



FIRST  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# A NEW Focus

February, 2022 | Issue 6

## UMC CREATION JUSTICE MOVEMENT

Scientists warn that our climate continues to warm up and that the consequences will be deeply felt and perhaps disastrous in the not-so-distant future. As Christians, we are charged with the stewardship of our earthly home.

The Virginia Interfaith Power and Light ([vaipl.org](http://vaipl.org)) has shared a 2022 Lenten Creation Care Calendar to help us to make small individual acts to reduce our carbon footprint, though individual acts will only make a dent in the magnitude of this serious problem.

Climate crisis demands urgent, immediate, and decisive action. We need government and corporate entities to enact the change necessary to prevent reaching the 2-degree Celsius increase in global temperatures. VA IPL's theme *It's Time to Act Now* highlights this urgency.

VAIPL works to advocate, educate, and organize people of faith and conscience aiming to reach a critical mass who understand climate change and environmental justice issues and are moved to encourage our decision-makers and leaders to enact policies to protect life on this planet.

Use the following address to download the 2022 Lenten Calendar or look for printed copies in the Welcome Center at church: [vaipl.ourpowerbase.net/civicrm/profile/create](http://vaipl.ourpowerbase.net/civicrm/profile/create)

It will help you incorporate care for the climate into your spiritual practices. By praying, acting as advocates, and making these practices habits you will be empowered to hold our leaders accountable.



**WELCOME!** We welcome Taylor, Clifton, and Willow Evancho to the First United Methodist Church Family! Make a point to introduce yourselves to our newest members!

## NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS ONE MEAL AT A TIME

**Meals on Wheels of Charlottesville/ Albemarle** has been helping our community since 1977, serving over 250 clients each and every day: that would not be possible without the work of our incredible volunteers.

It's more than just a meal: Meals on Wheels offers our homebound neighbors a chance for friendly social interaction, a reminder to eat, or even to get out of bed, a safety check to make sure nothing is wrong, and a message that their community really cares.

How can you help? Thanks for asking! Whether you are interested in volunteering weekly or whenever your schedule permits, as little as an hour of your time can be a priceless gift to those who rely on Meals on Wheels to deliver. **Volunteers are needed! Call 434-293-4364 or email [volunteer@cvillemeals.org](mailto:volunteer@cvillemeals.org) for more information.**



## ROOTS, RACE, AND DISCIPLESHIP

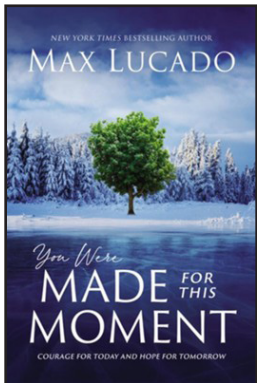
(Wait...there's more!)

The VAUMC "Roots, Race, and Discipleship" series is back with three more sessions! Beginning on February 10 and continuing on 2/17 and 2/24, Bill Clarke and Cindy Poots Remington will facilitate faith-based discussions (via Zoom) on how we can be active in working toward racial justice. **Contact Bill (janebillclarke@earthlink.net) or Cindy (mspoots@gmail.com).** The following link will take you to the videos where you can view all the ones that have been produced to date: [vaumc.org/racerelationsvideos](http://vaumc.org/racerelationsvideos).



## WOMEN AT THE WELL

*You Were Made for This Moment* by Max Lucado is the study for this semester



for **Women at the Well**. This group of women of all ages is meeting in the Fellowship Hall and on ZOOM to study the story of Esther and her experience of standing up and speaking her faith and in turn making

a difference in the world. **Contact carolynmcgee@cvillefirstumc.org with questions or for the link.** Are you are interested in a study at a different time due to work/family schedules? Contact Carolyn!



## BREAD AND BLESSINGS MINISTRY

Chris Roehl



Every Monday lunch is available to anyone who comes by FUMC looking for nourishment. The team typically hands out 65-75 meals ranging from sandwiches to baked chicken or meatloaf with as many fixings as we can fit in a to-go container. We also provide a bag with a sweet and a crunchy/salty such as chips or granola bar and whatever utensils are needed, plus a bottle of water. If we can get fruit, we provide that as well. We also hand out smiles, good wishes, and prayers (even if they can't be heard by the human ear). Lunch is available at other churches in the city throughout the week.

