



Dear Church Family,

In a world where we love ice cream and we love our children - What is love? Do we love them on the same level? Have we gotten the word love wrong?

Perhaps it makes more sense to say, "I strongly desire ice cream and I feel complete jubilation when I get to enjoy the benefits of it." Or "I really enjoy Saturday mornings when my children let me sleep in, they are my favorite."

Love, biblically speaking, is much deeper than our desire for ice cream and our enjoyment of sleeping in. 1 John 3:16 (NLT) tells us we can know what love is, not through warm fuzzy feelings or some ideology, but we can know what love is because Jesus gave his life for us. Want to know what love is? Consult the Word, not the world.

Love is rooted in generosity. There is no greater thing we can give than our lives. There is no greater one God could give than himself, and that is what God has done in Jesus Christ. He has taught us what love is, not through feelings and not just in words, but through a craggy cross on a bloodstained hill. That was where the Son of God gave himself for all humanity so that we might become who we truly are – generous image bearers becoming holier step by step and day by day. We are people learning to love regardless of conditions, regardless of circumstances.

How will everyone know we are Christ's disciples? Not by a warm "feel good" acceptance of all things by all people, but a holy love for all people rooted in the God of holy love. Church, we can't get love wrong. We must love, but only through the holy love of God. When we love people through the holy love of God – we point people to the One who is love.

Choose Joy,
Luke

Children & Youth

Now that our Children and Youth leaders are sending out detailed updates of event on their weekly updates, we will begin giving an newsletter overview of these ministries for the congregation. If you would like to receive the weekly updates contact nichole@nashvilleumc.net (King's Kids), ps1powell@embarqmail.net (Youth PAC), or kaitlyn@nashvilleumc.net (Pathfinders). You can also learn more about our children and youth ministries at www.NashvilleUMC.net.

— Children —

The Children's Ministry continues to grow with 5 major areas: Nursery, Sunday School, Children's Church, King's Kids, and Vacation Bible School! In January, King's Kids resumed on Sunday evenings from 5-7pm. This Spring we're learning more about the Miracles of Jesus. The kids have also begun learning three songs to perform during Sunday morning worship services in March (TBD), April (Palm Sunday), and May (Mother's Day). If your child ages 3 years-5th grade isn't involved in King's Kids, we'd love to have them join us! Also, mark your summer calendars for Vacation Bible School, which will be held July 14-17, from 5:45-8pm. This year's theme is "Power Up: Raise Your Game!" We'll use retro video games as our backdrop as we look to Jesus as our source of power. We'll learn how we can all raise our game when it comes to putting our faith in Him. Children's Ministry Questions? Contact nichole@nashvilleumc.net.

— Youth PAC —

We're excited to be going back to Super High Retreat at Camp Willow Run on April 5-7, 2019. This weekend is packed full of Bible study, worship, and games including the Super High Cup competition. The youth have fun at the many recreation areas such as high ropes, climbing wall, canoeing, archery, riflery, giant swing, basketball, and others. During the weekend there will be large group worship and Bible study sessions along with small group times where each youth group can spend time together as the youth grow and mature in their personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Confirmation will begin on Feb. 24. During confirmation, youth that are spiritually ready learn more about assuming the vows of professing membership in the United Methodist Church. We will have Confirmation Sunday on Easter morning, where the congregation will celebrate our confirmands' commitment to live as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ.

— Pathfinders —

Our Pathfinders continue to enjoy their Wednesday morning Bible Study at Sheetz. We have several youth that have been getting up early to attend this 6:15am study! We're looking forward to our Super Bowl party, which is one of our favorite traditions. The youth bring lots of goodies and have a great time cheering on their favorite team. We're also excited about our Winter Retreat at Massanutten on Feb. 15-18. Be in prayer that we'll have a safe trip and grow closer to God during nightly worship and fellowship.

The Greatest of These

When Bryan and I were married, we chose the timeless passage on love from 1 Corinthians 13 to be read during our wedding ceremony. A classic choice, but one that details the type of love we were asking God to instill within our marriage. Over the years, through both trials and blessings, two things have remained constant: our desire to put God first in our family, and our unconditional love for one another.

