



Welcome
GUIDE

Welcome to
Lebanon
First United Methodist
Church

who we are
where we are
how we serve



Dear Friends,

As you explore Lebanon First United Methodist Church, we bid you welcome! To gain a better understanding of who we are, we want you to know about two main visions we have as a church:

First, we desire to be Lebanon's church. This does not mean we feel everyone should be a member of this church. In fact, we strive to partner with and serve alongside all churches in this community, and we firmly believe that our success is intertwined. What we mean by being Lebanon's church is that Lebanon is our primary mission field, and we want to love and serve Lebanon any way we can. We want to be the church Lebanon turns to, knowing we will do all we can to help.

Second, we want to lead the way in eradicating hunger in Wilson County. This is a huge and daunting vision which sometimes keeps us up at night, but we believe it to be God-given. (See the opposite page for ways in which we are working toward this goal.)

As you look through the pages of this magazine highlighting what's going on at Lebanon FUMC, please know that if you have any questions or thoughts, we would love to talk with you and help you find your place here.

Blessings,

Ryan Bennett, Lead Pastor

David (Bucky) Hesson, Minister of Discipleship

Ryan has been the Lead Pastor of Lebanon FUMC since December of 2017. He has served in churches in the Middle Tennessee area since 1998. Ryan grew up in Cookeville, graduating from Cookeville High School in 1991. He is also an alum of The University of Tennessee at Knoxville, graduating with a BS in Education. He has his Master of Divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary.



Ryan Bennett

Lead Pastor

Ryan is married to Heather. Heather is the director of the nonprofit, Blessed Earth Tennessee (www.blessedearthtn.com), an organization that exists to help Christians understand their biblical call to care for creation. They have one son, Tyler, and his "brother" Commodore the dog. Ryan enjoys playing and watching sports and spending time on the lake. He also roasts coffee in his spare time.

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Bucky Hesson

Minister of Discipleship

When people begin attending FUMC, they often ask **Bucky** how long he has been here, but they are usually surprised when he answers, "All my life!" He was baptized as an infant, attended Sunday School, Confirmation, and UMYF, all in this church. He and his wife, Kathy, met here and got married in our sanctuary and his daughter and their three grandchildren were all baptized here.

So, needless to say, Bucky has been around here a long time.

Previously, Bucky owned a shoe store in Lebanon, but twenty years ago, made the decision to sell it, and was offered a position on staff. Having always sensed God's call in his life, he knew this was where God was leading him.

That original position has evolved over the years, and today, his title is Minister of Discipleship. He was also ordained in the UMC in 2009 as a deacon. Bucky takes seriously Jesus' call to "make disciples for the transformation of the world," and so he wants to see that every member has the opportunity to grow as a disciple and to minister with others beyond the walls of the church.

For relaxation and renewal, Bucky enjoys gardening, reading, watching movies, listening to many different genres of music, traveling and spending time with family and Tennessee football.

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2022 Update

Since 2019, when we commissioned this magazine, so many things have changed in our world. Lebanon FUMC has been incredibly blessed with resources to rise up and meet the needs those changes brought in our church and in our community. Among our high points during this time were lavishly celebrating the ministry of Pastor Bucky as he retired and welcoming new pastoral roles to our staff (below). We also grew our membership, expanded our reach to serve more neighbors in new ways, and pioneered online worship/community in our area and beyond.

What hasn't changed about us is our commitment to love and serve Lebanon. We seek to share the Good News with everyone that God loves them, we love them, and we are here to help as an expression of that love. We sincerely invite you to let us know how we can love and serve you, too!



Scan for all the latest news at Lebanon FUMC!

Steve comes from Louisville, KY and graduated from Kentucky Wesleyan College and Louisville Seminary. He moved to Tennessee in 2019 after 25 years of pastoral ministry in Kentucky, and he enjoys football, golf, and almost any sport (though these days he watches more than he plays).



Steve Boutell

Minister of Discipleship

Steve is married to Heather, who is the Director of Financial Aid at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine.

