A Message from Tim

As we approach the resetting of our services, I want to thank the numbers of people who have been a part of discussions, prayers, meetings, planning, dreaming, approvals, and preparations. What started as a dream to consider worship and times became a vision of offering something for everyone in the community, in the best way we can, for the sharing of Christ. At the same time, the desire for a unified time of Sunday Schools and Adult Classes, together with time for fellowship, was a desire of the church. This new schedule seeks to accomplish this. I am sure there will be some “hiccups” as we transition, but this congregation has faced transitions before and embraced the opportunities presented by the changes.

The new Sunday hours will be:

**Early Traditional**
8:30-9:15 a.m. A basic service of praise, prayer, hymns, and message. In the Sanctuary.

**Sunday Schools and Adult Small Groups**
9:30-10:30 a.m. Meeting in classrooms.

**Gathering**
10:30-11:00 a.m. A time of greeting and fellowship with coffee and snacks, for all ages. In the Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall.

**Later Traditional**
11:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon. A formal atmosphere of worship, full choir, liturgy, and message. In the Sanctuary.

**Prism**
11:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon.
Led by Rev. Steve Stone, an alternative worship service in a relaxed setting, with praise band and contemporary message. In the Owings Life Enrichment Center. (see Steve’s article on page 2)

**Disaster Response in Humphreys County Flooding**

As soon as the initial assessments are done by Emergency Responders, word will go out as to what churches can do to help. In the meantime, we are asked to pray and give as you can. You may give to the Disaster Relief effort of our conference through the Conference Paypal, at https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=N9JAW2SY32MZC
A New Thing for GUMC by Steve Stone

There was minding own business when I got call from Tim Carpenter. I always take Tim’s calls. We talked morning about the possibility of me leading effort with Germantown UMC to start new thing for people who do not have relationship of love and trust with Jesus; for people who are not part of community of faith. He told me there is lot of enthusiasm for such thing at GUMC - a lot. He gave me a whole weekend pray and think about it, and to get the counsel of my 54-year long partner (some would say boss) - Mary. Over that weekend I got another call. This one was from the Lord. I always take the Lord’s calls too.

When I was small boy, I wanted be a Choo-choo when I grew up. But the Lord wanted something else. He wanted me to be a missionary. I always said no. I didn’t want to go overseas and get malaria, etc. I became a preacher, but that other call never went away. Finally, it became crystal clear that Jesus wanted me to be a missionary to the American culture. That clarity got me a deep and wide “yes!”. And that is what I’ve been up to the last 25+ years.

Isaiah 43:19. God talking here: “I am about to do some-thing new. See, I have already begun! Do you see it?” I do. The new thing from GUMC will be called Prism—A Place For All People, beginning Sept 26 at 11:00 Sundays in the OLEC. The stated purpose of Prism is: To help people have a relationship of love and trust with Jesus and with others who do.

There is a lot to do to get ready—a lot. Among us we will need to find inside and outside greeters, hospitality providers, set up and take down teams, those who can find images and make slides for messages and celebrations, run images for celebrations, run lights and cameras and a host of other things to make Prism the very best place for all people it, by God, can be. Contact me if you are drawn to a place to serve. 901-337-1346 or by email: sstone@germantownumc.org. We will all together be on a mission from God! If you are drawn to the idea of growing through reaching out—you growing through you reaching out this is for you. And if it’s not for you, who is it for you know or know about? Contact me.

Maybe you are sitting there right now minding your own business as I was. Watch out! The Lord may be warming your heart to Prism, firing up your mind, stirring your soul, calling forth your strength. I hope so. For your sake, for Christ’s sake, and for the sake of everyone we are being called to help have a relationship of love and trust with Jesus and with those who do. I hope so.

Eva McPeters Celebrates 30 Years at GUMC

For three decades, Eva McPeters has filled the sanctuary with soul stirring music at Germantown United Methodist Church. Although she may be hidden from view much of the time, Eva says that her lookout next to the choir is the best seat in the house.

She said, “My favorite part of GUMC has been the people who have come and gone. The choir is like a family to me, and it’s the best part of being here. We sing together, we worship together, and we celebrate together.”

