

The Messenger

A publication of Smyrna First United Methodist Church
www.smyrna1stumc.org

June, 2021

FROM THE PASTOR: *Offer Them Christ*

Offer them Christ. These were reportedly John Wesley's final words to Thomas Coke as Coke's boat departed from a pier in England for the long journey across the Atlantic to the American colonies. Toward the end of his life, Wesley had taken the bold step of commissioning Coke to go to America to ordain Francis Asbury and others into the ministry to support the Methodist movement there. These simple words summarized the crux of the vital work that Coke was being sent to do. Wesley plainly laid out the charge before Coke with these simple words. "Offer them Christ, Thomas."

Offer them Christ. I'm not exactly sure why, but I've heard this simple charge echoing in my head lately. Could it be the Holy Spirit whispering to me as an encouragement to give me a sense of purpose for the primary mission to which I am sent? Through the myriad council and committee meetings and navigating COVID protocols and Zoom meetings and finalizing details for Project Transformation this summer and so much other administrative business of the church, it all boils down to offering Christ to a hurting world. That is not just Wesley's charge, but that also sums up God's mission for the Church. We are to be people who offer Christ. Period. We offer Christ, and allow space for the Holy Spirit to

work from there.

Offer them Christ. Let these words be our commission as we begin an exciting summer filled with ministry to our community. Let's offer Christ as we welcome and nurture the 30-45 children and seven young adult interns from Project Transformation who will fill our building this summer starting June 7. Let's offer Christ as we offer children from our church and community an opportunity to wonder and be amazed at who God is at our VBS on June 13-16. Let's offer Christ as we keep feeding hungry people at our food pantry every Wednesday from 3-6 pm. Let's offer Christ as our senior group meets for their first in person SALT gathering since the pandemic on June 18. Let's offer Christ as we encounter those within our own church family who are struggling and need a little extra love and support. Let's offer Christ when we're on our own vacation journeys away from the church this summer. Let's keep this simple but profound charge to "offer them Christ" in view with everything we do, even and especially as our calendars fill up and task lists seem never-ending again. Offer them Christ, Smyrna First United Methodist Church! That's what it's all about.

In Christ,
Pastor Theresa

PRAYER REQUESTS

Church Family

Don Hollins
Jackie Vaughan
Malinda Lester
Shirley Cobble

Sue Patterson
Deborah Mabry
Sandra Curtis
Chris Burke

Family Members & Friends

Cindy Webb
Shirley Carter
Rob Larsen
Kenny England
Steve Myers
Rose Bishop
Terry Burlison
Braxton Harrell
Andy Eisher
Nancy Lawrence
Jean Finney
Emma
Teresa Barrett
Jeff Milstead
Adam, Becky, Kade

Ralph Cantrell
Julie Walker
Mary Moore
Tom Hickerson
Peggy Dixon
Eddie Woods
Barney Russell
Douglass Crosby
Alvie Williams
Dianne Maitland
Joe Martin
Dana Hooper Velotta
Gary Barnes
Andi Upham Elacqua
Marty Luffman

Betty Cooley's Sisters Anita & Donna

If you add a friend/family member to the prayer list, please keep the office updated on their progress.

Our sympathy to the family of Helen Har-
diman, who passed away on Tuesday, May
25, 2021. Arrangements are under the direc-
tion of Woodfin Chapel in Smyrna. Please
continue to pray for the family.

Assisted Living/Home Bound

Ben BeCraft
Nancy Cobb
Larry Coleman
Sandra Curtis

David Inman
Martha Ann Morgan
Elaine Sharrock



We are excited to have Sunday school classes and small groups meeting again. Get connected to one of these groups. Before Sunday school join us for Coffee & Conversation, 9:30-10:00 am in fellowship hall.

