



A Message from Tim

"An Epiphany, a Baptism, a New Beginning"

January is a time to consider things anew. Resolutions are made, goals are set, budgets are finalized, and a new year comes to our calendar. It is during this time of the Christian year that Epiphany occurs, on January 6. Epiphany celebrates the Visitation of the Magi to Christ. Epiphany remembers the new light that shone to the nations in Christ.

When the Magi went to follow the star, it is crucially important to note that their direction was not toward a principle, an idea, or a philosophy. For the Magi, and for any that would go to Bethlehem, it is a direction toward a particular person: Jesus. And they were rewarded by finding the Christ child.

The Magi surrendered their lives to Christ, worshiped him, gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, just as had been prophesied, and the Bible reminds us that the Magi went home a "different way." (Matthew 2:12) The same is true of anyone who comes to faith in Christ. Faith in Christ brings a new life, a new way, a new road.

Epiphany is followed immediately in the Christian year by the celebration of the Baptism of Christ. The baptism of Christ remembers Jesus beginning his new ministry, submitting to John's baptism in order "to fulfill all righteousness." (Matthew 3:15)

After his baptism, and led by the Spirit, Jesus set out to overcome temptation, proclaim that the kingdom was near, call his first disciples, and heal the sick and diseased. A new chapter of God's saving covenant was being written in human history. Christ was creating something new.

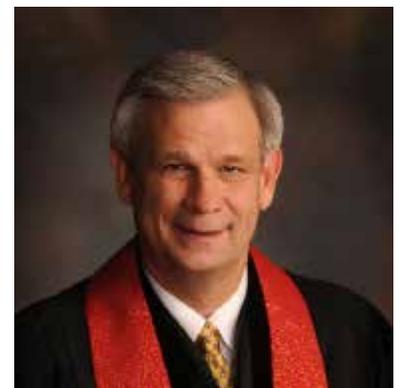
Paul taught that in Jesus Christ we become new creations. (2 Corinthians 5:17) He also reminded us that we are not to conform to this world but to be transformed by our minds becoming new. (Romans 12:2)

In this new calendar year, be renewed with the Magi in discovering again the Christ. Commit anew with Christ in the Jordan by remembering your own baptism. And claim a new life, a new hope, a new courage in the saving covenant God continues to write in Christ for all who would believe.

Bishop Bill McAlilly coming to Germantown UMC

Join us **Sunday, January 21, 2018**, as Bishop McAlilly visits Germantown UMC and brings our message. Bishop McAlilly has provided strong and vibrant leadership to our Conference and to the United Methodist Church, and we are grateful to have him lead us in worship.

Bishop McAlilly will preach all three worship services. Mark your calendars to be present as we welcome our bishop.



Membership



Germantown United Methodist Church welcomed Andrew Ballard into membership on Sunday, November 12th at the 11:00 worship service. Andrew joined by Profession of Faith. Pictured with Andrew is his wife, Anna, and their daughter.



Germantown United Methodist Church welcomed Martha and James Boyd into membership on Sunday, November 19th at the 11:00 worship service. They joined by transfer of their membership from Winchester United Methodist Church in Winchester, KY.



Germantown United Methodist Church welcomed Jeanne and Dobie Gillis into membership on Sunday, November 26th at the 11:00 worship service. Dobie joined by transfer of his membership from a sister United Methodist Church in the Memphis area. Jeanne joined as an Affiliate Member. They are members of Fiser-Covenant Sunday School Class.



Germantown United Methodist Church welcomed Sharon and James Hinton into membership on Sunday, December 3rd at the 8:30 worship service. They joined by transfer of their membership from First UMC of Floydada, Texas. They are members of the Fiser-Covenant Sunday School Class.



Germantown United Methodist Church welcomed Amanda Horrell into membership on Sunday, October 22nd at the 9:40 worship service. Amanda joined by transfer of her membership from Chapel Hill UMC, Dunlap, TN. Amanda is a member of the Foundations Sunday School Class. Pictured with Amanda is her husband, Wilson, and their family.



