



A Message from Tim

Time's Flight

In January, we start a new calendar year. A time of celebrating the old and the new, it is a natural time of reflection. The passing of time, the generational shifts, the physical changes all are signs of a tolling bell and chiming hour.

An ancient symbol adapted by the church through the centuries is "Tempus fugit", Latin for "time flies." Often found in stained glass, it is a reminder of the silent and transitory nature of life.

As we experience a new year, let us consider the wisdom of scripture concerning time.

Solomon wrote about the complexity of life and time in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8,

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace."

Psalm 90:12 reminds us of the benefit of reflection: *"Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."*

The scripture also reminds us to take exceptional care in how we live these times, for we will stand before God. In Mark 13:32-33, Jesus said, *"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come."* And in Ephesians 5:15-17, Paul writes, *"Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish but understand what the Lord's will is."*

As the old year concludes and a new year begins, we do well to remember the words of Jesus in Matthew 13:52, *"Therefore every teacher of the law who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new treasures as well as old."*

God's word, like the life and the time God has given us, is full of treasure, both old and new. What a privilege this life is. Remember the riches of God's grace you have experienced and seek the wealth of grace that lies in the new days to come. Ponder your life and the times you have. Live well, for the sake of Christ, and heed the words of scripture.

For time is flying by.



Membership

Sunny and Jason Noffsinger joined Germantown United Methodist Church on Sunday, December 2nd at the 11:00 worship service by reaffirmation of faith. They are pictured here with their three beautiful children. Their Sponsor is Elaine Fetzner.

When asked what about Germantown United Methodist Church made them wish to become a part of our church community, they responded: *"We were looking for a place our whole family could grow together in Christ. The children's ministries are what brought us to visit and we've been able to find ways for us all to plug in ever since."*



Missions

Jesus said in Matthew 25:31-46 that those that follow him closely are sensitive to the hungry, thirsty, sick, those needing clothes, strangers and those in prison. The consequences of mankind's actions can be either extremely positive or quite negative. Of the items needed for subsistence (i.e. food, water, clothing), it is interesting that welcoming the stranger and visiting those in prison are included in this list.

Helping immigrants and those who are currently incarcerated is outside our normal way of navigating through our daily lives. Maybe we should take another look at it?

HopeWorks has a 30 year history of providing hope and a great opportunity for a better life. The hope is found in Jesus Christ, and the HopeWorks curriculum used for soft skill training reflects a strong foundation on faith in Christ. Approximately 70% who complete the work readiness training have found employment through HopeWorks, helping to open the door for a job. Additionally over 1000 students have received their high school equivalency diploma through the HopeWorks Adult Education Program. Both education and employment are essential to living a productive life.

Recently God has opened doors to welcome strangers and minister in the prison system. Over 400 international students from 40 different countries are being assisted in improving their English language skills, fulfilling Jesus' instruction about welcoming the stranger. HopeWorks efforts within the Shelby County Division of Corrections have resulted in over 70% employment of men and women recently released from prison, also fulfilling Jesus' instruction about visiting those in prison.

Will you help us continue to follow Jesus? HopeWorks is located in the heart of the city at 3337 Summer Avenue. We would welcome your visit to learn more about this ministry to the under-resourced of our city. Please contact Ron Wade at rwade@whyhopeworks.org or 901-550-3338.



Health and Recreation Todd Hinton - thinton@germantownumc.org

In the process of always making improvements to the OLEC, we have security doors that now require a card for entry. Please come by the OLEC between the hours of 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. to get your card.

Membership

Ann and Peter Kiproff joined Germantown United Methodist Church on Sunday, December 16th at the 11:00 worship service by transfer of their membership from a sister denomination in the Memphis area. Their Sponsors are Jo Ann and Al Walton.