On Sept. 15, 2021, Eva will mark 30 years of dedicated service to GUMC as its Associate Director of Music Ministries & Organist. It’s a special milestone, one that only a handful of people have reached, and she says she has no plans to slow down any time soon.

Eva grew up in Jackson, Mississippi, and she began playing the piano as a child. She played at her church beginning at a young age, and then she accompanied the youth choir. She eventually accompanied the adult choir. It was a natural progression, she explained.

“I’ve just always loved music,” Eva said. “Even growing up, no one ever had to tell me to practice.”

She went on to earn her Bachelor of Music from Mississippi College in 1977, where she learned how to play the organ. (She says she loves the piano most of all but enjoys the role of the organ in worship.) Two years later, she earned her Master of Music from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

After UT, Eva's career took an interesting turn into data processing. She earned another degree from State Tech and began installing computers full-time. She also worked part-time as the organist at First United Methodist Church in Knoxville.

In 1984, Eva met her husband Wesley – he was “literally the boy next door” living in the apartment across from her. She noticed his guitar case as he was moving in, and the rest is history. They married in 1987 and soon moved “kicking and screaming” to Memphis for Wesley’s new job in information technology. They expected to return back east in a matter of years, but that never happened.

Jim Thrash, GUMC’s Director of Music Ministries, called Eva to see if she’d be interested in joining his team. The church’s organist of 50 years, Mary Ella Mosby Tyler, had recently retired, and they needed someone to fill her shoes. Eva said yes. She went on to work with Jim Thrash for 27 years until he retired. Today she enjoys working with Todd Wilson.

In addition, Eva says she enjoyed seeing her family get involved at GUMC. Her two daughters Carrie and Mary Evelyn, both born in Memphis, grew up in the church. Mary Evelyn was baptized about a year and a half after Eva started at GUMC. Her girls became especially active in youth activities during their middle and high school years.

When she’s not working, Eva likes to balance time with her family and also create things with her hands as a hobby. You can’t pin her down to one thing, though. She has enjoyed making stained glass, for example. She took up pysanky, the Ukrainian art of egg decorating, after a duck made the McPeters’ backyard pond its home. She also enjoys knitting and has an antique circular sock machine that was used in WWI to supply soldiers. Eva even sewed the banners that adorn the church Sanctuary, working with an artist and church member to design them. She started 20 years ago with the big blue Apostles’ Creed banner and made the last one, the Creation banner, about eight years ago.

“Things have changed since 1991, and GUMC is definitely not the same church as when I first started,” she said.

“And that’s good. Things shouldn’t stay the same – we should always be ready to adapt and grow, and at the same time, hold fast to those things that made GUMC the strong church it is today.”

Eva McPeters Celebrates 30 Years at GUMC
GUMC Missions

The JOHN WESLEY SOCIETY of GUMC

The John Wesley Society was created to recognize and honor those church members and friends who have made a current or deferred gift to the Germantown United Methodist Church Endowment Fund. Gifts made to the GUMC Endowment Fund will be used to fulfill the charitable intent of the donor and further the missions of our church in perpetuity. The Deferred gift could be a testamentary bequest in a will of trust, or a transfer made through the use of other planned gifts such as a charitable gift annuity, charitable trust, life insurance policy or qualified retirement plan/IRA.

Over the past two years, the GUMC Endowment Fund has provided support for:
- The purchase of two new passenger vans for the Church,
- Local missions through the Germantown United Methodist Women,
- Alturas Ministry in Costa Rica,
- Stipend singers from the University of Memphis for the church’s music ministry
- La Limye orphanage in Haiti.

John Wesley

Trustees Update

This summer we were given a wonderful opportunity to not only help GUMC’s struggling annual budget, but also to give the youth at Youth Leadership Memphis the chance to give back to the church for its continuing annual missions donation to their organization.

Youth Leadership Memphis has been developing at-risk boys into leaders for over ten years. YLM develops boys into men through a unique program that combines work, mentorship, and economic development to teach life skills and impart character. Every other Saturday the youth and their leaders gather for a time of prayer before heading out to their assigned properties for a day of yard work. The youth are paid at the end of each workday and are required to attend church that Sunday.

