



# Crossville First

## United Methodist Church

The Church With the Window on the Heart of Our Town

### Wesley's General Rules for Today

Rev. Steven Lee, Senior Pastor

**"The General Rules"** are a historic account of Wesleyan living, based upon the teachings and admonition of John Wesley. "The General Rules" were established early in Methodist history in 1739. These guidelines were applied to those persons who were a part of the small group ministry of Methodism to ensure mutual accountability, to work out their salvation, and to flee the judgment of God against sin. The expectation was that those early Methodists would genuinely desire to be delivered from their sinfulness and demonstrate fruitfulness for the Kingdom of God.

These rules were offered as a way for one to show the intent to grow in the process of salvation. The three basic rules were: (1) Do no harm; (2) Do good; and (3) Attend the ordinances of God. This third rule was a call to exercise the means of God's grace in one's life.

A few years ago, Bishop Reuben Job revised this third rule to make it more meaningful in our modern culture. He restated it this way: (3) Stay in love with God!

These means of grace include such acts as: Regular Attendance at weekly public worship services; Hearing the Word of God read and Proclaimed; Holy Communion; Family and private prayer; and Fasting, Abstinence, and like practices.

Wesleyan tradition acknowledges two categories as means of grace: (1) instituted means of grace (works of piety) and (2) prudential means of grace (works of mercy). The early followers were expected to live a Holy Life, and to "move on to perfection," a process where one tries to allow God to "habitually fill the heart with the unconditional love of God." They were called to embody "holiness of heart and life," a condition where the inner working of the Holy Spirit produced fruitful discipleship.

On my mind today is how we modern-day disciples in the Wesleyan tradition would do well to remember to attempt to live in these declared ways. Can we make a covenant with one another to try this in our journey of faith.

Glad to be your Pastor,  
Bro. Steven



Backdrop for Vacation Bible Camp created by Julia MacManus and friends, Shauna and Rainer Braun.

## God's Call on Our Lives

Rev. Dr. Louis Davis, Associate Pastor

You may not agree with this, but you have a calling from God on your life. Yes, you read that right. In fact, read it again. **You Have a Calling from God on Your Life!** From the updated edition of "My Utmost for His Highest," Oswald Chambers points us to the Call of God on Jesus for his very life, and that call may not be understood the way you might think.

Chambers said, "God called Jesus Christ to what seemed absolute disaster. And Jesus Christ called His disciples to see Him put to death, leading every one of them to the place where their hearts were broken. His life was an absolute failure from every standpoint except God's. But what seemed to be failure from man's standpoint was a triumph from God's standpoint, because God's purpose is never the same as man's purpose."



God's perspective is so much greater than our own. From the photo of blue sky, you may know what is showing in this vista, especially if you have traveled by plane. Abigail captured the view when we were flying to Israel. It reminds me of what I could see: some mountains in the background, some clouds, and

now and then some land; but not the details. While I do not fly a whole lot, this is one of my favorite images to see when I do. Still, it comes nowhere close to the view God has over our lives.

I heard a saying once that has really stuck with me. In fact, you may have heard me say it, "God sees more in us than we see in ourselves."

From my viewpoint in the plane I can see a wide stretch of earth and sky. However, when I stop to think about it, what I see is still a small portion of our world.

Listen to what Oswald Chambers said as he continued, "This bewildering call of God comes into our lives as well. The call of God can never be understood absolutely or explained externally; it is a call that can only be perceived and understood internally by our true inner nature. The call of God is like the call of the sea—no one hears it except the person who has the nature of the sea in him. What God calls us to cannot be definitely stated, because His call is simply to be His friend. Our real test is in truly believing that God knows what He desires."

I encourage us all to do something that demonstrates a calling. Maybe you have done this; maybe you have not. Either way, try and see yourself as God sees your own self. I know, this claim is hard to do, but I believe that when we search deeply within, we will begin to notice and understand the call God has on our lives.

Pastor Steven and I would be honored to talk and pray with you to help you in hearing and understanding God's CALL on your life.