When asked what about Germantown United Methodist Church made them wish to become a part of our church community, they responded: *“We wish to become members of a Bible centered church, which Germantown United Methodist Church is. The people we have met at GUMC are friendly. The preaching of Tim, Brad, and Erin is refreshing and we fell spiritually fed. GUMC feels like we’re home.*



Brunch and Learn Lecture



Sunday February 24th, at 9:40 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall

Presented by Dr. Janel Kragt Bakker, Associate Professor of Mission, Evangelism, and Culture at Memphis Theological Seminary

“The Good News of God’s Commonwealth”

The word “evangelism” makes many of us squeamish. And for good reason! Too often, evangelism has been practiced in ways that are pushy, disrespectful, or arrogant. But when we see evangelism as an invitation to more fully engage in the reign of God’s love

and justice, new opportunities to be more fully alive—both for ourselves and for those with whom we share our faith—come into view.

Please register online by Monday, February 18th. There is no cost for this event. Contact Rev. Erin Beasley for additional information, ebeasley@germantownumc.org

United Methodist Men

The United Methodist Men’s Breakfast will be held the month on January 12 at 8:30 a.m. in the Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall. Our guest speaker will be Germantown Mayor, Mike Palazzolo. He has lived in the Memphis area most of his life and has called Germantown home since 1977. He has spent 25 years in the banking industry serving in various positions including treasury management, retail, executive banking, private client, small business and commercial banking. Prior to banking, he served three years as Economic and Government teacher in Memphis City Schools. He currently serves as Senior Development Officer for Rhodes College. We encourage all men of the church to attend and welcome Mayor Mike Palazzolo. It will be \$5.00 at the door. Members only need call with regret.



End of Life Planning; Getting Your Affairs in Order

What do I do now? Who should I call? These are typical questions asked when a terminal diagnosis is made or when a family member passes away. Germantown United Methodist Church is here to help you to know where to turn next during this time of transition.



On Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 9:40 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall, a panel discussion will present information that will be of use to you in knowing how to navigate this difficult and emotional time.

The presenters will be:

Matthew Rhoads, J.D., Associate Attorney, The Bailey Law Firm. Matthew will discuss legal preparation and The Five Wishes Form.

Genelle Holloway. Genelle is the Family Service Director at Memphis Funeral Home and Memorial Gardens. She will discuss the services typically offered by a funeral home and cemetery.

Lowry Whitehorn, L.P.C., Bereavement Coordinator with Crossroads Hospice and Palliative Care. He will present information on hospice services and managing grief.

GUMC Funeral Guild Coordinators. A representative of the funeral guild will give the “mechanics” of how the process works for a funeral held at Germantown United Methodist Church.

A minister from GUMC: This representative will lead prayer and discuss the role of the church in the process of death, grief, and loss.

Plan to attend this informative and valuable program. Knowing what to expect and who can offer you support during this time of life transition is a big factor in making the process easier to handle.

Questions? Call Pat Smith at 758-6513 or psmith@germantownumc.org

Adult Education Mary Groh - mgroh@germantownumc.org - 901-754-5093

Time is Running Out! Register for the 2019 Women’s Retreat - January 25-26

REAL WOMEN Realize Emmanuel’s Amazing Love

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)

Yolanda Toney will lead our discussions drawing on themes from Michelle Derusha’s book *50 Women Every Christian Should Know*. Our key scripture is from Job 10:12: “*You have granted me life and steadfast love, and your care has preserved my Spirit.*” Join us as we explore how we are not alone, the battles we face are not new and God is always with us in the midst of the struggles.

Eva McPeters, GUMC’s Organist and Assistant Music Director, and Natalie Duncan, Director of Music for our Ancient-Modern worship service will be leading our retreat in music and song.

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. You can stay overnight or join us on Saturday.



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 11th!**

Adult Education continued

Sunday School Spotlight: Trinity

The Trinity Sunday School Class at GUMC is a group that joins together every Sunday and throughout the week to worship, serve and fellowship together. We meet for Sunday school at 11:00 a.m. in Room 339. Our group is primarily comprised of couples and adults in their 40s and 50s.



Trinity Sunday School Class values serving our church and community through their time, talents and treasures. Members serve in various leadership roles within the church such as church boards and committees. Trinity Class has a strong history of support for our youth programs through the different events we helped start and support each year. Edwin's Way 5K and Daddy Craw Crawfish Boil are just two examples. Our class was also instrumental in the building of the Trinity Centre at McVay Park which has become a wonderful addition to the GUMC facilities and a great place for outside worship events.



In addition our members also support and volunteer with GUMC Women, Room in the Inn, Habitat for Humanity, SOS, Mountain Top and many other GUMC supported missions.

