



Bookwalter United Methodist Church

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March 2025

Bailey Hueser, Choir Director
Todd Spangler, Pianist

Reverend Stephen K. Doyal, Pastor
Betsy Payne, Secretary

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

We held our third annual Brainstorming session last Saturday and I want to share the results. We started by reviewing previous ideas and our follow-up.

Last year, we set a goal of having more congregational collections. Since then, we have gathered goodies for Wesley Foundation UT students during finals, school supplies for Pack-A-Backpack, Thanksgiving food items and the current collection of children's books for Friends of Literacy and tissues for Inskip Elementary.

The Birthday Boxes idea has just never taken hold with the Inskip Elementary community. We decided to donate the leftover toys to Mission of Hope in West Knoxville.

We talked before about putting together First Responder Baskets for our local Fire Station. Mary Mahoney is going to contact them about what needs they may have.

We had previously explored hosting groups such as AA or NA, but it did not work out. However, Scott Payne is leading a growing group for survivors of suicide. Betsy Payne is in the early planning stages of organizing a support group for people with Bi-Polar/ADHD.

We also revisited the idea of starting a community garden. We plan to use the previously built raised beds and focus on just a few specific crops such as tomatoes and peppers. We hope to involve our neighbors around the cemetery circle.

There was some discussion about promoting our church as a wedding venue as a means of both raising funds and creating community awareness. We are in the process of updating and revising our wedding policy to this end.

We are also going to explore the possibility of building a columbarium which is a structure that houses urns containing cremated remains. This would be another means of income as well as a community connection.

Since we are well into the digital age, we discussed ways to increase our online presence through our web page and social media. (*Look out Tik Tok!*)

A women's retreat is being planned for the Fall and we also hope to have another Soccer Camp as well.

Steve

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

We will have a Church Council meeting on Monday evening March 24 at 7:00 PM in the Chapel Classroom. We will also have an online option.

ASH WEDNESDAY / LENT

We will have a brief **Imposition of Ashes** service on Wednesday, March 5th at 6:30 PM before the regular midweek activities of Youth and Bible study.

We are going to do something different on Wednesdays during Lent. Starting on the evening of March 12, we will offer a church-wide viewing of the Jesus based series **The Chosen**. We will start at 6:30 and plan to go a little longer than usual to allow for discussion and questions. The goal will be to finish by 7:45 each week. The youth will join the adult study and this will be **in-person only**. No Zoom.

The Chosen is the first multi-season series about the life and ministry of Jesus of Nazareth. It is an engaging imagining of the events surrounding the familiar Bible stories we know.

CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY

Another product of our Brainstorming planning is that we will have another Church Cleanup Day on Saturday, March 22 at 10:00 AM. Weather permitting, we will work both inside and out to prepare the building and grounds for Easter guests.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Our time of Lenten sacrifice and penance kicks off the first Sunday of Lent, March 9th as we "Spring Forward" for the beginning of Daylight Saving Time.

SHARI ROSE MEMORIAL

We will have a service in memory of church member Shari Rose on Saturday, March 8th at 2:00 PM in the Bookwalter sanctuary.

COFFEE HOUSE CHURCH AND BREAKFAST

Our next Coffee House Church will be held on Sunday, March 30 in our Fellowship Hall.

Another idea from our Brainstorming session is to have a church-wide breakfast at 10:00 AM this day in lieu of Sunday school. Everyone is invited to enjoy a variety of breakfast casseroles as well as other items such as fruit and muffins.

Then at 11: AM, we will welcome guest speaker Megan Lappas. She is an advocate for unhoused people and has written a children's book based on some of her experiences.

Here is the bio linked with her book:

I've worked with people experiencing homelessness in Knoxville, TN for twenty years and in several different roles. I assisted people on the streets into housing, was a case manager at a permanent supportive housing complex for the chronically homeless, and did street outreach with our most vulnerable who sleep outside. I have learned what works. In order for our neighbors on the streets to heal, they must have a home, safety, privacy, people around them who care, things to do, and to be noticed as an individual.

The transformations I have witnessed throughout my career have been amazing, heartwarming, and inspire me to never give up hope.