### Music Matters

Kimberly White,  
Director of Music

#### Children's Choir and Children's Bells to Begin a New Season

August 21 is the kickoff date: Children's Bell Choir will meet each Wednesday from 4:00-4:30 pm in the choir room. Children in grades 3-6 are encouraged to join. Children's choir will be from 4:30-5:15 pm for grades Kindergarten through Sixth grade (K-6). Dana Beal returns to lead our older children, and I will continue to direct the younger ones. Our theme is The Fruits of the Spirit. The children will grow spiritually as they learn new skills and enjoy gathering with friends to sing and make music.

#### Youth Handbell Choir

We hope to restart a bell choir for grades 7-12. This youthful group will rehearse on Wednesdays from 5:25-5:55 pm. The schedule will not conflict with their dinner or Bible study times.

#### Chancel Choir

Adults who enjoy singing and leading in worship are urged to join us each Wednesday at 5:45 pm for rehearsal. Our resident singers are busy people, so we understand you may not be able to attend all the rehearsals or Sunday worship services. However, please plan to join us and experience the many ways being in the chancel choir can enhance your life.

If you have any questions, please contact me:  
[kimberly@crossvillefumc.com](mailto:kimberly@crossvillefumc.com)

### On the Scene at VB Camp

Stories and pictures describe the scope and intensity of participation by volunteers who served children to brighten their lives with stories and activities about God and his son Jesus. Under the leadership of Cathy Robertello, teachers, parents, and youth poured themselves into age appropriate doings for the children who attended Vacation Bible Camp.

Lisa Harrison, teacher for 4th grade campers, described a 9-year-old girl who, at first, was so shy she wore her



Singing praises, leading others at VB Camp

nametag backward, covered up, or kept in the teacher's tote bag in order not to be called on. Her demeanor changed daily as she experienced inclusion and, on the last day, wearing her nametag for all to see, participated without reservations.



## Vacation Bible Camp

**Catherine Robertello, VBC Director**

More than 100 children joined the fun and games on God's team during Crossville First UMC Vacation Bible Camp, July 15 to 19. The youngsters created souvenirs with Alice Hawes and her team in the church annex, traveled back-in-time to hear stories about Jesus from Terry Weyant in the small sanctuary, and ran wild in the field house games with Jillian and Brian Guy. Over the course of the week 120 different faces joined in the games with an average of 102 children attending each night.

Truly, big shouts of thanks go to the 80 and more volunteers who cared for, coached, and connected with the children while leading them through the worship rally. Julia McManus and her team set the pace by creating a sports themed backdrop across the chancel. The visual effect in the sanctuary was like a stadium full of children, members of a marching band, and cheerleaders in action. On time each evening, Mari Davis and her team were welcomed as they bustled up and down the halls of the church delivering dinner to all the children

and the volunteers.

The campers could not keep their seats during the daily pep rally led by Scott Looney and the Youth Praise Band. They and teacher alike all danced around the sanctuary singing praises to Jesus as the youth led the children in lively songs relating to the Bible. The children raised over \$600 for the good neighbor fund as they learned lessons of loving their neighbors. We are grateful for their acts of giving.

At our huge endpoint event, Dave and Mary Farney and their team served up 400 hot dogs to the children, family, volunteers, and friends for the Friday church yard picnic. We loved watching the joy on every face as the children ran through the bounce houses, slurped popsicles, and dripped from eating sweet watermelon. We are still smiling at the sight of Doug, Scott, Pastor Louis, and Pastor Steven swimming in the dunk tank as they each ended the worship rally with big splashes. The families departed with joyful and spirit filled hearts from the games that brought God's Word to life with new meaning for all who participated.

## Behind the Scene

**Julia MacManus**

When we learned the theme, "Game On," I brain stormed with my talented friend, Shauna Braun, starting in May. We sketched and gathered numerous supplies. We reused the 4' x 8' panels that Shauna and her husband Rainer built for the 2018 VBS scenery. Working in their hanger, we screwed the eight panels back together.

We rolled a base coat over last year's theme and started painting a new scene, a stadium full of 165 cheering children.



Silhouettes of marching band members and one cheerleader were cut from sheets of insulation foam and spray painted black.

