

# A NEW Focus

September, 2023 | Issue 13

## THE PASTOR'S CORNER THE GRACE OF PETS

Recently we had to say goodbye to a family member. Sandy, our near-18-year-old yellow tabby cat, suffered what the vet called a neurological incident and we made that final wrenching decision. Everyone who's had a pet knows these moments don't come easy.

Most of our cats arrive without us seeking them out. Sandy was an Eastern Shore native, born under the church where I served. By the time I found out that the rest of my family had determined to bring her home, she already had a name. I'm not hard to convince in those situations.

In her latter years, she was cranky, never satisfied with her feeding schedule and willing to let us know...loudly...when it was time for that be addressed. But she spent a good amount of time seeking out sunny windowsills or comfortable chairs in which to sleep. She was a good companion in those moments—a picture of contentment.

This fall we're going to try something new that's really very old. On October 8 at Pen Park we're going to offer a Blessing of the Animals. It's a practice connected to St. Francis, who is often depicted surrounded by God's creatures. Francis knew the deep connection that we share with animals. Like them, we are dependent on God's sustaining care and on healthy environments.

In the hospitality we offer to pets, and in the space they create for us, we get a glimpse of what it's like to meet God. And we bless God as we bless them.

Our church can be such a place, too—a place of welcome, companionship, and hospitality. And together we flourish.

- Alex

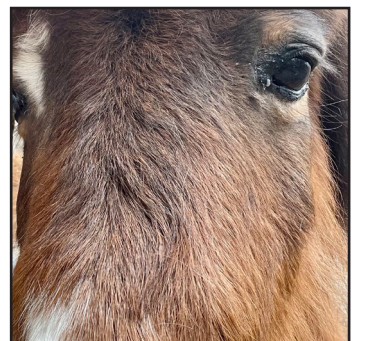
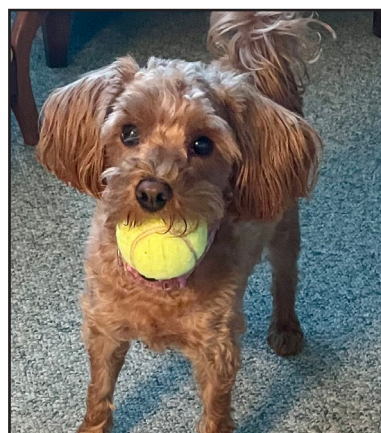
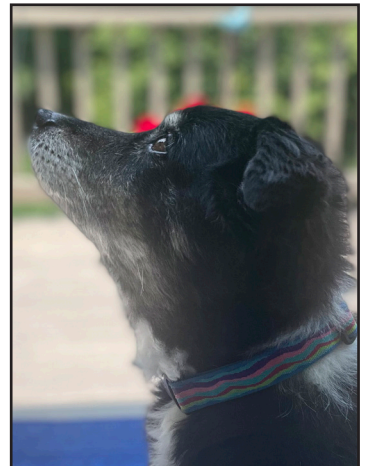


## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS AND CHURCH POTLUCK PICNIC OCTOBER 8, AT PEN PARK PAVILIONS 1 & 2 NEAR THE PARKING LOT

Blessing of the Animals starts at 4:30pm and is open to the public. Invite your animal loving friends to bring their caged or leashed pet to

this experience. For pets that do not travel well or play nice with others, encourage the owners to bring a photo of their pet to display for the blessing! Children can bring a favorite stuffed animal! If you don't have a pet, consider still attending and bringing a gift of pet food, toys, blankets or towels (used are fine) for our local animal rescue organizations.

After this event, at 5:00pm we will enjoy a Potluck Picnic (barbeque to be provided) and some good fellowship! Bring a delicious dish, fun outdoor games to share, and portable chairs. Plates, utensils and drinks will be provided by the church. Questions? [carolynmcgee@cvillefirstumc.org](mailto:carolynmcgee@cvillefirstumc.org)





**MONDAY SOUP KITCHEN  
BREAD AND BLESSINGS  
MEALS MINISTRY  
PRAYER AND PARTICIPATION NEEDS**

*By Chris Roehl*



We are increasing, expanding, growing! This is both a sad and glad statement when referring to our Bread and Blessing Meal. Ministry. The Bread and Blessings mission here at CFUMC is providing a meal on Mondays for the people in our community that need food. (It is another way we Love the Whole City) We are glad to be able to provide this support for the people in the community that need help, but it is sad that the number of people needing this support is increasing. I would like to thank all those that help this mission by volunteering their time to help cook and serve the meals and provide hand baked cookies to hand out.

