



A Message From Tim

The Church Needs You

With months of shutdowns and quarantines, the church has been affected along with all other organizations and households. The staff and ministry team of the church has tried to provide worship, devotionals, news, and pastoral care outreach the best we know how during an unprecedented response to the pandemic. However, I know that many persons may still feel separated from the church.

We are working now to close the gaps of separation that may still exist. The children and youth ministries are finding adaptive ways of meeting and outreach that are unique and seek to provide connection with our younger persons.

We continue to upgrade the quality of our streaming worship presentations. We are working towards providing daily messages from the church by offering devotions, happenings, and encouragements. This will be occurring soon. We also will have weekly podcasts on "God and the Pandemic: Finding Rest in God's Word, in the month of August.

Our Youth and Music ministries are combining efforts to sponsor a hymn gathering for everyone at McVay Gardens on Wednesday the 19th at 6:30 p.m.

Confirmation will be held August 23 at 7:00 p.m. at the McVay Gardens for those who have completed the class but were delayed in being confirmed in the spring as was originally scheduled.

The staff is discussing ways of coming back for children, youth and adult Sunday Schools, understanding the difficulties given the restraints of CDC and County regulations and guidelines.

Worship is occurring on Sundays, safely, securely, and in the sanctuary. We invite you to come back as you are able. Families have already begun to visit, and the regulations that we observe have not proven to be problematic. Of course, streaming the services will continue, but please know that we are providing a setting that is as safe as can be expected. On-site Sunday School meeting is more problematic because of six-foot requirements, but we are working on ways of providing solutions to bring classes back together as soon as possible. In the meantime, classes are meeting by computer and even outdoors as they seek to safely meet.

We do not know what the proclamation of the gospel will require of us as the pandemic continues in the weeks or even months to come, but we will do all we can to move forward with our commission from Christ, while being responsive to the safety needs of everyone.

Most importantly, the church NEEDS YOU. Though things are changing and uncertain, nonetheless, the church continues in ministry. The church needs your financial support, prayers, and your presence when possible. Thank you all for the support you can give, and may we all remember to praise God in the midst of this time of struggle.

We will come through this time, and as we are faithful, we will be stronger than ever before. Remember, "The LORD is my light and my salvation-- whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life-- of whom shall I be afraid?" Psalm 27:1



Fall Bible Study Classes Starting Soon!

The Adult Education Ministry is excited to announce our Fall course line-up! Below you will find a list of classes starting soon. We are proud to announce that we have **three** Women’s Bible Studies. A complete list of all fall classes, descriptions, cost, and how to register is available online at germantownumc.org and in our Adult Studies brochure available at the Welcome Center kiosks.

- **Better – A Study of Hebrews**

Wednesdays, August 26 – November 4, 9:45 – 11:45 a.m.

Facilitator: Chesley Porteous

In this verse-by-verse DVD study, author Jen Wilkin explores how Jesus is the fulfillment of every promise.

- **A Few Women of Faith**

Tuesdays, (September 15—November 3), 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. OR

Wednesdays, (September 16—November 4), 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Brad Gabriel

We will explore the lives of ten women from ancient Israel; their struggles, their choices, and their relationship with God.

- **Learning to Walk in the Dark**

Thursdays, September 10 – October 8, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Erin Beasley

Author Barbara Brown Taylor asks us to put aside our fears and anxieties and explore all that God has to teach us “in the dark.”

- **Getting Your Life Back on Track and Restoring Your Balance**

Thursdays, September 10 – October 22, 6:30–7:30 p.m.

Facilitators: Dinah Allison and Beth Burgess

This Bible study will help you get back on track to a healthier, happier, peace-filled and more balanced lifestyle by focusing on scripture, prayer, food choices and activity.

- **Permission Granted**

Be Who You Were Made to Be and Let Go of the Rest

Mondays, September 14 – November 9, 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

OR

Tuesdays, September 15 – November 10, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Facilitator: Lisa Pierce

This women’s study is about making life simpler by letting go of who you think you’re supposed to be and becoming who you really are.

- **Sermon on the Mount**

A Beginner’s Guide to the Kingdom of Heaven

Tuesdays, September 15 – October 20, 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Facilitators: Mary Groh and Cathy Whitaker

In this DVD study by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine, we will explore the major topics in the most popular sermon ever delivered.



More Fall Bible Study Classes...

