

February 2020

Germantown United Methodist Church

A Message from Tim



2020 VISION Update

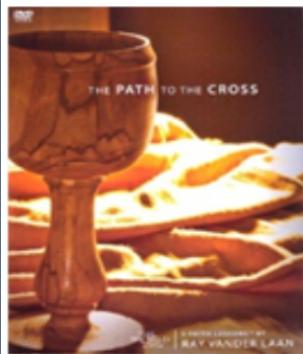
Our 2020 Visioning Task Force is now in place, the Church Board having approved the members and affirmed their work at the January 27th meeting. The first meeting of the Task Force with Mike Bonem will be Thursday, February 6, from 5:30–8:30 p.m. The goal is for a Vision Report to be generated to the Church Board in late Summer.

The members of the Task Force are (in alphabetical order):

Jim Allison, Gretchen Blair, Karen Edwards, Amanda Horrell, Jay McKinney, Emily Moore, Anna Nicol, Daniel Oppenheim, Beverly Rhoads, John Sullivan, Marc Tate, Al Walton, Peggy Warner, Debbie Wiles. In addition, Rev. Erin Beasley and I will serve.

Much thought and effort were placed in selecting a talented, committed, diverse, and representative membership on the task force. Please keep the important work of 2020 Vision in your prayers.

Coming in March



The Path to the Cross

DVD Study w/ Ray Vander Laan

Facilitated by Rev. Tim Carpenter

5 Week Study in Lent: Wednesdays, March 5 - April 1

6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

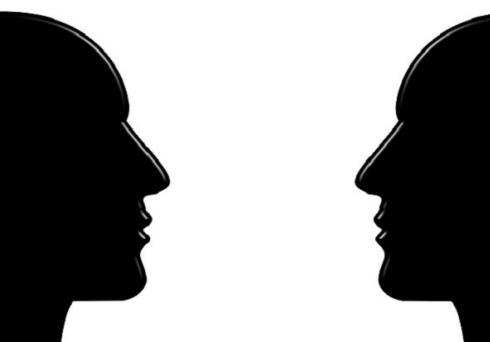
Filmed on location in Israel at Qumran, Machaerus, Ein Gedi, Jerusalem, and Gethsemane. In this study, discover how passionate faith prepared the way for Jesus and his ultimate act of obedience on the cross. Then, be challenged in your life to live as they did by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Ray Vander Laan's teaching ministry focuses on understanding the Bible in its historical and cultural context, and then linking that information to find application to our lives.



Stewards of Relations Rev. Dr. Brad Gabriel—bgabriel@germantownumc.org- 901-754-7216

Stewardship is about more than money. We are invited to be good stewards of everything in our sphere. That means we have the role of being stewards of our bodies: our diet, sleep time, exercise routines, what we watch and read and more. We are to be stewards of our environment: not littering, recycle, reuse, reduce. Stewards of our spiritual lives: time in prayer, regular worship attendance, listening more than talking, reading the Bible and other uplifting materials.



A recent article from Canadian author Carey Nieuwhof gives three steps to help us be good stewards of our relationships.

1. Let face-to-face conversations be our normal way of communicating. Yes, text, email, and other impersonal means of communicating are easy. Nothing beats the value of face time. Face time, personal, eye to eye communication allows us to read non-verbal cues, understand what really matters, and show that we value the other person.

2. Never try to handle conflict or disagreement by electronic communications. Hidden behind a keyboard one may emotionally detach from the issue and deal with the conflict as though it is a business transaction (I give this, and you give that) that reduces the humanity of the other person. Additionally, written words can never fully convey nuance or shades of meaning.

3. Choose trust as your default setting. Everywhere around us, cynicism, suspicion, and mistrust seem to be actively promoted as the only smart way to live. Reject that negative setting. Until and unless the other person violates your trust, choose to trust. When we go into a situation not trusting the other person (without prior experience of their trustworthiness or lack thereof) we set the stage for conflict and barriers to greater communication gaps in the future.

I hope that these steps prove useful for you in 2020.

Adult Education Mary Groh—mgroh@germantownumc.org—901-754-7216



Faith Seeking Understanding

What Is Christian Worship and Why Do Christians Worship as We Do?

Thursday, March 5, 6:30–8:00 p.m. in the Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall

Presented by GUMC's Christian Education Committee

GUMC has a long history of inviting scholars and noted theologians to speak and lead discussion on various discussions on various topics in their expertise with our congregation. In 2016, we formally titled this series, "Faith Seeking Understanding", and have had excellent participation by our church members.

This Spring our guest scholar is Dr. Michael K. Turner, Associate Professor at Memphis Theological Seminary. He will discuss Worship in the Wesleyan Spirit with special attention paid to early Methodist worship's roots in 18th century Anglicanism, the impact that Methodism's expansion in America had on its worship practices, and the Wesleyan understanding of worship as a lifelong journey and not simply public acts. Michael K. Turner is the Hamilton and Varnell Chair in Wesleyan Studies, the Associate Professor of the History of Christianity, and the Director of the Methodist House of Studies at Memphis Theological Seminary.

There is no charge for this event, but we are asking for you to register so we know how many to expect. Free childcare is available by reservation.

Please mark your calendars now for this special evening of learning and fellowship. For more information about the March 5th evening, please contact Mary Groh at 754-5093 or mgroh@germantownumc.org.