Germantown United Methodist Church welcomed Mary and Dave Stooksbury into membership on Sunday, November 19th at the 11:00 worship service. They joined by transfer of their membership from Brentwood UMC, Brentwood, TN. They are members of the Fiser-Covenant Sunday School Class.

Time is running out!!
Register for the 2018 Women's Retreat
Something Out of Nothing

January 26-27 at St. Columba Conference Center

Join us for a relaxing and rejuvenating retreat from daily life where we can connect with God and with each other. Only a 35-minute drive from Germantown, St. Columba Conference Center offers a wooded setting, hiking trails, comfortable lodging, and hot buffet meals in a cozy dining room with a fireplace (for pictures and directions visit www.saintcolumbamemphis.org).

Melissa Bosserman will lead our discussions using Genesis 1:1-2: *"God created the heavens and earth – all you see, all you don't see. God created something out of nothing."* Eva McPeters, GUMC's Organist and Assistant Music Director, will provide our music with piano and harp. We will connect with each other through small group discussions, music, and activities creating new and deeper friendships.

This retreat is for women of all ages and is an opportunity and a place where you can encounter God in a meaningful way, connect with friends, make new ones, and learn through stimulating discussions.

Register online at germantownumc.org. For more information, pick up a brochure at the Welcome Center or call Mary Groh. Sign-up soon – registration deadline is January 12th!



Let's Hear it for Groups!

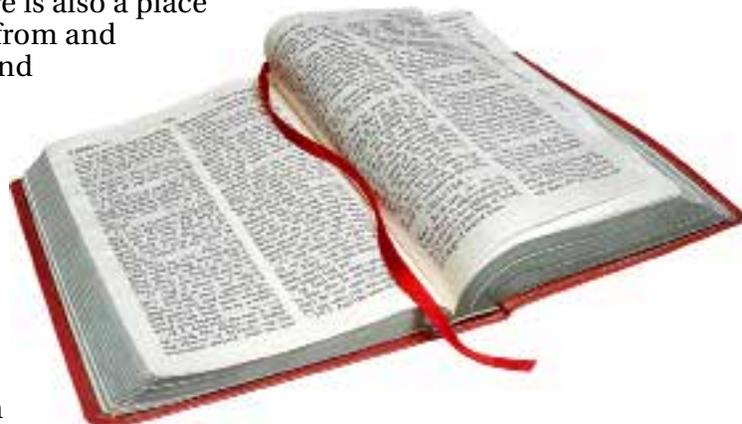
Our world is becoming more solitary. At meals and in meetings, people look at their cell phones instead of talking to each other. People watch movies at home or on tablets instead of in a theater. The church is one setting where group interaction is not only important, it is essential to our growth as Christians, individually and corporately.

Think of group Bible study as an activity dedicated to congregational spiritual health and nurturing. By ourselves, we might easily postpone a workout for another time. Seeing others with whom to study the Bible encourages us to stick to a routine, to develop this spiritual discipline, and to learn what we might otherwise miss.

While there is a place for individual Bible reading, there is also a place for group Bible study where we, as participants, learn from and encourage each other, as together we seek to understand the Scriptures and how God uses them to speak to us in our time.*

Pick up our *Winter/Spring Adult Small Group Studies* brochure at one of our kiosks and find a small group study that interests you. We are offering day and evening classes. There is sure to be a class that fits your schedule perfectly!

All are welcome to become part of what God is doing through the Adult Education Ministry at GUMC. Enrich your life and your involvement in GUMC's faith community by making the commitment to be a part of a small group study!



