Cookeville Methodist

Cookeville First
UNITED METHODIST

Volume 67, Issue 9 • May 19, 2022

Coming Soon …
… Save the Date!

May 26 Travel Buddies
27 Dollywood
29 Kids' Pajama Day
30 Memorial Day, Office Closed
31 Choir Tour Begins

June 5 Choir Tour Homecoming
12-16 SIFAT Youth Mission Trip
15-17 Annual Conference
27 VBS Food Truck Party Starts

July 10 Kaleidoscope Music Camp

Backsliders Schedule

May 22 Harold Simcox

Sunday Services

Worship Service
8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.
Sunday School
9:45 a.m.

Live Broadcasts
11 a.m.—News Talk FM 94.1
www.YouTube.com

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Message from our Pastor

In a March 24, 2022 newsletter article, I shared an update on the postponement of United Methodist General Conference until 2024. As of May 1, 2022, the Global United Methodist Church officially launched its splinter denomination. Our Council of Bishops for the larger church submitted a list of several questions to the Judicial Council (our church "supreme" court for all church law matters) regarding whether or not Annual Conferences can vote as soon as this June to exit the larger UMC ("disaffiliate.") With rare speed, the Judicial Council responded last week with legally binding decisions regarding the potential exit of any Annual Conference from the denomination. In a strongly worded statement, the council ruled that no Annual Conference has the right to vote or exit the denomination at this time, without General Conference approval and legislation to enable that "disaffiliation." This is good news. It provides stability for our congregation and Annual Conference for the next two years.

There is no doubt the United Methodist Church as we have known it is "unraveling." With this ruling this month, no larger body of the church, like our Tennessee-Western Kentucky Annual Conference with approximately one thousand churches, can vote to exit at this time as a whole body to the Global United Methodist Church. There is a provision for individual local churches to disaffiliate as an individual congregation based on a clear reason of conscience to do so. The irony is since the specially called General Conference of 2019, prohibitions against same sex marriage and ordination of homosexual persons were actually strengthened by General Conference. So, why are more conservative churches leaving at this time?

I have thought and shared with our congregation all along the opinion that the denominational split over homosexuality would unfold over several years. This has now proven to be true. No large-scale exit of large groups of churches as a whole or as an Annual Conferences is legal at this time. Only individual churches may petition to leave, at substantial cost, I might add. For instance, when I became the District Superintendent of the Mississippi River District in West Tennessee in 2015, originally I supervised 122 churches. Today, due to closures and disaffiliations, that number will soon be less than 80 churches. Exits are happening. Ironically, most churches are exiting to be independent, not to be affiliated with the Global Methodist Church, whose future viability is still in question.

The bottom line is the larger denominational issues will not be resolved until 2024 – 2025! So, our focus needs to remain on being a vital congregation here and now where we live every day! We are adding new members and participants at a faster rate than at any time in the past three years. So, let's "fear not," remain strong, and focus as always on being Christ-centered, scripture-focused and grace-based!

~ Dr. Kevin

By Our Presence

Sunday, May 8, 2022

Total In-person and Online Views	414

Sunday, May 15, 2022

Total In-person and Online Views	300

By Our Gifts

Actual Receipts for Two Weeks	$92,178.90
Actual Expenses for Two Weeks	$72,697.45

Online Giving

We have several ways for you to support the ongoing ministries and operating expenses of your church.

- Mail your check to 165 E Broad St. Cookeville, TN 38501
- Automatic draft on the 5th and/or 20th each month.
- Online giving by credit card
- Online giving through recurring donations

Please call LuAnn in the church office at 526-2177 if you would like to setup automatic draft or have any questions about other options. Online giving is available through our website at www.cookevillefumc.org/giving. Thanks for your continued support!

