

A Message From Tim



Stewardship Emphasis *Together We are the Church*

If you have not yet turned in your Estimate of Giving for 2021, please do so. You may give online at the top of our home webpage, or send your card to the church, or simply place it in the offering plate at church. Estimates of Giving help the Finance Committee establish a responsible budget for the church so we may practice good stewardship of our resources for Christ's ministries.



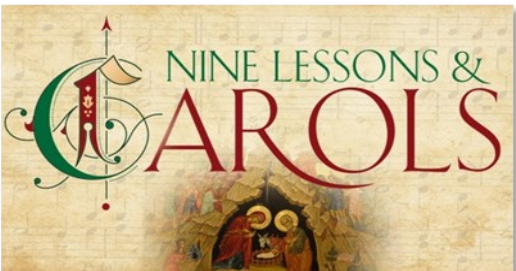
Advent Series

Our Advent Series, "The Wait of Advent" continues through December 20. Join us Online or Onsite as we explore scriptures that help us to prepare for God's fulfillment, surprise, contentment, and presence as we wait for the nativity and the Second Coming of our Lord. Join us Sunday Mornings.



Communion Twice in December

We will take communion onsite and online Sunday morning December 6, and online Christmas Eve. For online experiences, persons are encouraged to have bread and juice available at home to share with the household concurrently with the congregation.



Christmas Eve Online Service

Because of COVID concerns, this year's Christmas Eve will be online only. We will present Nine Lessons and Carols with music from Traditional and Ancient Modern. Streaming will begin at 6 p.m. Persons are encouraged to have candles at home for candlelight portion.



Christmas Sundays

For December 27 and January 3, the two Sundays after Christmas, we will explore the theme of Comfort experienced by Simeon and Anna in the Temple at the sight of the Messiah, and the Joy promised in the Gospel of John's first chapter.

Together We Are the Church



Together, we are the church. And together, as stewards of the church, we are called to care for both the building and the community of faith we call Germantown United Methodist Church. But how does a steward go about helping to build a community of faith? I would submit there are three keys to understanding how together, we are called upon through our stewardship and service to manage all the resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of his creation.

First, stewards recognize that what they have is not entirely theirs. For believers, this recognition starts with our bodies and spirit. We are created by God, and we are called to reflect God's love and gifts in our actions. Do we encourage

spiritual growth in each individual and know that we are our best when in community? Are our actions and attitudes both just and merciful? Are we bold in living the message of the Gospel and wise in governing the resources we have?

Second, stewards care for the physical places we meet, resources we enjoy, and instruments that help express the Gospel. That means that we care for the building and grounds. We use and update facilities, equipment, materials, sound systems, video projectors, and internet connections to worship and connect with our community. We have inherited for a short time all that physically represents GUMC. We are good stewards when we pass on these possessions in better condition than when we took responsibility for them.

Finally, stewards care for God's creation, the local and universal community. Nowhere is this more evident at GUMC than in the many ministry programs and missions our congregation supports. From inner-city at-risk youth programs and Room In The Inn homeless sheltering to Habitat for Humanity home building and Alturas ministry support to women/children living in poverty in Costa Rica, our stewardship helps continue Jesus's healing mission.

Together, we are the church. Together, we care for the church for now and for the future, to glorify God and work toward his plan on Earth. Together, our stewardship helps us develop and maintain a GUMC community of believers.

There is no telling how many people, during this time of pandemic, have repeated the old saying "Never let a good crisis go to waste." For several months now, your Stewardship committee has prayed, discussed, reflected and planned to respond to the questions surrounding the issue of what does stewardship mean in this time? These church members decided to re-consecrate themselves to the service of our Lord Christ in this time. They went further and decided to invite each member and friend of Germantown United Methodist Church to do the same. They then went further. We are not called simply to hold the church we have. We are called to celebrate the church that we have received, maintain the church we have, and build the church God is calling us to prepare to meet the future needs of living the Gospel. Together the generations of Germantown UMC have built, are building, and will build this expression of the Body of Chris, the Community of Faith, this Congregation of Faithful Service. Together believes are united through the ages in this holy task. Together we are associated with the historic mission of the Methodist movement, to the redeem a continent by spreading scriptural holiness across the land. Together our mission is to make Disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Together we support one another in the holy calling we have from the Christ. Together we are the Church.

The Committee realized that what all the members and friends of Germantown UMC are being asked to do in this time of crisis, is to consecrate ourselves and our gifts to this holy purpose of building and being the church. On November 22, 2020, we will consecrate our commitments to resource the missions and ministries of Germantown UMC. We will, as a church, consecrate our money to God's work starting at this corner and spreading through the region and through the world. A pandemic might cause some people to retreat. The consecrated people who are Germantown UMC choose to act so as to celebrate what has been, ensure what is, and prepare for what shall be. The journey is less than complete without all of us, because, Together We Are the Church.

You Are Cordially Invited To Help Us Celebrate Epiphany!

When: On the 12th Day of Christmas, January 6th, 6:00–6:45 PM

Where: GUMC Sanctuary

Who: Everyone – Family and Friends!