* from *Kerygma.com*



Mark Your Calendars for April 27-29
Faith Seeking Understanding
2018: “Growing Pains” of the Early Church
A Weekend with Biblical Archaeologist,
Dr. James Fleming

Experience the world of the Bible with one of the best known teachers of Biblical Archaeology. Dr. Fleming lived and taught in Israel for 37 years and is currently the Director of Biblical Resources and the CEO of the Biblical History Center, a museum of daily life in biblical times, located in LaGrange, GA. Dr. Fleming uniquely ties his lectures on historical geography with the biblical text and with an emphasis on the theological implications. Dr. Fleming will bring his scholarship to GUMC for dinner and lecture on Friday night, a Saturday morning seminar, and lectures on Sunday morning during our Sunday school hours. Be sure to join us – plan to be captivated! Look for more information soon!

Faith Seeking Understanding
2018: GROWING PAINS OF THE EARLY CHURCH

The Middle *Rev. Erin Beasley - ebeasley@germantownumc.org - 901-754-7216*

Are you an adult in your 20s, 30s, or 40s? The Middle invites you to join us in fellowship at our upcoming events.

Spring 2018 Events

What: Guys’ Night Out – College Football Championship

When: Monday, January 8th | 7:00 p.m.

Where: Skybox Grill (2140 Poplar Ave, Collierville)

What: Girls’ Night Out – Dinner

When: Thursday, February 22nd | 6:00 p.m.

Where: Mellow Mushroom (3075 Village Shops Dr., Germantown)

What: Table for 8

When: Saturday, March 24th | 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Where: Various Germantown Restaurants

What: Mission – GUMC Easter Egg Hunt Coffee

When: Saturday, March 31st

Where: GUMC McVay Gardens

What: Family Lunch

When: Sunday, April 29th | 12 noon

Where: GUMC Owings Life Enrichment Center

What: Family Night @ Redbirds Game

When: Saturday, May 12th

Where: AutoZone Park (Union Ave & Third Ave, Memphis)



The Middle, the Young Adult ministry of Germantown United Methodist Church, provides young adults with opportunities to grow spiritually, connect with others, and serve our church and community. Check out our website for information about fellowship and worship at Germantown United Methodist Church.
www.germantownumc.org/themiddle

Uganda's Sozo Children's Choir

Saving Children. Transforming Lives.

By popular demand the Sozo Children's Choir from Uganda will be making a return performance in our Sanctuary on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.!!

"Sozo" is a Greek word found in the New Testament, that means "to save," both physical restoration and spiritual salvation. This word captures Sozo Children's vision to provide for children who have been neglected or orphaned while at the same time encouraging them to become disciples bringing glory to God.

There are 2.7 million children who have been orphaned and neglected in Uganda because of war, disease, and deep poverty. Over half the population is under the age of 15, making it the second youngest nation in the world.

On May 13, 2010, Sozo Children was born out of an immediate need to take seventeen children from suffering circumstances. Two missionaries, along with a few in the United States, found children neglected and hungry. When they discovered that rats were biting these children's feet at night in their current living conditions, they knew something had to change. With the support of the Ugandan government, a new family-style home was created for them; complete with bunk beds, Ugandan mothers and fathers, and a vision to disciple them into the next generation of Christian leaders.

Today, Sozo Children operates multiple children's homes in Uganda that provide care for over 120 children providing shelter, clothing, education, nutrition, medical and emotional needs.

The Sozo Children's Choir toured the United States for the first time in 2016, bringing with them a cultural experience through songs and dance, testimonies from the children, and powerful praise and worship. GUMC was fortunate to be one of the stops on the 2016 tour – and we haven't stopped talking about the performance.

Now the Sozo Children's Choir is returning to the United States this winter/spring with 17 students, along with 10 adults for support – one of which is a teacher from the school in Uganda, so the students can do class work each day.

The choir tour is really a tool to raise awareness for Sozo Children by sharing their stories. The performances are nights of praise and worship, storytelling, and celebrating what God has already done. The secondary purpose is a learning experience for the kids. The tour is meant to expand their world views. Their choir director, Jon Brennan, put it this way: "Hopefully, coming to the U.S. gives these kids a little hope and a chance to see for themselves what hard work and education can do.