On Sunday mornings, we explore scripture and continue to grow in our faith journey through open and candid discussions. We have a mix of lessons developed by class members, guest speakers and video or book series.

In addition to church based activities, fellowship plays an important role in our class dynamic. We host multiple social events throughout the year including our annual Christmas Party, Halloween Party, Back to School Party, Day at the Lake, Levitt Shell nights and many more. Most importantly, we are there for each other during the good and bad times that are part of life journeys. If you are looking for a group that loves serving others within the church and community and loves to fellowship with one another, we would love for you to join us at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings.

Membership Class: Welcome to GUMC!

Sunday, January 13

Beginning at 9:40-10:40 and continuing from 12:00-1:00

What's distinctive about the United Methodist Church? Even if you're in church every Sunday, it can be difficult to feel like you really know the UMC's history, beliefs, mission, and culture. Join our ministers to learn about the roots of the United Methodist Church going back to John Wesley, his devotion to inviting people to experience God's grace. Hear about the United Methodist Church structure, sacraments, and get an overview of the mission and ministries of Germantown UMC.



If you have been worshipping with us and you would like to learn more about our church or if you think you might be interested in becoming a member, we invite you to attend our class. Participation in the workshop does not commit you to church membership, but it is an opportunity for you to find out more about the life and ministry of our church and for us to become better acquainted with you.

This workshop is open to members, prospective members, or anyone wanting to know more about The United Methodist Church and GUMC. Childcare is available by reservation and a box lunch will be provided. Register at germantownumc.org.

Adult Education continued

Sunday School Spotlight: Seekers

Faith, Fellowship, Fun. Those are good words to describe The Seekers Sunday School class. We are a group of adults who range in age from the 60's to a few years beyond. But age does not define this group of active and lively members. Through Christian service to our church and community this class is a vital force in the GUMC family.



We express our faith through serving communion, ushering, greeting, and answering the call many other ways within the life of the church. Our members work on Habitat houses, volunteer with Meals on Wheels, Room in the Inn, TeamRead, Handy Helpers and Urban Ministries. We donate to many local and church-related charities such as the Midsouth Food Bank, GUMC Mountain Top and the Urban Ministry Initiative. Our Sunday morning classes range from traditional lessons on the Bible to such contemporary subjects as the plight of homelessness and gangs in our city. We even had a First Responder come to our class to talk about ways for seniors to protect themselves in our homes and on our streets.



The Seekers enjoy many opportunities for fellowship. From an elegant and festive Christmas party each season to summer outdoor barbecues, this group never misses a chance to get together and enjoy each other's company. Several times a year the men go out for dinner and a movie—they particularly enjoy whatever current action film is showing. The ladies choose to meet for lunch at local restaurants, which gives everyone a chance to catch up on each other's travels, families and activities. This past year class members went out for an evening of dinner and dancing at Lafayette's Music Room and enjoyed the big band sound of the Memphis Knights. Church Newman, a long-time Seeker member, plays in the orchestra.

Whether we are working together on a church project or volunteering at one of the charities we support, the Seekers are always having fun. Many of our speakers have commented on the energy and lively vibe that they receive from teaching one of our Sunday classes. Our class roster boasts some long-time members of GUMC (40+ years) but we also have people who have joined as recently as two years ago. If you are "seeking" an adult Sunday school class with plenty of chances to serve Christ, meet great people and enjoy the loving fellowship of others, look no further than The Seekers Class.

We meet at 9:40 a.m. in the Adult Education Building, the first door on the left. Just follow the sounds of laughter. For more information contact class president Bill Miles at: 901-463-0434 or at hokiemiles@gmail.com

New Adult Small Group Bible Studies Starting in January

We know Germantown UMC is a large church 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 hear in worship. That's why we have small groups! Small groups of Christians caring for one another, praying, studying and servicing together are a foundation of Methodism and allow a person to grow in his or her faith with the help of other people who can provide encouragement and support.

We have some exciting adult small group studies planned for Winter/Spring 2019! Look for more information about our upcoming classes in our Adult Study brochure—out in early January!

