



Dear Church Family,

Did you know that the Food and Drug Administration makes minimal allowances for "foreign matter" in the food we buy? It's rather gross but this includes maggots, rat hair, mouse poop, and so forth, (I looked it up, yuck)! This reminded me of the sin allowances that we make in our own lives and others regardless of scripture like Jude 1:22-23, for instance. We make allowances for sin for lots of reasons and they are all Demonic. A twisted sense of love, justice, or sentiment may be among the top reasons.

Of course sin is easier to make allowances for if we no longer call it sin. This puts us in the arena of making God in our own image. This did not work so well for the ancients. They made "fake gods" of whatever image and material they chose (Leviticus 26:1, Deuteronomy 4:28, 2 Kings 19:18). God does not change and if He ever named a sin, then that thing is still sin regardless of emotion or sentiment (Numbers 23:19).

We have been called upon to embrace singled out groups of sinners by making allowances for their sin. We may not even refer to them as sinners or we may have dropped their sin from the list. This is wrong and sinful itself. We must reach out to all sinners. God calls us to love everyone; however, whitewashing sin is not loving. It is enabling and sinful. People get themselves into sinful traps, and then we lock the trap and toss the key when we support, rationalize, or ignore their sin.

Yes, we must love everyone but this doesn't mean we should always love what they do. Bishop Edwards once spoke of those he considered to be supporting sin as being on "dangerous ground." Wow, do you think? Feeling good and being good are two different things. We live in a "feel good" society, and as long as no one else is hurt, then anything goes. This of course sets scripture aside and embraces secular humanism. May God help us all as we strive for orthodoxy and scriptural integrity while we remember the warning of Ephesians 4:14.

Grace and His peace,  
Pastor Ralph

# Children & Youth

## Children & Youth Sunday Night Programs

King's Kids (3 year olds—5th grade)  
Youth PAC (Middle School)      Pathfinders (High School)

Invite a friend and join us at 5pm for supper, fun activities,  
and to grow closer to Christ and each other.

*Night of rest on April 16 & 23. Enjoy the Sabbath with your family!*

**Egg Hunt:** The Easter Egg Hunt for children ages 1st grade and younger will be held on Sunday, April 9 at 2pm at the Pardue home on 217 Church St. Donations of "unmeltable" candy to fill eggs will gladly be accepted in the Gathering Area. In case of rain, we'll have the egg hunt in the church.

**Children on Palm Sunday:** King's Kids will sing April 9 during the Children's Moment at 8:30 and 11am. Also, all children should meet Mrs. Nichole in the Gathering Area before each service on April 9 to march in waving palm branches.

**Vacation Bible School:** Save the date for VBS, July 16-19, 2017! This year's theme will be Maker Fun Factory where we'll learn how we are God's craftsmanship, created by Him to do great things! We'll explore gadgets and gizmos as we get "geared up" for Jesus!

**VBS volunteers:** Our first training will be held on Monday, May 1 at 6:30pm in Cockrell Hall. Interested in volunteering? Visit [www.nashvilleumc.net](http://www.nashvilleumc.net) to sign up for a team. We'd love your help! If you need safe sanctuaries training, we'll have sessions on Monday, April 10 at 6pm and Sunday, April 30 at 4pm in Cockrell Hall.

**Blooming Festival Parade:** Mark your calendars now for Saturday, May 13th to ride on the NUMC float in the Blooming Festival Parade! All children PreK through 5th grade and parents are invited to ride (children 3-5 must be accompanied by a guardian). Our float will promote our children's ministry and upcoming Vacation Bible School to the Nashville community. We will also need help decorating the float the week before. Contact [nichole@nashvilleumc.net](mailto:nichole@nashvilleumc.net) to sign up!

**Flower Sale:** Camp-4-Kids is selling spring flowers that can be delivered to your home on April 12. Orders will be taken through April 9. If you don't know a camper, see Robin Miller, Janie Herring, or contact the church office. Blank forms are in the Gathering Area.

**Weekday School & KidSpace Registration:** There are only a few spots left for the 2017-2018 Weekday School. Registration information and applications are available at [www.NASHVILLEUMC.NET/WEEKDAY\\_SCHOOL](http://www.NASHVILLEUMC.NET/WEEKDAY_SCHOOL). Enroll now for our Summer Day Camp. Applications and more information are available at [www.NASHVILLEUMC.NET/KIDSPACE](http://www.NASHVILLEUMC.NET/KIDSPACE).