Hopefully, it encourages them to take that idea back with them, and to realize if they work hard, they can provide for themselves and prosper. We hope they come back confident they can help make Uganda better."

The work of Sozo Children is truly transformational – for the children involved, the volunteers and staff who interact with them, and now for people across the United States who are welcoming the Sozo touring choir into their churches and communities.

Please join us on January 10th for this celebration. Ugandan merchandise will be sold following the event, and you will have the chance to meet some really awesome kids!

This event is free with a love offering accepted. This is an experience your family won't want to miss!

For more information, visit sozochildren.org.





Don't Forget the January Brown Bag Lunch Program!

Jerome Wright, retired Editorial Page Editor, will be "Reflecting on 45 Years at *The Commercial Appeal*." This presentation will be Friday, January 5, 2018 in the Fellowship Hall. The program starts at 11:00 a.m. 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.**

Pink Palace Master Plan Revealed at February Brown Bag Lunch!

Phase 3 of the Pink Palace Master Plan, the renovation of the museum and mansion, started in January 2017 and will conclude this June. When re-opened, visitors will see interactive exhibits and striking improvements to the entrance, the first and second floors, and the mansion itself. Cathi Johnson, Director of Philanthropy, is going to show us what this transformation has looked like and the Pink Palace of the future at the February Brown Bag Lunch Series, an adventure in learning sponsored by the Older Adult Council.

TOPIC: "Reimagining the Future of the Pink Palace"

SPEAKER: Cathi Johnson, Director of Philanthropy, Pink Palace Family of Museums

WHERE: Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall

WHEN: February 2, 2018. Program starts at 11:00 a.m.; 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 Beverly Rhoads, 754-7216, ext. 107.

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



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!

XYZ's Experience the Music of Tenoré in February!



Known as the Canadian Tenors, Tenoré's powerhouse vocals are loved from L.A. to Rome. The group unleashes a glorious sound that breaks down musical barriers, draws together diverse cultures, and celebrates a repertoire of lyrical sweetness and dramatic strength. With a blend of classical, secular, pop, and Broadway selections, the group interacts with its audience in a personal and lighthearted manner, and we guarantee there will be smiles after the concert. Because it's a Valentine's show, all the ladies will receive a flower.

WHERE: Bartlett Performing Arts and Conference Center

WHEN: Saturday, February 10, 2018

COST: \$26 per person cost includes reserved seat

DEPARTURE: 6:15 p.m. from OLEC parking lot. (Be there by 6:00 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: Wednesday, January 10

XYZ's Attend Lenten Preaching Series and Tour St. Patrick Catholic Church in March!

As part of our observance of Lent, we are going downtown to listen to the Rev. Becca Stevens, an Episcopal priest and writer who is chaplain at Vanderbilt University's St. Augustine's Chapel in Nashville, at the Lenten Preaching Series at Calvary Episcopal Church and eat lunch at the Calvary Waffle Shop. She is notable for her work helping former prostitutes leave the sex industry and start new lives. She has been featured in the *New York Times*, on *ABC World News* and *NPR*, was named a 2016 CNN Hero and a White House "Champion of Change." On the way home, we will tour St. Patrick Catholic Church, which was founded in 1866 and has become one of the most progressive churches in Memphis. The St. Patrick Center is home to the first elementary Jubilee School which educates neighborhood children.

WHERE: Calvary Episcopal Church and St. Patrick Catholic Church

WHEN: Wednesday, March 14, 2018

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

DEPARTURE: 10:00 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: Wednesday, February 14.



GUMW February Luncheon

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

11:30 a.m.

Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall

"Whoever brings blessings will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered." – Proverbs 11:25

Please join us for a catered lunch, fellowship, and an inspirational message from our own GUMC member, Alise Davis, at our February Luncheon on February 13, 2018, at 11:30 a.m., in the Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall. Alise not only serves as champion and cheerleader for Room In The Inn, but she is also Secretary on the Board of Directors, Site Coordinator, Liaison with The Cottage's partnering congregations, and Fundraising Coordinator.