Heather and Steve have two sons. Jonah (24) is in seminary at Boston University. Ben (22) lives and works in Nashville as well as serving in the music ministry at Lebanon FUMC.

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Rebecca Gwynn-Dixon

Minister of Outreach & Pastoral Care

After teaching middle school for 15 years, Rebecca felt the nudge to step into ministry. She began as Director of Children's Ministry at Lebanon FUMC and attended seminary at Vanderbilt Divinity School. Her upbringing and work in Lebanon and in this church have given her strong relationships in our community and a heart for helping our neighbors in need. She enjoys reading, laughing, and being outside in nature.

Rebecca is married to Dave and has two children, Hugh and Nola.

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Some of What's New in 2022

Gather

Church Anywhere!

Our music and production teams create shared worship experiences that can be fully enjoyed both on site and online. Whether you're traveling, under the weather, or otherwise unable to make it to the Sanctuary, you never have to miss out on church again. Worship live or replay on YouTube anytime.

Sunday Morning Services

Contemporary Worship at 8:30

Traditional Worship at 11:00



Thrive

New Small Groups/Classes

In addition to our youth, children's, and longstanding adult classes, we have added three new adult Sunday school classes/small groups to expand our community and create more spiritual development opportunities:

20s/30s (Room 204)

Journey (Room 202)

Stepping Stones (JOY Room)

Sunday School meets from 9:45-10:40AM



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Our website is the best place to find the most up-to-date listings of current events and opportunities; scan here for a direct link anytime!

Go

LSSD Alternative School Partnership

Among our many diverse initiatives for loving and serving Lebanon, we are proud to have added a new hands-on partnership with the Lebanon Special School District Alternative School. Already, we have spent time with the students in a mentorship role while making meals to share with Compassionate Hands and inviting local business owners to teach them about career paths and civic services. By meeting students where they are, we hope to share the love of God with them and help them move toward a brighter future.

If you would like to help, please contact Rebecca Gwynn-Dixon at 615-444-3315.

Give

5 Secure Ways to Give

To make giving an easier part of financial planning, we have expanded our options for those wishing to make contributions. You can use any of these absolutely secure methods for tithes, offerings, memorials, events fees, and more (*for help with any of them, contact Cori Brantley at 615-444-3315*):

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Text-to-Give (text FUMCLEbanon to 77977)

One-Time Online Giving

Offering Boxes and Plates On Site

Mail In Checks



Eradicate Hunger in Wilson County



Quarterly Community Food Giveaways

(in partnership with
Pickett Rucker UMC)

On track to distribute
nearly 10,000 meals to
Wilson County families
in 2019



Rice and Beans Meal Packing

(in partnership with
Feed America First)

Packed and prayed over
16,000 meals to distribute
to local families in need



Our Goal:

To love and serve Lebanon by eradicating hunger in Wilson County!

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me..." —Matthew 25:35



Fuel Up for Finals

Provided snacks and
meals to 200
Cumberland University
students for support
during Finals Week



Year-Round Food Pantry

Ongoing resource for non-
perishable groceries serves over
600 local families and residents
every year...and growing!

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Our Mission & Values

At Lebanon FUMC, we are intentional about making disciples through a three-part initiative of teams named Gather, Thrive, and Go. Each team connects and overlaps as we strive to include and extend God's love to all who are in need of community, purpose, and hope.

1. Why do we exist?



2. What do we do?



6. How do we Behave?



6 Critical Questions that define Lebanon First United Methodist Church

3. Who must do what?

Every member must be actively Worshiping, Growing, Giving and Serving

5. What is most important in our organization right now?

- Clarity of Message
- Bringing people on Board
- Building our Momentum

4. How will we know we're succeeding?



Gather

The Gather Team provides hospitality, connection, and structures to ensure meaningful worship services and other gatherings at Lebanon FUMC.



*"And let us remember how we can spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up gathering together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another."
—Hebrews 10:24-25*

Thrive

The Thrive Team equips, energizes, and educates members and friends of Lebanon FUMC to be disciples of Christ—both as individuals and in community—through congregational care, programs, and special events for all ages.