When the Trustees Committee learned that YLM was looking for a few more properties to fill their schedule at the same time we were asked to find places to cut costs in our annual budget, it was obvious God had his hand in bringing this opportunity to GUMC.

While Trustees and the rest of the church are still looking at ways to cut costs this year and the upcoming ones, this change has helped us cut a significant cost which has enabled us to keep other areas of GUMC’s budget whole such as Missions.

If you have an upcoming special event on the McVay Grounds and would like extra treatment to the area, please contact the Campus Manager to see if staff is available.

Ginny Szalay, GUMC 2021 Trustees Chair | ginnysszalay@gmail.com

AIM Needs You!

“What would it cost you if you couldn’t bathe because the floor underneath your bathroom fixture was rotting?”

“What would it cost you if your house was poorly insulated?”

“What would it cost you if your child spent extended time in the emergency room because their asthma was exacerbated by mold in your home?”

This excerpt, from the Fall AIM weekend newsletter by Julie Keel (8/6/21) asks us to consider what it would be like to face these challenges in the homes we live in. Would we flourish, would our families flourish, if we had to live with these poor conditions in our home? A desire to respond to questions like these was part of the reason that Mt. TOP/AIM was born.

Since its inception 45 years ago Mt TOP (Tennessee Outreach Project) has had at its core the desire to open our eyes to the needs of others, give us the opportunity to respond to those needs, and to help us feel in community with those we serve. Mt TOP/AIM have done that by giving youth and adults the vehicle to achieve these goals in a mission-based home repair ministry.

In 1975 the youth group at Blakemore United Methodist church in Nashville wanted to bring an out of state mission/work camp experience home to their own “backyard”. Mountain TOP was born. The Cumberland Plateau, Grundy County, TN became the “backyard”.

Mt. TOP initially was a summer program allowing youth to come and take part in simple home repair/yard work for those in this Appalachian community with deep need and few resources. Over time it became clear that assistance with major home repair/renovation was another desperate need in the Grundy County community.

Adults in Mission (AIM) was born in response to the need for more complicated structural repairs and renovations than would be possible during the youth programs of the summer months. AIM brings adults together for a long weekend of service, worship, good food, fun, and developing community with those they serve. And along with all that community and fun is an opportunity to tackle some serious structural deficiencies in the homes of those identified as some of the neediest in the area. As with the Mt Top experiences for youth, the AIM groups are structured so that people with all levels of experience make up a team. Those with construction experience, as well as those with willing hands and hearts open to learning, are equally welcome.

An AIM team will travel to Mountain TOP October 14-17th for a Fall weekend of ministry with the folks on the Cumberland Plateau by replacing windows, doors, floors, and roofs. Other weekends in October are also available. Please join us! Contact Doug Warner for more information: dougwarner1946@gmail.com
Church sports leagues are a valuable way of having our children benefit from belonging to their own Church by maintaining the sense of family and a place to always feel welcomed while they are experiencing team sports. For many, this is the first time they have played on a team and are learning how to develop new skills, combined with camaraderie. Youth sports are more of an opportunity to feel a sense of belonging, rather than a competitive one.

We realize that we will always struggle to wrestle young people away from competitive traveling teams that play all weekend and miss out on Sunday church. But, what if there was a way to bring that love of sports back without traveling so far, and missing out on a great opportunity to not only belong to their church, but play on their “own” church league without feeling overwhelmed and exhausted by Monday morning?

As we step into Fall, the OLEC is busy gearing up for yet another Fall Basketball Program. Our vision this year will focus and will bring us back to where we started when we played church recreational sports. Our main goal is to zero in on more developmental skills in a place to always feel welcomed and not pressured to always be the best at every sport. We invite all church members who wish to coach, help develop confidence and a sense of self-reliance, and have a calling for building and guiding our youth during these developmental years. No experience is necessary, just the love of embracing and enforcing a sense of a close-knit group where the challenge on the northeast side of the OLEC. Owen planned and executed a work day (or two) to help make the rocks to help with the drainage issues. We are looking forward to putting this area to great use this fall when programs start back up. Both of these candidates put innumerable man-hours and effort in communication and planning to see their projects come to fruition. We are thankful for Troop 64’s willingness to give back to GUMC and are happy to do our best to work with future Eagle Scout candidates. If you have a youth that is interested in Scouting, our troop meets Monday nights at 7pm in the Cottage. We are happy to put you in contact with someone who can answer your questions.

