



FIRST
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A NEW Focus

June, 2022 | Issue 8

LET'S TRAVEL THIS ROAD TOGETHER FOR AWHILE: AN UNEXPECTED PARTNERSHIP

First, the headline: First United Methodist Church and Hinton Ave. United Methodist Church are entering into a new partnership to explore ministry together beginning July 1. The new partnership, which involves my appointment to both churches, comes at the request of Bishop Sharma D. Lewis and the Cabinet of the Virginia Conference following the recent approval of medical leave for Rev. Robert Lewis, who had been serving Hinton Ave. UMC. Our pastor emeritus, Rev. Harry Kennon, will be the interim pastor at Hinton Ave. UMC until the end of June.



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What will this mean? One of the first visible signs of this partnership will be that both congregations will worship together at First UMC each week beginning July 10.

In addition, a transitional team of church members from both churches, supported by a consultant with funding from the district, will explore what a faithful next step could be and will make a recommendation to the bishop and Cabinet about that next step. There will be many opportunities for input and leadership for all church members during this process.

Why are our two churches being asked to join together in this process? One of the important

features of United Methodism is its sense of connection. Local churches are not isolated but are part of a greater network of congregations that are organized into districts and annual conferences. When there are unexpected changes, such as the pastoral vacancy at Hinton Avenue, congregations can rely on the connection.



Hinton Avenue
United Methodist Church
Charlottesville, Virginia

First Church members planted Hinton Avenue Church in the 1890s as a way of extending the Methodist witness into the Belmont neighborhood. First &

Hinton Avenue members have cooperated in recent years on a number of projects and worship services, including the recent Maundy Thursday presentation of the Last Supper. We are neighbors serving the downtown area of Charlottesville.

What will this mean for leadership in both churches?

First UMC and Hinton Avenue UMC leadership teams will remain in place and will maintain their financial structures. They will cooperate to pay the pastoral salary and to provide pastoral housing.

What will it mean for Rachel's Haven?

Hinton Avenue UMC has been working for many years toward the establishment of Rachel's Haven, a low income housing project, slated for construction on the Hinton Avenue site, that will provide dedicated space for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. (cont. pg 2)

(cont. from pg 1) Piedmont Housing Alliance and the Charlottesville District Vision Team are taking the lead on this project and their work will continue.

What will it mean for the FUMC Vision: ‘Love the Whole City & Love the City Whole Starting Right Here’? All conversations between the two congregations will be conducted with this vision in mind. I am committed to maintaining our momentum in connecting with our surrounding community. New possibilities for living out this vision may come in our conversations and I am excited about those opportunities.

Do you have more questions? So do I. There is a lot to think about as we consider things like finances, property, and having the congregations get to know each other. I encourage you to share your questions and thoughts with me and our First UMC leadership. We will be having a town hall discussion of plans for this new cooperative arrangement following our worship service on June 12.

And please pray that God will bless this season of partnership. The God who inspired the creation of both of our congregations will show us even more wonders if we have eyes to see.

In Christ,

Alex Joyner



INTRODUCING “FRIENDS OF THE PORTICO CAFÉ”

Lisa Hanrahan



After gathering on the portico after worship last summer the idea of serving lemonade and cookies came up and by September, the creation of the Portico Café was in full swing! As the weather became colder, the Portico Café stayed open, serving hot drinks and baked goods. Now after a hiatus during the winter months and a few bad weather days, we expect the Portico Café to be ‘open’ each Sunday the rest of the year. What started out with two or three people helping and providing treats, has expanded to include several dedicated helpers (and rather than leaving someone’s name out) you know who you are! From the many comments that have been made, your efforts are much appreciated, so thank you all very much!

Having hosted the Portico Café in both warm and cold weather, we have a better idea of the help and amount of refreshments that is needed each week. You can help keep the Portico Café a vital part of our after worship experience by joining *Friends of the Portico Café*.

Contact Lisa Hanrahan (ligrhanrah@aol.com or 434-245-1764) for more details if you would like to be a Friend and can contribute in one or more of the following ways: set up, serve, clean up, or provide refreshments.



THE SEASON OF LENT IS ALWAYS A SPECIAL TIME AT FUMC HOWEVER THIS YEAR WAS ESPECIALLY MEANINGFUL AS WE WERE ABLE TO GATHER IN PERSON AGAIN



Maundy Thursday had us gathering with Hinton Ave. UMC for the Living Tableau of the Last Supper. This is a communion service featuring the twelve disciples and Christ on the night before he was crucified as they face the revelation that one of them will betray their Lord. The Worship Arts Program at FUMC first presented this drama in 2012. This particular presentation was a perfect lead in to Good Friday’s Tenebrae service of prayer, meditation, and scripture.