- **Matthew: The Kingdom of God is at Hand**

Wednesdays, September 16 – November 4, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

January 6 – February 24, 2021

Facilitator: Rev. Tim Carpenter

The phrase “kingdom of heaven” appears over thirty times in Matthew’s Gospel. It is the heart of Jesus’ preaching and the focus of his public ministry. What is this kingdom? Is it a time, a place, a state of being? What is its scope and significance? Why did Jesus say the kingdom of God is at hand? Join Rev. Tim Carpenter for this 16-week study based on the Gospel of Matthew.

- **Get Out of Your Head**

Stopping the Spiral of Toxic Thoughts

Wednesdays, September 16 – October 21, 6:00 – 7:15 p.m.

Facilitator: Kristin Miller

Author Jennie Allen challenges women in this DVD study of Paul’s Letter to the Philippians, to exercise their God-given power to shift negative thinking patterns and take back control of their thoughts and emotions.

Older Adults Luci Cromer—luci2@comcast.net—901-755-0803

Older Adult Programming Update!

Many changes have had to be made to programming at the church, and older adult activities are no exception. The Brown Bag Lunch will resume in September 2021—one year from now.

XYZ events are postponed until a COVID-19 vaccine is available. At present, it is too risky to transport people in church or personal vehicles or take a large number of people to an evening event or a daytime attraction. Should a vaccine become widely available, we will plan events on a month-to-month basis and keep you informed via the Tidings and the Ministry News & Events.

The Older Adult Council and the XYZ Board will start planning for the 2021–2022 program year in January, and program brochures will be mailed next summer. In the meantime, committee members are helping Pat Smith reach out to our older church members who are ill or who want to stay in touch with the church.

We have an AARP driving class scheduled in March, 2021, if AARP will allow its classes to be taught to groups. Watch for more information about this class in the January *Tidings*.

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to contact Luci Cromer at 901.755.0803. In the meantime, please know we are thinking about you and hoping that you take care and stay safe.

Our events are open to all adults age 55 and older, singles and couples, regardless of church membership. Mark your calendar and make your reservations for these events today!



Update on Church Cooperation *Rev. Tim Carpenter, Senior Pastor*

Several weeks ago, I promised that I would reach out to other churches to pursue continued conversations on racial reconciliation and finding unity in Christ. A meeting was held last month in which a statement was drawn up between our neighboring churches which have met and worshipped together. The statement is on behalf of the several churches, has been agreed to by our Church Council, and represents a scriptural and faithful approach that defines what the churches have already been about as unified churches in Germantown.

“We stand together.

We, the ministers of New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church,
St. George’s Episcopal Church, Kingsway Christian Church,
Germantown Presbyterian Church, and Germantown United Methodist Church,
serve churches who have been neighbors and partners
in Christ’s service for many decades:

We represent a people diverse in race and creed,
and our churches have intentionally come together
for conversations, worship, and fellowship for the last six years.
Today, in our nation’s time of strife, we continue to stand together.

We stand together as brothers and sisters in Christ:

for treating every person with full human rights, respect,
and dignity of being created in the image of God;
for abolishing any systemic forms of racism;
and for the persons who have been victimized by racism,
acknowledging the pain, grief, and anger that it has caused.

We stand together for the witness of scripture:
to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God, as Micah prophesied;
to seek accord through the bond of peace in one body and one Spirit, as Paul taught;
and to love one another and be known by that love,
as Christ said his followers would do.
We stand together for unity in Christ;
through the building of relationships;
through conversations that seek understanding;
and through intentional efforts of racial reconciliation.

We stand together for all those in civil authority
who would faithfully serve the community in fairness and equity,
and we ask for intentional training, oversight, and transparency of civil authority
to ensure equal protection of all under the law;
We commit ourselves to continue these efforts,
and invite those of like mind and heart to join us,
as we seek the love and welfare of all humanity,
to the glory of God.

On this, we stand together.”

GUMP Weekday Preschool *Sarah Suttons—sutton@germantownumc.org*

Germantown United Methodist Preschool is excited to welcome their friends back to school beginning August 17th. We are especially looking forward to hearing singing, laughter, and learning in the classrooms this year!