Why: To mark the arrival of the Magi from the East who came to worship and present gifts of devotion to the Christ Child.

Rev. Dr. Brad Gabriel will present a short presentation on the Gospel of Matthew story of the visit of the Magi and we will learn about some of the history and world traditions of celebrating this special day. We may even see a few Magi!

Children are encouraged to dress as their favorite Magi or king and everyone is asked to bring a small gift wrapped in white tissue paper to place on the Chancel steps just as the Magi brought gifts to the Christ Child. The gifts will be given to United Methodist Committee on Relief. (*See below for a list of recommended items.)

Seating in the Sanctuary will be limited due to the need for social distancing, so Registration is Required. Sign up early! You don't want to miss this fun evening of information, inspiration, and celebration! A wonderful way to "kick off" 2021 and one more chance to wear that Christmas sweater!

*You may assemble a Hygiene Kit (approximately \$12.00/kit) or wrap individual items to bring as your gift: Hand towel, Washcloth, Toothbrush (adult size), Band-Aids, Bath-size soap, Comb (longer than 6 inches), Metal nail file, Nail Clippers.

"We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."



GUMC ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET - 2020 STYLE

We are definitely going to have Alternative Christmas this year at GUMC but it will be a little different than in years past. Before we talk about what has changed, let’s talk about what is the same. As always:

- GUMC’s Alternative Christmas Market is an opportunity to purchase Christmas gifts that make a real impact in our community and in various places around the world.
- It is an opportunity for organizations and agencies – that serve the homeless, the hungry, the sick, those struggling to keep up in/stay in school, the poor, and the hurting – to help us understand the ministries they offer and how our donations can help.
- Each group offers “virtual” items that we can “buy” and give joyously and gratefully, knowing that each purchase has helped someone in need. A great and fun way to really personalize a “virtual gift” is to find an organization or agency whose mission or service offering reminds you of the gift’s recipient. For the handyman in your life, you might consider giving a gift in his honor to an organization that builds or repairs homes or hospitals. If Grandpa was a farmer, I bet he’d love chickens or goats or seeds. For your friend who can’t wait for international pleasure travel opportunities to resume, consider giving a gift that supports one of our internationally-focused organizations. And, special for 2020, how about honoring those parents and grandparents who have helped their own children with virtual learning this year by donating phone cards to enable internet access that others need for virtual learning or by donating an afternoon virtual hangout for kids during the pandemic in their honor?
- You will be able to get a Gift Card to send to the honoree to let him/her know of the donation made/ virtual gift donated in his/her honor.
- Each group welcomes donations of any amount of any kind and will put them to use to serve those to whom they minister. You can make donations in honor of someone or you can make general donations.

LOCATION AND TIME

- Previous years: We met in person with representatives of various organizations and agencies in Fellowship Hall on a designated Sunday.
- 2020: To keep everyone safe, we will not be having a big gathering in Fellowship Hall. GUMC’s Alternative Christmas Market will go virtual this year and you will be able to participate virtually and safely any time between now and the end of December.

LEARNING ABOUT EACH AGENCY

- Previous: We walked around and talked to each representative and looked at the information they provided.
- 2020: Most groups have provided a video, telling about themselves, what their group does, how your donations of money and time can help. You can view these on GUMC’s Virtual Alternative Christmas YouTube playlist at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ApGMOMYIbzE&list=PLhAzVrDCpjaGfynewYQ22Cjt30Yq0mMMI>
- Many of the agencies/organizations from previous years as well as a couple of new ones will be participating with us.

PHYSICAL ITEMS TO PURCHASE

- Previous years: Several groups brought physical items, mostly handmade by those they serve, to sell as well.
- 2020: For safety reasons, physical items will not be sold and delivered. A couple of groups provide links for you to use if you want to purchase physical items from their website or names for you to contact. If you do make any purchases/donations this way, you will work with that group directly on payment and delivery options.



Alternative Christmas Continued...

VIRTUAL GIFTS AVAILABLE (WHAT DONATIONS OF DIFFERENT AMOUNTS WILL ENABLE)

- Previous years: Each group provided a list of items or services that donations of different amounts would enable them to obtain or provide. The lists were compiled into an Alternative Christmas Catalog that you received when you attended the Alternative Christmas Market in Fellowship Hall.
- 2020: The participating groups have again provided their lists and they have been compiled into our Virtual Alternative Christmas Catalog which will be available on the GUMC website and mailed to those who prefer to receive communications (such as Tidings) via US mail.
- Among these life-changing “virtual gifts” you can purchase in honor of someone this year are:
 1. Medical, dental and eye exams and eye glasses
 2. Malaria medication for mission team members or flu shots or antibiotics for a child
 3. Safe spaces for people in need
 4. Chickens or goats or seeds
 5. A front door or kitchen sink
 6. Diapers and wipes
 7. Food
 8. Tutoring, mentoring, counseling
 9. ,,all this and much, much more are available in this year’s catalog.