BIG THINGS HAPPEN in small groups. Our hope is to see you in **worship, and... in a Small Group Study!**

Disciple Fast Track - Into the Word, Into the Word

A 12-session, in-depth study of Luke and Acts.

Sundays, January 6 - March 24, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

Facilitated by Yolanda and Gerald Toney

Continued on next page

Adult Education continued

It's Not Supposed to Be This Way

Finding Unexpected Strength When Disappointments Leave you Shattered

Wednesdays, January 16 - February 27, 6:00-7:15 p.m.

Facilitated by Dr. Kristin Miller

Civility as Care of the Soul

Addressing the loss of civility in today's society and how to recapture it.

Wednesdays, January 23 - February 27, 6:30-7:30 p.m.; or

Thursdays, January 24 - February 28, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Brad Gabriel

The Sermon of the Mount

A look at Jesus' inaugural sermon in the Gospel of Matthew

Wednesdays, January 30 - April 3, 9:45 - 11:45 a.m.

Facilitated by Chesley Porteous

Entering the Passion of Jesus

This Lenten study delves into the history and literature surrounding the last days of Jesus' life.

Tuesdays, February 25 - April 9, 9:30 - 11:00 a.m.

Facilitated by Mary Groh

Plenty Good Room - A Lenten Study

An in-depth look at scripture, American history, and the music and lyrics of African American spirituals

Tuesdays, March 5 - April 9, 7:00 - 8:00 a.m. at Perkins Restaurant in Germantown

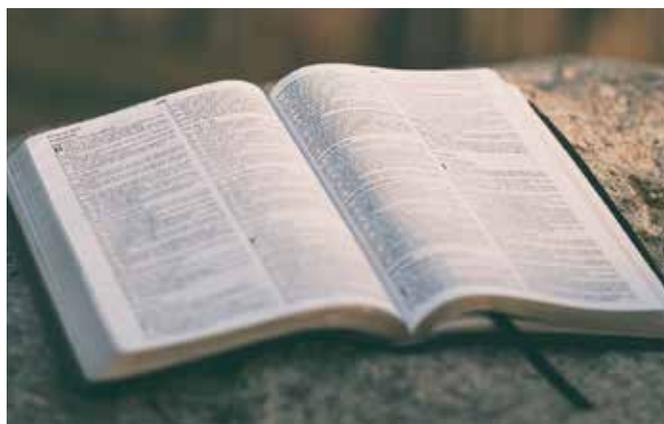
Facilitated by Rev. Erin Beasley

John the Gospel of Light and Life

A Lenten study exploring the major themes of the Gospel of John

Tuesdays, March 5 - April 16, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Facilitated by Terry Aust



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

Happy New Year from your friends at Germantown United Methodist Preschool! We hope that you had a wonderful Christmas celebrating the birth of Jesus. We ended our first semester with a beautiful Happy Birthday Jesus celebration with Ms. Lisa. GUMP is excited to begin 2019 by welcoming back our wonderful teachers and precious friends. As the New Year begins, we are in the midst of the preschool enrollment process for the upcoming 2019-2020 school year. This time of year brings an increase in school tours. If you or someone you know is looking for a preschool, we would love for you to see if GUMP is the right fit. To see the wonderful things happening here, please call our front office at 901-753-3109 to schedule a tour. You may also visit our website at www.mygump.org to learn more about what GUMP offers young children and their families.

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 (for children with developmental delays) 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 2019 be a year of blessing for you and yours!



Cookie Shoppe

The 2018 GUMW Christmas Cookie Shoppe was a wonderful success thanks to so many who supported it with their time, contributions of cookies and candies, purchases, donations, and prayers! This event is one that GUMC members and friends anticipate each Christmas season. And, it is a sweet way to raise funds for local missions. Thank you!

Please put December 7, 2019 on your calendar for this UMW tradition!

Calendar of Events

February Luncheon

Tuesday, February 12 | 11:30 a.m.

Lent by Candlelight

Tuesday, February 26 | 6:30 p.m.

Children's Consignment Sale*

March 20-24

April Brunch

Saturday, April 6 | 10:30 a.m.

Spring Bridge and Games Benefit*

Tuesday, April 9 | 10:00 a.m.