This summer we have worked to prepare our classrooms, order supplies, clean and organize, and develop procedures to meet recommended guidelines for returning to school. We have also been conducting school tours and look forward to welcoming new and returning GUMP families. GUMP Administrative Team is working diligently to diminish risk and provide a safe environment for our students and teachers. Our team will maintain the quality of learning and knowledge of child development at the heart of what we do. Procedures will look different, such as coming and going from the building, screening for illness and keeping classes separate as much as possible; however, our goal of building confident learners remains the same.

GUMP provides a preschool experience for children ages 9 months to 5 years including before and after school care beginning at age 2. Families may choose a 2, 3, or 5 day preschool option. If you have any questions or wish to schedule a visit at GUMP, please call the preschool office at 901-753-3109.



Missions Ministry *Bill Whitaker—cabiwhit@earthlink.net*

Thank You from Project Transformation

Thank you Germantown United Methodist Church for investing in children, young adults, and churches this summer through Project Transformation.

This summer was different as a result of the pandemic, but GUMC supported Project Transformation with contributions to the Summer Camp In A Bag Program, by volunteering to distribute the bags and lunches at Centenary UMC, and by participating in the Pen Pal Program.

As a result of your contributions, your involvement, and your prayers, you made the summer a great deal better for the children at Centenary UMC.

THANK YOU GUMC!



Mission Camp Update



Covid has changed how we do mission work this summer. Typically, we would load in a van or two and go to a sleep-away camp where we would work hard and make new friends. This year, we stayed local and only worked outside. We didn't share vans and we didn't spend the night together. But we definitely worked hard and made new friends. It was amazing!

GUMC Youth have partnered with Ms. Mable Wilson. We met her last year at SOS when we helped replace the roof on her home. She had a house fire about a year prior to that, and she was (at the time) living down the street with family. Ms. Mable inspired us all by the ministry she leads in her community of Binghampton. For over 15 years, Ms. Mable has been feeding the homeless in her neighborhood at least one dinner a week. She also invites them to share in "home worship" with her and her small church, but that is not a requirement for the meal. She serves her neighbors selflessly, feeding up to 45 people each week. She also allows people to wash and dry their clothes in her home, and sometimes even houses them temporarily. After a full career as a telephone operator, she devotes her years of retirement to helping others. She is an inspiration.

As we left SOS, we knew we needed to continue getting to know Ms. Mable and the ministry she leads. She does incredible things in her community, and many would be lost without her assistance. Working with a grant from the endowment committee, we were able to get her home rewired after the fire. Groups of students went to her home last winter to help her re-settle when it was safe for her to move back in. This summer, we were able to scrape and paint the exterior of her home (finally erasing all traces of the fire), rebuild a brick rail on her porch, repair a hole in the side of her house, and plant a welcoming flower garden by her porch. We enjoyed hearing her story and getting to know members of her family. We learned a lot about the community of Binghampton and those who live there.

On Thursday of Mission Camp 901 week, we served at the Midsouth Food Bank Distribution in Cordova. It was 106 degrees on the thermometer and even hotter on the parking lot surface. While others left with a week's worth of food, we left sweaty and with full hearts.

The purpose of Mission Camp 901 is to expose students to varieties of missional work available to them, hoping students will find a "flavor" that is most appealing to them. This year, we had to tweak our program to be able to maintain social distancing and to stay outside. Even though it was different than years past, it was still a great week full of hard work and lots of laughs. We are looking forward to more ways to engage in Binghampton as well as ways to support Ms. Mable and the remarkable ministry she leads there. We are also continuing to gather and work for the Midsouth Food Bank on Thursdays as long as the program runs and students are out of school. We are always thankful for opportunities to work hard and love others.



Youth Ministry Continued...

Senior Social Distanced Banquet

GUMC Youth got to have an official send off to our senior class of 2020 at the end of June during our senior social distanced banquet. This year's event looked radically different than years past, but what recent event hasn't? Our entire evening was celebrated outside with only one family sharing a table. We enjoyed some of Memphis's best food from Gus's world-famous fried chicken with all the sides, and ate picnic style under the shade of the Owings Life Enrichment Center's front face. Although it was a bit toasty earlier in the evening, a gentile breeze kept us relatively cool the rest of the night. We presented our seniors with a special bible that they will take with them on their life journeys, gave them an opportunity to share, and enjoyed a slideshow with some of the most tender pictures of them. They departed with a new kind of group picture in the Trinity worship center and like the classes before them left a handprint on the chimney in the Prescott house. Even though we couldn't celebrate with every one of our seniors and their families, for a plethora of reasons, that night did give us a glimpse of hope as to how to gather safely and effectively in the future. Lastly, GUMC was able to award two memorial scholarships to some very deserving seniors. The Trustees after making an impossible choice between all of our outstanding candidates chose to award the Mike Wilson memorial scholarship to Sara Mock and the Jim Roberts memorial scholarship to Emma Pierce. Sara will be attending the University of Tennessee Knoxville in the fall to pursue her degree from their college of nursing. Emma will be studying at the University of Memphis and also hopes to be in the nursing field. Both of them have shown exemplary leadership during their time in the youth program and will stay connected to us for years to come.