Future topics in this series include:

- **Symbols of Worship** – Wednesday evening, August 26 when we will learn and discuss "Symbols of Christian Worship" (candles, cross, paraments, colors, banners, etc.). Interesting for the entire family!
- **Biblical and Historical Roots of Baptism** – January 13, 2021
- **Biblical and Historical Roots of Communion** – March 2021
- **Why and What We Sing – the Evolution of Church Music** – August 2021

Adult Education Continued...

Adult Lenten Studies!

Lent is the season of the church calendar that comes before Easter and, like Advent, is a season of preparation. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday (February 26 this year) and ends just before Easter Sunday. Historically, the church has recognized Lent as a time to bring people closer to God. This year, we are offering four Lenten studies. Please pick up an Adult Study Brochure at one of our kiosks for a complete description of our studies or go to the church website. Free childcare is available by reservation.



6 Ways We Encounter God

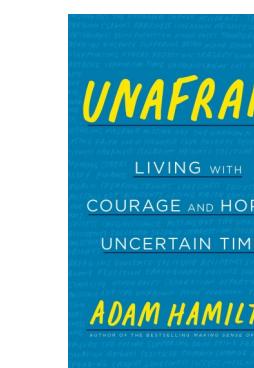
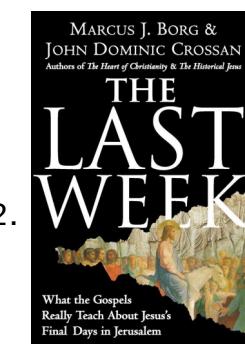
Tuesdays, February 4 – March 24, 6:30–8:00 p.m.
Facilitated by Terry Aust / terry.aust@yahoo.com

This DVD study by Tom Berlin will take a close look at six characteristics of God and the corresponding characteristics we should develop in response. Cost: \$10.

The Last Week: What the Gospels Teach About Jesus's Final Days

Tuesdays, February 11 – March 31, 9:30–11:00 a.m.
Facilitated by Mary Groh / mgroh@germantownumc.org

We will explore the gospels' day-by-day account of Jesus' final week of life. Cost: \$12.



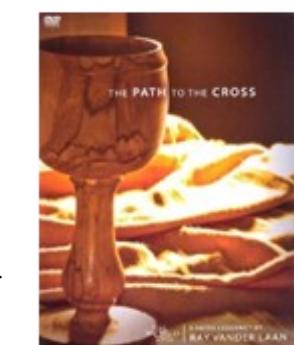
Unafraid: Living with Courage and Hope in Uncertain Times

Tuesdays, March 3 – 31, 6:30–7:30 p.m.
Facilitated by Rev. Erin Beasley

For anyone struggling with fear, worry, or anxiety, this study by Adam Hamilton will offer an informed and inspiring message full of practical solutions. Cost: \$18.

The Path to the Cross

Wednesdays, March 5– April 1, 6:00–7:00 p.m.
Facilitated by Rev. Tim Carpenter



Filmed on location in Israel at Qumran, Machaerus, Ein Gedi, Jerusalem, and Gethsemane. In this study, discover how passionate faith prepared the way for Jesus and his ultimate act of obedience on the cross. Then, be challenged in your life to live as they did by every word that comes from the mouth of God. No cost.

Adult Education Continued...



The Women's Retreat:

Our Story of a Weekend Filled with Fellowship

On January 24–25, the women of GUMC congregated at St. Columba Conference Center for a weekend filled with fellowship and fun. Our speaker, long time GUMC member, Barbara Schanson delivered powerful insights into several women in the Bible; including Rebecca, Hannah, Mary (Mother of Jesus) and Mary of Bethany. We carefully studied each woman's story and extracted key lessons: Rebecca, we found that she was imperfect but God still used her. Hannah showed grace and dignity in the face of adversity and she teaches us to appreciate the here and now instead of focusing on the future. Mary, Mother of Jesus, was challenged with the task of carrying God's child and later on carried out Jesus's ministry after his death. Mary of Bethany showed us risky love in anointing Jesus with nard. Barbara outlined that each woman portrayed courage and how their determination helped make them closer to God. She implored us to look at our own experiences and find instances where we displayed courage in our own lives. We quickly learned from talking to other women in the group that we all had our own history with God and how we could improve by following in the footsteps of the biblical women.

Barbara also urged each of us to remember that we are enough. God made us in his image and we should never tear ourselves down. "I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your words are wonderful; I know that well." Psalm 139 became our beloved creed for the weekend. As we donned our Rosie the Riveter hair ties, we sang and worshipped together as powerful GUMC women. At the end of the retreat, Barbara gave us nard from Jerusalem, so we could anoint each other. She had us anoint someone and say to them "You are enough."

The retreat wasn't just all business, we had "Get Acquainted" activities that helped us to connect with strangers and reconnect with long-time friends. We participated in "Hello Bingo!", "Name That Tune", and "Putting the Pieces Together." These games were designed to have everyone talk and work together towards a goal. As the ladies played these games, they unknowingly got to learn a little something about everyone. There was also free-time available in-between sessions to explore and catch up with friends. After lunch, a group of women went hiking around the lodge in which we were staying in.