Feel free to email Brian Richards if you have more questions.

Lakeshore Camp
GUMC invaded Lakeshore Camp this past summer! We had a very unique opportunity to have layers of students and children working and playing together. Brian and Lisa were deans at the last camp of the summer for elementary kids. This means they were able to lead curriculum for the week for the campers and direct/lead/coach the counselors. The counselors were made up primarily of high school students from GUMC and a few others. Our counselors were able to build some relationships with our campers, many of whom they will see around the GUMC campus. There was also a Jr. High camp this same week, and we had about 15 students from GUMC participating in this camp. Brian and Lisa were able to spend a little time visiting with these campers as well. All in all, there were approximately 50 campers/counselors from GUMC at Lakeshore that week. It was wonderful to see the kids shed the drain and worry of this past year, celebrate living their lives for Jesus, enjoy God’s great creation, and make and develop friendships. We are excited to watch seeds bloom as our youth and children recognize they share a family here at church and develop relationships that began at Lakeshore. We are already making plans for next summer!

Youth Save-the-Dates
September 12: Element Kick-Off Night. (6-8 PM at the OLEC) This evening will be extra special because middle and high school students will all be back together! We missed having the whole crowd last year but are looking forward to sharing our time again. Grades 6-12 are invited.

September 14: Tuesday Morning Prayer Breakfast. (6:30 in the pavilion behind Houston HS). We are beginning this year together outdoors (with the possibility of moving indoors at a later date). Brian and Lisa will bring the food and coffee, you bring your Bible and a friend. This is a wonderful way for high schoolers to dig a little deeper into study and start the day with a full heart.

September 15: Synergy and Synago resume. (Synergy 6-7:15 PM; Synago 7:15-8:30 PM) These mid-week gatherings are designed for study, fellowship, and prayer. Synergy is for middle schoolers and Synago is for high schoolers. We meet at the Prescott House by the OLEC.

October 22-24: Crave Retreat at Victory Ranch. We are looking forward to resuming this GUMC youth tradition this year!

Stay in Touch: Details for all these events will be mailed and emailed to all families. If you are not receiving our news, please email Lisa Pierce at lpierce@germantownumc.org to make sure you are added to all our mailing lists. You can also check out our Facebook, Instagram, and youth section of the church web page for upcoming events and details of our ministry.
**Children’s Ministry**  Callie Beaver - cbeaver@germantownumc.org

**Sunday School Promotion Time:**
All children and youth were promoted to the next grade level in August. For Sunday School, children birth- Prekindergarten meet in the Hamilton Nursery to the north of the Sanctuary. Children in Kindergarten- 5th grades meet in the Huddle/Children's Wing on Sunday mornings. The rising sixth graders move to the Trek/Confirmation class with Mrs. Lisa. Please be sure to fill out a new registration form for the 2021-2022 school year so that we have all of your updated contact information. You may do so online at germantownumc.org under What's Going On- Open Registrations.

Please let us know if you are not receiving our children's ministry emails as this will remain our primary form of communication. Please follow us on our Facebook page for updates at Germantown United Methodist Children's Ministry. If you or your family has any needs or concerns, please reach out to us at nadkinson@germantownumc.org or cbeaver@germantownumc.org.

**Volunteer Opportunities:**
Our nursery children are cared for by paid staff on Sunday mornings, however, our Elementary Sunday school is led by volunteers. Now more than ever, we will be dependent upon parent volunteers to teach our children's Sunday School classes. At this time, we will gather only in small groups, and we need adults to lead those groups. I know that we all love our adult Sunday school classes, but we ask that parents please spend some time during their children's preschool/elementary years serving as Sunday School teachers. It is an incredibly rewarding experience. We are searching for adults who feel led to mentor our kids, particularly on Sunday mornings. In our program, we request a year of mentoring (teaching Sunday School). While this may seem like a long commitment, it is integral to our belief that the best teaching comes from relationships. We need at least one more regular Sunday School mentor/ teacher, as well as substitute teachers. If you do not feel as if you could serve for an entire school year, it would be acceptable to pair with another family or other families and divide that time. We will not be able to offer Sunday School without volunteer teachers for our Kindergarten through 5th graders.

