



WEST END TALK

news and happenings of West End United Methodist Church

June 2018



We Are The
CHURCH

***Wesley, West End,
and Our Witness
in the 21st Century***

Each Sunday in June and July ♦ 9:45-10:45 a.m. in McWhirter Hall

What does it mean to be “the church” today...in our world, in Nashville, in our personal lives? What difference can our Christian witness really make in the world, our community, and our own lives? In this rapidly changing world, these are questions with which we must wrestle because WE are the church. As people of faith, we must believe that the Christian way does indeed still matter. Perhaps as importantly, as Methodists we must consider how our unique understanding of the Christian faith prepares us to engage our lives and the world faithfully.

We hope you will join us each Sunday this summer as we explore our heritage as Methodists, learn about our history at West End, and listen for the direction God might be calling our church in the future. Each week, a different United Methodist guest speaker will offer his or her insights. Our speakers will include current and former pastors of WE UMC, a Vanderbilt Divinity school professor, United Methodist justice advocates, and employees of our United Methodist Boards and Agencies. Each talk will be followed by a time for discussion and brainstorming with other members of West End as we dream about our future and our common witness in Nashville.

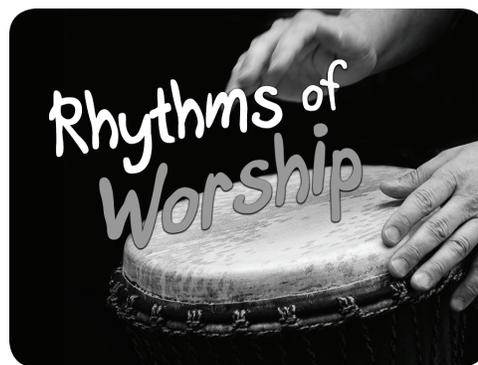
You do not need to register for these sessions. Simply come as you are able each week. We invite you to learn with us, talk with us, pray with us, and dream with us this summer! For a complete schedule, visit westendumc.org/summersundays.



What's so great about
DAVID?

A Journey Through The Books Of Samuel

Join us in worship this summer as we hear some of the great stories of the kingdom of Israel. We'll hear about the prophet Samuel, who first anointed the young David as king. We will travel through the ups and downs of David's reign. From his victory over Goliath to the rivalry of his sons, we will explore together the life of this very human biblical hero.



West End Belmont Music Camp

July 9 – 13 ♦ 9 a.m. – 12 noon

Ages: 4 - Grade 6

The WEB (West End Belmont) Music Camp will take place this summer, the week of July 9-13, at Belmont United Methodist Church. All children, ages 4 - grade 6, are invited to spend the week learning about music, through singing, drumming, instruments, handbells, crafts and more! Cost is \$30 per family. Register online at westendumc.org/musiccamp.

Reflections on College Life at West End UMC from three of our graduating Seniors!

The four years of college are some of the most transformative years of life! West End UMC is uniquely gifted with the opportunity to build relationships and join in ministry with many college students from around Nashville. The relationships that students build with members of West End UMC, the pastoral team, and one another play a powerful role during their college experience. We asked three of our college seniors to reflect on their time at West End UMC.



Caroline Thompson

I attended my first service at West End UMC the summer before I started my freshman year at Vanderbilt University. Finding a United Methodist church that I could attend regularly was important to me and my sense of security. I wanted to bury my roots in a solid foundation that would keep me grounded in a strange new college environment. I will never forget the first time I saw the inside of the sanctuary. With the security guard's kind offer to show my mom and I the inside, we literally gasped aloud at the magnificent stained glass windows and architecture. While a beautiful sanctuary is not necessary for a strong faith, West End certainly makes it easier to feel closer to God's glory.

In the past four years attending West End UMC, I have been a part of the college-age group at West End and the Wesley Foundation at Vanderbilt University. I have loved being able to connect to the West End congregation with my campus life in Wesley Foundation and Nancy Parker. As a quiet individual, it is easy to go unnoticed in any large setting. Yet almost every week, someone new introduced themselves to me at West End and made me feel wanted and welcome. So it is through my time at West End UMC that

I have also learned to be welcoming and hospitable towards others in many facets of my life. After graduation, I will be moving back to Texas to attend Texas Tech School of Medicine to get my MD and MPH degrees. While I am excited for this new chapter in my life, leaving the West End UMC family certainly makes it a bittersweet transition.