Once the painting was completed, we took the flats apart, loaded them into a trailer, transported them to the church, and reassembled them in the sanctuary. After a few finishing touches, we had the backdrop ready for the children of our church and community to enjoy a week of Vacation Bible Camp, July 15-19, 2019.

Most satisfying was being a part of the team of volunteers who helped make the program be a big success.



**Vacation Bible Camp 2019 Crossville First United Methodist Church**



## What Did They Do This Summer?

### Doug Hensley, Next Generation Ministries

Well, the summer of 2019 is over, and the children and teenagers have returned to school. As one who has been close to them during these weeks, I want to let you know what, where, and how the youth spent their time.

Every summer the youth get together one day a week to engage in some type of ministry in the community. To get started, they helped the Garden Club with mulching tended areas around the church grounds. The job was physical and required coordinated teamwork.

We took stock in our own church meeting space and focused on the need for a functional overhaul in the place allocated to us in the church's lower level. We cleaned and rearranged the fittings and are now using seats which were removed from the balcony of the old sanctuary. The renovations are worth checking out, and church members are invited to the youth room to see the changes.

The range of community service activities addressed a variety of needs and required flexibility of minds and bodies to meet the tasks. Our photos illustrate only brief moments of actions about what we accomplished. We helped

serve food at the Bread of Life; we visited and sang to the residents at WyndRidge Nursing Home; and we had the opportunity to sing at the Cumberland House, a center for hospice care.

Closer home, we did puppet theater to tell Bible stories and sang songs with the children in our church's after school program. The youth accepted a different challenge by helping the animal rescue service, FOCCAS (Focus on Cumberland County Animal Shelter) in painting and shingling dog houses for a new facility. Lastly, we helped with the annual event, Christmas in July, by ringing bells for the Salvation Army in front of the local Walmart store.

The youth at Crossville FUMC are ready and eager to go out into the community and put their faith into action. For our last get-together, the youth and Next Generation leaders grabbed a fun trip to the Anakeesta theme park in the mountains at Gatlinburg. The adventure was well documented in photos and in a video now posted on the youth's YouTube channel.



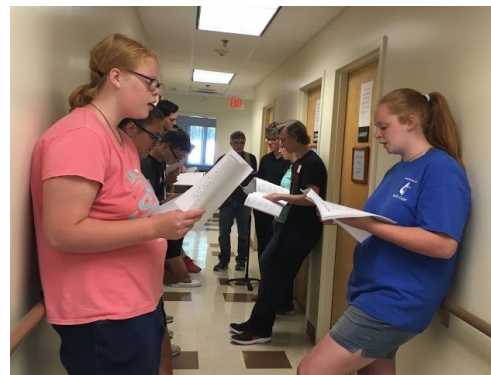
Serving a meal at Bread of Life



Helping at the golf tournament for Martin Elem Sch



Painting  
New kennels  
for the new  
Animal  
Rescue  
Service



Singing to  
Hospice  
Patients at  
Cumberland  
House

### NEXT GENERATION MINISTRY WITH YOUTH



Christmas in July



Discoveries in the Anakeesta Canopy



What is it at Anakeesta ?



Singing for residents at WyndRidge Health Care Facility



Bible storytelling for children in the after school program.



## Profile: John Bockhorn

Anne Looney Cook

Who else but John Bockhorn would celebrate his 90th birthday by directing a high-dollar yard sale with all proceeds going for academic scholarships to our local youth? That action in organization and leadership is exactly what he did for the umpteenth time in managing the United Methodist Men's participation in the annual phenomenon known as the Hwy127 Yard Sale. At sale's end, John reported to the congregation a profit of **\$9718**.

John and his wife, Joan, have a history as role models to a small group of loyal helpers who have worked every year in lockstep one day a week from April through July to intake, appraise, and catalog items for the big event held during the first weekend in August. The men, along with their wives, coordinated their efforts to make the FUMC yard sale one of the most sought-after sites by folks who love to browse for quality goods and spend for worthy bargains.