GUMC Youth Worship Night

Thursday August 6th 7:00pm:

Join us for a night of worship in the Trinity Center located in McVay Gardens. We will be able to sing safely as long as we are distanced, outside, and also wearing a mask. Our youth worship band will lead us in a few songs and we will have a short message. This will be a great night to see some familiar faces, and have a special send off for our GUMC youth alum heading back to college. You won't want to miss it!

2020 Confirmation Class

August 13; 6:00–8:00 PM: We will have a Confirmation retreat for the 2020 Confirmation class (rising seventh graders who have been participating in our confirmation program) from 6–8 PM in the McVay Gardens. We need all confirmands to be present. There is no cost for this event but please register online. Please bring/wear a mask and bug spray.

August 23; 7:00 PM: Our 2020 Confirmation class has been patient in postponing their confirmation service. We will be recognizing them as they join the church on August 23 at 7:00 PM in the McVay Gardens. Confirmands, their families, and the congregation are invited to join us for this wonderful time of recognition. (Please bring a lawn chair if you are not a confirmand or family member.) There will be a small reception following.



Sunday School Updates:

At this time, we do not have a date for restarting Sunday School for children birth – 5th grades, but we are working on a safe way to gather our children. Please let us know if you are not receiving our children’s ministry emails as this will remain our primary form of communication. Our nursery children are cared for by paid staff on Sunday mornings, however, our Elementary Sunday school is led by volunteers. Now more than ever, we will be dependent upon parent volunteers to teach our children’s Sunday School classes. There may be a need to gather only in small groups, and we will need adults to lead those groups. I know that we all love our adult Sunday school classes, but we ask that parents please spend some time during their children’s preschool/elementary years serving as Sunday School teachers. It is an incredibly rewarding experience.

Please follow us on our Facebook page for daily updates at Germantown United Methodist Children’s Ministry. We miss seeing you in person and hope that you and your families are staying safe and healthy. We would love to see you at worship on Sunday mornings if your family feels comfortable attending. We encourage you to watch the services at home on Sunday mornings if you are not yet ready to return to in-person worship. We will continue to send home Sunday School lessons for birth – 5th grades for you and your children to use. We also will continue to meet on Wednesday nights via zoom for a follow up to Sunday School and bible study. If you or your family has any needs or concerns or have any insights/ ideas about how we can safely resume in-person Sunday school for your kids, please reach out to us at cbeaver@germantownumc.org or (901) 337-7246 (Callie’s Cell phone).

Volunteer Opportunities:

We are searching for adults who feel led to mentor our kids, particularly on Sunday mornings. In our program, we request a year of mentoring (teaching Sunday School). While this may seem like a long commitment, it is integral to our belief that the best teaching comes from relationships. We need at least 12 regular Sunday School mentors/ teachers, as well as several substitute teachers. If you do not feel as if you could serve for an entire school year, it would be acceptable to pair with another family or other families and divide that time. We will not be able to offer Sunday School without volunteer teachers for our Kindergarten through 5th graders.

We are also looking for adults who would like to serve as leaders for our Wednesday nights with Kids when we are able to resume. If you would like more information or are interested in volunteering for our ministry, please contact Callie Beaver.

Promotion Time:

All children and youth will promote to the next grade level when we can gather again for Sunday School. Children entering kindergarten will begin meeting in the Huddle/Children’s Wing on Sunday mornings. The rising sixth graders will move to the Trek/Confirmation class with Mrs. Lisa. Other students will remain in their current area but move to the next grade level. Please be sure to fill out a new registration form for the 2020–2021 school year. There will be registration forms available at the desk of the Hamilton Nursery and outside of the Huddle (Room 240) when we gather again.