Fellowship/WW Class Sundays, 9:30 am, room 201

Motley Christians, Sunday, 10:00 am, room 303

WIPS, Sunday, 10:00 am, room 309

WINGS Sunday, 10:00 am, room 306

*Small Group Bible Study, Tuesdays, 6:30 pm, room 303 (final June 1)

Children's Sunday school classes meeting at 10:00 on Sunday:

Nursery/PreSchool in room 108

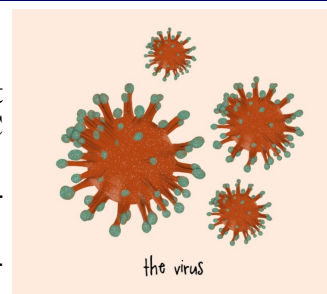
Kindergarten/First Grade/Second Grade in room 101

Third Grade/Fourth Grade/Fifth Grade in room 102

*Morning Glories Bible Study will begin June 4th (Fridays) and will be studying "Pursued" by Jennifer Cowart.

IT'S OFFICIAL! Here are our revised COVID guidelines effective May 30th:

- Face coverings are no longer recommended for any event, ministry, or service at SFUMC that is either inside or outside. However, we offer the reminder that the CDC does still recommend unvaccinated people wear face coverings in public gathering.
- Face coverings for children are optional at parents' discretion, but we will require volunteers with children who are unvaccinated to wear face coverings.
- The ribbons that block off every other pew will remain in place to allow continued distancing in the Sanctuary.
- The offering stations will remain in the Sanctuary rather than going back to passing the plate for offering.
- Will also continue with attendance registration cards for now rather than passing attendance pads.
- Indoor food service will resume, but we will not have any self-serve buffet type lines.



REMINDER: This Sunday, May 30th, we will have one combined worship service at 10 am. Scott Buchholz will be sharing a testimony about second chances. There will be no Sunday school. Following the service please join us for a picnic outside by the fellowship entrance. Bring your own picnic lunch and lawn chair. There will be some sandwiches, chips and drinks available.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR JUNE

8:30 Liturgist

June 6 Debra Haislar
June 13 Jan Schilling
June 20 Candy Kane
June 27 Dorris Waldron

8:30 Ushers & Greeters

Kim & Robert Honey
Debra Haislar, Becky Jenkins
Aimee Regnier, Jan Schilling
Jackie & Nadina Tharpe

Communion Servers

Trish Pendleton, Nancy Barnett

11:00 Liturgist

June 6 Betty/Tyler Cooley
June 13 Greg Lister
June 20 Cory Owens
June 27 Cory Owens

Coffee & Conversation

Donna Nelson
Norma Hawk, Nita Wright

Acolytes

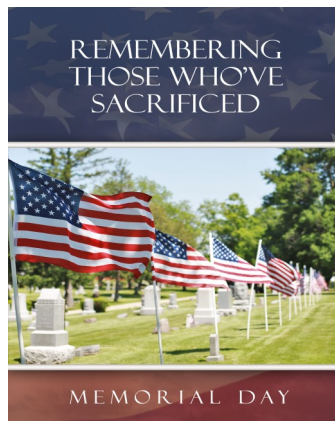
WIPS

Communion Servers

Tom & Nita Wright

11:00 Ushers & Greeters

Jeff Bowles, Betty Cooley



We will remember and honor those who have sacrificed for our freedom at our combined worship on May 30th. Among those who were lost are:

Sgt. Robert Neal King,
Sam Graves' Uncle
Sgt. Robert Emmitt Middlesworth,
Gwen Graves' Uncle
Marine Lance Cpl. Donald Randall Lewis,
Gwen Grave's friend.



We are looking for individuals/small groups/families to sign up to serve coffee and juice for Coffee & Conversation. Open dates are June 20, July 4, 11, 25 and each week in August. Sign up sheet is on the table in the Sanctuary or you can contact the church office, 615-459-2826.



Sunshine Circle is collecting school supplies: wide ruled paper, composition books, yellow #2 pencils, Fiskar scissors, folders with prongs and pockets.

We donate to 7 local schools. Collection boxes will be in the narthex and fellowship hall beginning June 27th.

We have been able to continue providing weekend backpack food bags to food insecure children at Smyrna Elementary during the 20/21 school year, providing just under 1,500 bags.

