



A Message from Tim

Building Bridges

In late July, I was able to take a trip to Cuba, with my son accompanying me for photography and videography.

The purpose of the visit was to explore the possibility of establishing a church-to-church relationship between Germantown UMC and a congregation in Cuba. What transpired was an encounter that opened my eyes to the possibilities of something larger.

One of our stops was at La Europa, a small rural town. The congregation meets in a small, non-air-conditioned building with seats for about sixty people. Yet on Sunday, there are 100-120 persons meeting, with some standing along the walls and some standing outside. The church, though small, has already started three other congregations who meet in small groups during the week. On Sundays, they gather together until the smaller congregations can build a permanent place. At which time, those churches will also start other smaller congregations. The pastor there was very excited about forming a relationship with our church.

Another stop was with the District Superintendent and pastors of the Artemisa District. There was excitement about the opportunity for their churches to have a relationship with a church in the Memphis Area. The idea began to clarify that perhaps we could slowly establish a relationship with several churches of our district to churches of the Artemisa District.

I also was able to meet in Havana with Bishop Pareira, who was approving of the efforts. When our meeting with the Bishop concluded, we left his office at noon. In the church where his office is located, there was a prayer service concluding with some 200 persons leaving. It was a Thursday, and that many people regularly met for prayer.

Our churches have resources that the churches in Cuba desperately need. The churches in Cuba have lessons in church growth, evangelism, and prayer ministry that we need. I believe that building a bridge between the cultures and the churches would only serve to further the kingdom.

In the near future, I hope to continue this effort. Some of the members of Germantown UMC have expressed an interest in being involved. As more opportunities arise, I will share more information.

In the meantime, please be in prayer for our brothers and sisters in Cuba. And pray for a bridge to be built.

GUMC Membership

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

Robin and Mitch McAlister joined Germantown United Methodist Church on Sunday, August 11th at the 9:40 worship service by transfer of their membership from Central United Methodist Church in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Their Sponsor is Janice Stalls (mother of Robin).

When asked what about Germantown United Methodist Church made them wish to become a part of our church community, they responded: *"Robin desired to be a part of GUMC to be with her mother on Sunday mornings. Plus, she has been thrilled to participate in worship with her husband and two of her three adult daughters. In addition, they are looking forward to getting involved in the missions and ministries of GUMC."*



WELCOME TO GUMC: Membership Class

Rachel Moore - rmoore@germantownumc.org - 901-754-7216

**Sunday, September 15, 9:40 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
(with a break for 11:00 worship)**

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 and 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 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 two-hour 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 or call Mary Groh at 754-5093.

In-Service Training Announcement

Erin Beasley - ebeasley@germantownumc.org - 901-754-7216



There will be an In-Service Training on Monday, September 16, from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall for all Sunday School Presidents and Program Chairs. If you are unable to attend, please send a representative from your class. It is imperative that we have at least one representative from each class at this meeting. Additionally, it would be an asset to your class if two or three people could attend! Childcare is available by reservation.

Items to be discussed include: Sunday School officers and their duties; the purposes of Sunday School, and the various ways those purposes can be (and are) accomplished by different classes; attendance keeping, classroom sharing and maintenance, curriculum resources; and a teacher/speaker list for class bookings.

For additional information please contact Mary Groh at mgroh@germantownumc.org or 754-5093.

Labor of Love

On September 2, 2019 (Labor Day), St. George's Episcopal, Germantown United Methodist, Germantown Presbyterian, and New Bethel Baptist Churches are joining together to serve the community in a Labor of Love!

Partnering with MIFA and The Outreach Program, we will give our members the choice of several ministry opportunities to serve our neighbors in need: (1) filling bags for MIFA's Emergency Services, (2) cleaning yards for MIFA clients, (3) delivering MIFA meals in selected areas, and (4) packaging ready-to-prepare meals which will be given to MidSouth Food Bank for distribution to those in our community who are in need. There's something for everyone – from 3 to 103!