We are also looking for adults who would like to serve as volunteers in the Sensory Room on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour (we do not have a paid staff person at this time) and as leaders for our Wednesday nights with Kids when we resume September 8. If you would like more information or are interested in volunteering for our ministry, please contact Callie Beaver.

**WOW (Worship on Wednesdays) with Kids:**
We will resume our WOW Worship on Wednesdays with Kids on September 8, 2021 from 6:00-7:15. Our Kindergarten-5th graders will meet in the Huddle (Room 240) and the nursery will be open for birth-prekindergarten. Our mid-week program which runs during the school year provides a variety of opportunities for children to experience Christian fellowship and develop a closer relationship to Christ. This is our children's ministry equivalent of "youth group". We will have child-friendly worship from 6:00-6:30 and then close with small groups where we enjoy discussion, games, and crafts. We need you to preregister online (Look for WOW under Open Registrations) so that we know how many to expect each week.

We are also offering children's bell choir (grades 3-5) at 5:30 on Wednesday evenings. Rehearsals will be in the bell choir room next to the Fellowship Hall. Contact Natalie Duncan with questions about bell choir.

**3rd Grade Bibles:**
Our 3rd Graders will receive their bibles on Sunday, September 19 during worship. We will have a special 3rd Grade Bible Retreat on Friday, September 17 from 6:00-9:00 pm. We will start the evening with dinner and then move onto a special worship service for our 3rd graders. Afterwards, we will play some bible-centric games and have loads of fun. Please register your child online for our retreat in our website under What's Going On- Open Registrations.

**3rd and 4th Grade Bible Class:**
Mr. Bill will be teaching our "Learning to Use My Bible" class on Wednesday nights (September 22-November 10) as part of our WOW (Worship on Wednesdays) programming. Since we were unable to offer this class in the Fall of 2020 due to COVID, we would like to invite all 3rd and 4th graders to participate. The kids will worship with the large group from 6:00-6:30, then move into a small group for their special bible class. Please register online for the weeks you can attend. Come join us on Wednesdays!

**Elder Ministry**  Rev. Tom Davis - tdavis@germantownumc.org

**Mental Health Tip 2: Identify "Your People"**
Make a list of the people you know you can always call, text, or e-mail when you need to feel a connection. Putting together a list of people you trust and with whom you can talk to no matter what, can reinforce a feeling that you're not alone. Then the next time you're struggling, reach out to someone on your list.

Rev. Tom Davis, Director of Elder Care Health tdavis@germantownumc.org  | Ph: 901-758-6513

**Children’s Missions**
Our kids are raising money for missions! Children have a natural desire to serve and help others. We have provided them an opportunity this summer to help others who are less fortunate. During our Mission and Movie Mondays, the children of GUMC worked very hard creating a number of crafts. They poured their hearts into their work and felt a little pang of sacrifice as they left their work behind to be sold to support missions. Please stop by the fence outside of the Huddle (Room 240) and shop. Please help yourself to what you like and leave a donation in the box on the wall. If you don't see what you like, please ask Callie Beaver. There is a huge selection – it won't all fit on the wall at once!
The Emmaus Class is proud to announce that we have chosen Lauren Hopper to receive the 2021 nursing scholarship. The scholarship was established to honor Lauren Wright Hobbs who loved serving others in the nursing profession. She lost her battle with cancer at the age of 29 in October of 2013. She left a wealth of family and friends who will always remember her with love and happy memories.

Lauren Hopper exemplifies the model that our Lauren lived by believing that God led her into this profession of service. She graduated from Hutchison School this May and has been accepted to the Pre-Nursing Program at The University of Arkansas for the coming fall semester.

Lauren Hopper grew up in our church and has been active in our MYF for the last several years. She has served in our Service Over Self outings, as well as breakfast for the homeless, and Room In The Inn. Lauren believes that these experiences taught her to fall in love with caring for others, and doing so with the love of Christ. GUMC gave her the guidance and support through these many activities to help her choose the path of nursing.