Cornerstone Circle will meet Thursday, June 3rd, 6:30 pm at the home of Lois Anderson.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATES:

Sunday, August 22 - UMW Annual Dessert Auction
Saturday, Sept. 18 - Cornerstone Circle annual Yard Sale
Saturday, Nov. 20 - Sunshine Circle Harvest Marketplace
Saturday, Dec. 18 - Annual Ladies Tea

It has been a long time coming! Our first tea planning meeting will be Sunday, July 11 at 9:30 am in the Chapel. Please make plans to attend this meeting if you plan to host a tea table or can help with the tea in any way. If you cannot be there on the 11th, please contact Norma Hawk, 615-330-4608 or email her at norma.hawk@bellsouth.net. Let's plan on making this our best tea yet!!

More information on all of these events will be coming soon!



Music Ministry is currently looking for people in the congregation to offer special music numbers during offertory on 6/20, 6/27, 7/11, 7/18, and 7/25. Can be an instrumental selection, a solo, duet or trio.

We also need one more sound booth volunteer for 8:30 service to run sound and two volunteers for 11 service - one to run soundboard and one to run the camera/slides.

Calling all creators who would love to serve the digital outreach ministry by making worship slides and social media content. Help us get the word out about all the fun things happening at Smyrna First!!

jamiebobick1995@gmail.com



The Missions Committee continues to serve our community through the food pantry. In April we served 79 families and 395 people. We could use some volunteers to work on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

We continue to support the Red Cross and their blood drives. The drives will relocate to Cornerstone UMC for the summer while SFUMC hosts Project Transformation, June 7 through July 29. Flyers are still going out to help inform the community of this event.





VBS is coming soon!!!

If you can help out in ANY way please let Kristi or Lane know! You can call the church or [email Kristi.polster@smyrnafirstumc.org](mailto:Kristi.polster@smyrnafirstumc.org) for more information.

We have got **300 postcards** going out to the community and many more flyers being hand delivered, so we need **volunteers** to serve these kids. If you don't feel comfortable serving with children yet or if you're going to be out of town could you please join us in praying for this event.

Please be in prayer for each child who will attend, each leader who will get to meet a kid this summer. VBS statistically **changes lives** and is the first encounter MANY people have with Jesus so it is **kingdom work** and we would love for you to be with us in this important ministry.

Project TRANSFORMATION

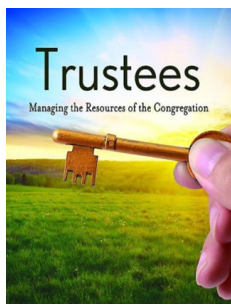
JUNE 7 - JULY 29

**COMING
SOON**

*Special thanks to our volunteers who
are helping to make Project
Transformation a success this summer!*

Tom & Nita Wright
Mary Ann Rogers
Jackie Vaughn
Barbara Pierce
Carol Smith
Trish Pendleton

Janet Lawrence
Lydia Oliver
Karen Yatuzis
Becky Jenkins
Sherri Joyce



TRUSTEE'S NEWS JUNE, 2021

Team members for 2021: Scott Buchholz, Chair; Tom Huebel, Vice Chair; Donna Sweeney, Secretary; Bill Abernathy, Doug Dodge, Kevin Parker, Mary Kay Dempsey, Nadia Tharpe, Matt Johnson

Current Projects:

- Treating sanctuary for brown recluse spiders
- Purchased new computer server and Wifi upgrades
- Volunteer Smyrna resident pressure washed the gazebo, the prayer garden, entrance ramp and sealed the gazebo.

Future Projects:

- Remove the HVAC window unit in food pantry
- Trim shrubs at the parsonage
- Mulch the playground
- Get PT rooms ready
- Remove 3 bulletin boards and the mailbox cabinet in the office area hallway
- Remodel the office area restrooms and convert the existing youth director's office to a new conference room
- Review Church insurance and check on 2 AED batteries.