Hannah Johnsrud

My name is Hannah Johnsrud, and I came to West End UMC the very first weekend of my freshman year at Vanderbilt, in search of a church with "good music and good preaching." After that very first service, I knew I had found my faith home in college. By the next week, Andrew had me singing in the choir. Helping to lead worship with the choir at the 8:45 service has been one of my favorite parts of my college experience; the choir, and by extension West End, has become my rock amid all the changes that come with undergrad. West End and Vandy Wesley have both challenged me to grow in my faith and encouraged me in that process, truly becoming Christ to me during college. Next year, I am incredibly excited to be serving as a missionary in Jerusalem/The West Bank through the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's Young Adults in Global Mission program.



Through this program, I will be walking alongside our brothers and sisters in the West Bank, teaching English at a Lutheran school, and volunteering for a non-profit. I am eager to see how God continues to work through my life on this next step of my journey!

Neethu Thampy

I came to West End UMC for first time in the fall of 2015 after transferring to Vanderbilt University. As a child, I was raised in the Marthoma Christian denomination, but it never quite fit for me. I didn't feel a sense of community and support like I wanted to experience with a faith family. Once I went off to college, I wanted to make my faith my own and be a part of a community who reaches out to care for others, loves unconditionally, and helps each other grow in Christ. I lucked out when I found West End UMC. West End UMC was so easy to get to sophomore year, and I felt so welcomed from my first service. My favorite part of worshiping with West End was witnessing so many of the baptisms. I'm not sure where I would be without my friends and experience at West End and Vanderbilt Wesley Fellowship; especially at Vanderbilt, I've needed that time to recharge and refocus. It is my home away from home and a place where I know that I am supported and encouraged and always loved. After graduation, I will continue to develop my food blog www.nibbleswithneethu.com; I'm still waiting to finalize graduate school plans.



Thank you all for your participation in feeding so many people today and in the past at Room In the Inn. On May 19, volunteers from our church served the homeless about 235 plates of roasted chicken, pasta/veggie salad, dinner roll, fresh cut up fruit with a cookie and iced tea.

We hear comments like these:

“This is the most colorful lunch that is served here.”

“This is the best, healthiest lunch ever”

“Thank you, thank you - this was delicious”

Where so many lunches there are pans of lasagna and BBQ, our lunch of roasted chicken really stands out.



Care Partner Ministry Launches

“Carry each other’s burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ.” --Galatians 6:2 (CEB)

During our worship services on May 20, we commissioned six members of our congregation to our new Care Partner Ministry. This ministry takes seriously our call to carry each other’s burdens by pairing trained lay Care Partners with members of our congregation who are going through difficult times, such as job loss, divorce, loss of a loved one, or prolonged or terminal illness. Care Partners provide a listening ear and confidential Christian companionship for those who are dealing with the stresses of life. In addition, Care Partners are available to visit our homebound members, as well as those who are hospitalized over weekends.

West End Care Partners do not provide counseling, nor do they take the place of our clergy in offering pastoral care. Rather, they work alongside our pastoral staff to ensure that ALL members of our congregation are connected to the body of Christ, especially when life is painful or messy. Care Partners are closely supervised by Rev. Erin Racine, and hold all matters in strict confidence.

If you are struggling and would like some extra emotional and spiritual support, please don’t suffer alone. Contact Rev. Erin Racine at 615.321.8500, x8838, or eracine@westendumc.org.



Our West End Care Partners



Celebrate....Come on, Let's Celebrate Team "Forever-lasting" - Confirmation 2018

Confirmation in the United Methodist Church is a time of intentional preparation as 6th graders have the opportunity to reflect and learn the basic tenets of the Christian faith. This class also provides a safe environment to ask questions and grapple with the divine truths proclaimed by the Church of Jesus Christ.

West End UMC's Confirmation year has helped our 6th graders begin to understand what is a faithful follower of Jesus and to "make firm" the promises made at their baptism on their behalf. This year 7 students were confirmed on May 13, 2018. One student (who could not be present) has the opportunity to be confirmed at a later date. This year's class chose as their tribal name, "Forever-lasting". The group chose this name in response to the question, "Who do we say Jesus is?" After thinking about Jesus on the Fall Retreat the group decided this would be a fitting name since Jesus' presence with us is "forever-lasting" and our faith continues to grow throughout our lifetime. . The class also selected these words as their motto for the year, "The Light above us". These words signify that Jesus is the light that guides us as we live our lives in the way that God would have us live.

This class has had an amazing journey this year as they visited places of worship – Congregation Micah and the Cathedral of the Incarnation to learn how other traditions worship. The students had opportunities to enjoy an overnight retreat in the fall and a day retreat at the church in the spring; prepare and serve a meal for our Room in the Inn guests; and participate in class discussions that prepared them to make a profession of their faith.