The number of guests that we serve has dramatically increased in the past few months. A year ago, we served 60-80 meals on Mondays. Now we are serving up to 150 meals. We see many people that are new to this area that we've never seen before. Some of these new folks started coming when the WIC program returned to pre-Covid levels. By the end of the month there is no money for food unless they dip into their rent money. We see a lot of the traditional homeless. Some are drug users, alcoholics and the mentally ill or disabled. We are not in this ministry to judge – just to provide a meal, with a side of love and prayers.



Obviously, as the numbers increase so does the amount of food we prepare. Providing more meals means more money needed to buy the food, as well as more people needed to prepare and serve the meal. Our church provides the volunteers for the 2nd, 3rd and alternating 5th Mondays. There is a desperate need for more volunteers, especially from 11:45 – 12:45 to serve the meal. We assemble the meals inside the church and hand out them out along with the drinks from a gate that we open near the playground. None of the guests enter the church property.

I take pride in the fact that our church provides a nutritious and generous midday meal. This is a meal I would gladly serve my own family and guests. Surprisingly, the cost of individual servings of crunchies/sweets is a fairly large proportion of the cost of the meal. We currently buy individual prepackaged portions to supplement the homemade cookies our volunteers provide. Please note that donations (store bought or homemade) are always welcome!

If you would like to support this mission of CFUMC, there are several ways to help:

- ◇ volunteer to serve or cook on Mondays
- ◇ donate cookies or snacks
- ◇ donate money to the church, (put Bread and Blessings in the memo line)
- ◇ keep the homeless and those in need of a meal in your prayers.

Interested in participating in this ministry in some way?

please contact Chris Roehl, 540-273-1978 (c) or catcar24@yahoo.com

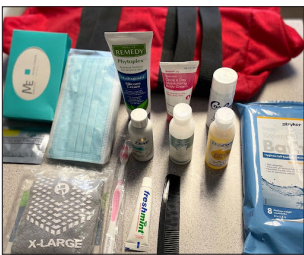


**NEW ART!**

Thank you to church member, Karla Berger for sharing her beautiful photography with us as our September/October Artist in the Gallery.



**PACEM  
PEOPLE AND CONGREGATIONS  
ENGAGED IN MINISTRY**



**Oct. 28 - Nov. 11**

Every guest will receive personal care items from CFUMC

How can you volunteer?  
jonschumann@gmail.com



**CVILLE WALK TO  
END ALZHEIMER'S**

This event will take place Oct 21st at Sentara Martha Jefferson Hospital. See [www.ALZ.ORG/WALK](http://www.ALZ.ORG/WALK) for community walk details and join church member, Mark Chapman and his Team or build your own CFUMC Team to participate. This terrible disease that impacts and/or claims the lives of so many people is not going away unless we can find a cure.

Questions? Need more info?

Contact Mark Chapman  
434-227-6702  
agw123@earthlink.net





## CHURCH@CHOPT

Church@Chopt takes place the second Wednesday of every month from 6:00-7:30pm, No agenda, just great Fellowship! Open to all!  
 Questions? Lara Upton [children@cvillefirstumc.org](mailto:children@cvillefirstumc.org) or Carolyn McGee [carolynmcgee@cvillefirstumc.org](mailto:carolynmcgee@cvillefirstumc.org)



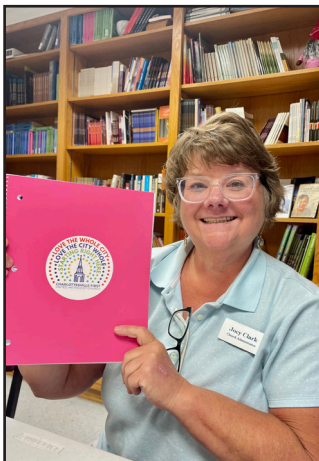
## THE QUIET CENTER

An after-church gathering of, and for, those walking with grief who wish to share with each other their time and their presence and their prayers. Come any Sunday at 11:15 am in the Chapel or contact Rev. John at 703-887-7305 or [johnconway@vaumc.org](mailto:johnconway@vaumc.org)



## ADVENT DEVOTIONAL TIME....HINT...HINT...!

Yes, it's that time of year when the call goes out for folks to share an Advent Devotional. If you aren't sure how to accomplish this, why don't you consider attending the Advent Devotional Writing Workshop on Oct. 1 right after the 10am Worship Service. Come on down to the Fellowship Hall and grab a bite to eat at the Children, Tween, and Youth lunch and then gather by the stage to hear the ins and outs of writing a short devotional. Oct. 1 – 11:15am – Fellowship Hall



## STICKER STORIES

Take some stickers from the Welcome Center (just off of the parking lot) and place them where others will notice them! Your water bottle? Laptop? Car Bumper? When you have done this, take a picture and send it to [Carolynmcgee@cvillefirstumc.org](mailto:Carolynmcgee@cvillefirstumc.org) and we will share it all over the city on social media! Be creative!