WILLING WORKERS SUNDAY SCHOOL HAS STARTED A NEW STUDY

The Fellowship/Willing Workers Sunday school are studying "Scripture and the Wesleyan Way" by Scott Jones and Arthur Jones. The Bible was central to John Wesley's faith and the Christian movement he founded. The authors use Wesley's own words to address questions that many of us still struggle with today. This series will conclude Sunday, June 27. The class meets in room 201. Please contact Lois Anderson or Tom Wright for more details.

MORNING GLORIES BIBLE STUDY BEGINS JUNE 4TH (Fridays)

We will be studying "Pursued" by Jennifer Cowart. There is something in all of us that longs to be loved, to be desired and to be pursued. In this six week study, we will explore the main theme that runs throughout the stories in the bible, from Genesis to Revelation: God's relentless love for us. We will see the big picture of God's love for us, discover that God wants a personal relationship with each one of us, and realize that God will never stop pursuing us. We will meet June 4, 11, 18, 25, July 9 and 16 in room 303. Please contact Nita Wright, 615-459-9279 or nita_wright@bellsouth.net for more information. We hope to see you there!



Ways to Support Project Transformation June 7-July 29, Monday through Thursday 9 am-3 pm at SFUMC

- Serve as a hospitality volunteer from 9-12. (Background check and COVID vaccine required.)
 - o Greet and check kids in.
 - o Make sure food is in order for kids for day. (Food is previously delivered to church through coordination with PT.)
 - o Serve lunch to our seven interns. (Food supplied by our partner churches.)
 - o Assist interns with other matters as needed.
- Serve as a Reading Rockstar volunteer from 9-12. (Background check and COVID vaccine required.)
 - o Offer encouragement and assist with reading intervention for children.
- Link to sign up as hospitality or Reading Rockstar volunteer.
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1KoW_PR33x5bCQucy-ad2v5L-6ezJC_y0zi6_HIXiCBo/edit?usp=sharing
- Attend and assist with community Family Fun Nights June 24 and July 22 at 6 pm (Smyrna First supplies drinks and paper products.)
- Provide lunch for interns on July 30.
- Donate items through PT's Amazon wish list. https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3I2QFA8O6EQJ9/ref=hz_ls_biz_ex
- Encourage young adults you know to apply for internships.
- Spread the word NOW that registration is open for kids for this summer day camp experience. Register at <https://projecttransformation.org/tennessee>.
- Pray for the Project Transformation ministry.

May 25, 2021

A Letter to the Church from the Works in Progress Sunday School Class

Works in Progress (WIPS) has made the decision to attend Murfreesboro Pride on August 21 where we will show the love of God to all attendees. With the support of other Methodist churches in Rutherford County, we will be living out 1 John 4:7, *“Let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.”*

We understand the controversial aspect of this decision which was made prayerfully and with open hearts and minds. We recognize that the whole church is not of one mind regarding this issue and do not wish to cause division or schism within our beloved Smyrna First UMC family. Our goal is simply to show the love of Christ to a community of people who need to know the truth of God’s love for them. In doing so, we affirm our current United Methodist polity that says *all individuals are of sacred worth and that God’s grace is available to all*. We seek to spread this gospel message to a community of people who are commonly rejected and told they are unloved.

Through the next few weeks, many of us are willing to come discuss this topic and clarify our intentions with Sunday school classes or other groups or individuals at your request. We request these discussions center around Christian representation in the LGBT community, rather than theology or salvation of any individual. Our intention in attending Murfreesboro Pride is not to speak for others or the church as a whole, but instead to represent ourselves as a Sunday school class who seek in this specific way to offer hope and healing to a community desperately in need of it.