This scholarship is awarded annually to a member of GUMC who is pursuing a degree in nursing. Donations can be made at any time to this scholarship fund by writing your check to GUMC with ‘Lauren Wright Hobbs Scholarship’ in the memo line.

Thanks so very much to those who have already donated to this scholarship in Lauren’s name.

Music Ministry  
Todd Wilson - twilson@germantownumc.org

The goals of summer planning have been to begin full Chancel Choir rehearsals, Handbell Ensembles, Children and Youth ensembles, as normal, this fall. These plans are certainly in jeopardy with Covid restrictions upon us and predictions calling for worse conditions in the near future. In fact, a Concert of Children and Youth ensembles, as normal, this fall. These plans are certainly in jeopardy with Covid restrictions upon us and predictions calling for worse conditions in the near future.

I ask that you stay tuned to GUMC social media, your email, and future MNE publications to learn about the startup, potential delays, or current conditions of the Music Ministry. I’d love to put a big splashy “we’re back!” article here, but as the Covid environment is asking us to be prudent, we shall be prudent. Stay tuned!

Please stay in prayer for all of us, pray that we are able to live our most healthy and vibrant lives, soon.

Todd Wilson

Lauren Wright Hobbs Nursing Scholarship  
Awards to Lauren Elizabeth Hopper

Lauren Wright Hobbs Nursing Scholarship  
Awarded to Lauren Elizabeth Hopper

Older Adults  
Luci Cromer - luci2@comcast.net - 901-755-0803

Our Handy Helpers are waiting for your call...

The Handy Helpers Ministry Team, sponsored by the Older Adult Council, lends a “helping hand” to older adults in our church who need assistance with small repair and maintenance jobs around the house.

WHAT TYPE OF JOBS DO HANDY HELPERS DO?

- Light maintenance and repairs including small carpentry jobs such as malfunctioning doors, locks, or windows.
- Minor electrical work such as replacing light switches and light bulbs.
- Replacing smoke alarm batteries.
- Minor plumbing work such as working on “running” toilets or leaky faucets.
- Other miscellaneous jobs are considered on an individual basis.

Handy Helpers do not work on large or small appliances, roofs, home decorating, or on jobs requiring tall ladders.

WHAT DOES THIS SERVICE COST?

The Handy Helpers service charges only for parts and materials used in the repair. There is NO charge for labor.

TO QUALIFY FOR THE HANDY HELPERS SERVICE:

You must be a member of Germantown United Methodist Church, have homeowner’s liability insurance, and be over 60 years of age.

To request assistance, please contact Charles Waters, 286-4823, or Ron Gaddy, 754-1238

AARP Smart Driver™ Course

Germantown United Methodist Church and AARP will present the “AARP Smart Driver™ Course,” the nation’s largest driving refresher course. This 8-hour course is scheduled for October 14 & 15 from 9 AM - 1 PM. Successful completion entitles participants to a discount on their auto insurance premiums for three years. There is no driving test or written exam. Register early because the class will be closed at 28 participants. The results of taking these classes have been proven—class participants have few accidents and tickets.

WHERE: Room 339 (Fellowship Forum Classroom) in the Ministry Center.
WHEN: Thursday and Friday, October 14 & 15, 2021, 9 AM - 1 PM.
COST: $15 fee for AARP members ($20 for non-members) payable to AARP
RESERVATIONS: Call George Coleman at 384-3581
DEADLINE FOR RESERVATIONS: Reservations will be taken until class is full.

The objectives of the course are to help you:

- Be independent, safe, and confident while on the road.
- Keep up with changes so you don’t put yourself and others at risk.
- Learn state-specific information throughout the course.
- Focus on areas such as roundabouts, pavement markings, stop-sign compliance, red-light running, and safety issues such as speeding and seatbelt and turn-signal use.

Check your calendars and register now. Your check is your ticket to this class.

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!

Karen Oppenheim - karen.oppenheim@gmail.com

Karen Oppenheim

Karen Oppenheim - karen.oppenheim@gmail.com

Karen Oppenheim

Karen Oppenheim
NEW ADULT SMALL GROUP STUDIES STARTING IN SEPTEMBER

We know Germantown United Methodist Church is a large congregation and it can be difficult to find a place where you feel you can ask questions, listen to ideas, or explore more of what you heard in worship. That’s why we have small groups! Small groups of Christians caring for one another, praying, studying, and serving together are a foundation of Methodism and allow a person to grow in his or her faith with the help of other people who provide encouragement and support.