We will gather on Labor Day morning at 8:00 a.m. at St. George's for a time of reflection and prayer together. From that time of shared community, we will head out to share our love with our sisters and brothers.

There are slots to sign up for meal delivery and yard cleaning. No sign up is required for meal packaging and filling emergency services bags. Please take time now to look at the many ways that we can serve our sisters and brothers on this Labor Day, and find your place in Labor of Love!

Sign-Up Genius Link <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4EA9AE2AAFC1-labor5>

Even if you are unable to serve on Labor Day, there are many opportunities for you to take part in Labor of Love.

GUMC will be providing diapers (all sizes) and wipes for baby bags. Donations may be left at the welcome desk until August 28th. Contact ebeasley@germantownumc.org for more info.

Storytelling Workshop: Rev. Elaine Blanchard

Wednesday, September 18th | 6:00-7:30pm

Church is a place where people want to experience a sense of safety and belonging. We want to feel known by others and we hope to find purpose in our ministries and mission work at church. Storytelling breaks down barriers and creates connections between those who have been around the church for many years and for those who are just testing the water. Sharing our faith stories and listening to the faith stories of others builds a strong community.

In our session we will focus on the power of listening and the power of storytelling. We will talk about what it takes to have a “storytelling” church and what benefits can be expected by practicing the art of telling and listening to one another’s stories. We’ll have fun together and learn more about each other.

Register at www.germantownumc.org by September 16th.

There is no cost for this event.



Hannah's Hope Rev. Trina Morrison - trina@hannahs-hope.org or 901-415-4301



Hannah's HOPE

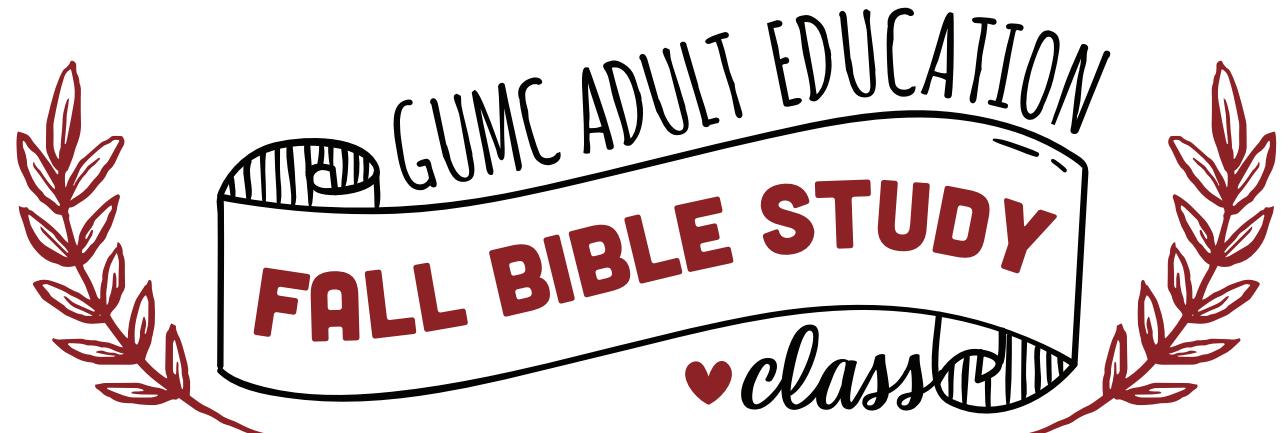
In fact, our staff is facing more challenging cases and clients with long term needs that require more time and resources than ever before. We are seeing firsthand the impact of the opioid crisis in our area and addicted pregnant women and their babies who are born addicted require a significantly higher level of services for a longer period of time. We regularly have birth moms and adoptive families coming back to us for help in navigating open adoption relationships and we feel that this is a critical part of adoption ministry. We feel called to say YES to the “tough cases,” the ones that are messy and take more time to sort out in the legal system. We have always raised funds to sustain our free, crisis pregnancy counseling ministry, but with the loss of grant funding, we need to expand that focus to embrace the “wrap-around” services provided to our adoptive families and the extra costs of our “messy” cases. Thank you for your continued support of the ministry of Hannah's Hope. (www.hannahs-hope.org)

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

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 hear 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 can provide encouragement and support.