PAYING

- Previous years: You paid each group directly or made one check out to GUMC.
- 2020: You can make credit card donations through the church website or you can send/bring a check to the church.
 - To use a credit card, go to the GUMC website. The name of each participating group will appear as a tab on the right side of the page when you go to “Alternative Christmas” under “What’s Going On”. Just total all you want to donate to a group, click on its tab, and enter that total amount. Then, do the same for each group you want to donate to. Or, you can click on the General 2020 Virtual Alternative Christmas tab, enter one amount, and that donation will be evenly spread across all participating agencies/ organizations.
 - If paying by check, make the check out to GUMC for the total of all donations to all participating groups, put 2020 Virtual Alternative Christmas Market in the memo field of the check, and attach a list of groups and how much you want to donate to each group (you can attach your Catalog with the dollar amount for each group noted if that is easier).

GIFT CARDS TO GIVE TO HONOREES

- Previous years: Paper copies were available for you to complete.
- 2020: A gift card that you can complete and give to the honoree can be found on the GUMC website. Just print the card, enter the name of the recipient, identify what the gift is (e.g., an outdoor space heater or a child’s uniform) if it is a virtual gift, the Agency/Organization, and the giver’s name.

THE BIGGEST DIFFERENCE OF ALL

- While there has always been a big need out there in the world, many of these Agencies/Organizations have said that the need of the people they serve is greater than ever, the needs of those they serve may be more immediate, and there may not be as many avenues for them to get help.
- Many of us are realizing that more stuff is not what we need in our lives. We want to give gifts that have meaning and make an impact.
- More than ever, we are looking for safe ways to “buy” the gifts we give.

In 2020, let GUMC’s Virtual Alternative Christmas help you stay safe this holiday season and give gifts that make a difference in the world!

Handwritten, Illuminated ‘Saint John’s Bible’ on display at Dixon!



The exhibition, “Illuminating the Word: The Saint John’s Bible,” will be at the Dixon Gallery and Gardens through January 10. The Bible is a visual record of a new generation’s perception and artistic interpretation of an age-old document.

The Saint John’s Bible—handwritten on more than a thousand calfskin pages that are 2 feet tall and illuminated with gold and silver leaf—has a home in rural Minnesota where the Benedictine monks who commissioned it live. The project of Saint John’s Abbey in Collegeville, Minnesota, the Bible normally can be viewed in rotating displays of 28 pages in its gallery at Saint John’s University. But that exhibition space has been closed since mid-March because of the coronavirus pandemic.

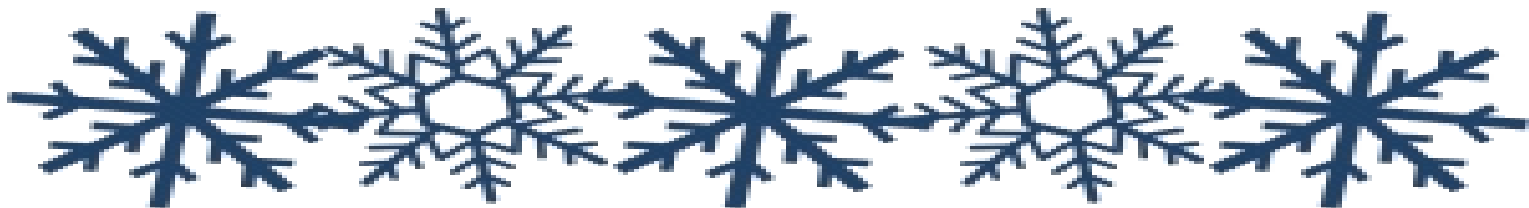
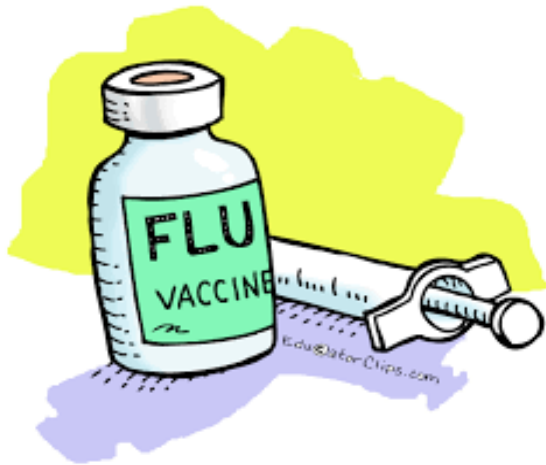
Currently, 68 pages from the seven volumes of the Bible, with contemporary artworks that illustrate the verses, glow in carefully lit exhibition galleries at the Dixon. It took 23 artists 15 years to create, a committee of 12 theologians to work with the artists for 15 years, and the financial support of 1,400 individuals. Six calligraphers worked seven years just to do the lettering. The Bible complete is 1,127 pages, but it’s still unbound so that sections can be sent to museums for exhibitions.

