grounds.

**Please save the date, May 11, 2019, 8:00 am to 12:00 noon for the first work session.** Thereafter, we will continue to meet on second Saturdays of the month.

On May 11 we need a good turnout to refresh mulch and plant flowers. Club members and friends should bring garden rakes, wheelbarrows, trimmers, trowels, shovels, brooms, garden forks, and trucks. Workers should meet outside the church office.

If you have a truck or trailer and can haul a large load of mulch a day early, we can buy it at a bulk price. Please contact Jim Everitt at 931-210-4041 or me, Julia at 423-533-2113.



## MAUNDAY THURSDAY SERVICE

On this night, Thursday, April 18th, at 7:00 pm, we will commemorate the last supper Jesus shared with his disciples before his crucifixion. We will also remember the incredibly humbling act as Jesus washed the disciples' feet. This service, lead by our praise band, will be a perfect marriage with our Good Friday Service. Together, the two services will bring us into a more in-depth experience and understanding about Christ's journey to the cross. We invite you to come with an open heart and open mind and to feel free to partake in either the hand or foot washing during the service. You are welcome, however, to attend and worship and remain an observer during the washing ritual. Childcare will be provided.



## GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Please plan to attend the Good Friday Service, April 19th, at 7:00 p. This will be a service of darkness, incorporating readings from John 18 and 19 and musical selections rendered by the Chancel Choir and Choral Bells, expressing the somberness of this Holy Day. As followers of Christ, we symbolically take this important journey to the cross and then return on Easter Day, Sunday April 21, to celebrate His triumphal Resurrection.



### Email for Clergy and Staff

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