



# THE CHIMES

## July 2020

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
ELIZABETHTON, TN



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church™

***"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."***

2nd Chronicles 7:14

What if we could actually heal our nation? What if every Christian who has complained about things that are going on in our country decided to kneel at a church altar and pray tomorrow? Of course this would mean the willingness of some to sacrifice a few personal plans. Would it be worth it?

Isn't it time to take our faith more seriously? We can have unity again if we are willing to surrender to the Lord. Have you watched starlings fly in formation? They turn, climb, dive and dance in perfect unison. Isn't that what Christ wants His Church to be like? The Holy Spirit can do that in our lives again. Christianity shouldn't look like a hill of ants that has been kicked around by the devil.

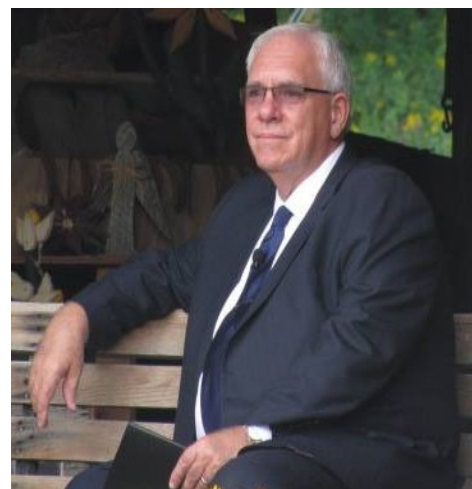
The key is in the verse above: "If My people..." There is no reason to expect everyone to live by Christian standards; But Christ does expect it from anyone who chooses to be called by His name.

"Will humble themselves..." That requires a lot from us. We all must be willing to stop being so stubbornly right in order to ask Him to put His righteousness into our hearts. Let us not predetermine what that is, but let God alone reveal it. That is what it means to seek His face.

"Pray" Our modern prayer life resembles little of the kind that we read about in the New Testament. How long has it been since we honestly repented of our sin, and determined to live for Christ, whatever the cost? The early church prayed for boldness to be faithful in a world that neither knew their Jesus, or them. I have a feeling that we will need to be praying more like that.

God promised to reward that kind of faith with the healing of the land. The hour has come, we must choose life Christ's way, and live; or face the unimaginable results of our sin. We must decide now if we will glorify Christ, or miss the glory of life. We can't muddle through this time. There are no magic slippers to click our heals and return to the Good Old Days. There is an answer, there is a cost; Will we choose to live whole heartedly for Christ?

Grace and Peace,  
***Rev Ray***



# JULY MISSION OF THE MONTH



## EAST TENNESSEE CHRISTIAN HOME & ACADEMY

East Tennessee Christian Home and Academy was started in 1946 after Preacher Fred Smith of First Christian Church in Elizabethton, TN witnessed a local judge placing children in jail because they did not have a family to provide for them. With no facility in the community to care for them Preacher Smith and a leadership board of 14 members opened ETCHA on a beautiful 18 acre property that overlooks the surrounding mountains and valleys.

East Tennessee Christian Home and Academy is a ministry dedicated to “Growing Girls God’s Way.” We exist to provide a Christ-centered ministry to help at-risk adolescent girls and their families in need of respite and/or reprieve.

The residents receive daily affirmation of the work they complete and learn valuable goal-setting skills. The best results are that most have been baptized while at ETCHA and that all have returned to their community without further judicial problems. The residential program has also made tremendous gains over the past few years. The House Parent positions, the backbone of the program, are stable and role model strong Christian beliefs and behaviors. The girls are placed in “individual growing seasons” that help them to set goals in all areas of their lives; thus, the motto, “Growing Girls God’s Way”.

Each month all girls attend focus groups where character traits important for successful living are discussed. These traits include purity, joy, and perseverance. In addition, scripture verses are memorized and must be recited during individual monthly reviews of progress. A daily schedule of activities is followed.

Over the years hundreds of children and youth whose families could not or would not provide them with an environment that nurtured their development have been served. Many have returned to their communities and become productive successful citizens. The programs of service have evolved from the original concept of an orphanage to its present day residential and academic programs for adolescent girls who can benefit from an enhancement of their life experience. In a perfect world, ETCHA’s ministry would not be needed. However, numerous adolescent girls are being challenged by their environment and they and their families are in need of respite and/or reprieve.

