

Where in the World is Pastor Mike?



As you read this article, please know that I will be embarking on an incredible journey to the beautiful and culturally rich country of Malawi, situated in the heart of South Central Africa. My trip spans from September 28 to October 8, and it involves a marathon 40-hour journey each way. While the travel may be arduous, it leads me to one of the most inspiring and resilient nations in the world.

In Malawi, a staggering 94% of the population lacks access to electricity, and the majority of its people are sustenance farmers. Over the past 17 years, I've had the privilege of traveling to Malawi with mission teams, focused on providing education and support to these incredible communities.

During this visit, I am thrilled to be close to concluding a four-year Course of Study for 23 dedicated pastors. Ten of these pastors are proficient in English, so I have the honor of teaching them during the day. For the thirteen pastors who speak the native language Chichewa, I work with a translator during evening sessions. Completing this course is a significant milestone, equivalent to attending a seminary, and it propels them towards full ordination.

While my mission is to assist and make a positive impact in their lives, it's always humbling how much I receive from them in return. These pastors oversee anywhere from eight to thirty churches within their circuit, often traversing between them on foot, sometimes up to 20 miles apart. They subsist on meager incomes, with church offerings that may include items like sweet potatoes and chickens. Remarkably, many of these churches don't even have a building; their worship takes place under the shelter of a tree.

I am profoundly inspired and humbled by the remarkable resilience they display, accomplishing so much with so little. Their unwavering dedication to sharing the Good News, even in the face of numerous challenges, is truly awe-inspiring. Their joy-filled worship, with singing that resonates for miles, is a testament to their unwavering faith and spirit.

I invite you to locate Malawi on a map and kindly keep me in your thoughts and prayers as I embark on this journey, working tirelessly to shine God's glory through the illumination of His Word, as seen through the teachings of John Wesley. And most importantly, please pray for the people of Malawi. To them, even our poorest are seen as very rich people.

*May God's blessings abound,
Pastor Mike*



Ongoing Activities**Tuesdays**

- Henry Center Food Pantry & Financial Assistance, 12-2pm
- Instrumental Ensemble, 5:15-6:15pm; Basement

Wednesdays

- Noon Prayer, 12-1pm; Sanctuary
- Wonderful Wednesdays: 3:30-4:30pm, Dossett Chapel
- Choir Ensemble, 5:30-6:30pm; Basement

- Handbells, 6:30-7:30pm; Basement

Thursdays

- Henry Center Food Pantry & Financial Assistance, 12-2pm
- Henry Center Clothes Closet, 12-2pm

What's Happening In October

October 3rd Golden Circle, 11:30am-1:00pm Davidson Hall

October 14th Men's Breakfast, 7:30-9:00am; Davidson Hall

October 18th Senior Adults Christmas Sewing Project, 1:00-3:00pm; Davidson Hall

October 31st Trick or Treat, 3:00-5:00pm; Downtown Tullahoma

Important Dates

- 10/29: Stewardship Sunday
- 10/31: Halloween Trick or Treat from 3:00 to 5:00
- 11/5: All Saints Day (no communion - letter will go out two weeks before) - (Daylight Savings Time Begins - Fall Back)
- 11/8: Charge Conference
- 11/12: Sunday of Service at 10:00 AM (with communion, youth provide a meal as a fundraiser, and then others go out to do mission projects)
- 11/24: Regular worship Times - Thanksgiving Service
- 12/3: First Sunday of Advent - regular service times - Traveling Baby Jesus
- 12/3: "The Chosen" Christmas Viewing 10:00-10:45am, FAC Gym
- 12/14: Tables of Christmas
- 12/17: Unified service at 10:00 Children's Christmas Program (Church-wide Jesus Birthday Celebration in the Davidson Center)
- 12/24: Christmas Eve: Regular Morning Worship Times - Special Christmas Candlelight Service at 6:00 PM
- 12/31: New Year's Eve: Regular service times

Mark 10:14-1

“Jesus said, ‘Let the Little Children come to me and do not hinder them for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these.’”



Sunday Mornings

*Nursery Hours
8 a.m. - 12 noon
Sunday School
10 a.m.; 2nd floor,
main building*

Fall is definitely in the air! Life really seems to get crazy the last few months of the year so it’s a good reminder to us all to keep the main thing, the main thing- God first.

It’s almost an unwritten rule in society that we must be busy. Doing all the things. Everyone says our kids will be deprived or disadvantaged otherwise. After all, it’s not about the quantity of time you spend with them- it’s the quality, right?