Below you will find a list of classes starting in September. A complete list of all Fall studies, descriptions, cost, and information is available online at germantownumc.org and in our Adult Studies brochure available at the Welcome Center kiosks. Childcare is available for all in-person studies.

Intersection: The Gospel of Mark and the United Methodist Hymnal
This study will focus on the relationship between scripture and song, specifically the Gospel of Mark as found in our UMC hymnal.

Thursdays, September 9 – 30, 9:30-11:00 am
Todd Wilson

Mom Set Free
In this 7-session study, discover how the gospel message can empower you to parent in the freedom of God’s Sovereignty, so that you can breathe deeper, walk lighter, and enjoy your children more than ever before.

Tuesday mornings, Sept. 14 – Nov. 9, 10:00 – 11:30 am; OR Wednesday evenings, Sept. 15 – Nov. 10, 6:00 – 7:15 pm
Facilitator: Natalie Adkinson

The Difficult Words of Jesus
A Beginner’s Guide to His Most Perplexing Teachings
In this DVD study, biblical scholar, Dr. Amy-Jill Levine shows how Jesus’ difficult teachings would have sounded to the people who first heard them, how they have been understood over time, and how we might interpret them in the context of the Gospel of love and reconciliation.

Tuesdays, September 21 – Nov. 2 (skipping Oct. 12); 9:30 – 11:00 am
Facilitators: Mary Groh and Cathy Whitaker

Saving Grace – A Guide to Financial Well-Being
Weaving Wesleyan theology with sound financial advice, Saving Grace offers concrete guidance on saving, earning, giving, spending, debt, and how to build a sustainable financial plan.

Wednesdays, Sept. 22 – Oct. 27, 6:00-7:00 pm
Facilitators: Elaine Wright and Don Rhoads

NEW YOUNG ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS BEGINS SEPTEMBER 19!

Germantown United Methodist Church is forming a New Young Adult Sunday School Class! Everyone, married or single, in their 20’s, 30’s, and 40’s is invited to attend and help start this New Class.

We will have a “Meet and Greet” on September 12 at 10:00 am in the Parlor (on the left before entering the Hamilton Nursery). Come help us put the finishing touches on this New Class.

The first class will be on Sunday, September 19 at 10:00 am in the Parlor.

Using a discussion-based format the class will be for persons new to their faith and those who have been studying the Bible for years. If you enjoy lively discussion, join us to explore faith, meet others, and grow deeper in discipleship. Through participation in an Adult Sunday School Class, you will enjoy a fun, faith-building experience while developing life-long friends. For more information on how to be a part of this New Class at GUMC, contact Mary Groh at germantownumc.org, or call her at 754-5093.

United Methodist Men

The first United Methodist Men’s Breakfast for 2021-22 will be Saturday, September, 11, at 8:00 A.M. in the Fellowship Hall.

The guest speaker will be Austin Avery who along with his wife, Reenie, founded “Fish and Loaves”, a Memphis non-profit dedicated to eliminating food waste and feeding people in food deserts in the Memphis area. Their first project has been successful in Frayser and now they are planning a second one in Orange Mound.

The cost of the breakfast is $5.00, payable at the door. Annual membership will be available for $50.00 which includes the cost of the eight breakfasts of the year and a $10.00 donation to support GUMM Mission Projects.

Reservations should be called in to the church office, 901-754-7216, no later than Wednesday, September 8. All men of the Church are urged to attend.
**Germantown United Methodist Women Annual Cinnamon Roll Bake**

PRE-ORDERS FOR THE SWEET, GOOEY, CINNAMON FILLED BITES OF BLISS ARE COMING SOON

On Sunday, October 10 and Sunday, October 17, we will be on hand to take your Cinnamon Roll pre-orders in the Fellowship Hall! We bake a limited number of rolls from scratch, so it's very important that you pre-order. The cost is $10 per dozen, cash or check only. Payment is required with the pre-order. Pick up will be in the Owings Life Enrichment Center (OLEC) gym on October 19, 20, and 21 (you will choose your specific pickup date / time and will be sent a reminder.)

