

touch  
inspire  
motivate  
encourage

# TIME

MINISTRIES



WHERE WILL YOU GIVE YOUR TIME?

## **Greetings in the name of Christ!**

This is an exciting time for First Church in ministry! The staff has worked very hard to give ministry a new look that will fit our culture and the people we serve. Giving your TIME in ministry could be one of the most fulfilling activities you choose to participate in!

Before you browse through this booklet, please talk to God and ask that He show you where He would like you to use your individual Spiritual Gifts. We all have gifts and talents to share. When we are sharing those gifts to glorify God, He will help us carve out the TIME to give to Him.

Ministry is not about "us", it is not a "me" thing; it is about serving God and His people.

As you look at the ministries we offer at First Church, remember we are all servants of God and He wants us to use all the talents He has especially given to each of us to glorify Him and His kingdom! If you don't see the ministry you have a passion for, please call and we will see how your gifts, talents and passions can fit into the ministry of our church!

Enjoy!

Blessings!

*The Staff of First United Methodist Church*

*1 Peter 4:10*

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.*

## **The Angel Tree**

The Angel Tree benefits about 70 families not only in our congregation but from Children and Youth Services. Angels are hung on a Christmas Tree then our generous congregation buys gifts for those who may not receive anything otherwise. This team organizes the "Angels," organizes the gifts received and makes sure the families receive their gifts in time for Christmas. Although approximately 70 families benefit from receiving gifts, the team members benefit by feeling the true spirit of Christmas!

## **Bereavement Team**

Funerals are always difficult. The Bereavement Team prepares a meal for the family after they have buried their loved one. The team works together to make the experience comfortable and relaxing so the family can socialize over a great meal. There are several different areas to help with this team. If you are not able to be on call for a dinner, there are still ways to participate such as making dessert.

## **Bulletin Team**

Every Friday, this team meets in Wesley Hall and stuffs the bulletins for the weekend. They enjoy social time and building friendships. This team has the unique opportunity to help with the quality of the Sunday worship experience by organizing and stuffing the Saturday night and Sunday worship bulletins.

## **Caregivers Ministry**

How many of us take care of our elderly parents or loved ones? Even though we think we do not have the time for ourselves, this group helps us to realize we need to take care of ourselves as well. Through resources and support, the Caregivers Ministry cares for those giving care to others.

## **Christian Writers**

If you saw the wonderful devotional the Christian Writers put together for the church last Christmas, you saw a sample of the work this group does. They gather once a month to be inspired and pour their hearts out on paper!

# 1

## **Christmas Decorations Team**

Christmas is a holiday when the entire church comes alive and is transformed into a Christmas Wonderland! This team places decorations throughout the church to make it a festive place for celebrating the birth of Christ. Everything from the Christmas tree on the altar to the bows on the outside signs, this team beautifies our place of worship and celebration!

## **Coffee/Hospitality Team**

If you have gone to Wesley Hall before or after a Sunday service, you have seen the product of the Coffee and Hospitality Team at First Church. This team makes the coffee in the morning and serves donuts to those who are interested in fellowship before or after the service. There are many opportunities on this team from setup to cleanup to serving the treats!

## **College Mailing**

Who doesn't love mail? This team takes special care of our college students by mailing them packages at least five times per year. The mailings coordinate with special occasions in a college student's life such as returning to school or finals week. Because of this team, our college students stay connected to the church and know we are here for them and are supporting them.

## **Communion Stewards**

Have you ever wondered how the bread and wine are prepared for communion? This is a job with very little time commitment but great rewards. To know you have taken some small part in the distribution of the body of Christ is an amazing gift. This team prepares the bread and wine for the congregation only a few times a year when communion is received in the pew or at the altar. Also, this team takes part in preparing communion for Maundy Thursday, the most solemn ceremony of the year.



## **Easter Decorations**

Easter is a beautiful time at First Church, but it takes time to prepare the sanctuary. This ministry simply arranges the flowers the church orders for the sanctuary. The week before Palm Sunday, this team places the ferns and palms on the altar area. On Good Friday, this team places the rest of the flowers in the sanctuary. It is a fulfilling ministry, especially when you have contributed to the beauty of our church.

## **First Time Visitor**

On any given weekend, there are visitors at our church! As a community that values new visitors, we like to drop in on them and give them a small gift from the church, along with information about the church, to show them all we have to offer. This team works together to deliver the packages and lets the visitors know we are glad they gave us a try!