ETCHA offers hope by giving a safe home with kindhearted, Christian house parents and staff; through nationally recognized biblically-based academics; and through learning about what Christ can bring to life! ETCHA receives no state funding and depends on gifts from generous donors to make the ministry successful.

God has a plan for each girl who joins the ETCHA family. The goal is to help each girl discover her path and purpose in life. For teaching and encouragement this journey is divided into Four Seasons. The girls move to a new season while growing at ETCHA with the five strong attributes of Esteem, Trust, Character, Hope, and Attitude.



**Second Harvest Food Bank**  
**of Northeast Tennessee**

A member of **FEEDING AMERICA**

## **Food Pantry News**

### **Our Second Harvest Food Pantry Remains on Hold**

Since October, 2011, the second Tuesday of each month, we used our fellowship hall for registration and as a waiting area for an average of 65 people who came to the FUMC Mobile Food Pantry. Several of our faithful volunteers have inquired when we can resume this mission project. Unfortunately, social distancing requirements and group maximum capacity requirements within the church stipulated by Holston Conference make our previous process unacceptable.

The only other option proposed to us by Second Harvest is a drive through pantry. Valley Forge Freewill Baptist Church has converted their pantry on the second Wednesday of each month to a drive through pantry. I observed their pantry in June to determine if this was feasible for our church. Unfortunately, I concluded it is not.

Many of their recipients arrived in their cars an hour or so before the 9:00 AM pantry begins. Certainly they also arrived early at FUMC to ensure they received food. Valley Forge has a very large adjacent parking lot where the cars formed a line. They never left their cars but rather, the registration process and the food itself was brought to their cars by volunteers. Our challenge to a drive through pantry is traffic control. We are surrounded by city streets where lanes of traffic cannot be obstructed by waiting cars. We do not have a parking lot large enough to accommodate a line of waiting cars, the 2nd Harvest truck, and people arriving to pick up preschool children.

Many willing hands and hearts of FUMC have served his ministry for the past 8 1/2 years. Many of these recipients became our friends. We not only supplied Second Harvest food, but our church supplied an additional item **every single month**. We often served a hot lunch thanks to willing cooks, coffee, snacks, a warm winter coat, socks, toiletries....and WE received a blessing in doing so.

For now, the pantry must wait until we have the freedom to resume a process that worked so well. We will remain prayerful that we can resume this worthwhile project, in God's own time.  
In His service,

*Lanette*

# *In Memory*

*Donations to the church have been received in Memory of:*

## *Imogene Markland*

*Mobile Food Pantry Fund by: Tom & Pam Witherspoon*

*Food For Multitude Fund by: Jean Madgett*

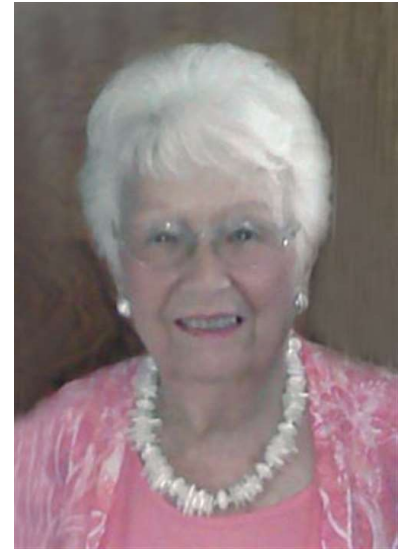
*Food For Multitude Fund by: Wayne & Aileen Lovern*

*Food For Multitude Fund by: Paul & Myong Powers*

*Food For Multitude Fund by: Michael, Amie & Jacob Williams*

*Building Fund by: Lanny & Martha Epperson*

*Food For Multitude Fund by: Choices Sunday School Class—  
McEachern Memorial United Methodist Church*

