

Hey, do you like to sing? I bet you've been asked that at least once before. Choir directors are known to ask such questions as they have searched for singers. Unfortunately, too many people carry wounds of comments offered by others. Many people enjoy singing, especially in the Methodist church. Participation just seems effortless.

When I've asked the question, many people have told me they cannot sing. Often times, they can; they've just been told otherwise. They carry wounds of comments offered along life's way. Someone they respected or a family member shared their opinion, and it stuck as truth. The words chain them and rob them of one of life's greatest joys and ways to connect to our Father: music!

At our Music Camp, I felt immensely blessed to not only work with such talented young people, but also for the strong support from the church as a whole. We accomplished our goal. Thirty children gained a refreshing perspective on what an amazing blessing music is for the world. It inspired me. I would love to maintain this energy and passion for our music ministry moving forward. I warmly invite you to join us for our fall programming. On Wednesday nights, we will fill the halls with music and life! We are thrilled that our children's portion will now include music time. If Wednesday night doesn't fit your schedule or if children's music isn't your jam, you can join the Chancel Choir. You will meet some amazing friends, learn to sing, and enhance your spiritual life. The Handbell choir also is looking for more people. We want to use our bells to their full capacity. What you normally see and hear in worship is not even one fifth of the bells we own. Can you imagine what it would be like if 30 people were ringing bells and giving all to God? The potential inspires me greatly. If this is all inspiring to you too, you should join us. Our music ministry is for everyone.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Nix
Director of Worship and Music Ministries



August begins the end of our summer sessions and begins our new 2022-2023 school year. The preschool has met with church organizations and collaborated with them on calendar dates. We are looking forward to working with the Pumpkin Patch. Buddy Camp, Live Nativity, Ms. Nix, the youth groups, and the United Methodist Women. On August 29th and 30th FUMP will close to families so we can prepare for the Open House. FUMP will open the doors from 3pm – 6pm for Open House on Tuesday the 30th. Parents of a child in pre-k, will meet with Ms. Shelley Hislop at 5 pm for a private class. We have many exciting events planned for the upcoming school year. We hope to see you at the events, we are your mission, and we are proud to be part of FUMC-A!



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August 17, 2022

Roast Pork Loin
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy
Green Beans
Salad
Bread
Dessert

August 24, 2022

Barbeque Chicken
Baked Beans
Potato salad
Coleslaw
Bread
Dessert

August 31, 2022

Baked chicken
Macaroni & Cheese
Corn on the Cob
Salad
Bread Dessert

Dinner \$6
Family \$15

Leadership Board Update

“Follow Me”

In November of 2004 my family was in Monroe celebrating my grandfather’s 80th birthday. We stayed at the old Atrium Hotel which offered a great breakfast in their glass ceiling center dining room. John Thomas was just 9 months old, and at some point during our meal an elderly gentleman approached our table and handed me a small piece of paper with these words:

A careful man I ought to be;
A little fellow follows me.
I cannot once escape his eyes,
Whate'er he sees me do, he tries.

I do not dare to go astray
For fear he'll go the self-same way.
Like me he says he's going to be;
The little chap who follows me.

To this day I’ve kept those words tucked away in my wallet and if I’m being completely honest there are times when I have definitely gone astray, but for the majority of the time they have served as a reminder that people follow you – whoever you may be, and where you are – and that knowledge places powerful guardrails on our path of life.

In John chapter 8, verse 12, Jesus tells his disciples “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life”. Wow. Read that verse again. I don’t know about you, but I’ll take light over darkness anytime. At FUMCA we say that we are “Transforming our community by building relationships to grow active disciples who share the life changing lessons of Jesus.” I’ve underlined that last part as a reminder to be an active disciple in your own life, in the best way that suits you. There’s a catchy phrase in health and wellness that most can relate to – “Question: What’s the best kind of exercise? Answer: The one you will do.” – we each bear witness in a unique way – some more vocal than others, but if most of us are being truthful with ourselves, we would agree that we all have room for improvement.

Be the best version of yourself.
Be a contributor, not just a consumer.
It is better to be a follower who sometimes fails
than one who fails to follow.

Just like the old man that approached me with a powerful message, him a complete stranger to me, and I a complete stranger to him, be an active disciple and share the life changing lessons of Jesus.

Jonathan Peyton
Leadership Board Chair

