



First United Methodist Church

The Interpreter Newsletter
January 4, 2018

Have faith. Speak hope. Live love.



If you will be serving in any of these capacities in 2018 I trust you will make every effort to be present for this training.

District Training For:

Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committees

Finance Committees

Lay Leaders: updates for 2018

- Reviewing the ministry of the local church utilizing the team approach with your pastor
- Affirming and updating ministries that will lead the congregation toward faithfulness and fruitfulness for God's kingdom
- Sharing a review of the unique responsibilities of a lay leader

Sunday, January 21, 2018 2:00-4:00 pm
Lexington First UMC

Just Thinkin'...About The Keys to Happiness

At the beginning of every New Year there is always a lot of talk about happiness and how to attain it. I am not certain that I know the full and complete answer to that concern, but I do have some indicators.

First, the most contented people are those who build their lives around the gifts that God has already given. We have all been gifted in some way. It is important to know the gifts that we have been given by a giving God.

Second, we need to understand that everyone we meet, everything that we read, everything that we see and do, every seed that we sow or do not sow becomes part of our destiny. One key to happiness is to own who we are, own how we look, own the talents that we have, own our family heritage and to own that which we have not been given. If we try to be who we are not, we will die as searching, bitter, and disappointed people. We are not promised more or less. Self-acceptance with all that is beautiful and not so beautiful is an important key.

Third, Do all that you can in all of the ways that you can to be present to the "now" of life. We do not have the last hour nor do we know what the next hour will bring but we can be present to the moments of our existence. It is a great and sad loss if we miss the "now" moments of life.

Finally, it is important to keep the spiritual disciplines of--

- Public and private worship,
- Searching the scriptures,
- The partaking of Holy Communion,
- Deeds of mercy and kindness,
- Fellowship with other Believers.

It is the steadfast keeping of these disciplines that opens our hearts to the presence of the God who is embodied in the life and teachings of Jesus.

Why we search for happiness in ways that do not bring it is worth Thinkin' about.

Mercy,
Doug



An important date I want to make certain we put on our calendars is our *Bishop's Day in the District*. The date is Tuesday, **January 30, 2018** at Jackson First United Methodist. That day, Bishop McAlilly is expected to meet with all clergy from 2:00-4:00 pm and with any and all Laity from 6:30-8:30 pm. Among the topics Bishop McAlilly will address will be the status of our denomination's attempt to address matters of human sexuality through the work of the *Commission on A Way Forward*. He will also be addressing other important issues in the Memphis Conference.

KEEP THOSE COATS COMING! Your response to our COMMUNITY MEAL COAT DRIVE...has been tremendous! If you would like to donate a coat you are no longer need you may bring it/them to Wrather Hall Room 100. If you need further information, please feel free to call Ellen Fields at 731-967-3914.



C.L.I.C.K/Children's Ministry would like to thank all of those who donated to their Warm Hearts Providing Warm Hands Project. The collected mittens, gloves, and toboggans will be sent to the Carl Perkins Center.

*Another fresh new year is here,
Another year to live!
To banish worry, doubt, and fear,
To love and laugh
and give!*
- William Arthur Ward

Fulfilling our Promises to God and One Another

Our Prayers – As of December 31

Ongoing prayer request will remain on the prayer list for three consecutive weeks.

If you have updated information regarding health status, or would like to have the individual continued or removed simply notify Patricia in the Church Office.

If you have a prayer request complete a prayer card on Sunday morning and place it in the offering plate, or notify Patricia in the Church Office.

THOSE WHO REQUEST THE PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Bob Dunham	Kay Simpson	Rosemary Wheeler
Danny Magnesales	Leah Hamm	Stella Lewis
Glynn Hughes	Mike Jones	

THOSE HOSPITALIZED OR RECOVERING AT HOME

Barbara Clement-Home	Pat Kyle-Jackson General
Bill Burnette-Home	Phil Fisher-Home
Jimmy Tyler-Home	Porter Bunch-Home
Margaret Norfleet-Richland Place Nursing Home/Nashville	Ramona Mallette Wilkerson- Home
Mary Gordon-ICU Memphis	Susie Bunch-Home
	Tasha Reynolds-Vanderbilt

THOSE WHO GRIEVE - Family and Friends in the death of:

Billy Stanfill (Father of Ronnie Stanfill)
Carlton "Whitey" Crowe
James (Jim) A. Ray (Brother of T. Brad Ray)
Paul Norman Blount (Father of Mary Carol Alexander)
Rev. Jerry Lee Hassell (Father of Becky Belew & Mary Beth Hurbis)
Rusty Clark

THOSE WHO CELEBRATE

We are happy to announce the birth of Warner Wayne Hinson, born December 18, 2017 at 3:52 p.m. Warner Wayne was 7.0 pounds and 20 inches long. Mom and Dad, Brooke and Sam Hinson, are thrilled and blessed. They will return to Lexington tomorrow, Wednesday, December 20, 2017. Warner's grandparents are Jack & Jane Hinson, Scott & Deann York, and Andrea Campbell.