In an effort to keep our kids from “being left out” or “falling behind”, or “socialized”, we overstuff our schedules with all sorts of activities.

And then we wonder why we’re grumpy and frustrated and don’t really enjoy parenting. Meanwhile, we’re constantly short on time and shouting orders at them like a drill sergeant so we can hurry up and get to the next activity on the list.

In this pursuit to enrich our children’s lives, we’re actually doing them a disservice. Their creativity, resiliency, and relationships end up suffering as a result.

And when we place an emphasis on temporary achievements over eternal ones, we show by example where our true value lies.

We hope you will continue to make Sunday morning worship a priority.

October

8	Pack Food at Henry Center	10am	meet in SOUL Lounge
15	Field Trip to Fill Food Box	10am	meet in SOUL Lounge
27	Bonfire/S’mores	6pm	Harrison Home
31	Trick or Treat – Downtown Tullahoma	3-5pm	front lawn of church

November

12	Sunday of Service	10am	Main Sanctuary
		11am	lunch- Davidson Hall
		Noon	projects begin

December

3	Traveling Baby Jesus Begins		
3	Advent Craft	10am	meet in Davidson Hall
10	Tour Nativity/Games	10am	meet in SOUL Lounge
17	Christmas Program	10am	Main Sanctuary
17	Happy Birthday, Jesus Party	11am	FAC

TULLAHOMA
**FIRST
 METHODIST**
 SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

**Reserve your place for November's
 Road Trip!**



November 17th



Join us for "Christmas In October". We will be making Christmas Tree Paper Ornaments, Wednesday, October 18 in FAC Building Dining Hall 1:00 – 2:30 PM. This event is free but you do need to sign-up so materials can be prepared for you. We will be making three different ornaments. They are cute, fun and easy! Check them out on the Senior Adult Ministry bulletin board. If the weather is cool, we will have some spiced tea and cocoa.



October 3, Golden Circle
 October 18, Christmas Craft Project
 November 5, All Saint's Sunday
 November 7, Golden Circle
 November 17, Play (Fayetteville)
 November 26, Play (Murfreesboro)
 December 5, Golden Circle
 December 14, Tables of Christmas



I am still not seeing much interest in the "Tables of Christmas" Event for Thursday, December 14, 2023. We had a wonderful time last year and hope to repeat that experience again this year. Those wishing to sponsor a table by decorating it and inviting guests to sit at their table can sign-up now. See sign-up list on Senior Adult Ministry Bulletin Board. Remember this is a free event.



“Reflect upon your present blessings of which everyone has many-Not on your past misfortunes of which we all have some.”- Charles Dickens



Betsy Wood from TWRA came to talk with us about the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency which includes wildlife and boat safety. Donna Rhoton from the Book Shelf will be our guest on Tuesday, October 3. Prepare a dish and join us.

Lake Junaluska Wisdom & Grace Conference

This year’s theme was “Strong Roots, Bright Future: Our Jewish Roots.” We looked at some end-of-life issues such as Legacy, Telling our Story and Generous Giving of Time and Talent. Our big group Bible Study was taken from Ruth.

Lake Junaluska’s Wisdom and Grace Conference next year will be August 19-22. Make your calendar now for this event.

The theme is “Our Wesleyan Roots.” This would be a great time to learn more about your Christian Faith and relax in this very beautiful and peaceful space of North Carolina. I don’t think you will be disappointed.



Pictures by Nancy Lawrence

TULLAHOMA FIRST METHODIST SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY

October Birthdays

- Gail Hines, 2
- Lou Ann Mitchell, 17
- Joanne Seiber, 19
- Barry Bishop, 21
- Charlotte Betheman 22
- David Schmisser, 23
- Esther J. Sims, 24
- Larry Dean, 26
- Ruth Rymer, 26
- Nancy Thompson 27
- Frances Jones, 29
- Carol Vacek, 30



It is not on our calendar of events for this year (but we can make it happen) if there is enough interest. The First Baptist Church of Huntsville, Alabama will be presenting the

“Living Christmas Tree” December 16 and 17th. I will be making reservations November 27 for this trip. Transportation will be provided for the first twelve (12) to make reservations.

VISIT SENIOR ADULT BULLETIN BOARD FOR UPCOMING EVENTS



Dossett Chapel has 32 kids on Wednesday's and Saturdays! They have some exciting field trips coming up including horse play, painted house, duck river water excursion and more. They are still heavily committed to the community and community service. With so many kids now attending, Dossett is in desperate need of volunteers to help out! If you can volunteer please contact Jeff Ellison at jeff.ellison@me.com.