I wish I could say we got both right all the time. We don't. We are flawed and broken, and truthfully some days and seasons that brokenness seems magnified. *But we try.* We try to love God with a *Deuteronomy 6* love, and we try to love one another with a *1 Corinthians 13* love. We learned early on that both are a choice, and ones we're committed to making.

Recently I heeded a challenge using the verses from 1 Corinthians 13: 4-7 to examine how well I loved. **I want to issue the same challenge to you.** Thinking of the different ways you're called to extend love in your life, read the verses below and replace "Love" or "It" with your name.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

So I ask you... **How well do you love?** As a spouse, a parent, a child, a sibling, a friend, a neighbor, an employee, an employer, an acquaintance, a church member, a Christian?

Are you patient? Kind? Do you envy? Boast? Are you proud? Do you dishonor others? Are you self-seeking? Easily angered? Do you keep record of wrongs? Do you delight in evil? Or, do you rejoice with the truth? Do you always protect? Trust? Hope? Persevere?

If you're like me... the answer is *Sometimes.* Or, *It depends.* When I placed my name in the verses above, reflecting on the many ways and roles I'm personally called to love, glaring back at me were the places in my life where I need Jesus to overhaul my heart.

This Valentine's Day... let's forego the chocolates and flowers and commercial interpretation of what love looks like. Instead, let's commit to loving one another better with a Biblical directive of how love should be extended. As Paul tells the church in Corinth, if we have words and gifts and knowledge and faith and charity but not love, we've gained nothing. *Let's love well.*

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



Remember the Sabbath Keep It Holy

We often hear and read about the effects of stress on the body and mind, along with the importance of rest. We worship The One who modeled a rhythm of rest: God created the heavens and the earth, plants, sun, moon, stars, human beings—all of life—in six days. And on the seventh day he didn't create anything. He rested.

Not only does a Sabbath day of rest follow God's example; it also follows his command in Exodus 20:8–10: "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work." Jesus reiterates the call to Sabbath-keeping when he said to his disciples, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest" (Mark 6:31). The Gospels offer multiple examples of Jesus himself going away to a solitary place to pray. If Jesus needed rest, surely we need it!

Just like all in our congregation, our staff has been encouraged to disconnect for one day a week. Staff Parish is committed to the growth and well being of our staff and has expressed the importance that they all take time away for themselves and their families. Several on staff have full time jobs in addition to their work at NUMC. Others are on call during off hours or work on Sundays and have their Sabbath on a weekday.

Sabbath is especially important for our Pastors. Studies show that 1,500 pastors leave the ministry each month due to moral failure, spiritual burnout, or contention in their churches. 80% of pastors believe their ministry negatively affects and takes significant time away from their spouse and children. As our church grows, so does the responsibility of management that falls on our pastors (who could be known as the CEO's of the church).

So that our staff can have a true day of rest and Sabbath, Staff Parish is asking that everyone respects worship time for church employees and conducts church business during office hours. Pastors, and those that work on Sundays, take their Sabbath during the week. If a pastor isn't able to contact you immediately, know that our visitation team or Stephen Ministers are there to provide pastoral care to church members in need.

If you ever need to reach someone on staff, you can call the church office at 252-459-7178. The number of the on-call staff member will be on the voicemail.

Stephen Ministry

Care Receivers Share How Their Stephen Ministers Made a Difference

(From Stephen Ministry Saint Louis)

After the death of my mom, I needed someone who would listen—even to the same stories over and over—and who wouldn't be afraid to say her name or bring up her memory. That's who my Stephen Minister was, and I don't know how I would have gotten through it without her.

*I'm blessed with an amazing Stephen Minister. She's been genuinely attentive and caring ever since she came alongside me. She's kind of fearless in that way—**she'll just be there without trying to fix me** or talk me out of my feelings as I struggle with what's happening.*

*When someone you love is terminally ill, people often pull back because they're scared and don't know what to say. But **my Stephen Minister stood with me through it all**—listening, talking, and helping me on the journey. It was so reassuring to know he was by my side.*

*I needed to know that there was one person in the world who knew the good, the bad, and the ugly about me—and still cared for me. Experiencing that through my Stephen Minister was a **tangible expression of God's love**. It changed my life.*



Stewardship

"Celebrating the offering is a spiritual act of worship every believer can actively participate in each week. Giving becomes a celebration when the believer discovers the joy of generosity, which grows out of God's grace."

