

A hand in a blue sleeve holds a glowing blue triangle over a city at night. The city lights are visible in the background, and the triangle is surrounded by a blue and white sparkly effect.

Fulton First *UMC*

MARCH 2024

Fulton First United Methodist Church
Loving | Growing | Serving
PO Box 1386, 200 Carr Street
Fulton, KY 42041

Pastor's Pen

I have spent some time defining church. Seems like a simple task, one that would hardly require a lot of thought time for a pastor, but I find that is more complicated than you might think. What we think of church may not be what Paul meant when he talks about the Body of Christ.

Let's start with the things it is not. It is not the building, though a worship/fellowship/meeting space is a lovely luxury we are blessed to have through the sacrifice and hard work of the generations that went before us. It is not here to provide solely for its members, though it is a blessing that we share life and offer one another care. It is not in existence for the sake of supporting the building, or the preferences of the members, though if we wish to continue to have a meeting place, and people to meet with, care is required. It is not a social club, a humanitarian organization, or a space where like-minded people can enjoy each other's company.

So, what is the Body of Christ as a church? It is a place where every person is an essential part of the community, with unique gifts from the Holy Spirit, called to share the Good News of Jesus to the part of the world we are given to serve. All our assets, resources, people, and gifts are the vehicles that God has granted us to transform the world so that God's Kingdom might come, and God's will would be done on earth as it is in Heaven. In the process of the faithful response to God's extravagant blessings, we love others, we serve with enthusiasm, and we grow in faith by practicing living it. How does that differ from a church that has its members at the center?

By keeping God in the center, we keep our focus on the Kingdom. Our mission is to answer God's call, which is probably different than mine or perhaps yours. It is to keep in front of us the challenge of remembering we aren't here to serve ourselves first, but to serve others. We are invited to trust that God is providing all we need so we are free to respond to the needs of our neighbors.

I have pondered this intentionally because we have a ministry opportunity to respond to a need in our community. During the month of March, you will be hearing about the possibility of opening the Annie Ruth Pirtle Childcare Center on the Activity side of the Willingham Center. After a lot of prayer and the discernment of the Childcare Team and the Trustees, we have had a building plan drafted for approval by the State and our District. It is now time for you to step into the process of joining us in prayer to confirm if this is a Holy Spirit-led movement for our church to serve our community. We will hold an information meeting, or more than one as needed, where you will be provided with information concerning the reason for the proposal, the costs associated with the proposal, the hope for this outreach ministry, and the potential impact on the church. You will be invited to share any concerns and questions that you may have and at the end of the month, if we are ready, the church will be invited to vote. If we believe this is God's call, we will need your prayerful support, and your ideas and vision for how we offer the best quality childcare possible to the precious children of our community.

We will have lots of opinions, all are important, but none more important than choosing to be a faithful church in response to God's call. As all of us are essential, your thoughts matter, so please participate in the discernment process. I believe that Fulton First's best days are ahead of us and that God has a plan to prosper this Body of Christ with hope and a future. I am excited to see what comes next.

A Note from Associate Pastor Kimberly Brann

Hello everyone! Beginning in March we will have two dinners per month at Celebrate Recovery!

The fellowship is amazing on our dinner nights, and this is why we want to inch our way back toward a meal every week! We currently have dinner on the 1st Friday of the month, but plan to add the 3rd Friday of the month as we move forward.

For our 1st Friday meals, we typically have a potluck and that has been going great! We need your help for the 3rd Friday of each month. We would love to see more of you all join us on Fridays because recovery is for everyone! It is for anyone who has a hurt, hang-up, or habit; and that's all of us!

Before covid shut everything down we had Sunday school classes and individuals bringing a meal and staying to worship with us! We would love to see that happen again! If you would like to provide a meal on one 3rd Friday, please call the office.

I pray that you will come Celebrate Recovery with us!

Blessings,
Kimberly



Celebrate Recovery®

Friday Nights @ 6:30 in the Fulton First UMC Sanctuary
Contact: Kimberly Brann - kimberly@fultonfirstumc.org

Youth News with Danielle Simone

Hello everyone! Spring is beginning to show its bright face, and I hope you are enjoying the daffodils popping up everywhere as much as I am. Our youth group had an incredibly busy February with preparing for Youth Sunday and our Lakeshore retreat. THANK YOU to everyone who showed up to support them for Youth Sunday, I could not be more proud of their leadership, and you should be too. James Carrigan and John Fry drove us to and from Lakeshore last month, so THANK YOU to them for their support! THANK YOU again to everyone who has offered a meal to our youth this semester, we have dinner covered through the first Sunday of April. No ministry can happen without volunteer support, and the youth love having adults around that they know love and support them. I hope you will continue to celebrate their growth as we continue the Lenten season in anticipation of Easter this month.



The Congregational Care Team is requesting candy donations.
Please place candy in baskets at the church entrances or bring to
the Church Office. We're open M - F, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



Wednesdays | 1:30 p.m.

PRAYER *Group*

At the Home of Dorothy Bush



BILL & ANNE ROBERTSON ARE MOVING!

They would love your cards and visits!

Room 217

Clinton-Hickman County ICF

366 S Washington Street

Clinton, KY 42031



HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

3/24 - Palm Sunday - 8:45 & 10:45 a.m.

3/28 - Maundy Thursday - 6 p.m.

Chancel Choir Tenebrae Cantata

3/29 - Good Friday - 6:30 p.m.

3/31 - Easter Sunday - 8:45 & 10:45 a.m.





A BIG THANK YOU to our
local Master Gardeners for
volunteering their time to
clean up the Celtic Garden!

Fulton First United Methodist Church

Loving | Growing | Serving

PO Box 1386, 200 Carr Street

Fulton, KY 42041

270-472-3514

Susan Engle Carrigan, Lead Pastor

Kimberly Brann, Associate Pastor

Sunday Worship: *First Light* - 8:45 a.m. | *New Day* - 10:45 a.m.

Celebrate Recovery Worship: Fridays - 6:30 p.m.

Church Office: M - F, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Willingham Center: M - F, 7:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.