Below you will find a list of classes starting in September. A complete list of all fall classes, descriptions, cost, and information is available online at germantownumc.org and in our *Adult Studies* brochures available at the Welcome Center kiosks.



Genesis: A Book of Beginnings (Part 1)

The book of Genesis lays the foundation for the faith of Judaism and Christianity. This study will focus on all of the beginnings seen in Genesis 1-17.

Wednesdays, Sept. 4 – Oct. 23, 6:00-7:00 p.m.

Rev. Tim Carpenter

Romans – Good News that Changes Everything

A women's Bible study of Paul's Letter to the Romans and how the truths Paul shared with the early church in Rome echo into our lives today.

Wednesdays, Sept. 4 – Oct. 16, 6:00-7:15 p.m.

Facilitator: Dr. Kristin Miller

DISCIPLE Bible Study –

Into the Word, Into the World

This 32-session study offers a close look at Genesis, Exodus, Luke, and Acts.

Sundays, Sept. 8 – May 17, 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Facilitator: Dr. John Adams

DISCIPLE Fast Track – Remember Who You Are

This 24-session condensed study explores the Old Testament Prophets and the Letters of Paul and is ideal for busy people who want to fit an in-depth Bible study into their schedule.

Sundays, Sept. 8 – March 29, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Facilitators: Yolanda and Gerald Toney

Blessed Are the Misfits

Great News for Believers Who are Introverts, Spiritual Strugglers, or Just Feel Like They're Missing Something.

Tuesdays, Sept. 10 – Oct. 15, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Rev. Erin Beasley

Conversations with Scripture: The Gospel of Mark

Using historical and critical background, this study examines who Mark really was, why this gospel was written, and why it is charged with such a sense of immediacy.

Tuesdays, Sept. 17 – Oct. 29, 9:30-11:00 a.m.

Facilitator: Mary Groh



It's Finally Here!!

The sweetest way to praise!

The Germantown United Methodist Women's Annual Cinnamon Roll Bake

Pre-orders only – Sunday, October 13th and 20th

Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall (after each service)

\$10/dozen due at time of pre-order

Not able to make your order in person...

Contact Laurie Whiteley

901-378-2999 or lauriewhiteleytn@gmail.com

“How do I get my cinnamon rolls?”

You will choose your pick up time and date. You will receive a reminder to pick up your rolls by the mode of communication you prefer.

Pick up will be on October 22, 23 or 24 between 2:00 – 5:30 p.m. in the OLEC.

Enjoy a relaxed atmosphere and lots of laughter with women at the church on **baking days, October 22, 23 and 24 in the Owings Life Enrichment Center**. Each baking day morning we make the dough from scratch and set it aside to rise. Then the dough is dipped in warm butter and dredged in cinnamon, knotted, shaped and baked. These rolls may be frozen and reheated. Be there when these warm, sweet, delectable rolls come out of the oven. **Sign up to help on baking days with Stephanie Adams, 901-488-4748 or Monacodog@aol.com.**

No experience required. We have great teachers!

All proceeds benefit these GUMW missions:

- Alturas Ministry
- Caldwell-Guthrie Weekend Food Program
- Church Women United
- Dress for Success
- Golden Cross
- Hannah's Hope
- Memphis Business Academy
- Methodist Healthcare Auxiliary
- Miriam Child Development Center at UMNC
- Room in the Inn Memphis
- United Methodist Neighborhood Centers
- Urban Ministry Initiative
- Wesley Foundation Memphis- Campus 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 ytonyey@germantownumc.org.