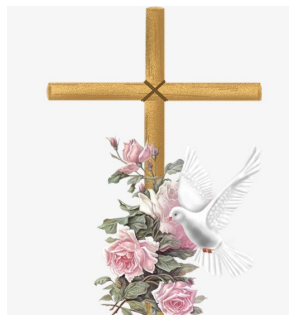


*In Memory of Bob Madgett (Building Fund for Fathers Day) by Jean Madgett*

*In Memory of Clarence Raulston (Building Fund for Fathers Day) by Jean Madgett*

*In Memory of Charles Madgett (Building Fund for Fathers Day) by Jean Madgett*

*In Memory of Bill Raulston (Building Fund for Fathers Day) by Jean Madgett*





1st....Catherine Armstrong, Jean Madgett, Erin Weatherford  
 4th....Claudette Howerton, Kitty Alexander  
 7th....Chelsea Williams  
 8th....Lynn Carroll, Bob Fleming  
 9th....Tyler Fleming  
 10th..Sid Smithdeal, Kate Blevins  
 11th..Jackson Blevins  
 13th...Casey Eryasa  
 14th...Pat Waligroski, Mary Sharp  
 15th...Elizabeth McPheeters  
 18th...Greg Powers  
 19th...Laura Holland, Breanna Little, Jason Blevins  
 21st...Bailey Gwinn, David LaPorte, Brent McCann, George Simmons,  
       Connie Boudot, Jonathan Raulston, Ken Jarratt  
 23rd...Jennifer Bradley  
 26th...Don Cooper, Drake Lytton  
 27th...Eriabella Weatherford  
 29th...Martha Epperson, Marlo LaPorte  
 30th...Dave Harrill, Fred Bowers, Mark Hale, Clay Gwinn  
 31st...Doug Hulshult

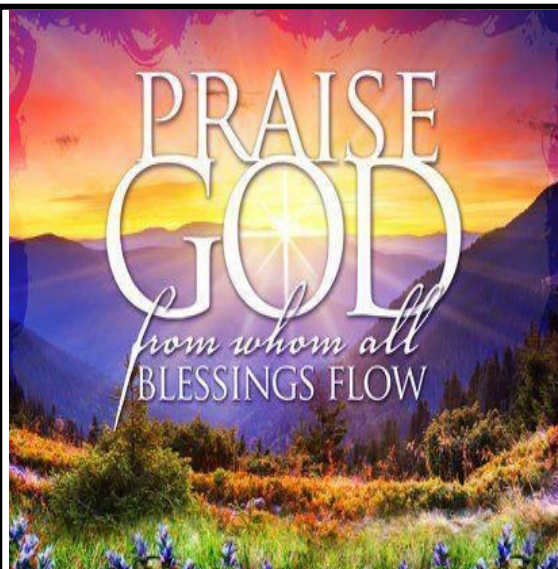


**\*Please advise Robin in the Church Office of additions or corrections**



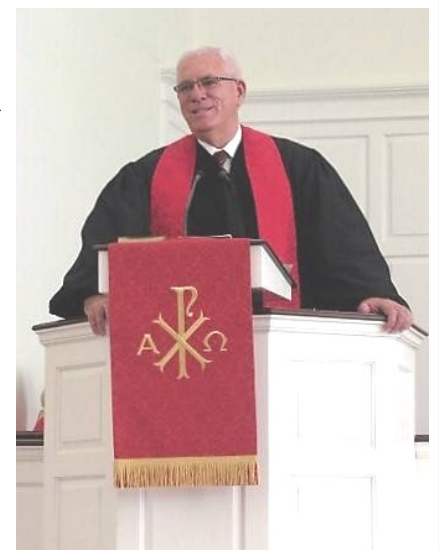
### **OFFERING COUNTERS**

July 6th	Jobelle Hood
July 13th	Dona Dvorak
July 20th	Jean Forinash
July 27th	Susan Heaton



Rev. Ray has been reappointed  
 to First United Methodist  
 Church of Elizabethton for his  
 tenth year!

We are so very blessed!



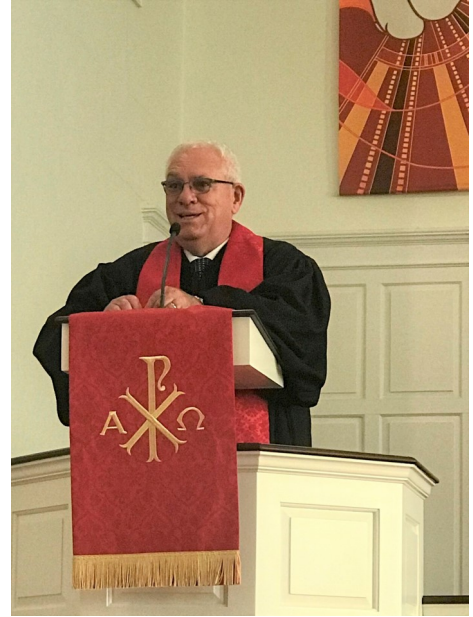
# Our First Sunday Back to Worship!