**Children & Youth Updates:** Weekly updates are sent to parents of Pathfinders, Youth PAC and Children. If you do not currently receive these or need them sent to a different or additional e-mail, contact [nichole@nashvilleumc.net](mailto:nichole@nashvilleumc.net) (children), [info@nashvilleumc.net](mailto:info@nashvilleumc.net) (Pathfinders), or [ps1powell@suddenlink.net](mailto:ps1powell@suddenlink.net) (Youth PAC).

## Note from Nichole

Recently I took my nearly 10- and 8-year-olds to the movies to see Disney's newest rendition of *Beauty and the Beast*. Months ago I'd added the release date to my calendar, but after the media frenzy over the possibility of questionable content, we didn't make it on opening day. Instead Bryan and I waited, researched, and prayed about making the best decision for our family.

See, we are a *Disney* family (who even has a chocolate Labrador named Belle!). But we are also a *Christian* family, and with the talk of boycotts over same-sex material, we were left confused as to how to be in the world but not of the world, and how to balance our Christian convictions with a present-day secular culture that is anything but Bible-based.

Thankfully the movie's controversial hype ended up being a non-noticed issue to both kids. Don't get me wrong, there were other things I had to address during and afterwards (like words that aren't allowed in our home and some violent scenes), but overall it was a fun remake of a classic animated movie. One that still speaks to forgiveness, second chances, sacrifice, and looking for the good in others. It wasn't a Christian movie, but nonetheless it opened the door for us to intentionally discuss the film from a God-centered perspective.

When I began my career as a family therapist, I ran across a quote by psychologist Rudolf Dreikurs that came to undergird my work with children: "*We cannot protect our children from life. Therefore, it is essential that we prepare them for it.*" This holds especially true for Christian parenting. The world won't teach our kids to follow Jesus. If anything, it will teach them not to. No, the responsibility to raise up a child in the way he should go (Proverbs 22:6) falls first on the home and then on the church.

As parents, Bryan and I know that it's our responsibility to guard our children's exposure to the parts of the world that don't point them to Christ. Yet as a family specialist, I also know that a crucial role of parenting isn't sheltering your children from the world, but tempering its ill-effects so that kids begin to understand why they believe what they believe. This includes talking with children about tough topics and having age-appropriate discussions about differing beliefs and behaviors.

But before we can do this, as adults we have to first understand why we believe what we believe. In the upcoming weeks, Pastor Luke and I will begin a Bible-based monthly conversation series on hot topics within the Christian faith. We'll tackle hard-to-discuss topics such as sexuality, marriage, abortion, immigration, parenting, and more. How to have compassion without compromise, how to have counter-cultural convictions, and in the words of Pastor Ralph, "How to affect this world more than it can affect us." We hope you'll plan to attend.

*"Do not conform to the pattern of this world,  
but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.  
Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—  
his good, pleasing and perfect will."  
Romans 12:2*

In His Love,  
Dr. Nichole Huff  
Director of Children and Family Ministries

# Events

**Maundy Thursday:** This service begins the three days of solemn remembrance of the events leading up to and immediately following the crucifixion of Jesus. Join us for this moving service on April 13 at 6:30 in the sanctuary.

**Easter Services:** Nashville's Sunrise Service will be at 7:30am at Forest Hills Cemetery followed by the UMM Mullen Breakfast in Cockrell Hall. We'll have regularly scheduled Sunday Worship and Sunday School. Bring spring flowers from your yard on Easter Morning to help decorate our Lenten Cross in the Gathering Area.

**Priscilla Shirer Simulcast - April 8<sup>th</sup>:** It's not too late to register! We've extended our early bird pricing of \$15 through April 3. Visit [www.NASHVILLEUMC.NET/EVENTS](http://www.NASHVILLEUMC.NET/EVENTS) or call the church office to get more information and purchase tickets.

**Join our Welcome Team:** The 8:30 Welcome Team, 11:00 Ushers, and other interested volunteers are invited to attend a dinner meeting on Monday, April 3 at 6pm in Cockrell Hall to discuss our Welcoming Ministry. RSVP to the church office at 459-7178 by Friday, March 31. Contact Wayne Lamm at 003-5761 for further information.