The first UMM Breakfast will kickoff on Saturday, September 14 at 8:00 a.m. in the Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall. Our guest speaker will be Dennis Rutledge, Assistant Director for Calvary Rescue Mission. He and his family have volunteered there since 2006 and he served on the Board of Directors from 2007 to 2018 when he became the Assistant Director. The need for an Assistant Director for the mission came along with the new and larger facility which opened in July 2018. The new building more than doubled the number of men who could stay each night, so we needed additional staff to handle the workload. The role of the Assistant Director is primarily facility maintenance, programs and lead the nightly chapel service on certain nights.

Prior to working at Calvary Rescue Mission, Dennis was a member of Collierville Fire Department from 1971 to mid-2004, serving 14 years as Fire Marshal and the last 10 years as Fire Chief. He then served as Fire Chief for Arlington Fire Department from 2004 to 2013. Before coming to Calvary full-time, he was Ambulance Sales Administrator for Emergency Vehicle Specialists, covering Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi.

Please join us as we learn about Calvary Rescue Mission. \$5 at the door. Annual memberships will be available for purchase. Members need only to call with regret.

Music

Todd Wilson, Director of Music Ministry - twilson@germantownumc.org

GUMC Chancel Choir Retreat with Dr. Chris Aspaas

Saturday, September 28, the GUMC Chancel Choir will participate in a Choir Retreat. They will share in fellowship and effort in this time set apart for ministry work. The retreat will focus on learning new music, and new techniques under the leadership of Dr. Chris Aspaas.

Christopher Aspaas serves as Director of Choral Activities and Associate Professor of Music at TCU. Christopher received his Ph.D. in Choral Music Education at The Florida State University in Tallahassee, his M.M. in Choral Conducting from Michigan State University in East Lansing, his B.M. in Voice Performance from St. Olaf. Christopher has served on the faculties of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Washington and Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts.

At TCU, Christopher leads the Concert Chorale, TCU's flagship mixed ensemble as well as the FrogCorps, TCU's premier male vocal ensemble. He also teaches coursework in basic conducting, choral conducting, choral literature, advanced choral conducting and oversees the graduate choral conducting program.

In addition to his University work, Dr. Aspaas has held numerous church music positions. He understands what is needed for the volunteer choir to flourish. Please pray for a successful Retreat and travel mercies for Dr. Aspaas as he joins us from Fort Worth.

If you'd like to drop in on rehearsal this would be a great event to do so. Contact Music Director, Todd Wilson with any questions about how to get in on the fun with Chancel Choir!

Todd Wilson, Director of Music Ministries

**O (901) 754-7216 • M (901) 378-0886 • germantownumc.org/ministries/music/
Germantown United Methodist Church • 2331 South Germantown Rd. • Germantown, TN 38138**



Learn about the Future of Memphis' Riverfront at the October Brown Bag Lunch!!

With all the talk about the re-design of Tom Lee Park, we hear a lot about the Memphis River Parks Partnership. What is this organization, what does it do, what does its jurisdiction include, and how does it relate to other entities at the Mississippi riverfront or coming to the riverfront? George Abbott, the director of external affairs at the Partnership, is going to answer these questions and talk about the re-design of Tom Lee Park and why it is needed at the October Brown Bag Lunch Series, an adventure in learning sponsored by the Older Adult Council.

TOPIC: "Memphis' Riverfront Renaissance"

SPEAKER: George Abbott, Director of External Affairs, Memphis River Parks Partnership

WHERE: Mike Wilson Fellowship Hall

WHEN: October 4, 2019. Program starts at 11 AM; 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 Pat Smith, 758-6513.

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



XYZs Hear Judy Garland in October!

A star is born as award-winning dynamo Angela Ingersoll, as seen on her Emmy-nominated PBS television special *Get Happy*, celebrates American icon Judy Garland. Ingersoll won acclaim for her stunning portrayal of Garland in the play *End of the Rainbow* in Chicago and Los Angeles. Live, in concert, she shines as a force all her own as she superbly captures Garland's emotional and vocal power and crafts passionate stories with a naturally winning humor. "Come Rain or Come Shine" we guarantee that you will "Get Happy," be "Over the Rainbow," and leave the theater with a "Smile." Make your reservation now!