## **Gardening Ministry**

Have you noticed how beautiful the outside of our church looks in the spring, summer and fall? The Gardening Ministry works hard to keep the weeds pulled and the flowers blooming. If you enjoy gardening, you will love this ministry!

## **God's Country Ministries**

As in all of our services, First Church is interested in making sure the congregation is well taken care of. Some of the opportunities to help make this service successful are greeters, ushers, setup and cleanup crews. We would love for you to join one of the God's Country ministry areas to help touch others. You never know whom your smiling face might inspire!

## **Greeter**

Everyone knows what a greeter is at church! As familiar as a greeter is, at First Church we take this job very seriously! These volunteers, many times, are the first impression of our church. They shake hands and give those entering the sanctuary for worship a warm and thoughtful start to worship. There are greeters at every service to fit everyone's schedule.



## **INC**

Immediate Needs and Concerns is an offshoot of the Welcome Home Meals ministry. This group meets once every few months to prepare soups for those who need food immediately. The soup is appreciated by all who receive it. This is a very important ministry of our church.

## **Intercessory Prayer**

Prayer is an essential part of the Discipleship Pathway and our individual lives. To know we have someone praying for us is such a comfort. Once a week, Intercessory Prayer Team members meet to pray for the needs of the church and the congregation. It is intense intentional prayer by people with a passion for prayer.

## **Maundy Thursday**

Holy Week is an especially touching time at First Church. The Maundy Thursday Service many people and much effort to re-enact the Last Supper. This team is needed for one evening per year to participate in the most solemn ceremony the church offers. Opportunities on this team include purchasing food, preparing the table, decorating the sanctuary and acting as one of the disciples.

## **Mitten Tree**

Each Christmas a tree with mittens and scarves is displayed in the Asbury Chapel area, along with several other Christmas-inspired trees. This tree holds mittens, hats and scarves for children who would otherwise not have winter gear. This ministry divides these gifts up between area organizations for them to distribute to the needy.

## **Multimedia/Sound**

Our sanctuary has been wired for the best possible multimedia and sound available! Even though we have all the equipment needed, it takes special people to make sure that equipment is used properly. There is no previous experience needed for this ministry, just an interest in the concept of being a part of helping the pastors and music sound the best they possibly can. Special training is needed and provided for this job. With 5 services, many operators are needed. Please "hear" me when I say.....we need you!



## **Needles and Hooks**

A unique way to touch others is to make "Prayer Shawls" to wrap in and pray to feel the warmth of God around you. This group knits and croches small blanket-type shawls for those who are ill, shut in or just in need of extra care. After receiving a shawl, this group has intentional prayer for those using the product of their passion for knitting and prayer.

## **Office Ministry Team**

This team is crucial to the smooth operation of the office. Volunteers come in on a daily, weekly or as needed basis to help with office functions. This team helps with large mailings, special projects, data entry, etc., to help the office stay efficient. No experience is necessary, just a smile and a willingness to help!

## **Prayer Chain**

This is another crucial ministry to the heart of the church. This team gets the list of people who have called in asking for special prayer and intentionally prays for them. The prayer chain may be received via telephone or e-mail. This team prays from the comfort of their home at their leisure.

## **Repair Ministry**

If you are a handyman and don't mind helping others, this is a way to use your spiritual gifts for the good of God's kingdom. First Church tries to help those in need no matter their need. We receive calls for help to fix leaky faucets, squeaky doors and all kinds of small repairs. The goal of this ministry is to not only fix the broken item but to serve God by helping others.

## **Sanctuary Care**

Help to keep the sanctuary clean and neat! This team gathers the bulletins left behind by worshipers, makes sure the pencils are sharpened and the pews are stocked with envelopes. It is a wonderfully fulfilling ministry, as it not only lets you tidy up but allows you to spend some quiet time with God in our beautiful sanctuary.



## **Second Grace**

There are many people who struggle on a daily basis. The Second Grace Shoppe helps those people by providing gently used clothes and small household items to them for free. All items are donated by generous community members. The Second Grace ministry organizes the donated items and welcomes those coming to shop! The store is open Thursday and Friday nights.

## **Seeds of Hope**

Under the direction of Billie Brink, this ministry helps those with addictions to know the Lord and work toward a closer relationship with Him while getting the support they need to break their addiction and stay clean. There are many opportunities in this area including preparing food for the meetings, being small group leaders, setup and cleanup.