Seth and Jesse Stanfill are happy to announce the birth of their daughter Sadie Grace Stanfill, born on December 13, 2017 at 11:10 am. Sadie Grace was 6 lbs. 9 oz. and 18 ½ inches long. Sadie's grandparents are Ronnie & Judy Stanfill and Dan & Jenita Boggan & the late Dr. Gregory A. Box.

Our Presence – On December 24

Sunday School – 74 Worship – 202

Our Gifts – December 24

Operating Budget:	\$6,527.00
Designated Funds:	<u>\$1,118.00</u>
Total Giving:	\$7,645.00

Our Presence – On December 31

Sunday School – 37 Worship – 143

Our Gifts – December 31

Operating Budget:	\$6,783.00
Designated Funds:	<u>\$ 292.00</u>
Total Giving:	\$7,075.00

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Bill Stone

By Brent, Jennifer, & Caylee Burnine and Bobby Roberts for the Food Pantry Fund
By Chris and Angie Bartel for the Choir Fund

In Memory of Joy Maness

By Brent, Jennifer, & Caylee Burnine and Bobby Roberts for the Lois Luvs Closet Fund
By Chris and Angie Bartel for the Lois Luvs Closet Fund

In Memory of Harrell Holmes

By Jean Holmes and Family for the Memorial Fund

In Memory of Brylee Grace Holmes

By Jean Holmes and Family for the Memorial Fund

In Memory of Bryce Stanfill

By Jerry and Becky Graves for the Memorial Fund
By Chris and Angie Bartel for the UMYF Fund

In Memory James and Carol Johnson

By Chris and Angie Bartel for the Memorial Fund

In Memory of Bob Gaines

By Chris and Angie Bartel for the Benevolent Fund

In Memory of Tony Adams

By Chris and Angie Bartel for the Building Fund

In Memory of Todd Nalepinski

By Chris and Angie Bartel for the Choir Fund

In Memory of Troy Keen

By Chris and Angie Bartel for the Memorial Fund

In Memory of Danny Grissom

By Chris and Angie Bartel for the Memorial Fund

In Memory of Hattie Lou Veteto

By Chris and Angie Bartel for the Knitwits Fund

In Memory of Shirley Henderson

By Chris and Angie Bartel for the Food Pantry Fund

In Memory of Dick Meyer

By Chris and Angie Bartel for the Food Pantry Fund

In Memory of Thomas Crawford

By Chris and Angie Bartel for the Benevolent Fund

In Memory of Howard Tignor

By Chris and Angie Bartel for the Benevolent Fund

In Memory of James Youngerman

By Chris and Angie Bartel for the Building Fund

In Memory of Jimmy Fesmire

By Chris and Angie Bartel for the UMYF Fund

In Memory of Allie Henderson

By Chris and Angie Bartel for the UMYF Fund

In Memory of Mason Keen

By Chris and Angie Bartel for the UMYF Fund

In Memory of Germaine Coffeen

By Chris and Angie Bartel for the Building Fund

In Memory of Lula Mae Wadley

By Chris and Angie Bartel for the Memorial Fund

In Memory of Rev. Jerry Hassell

By Wes and Cindy Odle for the Church Van Fund
By Steve and Becky Helms for the Church Van Fund
By Ray and Linda Marcum for the Church Van Fund
By Rod and Janey Williams for the Church Van Fund
By Bryan and Winnie Bunch for the Church Van Fund
By Elwood and Carole Small for the UMYF Fund

In Memory of Billy Stanfill

By Steve and Becky Helms for the Church Van Fund
By Ray and Linda Marcum for the Church Van Fund

In Memory of James "Hammer" Hatchett

By Ray and Linda Marcum for the Church Van Fund

In Memory of Virginia Gordon

By Renee McCollum and Family for the Memorial Fund
By Thomas McCollum and Family for the Memorial Fund
By Lisa Small and Family for the Memorial Fund