For a preview of this show, visit <https://youtu.be/pt0eUQPxbxs>



WHERE: Bartlett Performing Arts and Conference Center

WHEN: Friday, October 18, 2019

COST: \$26 per person includes transportation and 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, September 18.

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!

Older Adults continued

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 17 & 18, 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, October 17 & 18, 2019, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

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

XYZs Tour Hidden Historical Treasures in Brownsville in November!

Come with us for a day filled with history and surprises. We will first eat at the Mindfield Grill next to Billy Tripp's Mindfield, a vast mind-boggling network of towering steel girders—the largest outdoor sculpture in Tennessee. After lunch we will have a guided tour of the West Tennessee Delta Heritage Center. The one-room schoolhouse that Tina Turner once attended now houses some of her memorabilia. The John Adam Estes Home is the small house where blues legend "Sleepy" John Estes spent his last years. The third building houses the West Tennessee Music Museum, the Felsenthal Collection of Abraham Lincoln memorabilia, the West Tennessee Cotton Museum, the Hatchie River Museum, and a gift shop selling regionally made items. Who knew there was so much to see in Brownsville, and we are going to see it all!



WHERE: Brownsville, Tennessee

WHEN: Thursday, November 7, 2019

COST: \$5 per person plus lunch on your own.

DEPARTURE: 9:45 a.m. from OLEC parking lot. (Be there by 9:30 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: Monday, October 7.

Older Adults continued



Don't Forget the September Brown Bag Lunch Program!

Lyman Aldrich, founder of Memphis in May International Festival, will present "How Memphis in May was Founded and the Economic and Social Effects It has had on the City." This presentation will be Friday, September 6, in the Fellowship Hall. The program starts at 11 AM 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.

GUMP Weekday Preschool

Sarah Sutton - ssutton@germantownumc.org - 901-753-3109

New Beginnings

The 2019/2020 school year for Germantown United Methodist Preschool (GUMP) has officially begun! We are up and running for the new school year and we are off to a great start. New beginnings are so exciting and we welcome our friends and families, both returning and new, back to GUMP with much joy and enthusiasm!

This summer was a busy one as we prepared to open an additional classroom. We worked to make sure all classrooms were cleaned and materials fully stocked for the school year. GUMP enrollment for the school year continues to rise. It is so wonderful to see our hard work pay off as our sweet friends enter school each day!

Teachers and staff at GUMP are always working on growing and learning! Our Back to School In-service included professional development from experts in our community as well as First Aid and CPR Trainings for our teachers. Our staff participated in ACES Training to help educated us on Infant Mental Health and the how to promote healthy social and emotional development of children birth to 5. We are thrilled to have the partnership with these professionals to give us insight and help us reach our maximum potential as a preschool. Our teachers strive to structure their classroom for success and use positive learning strategies to best meet the needs of our students. GUMP administration continues to works to provide the opportunity for growth and development for our teachers.

We are excited to continuing our GRACE Program for children identified with developmental delays. We work to support our friends enrolled in our GRACE Program by providing classroom support and intervention and encouraging learning and play with peer models.

Please come visit us at GUMP and see all the wonderful things happening in our classrooms. We are so honored that our community entrust us with their children. Thank you for continuing to spread the word of our great work and service.

Information can be found at www.mygump.org, or by calling the preschool office at 901.753.3109



Children's Ministry

Callie Beaver - cbeaver@germantownumc.org - 901-337-7246

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. We learned about the Alturas Mission in Costa Rica that helps children receive education and meals. This summer, 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 these ministries. 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!