## HAPPY 40TH BIRTHDAY TO FUMP! FIRST UNITED METHODIST PRESCHOOL

*Kristen Breslin, Director*

Our sweet preschool is off to a terrific start for the 2023-2024 school year! Ok...yes....there were a few tears, but they dried up quickly and yes, some of the tears belonged to Mom and Dad!

Can you believe that this is the 40th year of FUMP Ministry? We are all so grateful to Marilyn Comfort (Founding Director, now current Board Chair) and others, for starting such a precious ministry here. Watch for celebratory events to mark this special occasion!

Another big THANK YOU goes out to this church family for donating to the One Thing Ministry for FUMP. We were able to start this year stocked with all the supplies needed for our little learners.

Our gratitude also goes to those persons that have been so generous by contributing to the Scholarship Fund to help families be able to afford to come to FUMP, what a huge blessing! If you are interested in donating to FUMP, just put FUMP in the memo line of your check. Another way to support the school is to offer your time. Volunteers are needed to substitute occasionally, walk to the playground, read to the children, or accompany on a field trip. A quick background check will be run and you will be paid generously with smiles and hugs!

Contact Kristen at [fump@cvillefirstumc.org](mailto:fump@cvillefirstumc.org)

Oh, and please come down to the preschool wing anytime to visit! And tell your friends and neighbors that it's not too late register for FUMP Kindergarten!





# CHILDREN, TWEENS, AND YOUTH

by Lara Upton

Save the Date!!

Friday, Aug 11 - 10am - Youth/Tweens Serve

Help set up the food patty at New Beginnings Christian Community Church

Monday, Aug 14 - 10am Youth/Tweens Serve

Help set up and serve at Bread and Blessings at CUMC

The 1st Sunday of every month, after 10am worship

Kids/youth (and their adults!) potluck lunch in the Fellowship Hall

The 4th Wednesday of every month

God in all Things, 6-7:30pm

All ages creative Worship/Fellowship time beginning with a meal!

Sunday, Oct 8th 6-7:30pm

Pen Park Youth Night Cookout and Campfire following the 4:30pm Blessing of the Animals

October 29, Trunk or Treat, 3-5pm

Be creative! How will you decorate your trunk? Get your costumes ready!

Contact Lara to find out upcoming opportunities for your children, tweens & youth to serve - [children@cvillefirstumc.org](mailto:children@cvillefirstumc.org)



## MEET CFUMC NEW MINISTRY INTERN FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH MADISON MCMANNERS



Madison McManners is a recent University of Georgia graduate who is now pursuing a Master's in Counselor Education to become a future school counselor. After interning full-time in campus ministry last year, she is excited to do children's ministry and connect her love of God with her love for working with children. She is also passionate about worship, writing, and art, and loves meeting new people.

She feels so grateful to already be connected here after her first month in Charlottesville and cannot wait to meet her new church family!



## 2023 CFUMC TUBING ADVENTURE MAKES A SPLASH!

In August, 34 CFUMC friends gathered to tube 3 miles down the James River and had a wonderful Sunday afternoon! A big thank you to James River Runners! Think about joining us next year!



## UVA STOCKING PROJECT

The Women at the Well crafted 467 of these cute Christmas gnomes for the UVA stocking project!



## MEET THE GALLANDERS!



Susan met Ty Gallander at the Mucky Duck Pub when she was traveling with a friend in California.

Ty was attending the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, and Susan was on summer break from teaching high school. Though they never lived in the same state prior to being married, they recently celebrated their 27th anniversary.

Over the years, they have lived in Florida, Colorado, and Texas. Susan has spent her career in education of all ages and is currently a program coordinator at The Center. Ty has worked in software design, aerospace engineering, program management, and continuous improvement. A job offer at Apex Clean Energy and the desire to live in a beautiful place led the couple to move across the country from Dallas to Cville. Their daughter, Lauren, recently moved to Cville after graduating from the University of Texas at Austin with degrees in Sustainability Studies and Anthropology. Their son, John, is finishing his degree in Environmental Science at UT Austin.

They are all enjoying the beautiful scenery, friendly people, and fun activities of the area. They joined CFUMC after visiting area churches because they loved the energy of the congregation, and it felt like home!



## ALL SAINTS' DAY DAFFODIL BULB PLANTING OPPORTUNITY

By Marilyn Basham and Mackie Kudravetz

This year, on Sunday, November 5, we will celebrate All Saints' Day a little bit differently. After the 10am Worship Service, we will have the chance to remember all the saints who have gone before us by planting daffodils in the church parking lot corner sign flower bed.