If you were unable to attend the retreat this year, we encourage you to join us next year. First-time participant, Tina Gregory said, "This was my first year to attend and I certainly enjoyed all events--the programs, discussions, games, meals and mingling time (even the hair ties) were all great. It was so nice being with old and new friends." This experience helped many women of GUMC bond with strangers and make new friends. One of our songs that we sang is below. It helped us to connect to the lessons and to each other.

Search Me, Oh God Song By Bobby Huguley

Oh Lord, you've made me and you know me well.
You are familiar with my ways.
You hear my words long before they're spoken,
You know my deepest thoughts and dreams all my days.
Search me, O God, and know my heart today,
Try me and know my thoughts I pray.
Hear my confession, purge my transgression,
Restore the joy that comes from following your way.

Move in my life, O Father,
Teach me to do your will.
Lead me to places where you are working,
Use me your purpose to fulfill, help do your will.



Real Women...

Real Struggles...

Real Faith!

Adult Education Continued...

Creative Expressions of God's Presence Series

Welcome a new you in 2020! The Adult Education Committee has 3 classes remaining in the Creative Expressions of God's Presence series. Registration is online at <https://www.germantownumc.org/open-registrations>. Reserve your place now! All classes are on Sunday nights from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall.



Modern Brush Calligraphy led by Rosemary Radford: March 8

Rosemary is the owner of Garden Key Co. producing hand lettered products. Since moving to Middle Tennessee in 2007, Rosemary has collaborated with some of Nashville's finest by offering lettering work and other creative services. She truly believes that the best artistic work comes when the community joins together to create something beautiful. Participants will begin learning the art of hand lettering. All materials will be supplied. The cost is \$30 and is limited to 40. Registration deadline is March 4.

Protestant Prayer Beads led by Glenda Jones: April 19

Glenda is a stained glass and glass bead artist. Each participant will make a set of prayer beads. Each set contains 4 large beads that when spread out form the shape of the cross, "Cruciform Beads", 7 smaller beads called "Week Beads", and one "Invitatory Bead." There are 33 beads to represent the number of years Christ lived on earth. A supply of books with suggested prayers to use with the beads will be available for sale from Cokesbury. The class is limited to 30 and the cost is \$20. Registration deadline is April 14.



United Methodist Men Rev. Jack Henton—jhenton@germantownumc.org

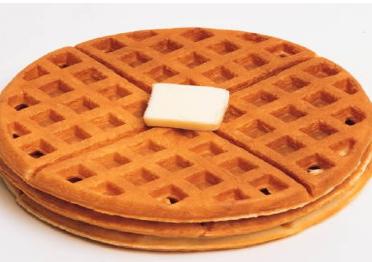
UMM February Brunch

The February UMM Brunch will be February 8 at 9:00 a.m. in the Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall. GUMC choirs members, Larry Groh, Mary Groh, Tiffany Griffin, Peggy Warner and Sherry Thompson will offer their talents. All will be accompanied by GUMC Associate Music Director, Eva McPeters. We will have a delicious meal prepared by our own Chef Mark Schielke and other UMM members. Spouses and significant others will be our special guests. The cost is \$5.00, payable at the door. Reservations will be necessary for everyone by Wednesday, February 5.



The Waffle Shop at Calvary Episcopal Church

The annual Waffle Shop at Calvary Episcopal Church begins on February 27 which means GUMC members will participate by waiting tables to raise funds for missions! You can join our group working along with other area churches and organizations. Perks include seeing old friends, making new ones and enjoying the comradery! Calvary pays each volunteer a stipend which we donate to a GUMC mission.



- We serve each Thursday starting February 27 through April 9.
- We depart from the OLEC by 9:35 for downtown, park free and ride the shuttle bus to Calvary Episcopal.
- Servers work from 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Volunteers are served a complimentary breakfast waffle followed by a free lunch– including dessert
- Anyone – men or ladies may help. You may serve one or more of the 6 Thursdays.

For more information contact Jim or Pat Gill at 756-8151 or at jamesbo429@bellsouth.net.



Gleaning ministry redistributes \$842,000 worth of food in 2019

Resource Redistribution Ministry (RRM), now a 501c3 non-profit organization, redistributed 504,000 lbs. of fresh food to needy individuals and families throughout Shelby, Fayette and Desoto counties in 2019. Feed America estimates the monetary value to be \$1.67 per pound.

Begun as an outreach ministry of Collierville United Methodist Church, RRM is run by dozens of volunteers from CUMC, Covenant United Methodist Church, Germantown United Methodist Church, and Church of the Incarnation in Collierville. Daily pick-ups of perishable goods like fruits and vegetables are made at area grocery retailers like Costco and Trader Joe's and

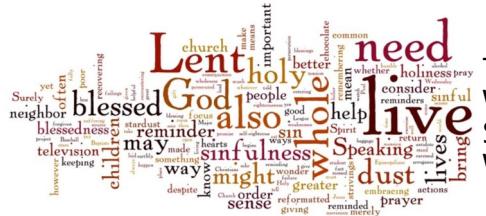
immediately "redistributed" through churches, Wesley Living communities, and food pantries.

Additionally, some prepared foods are regularly provided to area first responders and flower bouquets are delivered to senior facilities. Without this ministry and these volunteers, all these resources would be destroyed.

If you would like to join other Germantown UMC members in this ministry, please contact the church at 901-754-7216.