Alise's involvement with Room In The Inn began in 2013, and she has become a vital part of this homeless ministry. Room In The Inn provides emergency shelter and meals to some of the more than 2,000 Memphians faced with homelessness during the coldest months of the year – November through March. Volunteers and faith communities such as GUMC provide a safe haven including warmth, hospitality, food, kindness and respect.

Alise and her husband Scott have three wonderfully active children. Stepping away from a career in finance after the birth of her first child, Alise has devoted herself to her family, volunteer work, and selflessness. She fills her days raising her children, working with the GUMC Youth, participating in the Emmanuel Sunday School class, and being active in the Grace Women's Circle. She is also heavily involved in her children's school lives by fulfilling the roles of Parent Ambassador and Parent Teacher Fellowship Vice President at Evangelical Christian School.

Please join Alise and GUMW to experience and gain insight into the incredible role GUMC, and all of us as Christians and Memphians, play in Room In The Inn. Alise is truly "Blessed to Be a Blessing," as you will be after hearing her incredible journey with Room In The Inn.



Cost: \$10

Deadline to Register: February 8, 2018, 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.

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

All women are welcome to attend 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.



Lent by Candlelight

February 20, 2018

6:30 p.m.

Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall and the Chapel

Come and prepare your heart and mind for the season of Lent at this women's only annual event. You will experience a meaningful time of fellowship while enjoying desserts, coffee and tea in the Fellowship Hall. We will then process through the candlelit hallways and convene in the Chapel for special music, and time for reflection and devotion. Our speaker will be Emily Moore.

All women are invited, but space is limited. Free preschool childcare is available. You must register for this event at www.germantownumc.org/umw or email Yolanda Toney at ytoney@germantownumc.org.



Missions

Many of us at GUMC know the Carpenter's House only as the pick-up and drop-off location for Room in the Inn. But to several cooperating ministries, it is on its way to becoming the evidence of God's provision for day hospitality, worship, food-sharing ministries, social services, and RITI congregational site training.

This former Carpenter's Union building has been a great blessing to gather our guests nightly thus far, but a great deal of work needs to be done to prepare the building to provide hospitality and much more for our unsheltered neighbors. It is located at North Second Street and Exchange Avenue, next door to First United Methodist Church, who has generously donated use of the building. RITI is currently raising money to begin Phase 1 of a long-term renovation project. The first phase will include HVAC for the first floor and installation of toilets, showers and laundry facilities. GUMC has become a valued partner in this effort with individual congregational support, the donation of the offering collected during the Community Carol Festival on December 10th, and the approval of a grant from the Endowment Committee. Thank you GUMC!

Our dreams are big and our needs are many. We need your prayers for God's guidance. If you would like to become a financial partner with Room In The Inn – Memphis or would like to learn more about The Carpenter's House and its ministries, please contact Alise Davis at alise@roomintheinn-memphis.org or at 901-496-6402.



Carpenter's House

Kidmin December Recap

What a month we have had in children's ministry! We opened our Advent season with Alternative Christmas Market for children on December 3. During this time we learned about purposeful purchasing and how we can use our purchases to help others. We had a chance to shop in the Alternative Gift Market in the Huddle where over 400 gifts had been purchased *fair trade*, wrapped, and made available for purchase. A HUGE "shout-out of gratitude" to Dinah Allison and all her elves for this incredible program. It is a favorite among the children and a blessing for all!



That same night, we celebrated the Hanging of the Greens and Plum Pudding in the sanctuary. The children's choirs sang while dads danced around the sanctuary with flaming pudding held high. This longstanding tradition was a beautiful way to kick off Advent!

