

Bookwalter United Methodist Church

4218 Central Avenue Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37912

March 1, 2023

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Edie Jo Hall, Children's Director

Taylor Stephens, Youth Director

***"Sharing God's love with our neighbors,
Inviting them to share in the joy of Jesus Christ"***

ARTICLE

You have no doubt heard or read of the revival that started on February 8 at a regular chapel service at Asbury College in Kentucky. Several students remained once the service was "over" and continued to worship. For the next several weeks, over 50,000 worshippers made the pilgrimage to experience the event for themselves and it made national and even international news.

Asbury President Kevin Brown told reporters that an outpouring of faith has only just begun. "We believe that something is beginning to happen all throughout the United States and all throughout the world," Brown said. While he's still trying to wrap his head around the events that unfolded on the college campus, he said one thing has become very clear to him. "We are seeing a hunger from students and a hunger from guests and visitors whose hearts are stirred and who desire something greater."

I'll be honest; my first response to this news was skepticism. Too many times I have seen this type of thing be manipulative and artificial. But all indications are this was and is an authentic movement of the Holy Spirit.

As I shared in worship a couple of Sundays ago, my thoughts next turned to wondering if and how this might spread. Would this make its way to Bookwalter and what would that look like? The Holy Spirit does not manifest itself the same way all the time in different places. Then a thought struck me that perhaps it already had begun. As I said, I personally have a renewed sense of purpose and inspiration and enthusiasm and motivation and feel the same is happening with much of our congregation.

I added that the Lord knows (literally!) what other ways it may be manifested here as we are open to the moving of the Holy Spirit. I pray we are seeing just the beginning of God's great works through the people in this church as we

grow in discipleship and mission and answer our calling to serve this community. **Steve**

YOUTH NEWS

We are very excited to welcome Taylor Stephens as our new youth leader. Taylor graduated Gibbs High School in 2015 (*Where she played soccer for coach Jason French*). She also works as a server at Aubrey's restaurant in Strawberry Plains, so ask for her section if you are out that way. We look forward to her leadership with our young people.

Speaking of which - as we look ahead to this summer, we want to make sure the youth are able to go to Senior High Assembly again. They had a wonderful experience last year and are excited to return. This year it will be held at Emory and Henry College in Virginia June 26-30 and the cost is \$300 per youth provided we register by May 17. Please consider sponsoring someone and/or supporting our youth as they have fundraisers toward this event. Thank you.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

We will have a Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday, March 7 at 7:00 PM in the library.

KINDNESS KITS

We are already getting our new food ministry underway. Backpacks or drawstring bags will be filled with items we hope will be most helpful for any homeless or transient persons who come by the church in need of assistance. Below is our initial list, but we anticipate changing the contents of the bag/packs depending on demand and feedback. Shout out to Doris Dennison for the name of this outreach.

Please donate: Inexpensive ponchos, toilet paper (individually wrapped), canned food with pop-tops or food pouches that don't need to be cooked/heated, band-aids, socks (new or gently used), wet wipes, sewing kits, tissues, lip balm/chapstick, disposable razors / shaving cream for male and female and feminine hygiene products.

We already have a good supply of toothbrushes, toothpaste and dental floss to begin with. Thank you in advance!

DESTINATION: CELEBRATION

We now have a name for our outreach effort previously referred to as "Birthday Boxes" and it is *Destination: Celebration*. We are asking for donations of toys for boys and girls as well as party supplies ranging from banners and plates to balloons and cake mixes.

We will use some of the same contacts at Inskip Elementary that we do at Thanksgiving and Christmas to identify families that may need this unique ministry. Keep this in mind when shopping if you see good deals. Thanks to Shari Rose for spearheading this effort.

RUMMAGE SALE

We have scheduled our Rummage Sale for May 25-27. Please begin setting items aside for donation. If you bring them to the church, please place them on the stage in the Fellowship Hall.

We intend to make this both a ministry and a fund-raiser. We will be providing vouchers to those in need to use for purchasing items at the sale. We will also need several volunteers to help with set-up and running the sale. Please consider volunteering some of your time.

BOOKWALTER CARES

Bookwalter Cares: Suicide Prevention Awareness Day - April 29, 2023

*Pre-registration on website or paper (we have a printable pdf form on our website)

*9:00 am – 3:00 pm (check-in begins at 8:00 a.m.)

*Light breakfast provided

*Lunch provided

The focus of the day is to:

** Detect warning signs

** Erase the "no one I know would ever do that" idea

** Address the issues of bullying

** Bring awareness to other issues frequently seen as a part of suicides involving teens and young adults

** Show that there is community in the issue of suicide: you are not alone

** Suicide is preventable

** How to get help in and around the Knoxville area.

Our keynote speaker will be Dr. Clark Flatt, Founder and CEO of the Jason Foundation. Community stakeholders will be present with information about resources in and around Knoxville. The day will offer guidance for parents, educators, youth leaders, or anyone who is willing to learn how to access the tools necessary to save lives.

It will take ALL OF US to stand in the gap, be a vital part of the solution. Complacency is not an option, and it is our responsibility to do all that we can to prevent suicides especially involving teens and young adults. No one should ever have to feel alone, no parent should have to search for answers and have nowhere to turn for help. Registration online or mail in form.

In preparation for this we will have a planning session this Thursday March 2 at 6:30 p.m. at the church. We will also offer a Zoom option. If you are interested in assisting with this important event, we encourage you to come Thursday.