HONORARIUMS

In Honor of Becky Graves

By Mary Ann and Tim Rhodes for the Food Pantry Fund

In Honor of Josh Smart

By Anonymous for the Church Van Fund

In Honor of Shawn Warren

By Anonymous for the Church Van Fund

In Honor of Pat Todd

By Kelly Odum for the Grief Support Fund

In Honor of Peg Terry

By Kelly Odum for the Grief Support Fund

In Honor of Agnes Lemley

By Kelly Odum for the Grief Support Fund

Our Service – On Sunday, January 7

Acolytes

Emma Renfroe, Avery Todd

Children's Time

Dr. Doug

Communion Attendants

Margaret Stowe, Reign Britton, Amanda Todd

Cross bearer

Patton Meyer

Greeters

Pat Todd, Wil Lane, Donna Lane

Nursery

Cody and Megan Stovall, Matthew Sanders

Sound & Lighting

Slater Hollis

Ushers

Jeff Odum, Steve Helms, Warren Ramer, Jr., Howard White

Wee Worship

Ian and Allison Gorski, Hunter Anderson

Bus Driver

Buddy Beecham #731-614-6751

If you need transportation to worship on Sunday contact the driver listed above.

January Bereavement Food Team: Betty Threadgill (chair), Jo Ann Armstrong, Frances Bobbitt, Stephenie Rogers, Camille Clampitt, Becky Ujcich, Pam Ujcich

January Kitchen Team: Tammy Jones, Becky Ujcich

Our Witness

- January 5 Make or refill a bird feeder
- January 6 Send a hand-written letter to someone
- January 7 Donate blood
- January 8 Do something for your neighbor
- January 9 Take hot tea or coffee to an outside worker
- January 10 Donate a low maintenance house plant to a nursing home
- January 11 Leave positive feedback on a survey at a store or restaurant
- January 12 Eat lunch with someone new

Connor's Corner

Welcome to 2018! I hope everyone has had a safe, warm, and relaxing winter break and are ready to get back in the swing of things to take on 2018!

The youth will get back up and running this Sunday with Sunday School in the Morning and Youth at night!

As we are getting into 2018, if you are willingly to provide a meal to the youth on a Sunday night please contact me or sign up on the bulletin board outside of my office! This is a great way to connect with our youth and share in a meal of fellowship and relationship building! So, make a meal and come eat with a pretty awesome group of people if I do say so myself.

My winter break was a good time of catching up with family and some old friends. I think people can relate that the older you get the crazier going home is and less of a "break" it feels like. However, it was a good time of family, reconnecting, and enjoying that time with loved ones. On the negative side (no pun intended) the weather was very cold the whole time I was there reaching to -18 (felt like -31) one day so that was fun! But nothing a fire, some hot chocolate and lots of blankets couldn't fix.

Happy to get back into the swing of things and get 2018 off to an awesome start! January will be a normal looking month of just Sunday School and Sunday nights but come February we will start having some more events with the youth and for them to continue to get involved in the life blood of the church.

Have a great rest of the week and hope you all stay warm and continue to love and pursue the Lord!

God Bless!

Connor A. Fowkes

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CALENDAR

Thursday, January 4

9:00 am	Food Pantry	Wrather Hall-RM 100
6:00 pm	Exercise Class	Gym/LEC-RM 115
6:00 pm	Girl Scouts (4 & 5 Grades)	Classroom Room 216

Friday, January 5

9:00 am	Food Pantry	Wrather Hall-RM 100
6:00 pm	Girls Scouts Lock In	Wrather Hall-RM 100

Saturday, January 6

	Girls Scouts Lock In	Wrather Hall-RM 100
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Sunday, January 7

9:00 am	Sunday School	Various
10:15 am	Worship	Sanctuary-RM 204
5:00 pm	UMYF	Youth Basement

Monday, January 8

9:00 am	Food Pantry	Wrather Hall-RM 100
11:00 am	Easter Seal	Gym/LEC-RM 115
6:00 pm	Exercise Class	Gym/LEC-RM 115
6:00 pm	Girl Scouts	Wrather Hall-RM 100

Tuesday, January 9

6:30 pm	Boy & Cub Scouts	Wrather Hall-RM 100
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Wednesday, January 10

8:30 am	ESL-English Classes	Orio-RM 114
10:00 am	Knitwits	Wrather Hall-RM 100
11:00 am	Easter Seal	Wrather Hall-RM 100
5:30 pm	Pastor's Old Testament Study	Orio-RM 114
6:00 pm	Adult Handbell Practice	Handbell-RM B-6
7:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Choir-RM 108