*"They will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the LORD, they will thrive in the courts of our God."
—Psalm 92:12-13*

Go

The Go Team strives to fulfill the Great Commission by sharing God's love and meeting the needs of our community through service and outreach.



*"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."
—Matthew 28:19-20*

Worship & Music Ministries

Our vision is to create a place of belonging for any who want to serve through music. Lebanon FUMC has a unique and widely accepting culture in worship, and we welcome musical styles from classical pieces and traditional hymns to popular Christian chart-toppers and multi-ethnic songs from other cultures around the globe. All are welcome to join in using their gifts to praise our glorious God!



Christmas Cantata Sunday



Praise Team



Children's Choir





Handbells



Children's Christmas Musical



A Variety of Music Ensembles



Youth Praise Band

We've saved a seat for you!



Children's Ministries

Our children are special here at Lebanon FUMC, so we provide opportunities for them to grow in their faith and friendships through worship, play, and community. Here are just some of the ways we are making that vision a reality:



Worship Readiness



Pre-K and Parent's' Day Out



Vacation Bible School



Summer Camps



Children's
Christmas Musical



Children's Choir



Tweens

- Worship service helps including Quiet Bags, Children's Moments, and Nursery Care
- Sunday School
- Acolyte Program
- Confirmation Classes
- Monthly Missions
- Seasonal Family Events
- ...and MORE!



Easter Egg Hunt



Fall Festival

Youth Ministries

Our Youth Ministries are deeply committed to the growth and empowerment of teens in our community. We strive to create a welcoming, fun, judgment-free space where we celebrate our differences and discover together who we are and who God calls us to be. Most of all, we wish to model the unconditional love of Jesus through care and compassion for all.

To help us achieve these goals, here are some of the programs and events we offer:

Weekly Gatherings on Wednesdays & Sundays



Youth-Led Sunday



Fall Kickoff



Mission Trips



Fall Retreat



Enchanted Forest



Summer Sizzler



Warmth in Winter



Youth 2019 Conference



Adult Ministries

We grow as disciples by devoting ourselves to the life of Christ. This includes belonging to a community who believes in Christ as we purposely spend time together in the church and actively share God's love by serving together in the world. To help each believer on this course, we offer the following small group opportunities:

Young Adults



Sunday School Classes/Small Groups

Come As You Are

Utilizes a variety of media to encourage spiritual growth and accountability through the struggles we often face in daily life.

F.I.S.H. on Route 66

An eclectic group of varying ages and backgrounds who share in discussion-based subjects using the Bible, research, and humor.

Open Hearts & Open Minds

Discussion-oriented adult class that explores how the teachings of Jesus Christ apply to current events and issues.

A Maze of Grace

30s-40s group that relies on their faith, friendships and family to navigate through the maze of life.

Men's Discussion

A small group of mature Christian gentlemen who discuss current topics of the church and society.

Open Door

Class for all ages which welcomes informative study and discussion on everything from current events to Christian documentaries.
art (55+ monthly luncheon)

Game Day



50 Year + Members



Questors

Middle-aged+ couples and singles studying God's Word. Teachers/discussion leaders are volunteers from within the class.

Seekers

50s and up (couples and singles) who explore topics from Bible study to current Christian literature through class discussion.

The Well

Young adults (18-25) who gather to study scripture and apply their faith in the context of 21st century life.

Other Small Groups

- Adults 55+ Game Day
- Choir
- Handbell Choir
- Piecemakers Quilting Group
- Saturday morning Sit n' Stitch
- Sunday Night Women's Bible study
- United Methodist Men
- United Methodist Women
- Wednesday Morning Knitters
- Pastor-led Bible Studies
- Young at Heart (55+ monthly luncheon)

Come As You Are



Knitters



Seekers



There's a place for everyone at Lebanon FUMC.





Let's find yours together!

***“Most of all,
let love guide
your life...”***
Colossians 3:14a



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