The Dixon show highlights Creation to New Jerusalem, Genesis to Revelations. It includes a BBC Wales documentary about the making of the Bible. You must call the Dixon at 901.761.5250 to make a reservation to view the exhibit, and the number of people viewing it at the same time is limited. Entry to the exhibit is FREE and open to the public through December 31. Give yourself a Christmas present and go see this beautiful exhibit.

Flu Vaccine Matters More This Year!

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is urging all individuals who are without contraindications to receive the influenza vaccine for the 2020–2021 flu season, saying it is even more important during the COVID–19 pandemic than in normal years.

The CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices issued updated influenza vaccine recommendations in the agency’s Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report calling for everyone ages 6 months and older without contraindications to get the vaccine for the 2020–2021 flu season. Vaccination is more important this year because it can mitigate stress on the US health care systems, already under strain from the COVID–19 pandemic, according to the report’s authors.



The Best Times is Still Available!



The Best Times, the monthly news magazine for active people age 50 and better, features articles on health, travel, events of interest, personal finance, and profiles. You may pick up your FREE copy from the racks located in the West Street Entrance vestibule and in the lobby of the OLEC. New issues are delivered the first week of each month, so be sure to watch for them and keep up with the latest older adult news.

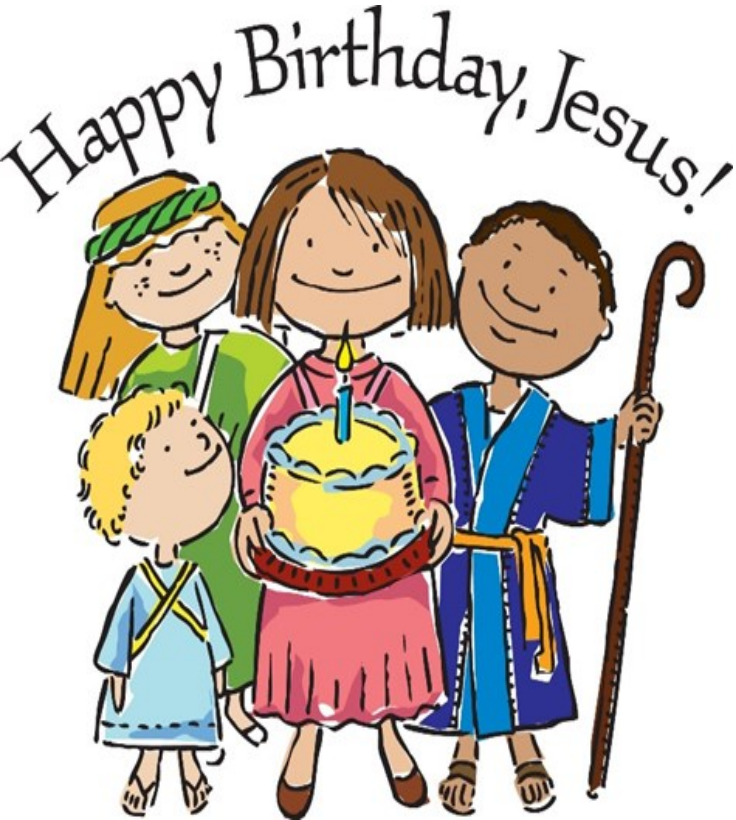
Our events are open to all adults age 55 and older, singles and couples, regardless of church membership. Mark your calendar and make your

Germantown Weekday Preschool *Sarah Sutton, ssutton@germantownumc.org*

It’s the most wonderful time of the year! Our friends at Germantown United Methodist Preschool have been busy learning and playing as we celebrate the changes and wonders of the season. We have had a very successful first semester and look forward to an exciting second semester of growth and development.

GUMP enrollment is just around the corner and though tours look different this year, we look forward to telling new families about our wonderful program. GUMP would like to extend Early Enrollment for church members December 7–11, 2020. Open Enrollment for the 2021 /2022 school year will begin in January, giving current families priority of re-enrollment and then opening enrollment up to new families. Please share with friends and family to consider GUMP when seeking a Weekday Preschool. We would love to tell you about all the wonderful things happening here.

Before we end our first semester, GUMP wants to wish each of you a Merry Christmas! As the Christmas season is upon us, we joyfully celebrate the birth of baby Jesus! What a sweet time of year to share God’s love with our little friends. All our friends will celebrate Christmas with a “Happy Birthday Jesus” birthday party, so that as we break for Christmas our focus is on the true Reason for the Season. May this season be Merry and Bright!



All Fun and Games

Some people think that youth group is all fun and games. Last month we gave an overview of the topics that we were learning about in our weekly programming and if you didn’t get to read that, I would urge you to check last month’s issue to be amazed at the spiritual maturity of our students. We don’t want to give off the impression that we only ever have study time though. We have tried our best to find games that we can safely participate in during a pandemic, and that is no easy task either!

Just a few of our recent games pictured below include playing a game of “Ninja” where you have a single movement to try and eliminate your neighbor from the game. Except this time, instead of students participating in hand to hand contact, you use pool noodles as an extension of your karate chop and make contact with other’s noodle hands. It keeps students safely distanced and they still get to vent some frustration. After a few warm up rounds it looked like we had martial arts experts in our midst.