Confirmation is not possible without adult leadership who give of their time to build relationships with the Confirmation students and offer leadership for this class. West End UMC is grateful to the leadership for this year's class: Steve Verner, Mary Ferrara, Lyn Hoyt, and David Dillon. We are also grateful to all the parents and Friends-in-Faith who participated in our classes or chaperoned retreats and outings.

This year's class members are: Lilly Cook, Jacob Creekmore, David Gunter, Anna Li Hornsby, Mary Peacock, Brazier Pierce, Ava Troxler, and Aiden Watson.

Let us all renew our beliefs as contained in the Affirmation of Faith written by the Confirmation class 2018:

- ♦ We believe in an all-powerful, merciful God who is an everlasting bundle of love that is always with us.
- ♦ We believe Jesus is the Son of God who protects us and gives everyone a chance for redemption.
- ♦ We believe the Holy Spirit connects us to the love of God through Jesus. The Holy Spirit listens to us wherever we go.
- ♦ We believe the Church is a place to worship and to grow closer to God and the community of faith.
- ♦ We believe a disciple of Jesus Christ gives comfort and care to others. We believe Jesus' disciples are called to stand up for others and welcome everyone into the Church community.
- ♦ We believe the Bible, the Word of God, teaches us different aspects about our lives as people of God.



Retirement Celebration for Becky Peeler

Our Pastor of Children and Families, Becky Peeler, will be retiring July 1. Please join us on Sunday, June 24 as we celebrate Becky Peeler and her ministry at West End UMC. We will have a reception with light refreshments in McWhirter Hall during the Sunday School hour on that day.

Notes and letters for Becky may be sent to the attention of Melanie Paulson at the church by June 20. Becky would like any donations in her honor to be given to Carolina Cross Connection, P.O. Box 731 Gastonia, NC 28053. Carolina Cross Connection empowers students and adults to provide home repairs, build relationships with kids in children's homes, and to work alongside people who identify as homeless. 2018 will be this organization's 31st year in existence. Becky was part of the original task force that began this ministry.



Sound, Video and Lighting Volunteers Needed

No experience necessary!

Multimedia Team Looking For Volunteers

Want to learn about how West End broadcasts its events online? Interested in learning how to run cameras? Curious to know what all the buttons in the Control Room do? Well, the West End Multimedia Team is currently looking for volunteers for all positions, and no previous multimedia experience is required. Whether you want to know how to run sound, operate cameras, run lights, or just be a part of the team, there's something for everyone! For more information, contact Chase Bencin at cbencin@westendumc.org.

Did you know?

The main kitchen next to McWhirter Hall was recently renovated as part of the Legacy Campaign. It is now a commercially-licensed kitchen. While we encourage the use of the space, we have new policies in place to insure that we meet health code regulations. We require a trained staff member or volunteer on site whenever the kitchen is in use. You may continue to reserve the fully furnished kitchen in the Lower Level. That kitchen does not require the strict regulations as the main one. We ask that each kitchen be reserved a week in advance as they are scheduled on a first come, first serve basis.

Cindy Siemer reserves all areas used in the church; and you may contact Henry Ambrose, Property Manager, at 615.321.8500 x8824 or hambrose@westendumc.org if you have any questions or would like to volunteer with the food service ministry.

Childcare Workers Needed

West End UMC is seeking paid childcare workers for Sunday mornings between 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Those who love interacting with children are encouraged to apply online at the church's website westendumc.org/childcare-worker.

Youth Backpacking Trip

Students in grades 6-12 are invited to go hiking with us on the Appalachian Trail July 22-28 in Virginia to experience miniature wild ponies, rivers and more! Register at westendumc.org/wilderness.

Our Youth Mission Team Needs Your Help

Our youth mission team needs to bring most of the tools needed for our youth mission trip in East Kentucky on June 3-9. Please check the list at westendumc.org/tools and sign up if you have a tool we can borrow for the week. Label it clearly with your name so we are able to return it to you.



**READ
with me!**

Project Transformation

Project Transformation Tennessee 2018

For the seventh summer, West End UMC is partnering with the non-profit, Project Transformation Tennessee. Project Transformation is a United Methodist affiliated ministry that provides leadership development and ministry exploration opportunities to college-age young adults. Working with churches in low-income neighborhoods in Middle Tennessee, these emerging leaders coordinate community-oriented programs for underserved children and youth. In the process, Project Transformation connects site churches with their neighborhood and unites partner churches in mission.

West End has continued its commitment to Project Transformation as a foundational church partner with a grant of \$13,000 along with \$2,191 collected through January's Communion Offering. These funds support two interns, the costs of training week and other administrative needs throughout the summer.

