

I was still a teenager when I experienced the healing power of Jesus Christ through music. I remember it vividly. It was the first funeral I had ever been asked to sing. The opening song was “How Great Thou Art” and I remember thinking, in my youth, that it was a weird choice for a time of mourning. But then as soon as I started the intro, I felt the energy in the room shift to a place of grace and healing. With each note, I could feel the grief in the room be overtaken with the love and presence of God. By the end of the hymn my perspective was changed forever. For the past 175 years, the music at First United Methodist Church has touched innumerable lives. I find myself wondering: How many people have walked through these doors feeling lost, and left feeling found? How many people walked in feeling tired and left ready to face their week? How many people have been broken by life, only to have their faith restored within these walls of worship?

On May 22<sup>nd</sup>, we will celebrate all that God has done for us, moving through the music of this church for 175 years. Our concert “**Music and Joy for 175 Years**” will be 3pm on that Sunday and I hope you will not only attend, I hope you will consider joining us! Remaining practices are on Wednesdays 5/4, 5/11, 5/18 at 6:30pm and Saturday 5/14 at 10:30am. You are welcome to join us for any of these rehearsals. We will also be doing a hymn medley with special guest, Kent Kilbourne, and would like to invite everyone who has ever been involved with the music ministry to join us for this. If you are available, we will meet at 2pm the day of the concert to go over the hymn medley all together. Please pray about it and join us in whatever capacity you are comfortable with.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Nix  
Director of Worship and Music Ministries



How fortunate is a preschool and childcare facility to have an art gallery adjacent to their school? *Very* fortunate! The children and staff (directors included) enjoyed looking at the artwork displayed within the church. Taking young kids to a gallery provokes the imagination as well as introduces unknown worlds and subject matter. Most importantly, it is a great place for critical thinking and exploration. The teachers filled out a field trip excursion form and the creative gears were turning! The month of May allowed us to celebrate Mom with complimentary muffins and coffee on the go. We combined the FUN RUN Day with Trike-A-Thon and had the best Friday ever! Preschool Graduation is May 19<sup>th</sup>. It is a special evening, and we look forward to it every year as we celebrate Ms. Shelley’s class and all of their accomplishments. Our summer session opens after Memorial Day.

Catherine Lytle, Director  
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Preschool and Childcare

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## May Gathering Menus

### May 4, 2022

Chicken Fried Steak  
Mashed Potatoes & Gravy  
Corn on the Cob  
Salad & Bread & Dessert

### May 11, 2022

Baked Chicken  
Mac & Cheese  
Baked Beans  
Salad, Bread & Dessert

### May 18, 2022

Chicken Enchiladas  
Spanish Rice  
Refried Beans  
Salad  
Chips & Salsa

FUMCA SPORTS TEAMS. If you know about sports teams in our Church past or present, please email

[rebaharrington@gmail.com](mailto:rebaharrington@gmail.com)

The August newsletter will be about sports in our church, and I don't want any group to be left out. Reba Harrington

If you would like to submit an event, small article, or photos for the newsletter, please send them to Dawn @ [dbranton@fumca.org](mailto:dbranton@fumca.org) by the third Wednesday of the month.

## Leadership Board Update

When we decided that it was the right time for us to begin looking for a church home, we came back to FUMCA. I want to tell you why.

We visited the 11:00 service several times over the years, mainly on holidays (John was raised in the Episcopal Church and I was raised Methodist). It was the type of service that we enjoyed but more than that, it always felt like returning home even though we were not members. The sanctuary, itself, ushers you to come inside and have a seat and the smiling faces of all of the greeters make you immediately feel welcome. When we had children, we brought them to Vacation Bible School where they would have a blast. Going to watch their ending program was always a treat.

In November of 2018, John and I decided that we wanted to make a commitment to attend FUMCA for the Christmas season to determine if we would want to become members. The kids were immediately given parts in the Christmas pageant, we enjoyed. The Gathering is every Wednesday and we even participated in the drive-thru Nativity. The kids absolutely loved being a part of the events. What struck me the most is that everyone was so friendly and greeted us by name. You remembered our names! I won't say that we remembered all of yours immediately but, to me, the fact that you all took the time to ask us about ourselves and could simply remember our names just from meeting us a couple of times was so heartwarming. Every service or event that we attended gave us an overwhelming sense of belonging. We felt like we were wanted, even needed. I still feel this way. Even when we took a step back as a family during COVID and returned to FUMCA, we were welcomed with hugs and smiles. We ultimately became members in 2019 and I am so glad that we did.

Please know that every time you approach someone who is new to our congregation or someone who is visiting with a smile and a handshake, it is a memorable moment for them. Every welcome greeting holds weight. I challenge each of you to greet someone who you have not yet met this Sunday. Bonus points if you learn their name!

Claire Hetherwick

Leadership Board Member

### 2022 Leadership Board

Jonathan Peyton (Chairman) Lacie Russell, Cathey Robinson, Bob Royer, Daphne Reid, Bill Bond, Joe Crouch, Claire Hetherwick, Brian Fillette, Rosemary Walton, Janet Whittle, Rob Wright, Richard Bushnell-Lay Leader, Sherry Murphy- FUMP Representative, Bill Sumrall-Delegate to Annual Conference

### April Financial Picture

Revenues:	212,243	Budgeted	156,462
Expenditures:	227,625	Budgeted	238,919
Net Gain/(Loss):	(15,382)		
Budgeted Gain/(Loss):			(82,457)

If You would like a breakdown of further information, contact Dawn in the office at 318-443-5696 for a P&L.