Easter Sunrise Service in Market Street Park, followed by breakfast in the Fellowship Hall.

Every day for the 40 days of Lent, folks gathered in Market Street Park to pray, read scripture, and to take in the sights and sounds of our community in the park. This initiative came out of our new vision of “LOVE THE WHOLE CITY, LOVE THE CITY WHOLE, STARTING RIGHT HERE”.



Easter Morning had us all together after the Easter Sunrise Breakfast for a morning of triumphant worship in the sanctuary concluding with the singing of Handel’s Hallelujah Chorus!

FIRST UNITED METHODIST PRESCHOOL CLOSSES OUT ANOTHER YEAR!

Kristen Breslin, Director



FUMP has had a wonderful 2021-2022 school year! The children have learned so much. The two year olds have learned what it is like to be a preschooler. They have bonded with each other, learned letters, numbers, and many concepts. The three year olds have read many fun stories, gone to the local library, learned how to spell their names, and learned endlessly through play. Our PreK friends have probably grown the most throughout the year. They have learned lessons that go along with the letter of the week throughout the year, used their imaginations, and love each other like family. Pastor Alex led Chapel every Monday, which was a treat for all of us! These are just a few of the many amazing things that happened during our year together.

The best news is that thankfully we can say that we never had to close or quarantine a class throughout the entire year!

We are eternally grateful for FUMC and for all the support we have received throughout the year! We will be back in September (introducing our new Transitional Kindergarten class) and would love for you to visit!



MEET YOUR NURTURE TEAM

Chair, Patty Taylor

Joan Ashley, Marilyn Basham, Carrie Colley, Teri Guertler, Harriet Lambert, Marilyn Lutz, Cathy Scheumann, Carolyn McGee (Staff).



WE OFFER OUR CONDOLENCES TO TOMMY AND VIRGINIA GIBSON ON THE PASSING OF TOMMY'S MOTHER, VIRGINIA (TOOTSIE) GIBSON.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Charles Kidd



FUMC is partnering with Aldersgate United Methodist and Habitat for Humanity to create monthly workdays and several Saturdays to help build communities. The hope is to expand to all Methodist churches in the area as we work to make a difference in housing.

If you or your group would like to sign up for one of these days or learn more about Habitat, go to vhub.at/methodistunited.

Habitat also offers van tours to see first hand the communities they work in.

Questions or request for a van tour contact: CharlesLKidd@yahoo.com.



CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Caleb Barker who achieved Eagle Scout and will be celebrated at his Eagle Scout Court of Honor on June 5. All are invited! It will take place at the Stony Point Ruritan at 2835 Watts Passage, Charlottesville, VA 22911. The ceremony will be followed by a reception. The invitation and RSVP can be viewed at: evite.me/E24XF3Sdc1



THE C'VILLE CHURCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE IS BACK!

Games are played on Friday evenings thru July at Darden Towe Park with no covid restrictions. The slow pitch league is open to men and women 14 years old or older. Interested? Contact Bill Owens for more information.



NEW SECURITY CODES: If you have not received your new door entry code, please contact Joey in the church office, 434-296-6193. Let's all work together to keep our building secure and safe!



IF YOU PREFER TO NOT RECEIVE THE NEW FOCUS NEWSLETTER, PLEASE CONTACT CAROLYNMCGEE@CVILLEFIRSTUMC.ORG TO CANCEL YOUR SUBSCRIPTION.

ONE THING MINISTRY FOR JULY

Through our One Thing Ministry in July, we can support The Haiti Mission Foundation, a local non-profit that sends all volunteer medical teams to the Tovar Clinic in Grison-Garde Haiti four times per year.

As they prepare for their upcoming July trip to Haiti, they are asking for donations of any of the following items that are so desperately needed. Questions? Contact Alex Pettigrew fapettigrew@gmail.com

- ◇ 1% Cortisone Cream
- ◇ Triple Antibiotic Ointment
- ◇ Anti- Fungal (athletes foot) Cream

Items can be left in the red bins found in the Welcoming Center and Front Entrance. Thank you in advance!



HERE IS SOME GOOD NEWS!

Since November, FUMC has made the following donations above and beyond your pledges:

- \$1,970 to Sherando UMC (partially destroyed by fire)
- \$4,017.33 to *UMCOR Advance to assist with damage from floods and tornadoes
- \$3,299 for Ukraine and are sending that to *UMCOR Advance
- \$2,160 for our Lithuanian sister church
- \$2,575 for our two IRC families

*100% of your donations to UMCOR go toward the designated cause. Any administrative costs are collected once a year in the UMCOR Sunday donation.