Another game we played this semester showed off each student’s appetite. It was a Fruit Roll Up eating competition where you could only use your tongue to slurp up the roll. Trust me, it’s harder than it looks. Coming down to a photo finish in our middle school group with a video replay coming into play for a tie, our high school winner Ben finished his in under 10 seconds. If you can beat that time, your GUMC Youth team will supply you with a free box of Fruit Roll Ups! Video Proof necessary*

Our most recent game was socially distant Pictionary. As well as being socially distant from each other, each artist was also 6 feet away from their masterpiece. If you thought you were bad at drawing, we don’t recommend this version of the game. Each team competed with the same drawing prompts (all Thanksgiving themed) and the first group to guess correctly got the points. Let’s see you draw,” Corn Casserole” and “Indigestion” with a marker on a 6ft stick!

While we try to continue thinking of games we can play safely at Element, our hope for each of our students is that they will think of their faith community here as a safe place for them to gather together, grow spiritually, and go and make disciples. If you have game suggestions let Brian or Lisa know!



Women’s Retreat 2021

The 2021 GUMC Women’s Retreat scheduled for January 22–23 at St. Columba Conference Center has been cancelled due to COVID–19. We are already on the calendar for January 2022! Hope to see you then!

Music Ministry *Todd Wilson, twilson@germantownumc.org*

Advent and Christmas are special seasons in the Church year. Rife with family and church traditions, it is a time of year we typically enjoy. This is a different year. Some traditions will be suspended, and new ones will be made as we hunker down and consider safety of community and family in this time of COVID.

One way to celebrate this year will be in the form of a Music Ministry Christmas Card. Various ensembles are busy putting the final touches on Christmas music that will be shared with the congregation through video. Like the recent All Saints music video this recording will feature the Chancel Choir, Ancient Modern Band, Matins Handbells, Wesley Chimes, Testimony Youth Choir, Children’s Choir singers, and a partridge in a pear tree.

We look forward to sharing this work and the message contained therein. Keep an eye out as we’ll share on the church Facebook page, church website and via church email resources. The video Christmas Card should be ready to unwrap on Sunday, December 13.

Health & Recreation *Judy Oros, joros@germantownumc.org*

Commit to be Fit

Virtual 5K 2021

Jan 3, 2021 (Sunday) – Jan 9, 2021 (Saturday)

Back by popular Demand! Our 2nd Virtual 5K is geared towards committing to a New Year of Faith, Family and FITNESS!

*Let’s all race virtually and, as before....SUBMIT Your Race Photos for our Celebration Board!

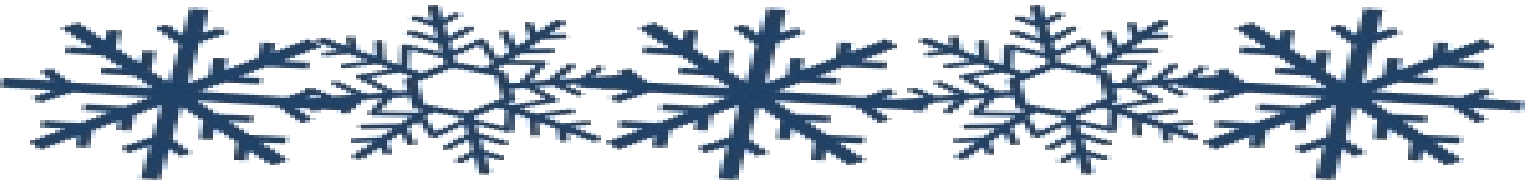
*Participants can walk, run, swim, bike, treadmill, hike, ride a horse, push the kids in the stroller or any activity of your choosing. Plus, pick any day during 1/3/21 – 1/9/21 and your route (neighborhood, park, trail, track, etc.) Complete at your leisure, and share your Photo!

INVITE GUMC SUNDAY SCHOOL FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND FAMILY FROM OUT OF TOWN, TOO!

ENJOY THE CHALLENGE OF A GREAT RACE, AS WE RUN TOGETHER IN SPIRIT AND SUPPORT OF EACH OTHER!

HERE’S TO A GREAT NEW YEAR OF FAITH, FAMILY AND FITNESS!

CONTACT: thinton@germantownumc.org or joros@germantownumc.org for more information.



Children’s Alternative Christmas Market:

Sunday, December 6– 11:00–1:00 in the OLEC Gym

Our Children’s Alternative Christmas Market will be held on Sunday, December 6 from 11:00 AM–1:00 PM in the OLEC Gym. Children will have an opportunity to shop for gifts for family and friends. Each gift is sold for \$5 and is of beautiful quality, wrapped, and tagged before the child leaves the market. During the Sunday School lesson, children will learn about the free-trade and mission-oriented gifts they are purchasing and will learn about being a purposeful giver.