Lent

Rachel Moore—rmoore@germantownumc.org



Lent Schedule

This year Lent begins early on February 26; please join us for our Ash Wednesday service at 6:30 p.m. We have 40 days of Lent, excluding Sundays. We conclude with Palm Sunday on April 5 that leads into Holy Week. Maundy Thursday is April 9 and Easter is on April 12.

Basketball News from the OLEC

We are busting at the seams with excitement this year, with our Kindergarten renamed "Littles" Basketball program!! The air is electric each and every Friday night in the Olec Gym with three of the most amazing, all church member Coaches. Coach, James Underwood, Josh Gwatney and Kelly Lomax, brought their commitment and dedication by gathering large numbers this year of 4's and 5's on to the court to practice during the week and play on Game Day! Hats off to our "Littles" this year.... Keep on Dribbling... the sky's the limit!



GUMP Weekday Preschool

Sarah Sutton—ssutton@germantownumc.org—901-753-3109



GUMP hopes that the New Year is off to a wonderful start! GUMP continues to be blessed by serving families with an age-appropriate curriculum enhancing all developmental domains, as well as additional services to care for families: an extended care program (before and after school) and a class for children with developmental delays named G.R.A.C.E. (GUMP Recognizes All Can Excel). GUMP strives to serve all of our friends and support each family through the journey of early education. We gladly serve and support our dedicated and trained staff, as well. GUMP has a wonderful team!

GUMP is currently accepting applications for enrollment for the upcoming 2020–2021 school year. Our current families have recently completed enrollment and GUMP is now accepting applications from families in the community. If your family is interested in visiting or attending GUMP, please call our preschool office at 901-753-3109 to set up a tour of our preschool. Part of the enrollment process is that families and their potentially enrolling child come and tour in order to learn more about GUMP, have a real sense of what a school day looks and feels like, and see if we are a great fit for your family. We love meeting families and their children, as well as telling them about what GUMP offers.

If you, or a friend, are looking for a fabulous preschool experience for the upcoming school year, please come visit!



Lent By Candlelight

Tuesday| February 18, 2020| 6:30 p.m. |Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall & The Chapel|



All women are invited! Come and prepare your heart and mind for the season of Lent at this cherished annual event. You will experience a meaningful time of fellowship while enjoying desserts, coffee and tea in the Fellowship Hall. We will then proceed through the candlelit hallways, convening in the Chapel for special music and time for reflection and devotion. Our speaker will be Jennifer Brezina.

This event is free, but space is limited to 120 women. Please be sure to register online at germantownumc.org. Free preschool childcare is also available.

All women are welcome to participate in Germantown United Methodist Women events. If you are looking for the camaraderie of Christian women, fellowship while serving others, and the opportunity to make lifelong friends, consider joining one of GUMW's many Circles (small groups). For information about GUMW, contact our Membership Chair Yolanda Toney at ytoney@germantownumc.org.

GUMW February Luncheon

All women are welcome to participate in Germantown United Methodist Women events. If you are looking for the camaraderie of Christian women, fellowship while serving others, and the opportunity to make lifelong friends, consider joining one of GUMW's many Circles (small groups). For information, contact GUMW Membership Chair Yolanda Toney at ytoney@germantownumc.org.

"I will bless you...so that you will be a blessing." – Genesis 12:2 ESV

Please join us for a catered meal, warm fellowship, and an inspirational message from Rev. Diane Harrison at our GUMW February Luncheon on February 11, 2020 at 11:30 am in the Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall. Rev. Harrison serves as founding pastor of Grace Place United Methodist Church, a missional prison congregation located in the Women's Therapeutic Residential Center at the West Tennessee State Penitentiary at Fort Pillow, Tenn.

A lifelong Memphian and United Methodist, Rev. Harrison earned a Bachelor of Professional Studies from the University of Memphis and a Master of Divinity from Memphis Theological Seminary. She has been under appointment in the United Methodist Church, Memphis Conference for 20 years, serving congregations in Covington, Somerville, and the Jackson area before founding Grace Place United Methodist Church. Rev. Harrison has served as pastor of Grace Place for nearly 13 years. She is also overseeing a new ministry that will complement Grace Place called Two Sisters Ministry, which is a reentry ministry. Prior to founding Grace Place, Rev. Harrison was active in Kairos Prison Ministry, a lay-led, interdenominational Christian ministry in which men and women volunteers bring Christ's love and forgiveness to prisoners and their families.

Please join us as we learn about Rev. Harrison's persistence and faith, as well as God's transforming power at work in the lives of incarcerated women and those who have been released from prison. Rev. Harrison is truly "Blessed to Be a Blessing," and you will be blessed, too, as you hear her inspiring journey.

Cost is \$10. Deadline to register is February 6, 2020, by noon.

Two Methods to Register:

- Check to GUMW, "GUMW Feb. Luncheon" in memo line, placed in drop box outside Fellowship Hall.
- Credit Card online at germantownumc.org

Childcare is free. Indicate a need for childcare when registering online or by writing "Need Childcare" on your check.

United Methodist Women Continued...

Spring/ Summer GUMW Children's Consignment Sale



Shop Friday and Saturday, March 27–28!

It's that time of year! Clean out the closet clutter, rummage through the attic, and sort through the garage for children's clothing, furniture, toys, baby equipment, and more. GUMW Children's Consignment Sale registration is now open! Visit gumwclothingsale.com to review guidelines and details. All proceeds from this sale benefit GUMW missions. It's a 30-year tradition of community outreach!