On December 9, approximately 150 children (plus parents and grandparents) took a journey to Bethlehem as they traveled from the angels to the manger, to the shepherds, and finally the kings. The kings rode their camels and gave a great explanation about

giving gifts at Christmas! All characters in the journey were played by our incredible youth; they were able to take the story and put their own twist on it. Truly a joy for all! The journey landed at the North Pole where little ones had a visit with the jolly guy. A special thanks to Jennifer Kauffman, Jim Steen, Bailey Lowery, children's council, youth actors, adult volunteers, and the children's ministry team for this enchanting morning for children and their families.

It is an incredible joy to see the birth of Christ through the eyes of children and youth. They teach us about joy and faith in ways often forgotten by adults. Thank you for sharing your children and grandchildren with us; they bless us beyond measure!



Special Needs Program

To accommodate children who have special needs and their families, we have hired a Grace Ministry director, Brittan Robbins. We are trying to reach families in our area who could benefit from this ministry. If you know a family who might be interested in our Grace Ministry for children with special needs, please contact Brittan Robbins at brobbins@germantownumc.org. We would love to connect with these families and find ways to serve them.

On January 19, we are having a Parent Night Out specifically for families of children with special needs. We will provide an evening of programming while families enjoy an evening "off." To enhance the evening, we will have available gift cards which have been donated by local merchants. Please register online for this event.

We will need many volunteers for this parent night out; if you are interested, please contact Brittan Robbins.

OLEC Drop-Off Care

We have opened drop-off childcare at the OLEC for parents who need childcare during the hours of 9:00 a.m - noon. See our church website for details. Reservations requested but not required.

Coming Up

- January 10: You will not want to miss the *Sozo Children's Choir* (see page 5)
- January 12: Parent Night Out – register online
- January 19: Grace Ministry Parent Night Out (for children with special needs) - register online
- January 17: Elementary Expedition resumes in the Huddle at 5:30 - register for dinner online
- January 31: *Created by God* Parent Meeting 6:30; children's wing
- February 10-11: *Ignite!* Retreat (4/5 graders only) at the Grove at Red Oaks Lake - register online
- February 23: *Created by God* (5/6 graders only): Tweens, Faith, and Sexuality - register online

Ignite! Retreat (February 10-11)

This annual event is designed specifically for children in fourth and fifth grades. We will meet early on Saturday morning at the Grove at Red Oaks Lake (Cordova). We will spend Saturday and Sunday learning more about how to use our talents in service of God. We will have great fellowship with some crazy kids and youth, play games, and conquer the giant swing and high ropes. Of course there will be gaga ball, gopher ball, and s'mores! More details and registration are available online. Guests are welcome, but they must be in fourth or fifth grades.

Created by God (February 23-24)

Tweens, Faith, and Human Sexuality... Human sexuality is one of God's greatest gifts to people. *Created By God* is a program designed to communicate to fifth and sixth graders that we are a fantastic creation made by God. What better place to learn about your body as a sanctuary than at church? This curriculum is very honest and direct, using science and scripture to explain human sexuality.

Due to the sensitive nature of this discussion, there will be a parent meeting on Wednesday, January 31 at 6:30 in the children's wing. Parents will be able to peruse the curriculum, pick up the text, and ask questions. This meeting is designed to assist parents in the decision about whether to enroll their child and not as a commitment to the program.

Missions

January 15 is Priority Deadline to Apply for 2018 Summer Internships with Project Transformation

Project Transformation Tennessee seeks young adults eager to make an impact through leadership and service to apply for their summer internship. Interns lead a summer day camp for children and youth, live in intentional community with other interns, learn from Christ-inspired church and community leaders, explore faith in action, and represent Project Transformation in the community.

Competitive applicants will be dynamic young people who desire to serve God and neighbor, believe in life beyond comfort zones, are willing to sit with the unknown, and have hope for a better world.

Applicants must have completed one year of college or be at least 19 years old before internship begins.

