

# NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 8, 2017



*PRAISE: To date we have raised over \$2000 for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) for hurricane relief. Thank you to everyone that has supported this Youth lead endeavor. Our prayers are with all those in need.*

## VISIONING FOR OUR FUTURE

I have heard it from many of you at different times over this last year, “There is a new spirit around here!” And I agree. And praise God for the blessing of this gift. Many of you have been there for some dark, spirit draining days in the church. And I know that it has taken the work and prayers of many to help us make this change. But there is still more to do done. Lately, it has made me think about Psalm 51: 10 (one of my favorites); *Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.* That verse is a beautiful prayer and praise for us in the church today. We know each of us needs a renewed and right spirit to face the cultural, social, and communal challenges in our current age. A new, positive spirit is not enough. We need the right spirit and the joined together in Christian

love Spirit to take the bold steps into the world. Because people are not going to come to us anymore, we are going to have to go to them.

In our congregational life together we may have a sense of a new spirit and that is good, but we cannot stop there. We are called as well to ask vital questions about what is the road ahead for this Missional Outpost for the Kingdom of God. Questions that are going to take prayer, thought, and discernment if we are to live out our mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Questions like: *Where are we going now? Where do we want to go? How do we take everyone there?* As pastoral leadership of this church, if you are reading these words, I need you to be a part of this next major step in the life of

Fulton First UMC. And, it is my opinion that this next step is a focused visioning process that involves the whole community of faith here.

So, if you like the new spirit in this place. If you are committed to the next steps we need to spiritual grow as a Christian community come to next Tuesday's, **September 12, Church-wide Visioning Gathering.** We will meet at 6 p.m. with Bill Owen of the Center for Healthy Churches at Belmont University. He is a coach and leader with has worked with dozens of churches helping them answer and vision where God is calling them. He will be sharing a Congregationally-Based Discernment Process that myself and the leadership of the church think is vital for our next steps in ministry.

-Pastor Nancy Johnston Varden

### **Fundraiser**

The United Methodist Women are selling pecans as a fundraiser to send a member of our Memphis conference on a mission trip to Africa. We are selling 1 lb. bags for \$12.00 a bag. Thank you so much for your support as we continue to support women, children, and youth around the world. Contact Pat Dunker or Dorothy Bush for your pecans.

### **UMW Meetings**

The **UMW Night Circle** will meet on Monday, Sept. 11, 6:30pm at the home of Dorothy Bush, 1104 Dogwood Lane in Fulton.

The **UMW Day Circle** will meet for lunch on Wednesday, Sept. 13, 10:30am at the B/B Café on the corner of Broadway and State Line Rd. (across the street from the new hotel)

### **You're Invited to Serve in Worship**

If you love the Lord and love to sing, you're invited to join us for choir practice on Wednesdays at 7pm. We're excited to be starting new music for the Fall and Christmas seasons!

If you play an instrument, Shannon would love to talk with you about sharing your gifts in worship. Please email her to start the conversation.

[musicfultonfirst@gmail.com](mailto:musicfultonfirst@gmail.com)

### **New Worship Page on Facebook**

Fulton First UMC has a new Facebook page dedicated to worship ministry. Follow us for worship information, inspiration from God's Word, and links to songs we sing in worship.

[facebook.com/fultonfirstumcworship](https://facebook.com/fultonfirstumcworship)

Follow our church Facebook page for up-to-date information churchwide.

[facebook.com/Fulton1stUMChurchKY](https://facebook.com/Fulton1stUMChurchKY)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT OUR CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

### ***Afternoon Tea***

*Please join us for an  
afternoon tea in honor of*

*Clare McConnell*

*Bride-elect of*

*Grant Saum*

*On Sunday, Sept. 17*

*1pm – 3pm*

*Fulton First Methodist Fellowship  
Hall*

*Hostesses: Peggy Lohaus, Linda  
Faulkner, Joan Homra, Judy Faulkner,  
Jennifer Robertson, Linda Barclay, Kay  
Williams, Pam Dame, Rita Pirtle,  
Waynell Stephens, Suedell Ragsdale,  
Carmen Barclay, Melanie Hawks,  
Linda McDade, Judy Jones, Kim  
Hutchins, and Kym Kane*

### **Lay Pastors Meeting**

There will be a meeting for Lay Pastors Thursday, Sept 14 at 6:30 pm. If you'd like to be part of this vital ministry, either be at the meeting or contact Pat Dunker at [patdunker@bellsouth.net](mailto:patdunker@bellsouth.net) any time or [731-479-3593](tel:731-479-3593) after 5:30 pm. Hope to see you there!

### **New Study**

The Discipleship in Action Sunday School Class has started a video series on the New Testament. This series will run for the next several weeks during the Sunday School hour in the East end of the Fellowship Hall. You are invited to come and join us for this series!