Don't forget all of the material donations of supplies through The One Thing Ministry to benefit those served by: Loaves and Fishes, The Ronald McDonald House, Bread and Blessings, Haiti Mission Foundation, Stepping Stones, C'ville SockLove, and more!



FYI FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE!

Jeff Taylor



Please note that financial quarterly giving statements will only be sent out the 1st quarter, 3rd quarter and year end (skipping the mid-year statements) this year. In 2023 they will be sent out for YTD (year to date) through April, YTD through August and year end. This will help to save on postage, printing, and labor. Statements can be requested at any time during the year, just call the church office.

REVENUE & EXPENSES COMPARED TO BUDGET

Year to date Comparison

	Apr 2022 YTD Actual	Apr 2022 YTD Budget	Amt Over (Under) Budget
Total Income	\$ 218,768	\$ 213,700	\$ 5,068
Operating Expenses	\$ 190,159	\$ 212,670	\$ (22,511)
Net Income/ Deficit	\$ 28,609	\$ 1,030	\$ 27,579

REVENUE & EXPENSES COMPARED TO PRIOR YEAR

Year to date Comparison

	Apr 2022 YTD Actual	Apr 2021 YTD Actual	\$ Change
Total Income	\$ 218,768	\$ 220,779	\$ (2,011)
Operating Expenses	\$ 190,159	\$ 171,976	\$ 18,183
Net Income/ Deficit	\$ 28,609	\$ 48,803	\$ (20,194)



PYSANKY PARTY RAISES FUNDS FOR UKRAINE!

As part of the FUMC Worship Arts and Outreach, twenty-seven women gathered in the Fellowship Hall on two separate occasions to learn how to make Ukrainian decorative eggs using the Pysanky method of wax relief. A donation of \$1300 was made to UMCOR to benefit our brothers and sisters in this wartorn country.



MEET SUSAN HASTINGS! NEW MEMBER INTRODUCTION

Susan was born just in time to be a “child of the 50’s” in Hopewell, VA! She lived her earliest years in Chesterfield County in what was then a



country setting in a close, supportive neighborhood. She thought this was great because she had no brothers or sisters, but many friends!

Susan’s higher education took her to Longwood, and her career as a teacher began. A few teaching years beyond that, this young woman studied at the Presbyterian School of Christian Education, receiving a Masters degree, and a Disciples of Christ Minister husband!

In her first third of life, she was active in the Episcopal Church,

then Presbyterian. She and her husband became members of two DOC churches in Richmond, two in Madison County and one in Charlottesville where they were very busy for about twenty years. Also, during that time, her husband studied Bio-Medical Ethics in a PhD program at UVA, and they had two children!

Susan was so happy to have been invited to First United Methodist Church by her Jazzercise friend, Sheila Balian, and she began attending in June of 2021, when the Pandemic allowed. She says she enjoys worship services, her Sunday School class, the Handbell Choir, and many other activities, and she feels very blessed to have more new friends! Let’s all give Susan a warm FUMC welcome!



SUN, SURF, HIKING, AND.....TUBING!

Let’s go on an adventure! It’s almost summertime! Vacation, sun, surf, hiking, and.....TUBING! Here are the particulars.....let us know if you and your family or friends would be interested. If you can swim (doesn’t have to be Olympic style) and are between the ages of 6 and 109, then let’s meet at James River Runners on Sunday, July 24 at 12:30. The cost is \$25 per person unless we get more than 25 going and then we get a reduced price. What a fun way to spend a Sunday afternoon as a church family! So we can make this fun adventure come together, we need to know if you are interested. Please RSVP to carolynmcgee@cvillefirstumc.org by June 12!



NOTES FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Kevin White



The Music Ministry continues to support worship in a variety of ways. From classical to contemporary musical styles, FUMC features a wide variety of musicians and genres of music.

A regular feature of the ministry is the choir. Carolyn McGee leads the eighteen to twenty voice ensemble in song as they lift their praises about twice a month in worship. The choir rehearses Tuesday evening at 6:15pm and we have reserved a chair for you! Come join this SATB group!

Another ensemble you hear in worship on Sunday mornings is the Handbell Choir. Director Lisa Rogers brings years of handbell experience and has really grown this group of over a dozen players. They are scheduled to perform next on June 12!

The FUMC Praise Band is beginning rehearsals in June. If you love singing, or play guitar, violin, or any instrument that you’d love to share, please reach out to Kevin as we all get this ministry going again!