Children's Consignment Sale*

August 21-25

Meet & Greet

Sunday, August 25 | 9:00 a.m.

September Luncheon

Tuesday, September 10 | 11:30 a.m.

Cinnamon Roll Bake*

October 22-24

November Luncheon

Tuesday, November 12 | 11:30 a.m.

Christmas Cookie Shoppe*

Saturday, December 7 | 9:00 a.m.

Christmas Brunch

Tuesday, December 10 | 10:30 a.m.

* Fundraising Event



United Methodist Women continued

GUMW Circles

Celebration Circle

WHEN: 1st Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.
WHERE: Room 338
MISSION: Church Women United & Golden Cross
CHAIR: Elaine Graber & Margaret Ueleke

Grace Circle

WHEN: 1st Friday of the month at 9:45 a.m.
WHERE: Room 339
MISSION: Room in the Inn
CHAIR: Christina Tempel

Eliora Circle

WHEN: 1st Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
WHERE: Room 342
MISSION: Dress for Success
CHAIR: Kayla Harlow Williams

Hope Circle

WHEN: 2nd Tuesday of the month at 9:30 a.m.
WHERE: Room 339
MISSION: United Methodist Neighborhood Center
CHAIR: Stephanie Adams

Faith Circle

WHEN: 1st Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m.
This circle meets year round
WHERE: Room 338
MISSION: Wesley Foundation (Campus Ministry)
CHAIR: Lauren Boswell

Joy Circle

WHEN: 1st Thursday of the month at 11:15 a.m.
WHERE: Homes of circle members
MISSION: Hannah's Hope & Memphis Business Academy
CHAIR: Cathy Whitaker

Friends Circle

WHEN: 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
WHERE: Homes of circle members
MISSION: Alturas Ministry
CHAIR: Jan Davis

More Friends Circle

WHEN: 1st Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m.
WHERE: Room 338
MISSION: Miriam Day Care at UMNC
CHAIR: Pat Gill

NOTE: Circles do not conduct regularly scheduled meetings June - August, however, some circles do host less structured social gatherings during the summer months.

Priscilla Circle

WHEN: 1st Wednesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.
WHERE: Room 240
MISSION: Urban Ministry Initiative & Caldwell-Guthrie Weekend Food Program
CHAIR: Martha Boyd

Germantown United Methodist Women Mailing List

Did you know there's an email list for Germantown United Methodist Women? We'll be ramping up our email blasts about GUMW-related events in the coming months. You can stay in the loop by going to <http://www.germantown.org/email> and selecting "Women's Ministry."

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.



XYZ's Celebrate Memphis Music History in February!

Come with us for a music history lesson when we tour the Memphis Music Hall of Fame Museum, a fun, fascinating and educational exhibition that features never-before-seen memorabilia, rare video performances and interviews, interactive exhibits, and much more. We will experience the best meal on Beale at Blues City Cafe, and then have a private tour of Sun Studio, the birthplace of rock 'n' roll, to learn the story of Memphis' history and culture through the music that put Memphis on the map. Waiting list availability only.

WHERE: Memphis Music Hall of Fame Museum, Blues City Cafe, and Sun Studio

WHEN: Thursday, February 26, 2019

COST: \$16 per person plus lunch on your own.

DEPARTURE: 9:30 a.m. from OLEC parking lot. (Be there by 9:00 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: Tuesday, January 29



Ron Childers Will Talk About Weather Preparedness at the February Brown Bag Lunch!

2018 has been a year of catastrophic weather throughout our country—volcanic eruptions, hurricanes, fires, flooding, tornadoes, earthquakes, and more. For many of these events, people had very short notice before having to abandon their homes. While some of these occurrences are not likely to happen in the Mid-South, many could, and we, also, might be forced to evacuate our homes. Do you know what to take with you? Do you have an evacuation kit ready to go? Ron Childers, Chief Meteorologist at Channel 5, is going to tell us what to include in an emergency backpack that we should have ready to go in case we need to leave our homes at the February Brown Bag Lunch Series, an adventure in learning sponsored by the Older Adult Council.

TOPIC: “Weather in the Mid-South—Safety Prep Program for Seniors”

SPEAKER: Ron Childers, Chief Meteorologist, WMC Action News 5

WHERE: Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall

WHEN: February 1, 2019. Program starts at 11 a.m.; lunch is at Noon.