Compensation for Project Transformation Tennessee interns includes a living stipend, as well as room and board. The service term runs from late May to the end of July. **Placements include Nashville, Memphis, Murfreesboro, and Clarksville. The priority deadline for applications is January 15, 2018.**

For applications or more information, visit www.pttennessee.org/apply or contact Sarah McCormick at mccormick@pttennessee.org or 615-810-9620.



GUMP Weekday Preschool Sarah Sutton - ssutton@germantownumc.org - 901-753-3109

Happy New Year!! GUMP hopes that you had a wonderful Christmas celebrating the birth of Jesus, and that this New Year will find your life full of blessings from above! As the New Year begins, so begins the preschool enrollment process for the upcoming 2018-2019 school year. If you would like to learn more about the wonderful things GUMP offers young children and their families, please visit our website at www.mygump.org. To set up a tour of GUMP and come see the wonderful things happening here, please call our front office at 901-753-3109. Should you need an application, please visit our website where you can find and print an updated enrollment application.

GUMP is grateful to be a ministry of GUMC as we appreciate the support given to us throughout the year. GUMP, including our G.R.A.C.E. classroom and our Extended Care program, is successful because of the love we have for Christ and community, and the partnership we have with one another.

On behalf of the faculty and staff at GUMP, may 2018 be a year of blessings for you and yours!

January Communion Offering

Churches often look to their Senior Pastors to respond to confidential requests for assistance or other timely needs. Churches normally enable such actions by a "Senior Pastor's Discretionary Fund" that has certain restrictions and guidelines. Germantown UMC has such a fund for as many years as anyone can recall. The January communion offering will go to refresh that fund.

NEW YOUTH EVENTS!!

This semester we have a few new youth events that we cannot wait to tell you about. We sure hope that you will find something for your family in the events below and that they will meet a need for your and your people. Check out the info about our upcoming High School Retreat and Parent Element Open House below.

High School Retreat, Pickwick Lake

January 5th - 7th

A few months ago our high school students came to us asking for a retreat just for them. They wanted to talk about some big things. Faith. Doubt. How to talk about their faith and more! We could not resist an opportunity to go deeper with them.

This year's High School Retreat will be at Pickwick Lake. Eli Berry will be speaking to us and Landon Pate & Wesley Smith will be leading us in worship. During our retreat we will have times for worship, quiet time, games, and meals together.

Signup will be open until Wednesday, January 3rd at noon or until the retreat is full. We do have a limited number of spots. We hope you will be able to join us!



Element Parent Open House

January 21st, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Have you ever asked yourself, what do those teenagers do in the gym for two hours on Sunday nights? If your answer was “YES!”, this event is for you. During our regular Element time on Sunday, January 21st, we wanted to welcome all parents to come hangout with us at Element. During this event parents will get to meet and chat with their child's small group leader and get all contact info that they might need for that person. We believe it is extremely important for teenagers to have trusted adults in their lives that are helping form their faith. Research has shown that teenagers who have 5 adults in their lives pouring into their faith journey, they are much more likely to continue their faith journey after high school. Come meet these awesome adults that are part of your child's weekly life. We will share a meal together, worship together, and Brian and Sue will lead a parents only small group. Come check out what we are doing during the spring and get much needed info about summer time.

Please register online for this event so that we can have an accurate head count for dinner. We cannot wait to connect with you!



Germantown United Methodist Church
2331 South Germantown Road
Germantown, TN 38138
www.germantownumc.org
901-754-7216

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.



We have begun a new program at GUMC for families of children (ages 1 year through fifth grade). Once a month, we have a parent night out where our fantastic staff watches your children while you take a night to do whatever you like. This may include a date, shopping, or just a quiet night at home. While they are with us, we will eat a pizza dinner (included in price), play games, and close the evening with a movie. This program doubles as a fundraiser for youth planning to participate in summer mission trips, so participation is win/win! more details are available online. Registration is required and payment is made online. Our next PNO is January 12.