Elementary Expedition

We will be resuming our Wednesday night programming on September 4. Elementary Expedition is designed to be "youth group for kids." We begin our evening at 5:30 with a kid-friendly meal in the Huddle (\$3 at the door). After dinner, we move to worship in the chapel. This worship is designed with kids in mind allowing for movement and involvement by all. It is led by Callie, Brian, Lisa, and some middle school youth. Following our worship time, we move to our small groups in the children's wing hallway where we will play games, make crafts, do science experiments, and dig a little deeper into the lesson for the evening. Pick up is at 7:15, but if your class extends past that time, we will hang out until your arrival.

Please register online for Elementary Expedition, so that we can plan our meals.

We are also offering children's bell choir (grades 3-5) at 5:00 on Wednesday evenings. Rehearsals will be in the bell choir room next to the fellowship hall. Contact Natalie Duncan with questions about bell choir.

Ready. Set. GO!

Confirmation kicked off this month with a bang! We gathered at the Grove in Cordova for a day of fun, fellowship, and preparation for the year ahead. We took a look at what it means to be a member of our church, met up with some older students, and shared our hopes for this year. We also had a blast flying off the giant slide into the lake! Please pray for our group as we move into this year of study together.



Zooming through the Lake... GUMC Middle Schoolers

Middle school students took a trip to a new place this past month...we went to Redneck Island! **Yes, it is as crazy as it sounds.** We had a great time learning a little about each other as we played in the lake, jumped on the giant blob, and took a boat ride on the river. We are looking forward to a great year ahead – full of fun and growth as we examine who we are called to be. Check out the website to learn more about what middle schoolers are doing this fall!

<http://www.germantownumc.org/ministries/youth-kids/youth/>

Blast Off!

Element kicked off the new school year with our annual Color Wars! Grades 6-12 competed against each other in larger-than-big games with sixth graders coming out triumphant! We ate from food trucks, fellowshipped with friends we have missed over the summer, and had a chance to demonstrate our strength and stealth speed in a variety of games. Element meets each Sunday night from 6-8 in the OLEC. Come check us out! If you have questions, contact Brian or Lisa.



Oh The Places We Went!

GUMC Youth had an extremely busy summer with trips to Big Stuf, Mountain TOP, SOS, and weekly mission opportunities any week we weren't away. Not to mention welcoming our own Lisa Pierce into the fold of full time youth ministry. In anticipation of one of our best years yet we hardly had a moment to breathe as we jumped into the crazy month of August. It's time to take a step back and evaluate the ways that God worked through us this summer and remember what we learned.

Our first summer trip was Big Stuf. An excellent worship retreat in Panama City Beach, Florida. A time chock full of meaningful worship, and exceptional teaching. Big Stuf taught us that we are "Known Well" by a Creator who has loved us since the beginning of time. Through the week we explored this idea of being known well and ended our time by agreeing that as people of Christ we have a responsibility to make God "Well Known". This week taught us that sometimes we worry too much about all of the little things in life and faith and that we should focus on being known as Christians by our love. This served as a powerful reminder for the many service opportunities we had planned this summer.

Early in July we continued the tradition of going up the mountain to our 41st summer at Mountain TOP. Half of our group spent time out in the county doing service projects for families with physical, social, emotional, or spiritual needs. GUMC Youth and adults along with the other members of our YRG's served by: painting, doing yard work, building wheelchair ramps, constructing steps up to a trailer home, and even framing a roof! Our other half spent the week sharing the love of Christ with Elementary school age kids in the Cumberland Plateau through a day camp program organized by MTOP. Our theme for the week at Mountain TOP was Courage from Deuteronomy 31:6. We learned from MTOP staff and each other about how to be courageous in our faith and rely on the Lord for strength. A powerful reminder when we still had one more mission trip to round out our summer.

Our final Summer mission Trip was at the end of July at Service Over Self in our own backyard. We took a great group of students and adults, most of whom had served with SOS before to endure grueling Memphis heat while partnering with homeowners in the neighborhoods of Binghampton, and Orange Mound to assist in making their homes warmer safer and dryer. Serving during the day and then having teaching and worship in the evening provided our students a way to live out the Gospel in a real and tangible way day after day. This week focused on the idea of Shalom. Shalom is an idea that can only be described by combining a number of words including completeness, reconciliation, and peace beyond understanding. Focusing on this idea we spent our week in search of shalom with one another, creation, ourselves, and God. This is a practice we can promote every day to truly deepen our faith, and live the life Christ called us to out of love for Him.