Prayer Concerns

Marilyn Aitken
Carter Apple
Marie Brown
Jeannie Buck
Robert Buck
James Cherry
David Funk
Pat Gilbreath
Nate Griffis
Scott Heinrich
Gwen Hewgley
Joyce Jackson
Ann Kellman
Gilbert Kirouac
Judy Layne
Heather Lee
Jeannie Lynn
Brian Maffett
Linda McConnell
Wayne Nichols
Molly Phillips
Joey Poston
Lonnie Rice
Margaret Ridley
Steve Shoup
Brett Stanton
Amanda Wheeler
Linda Bilyeu Williams
Les Winningham

Sympathy and Prayers:

Kelly & Ted Richardson and family on the death of her brother, Drew Wright.

Mary Alice Gran and family, on the death of her brother, Larry Sell

Church members who are homebound or in nursing homes and assisted living.

For updated information, please visit us online at www.cookevillefumc.org or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

Choir Tour 2022

On May 31, the Youth Choir and their chaperones will depart on Choir Tour 2022. They will travel through Birmingham, Alabama and Pinetta, Florida to get to Disney World, where they will spend the day at Hollywood Studios. On their way back, they will sing at Presbyterian Church of the Resurrection in Conyers, Georgia before arriving back home for a Homecoming Pot-Luck Dinner in the Christian Life Center, followed by their final concert of the Tour in the sanctuary at 6 p.m.

Choir Tour Homecoming Concert

Sunday, June 5, 5 p.m.

Join us in welcoming home the 2022 Youth Choir Tour! We will have a pot-luck in the Christian Life Center at 5 p.m., followed by a concert in the sanctuary at 6 p.m. Meat and drinks will be provided, bring your covered dish and share in the welcome!

Vacation Bible School

June 27—July 1 from 6 - 8 p.m. This year's theme is Food Truck Party! At Food Truck Party VBS, your students will enjoy an interactive, energizing, Bible-based good time as they get on a roll with God. They will become Chefs and discover how we can turn to God in prayer every day to meet our needs and how we can join God in providing for the needs of others.

After a high-energy Opening Assembly time, the Chefs make their way to the Bible Story Station. Interactive Bible lessons reveal Daily Specials to equip your Chefs for an active life with God. Your Chefs will also discover our Main Course (Bible memory verse), which will remain with them in their faith long after VBS. The students will expand on what they've discovered by making their own art projects at the Craft Station, singing new songs at the Music Station, exploring the wonders of God's creation at the Science Station, playing games at the Recreation Station, and enjoying tasty treats at the Snack Station.

Please join us while we make life long memories together at the Food Truck Party VBS 2022! RSVP online at www.cookevillefumc.org/VBS.

Congratulations to Our HS Graduates!

Nana Annor Asante
Megan Leigh Batson
Byron Chambers
Jackson Henry Franks
Elizabeth Leslie Moore
Tommy Noelle Perhay
Mason P. Reid
Jordan Rohr
Andrea Russell
Abby Sanders
Ethan Gabriel Sawyer
Jack Siegers
Robert Graham Wheeler IV

Staff Spotlight: Clinton Wheeler

My name is Clinton Wheeler and I am the Youth/Young Adult minister here at Cookeville First United Methodist Church. My wife is Amanda Wheeler. We met at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, where I grew up.

I have always had a passion for Youth Ministry. In fact, I was a Youth intern all four years of college, and a camp counselor for two summers. This all began when I received my calling to ministry in 8th grade, while on a youth trip. The rest is history! My wife and I are so thankful that we are a part of this church and that we get to work with such great students. Thank you for always making us feel welcome, and please let us know if we can serve you in any way!

Children and Families Social Media Links

Youth

- → Instagram: @youthcookevillefumc
- → Facebook: @CookevilleFUMCYouth

Club456 (grades 4, 5, and 6)

- → Instagram: @cookevillefumckids
- → Facebook: @CookevilleFirstUMCKids

New Members

A warm welcome to our new members Laurie McCall and Tyler and Katie Persson!