From the United Methodist Principles in the Book of Discipline: *We affirm that God’s grace is available to all. We will seek to live together in Christian Community, welcoming, forgiving, and loving one another, as Christ has loved and accepted us. We implore families and churches not to reject or condemn lesbian and gay members and friends. We commit ourselves to be in ministry for and with all persons.* (161G)

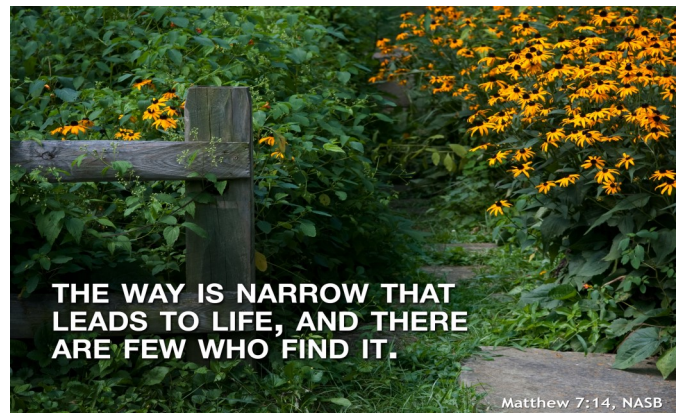
We invite anyone who would like more information or desires to attend or support to reach out to Lane Cronan for more information.

Land
615-260-7589



HAVE YOU SIGNED UP
TO RECEIVE TEXT
MESSAGES FROM THE
CHURCH?
Text ALERT to
22300.

You will know you are
successful if you get a
response message from
ONE CALL NOW.



HELP NEEDED FOR WiFi UPGRADE

Here are the days and hours we will need volunteers to pull cables for the WiFi upgrade. We are breaking it up into morning hours and evening hours. This way, retired people can volunteer for daytime and employed people can volunteer for evening. There will be no climbing really high ladders and no prior experience is needed for this. Please contact Tom Wright, Matt Johnson or Jeanne McDonald with your availability.

Tuesday June 1: 8:00-Noon and 5:00-8:00 pm

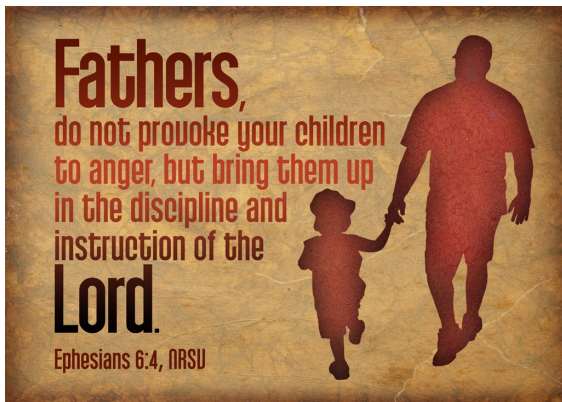
Wednesday June 2: 8:00-11:00 am and 5:00-8:00 pm

Thursday June 3: 8:00-10:00 am and 5:00-8:00 pm

Friday, June 4: 8:00-Noon to finish up if needed

A sign-up sheet will be available in the Sanctuary on Sunday or you can call the church office, 615-459-2826.

FATHERS
DAY
JUNE 20



June 2, Noon - 5 pm
Fellowship Hall
Register at redcrossblood.org

SAVE THE DATES

August

August 14



September

Sept. 25-26 at
Beersheba Springs



October 22-23, 2022

If you have photographs or historical items that you would consider loaning to the 150th Committee to share with the whole congregation as we reflect on celebrating this special anniversary, please let the church office or Greg Lister know.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!



SALT

(Senior Adults Living Triumphantly)

We took a safe first step to starting SALT activities by holding a 'drive through' event on May 5th, Cinco de Mayo. Members drove through the church parking lot and got a goodie bag and a brief visit with Pastor Theresa and Greg. We picked that day specifically as it was the same day when we had our initial kickoff to start the group a few years ago!!! In-person meetings and events will start off on June 18th with a brown bag lunch in fellowship hall.

Upcoming SALT dates:

- July 16
- August 19
- September 16
- October 21
- November 18
- December 16

Hello Families of Preschoolers!