Can't consign? We love donations! Coordinate with us in advance of the sale to donate your gently used items. We will price and tag each item, with 100% of the sale price going to local missions! You receive an early consignor shopping pass in return, along with a thank you letter as your receipt for tax purposes. Please be sure your donated items have an approximate value of more than \$40. Email info@gumwclothingsale.com for more information.

Deadline to donate items to be tagged and sold is March 17!

We also need volunteer help and have many shifts available! Volunteers who work at least four hours get to shop early at the Thursday pre-sale event. Sign up online at gumwclothingsale.com.

Our consignment sale serves as a wonderful outreach to the community, attracting people from all over the Mid-South and bringing them into our church as consignors, shoppers, and volunteers. Join us and help make a difference. Thank you for your support!

Important Dates:

Consignor registration deadline/inventory entry is Tuesday, March 24, at midnight. Refer to the website for complete information about accepted merchandise and consignor instructions.

Drop off:

Wednesday, March 25, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. and Thursday, March 26, 8:00 am – 1:00 p.m.

Pre-sale:

Thursday, March 26, 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. Volunteers who work 8 or more hours may shop at 5:30 pm. Those who volunteer 4 or more hours may shop at 6 p.m. Consignors may shop at 6:30 p.m.

Public Sale:

Friday, March 27, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Public Half-price Sale:

Friday, March 27, 5:00–8:00 p.m. and Saturday, March 28, 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Pick-up:

Sunday, March 29, 10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

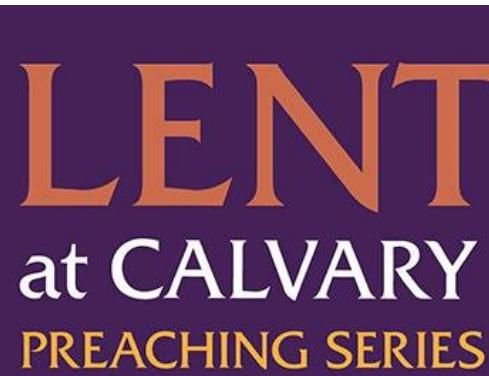


Don't Forget the February Brown Bag Lunch Program!

Belinda Fish, Director and Education Coordinator, Belz Museum of Asian and Judaic Art, will talk about "Mysteries of China." This presentation will be Friday, February 7, in the Fellowship Hall. The program starts at 11 AM with lunch at Noon. Bring your own sack lunch; the church will supply the beverages. Call Luci Cromer, 755-0803, for more information. No reservations are needed. There will be a crossing guard on West Street to help with overflow parking.

XYZs Attend Lenten Preaching Series and Tour First Methodist in March!

As part of our observance of Lent, we are going downtown to listen to the Rev. Dan Matthews, St. John the Divine in New York City, at the Lenten Preaching Series at Calvary Episcopal Church and eat lunch at the Calvary Waffle Shop. One of the Series' perennial favorites, Dan's journey in ordained ministry took him from the pulpits of Tennessee to New York City where he was rector of Trinity Church Wall Street for 17 years. Since 1972, his work has been concentrated in larger, inner city parishes. After the service, we will be given a tour of First United Methodist Church, which has risen from the ashes of a devastating fire in 2006. With a congregation dating to 1826, First Church is the oldest congregation in the city and has sat on its land since 1832.



WHERE: Calvary Episcopal Church and First United Methodist Church

WHEN: Friday, March 13, 2020

COST: \$3 per person plus lunch on your own

DEPARTURE: 10 a.m. from OLEC parking lot. (Be there by 9:45 a.m.)

RESERVATIONS: Call Luci Cromer, 755-0803, Gretchen Blair, 755-0797, or Garnet Brenneman, 754-3711. You must make your reservation before paying.

DEADLINE FOR MONEY and RESERVATIONS: Thursday, February 13

XYZs Hear Elton John in April

Remember when Rock Was Young stars the multiple award winning, multi-talented singer/actor/pianist Craig A. Meyer, who is considered to be the best Elton John tribute artist in the market today. He has traversed all four corners of the entertainment industry, making strong impressions in theatre, film, television, and music with stars like Barry Manilow and Frankie Valli. His strong vocals, striking resemblance, and amazing talent on the piano will take you on a musical journey celebrating the character, costumes, charisma, and decades of Elton John's chart-topping hits.

For a preview of this show, visit <https://youtube.com/watch?v=QxutP8X2X5E>.

WHERE: Bartlett Performing Arts and Conference Center

WHEN: Friday, April 17, 2020

COST: \$30 per person includes transportation and reserved seat.

DEPARTURE: 6:15 p.m. from OLEC parking lot. (Be there by 6 p.m.)

RESERVATIONS: Call Luci Cromer, 755-0803, Gretchen Blair, 755-0797, or Garnet Brenneman, 754-3711.

You must make your reservation before paying.

DEADLINE FOR MONEY and RESERVATIONS: Tuesday, March 17



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!

Older Adults Continued...

Willy Bearden Talks about Film Making at the March Brown Bag Lunch!

Willy Bearden is a revered speaker in Memphis and one of our favorites. Whether he is talking about one of his books, his photography, or one of his experiences, he is going to take you along on a journey you will not forget. He is currently working on a film about Health Travel—people going to foreign countries to get treatments they could not afford in the U.S. He is going to talk to us about the making of this film as well as some he has produced in the past at the March Brown Bag Lunch Series, an adventure in learning sponsored by the Older Adult Council.