**First Responders Sunday:** We are blessed to have many First Responders at NUMC. On Sunday, May 7, we'll be honoring these pillars in our community. All active and retired Police, Firefighters, EMT, etc. are asked to submit a picture by Friday, April 28 to [info@NashvilleUMC.net](mailto:info@NashvilleUMC.net) for a slideshow to be shown at the service.

**Methodist Men's Breakfast:** Our UMM Breakfast will be on Sunday, April 9 at 7:30am in Cockrell Hall. All men are invited for great food, fellowship and a short meeting to discuss upcoming ministry events.

**Lay Servant Course:** All adults and youth who are feeling the call to serve God and others are encouraged to attend this year's Basic Lay Servant Course at NUMC on April 22 at 8am. Visit <https://heritagedistrictnc.org/> for registration info.

**Centennial Celebration:** Save the date of April 15, 2018. We'll be celebrating 100 years of worship in our sanctuary. We are excited to have Rev. Rob Renfroe, Pastor of Discipleship at Woodlands UMC in Woodlands TX, President and Publisher of Good News, and active in the Wesleyan Covenant Association as our guest speaker.

**Holy Land Trip:** Join Pastor Ralph on a 10-day trip to the Holy Land on October 30—November 8, 2017. Brochures are located in the Gathering Area and an informational meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 25 at 6:30 in Cockrell Hall.

**ASP Sponsorships:** The deadline to get your ASP Sponsor T-shirt is April 15, so be sure to get your donation of \$50 in soon. Visit [www.NASHVILLEUMC.NET/ASP](http://www.NASHVILLEUMC.NET/ASP) for more information.

**Young Adult Small Group Kickoff:** Are you looking for a place to get plugged in on Sunday mornings? Come to Cockrell Hall during the Sunday School hour on April 9 for some yummy food and information on what to expect for this new group.

# Events

**S.A.M.:** April is bring your sandwich month; beverage and dessert provided. Come to Cockrell Hall on the 18th at 12:00, join the fun, and hear Scott Braswell's moving testimony. Sign-up with Victoria at [kvcfrazier@gmail.com](mailto:kvcfrazier@gmail.com) or 459-2396.

**Easter Lilies:** Lilies will be used to decorate our church at Easter in memory or honor of your loved ones who will be listed in the Easter morning bulletin. Order forms are in the Gathering Area or you can order through our website. Orders due April 10 by noon.

**Softball Signups:** We'll have signups for co-rec and men's league teams through April 2. Sign up in the Gathering Area. The season begins on April 17. Contact Matt Reams at 469-3411 with any questions.

**Guest Preacher:** We welcome Rev. John Hobbs, who preached during our fall revival, back to NUMC for our Thursday night service on April 27. Come for this special time of ministry. Also, mark your calendars for our 2017 Revival on October 15-18.

**Bible Study:** Join Pastor Luke on Wednesday nights at 6:15 in the basement as he discusses the Gospel of Mark. Even if you haven't been attending—you can come anytime.

**Men's Bible Study:** Our Men have a Bible Study every Tuesday at 8:30am in the Bus Garage. This study includes men from several other churches in our area. Come study God's word with others who are growing in their faith.

## prayers

Do you have a prayer request or want to pray for those in need? Join our **Prayer Chain**.

Contact our office at 459-7178 or [info@nashvilleumc.net](mailto:info@nashvilleumc.net) to be added to the email or phone distribution list.

Send prayer requests to [info@nashvilleumc.net](mailto:info@nashvilleumc.net) or call 252-459-7178. Join our Prayer Warriors on Tuesday mornings at 7:00am in the Parlor for Prayers with the Pastor. They'll be praying for our community, country, and all known prayer requests in the church.

## stay connected

Get schedules for Children, Youth, and Adults at our Information Centers located at both entrances.

You will also find brochures on various ministry groups, Church Council Minutes, and more.

Save a tree and postage costs by receiving your newsletter via email or view the newsletter anytime at [www.NashvilleUMC.net/newsletter](http://www.NashvilleUMC.net/newsletter).

For Announcement & Communication guidelines, visit the website under *About Us*.



Nashville United Methodist Church  
Children at Nashville UMC



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# Facts & Figures

## Attendance

### Year-to-Date Averages

Contemporary: 257 Traditional: 96

Thursday Nights: 55

Youth Worship: 59

Average of all Services: 460

Includes combined  
and special services.