Open enrollment continues for the **2021-2022** school year! Classes will once again be held on Mondays and Wednesdays from 9am-2pm. Our registration fee is \$85 per student. **The next school year will begin on August 16, 2021.** Tuition for the 2021/2022 school year will be \$155 per month



- One year olds** (Must be one by September 2021)
- Two year olds** (Must be two by September, 2021)
- Three year olds** (Must be three by September, 2021)-
(Must be potty trained or in the process)
- Four year olds** (Must be four by Dec. 31, 2021- these children will NOT attend Kindergarten in 2022)
- Pre-K** (Must be four by Aug. 15, 2021 - these children WILL attend Kindergarten in 2022)

We would love to be a part of
your child's education!

Check out our website: smyrna1stumc.org



Meet our new Director,
Becky Randol
She comes to us from The Gardner
School in Nashville.

For questions contact sparrowsnestdirector@gmail.com or call 615.459.2844.

A ministry of Smyrna First United Methodist Church.

SFUMC MDO Board and Staff:

Thank you so much for my sweet cards, gifts and the time to say goodbye. Thank you for putting your trust in me to help restart the mother's day out program four years ago. I have had such a wonderful time meeting and developing relationships with each and every one of you. Thank you for your support for the program and for showing me LOTS of patience through the years. I will miss everyone and am blessed to have known you all. You hold a special place in my heart.



Much Blessings,
Stacey Hancock
(Retired) MDO Director



Harley Polster	6/1
Ryan Coon	6/2
Jansen Donsbach	6/2
David Jordan	6/2
Brian Jones	6/4
Trish Pendleton	6/4
Penelope Ferris	6/6
Tom Brown	6/7
William Bowles	6/9
Vanessa Baehr	6/10
Mary Ann Rogers	6/10
Melanie McCollum	6/11
Baylie Read	6/12
Daryl Draper	6/15
Sarah Pickel	6/15
Elaine Sharrock	6/15
Rick Wise	6/15
Ken Williams	6/18
Alvie Williams	6/18
Neil Rogers	6/21
Becky Jenkins	6/22
Lori Siegrist	6/27
Martha Hines	6/29
Taylor Jenkins	6/29

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please notify the church office: sandra.phelps@smyrnafirstumc.org



Larry & Debra Haislar	6/2
Henry & Linda Brendle	6/9
Rick & Amy Wise	6/11
Bill & Pam Faulkner	6/12
Ken & Shirley Cobble	6/15
Scott & Patti Seagle	6/18
Tony & Nicole Takayama	6/19
Sam & Gwen Graves	6/21
David & Danette Hookey	6/21

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY SCHEDULE:
8:30 AM Modern Worship
9:30 AM Coffee & Conversation
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Traditional Worship

MONDAY SCHEDULE:

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE:
3:00 PM Food Pantry Open
6:00 PM Praise Band Rehearsal

FRIDAY SCHEDULE:
10:00 AM Morning Glories Bible Study

God, you are the perfect Father of all, the model of unconditional love. Help fathers — and all people — feel your warm embrace today.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6:30 Small Group Final 6:30 Hand Bells	2 BLOOD DRIVE Noon-5 pm 3:00 Food Pantry 6:00 Praise Band	3 8:30 - 4:00 PT Intern Training 6:30 Cornerstone Cr @ Lois Andersons	4 10 am Morning Glories Bible Study Room 303	5
6 COMMUNION	7 ←	8 Project Transformation 9:00 a - 3:00 p	9 3:00 Food Pantry 6:00 Praise Band	10 →	11 10 am Morning Glories Bible Study Room 303	12
13	14 ←	15 Project Transformation 9:00 a - 3:00 p	16 ←	17 → 6:30 SPRC	18 10 am Morning Glories Bible Study Room 303 12 Noon SALT	19
20 HAPPY FATHER'S DAY	21 ←	22 Project Transformation 9:00 a - 3:00 p	23 3:00 Food Pantry 6:00 Praise Band	24 → 6 pm PT Family Fun Night	25 10 am Morning Glories Bible Study Room 303	26
27	28 ←	29 Project Transformation 9:00 a - 3:00 p	30 3:00 Food Pantry 6:00 Praise Band			
		No Choir Rehearsals in June				FH=Fellowship Hall