TOPIC: "Making A Documentary: Walking in the Steps of a Film Maker"

SPEAKER: Willy Bearden, Memphis Film Maker and Author

WHERE: Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall

WHEN: March 6, 2020. Program starts at 11 AM; lunch is at Noon.

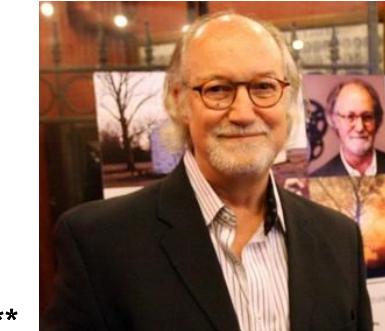
COST: FREE—the church will supply beverages.

RESERVATIONS: No reservations are needed.

Just bring your sack lunch and enjoy the program and the fellowship.

QUESTIONS? Call Luci Cromer, 755-0803, or Pat Smith, 758-6513.

There will be a crossing guard on West Street to help with overflow parking.



AARP Smart Driver™ Course

Germantown United Methodist Church and AARP will present the "AARP Smart Driver™ Course," the nation's largest driving refresher course. This 8-hour course is scheduled for March 19 and 20 from 9 AM-1 PM. Successful completion entitles participants to a discount on their auto insurance premiums for three years. There is no driving test or written exam. Register early because the class will be closed at 28 participants. The results of taking these classes have been proven—class participants have few accidents and tickets.

WHERE: Room 339 (Fellowship Forum classroom) in the Ministry Center.

WHEN: Thursday and Friday, March 19 & 20, 2020, 9 AM-1 PM.

COST: \$15 fee for AARP members (\$20 for non-members) payable to AARP

RESERVATIONS: Call George Coleman at 384-3581

DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: Reservations will be taken until class is full.

The objectives of the course are to help you:

Be independent, safe, and confident while on the road.

Keep up with changes so you don't put yourself and others at risk.

Learn state-specific information throughout the course.

Focus on areas such as roundabouts, pavement markings, stop-sign compliance, red-light running, and safety issues such as speeding and seatbelt and turn-signal use.

Check your calendars and register now. Your check is your ticket to this class.



Sanctuary Flowers and the Elder Care Ministry

Did you know that placement of flowers in the Sanctuary for Sunday morning worship serves a dual purpose? The flowers that enhance worship also benefit the Elder Care Health Ministry. Following the service, church volunteers arrange the large bouquet into 5 to 7 smaller arrangements to deliver to our elderly, ill, or homebound members. The flowers are then delivered by volunteers to members designated by Pat Smith, the Elder Care Health Ministry Coordinator. Thus, once each month, members of the church who can no longer be active on a regular basis, but who have served the church faithfully in healthier and more youthful times past, receive a visit from a member to cheer and encourage, to let them know they are still remembered as a part of the church family.

This monthly contact is about keeping aging, senior members connected to the church they attended and served. It is as significant a ministry as feeding the food insecure, or sheltering the homeless, or building houses for Habitat. It is a part of the Biblical mandate to “visit widows in their affliction”, “to care for the sick”, and “to provide... for the members of their own household”. But if there are no Sanctuary flowers, there are no smaller bouquets, and without flowers, this reason for a monthly visit may never occur.

So, do you have a special occasion occurring this year – a milestone birthday or anniversary? Is there a memorable event you would like to recognize for a family member, a graduation or promotion, perhaps a retirement? Perhaps you would like to recognize your Sunday School class or another small group who has been supportive through an illness or a difficult time in your life. Maybe you would like to honor a member in the church or on the staff who has enhanced your life in a special way. Placing flowers as a memorial to a loved one encourages us all to recall the impact of that individual in your life and perhaps in ours as well.

In a world where we all have an abundance of material things, why not consider your next gift one of Sanctuary flowers? It will brighten the life of not only the person you recognize, but of all those who attend worship that day, and then will be repurposed to bring joy and beauty to a dear servant of the church who is not always remembered and for whom days may be difficult.

If you are interested as an individual or a group in placing flowers, please contact Laura Hairston at lhairston@germantownumc.org or by phone at 901-754-7216 to reserve a date.



Music Ministry

Todd Wilson—twilson@germantownumc.org

Ash Wednesday Choral Evensong



Our Ash Wednesday service is February 26 at 6:30 p.m. We will again enjoy a hybrid service of Choral Evensong followed by the Imposition of Ashes. This is a service for all ages, children are welcome. Very well attended last year, we pray for the same this year. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Lenten season, a time of repentance, reflection and spiritual discipline. Ash Wednesday also marks our foreheads! We receive the ashes to remind us of our Lenten journey and the connection we have with Jesus. The ashes make visible to all that we live our lives under the sign of the cross. The form of the ashes as the sign of the cross says we belong to Christ.

The hybrid nature of Evensong and Ash Wednesday link together the story of Jesus, In Mary's Magnificat we hear what Mary has to say when she learns she is with child. A beginning. With Ash Wednesday we enter into the time of knowing an end is coming. In one night we'll engage the life of Jesus as we prepare for his death. Lent is a challenging but necessary time. We can't have resurrection without it. I encourage your attendance and participation in this Ash Wednesday Evensong.