Third Grade Bibles:

Our Third Graders will be presented with bibles during worship in October. If you have a third grader, please contact Callie Beaver to provide information for your child’s bible to be imprinted. We also hope to have a Third Grade Bible Retreat in October.




Family VBS:

Over 40 kids and their parents gathered together for our first ever Family VBS on July 13–15. Each evening of our Rocky Railway VBS was filled with music, bible stories, imagination station science gizmos, and Kid Vid Cinema fun. Families spread out over on the lawn at McVay Gardens and enjoyed learning together that Jesus’ power helps us through life’s ups and downs. After so much time apart, it was really wonderful to be together again. We even enjoyed Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream one night (thank you Marc and Robin Tate!). Additionally, many families participated in At Home VBS. They came by church to pick up their VBS bags filled with the music CDs and science gizmos, and the parents led their kids through the experience of VBS. The Children’s Ministry staff prepared videos for Days 1–5 of VBS for at home use, and the videos are posted on our church’s Youtube page and Children’s Ministry Facebook page if you would like to check them out. If you still want to do VBS At Home, we still have some supplies. Please contact Callie Beaver to arrange a time for you to pick up your bag!



Elder Care Ministry *Pat Smith—psmith@germantownumc.org*

Older Adult Recognition Sunday



The Older Adult Recognition Sunday was scheduled for Sunday, August 30, 2020. However, the ongoing health issues related to the Coronavirus make the celebration of this event difficult at this time. In the interest of keeping all church members safe, the Older Adult Recognition Sunday will be rescheduled in 2021, when health mandates and protocols allow us to gather again. Please stay safe and healthy until we can meet again.

GUMC Tech Class for Older Adults

Wednesday, September 2, 2020 1–3 p.m.

GUMC Youth will be hosting an introductory tech help class to assist members with navigating the church website, Facebook, and YouTube. We will focus on using these three methods to keep in touch with what the congregation is doing, and to ensure everyone can worship with us online on Sundays. This inaugural class will take place in the Owings Life Enrichment Center gym and will have limited space so each attendee can have an entire table to themselves. Masks will be required for the entirety of this class, and we will require registration (or reservation) in advance. A laptop computer or Tablet device will be necessary to follow along with instruction. We hope this will be the first of many classes targeted to sharing Germantown United Methodist Church’s online presence with those who would otherwise miss out on this avenue of news and instruction. For questions regarding this first class please contact Brian Richards : Brichards@germantownumc.org or Lisa Pierce Lpierce@germantownumc.org If you need assistance registering for this event please contact Pat Smith : psmith@germantownumc.org



Ready, Sweat, Go!
OLEC/GUMC Virtual 5k
SocializationIsNotCancelled

You are invited to participate in a 3.1 mile virtual journey (5K distance) either outdoors or in the comfort of your own Home. You will have the entire week starting on Monday, September 21 – Saturday, September 26 to complete our first READY, SWEAT, GO VIRTUAL 5k.

Running/Walking/Biking/Baby Jogger/Swimming/Rowing/Tread milling/Stationary Bike/ or Elliptical machine, in order to complete the Ready Sweat Go Virtual 5K. This is a FREE fun Event to keep you engaged with GUMC and the OLEC.

The only stipulation is to Share your Virtual race experience with us!

Lots of Sweaty Pictures upon Completion! We will put them up on our Celebration Board!

Facebook –Owings Life Enrichment Center

Instagram is @Olec2323

#GUMCSocializationIsNOTCancelled

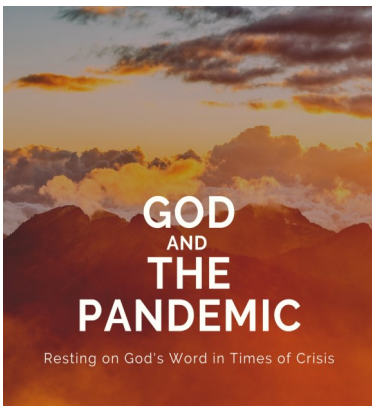
Please let us know if you are participating by email at joros@germantownumc.org or call us at 753–3100. Encourage your family, friends, Sunday school classes, GUMC employees, GUMP teachers, Bible Study groups, OLEC Classmates, and more! A little healthy competition never hurts! Stay safe and Healthy!

Golf Fitness Specialist

Judy Oros is in full swing to help you maintain proper conditioning, improve your flexibility, strength, and power for a better round of golf! 30 minutes, outdoors and distanced Message Judy at joros@germantownumc.org for your private appt.