Melvin Amerson, *Celebrating the Offering*

To belong to our congregation is to be a steward. Some may say that "stewardship" is just a polite way of referring to financial giving to the church. But it's far more than that.

One character in some of Jesus' parables is the steward — the servant charged by the master to care for the master's property. It is the master, not the steward, who owns the property, but the steward is responsible for it and is accountable to the master. So it is, said Jesus, between God and us. As God's stewards we have three responsibilities:

- *Receiving:* We receive with joyful thanksgiving the many gifts that God showers upon us — time, talent, treasure, our bodies, our friendships, natural resources, and the beauty around us.
- *Managing:* We take good care of what we have received. We manage these resources wisely — for our own good and the good of others.

***Giving:* Out of our gratitude in receiving so abundantly, we want to share with others. Let's look at three kinds of gifts that we receive, manage, and share:**

Our time

We did nothing to earn the hours, the days, the weeks of our lives. Time is a gift of God. How we choose to use it is a matter of stewardship. Some people lead lives of frenetic activity, always over-extending themselves to the point of exhaustion, while others sit around in apathetic boredom. Some spend all their hours serving the needs of others at the expense of their own, while others live only for themselves.

As Christian stewards we try to manage time wisely and in a balanced way. And we give our time gladly to family and friends, to strangers, to the community, the church, and to ourselves.

Our abilities

Do you remember Jesus' parable of the three servants who received different amounts of money to manage while the master was away? We've each received from God distinctive gifts and talents. How we develop and use these talents is a matter of stewardship. Like two of the servants in Jesus' story, we can invest them wisely — or like the third, out of fear we can hide them (Matthew 25:14-30).

Stewardship

As stewards, we acknowledge the gifts we have without apology. We develop them further, practicing new skills and putting our talents to work in ministry.

Our resources

We may think that our financial resources are our own. But when we recall that the time, the energy, the good health, and the opportunities for employment behind these dollars are all gifts from God, we see that the funds belong to God too. We are the stewards; God is the owner. So questions about what we earn, how we earn it, how we save, spend, and give it away, are all questions of Christian stewardship.

One vital aspect of our stewardship is our giving to Christ's work in the world. We've learned that giving is most effective when we commit ourselves to give a definite proportion of our income through the church. For many, this proportion is one-tenth, or a tithe. Whatever the amount, we have discovered the joy in giving to God the "first fruits," an amount "off the top" of our income, not what's left over at the end of the month.

* Printed from <http://www.umc.org/how-we-serve/stewardship>

Visitation Team

The Holy Spirit's presence is strong and active at NUMC, which is evident by the new members and guests attending worship and other church activities. As we grow, everyone has more opportunities to use their gifts in many ways.

With growth comes more need for ministry to those that are having surgery, are sick, have new babies, or mourning. We have two amazing pastors at NUMC, however expectations to visit every sick person, perform weddings and funerals, make home visits, attend meetings, and lead Bible studies and small groups can be draining. Finding time for organizational leadership, sermon prep, and personal spiritual growth can be daunting. To help ensure the best congregational care for our growing church, we are looking for those that have a calling for visitation.

Group based care isn't just practical, it's thoroughly biblical: going back to Exodus 18, when Jethro confronted Moses about doing everything himself. Even Jesus adopted the model of group care, moving his large group of hundreds of disciples into groups of seventy, twelve, three, and then one.

If you would like to be involved in this ministry or could help with gift baskets to be delivered, contact the church office to learn more about training that will be offered.

Events

Methodist Men's Breakfast: Our UMM Breakfast will be on Sunday, Feb. 3 (1st Sunday this month) at 7:30am in Cockrell Hall. All men are invited for great food, fellowship, and a short meeting to discuss upcoming ministry events.

Boy Scouts Sunday/Scouting for Food is Feb. 3. We encourage all Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts and adult leaders to wear their uniforms to be recognized. We will also be collecting food for *Scouting for Food* through Feb. 10. Contributions can be brought to the food bin in the Gathering Area.

Pork Chop Plate Sale: Our Methodist Men will be having their Annual Pork Chop Plate Sale on Friday, Feb. 8 from 11am-1pm. Tickets will be sold through Feb. 3 for \$7 and can be purchased from any of our Methodist Men or at the church office.

