



Crossville First

—United Methodist Church

The Church With the Window on the Heart of Our Town

Now What?

Rev. Dr. Louis Davis, Associate Pastor

I'm not sure what I expected. I knew I didn't want it to happen, but I knew a change had to happen. Pastor Drew Shelley's last Sunday, June 2, was beautiful as we remembered the blessings of the last five years. I was trying to be strong through this, but when I came to church the next Monday morning, it was hard.

My role would be so easy if I could know exactly what is going to happen for the rest of this month. On Monday, June 3, I shared a devotion with the staff titled "Gracious Uncertainty" from the book, "My Upmost for His Highest," by Oswald Chambers. The opening sentence spoke to me. "Our natural inclination is to be so precise— trying always to forecast accurately what will happen next— that we look upon uncertainty as a bad thing."

We (I should admit I) need to know. Knowing would make circumstances tolerable if we understood the next step or what was around the corner so that we could make a ready decision. However, that is not the mark of a Holy Spirit-filled life. The devotional continued, "Certainty is the mark of the commonsense life— gracious uncertainty is the mark of the spiritual life. To be certain of God means that we are uncertain in all our ways, not knowing what tomorrow may bring. This is generally expressed with a sigh of sadness, but it should be an expression of breathless expectation. We are uncertain of the next step, but we are certain of God."

The picture shows Abigail and me walking a path from the Mount of Beatitudes, which is believed to be the pathway Jesus and his disciples took after the busyness of the feeding of the five thousand. Abigail later talked about this experience to the youth group.

She said, "I knew my dad was there walking with me, but I also felt Jesus walking with me as well."

Her message was special when I heard it for the first time, and it is special for us to hear it now. Today's happenings may seem crazy and uncertain, but we can know right now that we are not alone.

Even though I can feel the difference of Drew's not being here, I am not alone. Many people have told me they are praying during this transition, and many have offered help. When I look at the picture of walking alongside Abigail, read the Scriptures, and read this devotion again, I know we walk this present journey with Jesus. The devotional message said, "As soon as we abandon ourselves to God and do the task which He has placed closest to us, He begins to fill our lives with surprises."

Pastor Steven Lee and his family are Godly people. They hold true to the Word of God and are Spirit-lead people. When we leave every concern to God, we will be surprised about what God does in our midst. As painful were my emotions of Drew's last Sunday, and as different is the way his absence feels, a new anticipation swells in my heart. The excitement is about the things to come. God is not done with Crossville First United Methodist Church. My prayer is that you also feel this excitement.

The selected devotional message ended with this: "Leave everything to Him, and it will be gloriously and graciously uncertain how He will come in— but you can be certain that He will come. Remain faithful to Him."

I do not know how to answer the question "Now What?" but I know the outcome is to remain faithful to the one who does know, Jesus Christ. Thanks be to God!



Transitions

Doug Hensley, Next Generation Ministry

Transitions in life are hard. They mean that one part of your life's story is over and a new one is about to begin. They are the space between where faith is tested and fear fights to creep in. They are a temporary no man's land that we must walk through in order to grow. As we walk through them, it's hard to see what's coming next. The territory is so unknown to us that we put our attention and focus on the transition rather than on where we're being transitioned to. We question God's providence in our situation during such times.

One of the first lessons I learned, when working with children in foster care, was about transitions. Kids hated transitions as much as adults did. I learned that if I told them we were going to be making a change in activities in a few minutes, the message gave them time to finish what they were doing and to prepare mentally for what was coming next.

As I've thought about that means of engagement, I started wishing God would give us the warnings about transitions approaching in our lives and the reasons behind them. God reminded me how many times Jesus told the disciples what and why was going to happen to Him in Jerusalem. They didn't hear a word of it and were shocked in the Garden of Gethsemane. They entered a time of tran-

sition between having Jesus walk with them daily and having the Holy Spirit come as their guide. They were confused, frightened and wondered where God was in the transition.

God speaks to each of us daily. He says things we ignore or don't want to hear, so we block Him out. We use our selective hearing when He speaks of things that scare us. The disciples heard Jesus tell them about the transition, but they weren't listening. Today, when we know a transition is coming, we are likely troubled, even scared. We're afraid of change. When we fight change, we fight growing; we fight the future God has for us; and we fight God's will. Our times of transition help prepare us for our change. These times prompt growth in our faith and trust in God's plan for our lives. Only after transition and change, can we see the effects when we take the time to look back.

Imagine if Peter and the others had stayed locked away in hiding and never regrouped in the upper room. Reference indicate that out of 500 people whom Jesus told to go and wait, only 120 made it through the transition. They were tough enough to stick it out and trusted that God had something more on the other side of the transition. As He did for them, so He does for you.