It was so wonderful to attend worship services again. It was different with all the required health guidelines, but it was well worth it to be back in the house of the Lord!



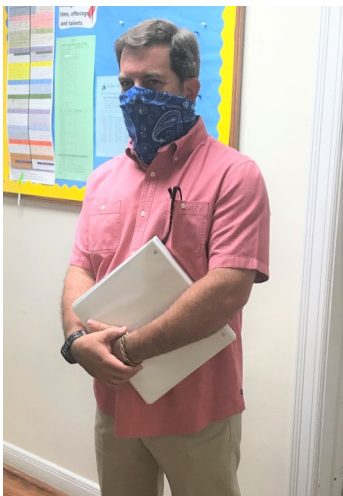


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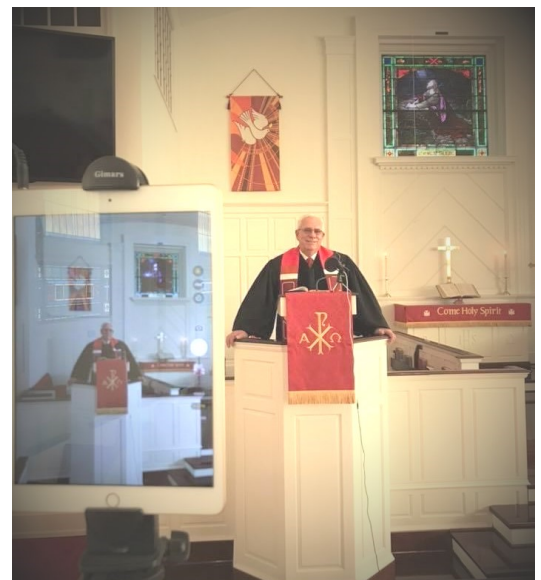




# Life In Our Church



**Memorial Day**



**Pentecost**



**I was glad when they said unto me,  
Let us go into the house of the Lord.**

Psalms 122:1

As we embrace our return to this house of worship,  
please take a few minutes to review these safety guidelines.

**P**lease wear your mask while in the church building.

**R**efrain from hugging and shaking hands.

Although we have missed each other greatly, let's play it safe.

**A**void touching church surfaces and use the enclosed hand  
sanitizer when needed.

**I**f you need the elevator, please see an usher for assistance.  
Our ushers will be happy to help!

**S**it with your family and stay approximately 6 feet away from  
others for social distancing. Pews are marked accordingly.

**E**ach sanctuary entrance has a wooden box for you to deposit your  
donations.

**We are so happy to welcome our FUMC family back together again.  
Let us rejoice in the light of our Lord!**



## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

325 EAST E STREET, ELIZABETHTON TN 37643

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Visit Our Website

[fumcelizabethton.com](http://fumcelizabethton.com)





## Regular Weekly Schedule



Sunday Worship	9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, 6:00 PM
Sunday School	On hold due to COVID-19
Sunday Night 4:12 Jr. High	On hold due to COVID-19
Sunday Night 4:12 Sr. High	On hold due to COVID-19
Wednesday Coolagers	On hold due to COVID-19
Wednesday Life Lessons	Online at 7:00 PM
Wednesday Choir Practice	On hold due to COVID-19

# July 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 <u>Life Lessons</u> View online at 7:00 PM	2	3 Church Offices closed for Independence Day	4
5 <u>Worship</u> 9:00 AM 11:00 AM 6:00 PM	6	7	8 <u>Life Lessons</u> View online at 7:00 PM	9	10	11
12 <u>Worship</u> 9:00 AM 11:00 AM 6:00 PM	13	14	15 <u>Life Lessons</u> View online at 7:00 PM	16	17	18
19 <u>Worship</u> 9:00 AM 11:00 AM 6:00 PM	20	21	22 <u>Life Lessons</u> View online at 7:00 PM	23	24	25
26 <u>Worship</u> 9:00 AM 11:00 AM 6:00 PM	27	28	29 <u>Life Lessons</u> View online at 7:00 PM	30	31	



**First United Methodist Church**  
**325 East E Street**  
**Elizabethton TN 37643**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