## **Tele-Caregivers**

Do you like talking on the phone and connecting with members who are no longer able to get to church? First Church has several homebound members who stay connected to the church by receiving the bulletin and sermon CD's via mail. The Tele-Caregivers also help them stay connected by calling them every couple of weeks to say hello and let them know the church cares! These calls take very little time, but are appreciated by those receiving them! New relationships for Christ are built every day!

## **Ushers**

As a church with five different services, there is always a need for ushers. The ushers are there to hand out bulletins, seat parishioners, direct people to the restrooms and help the pastors or congregation in whatever way possible. Their schedule works on a rotation, so you would be on the schedule a few times a year vs. every week. It is a great way to get to know others and serve God in a positive way.

## **Van Driver Ministry**

First Church has several members who cannot get to church without the help of the church van. We service the 9:45 and 10:50 services. The van drivers use the church van to pick up these members for church and then take them home after church. Addresses and directions are provided for the van driver, making this an easy way to serve.

## **Welcome Center**

Discover how fun it is to not only meet and greet people Sunday morning, but also to be able to help them enjoy their worship experience a little bit more! The Welcome Center is located just outside of the office in Asbury Chapel. The function of the Welcome Center is to be available to show visitors where the restrooms are, how to get to Sunday School classes, to take messages for the office to follow up on Monday. Don't worry though; if you don't know where the restrooms are, there is training to orient you!

## **Welcome Home Meals**

For those of you who have benefited from this ministry, you know how wonderful it is! The church provides a meal for those coming home from the hospital or who have experienced a tragedy in their life. If you are interested in being called once in a while to prepare a meal for another family in our church, you will enjoy this ministry. The satisfaction of helping others and the relationships built are reflections of how Christ would want us to live.

## **Women's Ministry**

Our Women's Ministry is called Gemstones. Its mission is to connect women with Christ and each other, to help women grow into fully devoted followers of Christ and to teach women how to glorify God in their homes, at work, and in the community. Gemstones have several different Gem groups to reflect the beauty of all women, while celebrating their different gifts and passions.

## **Stephen Ministry**

A group of caring individuals who help to care for the congregation of our church, the Stephen Ministers go through a year-long training so that they may help others, in a Christian way, with their concerns in life. After the training, those participating must make a one-year commitment to the program.



## **Community Meal**

Several churches in Butler offer a meal to the community once a week. First Church is also a part of that program. This team has several needs, from preparing the meal, to serving, to cleaning up. If you are interested, the kitchen staff will gladly find a place for you!

## **Dining Room Fundraisers**

Under the direction of Ruth Griffin, several fundraisers a year are held to raise money for different causes in the church. The fundraisers are normally dinners and nut rolls. To be a part of the best food in Butler, join this team of people who enjoy fellowship and serving others.

## **Christmas Day Dinner**

One of the most giving ministries at First Church, the Christmas Day Dinner is for those who do not have anyone to share Christmas dinner with. More than 400 meals are served in Epworth Center at no cost to the recipients. Through donated food and time, others are cared for. There are about 15 different teams you can get involved in for the Christmas Day dinner. Some of those teams are: preparing the turkeys, making the stuffing, cutting the bread, dining room setup and cleanup, preparing take-out orders, delivering take-out orders, dishes, greeters, decorations.

## **Food Baskets**

During the holiday times, not everyone is fortunate enough to be able to feed their families. This group prepares baskets of food, gift certificates and canned goods for these families. A confidential ministry, the joys this team brings to families are contagious.

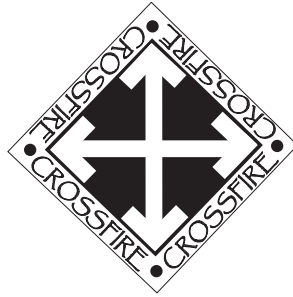
## **Good Friday Breakfast**

Good Friday is traditionally a day to join and remember the commitment Jesus made for us in His crucifixion for our sins. This team prepares a meaningful breakfast on Good Friday for those who are interested in starting the celebration of Easter weekend with food and fellowship.



## **Special Breakfast Team**

Several times through the year, First Church celebrates milestones in the lives of our parishioners. This team makes breakfast for the confirmation class, graduates, mothers, fathers and others on their special days. There is a need for preparers, servers, cleanup and setup.



## **Crossfire Café**

Have you ever wondered how the coffee and donuts make it to Crossfire? The Café Team members make sure all the refreshments are ready for the social time after service. Team members transport donuts and coffee airpots to and from main church for fellowship time after the Crossfire service.