Calendar

Sunday, May 22
8:30 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. Sunday School — Classrooms
11:00 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary

Monday, May 23
9:00 a.m. Pickleball (Advanced) — Gym
1:00 p.m. Pickleball (Novice) — Gym

Tuesday, May 24
9:00 a.m. Pickleball — Gym
1:45 p.m. Dulcimer — B210
5:30 p.m. Young Adult Small Group — Dogwood Park

Wednesday, May 25
6:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study — C112
2:30 p.m. Knitting — B206
5:00 p.m. WNL Kids — Gym
5:30 p.m. Parent's Bible Study — B213
6:00 p.m. Youth Choir — Music Suite

Thursday, May 26
9:00 a.m. Pickleball — Gym
9:30 a.m. Travel Buddies — Crossville, TN
3:00 p.m. Chair Yoga — Jeff Wall Hall
5:00 p.m. Pickleball — Gym

Friday, May 27
7:45 a.m. Dipsy Doodle Men's Breakfast—Dipsy Doodle Restaurant

Sunday, May 29
8:30 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary
9:45 a.m. Sunday School — Classrooms
11:00 a.m. Worship Service — Sanctuary

Monday, May 30 — Memorial Day, Offices Closed

Tuesday, May 31
9:00 a.m. Pickleball — Gym
1:45 p.m. Dulcimer — B210
5:30 p.m. Young Adult Small Group — B213

Wednesday, June 1
6:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study — C112
2:30 p.m. Knitting — B206

Thursday, June 2
9:00 a.m. Pickleball — Gym
5:00 p.m. Pickleball — Gym

Friday, June 3
7:45 a.m. Dipsy Doodle Men's Breakfast—Dipsy Doodle Restaurant

Stained-Glass Window Dedication

On August 14, we will acknowledge Martha Sue Bonner and Kathy Evans and their many years of devoted service to the Music Ministry. During the 11 a.m. service, we will present a stained glass window in their honor. The window will be hung in the reception area opposite the front doors. If you would like to participate in the funding of this gift, contact LuAnn Throgmorton at 526-2177.

June 27-July 1, 6-8 p.m.

Kindergarten - 6th Grade

Register online at
www.cookevillefumc.org/VBS

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Cookeville, TN 38501

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Sharing the story of grace in the heart of town.

Travel Buddies

Join us as Travel Buddies heads to Homesteads in Crossville on Thursday, May 26. The Homesteads was established by FDR in the 1930's to help the unemployed miners of the Upper Cumberland.

The bus will leave at 9:30 a.m. and return by 3:30 p.m. We will visit the tower museum and one of the Homestead houses. We will eat lunch at a local restaurant; with each person paying for their own meal. The cost of the trip is $12, which covers gas and the museum entrance fee.

Make reservations no later than Tuesday, May 24 by emailing the church office at office@cookevillefumc.org.

Pajama Party

K-6th graders, join us for a PJ Party during Sunday School on May 29 to celebrate the end of school and the start of summer! Wear your PJs while we eat snacks and watch a movie. And be sure to join us for summer Sunday school in June and July, when we will be having our classes in Dogwood park! If you have any questions please reach out to Kelsey at children@cookevillefumc.org

Dulcimer Society Seeks New Members

The Dulcimer Society is looking for new members. The group meets Tuesdays from 1:45 - 3:30 p.m. in room B210 in the Freeman building.

Experienced players and new learners are welcome. Lessons provided by Judi. For more information, call Judith Rivas at 349-0333.

Scholarship Deadline Extended

It's not too late! The application deadline for the Wayne Evans Memorial Scholarship has been extended to **May 25.**

The $1,500 scholarship will be awarded to a member of Cookeville First UMC attending Tennessee Technological University during the 2022 fall term as a freshman, sophomore, or upper classman. This scholarship is applicable to any major. Previous recipients may apply.

Applications are available at www.cookevillefumc.org/wayne-evans-memorial-scholarship. For additional information, contact kathye@cookevillefumc.org or 526-2177, ext. 204.

Prior to his death in 2011, Wayne was an active member of Cookeville FUMC. The scholarship was established in his memory and is awarded annually to a deserving member of the church family.