There are many opportunities for you to be involved:

Read with Children

PT mobilizes volunteers to read with children throughout the summer program. Our reading week is July 16-19 from 9:45 a.m.- 12 p.m. Each day, we will provide 12 volunteers to read with children one-on-one at Ebenezer Fellowship (formerly 61st Avenue UMC). Ages 13 and up are encouraged to read.

Provide A Meal

Forty college students from across the country are living and working together as they lead the programming at each site and explore and develop their ministry and leadership skills. We will provide dinner for the interns on July 15. The dinner will be served at the Commons at Belmont University at 5:40 p.m.

Provide A Care Package

Provide a care package or note of encouragement for West End's sponsored interns- June 8, 22, July 6 and 20. Contact Jennifer Hoffman for delivery information at jenniferhoffman@outlook.com.

Pray

We invite you to pray that God's transforming love is reflected in Project Transformation Tennessee's efforts. Please, pray for the interns and site churches, as well as the children, volunteers, and neighborhoods that will be served.

Donate Supplies

This year, each Partner Church picked 3 things off of a Needs Tree to purchase/donate for the summer program. Our 3 items are 40 spools of streamers, 80 packs of notebook paper, and 600 healthy snack packs (animal crackers, cheese crackers, goldfish, granola bars, trail mix, gummies). Collection will take place May 20 - June 20 with drop off in the blue bins next to the elevator. You can also ship items to the church, Lisa Gwock's attention.

**Volunteer at westendumc.org/PT
or contact Jennifer Hoffman with questions at
615.665.2340 or jenniferhoffman@outlook.com.**

Summer Volunteers Needed In Children's Ministry



Team Members Needed for VBS and Mission Week

Vacation Bible School and Children's Mission Week still need adults to join our team as we discover our strength in God! For more info, contact Becky Peeler at bpeeler@westendumc.org. To volunteer visit westendumc.org/vbsvolunteer.

Serve On The Children's Summer Leadership Team

Volunteers are needed to help guide our children's Sunday morning groups this summer. The curriculum will be fun and easy to use. To volunteer visit westendumc.org/summer.

Instructions Are Included

Join us for a training time for VBS and Mission Week leaders following the 11 a.m. worship service in Room 406 at 12:15 p.m. on Sunday, June 10. If you have signed up to be involved with children in either of these summer programs, please join us on this day.

Decorators and Rafting Items Needed

We've got two opportunities to unleash your decorating powers as we transform the 4th floor and the 1st floor lobby into a Rafting River Scene!

1) Loan items related to white water rafting and/or camping – inflatable rafts, canoes, kayaks, life vests, paddles, camp chairs, camp lanterns, back pack tents, etc. Please label items for return.

2) Join leaders on June 23 from 9 a.m. – Noon to decorate the 1st floor lobby, McWhirter Hall, and the 4th floor to resemble a river adventure scene. Childcare can be provided if needed. The children will love seeing the decorated spaces for VBS on Sunday June 24!



A Weekly Adventure Through the Bible

Deep Blue Kids For The Fall 2018

This Fall in our Deep Blue Sunday Morning Groups, the curriculum will focus on the families of the Deep Blue Kids. As the children travel to the town of Deep Blue Shores, they will visit in the Deep Blue kids' homes and explore the community. What will we learn? Join us for our Deep Blue Kickoff on August 19 as we dive deep into God's Word together.

West End Parents – Note About Summer Sunday Morning Groups.

Children remain in their current classes during the summer months on Sunday mornings. Everyone moves up to their new classes on August 19, 2018. The exception to this is that as infants begin walking, they are moved to the Toddler Nursery.

West End UMC Memorials and Honorariums

Memorials

General Memorial Fund

- ♦ Hunter Baird Short
by Ann and Kirby Davis
by Libba and Jerry Crook
by Gus and Leslie Grote
by Janet and Bill Warfield
by Betty and Fred Anderson
- ♦ Thomas W. Cook, Jr.
by Nancy B. Cooke
by Helen H. Dale and her son
Jeff H. Dale
by Sally and Jim Hunt
by Mary Anne & Edward Herbert
by Edward and Betty Thackston
by Dr. and Mrs. William Thetford
- ♦ Peggy Hutton
by Bob and Pamela Jackson
- ♦ Sean Whalen
by Bonnie Seay
- ♦ Hugh Irving Wilcoxon
by Bonnie Seay
- ♦ Ginny and Percy Wilkins
by Mark Lee Taylor & Steve Hyman
- ♦ David Williams
by Genie B. Whitesell
- ♦ Florence Cavert Smith
by Margaret V. Smith
by Mrs. Donald Bathrick, Jr.
- ♦ Frances Turner
by Barbara W. Grubbs
- ♦ Matt H. Dobson, IV
by Matt Dobson, V