We could not be more thankful for the opportunities we had to grow closer together to each other and to God this summer and we could not have done that effectively without the help of the GUMC congregation. Every time you support the youth with your presence at Daddy Crows, or give us a scholarship for a student we are able to truly make an impact. A special thanks should be extended to every adult who went with us on a trip, and also to everyone who volunteered at SOS our camp week by bringing Popsicles, or serving dinner.

Thank You!

GUMC Youth

You Give, Church Happens: A Continuing Series of Notes on Stewardship

"You mean people just give you money?" asked our non-church going nephew.

"Yes, I replied, "about \$3,000,000.00 a year."

"And they give without tickets or membership fees or monthly dues or anything like that?"

"That's right." "What if they don't?"

"Then Germantown United Methodist Church as we know it ceases to exist."

We continued our conversation, my adult, non-church attending nephew and me. "So," he continued, "what else do people want you to do with that money, besides educate children?"

"Fair question," I answered. One thing we do with money is teach people new ways that are really very, very old ways, to look at money.

Bishop Ken Carter of the Florida Annual Conference recently wrote: "I have come to appreciate Gil Rendle's insight that the distinction is not between scarcity and abundance, but scarcity and sufficiency. God's grace is sufficient (2 Corinthians 12. 9). Most churches and most of us do not have an abundance, but we have enough. All I have needed, we sing, thy hand has provided."

Likewise, Melissa Spas of the Lily Family School of Philanthropy writes, "When we expect scarcity, we see assets as inherently limited, without enough to go around. We can see this play out in our consumer culture, in the way we relate to one another, and in our philanthropic assumptions. Scarcity expectations and the related anxiety can result in a closed-off, ungenerous way of living. This is limiting – damaging, even – when viewed sociologically, but it is even more troubling when viewed through a theological lens. On the other hand, "In the Hebrew bible, Proverbs 3, for example, aligns faithfulness with provision of abundance, and the commitment of God to God's people. It says that obedience to the commandments of God will provide an "abundant welfare," and instructs believers: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths." This is, truly, a counter-cultural corrective to the prevailing expectation of scarcity; instead, this theological expectation is of sufficient provision for every need, reliant upon God's abundance."

Money matters, certainly. Money is not all that matters. Germantown United Methodists people are generous with so much more than money. People here understand the old saying that is along the lines of, "They are such poor people. All they have is money." You have so much more. And you are generous with so much in addition to your money. Allow me to play off an interview between Carey Nieuwhof and Brad Formsma. They note all the additional ways that people may be generous.

GUMC people give their prayer. You talk with God regularly and often. You pray in Sunday worship and Sunday school classes, early morning and before exercise sessions. You pray when you meet as children, youth, and adults to eat, play, or work. You are generous with your conversations with God as you include your hopes, concerns, dreams, and thanks for Germantown UMC and all that might be done for good by all the people of the world.

GUMC people give their time. You don't have any more time than anyone else. Each person has the same amount of time, 24 hours a day, seven days a week 52 weeks a year. Each year. Every year. What makes you different is that you are aware of your time and you share it willingly even cheerfully with the work of God. You give time to be in worship with others of the faith. You give time to programs that build and shape our children and youth. You give time for fun with your peers as bonds of community are strengthened. You give your time.

GUMC people give their attention. Everywhere we go today, someone is saying "Look here! See this! Over here!" In all this noise the voice of Jesus continues to speak. Germantown UMC does the best it can to speak

the words of Jesus. "Blessed are the poor, the meek, the righteous, the pure in heart." "You are not alone. You are not orphaned." You pay attention. You listen. In response, you speak these promises in word and deed.