Parents will need to take their children across the street to the market this year and help them “shop” since we will not be able to have “elves” take your children through the market. Families that attend 9:00 AM service and Sunday School may shop from 11:00–12:00. Families that attend Sunday School then the 11:00 AM service may shop from 12:00–1:00. We also invite youth to shop from 4:00–5:00 that afternoon, and adults may shop from 5:00–6:00 that evening. We will ask that you social distance yourselves from other families as you shop to ensure everyone’s safety. Enter the market through the front of the OLEC and exit through the north door.

The market will also be open on December 7–9 for private shopping for those families who are not attending in-person worship. Please contact Callie Beaver to reserve your time to shop.

No registration is necessary, but it will be helpful to have the “wish list” filled out in advance. Look for this document to come home via email the week prior. Children who wish to participate should bring \$5 per gift on December 6. Please bring exact cash or check payable to GUMC. It is very meaningful to the children to purchase a surprise for the people they love.

Christmas Eve Service

December 24 at 6:00 PM

We look forward to having you worship with us on Christmas Eve. This year, we will have one huge Christmas Eve service outside at McVay Gardens. The children will choose whether to be wisemen, angels, or shepherds as they enter. We will sing some traditional Christmas hymns and tell the Christmas story with active participation by the children. We will finish the evening by passing the light of Christ.

Sunday School Update

We will not be having Elementary Sunday School on Sunday, December 27 or Sunday, January 3. We invite your elementary children to worship with you in the Sanctuary those days. The Hamilton Nursery will be open during Worship those two Sundays.

Journey to Bethlehem/Cookie Shoppe

Unfortunately, we will not be having our traditional Journey to Bethlehem and UMW Cookie Shoppe this holiday season. However, we will be telling the Christmas story throughout the month of December during Sunday School. We hope you can join us on Sunday mornings in-person or online.



The death of a loved one can be a difficult, stressful time that requires many quick decisions. As a member of GUMC, we therefore hope that you are aware of The McVay Gardens Columbarium. The columbarium offers a beautiful final resting place at a cost well below that of a traditional funeral. A one-time, all-inclusive investment provides an alternative to the traditional funeral and expenses which are ever increasing and can vary widely. While most funeral homes offer cremation, it is more expensive and is often coupled with additional services. There are, however, cost-effective options for obtaining cremation and inurnment.

Enrollment in the McVay Gardens Columbarium and the preselection of a cremation service provider eliminate the need for these tasks at what is often a demanding time. As part of our enrollment information, we provide a representative list of several cremation service providers that offer a service-specific price for basic cremation. In Tennessee, the pre-arranger can sign his/her own cremation certificate, assuring that the wishes for cremation are fulfilled in the future. Veterans can pre-arrange for military honors at the McVay Gardens Columbarium. As an enrollee, you may receive an in-sanctuary and/or an on-site inurnment service in conjunction with a GUMC pastor and/or a pastor-approved clergyperson. Should your plans change in later life, your enrollment includes a guaranteed buy-back option. In short, your enrollment provides a cost-effective, environmentally responsible way to extend your meaningful church relationship into perpetuity. It includes everything needed to assure appropriate arrangements, while eliminating the need for traditional and costly funeral expenses.

While we do not like to dwell on the details surrounding a death, we want to confirm your awareness of this service and provide information that you or your family may need. If you desire further information, a tour of the columbarium or to enroll, please contact Don Rhoads, Columbarium Coordinator, 901-755-4376, © 901-210-6099, dlrhoads2@gmail.com.

Affordable Cremation Service Providers...

A representative sampling of lower-cost, cremation-specific options, and research-oriented options. Death Certificates are generally not included, but usually available from the provider at \$15.00 each (in Shelby County). These prices effective as of August 2020.

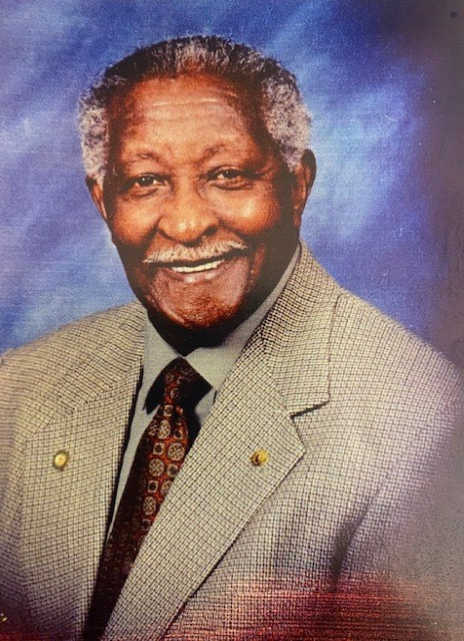
- 1. Affordable Cremation Society and Mortuary Service
 - 3774 Summer Avenue, Memphis, TN 38122, 901-458-8575
 - Basic Cremation Package = \$823.79 (Does not include Death Certificates)
- 2. High Point Funeral Home
 - 3788 Summer Avenue, Memphis, TN, 38122, 901-454-5795
 - Basic Cremation Package = \$1,594.26 (Does not include Death Certificates) www.highpointchapel.com
- 3. Bartlett Funeral Home
 - 5803 Stage Road, Bartlett, TN, 901-372-5555
 - Basic Cremation Package = \$1,285.00 (Includes one Death Certificate.) www.bartlettfuneralhome.com
- 4. Forrest Hill Funeral Home
 - 2440 Whitten Road, Memphis, TN., 901-346-3250
 - Basic Cremation Package = \$1,975.00 (Does not include Death Certificates)
 - Pick up of cremains is required. www.foresthillh.com
- 5. Family Funeral Care
 - 4925 Summer Avenue, Memphis, TN., 901-761-8000
 - Basic Cremation Package = \$2,370.00 (Does not include Death Certificates)
 - Pick up of cremains is required. www.familyfuneralmemphis.com
- 6. Genesis Legacy Whole Body Donation Foundation, MERI/Genesis Partnership, 44 South Cleveland Street
 - Memphis, TN 38104, 877-288-4483
- 7. The UT Health Science Center, Anatomical Bequest Program
 - 855 Monroe Avenue, Memphis, TN. 38163, 901-448-5978