Valentine's Banquet: Sign up now for a night with friends, food, and fun on Saturday, Feb. 16 at 6pm in Braswell Hall. No date is required—you'll have plenty of people to share a fun night with if you come stag. Sign up sheets are in the Gathering Area or you can register online at WWW.NASHVILLEUMC.NET.

Costa Rica Mission: We have one of our largest groups ever going to Costa Rica. Please pray for each one by name as we ask the Lord to bless their work and ministry at Fuente de Gracia Methodist church on Feb. 7-18. The team includes: Reid and Wanda Hildreth, Dennis and Kay Coggins, Jason and Ashley Vinson, Randy and Jane Carlson, Dot Binkley, Susan Broom, Terri Griffin, Mary Lou Braswell, Samantha Henke, George Beck.

Senior Adult Ministry will meet on Feb. 19th at noon. A Dept. of Justice representative will give a talk on how to recognize and avoid senior-citizen frauds & scams. Lunch will be provided by Oak Level Café—cost is **\$5.50** per person. Invite a friend & call to reserve your meal/seat by **Wed. Feb. 6** (head count for food a must). Contact: Victoria @ 459-2396 leave message!

Adult Mission: If you were unable to make it to our first Adult Mission Meeting, you aren't too late to get involved. We'll have another meeting on Feb. 22 at 7:30pm in the parlor. Come to find out about this exciting new mission team. If you are unable to attend and would like more information, contact Bill Lumpp at bill.lumpp@gmail.com or 908-5300.

ASP: The ASP team has a few openings remaining for their 2019 Trip. If you would be interested, please contact Lewis Smith at eatnsmoke4u@gmail.com. Not interested in going? You can still be a team sponsor. Donations of \$50 or more will receive a 2019 t-shirt:

Feb. 14 is National Organ Donor Day: We've had a church member, Brian Lindquist, receive a heart and Scott Braswell is on the receiver list. If you haven't registered to be a donor, now is a great time to do so. Registration is easy online at WWW.DONATELIFE.NET.

2019 NUMC Ministries & Officers Booklets are now available in the Information Centers and online at WWW.NASHVILLEUMC.NET/RESOURCES. Get your copy for a complete list of teams and officers.

Events

Methodist Home of Children: The families served by Methodist Home for Children are those whom God has entrusted to our care. Every child deserves a safe, loving home. On Feb. 17, your gifts will bless someone in need of merciful compassion and care. Pick up a flyer for more information in the Gathering Area or visit mhfc.org/Sunday.

WDS Registration for the 2019-2020 school year is now open for church members, children already enrolled, and their siblings. On Feb. 12 we will open registration to the public. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a visit, contact Denise Calloway at school@nashvilleumc.net or 459-7636.

Safe Sanctuaries Training: Safe Sanctuaries training will be offered on Feb. 17 at 4pm in Cockrell Hall. Training is required once each calendar year for anyone working with children, youth, or vulnerable adults. If you're not sure if you are due to retake the class, contact Jackie at 459-7178 or Jackie@nashvilleumc.net

Celebrate Life Banquet: Your Choice Resource Center will host Mike Sharrow, C12 President, as guest speaker for this year's banquet at Englewood Baptist Church on Feb. 28 at 6:30pm. Cost is \$20 per person. Contact the church office if you would like to attend.

Trustee Work Areas have been reassigned for 2019. If you find a repair that needs to be made, please refer to the printout available in the workroom, both kitchens and online at WWW.NASHVILLEUMC.NET/RESOURCES.

Revival: Mark your calendars for March 17-20 as we welcome Rev. Kenneth Levingston from Jones Memorial United Methodist Church in Houston, TX to NUMC for our Spring Revival. You're invited to join us nightly at 6:30pm in Braswell Hall for Praise, Worship, and a Word to inspire and revive the Spirit within you.

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 to be added to the email or phone distribution list.

Submit prayer requests to 252-459-7178 or info@nashvilleumc.net. Join our Prayer Warriors on Tuesday mornings at 7am in the Parlor for Prayers with the Pastor. They pray for our community, country, and all 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.