The GUMC McVay Gardens Columbarium

Reverend Rick Kirchoff, former Senior Pastor of GUMC, recalls how when he first came to the church, members expressed a desire to have a columbarium. “I really hadn’t given the matter much thought, but as I traveled to different parts of the country, I saw an increasing number of churches that had columbariums. In each case, it was a quiet, beautiful place that honored the remains and the memory of persons who had died.”

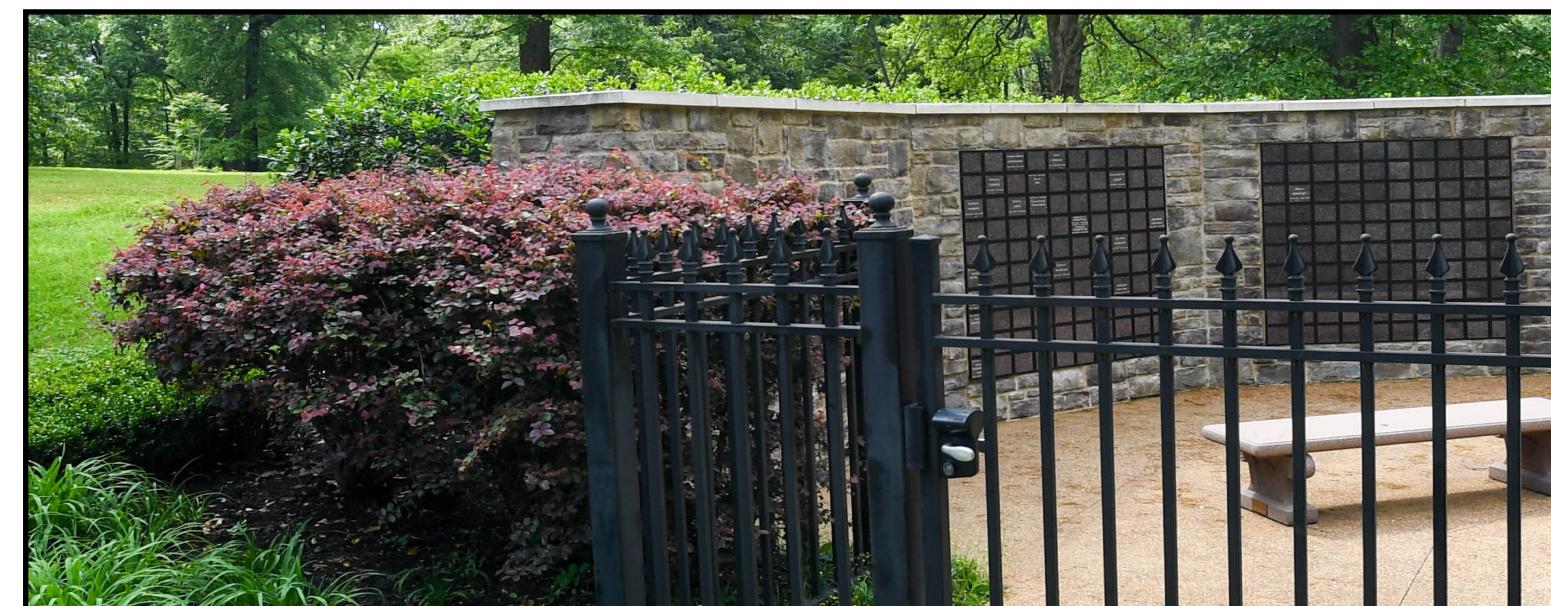
Rick has said that he arrived at what he believed about cremation – a term defined not as “burning” but as an accelerated form of dehydration – as he experienced more and more of the church’s members choosing it. Rick further stated, “I found that The United Methodist Church had taken no stand on cremation. The scriptures are silent about it. And the more I explored the matter, it was clear that cremation simply speeds the natural processes that take place after death.”

Rick relates that the church assembled a committee to explore the feasibility of the project. “It took time and patience and a lot of hard work on the part of the committee, but they found a way to make it happen. And it didn’t require funding from the church budget.” The columbarium has been totally funded from enrollments and gifts offered by GUMC members.

Today, the **McVay Gardens Columbarium** is located on McVay Road, adjacent to the original Germantown Cemetery and behind the McVay Gardens Counseling Center. Church member Don Rhoads has served as the Columbarium Committee liaison since its inception, has overseen construction and now voluntarily maintains and manages enrollments, records, vendor services and inurnments. He receives as-needed backup from the GUMC Columbarium Committee, chaired by church member David Jackson. The columbarium was dedicated in 2010 and includes the first quadrant containing a total of 300 niches, with a capacity for up to 600 inurnments. The quadrant also contains 100 memorial plaques to memorialize loved ones interred or inurned in other locations. Don has recently computerized written columbarium records to provide digital backup for enhanced security. Further expansion is within the plan if and when needed. Currently, 173 of the 300 niche locations (58%) have been enrolled.

For our members who have ever said “We want to enroll but just haven’t gotten around to it” or for those who simply need to make future plans for themselves or loved ones within their family ...our columbarium offers an economically cost-effective and environmentally responsible alternative to traditional interment. The columbarium is modular and can thus be moved, should GUMC ever relocate to a new location. Contrary to the usual cemetery restrictions, enrollment in our columbarium includes a guaranteed buy-back option, should a family’s end-of-life plans change in the future. Most importantly, the McVay Gardens Columbarium provides a beautiful and final resting place that can extend what has been a meaningful church relationship ...on into perpetuity.