COST: FREE – the church will supply beverages.

RESERVATIONS: Not needed. Just bring your sack lunch and enjoy the program and the fellowship.

QUESTIONS? Call Luci Cromer, 755-0803, or Pat Smith, 758-6513.

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



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 March 14 and 15, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. 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, March 14 & 15, 2019, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

COST: \$15.00 fee for AARP members (\$20 for non-members) payable to AARP

RESERVATIONS: Call Jan Cameron at 366-2772

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

XYZ’s Relive the Music of the Rat Pack in March!

Relive the days when the Rat Pack ruled Las Vegas! Drift back to a glamorous era when entertainers and politicians rubbed shoulders, enjoying the mystery, coolness, sophistication, and style of the high life. Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis, Jr., Dean Martin, and Joey Bishop—all singing, dancing, and entertaining through the 50’s and 60’s, with a lifestyle that everyone wanted. You’ll swear that the sounds of The Rat Pack show have conjured up that golden era of Las Vegas. It is not to be missed!



WHERE: Bartlett Performing Arts and Conference Center

WHEN: Saturday, March 30, 2019

COST: \$26 per person includes reserved seat

DEPARTURE: 6:15 p.m. from OLEC parking lot. (Be there by 6 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, February 27

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!

December Celebrations

The second weekend of December was loaded with joy and celebration! We began the weekend with our journey to Bethlehem, a trip from the messages of the angels to the manger. We learned how the multitude of angels spoke with the shepherds and then watched as the kings presented their gifts. The grand story came alive as we moved from station to station, learning about each part of this incredible story. We ended with a visit with Santa... some of us loved him while others not so much.



On Sunday evening, we enjoyed our annual Plum Pudding Festival. The evening kicked off with the “world debut” of our Wesley Ringers, our bell choir made of 2-5 graders. They were amazing! We then heard from our three children’s choirs as they gave joyful praise through song. The evening ended with dads making the annual parade through the sanctuary, holding lighted plum pudding high above their heads! What an evening!

Children’s choirs resume Sunday, January 6 (5:00-6:00 p.m.) and bell choir resumes Wednesday, January 16 (5:00-5:30 p.m.). All are welcome—bring friends!

Elementary Expedition

Elementary Expedition (youth group for kids) will resume on January 16. We will begin with a delicious meal at 5:30, move to worship at 6:00, and then break into small groups until we dismiss at 7:15. We will be learning all about manners this spring—how we should behave to honor God and those around us. Great lessons and a wonderful review for everyone!

Ignite

Ignite is our retreat for 4/5 graders. On February 2, we will travel to the Grove at Red Oaks Lake for a one-night retreat. We will enjoy some amazing fellowship, play some wacky games, and learn a lot about how God calls us to treat each other with kindness and love. This retreat is only open to fourth and fifth graders, but guests are more than welcome. Check email and snail mail for details. Registration opens January 2 and closes January 28. Cost is \$80 which includes room, board, activities, and sweatshirt. Scholarships/partial scholarships available—contact Lisa Pierce for details. Please register early.



Children's Ministry continued

Created by God

February 22, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

February 23, 9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Created by God is a program designed to communicate to fifth and sixth graders that we are a fantastic creation made by God. The topics of human sexuality, values, and relationships are approached in a frank, honest, and Bible-based manner. We will have a parent meeting on January 23 to discuss the curriculum and your role in it as a parent. After this meeting, parents will be asked to register online if they are interested in their child taking the course. Attending the parent meeting in no way commits you to the course—it is informational only. There is a \$25 cost for the course which covers all materials, supplies, and food. Guests are welcome, but must be in the fifth or sixth grades.

Youth Ministry

Sue Hyland shyland@germantownumc.org - 901-758-6516

Brian Richards brichards@germantownumc.org

Spring Element Kick-Off

January 13, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Join us on Sunday, January 13th as we kick off our Element year in a really fun way! This year we are doing something completely different than we've ever done before and we cannot wait for you to be with us! Join us as we see which team is the smartest, but really just which team knows the most about what the rest of the world thinks. **We will be playing Most Popular Answer trivia and will be giving away some great prizes!** No need to put a team together, just show up and have a great time! We'll have loads of food and lots of prizes. If you won a Christmas giveaway on our Instagram you will be able to pick those up on the 13th as well.