Elder Care Ministry Update

The spread of Covid-19 has impacted our ability to visit those of our congregation who are considered elderly and homebound. In light of the fact that the elderly have been identified as the most vulnerable, most senior facilities have restricted visits, even from family members of residents. As of today, most facilities' restrictions are still in place. In lieu of visits, we've elected to connect with our members via phone on a regular basis. Cards and flowers are sent regularly as well. We intend to reassess our plan at the end of the fall season. We are committed to nurturing our elderly and homebound members and look forward to resuming visits when it is safe to do so.

Senior Moments

Senior Moments is a new feature of the Tidings publication. We are highlighting some of our senior members as a means of staying in touch and getting to know other church members better. The Coronavirus has changed our ability to socialize and inter act face to face. With these short biographies, we will keep our elderly members in the spotlight and involved in the church community. Thanks to all who have submitted information and pictures. If you would like to be featured, just call Pat smith at 901-758-6513 or Laura Hairston at 901-758-6517. Watch for this feature each month and enjoy getting to know some members of the church!



Rev. Lloyd C. Moore

Reverend Moore has a diverse professional background. He pastored churches for 26 years, In addition, he served in the military for 21 years. He is a graduate of Kansas State University and St. Paul School of Theology (Methodist). In addition to his educational background, he is most proud of his successful marriage of 64 years. His military experience consisted of being in the U.S. Navy Reserve for one year, and the U.S. Army for 20 years active duty. He was in combat in Korea from 1950-1951 and served in combat in Vietnam from 1965- 1966. He served a second time in Vietnam from 1968-1969. He was honored to receive a Purple Heart and three Bronze Stars. He held the highest rank for a non-commissioned officer (Command Sgt. Major). He was married to his now deceased wife, Rev. Lillian D. Moore, for 64 years. They served the Lord as a clergy couple for 21 years. Rev. Moore describes his wife as "my partner in the military and also being a family." He has three adult children. One daughter is a professor at Brown University in Providence, RI. Another daughter is a wife and mother and resides in Memphis. His son is a supervisor for Walmart in Manhattan, KS. He would most like to be remembered as a faithful servant for the Lord and serving his country in the military.

Flo Seward

Flo had the honorable profession of being a homemaker and mother to five children. In addition, she worked as an elementary school teacher for thirty years. She considers he greatest achievement in life as rearing her five children. Her four living children are all Christians; they go out of their way to help others. They have been hard-workers and never had to accept public assistance. She would most like to be remembered for the love she gave her children and friends. She enjoys life, especially traveling, reading, and bridge. She most enjoys her friends and family. One thing she has learned in life is to accept the things she cannot change. She is very thankful that God has watched over her and her loved ones and blessed them abundantly.



The Christmas Season for the Seasoned

The Christmas season is upon us! This holiday season will be different than those in the past. The virus has prevented us from engaging in many traditional activities, and from getting together for holiday meals with family. So, what can we do to make the holiday brighter for our elderly family and church members?

There are many suggestions for practical gifts, often health related. However, the best gift of all is the gift of your time. Isolation is mandated and necessary, but this might lead to feelings of loneliness and depression. Helping to alleviate those feelings is something we all can do to help those who are restricted in their outings secondary to age and health issues.

What can you do? Call a church member—even if you do not know them well. Allow them time to discuss issues that are of concern to them. Allow them to express difficult feelings. Ask them about favorite traditions in their family and encourage them to reminisce about holiday from the past.

You might also surprise some one with a delivery of a special holiday meal, or some of their favorite seasonal food. As always, sending cards with a personal message is an easy and appreciated gesture.

The important thing is to engage in these impromptu acts of kindness, and more importantly, continue doing so after the holiday season is over. Loneliness takes no holiday.