Special performances over the last month or so have featured an arrangement with African drummer - Brue Penner, synthesizer, and Alex Stewart singing “Be Thou My Vision.” It was a wonderful rendition of a beautiful, well-loved hymn. Hope you didn’t miss the Sunday when bagpipers, including our very Mark Chapman, offered up “Highland Cathedral” accompanied by the pipe organ. It was a soul stirring musical offering!

If you believe that variety is the spice of life (cumin or smoked paprika for our pastor!) then our music ministry is sure to have something for you!

Always expect the unexpected!



TRAVELING FREEDOM'S ROAD, A GUIDE TO EXPLORING OUR CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY.

Please enjoy the following review of Jack Hanrahan's newest book, Traveling Freedom's Road, A Guide to Exploring Our Civil rights History.

Jack is the husband of FUMC member, Team leader of the Portico Cafe, and Church Council Chair, Lisa Hanrahan.

"For most of us there will be moments of "Aha!" or "I never knew that!" or even "Why haven't I heard of this?" This enhanced guide will, if you allow it to, excite your spirit of inquiry, lead to growth in your fund of information, and provide a clearer picture of how the continuing battle for civil rights for all can help us form that more perfect union alluded to in our national narrative. ... such a book is sorely needed!"
Dr. Terrence Roberts, Little Rock Nine member and author of Lessons

from Little Rock

Please note, the book is available locally at New Dominion Book Shop and Blue Whale Books (both on the Downtown Mall) and on Amazon The book's website (below) has more information on contents and how to buy.

Traveling Freedom's Road

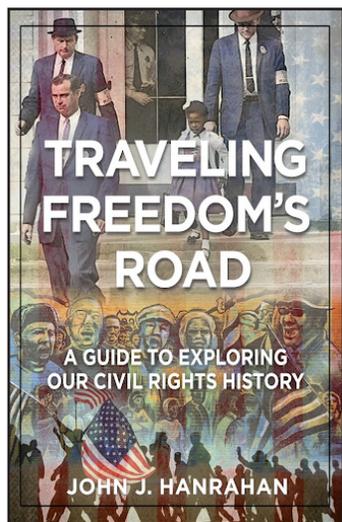
John J. Hanrahan

Freedom's Road Press

979-8-9855010-0-1 \$24.95 Paper, 978-8-

9855010-8-1 \$9.99 ebook

travelingfreedomroad.com



CHURCH COUNCIL AND ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE APPROVE PLANS FOR UPGRADES

More upgrades to the physical plant of FUMC are on the way. At its regularly scheduled meeting on April 25, the FUMC Church Council approved plans for a number of improvements to the building over the next few years. These follow the recent repainting of windows and doors on the front and the renovation of Room 208.

Presenting for the Trustees, John Sykes, the Trustees chair, and Guy Moffat outlined several capital projects that should be done to preserve our 100 year old building. Among the projects are stripping off old lead paint and repainting on the front of the church and in the courtyard, renovating the Gathering Space and kitchen, replacing the portico floor (which is also the roof over office areas), covering worn copper gutters, and filling in and waterproofing two courtyard window wells.

The cost of these projects is estimated at over \$500,000 and the Trustees requested that amount from various accounts to which the church has access. The Council approved a motion to take \$320,391 from the recently established Arthur Fund and to request \$112,010 from the Endowment Committee. The Endowment Committee approved

this amount at its meeting on May 11th. The remainder would come from Trustees funds.



The Trustees are also pursuing other projects to make us a more 'green' campus. There are plans to install LED lighting, motion sensors, and more water-efficient toilets. In conjunction with the church's Creation Justice Team, trustees also participated in a walk-around energy assessment with LEAP (Local Energy Alliance Program) and are awaiting those recommendations. They are also investigating the possibilities of solar improvements.

Projects like these are possible thanks to the generosity of church members who have given to the church through the years and currently. The stewardship and maintenance of the building is an ongoing work to make the facility a place of vital ministry and mission. Thanks to our trustees, Church Council, and Endowment Committee members for their service and discernment.

Our Trustees Chair is John Sykes, Lisa Hanrahan is the Church Council Chair, and Evelyn Kessler is Chair of the Endowment Committee.



SERMON SERIES FOR JUNE 2022

June 5, 2022 Pentecost Sunday Confirmation Sunday "One Spirit to Unite Them All" *Acts 2:1-21 | John 14:8-17*

June 12, 2022 1st Sunday after Pentecost - Trinity Sunday Graduate Recognition Sunday. "Loving When You're Not Feeling It" *Romans 5:1-5 | John 16:12-15*

June 19, 2022 2nd Sunday after Pentecost "A Voice to Give Us Hope" *1 Kings 19:1-4, 8-15a | Luke 8:26-39*

June 26, 2022 3rd Sunday after Pentecost - Rev. Harry Kennon, preaching.