Youth Ministry continued

Discovery Weekend 2019

February 15-17

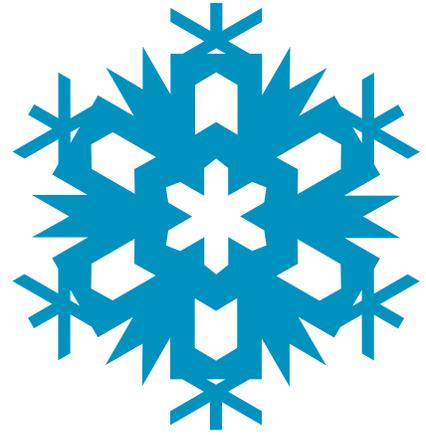
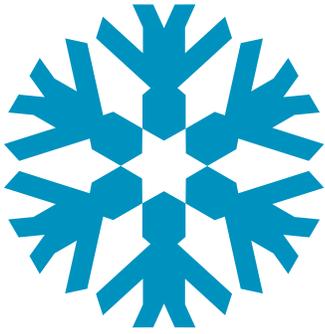
Discovery Weekend 2019 is right around the corner and we sure hope that you will join us for the weekend as an attendee or partner with us as a volunteer. Each year over 100 youth and adults come together in the local church to experience Christ and Christian Community with one another.

“Discovery Weekend is a spiritual formation retreat for middle school youth that engages high school youth in leadership. Held in the local church, **Discovery invites the entire church family to live out the baptismal promise to create a community of love and forgiveness.** In this environment, middle school youth will be encouraged to strengthen their faith with foundational Christian teachings and experiences.”

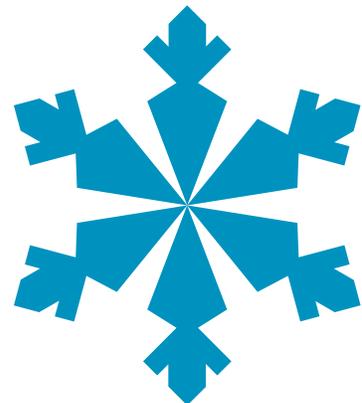
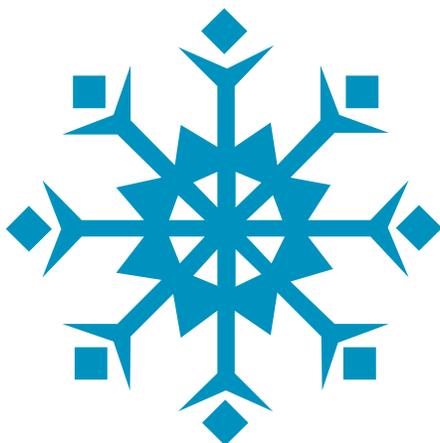
We hope that you will join us for a life changing weekend! If you cannot be with us during the weekend as a student or volunteer, we invite you to worship with us on Sunday, February 17th during the 9:40 worship hour for our youth led worship service. We have some extremely talented teenagers here at GUMC and they have a deep desire to share their gifts with each of you.

We welcome your prayers as we prepare and throughout the weekend. If you would like to volunteer please contact Sue Hyland at shyland@germantownumc.org.





GermanTown
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH





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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.

Food Trucks coming to GUMC January 9th

To kick off our New Year of Programming at Germantown United Methodist Church, we will have two food trucks in the Fellowship Hall parking lot on **Wednesday, January 9th from 5:00-7:00 p.m.**

Tables and chairs will be set up in the Fellowship Hall so you can eat and enjoy fellowship with your church family. Come early or late—whatever works best for you. The two food trucks are:

“Say Cheese!” - Serves delicious grilled cheese sandwiches

“Stickem” - Steaks, chicken, tofu and shrimp in kabobs or on salads.

If you have never tried food from a food truck or if you are a food truck foodie—this is the church event for you!

Come join us to kick off the New Year, meet new friends, and celebrate with your GUMC family.