New Director for Summer Childcare Program

Donna King, Next Generation Ministry

Our After-School Children's Program (ASCP)/Summer School Children's Program (SSCP) does not slow down one bit when summer arrives. In fact, it ramps up to an all day, high-quality childcare for as many as 99 children on any given day. With the departure of John Worley as director, the ASCP Board wasted no time in hiring a high-quality interim director for the summer months.

Dr. Summershea Shadden, a career educator, was hired to fill the position of director for our Summer Childcare Program. She earned a B.S. in Education (K-8) and a Masters in Instructional Leadership from Tennessee Tech as well as a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Argosy University. She comes to us with a wealth of knowledge, experience, and passion for the mission of children's ministry.

Opening Day was June 3, with a Welcome Summer Camp Bash that included balloon animals, face painting, sidewalk chalk art, and watching the *Judy Moody Not So Bummer*

Summer movie. The day ended with yummy S'mores for a special snack.

Each week is already planned and jam-packed with high-interest, age-appropriate activities that are sure to keep the children engaged in all sorts of enjoyable ways. Summer with Summershea and her incredible team of teachers is going to be wonderful!



Dr. Summershea Shadden, Director ASCP/SSCP



SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Children's Sunday School will have a new look for the summer. On June 23, all children in PreK-6th Grade will meet in the gym at 9:40 a.m. for Sunday morning activities. We'll have kid-friendly snacks, so the children won't need to stop at the cookie table in the Narthex. They will want to get to the gym as soon as possible so they won't miss any of the fun. They will be in their Sunday School rooms for part of the time but should be picked up at 10:30 in the gym.

FUMC High School Graduates Reflect and Gaze

Donna King, Next Generation Ministry

A celebration of achievements by high school graduates honored eight young members of the congregation on Sunday, May 19, 2019. The Crossville First United Methodist Church hosted a luncheon for them, their families, and many friends. The occasion was held in the Family Life Center/Gym, and the space was festooned with balloons, streamers, and tasteful place settings. School colors and other paraphernalia contributed cheer and cause for memories.

Cards, messages, and gifts for each honoree were collected from caring persons in the church and community. These designated messages were gathered, sorted, and presented to individual seniors as part of their personal mementos.

Prior to the luncheon, a list of four questions was asked each graduating senior. The questions and their answers follow. In recognizing each young person, we pre-

sent their texts with pictures and lift them up for the congregation. We hope they will receive your prayers and support as they remember their pasts and gaze into their futures.

The questions posed to graduates before the church celebration on May 19 were:

***Which one memory will you hold forever about being a part of Crossville First United Methodist Church?**

***If you could pick one verse of Scripture that means the most to you, which one would it be, and why is it special to you?**

***God gives all of us special gifts to honor and serve Him. If you could pick one gift you have been given to honor and serve Him, what would it be?**

***If you could see into the future 10 years from now, how do you see yourself using this gift?**

AIDAN GIBSON: I am a human of the species homo-sapiens and the family Hominidae. To further elaborate, I am a person with interests in music, art, and science. I have been playing keyboard in the FUMC youth praise band for five years. I also play the violin. I plan to pursue a career involving computer science, through which I can expand knowledge of computing into the fields of animation and game design and hope to improve the lives of others through these fields.



MEREDITH HALL: My favorite Scripture is **1 Corinthians 16:14**: "Let all you do be done in love." This verse has always served as a reminder to me to stop and appreciate all the blessings in my life. My special gift to honor and serve God is my ability to uplift spirits and see the good in life. I will be using my gift to bring happiness through the words of God to wherever the community I end. My favorite memory of FUMC is the Christmas pancake breakfast morning in the gym with Santa. I plan to attend Tennessee Tech University and double major in mathematics and physics. I hope to start an internship at the research lab in Oak Ridge and later be hired as a data analyst.

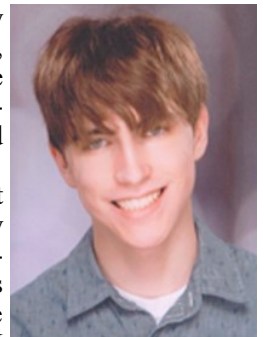


FAITH HOOIE: I plan to major in Nursing at Pellissippi State Community College in Knoxville and transfer to a four-year university after receiving an Associate Degree. I will continue a career path in nursing. I hope to eventually be able to become an epidemiologist or a psychologist.



GARETH MATTHEWS: My favorite Scripture is **Philippians 4:6-7**: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

This passage is special because it tells to be thankful for anything. My special gift to honor God is making people laugh and smile. I plan to use this gift to continue being positive and to be telling jokes. My favorite memory, one I will remember forever, is the youth trip to Pigeon Forge because I had fun with my friends. I plan to attend Roane State Community College and major in Communications. After graduating from Roane State, I plan to go to Middle Tennessee State University and earn a degree in video editing and film production. My plans are to get a job as a video editor with a YouTube production company or a television station.