The intake of contributed items was in the church annex. As the merchandise was readied, numerous pieces were stored off site. Days before the sale, the annex was transformed into a mercantile setting with tagged items tastefully displayed. Volunteers quickened the pace for readiness before the bargain seekers appeared, and volunteers showed up after the closing hour to take down the arrangements.

On Sunday morning, August 11, John Bockhorn informed the congregation about the Yard Sale outcome. After thanking his helpers and acknowledging certain others for their time and talents, he announced the yard sale in 2019 was his last one. He appealed the need for men younger than he and his peers to take the defined roles for continuing the missionary effort in providing scholarships.

We commend John Bockhorn for his years of dedication and hours of hard work as a humble servant in the fruitful effort to repurpose, recycle, and renew useful items in a contemporary culture of disposables and discards. While John cannot be replaced, his role can be taken by another volunteer servant.

## Missions and Mission Teams in Guatemala

Several members at Crossville FUMC actively support missions in Guatemala through medical and dental clinics and through financial subscriptions to families identified as impoverished. The combining efforts serve multigenerational Guatemalans in remote, outlying villages. Ed and Cathy Camera maintain communications with missionaries in place and exchange news about local needs and requested inputs from Christian missionaries in the US. As the local team makes ready for their trip in January 2020, they give updates and encourage continued support from church members and friends.

### The Team: Individuals Becoming Family

The Crossville Medical Mission, based in Crossville TN, has served in Guatemala for over twenty years. During that time, hundreds of team members have had life changing experiences serving with others on the missions.

Ed Camera, the team leader, said "I've been privileged to serve with the team eight times and each mission has left me a changed person."

In January 2019, the group of 21 members hailed from four states, six denominations, and eleven church congregations. During that January trip, they attended 1400 medical and dental patients on five clinic days.

Ed said, "The phrase 'individuals becoming family' stuck in my head. We came together with one mission: treat each person we met with dignity and love while being God's hands and feet to provide healing."

**Ephesians 4:13** exhorts us to be 'unified in the faith', and **Romans 12:4-5** tells us to be 'one body, many parts, serving together.' We followed these instructions as we put aside our political, theological, and denominational differences to serve with the people of Guatemala in God's name.

As we came together, we renewed old friendships and developed new ones. We shared experiences that gave us great joy and experiences that broke our hearts. We laughed together, cried together, and shared our deepest thoughts with one another.

On August 17, 2019, team members and volunteers will be sorting and packing medications in the Crossville church annex for the January 2020 mission trip. Congregation members can help support the team by coming to help sort, bring small toys or stuffed animals for the children, and reading glasses, or by giving donations designated for "Guatemala Mission."

### May 2019 Report on Your Guatemalan Sponsored Families

Rain in Guatemala this season has begun; for which we are very grateful. Some of the people are beginning to plant. We need to continue to pray because the planted seed will need enough continual rain to nurture the crops and bring them to harvest. Servant Ministries sent every sponsored family home with their "Garden in a Bag" this month. We have introduced some new seeds this year and have changed the type of fertilizer that we gave the families. Here are the seeds each family received: cucumber, coriander, chard, eggplant, radish, onion, and chipilin (herb) plus fertilizer.

We look forward to seeing how the families do with this project. It has the capability of providing good quantity of vegetables for each family's consumption and, in some cases, provide excess that could be sold for some income to help support the family's basic needs



## Stephen Ministry at Work

Lynn Hintz, Stephen Leader

In **Galatians 6:2** Paul said, “Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way, you will fulfill the law of Christ.” Stephen Ministers train to do just that.

Stephen Ministry is a spirit-filled, action program through which church members, feeling called, are trained to provide confidential one-on-one Christian caregiving to hurting persons whose individual lives have been thrown into tailspins by crises.

In a fast-paced, transient, and often fragmented world, when people suffer upheavals and tragedies, they may not have caring confidants they can count on. Family members who once lived nearby have moved; neighbors and friends have scattered widely; and neighborhoods rarely offer the support they once did. So when trouble comes, many individuals have no one to turn to and end up facing it alone. Such a circumstance calls for a Stephen Minister.