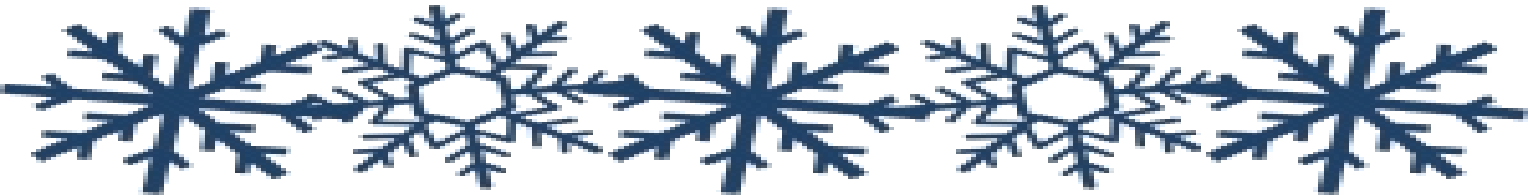
Our elderly are often the recipients of great acts of kindness from fellow church members. But it can work in reverse as well. Perhaps a senior member could also reach out with a phone call or a card to others. As we age, it is our hope that you will have the same wonderment and belief that children have fill your heart this holiday season. Christmas is about forgetting your age and enjoying festive times.

May God bless you with the courage, energy, and strength to accomplish your dreams. May Jesus give you the ability to achieve your hopes and desires. Keep faith, peace, and love in your hearts. Merry Christmas!

Emmaus Sunday School Class BBQ Recap.

Here is a quick summary of our very successful Emmaus class BBQ sale :

- We took 90 meat orders via the GUMC website link and did another 33 orders manually or via email. Grand total of 123 orders.
- Profits from sale were about \$2550.
- Our profits will go to 2 Charities- La Limye Ministries in Haiti and Golden Cross in Memphis.



Room in the Inn – Memphis Gets A New Campus!

Have you ever wondered what happens to someone experiencing homelessness who is released from the hospital and needs a safe place to fully recover? Many times, that is left to chance.

Have you ever left a night of volunteering at The Cottage and wondered how families could receive a more stable shelter environment with more access to resources? So have I.

Room in the Inn – Memphis is working to change both.

Memphis will soon be home to the Mid–South’s first recuperative care center for the homeless. Room in the Inn’s new Recuperative Care Center will have 21 beds to offer recovery services for people experiencing homelessness who are released from hospitals across the Mid–South. We will share holy hospitality in a safe space to ensure a complete recovery.

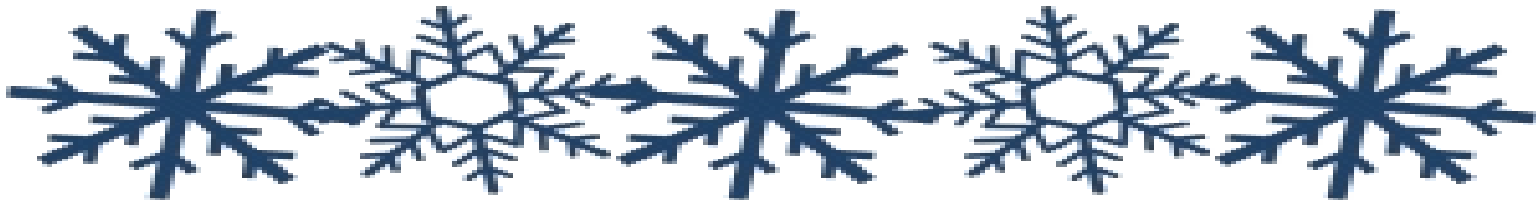
RITI’s Recuperative Care Center will be housed in the historic Collins Chapel Connectional Hospital building. At one time Collins Chapel was one of the few places in Memphis that offered healthcare to African Americans and space for Black doctors and nurses to practice.

Our new Collins Chapel campus will also include a 14–room shelter for families. Both the Recuperative Care Center and the Family Inn will offer supportive services to create a pathway to housing and self–sufficiency for our guests. In addition to the two new programs, we will move Room in the Inn Day Center and the Congregational Shelter Program to Collins Chapel property.

The Room in the Inn Campus facilities are being funded through our partnership with the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, Shelby County and the City of Memphis.

We are excited about the future expansion of our work, but we haven’t been sitting still since COVID–19 changed the world. We have continued to provide shelter and meals in partnership with 55 congregations to our guests. November 1 marked the beginning of our 11th year of providing emergency shelter to people experiencing homelessness.

GUMC has played a huge role in making the work of RITI possible! THANK YOU for your past support and your continued prayers and hours of service. If you would like to deepen your support of Room in the Inn – Memphis with a monthly donation (of any amount!), please contact Alise Davis at alisedavis4@gmail.com or text her at 901–496–6402.



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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.

Germantown United Methodist Women Update

Germantown United Methodist Women (GUMW) is sad to announce that all events through the end of February 2021 have been cancelled in the interest of everyone's health and safety. This includes GUMW's February luncheon and Lent by Candlelight. We look forward to gathering again in fellowship and service later in the new year. Until then, stay safe, stay connected, and keep finding ways to bless others. We are still "Blessed to Be a Blessing!"