Weekly Devotional Series *Rev. Dr. Erin Beasley—ebeasley@germantownumc.org*



God and the Pandemic weekly devotional series begins August 3rd on the church podcast. You can download *The Buzz at Germantown* on your platform of choice (Apple, Spotify, Stitcher, TuneIn) or visit the church website.

Our music ministry is fortunate to have skilled and experienced staff and volunteer leaders in every facet of the ministry. I'm grateful for the wisdom and experience each offers as we negotiate music ministry this summer.

Over the course of my career I have used the summer to restore and renew, but also to plan ahead by combing through the music library and much of the new music published each year. Summer is a time to dream and vision for the future. At least every summer before 2020. COVID-19 has put a kink in the time-honored flow of the seasons and music ministry has certainly felt the interruption. We continue to provide music for each and every Sunday, but under new and challenging conditions.

Recently children's music ministry volunteers met with music staff and Children's Ministry Director, Callie Beaver, to discuss the future of our children and youth musicians. How can we gather and sing under our current conditions? This was the main point of discussion. The answer is that right now we don't feel we can. Unmasked singing in close proximity to one another is a high-risk activity. Studies are showing that a distance between singers of 12 feet would be considered safe. There are also factors of room ventilation and filter quality. With these and other conditions in mind we felt it wise to wait a little longer before scheduling children's music activities. We will re-evaluate, along with church administration, a few weeks after schools are open and operating. We hope this will give us real time information of how the virus is reacting to the close proximity in a school environment. Of course, we will follow guidelines set forth by the church, for now that includes singing ensembles not meeting as they used to. Ringing ensembles may engage in activity this fall as we can space ourselves properly and do so while masked. New one-time events are being discussed and will be scheduled as conditions allow. I request your prayers and words of encouragement as we negotiate and plan for the unknown.

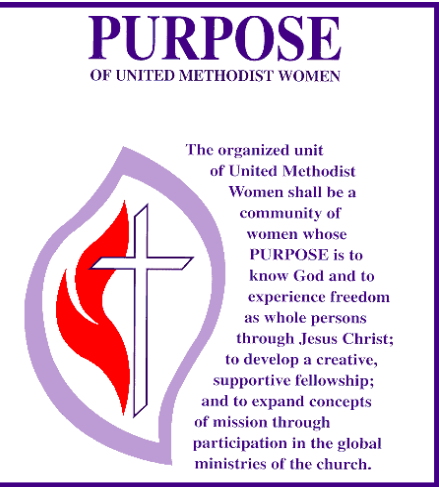
Hymns in the Gardens

August 19; 6:30 p.m.

Singing hymns is a part of our DNA as Christians! While we cannot safely sing in worship at this time, we would love to have you join us for some singing in the McVay Gardens. The youth will set up the gardens for safe social distancing including hymnals and ice water. Bring a lawn chair if you have one (but there will be some available if you do not own one) and join us at 6:30 PM. Hymns will be led by our music team.

United Methodist Women *Chesley Porteous—chesleyporteous@gmail.com*

Germantown United Methodist Women Update



Germantown United Methodist Women (GUMW) is sad to announce that all events through October have been cancelled in the interest of everyone's health and safety. This includes GUMW's Fall Children's Consignment Sale, Meet and Greet, September luncheon, and Cinnamon Roll Bake.

Although we are canceling our September Blessing of the Babies luncheon, we still want to bless those babies! If you have a child, grandchild, or great-grandchild born since September 2019, please send the baby's name, photo, birth date, parents, and grandparents to our Membership, Nurture and Outreach Chair Yolanda Toney at yvctoney@gmail.com.

During these unprecedented times, we are doing our best to be faithful while also being responsible. We look forward to the day when we can gather again and support our missions. Stay safe, stay connected, and keep finding ways to bless others! Although we are unable to meet in person and hold our fundraisers, we are still "Blessed to Be a Blessing."

Germantown United Methodist Church
2331 South Germantown Road
Germantown, TN 38138
www.germantownumc.org
901-754-7216

Editor's Note: **The deadline for submitting articles for Tidings is the 10th of the month prior.** Submissions received after this deadline are not guaranteed to run.



Germantown
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Going Forward

“Following Our Mission”
A Worship Series
August 10-September 6