JILLIAN PETROVIT: My favorite Scripture is **1 Corinthians 13:8**: "Love never fails." It's special because love is the strongest feeling you will feel from God. My one gift that I can use to serve God is the gift to care for people. Ten years from now I can see myself saving lives in a hospital. I plan on going to Roane State and then transfer to TTU to get my RN license. My favorite memory is when we went on the youth retreat this past fall (2018). I went up the mountain with Emily and then later she found a turtle. I brought it down to show the youth. That was the best memory I will have forever.



From page 3: Seniors Reflect and Gaze

THOMAS TAYLOR: I plan to spend two years attending Pellissippi State Community College for business and graphic art studies. My dream is to eventually get into an art school to make a career in graphic art and music. My future career plans include working as a freelance or full-time artist and working as a musician.



EMILY WELCH: **John 13:7** is the Scripture that means the most to me: "Jesus replied, 'You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand.'" This verse shows how, although life may be difficult and confusing at times, God knows what he's doing and what he's doing with us. The special gift God has given me is empathy. I see myself using this gift by ultimately being the one people can turn to in their times of struggle and being able to understand the unspoken parts of communication with them.

After graduating from CCHS, I will be moving to Cookeville to attend college at Tennessee Tech University. I will major in Sociology and minor in Criminal Justice. After college, I plan on going into the field of Criminal Justice, potentially pursuing a career in forensics. Ultimately, my biggest plan and dream for the future is to just help the world and make a difference for both people and the environment. I will always remember the first time I attended the Youth Worship event called Resurrection, because it was when I was saved.



GABE WORLEY: **Psalm 150:4** is the verse of Scripture that means the most to me: "Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre." I am a musician so it's encouraging to know that I'm told to use this for Him. I hope to honor and serve God with my talent for music. Ten years from now I can see myself leading worship at a church. After graduation, I will be moving to Cookeville and renting an apartment. I plan to attend Tennessee Tech University. I'll be majoring in French with the goal of becoming a French teacher. Eventually, I want to become a polyglot, having a high level of understanding in multiple languages. I will be joining the Wesley Foundation and the French Club at Tennessee Tech. If all goes well, I should be able to test out of at least the first year of my French classes. This would likely allow me to be paid to tutor other students who are in that class. I will forever remember being a part of the youth group here at Crossville First United Methodist Church.



127 Yard Sale Time Again

Anne Looney Cook

The thrill of discovery, the satisfaction of a good price, the rush of making a favorable deal—all are expectations from the 127 Yard Sale staged during the first weekend in August. Once more, the United Methodist Men are preparing for their servanthood actions of mounting, monitoring, and making money from the sale of remarkable goods being recycled.

John Bockhorn and his peers of like-minded men along with their spouses are open for the business of receiving, cataloging, and pricing the items submitted for the sale. They enjoy the stories associated with forgotten brick-a-brack, lonely instruments in the closet, and dented or scratched keepsakes.

Questions about an object's value are researched for authenticity, credible worth, and reasonable pricing. Because of these efforts, customers seek out the merchandise found in the church annex. Proceeds from the sale create scholarships for college students who meet the criteria for financial support. Recent collections aided at least eight students.

Now is the time to meet the objectives of contributing goods for the sale. So, check for items to de-clutter your space, to remove the ugly collectibles, and to dispatch the mismatched dinner ware.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP JULY 15-19



VBS has a new name this year! Our theme is modeled like a sports camp where we'll teach the kids how to gear up with Jesus for life's big game. Mark your calendars for July 15-19. **Volunteers needed.** Contact Cathy Robertello at 301-613-5429 or Donna King at 731-412-7393

United Methodist Women

Marcia Everitt

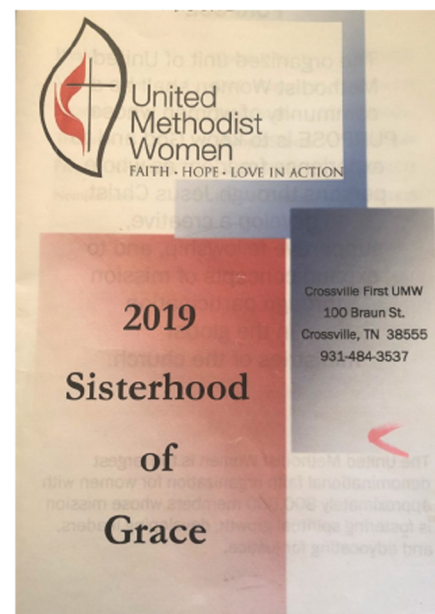
The United Methodist Women (UMW) is a must place for women in our church. Something meaningful and fun awaits every participating member. The organization's purpose is missional and functions to support needs of care and wellbeing both locally and globally. Many activities of our UMW chapter at Crossville FUMC generate gifts and salable goods for sustaining our local missions.