100 bulbs will be available for us to plant in memory of a saint that may have a special place in our hearts. In April of 2024, they will burst forth in glory to give us joy and to help in making Charlottesville a place of beauty. (Love the Whole City, Love the City Whole, Starting Right Here!)

All are invited to purchase and plant a bulb for \$10. A team of people will be present to guide you and lend a hand. If you have a bulb planter, please bring it along. Rain date: November 12. If you are interested in purchasing a bulb, put "daffodil" in the memo line of your check.

On Friday, October 27 at 9:30 we will be preparing the bed for planting. Please join us with your spade, gloves, weeder, and trowel. We plan to work for about two hours. Questions?

Mackie Kudravetz mccreakudravetz@gmail.com

Marilyn Basham mvbasham@gmail.com



## RAINY DAY BLUES?

"Love the City" Umbrellas will be left at the Front and Welcome Center entrances for all to borrow and then return on rainy days! If you would like to purchase one to support our Nurture Ministries and our CFUMC Vision of "Love the City" they are \$20. (Put "umbrella" in the memo line of your check).



## FINANCIAL BOX SCORE CFUMC JULY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	July 2023 YTD Actual	July 2023 YTD Budget	Amt Over (Under) Budget	Combined Full Yr Approved Budget 2023
Contributions	\$390,470	\$408,333	(\$17,863)	\$700,000
Other Income	\$14,688	\$30,284	(\$15,596)	\$51,400
<b>Total Income</b>	\$405,158	\$438,617	(\$33,459)	\$751,400
<b>Operating Expenses*</b>	\$417,375	\$442,732	(\$25,357)	\$756,970
<b>Net Income (Deficit)</b>	(\$12,217)	(\$4,115)	(\$8,102)	(\$5,570)



## OCTOBER "ONE THING MINISTRY"

CFUMC will sponsor **PACEM October 28-November 11** and we can support this ministry with "to-go" breakfast items such as:

- ◇ Juice boxes
- ◇ Prepackaged muffins/danishes
- ◇ Chewy granola or fruit bars
- ◇ Fruit cups (Mandarin Oranges, peaches, pears, mixed fruit, etc)

We will also be collecting underwear for men (boxer and boxer style briefs) and women (bikini and boyshorts) that The Haven will distribute. Medium – XXL are much needed!

## NOVEMBER "ONE THING MINISTRY" CVILLE SOCK LOVE

Bring in those socks! For the past few years, the CFUMC Simpson girls have spearheaded a ministry called **CVILLE SOCK LOVE** and collected hundreds, if not thousands of socks to keep the feet (and hearts) warm for those in our community that struggle with compromised living situations. There will be a box in the Welcome Center (just off of the parking lot) to collect the socks! How many can we donate?



## A BEAUTIFUL DAY FOR A BAPTISM!

Maggie, daughter of Katie and Kendall Bailey and her cousin Bennett, son of Kristie and Burton Pegoraro were baptized recently! They are the grandchildren of Gary and Tammy Jones.



Need a nametag? [carolynmcgee@cvillefirstumc.org](mailto:carolynmcgee@cvillefirstumc.org)

Have a prayer request or a praise you want to share? Send to [carolynmcgee@cvillefirstumc.org](mailto:carolynmcgee@cvillefirstumc.org) it will be prayed for at the Tuesday, midday prayer time by our confidential prayer team.

Would you like to help prepare and/or serve communion? Evelyn Kessler - [eckess@mindspring.com](mailto:eckess@mindspring.com)

Interested in joining a Sunday Morning Adult Study? [carolynmcgee@cvillefirstumc.org](mailto:carolynmcgee@cvillefirstumc.org)

Need more info on Men's Tuesday Morning Bible Study - [jimberlin79@gmail.com](mailto:jimberlin79@gmail.com)

Thursday Morning Women at the Well info – [carolynmcgee@cvillefirstumc.org](mailto:carolynmcgee@cvillefirstumc.org)

Could you be a greeter or an usher for Sunday morning Worship?  
[carolynmcgee@cvillefirstumc.org](mailto:carolynmcgee@cvillefirstumc.org)

Interested in singing in The Advent Magnify Choir? Short term commitment, no audition!  
Rehearsals start on Oct. 17. 7pm [carolynmcgee@cvillefirstumc.org](mailto:carolynmcgee@cvillefirstumc.org)

**IF YOU PREFER TO NOT RECEIVE THE NEW FOCUS NEWSLETTER, PLEASE CONTACT  
[CAROLYNMCGEE@CVILLEFIRSTUMC.ORG](mailto:CAROLYNMCGEE@CVILLEFIRSTUMC.ORG) TO CANCEL YOUR SUBSCRIPTION.**