



The Circuit Rider Newsletter

Fayetteville First United Methodist Church

April 15, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

Holy Week and Easter 2020 will go down in history as the most unusual, at least in my memory. My father has been appointed to a United Methodist church, without missing a Sunday, for over 63 years. He said it is the first time in his tenure to not gather as a body of Christ in a church. Yet, he professes, and so do I, that the resurrection is still valid and is the hope of our Christian faith. **It might matter that Jesus died the way he did on a crude and cruel cross; but one thing is for certain, the resurrection defines our faith as Christians.** He rose from the dead, and we serve a risen Savior. Christ is risen, indeed!

In light of the resurrection, **we plan to reunite as a body of Christ in our worship services as soon as possible. It appears that it will be sometime in May before we can convene.** In the meantime, please continue to practice your spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible study, fasting, and attending our virtual worship services each week. Also, do your best to help your family, your neighbors, and friends by contacting them by phone, text, email, and/or postal notes. **Let's be as connected to Christ ourselves and with others as much as possible while maintaining a proper distance physically.** I prefer the term "physical distancing" over "social distancing." We have social media that we have used for years, so physical distancing seems more appropriate than keeping our social distance.

I have sought to keep us connected as a worshipping body of Christ through live and videotaped services, but you can carry that farther. **Deana Hannah and Luanne Kidd have organized our regular worship attendees into groups that are reaching out to each other in our physical separation.** *If you have been contacted by a person that sits in your section each Sunday, please respond and converse with them and others in your section.* **We can help carry each other's burdens, share in each other's joys, and maintain the vibrancy that is the love of Christ for each other during this time.**

The time we are currently experiencing physically reflects the time we are in spiritually--the already, but not yet. Jesus Christ is risen. We serve a risen Savior. He is coming again to take us home and restore creation to its original design and grandeur. So, we are in the already, but not yet. Christ has conquered sin and death, already, but we have not yet witnessed the final victory God has for all creation. In the meantime, keep the faith. This scripture passage sums it up, even while practicing "physical distancing" *Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, 25 not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.* (Hebrews 10:23-25)

Grace and peace,
Tommy



Pastoral Care

If you or someone you know needs a pastoral call or visit please let us know by calling the church office (931-433-2251) or by contacting Tommy or Ann....

Tommy Vann tommy@fayetteville-fumc.com
Ann Hatcher ann@fayetteville-fumc.com

 *Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors*

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

17-Clay & Beverly Jackson
20-Jim & Deana Hannah
25-Russ & Dawn Dixon
27-Ray & Hope Landman
27-Fred & Cookie Lamon
28-Mark & Susie Cobb

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5-Corey & Amanda Woodward
5-Paul & Carla Rayoum
9-Billy & Eda Tabor
9-Bob & Karrie Harris
11-Jon & Emily Law
13-Casey & Mary Beth Jenkins

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

15-Kayla Reese
15-Kaylee Woodward
15-Glenn Register
16-Dr. Bill Edwards
16-Emily Helton
16-Chloe LaFayette
17-Lisa Sanders
17-Stuart Perrin
17-Ailah Collins-Gentry
18-Cindy Kite

20-Robert Conger
21-Eleanor Helton
21-Elijah Holdmeyer
21-Corey Woodward
23-Michelle Krause

*If we do not have
your anniversary
or birthday listed,
please contact
the church office.*

23-Scott Register
24-Andrew Michael Whisenant
24-Jack Cooter
24-Kaylee LaFayette
25-Lisa Cowley
25-Susie Moran
27-Michelle Mitchell
28-Cheryl Pendergrass
28-Ashton Twyman
29-Cindy Hill

MAY BIRTHDAYS

1-Gus Osgood
1-Carole Runyon
2-Lu Storey
2-Taylor Gray Frame
2-Ashley Stevens Coleman
3-Barry Petty
4-Mary Alice Burton
5-Russell Hale
5-Alanna Woodward Edwards
5-Bob Harris
5-Shirley Creson
5-Wilma Putman
5-Erin Helton



Our Mission

To welcome others into our fellowship of Christian believers
To nurture and love one another
To grow in knowledge and faith
To reach out to witness and serve in Jesus' name



This would be a great time to send a note or card to your FUMC Youth or Kids to encourage them and let them know you are praying for them during this chaotic time.

Please continue to be a committed Prayer Champion!

Memorials

BECKY RABY NOTEABLES
Dorothy Lamb

BECKY RABY STEPHEN MINISTRY
Pat & Jennifer Haynes

BECKY RABY REGULAR FUND
Chris & Missy Neely

Altar Flowers

If you would like to reserve a date to provide altar flowers please call or sign up in the church office.
The following dates are available for May & June:

May 17, 24, 31 June 7, 28

In Appreciation.....

Dear FUMC Family,
We would like to thank our church family for all of the love that has been shown to us as we've welcomed our son into the world. Thank you for every prayer for good health as we've been in and out of hospitals and doctors offices. Thank you to the Noteables, Prayer Shawl Ministry, the Hospitality Team, and to all of the people who have called and sent letters. We have felt so showered by the love of Christ through you all despite being physically quarantined. We are looking so forward to the glorious day that we're all able to worship together again!

Love, Taylor, Jennifer, Mary Leigh, & John Dawson Byrd

Dear Church Family,
During the past several months we have experienced the death of Robin's mom, the diagnosis of colon cancer in our daughter-in-law, and, most recently, the unexpected death of Phyliss' sister. During each of these our church family has been there with us. We received many cards, calls, messages, and words of love, comfort, and encouragement. The ministry of the Noteables and the Prayer Shawl Ministry were especially comforting. This church exemplified the love of Christ to us. Thank you all so very much.

Robin and Phyliss Hunt

200 Elk Avenue North, Fayetteville, TN 37334

office@fayetteville-fumc.com

Phone: 931-433-2251

www.fayetteville-fumc.com

Tommy Vann, Lead Pastor
Ann Hatcher, Associate Pastor
Barry Petty, Music Director
Casey Jenkins,
Contemporary Music Director
Maribeth Lirette,
Director of Children's Ministry
Allison Ogle,
Director of Youth Ministry
Mary Beth Jenkins,
Director of Youth Ministry
Vickie Halcomb, Organist
Lynne Wood,
Administrative Assistant
Jeff Bradford, Custodian



Fayetteville First United Methodist

**200 North Elk Avenue
Fayetteville, TN 37334**

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization

U.S. Postage Paid

Fayetteville, TN 37334