SAVE THE DATE!

SUNDAY OF SERVICE

Sunday, November 12th

Join us as we serve our community through a variety of projects around Tullahoma!

For more information, see Michael Magrini or Evan Smith

The Clothes Closet is in needs of some items! Please look through your houses and see if you have any of these items and bring them down on Tuesdays from 9:30-11:30am at the Clothes Closet or M-T from 8am-4pm and drop them off in the back of the chapel.

- ◆ comforters
- ◆ sheets
- ◆ toys
- ◆ towels
- ◆ cookware



TULLAHOMA
FIRST
METHODIST
 YOUTH

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAY

Youth Bible Study | 10 a.m. Youth Room

High School Tribe | 6-7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Middle School Tribe | 6-7:30 p.m.

Disciple Bible Study | 6-8 p.m.

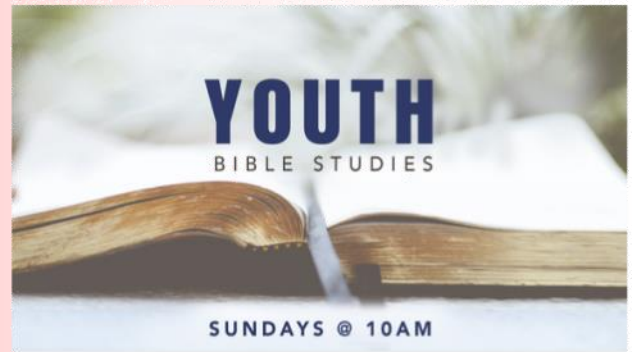
THURSDAY

Disc Golf at Sunrise Rotary Course EMS | 6 - 7:30 p.m.

EVENTS IN OCTOBER

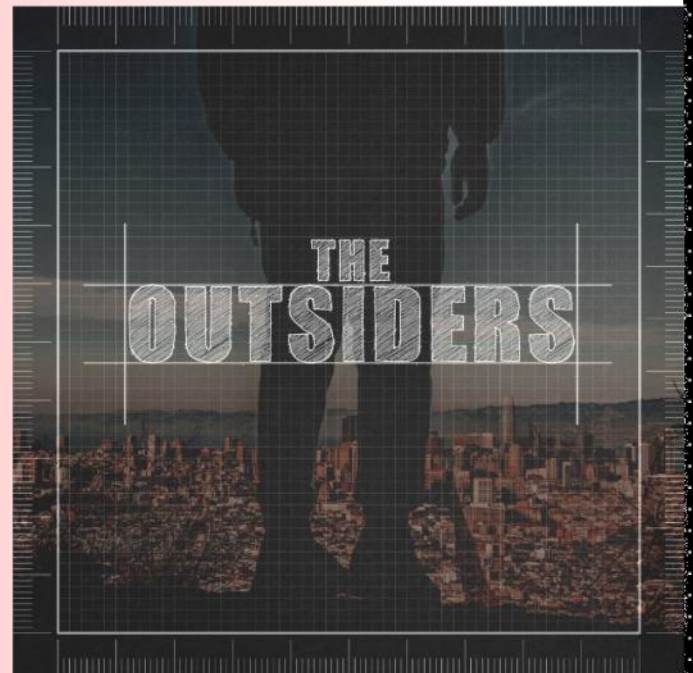
Serve Day at the Henry Center - Sunday, October 1 10-11 a.m.

High School Night Out - Saturday, October 21



OCTOBER

THE LIFE OF SAMSON



Everyone has experienced moments where they felt as though they didn't quite fit in. Some may even feel this way most of the time. Like they've been overlooked or pushed to the margins. Even Jesus faced more than his share of rejection. This series explores the truths of how Jesus not only knows exactly what we are going through when we feel like an outsider but also invites us to join his family and Kingdom. Join us for our October series at Tribe!



SUNDAY SCHOOL

at Tullahoma First Methodist Church

MAIN BUILDING

Seekers | Chapel

Singles and Couples; Traditional Bible curriculum

Journey | Room 209 Balcony

Singles and Couples; Book studies / Books of the Bible

Hope | Room 211 Balcony

Couples; Bible based / Current event discussions

Questers | Room 213 Balcony

Singles and Couples; Traditional Bible curriculum

Married Folk | Room 112

Couples; Devotionals and Discussion

Children | SOUL Lounge (Children's Dept)

Pre-K-5th Grades; New Testament Studies

FAMILY ACTIVITY CENTER

Strangely Warmed | B2

Singles and Couple; Traditional Bible Curriculum

Youth | 6th-12th Youth Room

Youth Bible Study | Old & New Testaments

Sanctuary Music - Doug Clark, Music Director
Chris Blondin - Accompanist/Organist



The *Sanctuary Choir*, *Instrumental Ensemble*, and *Canterbury Ringers* are committed to musical excellence, to glorify God, and to create a musical atmosphere in which our congregation can worship the Lord in spirit and truth. If you are interested in being a part of the Sanctuary Music program or have any questions, please contact Doug Clark at doug.fumc@gmail.com.