If you would like to enroll or take a personal tour of the columbarium, or obtain additional information prior to making this decision, email, text or call Don Rhoads for a convenient appointment. Contact Don at (h) 901-755-4376, (c) 901-210-6099, or dlrhoads2@gmail.com.



Ms. Mable



Meet Ms. Mable (and her great-grandson). We met her last summer at SOS while replacing the roof of her home. She suffered a huge loss earlier that year when an electrical fire caused incredible damage to her home. Ms. Mable doesn't live in a normal home with normal circumstances. Instead, Ms. Mable lives in a home located in a part of Memphis with incredible poverty and many people who are homeless. For 14 years, she has been feeding these neighbors, allowing them to do their laundry in her home, and sometimes even offering shelter. She leads "home church" on Sundays which includes Bible study. Clearly, the loss of her home was not only a problem for her, but her entire community.

After meeting her and learning her story, we could not walk away once the roof was repaired; there is still so much to be done. Our youth have committed to helping complete her home, making it inhabitable for her and a place of refuge for her neighbors. We are thankful for a gracious grant from the Endowment Committee which replaced the faulty wiring in her home – a gift she gives praise for.

On January 20th (the day we remembered the life and teachings of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.), 12 youth and three adults spent the day in service. In an effort to continue restoration of her home, we cleaned her kitchen and sorted through soot-ridden belongings with her. We made great progress, but there is much more work ahead. Please pray for Ms. Mable and her ministry, and pray for ways we can continue to support her. Contact Lisa or Brian if you would like to participate in this ministry with us.

Discovery Weekend: February 21-23

We are fired up about this year's Discovery Weekend! The high school planning team has been planning our talks, activities, worship sessions, and more. It is shaping into an incredible event.

This retreat is an on-site event. All activities will be on the GUMC campus – in the OLEC and main building. We will sleep in the classrooms, eat in the OLEC, worship in the Sanctuary and the OLEC, and basically cover the campus like ants on a hill. Your student won't want to miss! Please register online.

As always, this event requires many, many hands. If you are able to volunteer in any capacity, please contact Brian or Lisa and we will find a way for you to serve. We need behind-the-scenes setup, supply coordination, daytime chaperones as well as overnight chaperones. And snacks. Lots of snacks. We can find a way for anyone to serve.



Upcoming Events

Upcoming dates to remember:

February 1–2: IGNITE! 4th/5th Grade Retreat*

February 7: Parents' Night Out*

February 28–29: Created by God class for 5th/6th Graders*

March 6: Parents' Night Out*

April 3: Parents' Night Out*

April 11: Easter Egg Hunt

April 12: Easter Sunday

May 27–29: Evening VBS (5:30–8:00 PM)*

June 1–5: Vacation Bible School (9:00 AM–12:00 noon)*

*Please see details and register online.

Elementary Expedition



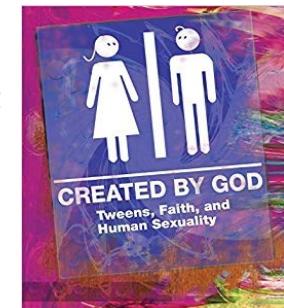
(Not Just for Elementary) Wednesdays, January 15– March 31

Elementary Expedition (youth group for kids) will resume on January 15. We will meet every Wednesday (except March 18) until April 1. Each Wednesday, we will begin with a delicious meal at 5:30, move to worship in the chapel at 6:00, and then break into small groups until we dismiss at 7:15. Preschoolers may come and get dinner at 5:30 to take to the Hamilton Nursery for their special programming. We hope that your children will join us as we recharge our hearts and spirits during this special mid-week time together. If your Sunday School class or family would like to provide dinner one Wednesday night, please contact Callie Beaver.

Created By God

February 28, 6:00–9:00 p.m. February 29, 9:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Created by God is a program designed to communicate to fifth and sixth graders that we are a fantastic creation made by God. The topics of human sexuality, values, and relationships are approached in a frank, honest, and Bible-based manner. Registration and details are online at germantownumc.org. There is a \$25 cost for the course which covers all materials, supplies, and food. Guests are welcome, but they must be in the fifth or sixth grades. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Pierce at lpierce@germantownumc.org.



Parents' Night Out

Select Fridays from 6:00–9:00 p.m.

We would love to spend some time with your children while you enjoy a date night or some relaxation time. Our dates for the spring are February 7, March 6, and April 3. Please see details and register online.

Missions Update

Our children are taught about mission work throughout the year at our various events. Our Children's Mission Sale continues on the wall outside of the Huddle (Room 240). Come and pick out your favorite works of art and drop a donation in the box on the wall. The children collected over \$300 dollars last year and made a donation to La Limye Ministries.

Over the holidays, our families packed 30 boxes for UMCOR to be given to children in need. If you forgot to turn in your box, it is not too late. We will continue to collect boxes through July 1, 2020. Our church has a goal of collecting 100 boxes by this summer. If you did not pick up a box and would like to pack one, contact Callie Beaver.

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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.

Service Change!



Ancient Modern now at 9:45 a.m.

Please make a note:
Starting February 9, our 9:40 Ancient Modern Service
will now start at 9:45 a.m. This will not affect the
Sunday School start times.