We seek to attract additional members to our UMW group. The starting date is the day any woman of any age shows up with interest and a sense of commitment to join. Regular meetings are the 4th Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. in the church parlor.

Do you like to knit, crochet, or

sew? Believe it or not, everyone has a creative talent within and, therefore, is urged to join our craft workshop on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in Room 210. Ongoing, we make prayer shawls for those who need God's loving arms around them in the form of our blessed creations. With new and challenging ideas being generated, we can find something for you to do to help us produce our crafts for our yearly fundraiser for local missions. On craft days, many people stick their heads in Room 210 to see what all the laughter is about and what we are making.

If you are looking for a satisfying purpose and a deep connection to the women in our church, please join us in the United Methodist Women. If you have any questions, call me, Marcia Everitt, at 931-337-4141.



Garden Club at Work

Julia MacManus

Picture the scene: Start out Saturday morning with a huge load of mulch, add seven youth, three youth leaders, and twelve garden club members, three wheelbarrows, three garden forks, four garden rakes, and what do you get? You get a beautifully tended church entrance.

The church youth joined us and gave their energy and strength to load and push the wheelbarrows filled with many loads of



And a voice spoke gently, "Rest awhile my children, because the day is not yet over."



In the beginning, there was MULCH, and it was piled high.

After weather delays and an iffy chance of rain on Saturday June 8, the Garden Club crew went to work on the church grounds. With such a good turnout on our regular garden club workday, we spread ourselves over the entire campus like worker ants. We weeded, trimmed, dead headed, and then cleaned up afterwards with our leaf blowers and brooms.

youth leaders Scott Looney, Doug Hensley, and Jill Kemmer.

The regular Garden Club members were pleased to see some new adult faces. Altogether, those present were Ann Barnett, Barb Duncan, Jeannette Parsons, Nancy and Mike Luckett, John

mulch. Ryan and Jill Petrovit showed up at 8:00 a.m. sharp and were soon joined by Tyler Looney, Isabella Mangano, Abigail, Anna, and Aliza Davis, along with

Austin, Mary and Bob Cover, Ann Grogitsky, Kris Burk, Jim Everitt, and Julia MacManus.

We finished in record time, just as the rain started, so as a team we declared, "We got it done!"



Enter here, through the garden.

Blending Art and Souls

Rev. Janet Martinez,
Pastora Tennessee Conference

The Compassion and Hope Ministry serves families through the Hispanic Ministry in the United Methodist Church Tennessee Conference. In 2013, the Compassion and Hope Ministry began to work with the women of Cumberland County in various programs that dealt with holistic health, one program being classes in arts and crafts. This work has benefited women to get out of their depression, loneliness, isolation, frustration, low self-esteem, and related issues. In the beginning, some women learned how to use the sewing machine, others made crochet crafts, and they all learned from one another.

In July 2014, Mrs. Nadine Simpson connected us with Mrs. Rita Kummer, who was a member of the Sew-N-Sew Quilt Guild in Pleasant Hill. From then on, she became the quilting teacher for a group of Latina women until December 2018. Every second Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m., Mrs. Rita came with a smile and with a passion to teach us about quilting, but also with a commitment to learn at least one word in Spanish each time.

Throughout four wonderful years not only was quilting learned but also were exchanged spiritual refreshments through being together in joy and soul-support. At 89 years old, Mrs. Rita gave us classes and was an example of love and patience. In April 2019, we shared a lunch with Mrs. Rita and her husband, Jerry, who faithfully came with her to the classes. We thanked her with gratitude for all the knowledge and special tips she shared with us as well as for the love she shared with the Latina women in the Cumberland County area.

From learning quilting and developing creative skills, the women

have put their knowledge into practice by preparing a range of products to put into yearly sales. The money collected is sent to missions of the United Methodist Church at both local and international levels. Across these recent years, 18 women have participated at different times in the arts and crafts program within the Compassion and Hope Ministry.

Alicia Perdomo was a faithful student in the quilting classes and now puts into practice the tips she learned. She offered her personal testimony: "Mrs. Rita was more than just a teacher; she was someone who gave the best of herself, her love, her affection, and her respect for each one. The thing that amazed me was, despite her age, she always came to teach us. She taught me that age does not matter, but what matters is the attitude that one has in this life. These quilting and sewing classes have been a blessing to my life. I learned something new, and I can use that to contribute to the church through the sale of my crafts to be used for the missions of the church. I give thanks to God, and the church for having programs such as this that are great blessings, not only physically, but also emotionally for each of us."



Learning through close inspection of sewing machine stitching.



Learners created quilt squares expressing personal colors and designs.

With gratitude and appreciation for Mrs. Rita Kummer and husband, Jerry.



Latina women produced attractive goods for sale at Holiday Season Bazaar. Income used for missions.

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