



Bookwalter United Methodist Church

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April 1, 2023

Reverend Stephen K. Doyal, Pastor

Bailey Hueser, Choir Director
Todd Spangler, Pianist

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

A few weeks ago, Becky and I made a whirlwind trip to Charlotte to witness our daughter Stephanie receive her master's degree from Capella University. Graduation ceremonies are not my favorite activity. They tend to be droll, stuffy, boring and entirely too long. They tend to discourage crowd response or enthusiasm. This is not unlike how some churches can be.

However, this one was dare I say... fun. The excitement for all these graduates was palpable. Capella is an accredited online university geared toward folks who are coming to their education as a second opportunity. The students are mostly already in the workforce and doing their studies on top of their regular jobs. The average age of their enrollment is 40 years old.

Unlike some graduations, these people and their families really wanted to be there. Some of the graduates literally danced across the stage to receive their degrees. The crowd eagerly applauded everyone along with their families who could be heard cheering above them all. In a "Weep with those who weep" moment, one young man received his mother's degree for her posthumously.

I found myself wishing our worship could be as joyful and exciting and moving. We need to remember just how good the Good News is. When we gather on any Sunday (and especially Easter Sunday) it is a CELEBRATION! I do not expect you to dance in worship (although I would welcome it) but we should come with a greater expectation of joyfulness. **Steve**

PALM SUNDAY

The choir will be performing the mini-musical “He Lives” during our regular 11 a.m. worship this Sunday, April 2. Spread the word and bring a friend.

YOUTH NEWS

The youth will be having a fund-raising Bake Sale after worship this Sunday. Please bring your sweet tooth and your wallet or purse.

EASTER

Sunday, April 9th is Easter and we will have a Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m. We will gather in the cemetery side parking lot.

Of course, we will also have our regular 11 a.m. service in the sanctuary.

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

The Church Council along with the Trustees and Finance committee made the decision to donate our van to another church. We have hardly used it for years, and it no longer seems worth the maintenance and insurance cost. Magnolia Avenue UMC has a children’s outreach program that is very excited to receive this resource.



Also, thanks to some on-the-spot donations, we have been able to purchase some upgraded sound equipment that was much needed.

We also want to remind everyone to consider making an additional offering specifically for mowing since we no longer have this as a budget item. Thank you!

BOOKWALTER CARES

Please register to attend or let Pat Newman know you would like to volunteer to help with this Suicide Prevention Awareness Day on April 29, 2023. There is a registration form on the church website under “Events.” The program will run from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Check-in begins at 8:00 am) with a light breakfast and lunch provided.

We are glad to have been featured in the Holston Conference newsletter The Call as well as the national UMNews. Please do all you can to further spread the word and help this be a well-attended event.

The focuses of the day are detecting warning signs, addressing issues of bullying, debunking certain myths and bringing awareness to many issues involved with this subject. We also want to let people know there is a community of support and how to get help around the Knoxville area.

Our keynote speaker will be 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.

Let’s make this an “All Hands On Deck” outreach effort and show that indeed Bookwalter Cares.

RUMMAGE SALE

Our Rummage Sale is set for May 25-27. Please begin setting items aside for donation. If you bring them to the church, we need to change where to take them until after the “Bookwalter Cares” program. The old Junior High Youth room upstairs is where we will store things until then.

We intend to make this both a ministry and a fundraiser. We will be providing vouchers to those in need to use for purchasing items at the sale.

COFFEE HOUSE CHURCH

Sunday, April 30 is a Fifth Sunday so we will have worship in the fellowship hall. Guest Speaker to be determined.

HANDS-ON MISSION

The Conference Mission initiative for the TN Valley District this year is once again Food Buckets for Zimbabwe. Groups and individuals are encouraged to put these together by Sunday, May 28. The shipping cost is \$5 per bucket, but make those donations to Bookwalter as we will cut one check for all the buckets. The 5-gallon buckets need to be new and have a lid.

Here are the items asked for this year:

One bag of sugar (4-5 lbs.)

One bag of self-rising flour (4-5 lbs.)

One bag of rice (2 lbs.)

One bag of dried beans (2 lbs.)

One powdered milk (56 ounces or less) This can be in packets taken out of a box, but still not to exceed the 56 ounces total.

One bottle of cooking oil (48 ounces or less)

One 20 count box of tea (Green or Orange... NOT Black)

Two pounds of canned meat. This can be tuna, ham, Spam, chicken or any meat that does not require refrigeration.