Sanctuary Choir:

The Sanctuary Choir is primarily made up of adults but is open to high school students as well. The choir meets downstairs in the Choral Hall and is **Wednesdays at 5:30pm.**

Instrumental Ensemble:

The Instrumental Ensemble meets downstairs in the Instrumental Hall and is on **Tuesdays at 5:15pm.**

Canterbury Ringers:

The Canterbury Ringers are our handbell choir that meet downstairs next to the Choral Hall and meet **Wednesdays at 6:30pm.**

We had a great morning of fellowship and organizing last month at our Mom's work day.



Keeping In Prayers

Sharon Anderson (*Friend of Richard & Peggy Columbia*)
 Forrest & Amanda McCulloch (*Friends of Kelton Garner*)
 Ryan Bond
 Champagne Rutledge
 John Fetty

Anne Miller
 Katie Jo Bailey
 Ann Cunningham
 David Hess
 Tom Berninger
 Janie Townes
 Larry Dickerson

Barbara Prater
 Merz Family
 Ken Davis
 John King

If you have someone you would like to add to the prayer list, please contact the church office at 455-5434 or fumc@lighttube.net. Also, if you have updates about your loved one currently on the prayer list, please contact the office with that information. It is important for us to have the most accurate information so that we may provide the appropriate congregational care.

Finance August 2023

Revenue

YTD Budget \$429,084
 Received \$368,731

Expenditures

YTD Budget \$429,084
 Disbursed \$383,037

Attendance

Average Attendance 2023

8:00 a.m. Worship	53
First Light Worship	147
11:00 a.m. Worship	95
Total	295
Sunday School	63

Memorials

Virgil Cline
from
Dr. Ben & Ann Spaulding
W.C. & Jane Ann Driver

Jim Mitchell
from
W.C. & Jane Ann Driver

Ross Roepke
from
W.C. & Jane Ann Driver



Shirley Miller
from
W.C. & Jane Ann Driver

John Merz
from
Carolyn Marks

Connect

Senior Pastor
 Associate Pastor
 Administrative Assistant
 Worship & Communications
 Missions
 Children & Fellowship
 Senior Adults & Congregational Care
 Dossett Chapel
 Traditional Music Ministry
 Organist and Accompanist
 First Light Music Ministry
 Finance Assistant
 Facilitator

Mike Gudka
 Kris Roberts
 Annelise Brechler
 Jeff Harrison
 Jordan Ennis
 Julie Uehlein
 Esther J. Sims
 Jeff Ellison
 Doug Clark
 Chris Blondin
 John Cook
 Karen Douglas
 Elmo Birkhead

pastormikegudka@gmail.com
 krisfumc@lighttube.net
 fumc@lighttube.net
 jeffhfumc@lighttube.net
 jennis1750@outlook.com
 childrensfumc@lighttube.net
 ejsfumc@lighttube.net
 jeff.ellison@me.com
 doug.fumc@gmail.com
 blondinmusic@bellsouth.net
 johnjaniece@bellsouth.net
 financefumc@lighttube.net
 fumc23@lighttube.net

208 West Lauderdale Street ♦ www.tullahomafmc.com

Church Office: 931-455-5434 or fumc@lighttube.net ♦ **Pastor Mike's Cell:** 515-835-7847

Finance Office: 931-455-7127 or financefumc@lighttube.net

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8am-4pm

A TEXT IN CHURCH

To receive text messages & emails from the church to keep you in the loop

about everything that is going on, just text the word **church** to 931-452-4747 and click on the response. You may also sign up to receive texts from specific areas of ministry. For our Children's Ministry, text **children**; for our Senior Adults ministry, text **fumcsam**. Once your form is filled out, we will begin sending you all the info you'll need.



Our main Facebook page is First Methodist Church. We also have a **Youth** page - FUMC Tullahoma Youth Ministry; and a **Children's** page - Children's Ministry of FUMC Tullahoma.

To receive this newsletter electronically, just email the office at **fumc@lighttube.net**. Help us save paper, postage, and time! You can also find the newsletter on our website, **www.tullahomafmc.com**

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