My name is Chris Roehl and I, personally, help with this ministry mainly because I am called to be God's hands and feet in this world. I could choose to hand money to the panhandlers I see regularly. It's quicker & easier, but I'm always conflicted about whether I am really helping or just supporting an addiction. I don't feel that conflict when I am feeding people a meal.

Even though most of the people we feed are homeless, some are not, but are living close to the edge. Not having to pay for food can make all the difference in their lives. If we, through this ministry can keep even one of those close to the edge people from falling, then we are providing a useful and a necessary service. I thank God that FUMC is willing and able to be a part of that service. I also am grateful that other people are willing and able to be a part of this ministry. I can't and don't provide the meal alone. Thanks to all the volunteers that take part in this ministry!

In the hymn "Here I Am Lord," God asks "Whom Shall I Send?" and we reply:

*Is it I, Lord?*

*I have heard you calling in the night.*

*I will go, Lord, if you lead me.*

*I will hold your people in my heart.*

Helping to feed people is what I have heard God calling me to do. It is how I hold his people in my heart.

**Want to volunteer with Chris? Catcar24@yahoo.com**



### 2021 FUMC OPERATING RESULTS

	ACTUAL	ANNUAL BUDGET	AMT. OVER (OR UNDER) BUDGET
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$522,002	\$606,100	\$(84,098)
OTHER INCOME*	\$124,422	\$57,500	\$66,922
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUES</b>	<b>\$646,424</b>	<b>\$663,600</b>	<b>\$(17,176)</b>

\*Includes \$63,100 from PPP Program that was not budgeted and will not repeat in 2022.



## FUMC YOUTH

Dave Breslin

The FUMC Youth Program (grades 6-12) had a terrific fall and opened 2022 with a ton of momentum! Throughout the fall, youth met for monthly activity nights at Pen Park, started a new "Tailgate Sunday" tradition, went to Kings Dominion, participated in Charlottesville's first Youth Night of Worship at Aldersgate United Methodist, held a Christmas Eve party, and held youth group gatherings on Sunday mornings. For the winter and spring, we will be studying the book of John on Sundays and also via Zoom on Wednesday nights. The spring Confirmation Class will begin in March. Additional activities for 2022 include a return trip to Kings Dominion, a Super Bowl family party, a spring retreat, more youth nights of worship, the return of tailgate Sundays once the weather turns warm as well as Pen Park activity nights, and will hold an end of the year pool party celebration. We are excited that our group is growing and look forward to a terrific 2022!

Due to the fact that our group is growing, we are in need of caring adults who love Jesus, love kids, and would be interested in volunteering in our youth program. Please pray about joining Dave, Patricia, and Robbie as we work to provide a dynamic, impactful youth program for the teens at FUMC. **Please contact Dave (davebreslin@cvillefirstumc.org) if you are interested.**

**DID YOU KNOW:** We have 11 area middle and high schools represented in our youth group?



## HOMEBOUND COMMUNION MINISTRY SERVING THE SICK OR HOMEBOUND

DeAnn Posey



In bringing communion to people who are sick or homebound, communion servers represent Christ, they extend the Lord's Table, and share the faith, love, and hospitality of the entire church with those who cannot attend worship. Communion Servers minister to the body of Christ by:

- ◇ representing the praying community to someone who cannot take his or her place in it
- ◇ being entrusted with the reverent, safe transport of the consecrated Communion elements
- ◇ seeing Christ in whom they serve
- ◇ bringing Christ to the sick or homebound in their own persons as well as in the elements
- ◇ bringing back to the church the needs of the sick or homebound person.

**If you would like to participate in this ministry contact DeAnn Posey; dsposey2426@gmail.com or 757-208-6998**



## NOTES FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Kevin White

**Hand Bells** – Our ensemble of ringers had a busy fall semester. We enjoyed a time of music making and fellowship culminating with a "flash mob" and holiday party! Handbell choir has started up again Sundays after worship in the Fellowship Hall. 11:15am-12:30 pm. Come check us out! **Contact kevinwhite@cvillefirstumc.org.**



**Solos, duets, and small ensembles** - Our music ministry provides musical offerings (vocal and instrumental) each week for worship. We would love to have our younger members get involved! If you enjoy contemporary Christian music, we are looking for guitar players, drummers, and vocalists who desire to volunteer their talent and offer up new praises! **Contact Kevinwhite@cvillefirstumc.org.**

**Choir** – The FUMC Choir is masked and mighty! (trying to stay on the safe side for now) Not only do we prepare a variety of musical offerings, we have a wonderful time of fellowship together! Rehearsals are Tuesday evenings at 6:15pm and we would love to have you join us! **Contact carolynmcgee@cvillefirstumc.org.**



## CVILLE SOCK LOVE

Here are the final numbers from FUMC members Lindsay & Lily Simpson's *Cville Sock Love 2021* campaign.