We welcome baking helpers! Enjoy a relaxed atmosphere and lots of laughter with women at the church on our baking days, October 19-21 in the OLEC. Each baking day morning we make the dough from scratch and set it aside to rise. The dough is dipped in warm butter and dredged in cinnamon, and then it's knotted, shaped, and baked. These rolls may be frozen and reheated. Be the first to smell these warm, sweet, delectable rolls come out of the oven! Contact Stephanie Adams at 901-756-9748 or Monacodog@aol.com to sign up to help on baking days. No experience is required, and we have great teachers!

The proceeds from your purchases will go to help the many missions of Germantown United Methodist Women. Thank you for your support!

**GUMW Children’s Consignment Sale**

That's a wrap! A very heartfelt thank you to our hundreds of consignors, shoppers, volunteers who helped to make the fall/winter GUMW Children’s Consignment Sale another success. Your prayers, support, and hard work are much appreciated and truly help make a difference to our community. Be sure to save the date for our Spring 2022 sale in March!! Thank you again.

**2021 GUMW Candle Burning Honorees Named**

Candle burning is a way that United Methodist Women (UMW) honors individuals who have contributed to our unit, our church and/or our community. The Executive Committee of GUMW submits names for this special recognition to be held at our annual Metro District Candle Burning Ceremony. An honorarium is also sent to the unit, our church and/or our community. The Executive Committee of GUMW submits names for this special recognition to be held at our annual Metro District Candle Burning Ceremony. An honorarium is also sent to the unit, our church and/or our community.

The 2021 honorees are:

- Betty Allbright
- Leanne Bailey
- Gina Bartz
- Lauren Boswell
- Jennifer Brezina
- Alise Davis
- Pat Gill
- Tina Gregory
- Todd Hinton
- Nicole Kloek
- Sue Land
- Courtney Lubozynski
- Kim Marsh
- Judy Oros
- Laurie Pakis
- Chesley Porteous
- Jennifer Predmore
- Rachel Moore
- Yolanda Toney
- Cathy Whitaker

We thank these honorees for the gift of their service, for the light they shine, and for being “Blessed to Be a Blessing.”

**GUMW SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON**

Join us for a catered meal, warm fellowship, and an inspirational message from Sasha Hosick at our GUMW September Luncheon on Sept. 14 at 11:30 am in the Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall. Sasha serves as Director and Founder of Foster Village Memphis, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that supports foster children and families during their time of crisis.

Sasha grew up in Memphis and earned her Bachelor of Social Work degree from Baylor University and her MA from Eastern University. She is also a licensed social worker, and she recognized her passion for supporting families after serving as a foster care social worker in Montgomery, AL. Through recruiting, training, and licensing families as well as managing a case load, Sasha came to understand the challenges that face many foster families, including an overall lack of support. She also saw first-hand the positive impact that a village of support can make, which led her to passion of creating connections that seek to surround some of the city's most vulnerable children and families that care for them.

In the Mid-South, there are currently more than 1,000 children in the foster care system. They often come into care with little notice and very few belongings. It's the foster family's role to supply these children with basic needs, help them to feel safe and welcomed, and keep up with all of the necessary appointments and paperwork that are required within those first days after a child's placement. It can feel overwhelming to do this alone.

Foster Village Memphis strives to help these children, foster families, kinship families, and/or biological families by creating a village of support during their time of crisis. By equipping families with tangible needs, connecting them to resources and to each other, and advocating for the child welfare system as a whole, Foster Village Memphis works to create a community beyond the system.

Please join us as we learn about Sasha's journey as well as God's transforming power at work as she lifts up foster children and their families. Sasha is truly “Blessed to Be a Blessing,” and you will be blessed, too, as you hear about her inspiring work. We will also have our annual Blessing of the Babies, a cherished tradition that you won't want to miss!

Cost: $10.
Deadline to register is Sept. 9 by noon.

Two Methods to Register:
* Check to GUMW, Place check in box labeled UMW.
* 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

**Cancel in the interest of everyone's health and safety**

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 yctoney@gmail.com.
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.