Music Ministry Fund

- ♦ Hunter Baird Short
by Jane and Sam Stumpf
- ♦ Richard Mayo Cate
by Elizabeth Cate Collins

Habitat for Humanity

- ♦ Michael Williams
by Mary Ann Grigg and family

General Fund

- ♦ Hunter Baird Short
by Davis and Melora Turner
by Sallie and Bill Norton

General Fund/Mother's Day

- ♦ Chris Tibbott
by Terry Tibbott
- ♦ Mrs. Virginia Stevinson
by Sissy and Ed Stevinson
- ♦ Mrs. Edna Stone
by Sissy and Ed Stevinson

Living Church Fund

- ♦ Hunter Baird Short
by Kim and Bill Bundy
- ♦ Michael Williams
by Ed Van Voorhees and
Linda Lundin

Legacy Campaign Fund

- ♦ Michael Williams
by Jean Ann and Barry Banker
by Dr. Albert P. Isenhour, Jr.
by Stephanie Fulbright
by Betty Smith Dobson
by Bill and Trinace Campbell
by Nancy and Jim Culver

Outreach Ministry Fund

- ♦ Mary Clinard
by Steve and Nancy Norris
- ♦ Michael Williams
by Steve and Nancy Norris

4th Story Theater

- ♦ Michael Williams
by Paula Hughey
by Foundations Sunday
School members
The Holletts, the Wards,
the Dzwonkoskis,
the Whitacres, the Murrays,
the Roberts, the Flicks,

the Reynolds, the Myers,
the Scotts, and the McCains
by Anne Marie Powell
by LaVoe and Tom Mulgrew
by Bonnie Seay
by Sarah Stamps

WEUMC Scholarship Fund

- ♦ Michael Williams
by Chris and Bruce Fenner
by Eve Billbrey
by Barbara and Jon Mathieson
by Peter and Laura Strianse

Minister's Discretionary Fund

- ♦ Michael Williams
by Bobby N. Williams
- ♦ Daryl Brown
by Bobby N. Williams
by Jim McFerrin

Honorariums

General Honorarium Fund

- ♦ Emily and Alex Townes
by Rusha and Cliff Cleaveland
- ♦ Sen. John McCain
by Billy Cates
- ♦ Betty Smith Dobson
by Matt Dobson, V
- ♦ Jennifer Gingery Cook
by Mary Nelle Cook

Habitat for Humanity

- ♦ Lisa and Eddie Gwock
by Ann and Kirby Davis

Music Ministry Fund

- ♦ Heath Jones
by Tom and Lois Adkinson

Children's Ministry

- ♦ Kirby Grace Lemmons' 1st birthday
by Kim and Bill Bundy

Life Transitions In Our Church Family

Births

- ♦ *McAllister Grace Myer* was born April 24 to Molly and Kirk Myer.

Susan and Luke Gregory are happy to welcome a new granddaughter. Sara Katherine Ericksen was born May 4 in Atlanta, GA to Kate and Matt Ericksen and is welcomed also by her big brother, Matthew Ericksen, and uncle, Ben Gregory.

- ♦ Jeff Ockerman is excited to welcome a new granddaughter. *Elizabeth Wren Ockerman* was born April 30th in Richmond, Virginia to John and Kate Ockerman and is also welcomed by her big brother, Foster.

- ♦ *John Owen Hollingsworth* was born May 2 to Erick and Anna Hollingsworth.

- ♦ *Jack Thomas Huskey* was born May 9 to Claudia and Bill Huskey. He is welcomed also by his big brother, Liam Huskey.

Deaths

- ♦ Sarah Stamps and her family are mourning the death of her brother, *Norman Cooper Frost*, who died April 23 in Atlanta, GA.

- ♦ Margie Hogshead and her family are mourning the death of her mother, *Dollie W. Hogshead*, who died April 25 in Birmingham, AL.

- ♦ Cindy David's father, *Albert David*, died April 17 in Massachusetts.

- ♦ Carol Cavin-Dillon and her family are mourning the death of her aunt, *Roberta Cavin High*, who died May 2 in Rockford, IL.

- ♦ Suzy, Carl, Will and Charlie Hansen are mourning the death of Suzy's mother, *Mary Bright*, who died May 10 in East Peoria, IL.

- ♦ *Esther Stuart* died May 12th in Port St. Joe, FL.

- ♦ *Williams Horace Herndon* passed away May 15th. He is survived by his wife, Lynne Rike Herndon.