"So," my nephew continued, "you ask people for money so that they can get intangibles?" "Certainly, only I don't ask any more. I remind folks what is at stake and let them decide. Also, remember that intangibles include love, compassion, drive, commitment, passion, loyalty all those other attributes that make life human and not a short, stumbling struggle to the grave. And it all happens here because we give."

Memphis Wesley 2nd Annual Open House!

Wesley at Memphis is a diverse and inclusive faith community for ALL students. Wesley is developing a student-led movement through leadership, spiritual growth, and community. We look forward to seeing you **Tuesday, September 10 at 6:00pm** to experience a day in the life of Wesley!

For more information, visit <http://www.wesleymemphis.org/>

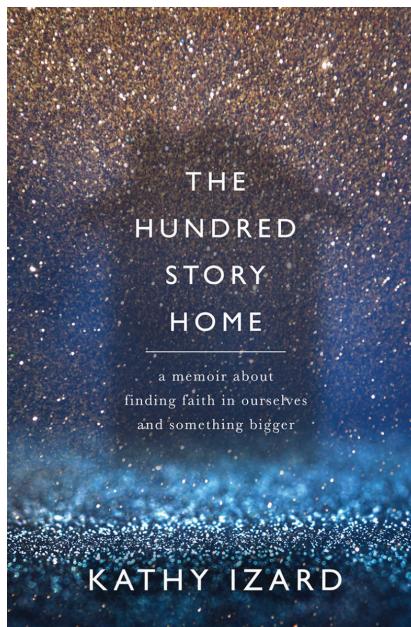


— MIFA PRESENTS —

Our City Our Story

Learn Connect Transform

Events designed to inspire, foster unity, and forge community conversation.



Community-Wide Read

JUNE – SEPTEMBER

You're invited to participate in a community read experience of the book *The Hundred Story Home – A Memoir about Finding Faith in Ourselves and Something Bigger*, Kathy Izard's inspiring story of faith, family, friendship and her heroic efforts to lead Charlotte, North Carolina in caring for the homeless.

For a toolkit and registration, visit community.mifa.org

Homelessness Here and Now

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 – 6:00 P.M.

FREE – TICKET REQUIRED

Second Baptist Church – 4680 Walnut Grove Road

Kathy Izard and a panel of local experts will offer perspectives on the challenges, causes, and solutions to homelessness. Panelists include Chere Bradshaw, executive director of Community Alliance for the Homeless; Reverend Lisa Anderson, director of Room in the Inn; and Paul A. Young, director of City of Memphis Division of Housing and Community Development. Dr. Stephen Cook, senior pastor of Second Baptist Church, will serve as moderator.

For tickets, visit community.mifa.org



Do Good, Love Well Luncheon

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 – NOON

TICKETS \$50

Holiday Inn University of Memphis – 3700 Central Avenue

At this luncheon benefiting MIFA, Kathy Izard will share her journey of personal and community transformation that began with a question, "Where are the beds?" and ended with over one hundred formerly homeless people living in homes of their own.

For tickets, visit community.mifa.org



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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.

Edwin's Way 5K Race Day: September 29, 2019

Help us commemorate the 10th final Edwin's Way 5K Race! Funds from this final race will be added to accumulated proceeds and will be used for enhancements to the Trinity Centre at McVay Gardens.

- **Sign-up for the Race** – Register online at <https://raceroster.com/events/2019/23860/edwins-way-5k>
those who register no later than Sunday, September 22nd by 5 pm will receive a custom designed t-shirt
- **Form a Team** – Sunday school classes and other small groups are encouraged to sign up as a team. The class with the greatest percentage of participants will be treated to a wonderful breakfast provided by the Trinity Sunday School Class.
- **Make a Donation** – Support the final event with a donation to GUMC. Please write “Edwin’s Way 5K Donation” on the memo line.

For more information about sponsorship and registration, please email us at edwinsway5k@gmail.com or visit the Edwin's Way webpage on the GUMC website – www.germantownumc.org/edwinsway