<b>Socks contributed by FUMC</b>	<b>879 pairs</b>
<b>Socks Received from Other Community Donations</b>	<b>720 pairs</b>
<b>Socks Purchased from Fundraising &amp; Bought by Cville Sock Love</b>	<b>2,193 pairs</b>
<b>2021 GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>3,792 pairs!</b>

Thanks to our wonderfully supportive FUMC congregation and our generous community, Cville Sock Love's first Charlottesville-wide sock drive was a great success! We ended 2021 with nearly 3,800 pairs of new socks to donate to area children's hospitals and to our under-resourced neighbors. So far, we've delivered new, warm socks to:

- ◇ UVA Children's Hospital
- ◇ Richmond Children's Hospital at VCU
- ◇ Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Virginia
- ◇ PACEM
- ◇ Thomas Jefferson Coalition for the Homeless
- ◇ People Places clients



In addition, January deliveries are planned for International Neighbors and the Salvation Army. We will continue to distribute socks throughout the cold weather months.

**Thank you, everyone!**

Lindsay & Lily Simpson

*Co-Founders, Cville Sock Love*



## FUMC GALLERY ARTIST MARK STEPHEN CHAPMAN



First United Methodist Church member Mark S. Chapman is a native of Northern Virginia, and graduated from George Mason H.S. in 1967, from Furman University in 1971 with a B.S. degree in Physics, and from Clemson University in 1973 with a M.S. degree in Physics. After graduation, Mark served on active duty in the US Army as a commissioned Signal Corps Officer for several years and afterward served as a Defense Department physicist for 30 years until his retirement in 2004. Mark married Susan in 1976 and they have two beautiful daughters: Tara and Rebecca.



Just before retiring from a career in physics, a hilarious encounter with a squirrel in church sent this former veteran on a new path: a mission to learn the craft of stained-glass windows. His lifelong passion for art and his quest to embark on a new creative endeavor was the birth of his company Art Glass Windows in 2000. Check out the company website: [www.artglasswindows.biz](http://www.artglasswindows.biz). Mark designs, constructs, installs, repairs/restores and installs stained glass for windows, doors, transoms, side-panels, and skylights in private and commercial spaces and places of worship. In 2011, he created the Prodigal Son Returns window at FUMC.

The exhibit at FUMC shows prints of ten original Masonic paintings completed in 2021, and it is interesting to note that Mark is the only artist ever to create paintings of the 6 Royal Arch degrees. Mark labels each print and sells them to fundraise for the Masonic Home of Virginia retirement home in Richmond and for dementia and Alzheimer's patients. He actively supports the annual Charlottesville WALK to End Alzheimer's by organizing a Team that raised over \$54K since participation began in 2010. Several FUMC members support his Team!





## ONE THING MINISTRY

### 2021

**August** – peanut butter for Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry

**September** – face Masks for Haiti Missions

**October** – diapers for Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry

**November** – socks for Cville Sock Love Initiative

**December** – items for UVA Medical Center Christmas Stockings

**THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

### 2022

**January** – chips for FUMC Bread and Blessings Soup Kitchen

**In February we will be collecting hand lotion (sorely needed during this cold weather) for Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry.**

Don't forget to bring in your pop-tabs for The Ronald McDonald House.



## THE TRUSTEES ARE BUSY!

Trustees held their first meeting of 2022 on Monday. The following officers were elected:

- ◇ Chair – John Sykes
- ◇ Vice Chair – Charles Kidd
- ◇ Secretary – Jocelyn Protko

The other members of Trustees are as follows:

- ◇ Bill Owens
- ◇ Hu Shaffer
- ◇ Dave Wheatley
- ◇ Guy Moffat
- ◇ Karen Young
- ◇ David Harding

Room 208 will get wood floors refinished and the room painted beginning January 28. The room will be unavailable for about three weeks while the work is under way.



## NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTION MEET THE PALMERS!

Kevin and Dana Palmer have lived in this area since 1998 and transferred to FUMC from Crozet UMC in 2019. They moved from the county into the big city in spring 2020, shortly after they sent their younger child to college and wanted a smaller nest. Kevin is a retired



environmental consultant. You can find him out walking 5-6 miles around Charlottesville almost every morning. He enjoys cooking, grilling, and smoking food and playing Magic the Gathering. Since retiring from UVA as a nurse, Dana has joined the VA Medical Reserve Corp, the Charlottesville Camera Club, and volunteers with Bread and Blessings. She is also the new FUMC treasurer. They enjoy traveling, biking, and competitively playing board games. Once the

pandemic is under control and masks are not needed inside, they are definitely down for ~~beating you~~ playing some Catan or Dominion with new church friends!



## MEET THE FUMP STAFF! (FIRST UNITED METHODIST PRESCHOOL)

*With every FOCUS, you will have the chance to meet one of FUMP's fabulous teachers or assistants. First up is Miss Chrissy!*

Chrissy Porco is in her fifteenth year as a teacher at FUMP and her twenty-first year of teaching preschool. She loves teaching the Pre-K class and it shows! She believes Pre-K is a magical year filled with lots of fun and learning and with the FUMP fellow staff, the facilities, the students, and the families, this preschool is an amazing, nurturing place to be!

Chrissy was born and raised in Miami, Florida. She and her husband Troy have been married for 28 years and have two children. Her daughter Caroline is a nurse and lives in Richmond with her husband. Her son Connor lives in DC and works for a title company. Chrissy is also a real estate agent! She enjoys helping people find houses to turn into homes. (Wonder what she does in all of her spare time.....!)



## LOVE THE WHOLE CITY & LOVE THE CITY WHOLE



**I've been praying a question since I moved back to Charlottesville last summer to become pastor of First UMC: Where is God leading us in this time and place? Maybe God is leading us... to the park.**

First Church has gone through a lot of transition. In-person services have restarted but we moved from three services to one. The church got a new pastor (me) but there was only one pastor now instead of two. And in the recent past there is the memory of traumatic events like the rally of 2017 and the debates over human sexuality at the United Methodist General Conference in 2019.

So I have been listening. You welcomed me into 12 different sessions where I asked some get-to-know-you questions and vice-versa. I reported back on that during services in the mid-fall. I had an onboarding session with the Church Council and staff in August where I learned more of the history of the church, including some visioning work and a survey that was done just before the pandemic.

We had a book study of Kay Kotan's *Being the Church in a Post-Pandemic World*. I've asked questions in making pastoral visits. And we've had a series of conversations with community partners like Loaves & Fishes, The Haven, Congregation Beth Israel, the Charlottesville Clergy Collective, Live Arts, and many others. We formed a vision team.

I learned a lot about the values of the church, the things that made us proud about First Church, and our hopes. I also learned about the city.

The city of Charlottesville is a vibrant, wonderful city but its people are hurting. When it comes to issues like homelessness, race relations, city governance, and affordable housing, we see the challenges. We are struggling to tell a new story about what kind of place Charlottesville is and what our common hopes are. The pandemic has left many people isolated and disconnected and searching for meaning.

The church has also felt the impact of these things and shares some of the same challenges. Meanwhile, the park right across the street, that came into being at the same time our predecessors built this building,

is both a reminder of the pain and an open space at the center of the city.

What if we claimed this space and time? At a time when the city and the church are searching for new life, what if we listened for God's voice in the midst of that? We are *both* looking for an inclusive story that will be good news

for all the residents of the city. We can reclaim our mission and identity by renewing our commitment to love the place where we are.

The vision I've been rolling out in our January worship is: **Love the Whole City and Love the City Whole, Starting Right Here.** It's a vision of rededicating the park as a place of community healing and flourishing. And in the process we will develop partnerships with other community groups, identify the assets of the church and community for developing responses to needs like homelessness, encourage the arts community, and find our mission in giving ourselves to the place where we are.

If you'd like to hear more (and I hope you do) the vision team would like to invite you to a Vision Town Hall on Sunday, February 6 at 5 PM. The Town Hall will be online and will give you an opportunity to offer feedback, hear more, and dream with us about what comes next. To get a Zoom link, please email Joey Clark at [office@cvillefirstumc.org](mailto:office@cvillefirstumc.org).



Picture is from the December 26 service of Ugly Sweaters, Pajamas and Christmas Carol Sing!



**NOT RECEIVING THE WEDNESDAY BLAST EMAIL? CHECK YOUR SPAM, PROMOTIONS, OR TRASH!**



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