To schedule a church event, complete the church event form at WWW.NASHVILLEUMC.NET/RESOURCES and submit to info@nashvilleumc.net



Nashville United Methodist Church



[@nashvilleUMCNC](https://www.instagram.com/nashvilleUMCNC)

Facts & Figures

Attendance

2019 YTD Average Attendance

8:30 Praise & Worship: 226

11:00 Praise & Worship: 83

Traditional: 78

Thursday Nights: 24

Sunday Night Youth Worship: 62

Average of all Services: 437

Includes combined and special services.

Do You Have an Upcoming Event?

Schedule events using the Church Event Form in the workroom or online at NASHVILLEUMC.NET/RESOURCES.

Additions to the bulletin should be sent to the church office by Mondays at noon. Newsletter deadline is the 10th.

You can also find finance guidelines, bus reservation information, and more—all on the [RESOURCES](#) webpage.

Save the Date!

2019
Revival
March 17-20, 2019

Weekly Events

Sundays

- 8:30am Praise & Worship Service
- 10:00am Sunday School
- 11:00am Traditional Service
- 11:00am Praise & Worship Service
- 4:00pm Youth Band Practice : Basement
- 5:00pm Children & Youth
- 6:00pm Ralph's Small Group :Parlor
- 6:15pm Youth Worship : Basement

Monday

- 7:00am WICK Emmaus : Hardee's
- 7:00pm Bells of Praise : Handbell Room

Tuesday

- 7:00am Prayers with the Pastor : Parlor
- 8:30am Men's Bible Study : Bus Garage
- 5:30pm Stephen Ministry Training
Men's Bible Class (beginning 2/12)
- 6:30pm Disciple IV : Library
- 6:30pm Women's Study : Church Office
(1st & 3rd Tuesday only)
- 7:00pm Praise & Worship Band Practice
- 7:00pm AA : Bus Garage
- 8:00pm NarAnon : Basement

Wednesday

- 6:15am Youth Bible Study : Sheetz
- 3:00pm NES Mentoring : Cockrell Hall
- 6:30pm Begin Band Group : Parlor
- 6:30pm Choir Practice
- 7:00pm Praise & Worship Team Practice
- 8:00pm NA : Bus Garage

Thursday

- 6:30pm Thursday Praise & Worship
Braswell Hall
- 7:30pm Disciple I : Library

Saturday

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

Special Dates

Feb. 3 Boy Scouts Sunday

- UMM Breakfast
7:30pm : Cockrell Hall
- No King's Kids or Youth Pac
- Pathfinders Super Bowl Party
6:30pm : 4173 N. Browntown Rd.

Feb. 4 & 7 Compassion Café 11:00am : Bus Garage

Feb 7-18 Costa Rica Mission Trip

Feb. 8 Pork Chop Plate Pick-up 11am-1pm : Collins St. Entrance

Feb. 10 Youth Confirmation Parent Mtg 4pm : Cockrell Hall

Feb 15-18 Pathfinders' Winter Retreat

Feb. 16 Valentine's Banquet 6:00pm : Braswell Hall

Feb. 17 Safe Sanctuaries, 4pm : Cockrell Hall No King's Kids or Youth Pac

Feb. 19 S.A.M, 12:00pm : Cockrell Hall

Feb. 22 Adult Mission Meeting 7:30pm : Parlor Prayer Watch, 6pm : War Room

Feb. 24 Youth Confirmation Begins

Team Meetings:

- Feb. 6 Administrative Chair Bkfst
6am : Oak Level Café
- Feb. 10 Stephen Ministers
5pm : Library
- Feb. 13 Trustees, 7pm : A205
- Feb. 19 Finance, 7pm : Parlor
WDS Meeting, 6pm: Chapel

Staff

Pastor: Ralph A. Brown

Associate Pastor: Luke Whitehead

Director of Children & Family Ministries: Dr. Nichole Huff

Director of Welcoming Ministries: Wayne Lamm

Youth Pastor: Kaitlyn Stocks

Director of Operations: Dana Nethercutt

Director of Finance: Dot Binkley

Receptionist: Jackie Swindell

Minister of Music & Worship: Gary Rapp

Contemporary Worship Leader: Jackson Rollins

Thursday Night Praise & Worship Leader: Kevin Shaw

Organist and Membership Secretary: Ellen Ward

Nursery Coordinator: Jennifer Bunn

Weekday School/KidSpace Director: Denise Calloway

Connect:

E-mail: info@nashvilleumc.net

Website: www.NashvilleUMC.net

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



Nashville United Methodist Church



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