



# Bookwalter United Methodist Church

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July 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

I was very disappointed when it seemed we would not be hosting Camp in the Community this summer. This has been such a great outreach and ministry to the Inskip community, it would be sorely missed.

There's a song "God will make a way, when there seems to be no way." This was at work when I was contacted by the director of CITC informing me that there was an unexpected opening July 10-14 if we were interested.

Complicating matters was the fact all the scholarship money had already been designated and we would have to come up with nearly \$2,500 to make this happen. We stepped out in faith and said yes and then raised a huge chunk of that with our rummage sale.

We still need junior counselors and other volunteers. Contact Ms. Edie or Ms. Alicia if willing. Please pray for everyone as we hope to have the best camp yet!

**Steve**

## YOUTH NEWS

We were able to send 8 youth to Senior High Assembly at Emory and Henry College this past week. Thank you once again for everyone who supported this effort through monetary gifts and prayers. By all accounts, it has been a meaningful week for all of them.



*Our youth and their fearless leader*

## **ASIST TRAINING**

As a follow up opportunity to our Suicide Event held in May, Scott Payne is inviting us to an ASIST training he is facilitating at LMU's Knoxville Campus on Cedar Bluff next Thursday and Friday July 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>. We will be joined by counseling students and a few professors.

ASIST is a 2-day training program meeting from 9:00 am -5:00 pm on Thursday and Friday. The focus of the training is learning the PAL suicide intervention model while considering how our beliefs and attitudes can affect an intervention with someone experiencing a suicide crisis. If interested, please tell Rev. Doyal by Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>.

## **PACK-A-BACKPACK**

We are collecting glue sticks and red ink pens this year. Monetary donations are also welcome.

## **STEWARDSHIP**

The following is highlights from the presentation Sunday by Church Council Chairperson, Mary Mahoney.

I would like to take time today to do a couple of things. One I want to praise you and thank you and I want to make a request of the congregation. On praising - you are an amazing congregation. For us to be the size we are it is just wonderful how we are able to support the various things we have done.

Some examples are: we were able to fill 11 food buckets to be sent to Zimbabwe. By youth fundraisers and donations made by members we collected the \$2100 needed to send seven youth to Senior High Assembly. Then we heard another youth wanted to attend and an additional \$300 donation made that possible. Hopefully this will be a life-changing experience for them.

You have supported ideas to enable us to start Destination Celebration that will be used to provide birthday supplies for children at Inskip Elementary school. You brought in teddy bears to be given to Susannah's House. It was amazing to see all the bears on the altar. Individuals helped fund the new monitors and microphones to improve our sound and livestreaming to those who watch from home.

Thank you to all of those who did such hard work collecting, pricing, and staffing the rummage sale. It made close to \$2000 which will go towards supporting Camp in the Community.

So bottom line you are a very amazing congregation that answers the call and for that I praise you. Thank you for being there and for doing these things and enabling us to support all these initiatives.

Now I have a request for you, and I am speaking on behalf of the Church Council and for Charles Gault representing the Finance committee. Many times you may not realize what it costs to run a church. We come in here, we sit, we listen to wonderful music, to great sermons, the lights are on. This time of year, the air conditioning is running and we are comfortable. We enjoy our time together and we really don't think about behind the scenes what it takes for all of that to be possible. We may not think about the salaries that we pay our staff and wish that we could give them more, but we must watch our money. You may take for granted the air conditioning in the summer, the heat in the winter. You may not realize it but on average our utility bill each month is over \$1000 depending on the time of year it can be upwards of \$1500-\$1800 a month.

Insurance coverage for the church is over \$2000 every 3 months. There are expenses to print bulletins, postage, office and kitchen supplies. Mowing every two weeks is \$400 each time. Things we may never think of but must be paid for to keep our church doors open.

At one time we opened an investment account when we had some extra money. Recently we had to take money out of the account to meet our expenses. There is not that much in the account, and we cannot continue to dip into it.

I know many in the congregation are on a fixed budget, but I ask you to see if you can increase your giving. Every little bit helps and goes to keeping Bookwalter UMC doors open and welcoming to all. If you have an amount automatically given each month and want to increase, just contact me and I can make that adjustment. I hope you will think and pray on my request. Thank you.