At Crossville First United Methodist Church, we have a team of skilled caregivers who are equipped to bring Christ’s healing love to people who are grieving,

feeling lonely, or facing life changes such as hospitalization, disability, empty nest, divorce, moving, loss of job, retirement, or other upsetting challenges. During these times, a caring relationship with someone who will faithfully listen, empathize, pray, and encourage with Christ’s love can be a tremendous benefit.

Now, precisely, the Stephen Ministry enters the picture and pairs a caregiver to a care receiver. The paired helper will listen, accept, show concern, and walk with the one who is going through the difficult time, providing support through prayer, scripture, forgiveness, and unconditional acceptance in appropriate ways to meet present needs.

Important, however, is understanding what roles Stephen Ministers do not represent. They are not social workers, counselors, or therapists, nor do they give advice or tell people how to fix or solve their problems, but they will help make connections to organizations, agencies, or other ministries that address particular needs.

An analogy might help to describe Stephen Ministry. The pastors are like firemen rushing from one fire to another while the Stephen Ministers come in afterward (and sometimes before) and help

individuals sort through the debris and begin to rebuild. Stephen Ministers continue their caregiving as needed during the rebuilding process, a few months to a year or more. They provide steady, consistent, one-on-one follow-up care that our pastors favor but, in a large congregation, simply cannot devote through extended oversights.

Why do we do this? In **1 Thessalonians 5: 5, 14**, Paul wrote, “Therefore encourage one another and build each other up...Encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone.”

For those experiencing a really difficult time and seek help, our Stephen Ministers can provide special encouragement, care, and support until a crisis is eased. A call to Pastor Louis Davis will start the connections.

For church members who seek to serve, places are open for new recruits to become part of the Stephen Ministry. Likewise, a call to Pastor Louis or a contact with a Stephen Leader will provide information.

God has called us to build up and encourage one another. A motto declares the Stephen Minister as a Caregiver; God is the *Curegiver*.

## Being Single, Finding Friends

Anne Looney Cook

Being single seldom characterizes the depth of a person’s circumstances. Life events and personal choices impact the role of living as a single person, and explanations are kept for sharing or remaining private. At the same time, friendly interactions among adults without partners generate mutually satisfying camaraderie in a safe, selective manner.

**Singles Mingle** is just such a group at Crossville FUMC. About three years ago, Terry Lair proposed the formation, and its purpose was approved by the church council. It functions as a means for bringing together like-minded single adults seeking social enrichment in their present situations and is devoid of assumptions and pressures for matchmaking. Their activities as a group offer opportunities for exchanging life stories as well as for explorations to discover regional resources for enlightenment. Weather permitting, most gatherings are off-campus from the church. Becoming trustworthy friends is the code for developing personal relationships among members of Singles Mingle.

After Terry’s organizational efforts, Edna Van Horn, Linda Myers, and Sue Taylor emerged in roles of leadership for disseminating reminders about meetings and alerts about monthly excursions. Singles Mingle meets regularly for dinner at

5:30 pm on First Tuesdays at Gondola Restaurant. Usually, fifteen to twenty members dine together, and ten to twenty convene for gatherings planned elsewhere. Singles arrange their own transportation and incidental costs. When plans develop for mingling at an event having admission charges, the details are first explained, and fees are collected ahead of time. Otherwise, Singles Mingle collects no dues.

Already in 2019, Singles Mingle members report exciting adventures completed and ambitious plans proposed for the rest of the year. Examples include an April trip to Pall Mall, TN to explore the Sargent Alvin York State Park and the Forbis General Store. In July, they attend-



ed “Red-White-and Tuna” at the Cumberland County Playhouse and afterwards enjoyed a backstage tour. Pending explorations suggest finding the Cookie Jar Restaurant for a meal in Dunlap, riding the train at the Mid-South Fork visitor center, and walking The Bridge plus viewing the aquarium in Gatlinburg. One trip in 2020 is

proposed for The Upper Room in Nashville.

New members are invited to affiliate. Terry Lair serves as the contact person for questions and comments:

[tglaire00@gmail.com](mailto:tglaire00@gmail.com) or 814-599-6876.

### Email for Clergy and Staff

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