### Administrative Team Meetings

Apr. 4 Trustees, 7pm : Parlor

Apr. 5 Theme Team, 5pm  
Basement

Apr. 9 Youth Council, 4pm  
Library

Apr. 10 Joel Team, 6pm : Library

Apr. 18 WDS Team, 6pm : Chapel

Finance, 7pm : Parlor

Apr. 23 Stephen Ministry, 5pm :  
Men's Bible Class

## Weekly Events

### Sunday

- 8:30am Contemporary Worship
- 10:00am Sunday School
- 11:00am Traditional Worship
- 4:00pm Youth Band Practice : Basement
- 5:00pm Children & Youth
- 6:00pm Small Group : Bus Garage
- 6:15pm Youth Worship : Basement

### Monday

- 7:00am WICK Emmaus : Hardee's
- 6:30pm Women's Bible Study : Basement
- 7:00pm Bells of Praise : Bell Room

### Tuesday

- 7:00am Prayers with the Pastor : Parlor
- 8:30am Men's Bible Study : Bus Garage
- 10:00am Women's Bible Study : Basement
- 6:30pm Disciple III : Library
- 7:00pm Praise & Worship Band Practice
- 7:00pm AA : Bus Garage

### Wednesday

- 6:15am Youth Bible Study : Sheetz
- 6:15pm Mark Bible Study : Basement
- 6:30pm Choir Practice : Choir Room
- 7:00pm Rockfish Practice : Braswell Hall
- 8:00pm NA : Bus Garage
- 8:00pm NarAnon : Cockrell Hall

### Friday

- 6:30pm Real Life Living Small Group

### Thursday

- 6:30pm Praise & Worship

### Saturday

- 10:00am La Estrella Ministry  
4118 W Hwy 97, Stanhope

## Special Dates

**Mar. 31-Apr. 2** - Super High Retreat

**Apr. 3 & 6** - Compassion Cafe  
11:00am : Bus Garage

**Apr. 3** - Welcome Team Meeting  
6pm : Cockrell Hall

**Apr. 8** - Priscilla Shirer Simulcast  
11:00am : Braswell Hall

**Apr. 9** - UMM Breakfast  
7:30am : Cockrell Hall

Children Singing at 8:30 & 11

Camp-4-Kids Flower Orders Due

Young Adult Small Group Meeting  
10am : Cockrell Hall

Easter Egg Hunt

2pm : Pardue Home (217 E. Church St.)

**Apr. 10** - Safe Sanctuaries Training,  
6pm : Cockrell Hall

Lily orders due by noon.

**Apr. 12** - Camp-4-Kids flowers delivered

**Apr. 13** - Maundy Thursday Service  
7pm : Sanctuary

**Apr. 16** - Sunrise Service  
7:30am : Forest Hill Cemetery

UMM Mullin Breakfast (following Sunrise Service)

No Children or Youth (Night of Rest)

**Apr. 18** - SAM, 12pm : Cockrell Hall

**Apr. 22** - Lay Servant Training, 8am

**Apr. 23** - No Children or Youth (Night of Rest)

**Apr. 25** - Holy Land Info Meeting  
6:30pm : Cockrell Hall

**Apr. 27** - John Hobbs preaching  
6:30pm : Braswell Hall

**Apr. 29** - Scouts Blue & Gold Banquet

**Apr. 30** - Safe Sanctuaries Training,  
4pm : Cockrell Hall

## **Staff**

**Pastor :** Ralph A. Brown

**Associate Pastor :** Luke Whitehead

**Director of Children & Family Ministries :** Dr. Nichole Huff

**Director of Welcoming Ministries :** Wayne Lamm

**Receptionist :** Jackie Swindell

**Administrative Assistant :** Dana Nethercutt

**Bookkeeper :** Dot Binkley

**Minister of Music & Worship :** Gary Rapp

**Contemporary Worship Leader :** Joanna Hale

**Thursday Night Praise & Worship Leader:** Kevin Shaw

**Minister of Visitation :** Jim Boehm

**Organist and Membership Secretary :** Ellen Ward

**Weekday School/KidSpace Director :** Denise Calloway

## **Connect:**

**E-mail:** [info@nashvilleumc.net](mailto:info@nashvilleumc.net)

**Website:** [www.NashvilleUMC.net](http://www.NashvilleUMC.net)

**Phone:** 252-459-7178 (office) 252 459 7636 (Weekday School)



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Children at Nashville UMC



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