## **Crossfire Greeters**

Just as the greeters at the sanctuary services are the first smiling faces in the church, Crossfire greeters give a warm welcome to those interested in Crossfire. This team provides a welcoming first impression to service attendees. Also, by example, they allow people to know Christ is present the minute a person steps through the door.

## **Crossfire Information**

An extroverted person who has a passion for First Church is perfect for this servant's position. The information area is available to provide information about First Church to visitors and/or members. This team is trained to be able to answer any general questions an attendee may have about First Church and the events in the church.

## **Crossfire Multimedia**

This team is responsible for visual enhancement during worship using PowerPoint (already created slideshows), DVDs, or the software provided. Thorough training is provided for this position to teach servants how to run PowerPoint and to recognize the cues for appropriate manipulation of the slides, DVDs or videos.



## **Crossfire Phone Callers**

Some people are better on the phone than others. This team reminds servants of their upcoming duties for their team. We all need reminders! This team helps Crossfire to run smoothly by making sure everyone remembers where they need to be on Sunday.

## **Crossfire Setup**

This team sets up worship materials used in the Crossfire service. An example would be the projector screen on the stage, special effects for the weekend and decorations to make Crossfire look more inviting to those choosing to worship at 9:45.

## **Crossfire Tear Down**

Just as Crossfire stage needs set up, it also needs torn down and packed away for the next week. This team assists in tearing down all worship items that need to be removed from the auditorium. The time commitment depends on how many people are on the team!

## **Crossfire Ushers**

Ushers are very important to Crossfire Services. They are responsible for handing out bulletins, collecting the offering and making sure attendees are cared for during services. They provide a welcoming first impression to service attendees. Also, by example, they allow people to know Christ is present the minute a person steps through the door.

## **Crossfire Band**

If you are talented musically and would like to play in a worship band, then this is the ministry for you! Under the worship leader's direction, the Crossfire Band leads worship at Crossfire services. The band also holds several outreach performances throughout the year performing for other venues and helping to spread the gospel.

## **Crossfire Band Sound**

A good band is only as good as the sound! This ministry provides sensitive ears to improve the sound of all worship events requiring amplification. While there is training for this position, it also takes a person talented in understanding the importance of sound quality. If you are a "techy," this is the right place for you.

10

## **Drama Team**

A good drama always seems to drive a point home! The Drama Team helps to enhance worship through performance, reaching yet another group of people who learn visually. Although this team is not used often, when we see them they are memorable! If you enjoy acting and role playing, you might want to sign up for the Drama Team!

## **Music Ministries**

### **Wesley Chorale**

The Bible says "it is good to praise the Lord and make music to Your name, O Most High." Singers in the Chorale enjoy warm fellowship and meaningful devotionals as they learn, refine, and sing Christ-centered music. No previous experience is necessary; all you need is a love for singing, the ability to attend Thursday night rehearsals, and a commitment to sing at both sanctuary services on Sundays.

### **Celebration Singers**

Perhaps you love to sing but don't have the time to attend a weekly rehearsal. The Celebration Singers help to lead worship at our Saturday sanctuary service and rehearse just prior to the service. The time commitment is minimal, but the music is fun and the friendships are real!

### **Wesley Ringers**

There's something beautiful and special about the sound of bells. The Wesley Ringers meet weekly to learn music, then play for one weekend each month. The smaller bells are easy to ring, while the larger (and heavier!) bells will keep even a body builder in shape. Basic music-reading ability is helpful but not required.

### **Youth Ringers**

Children enjoy ringing bells and learning the fundamentals of music reading and rhythm through working together on beautiful music. The Youth Ringers meet weekly between September and May and play once a month in the sanctuary services.

# 11

## **blue, an Ensemble for Young Voices**

If your child reads and loves to sing, bring them to blue! Our young singers meet weekly and learn the basics of breathing and singing as they prepare fun and Christ-centered songs for one Sunday a month. Focused games and activities (using techniques from Dalcroze Eurhythmics) are also used to work on the child's sense of musical pulse and rhythm.

## **God's Country Band**

Our God's Country congregation loves country gospel music and has a special love for the downtown community. The God's Country Band rehearses weekly and prepares to help the congregation express their praise and thanks to God. Both singers and instrumentalists are needed; the band also enjoys special times of fellowship and weekly pre-service Bible studies. No music reading is required!

## **Concert Receptions**

It's always nice to enjoy a treat after a concert while talking with friends and meeting the performers. We're looking for people who love entertaining and making things "just so" – and we want to make our guests feel so welcome that they say "wow!" afterward. There are many ways to get involved: we need people to bake special cookies, people to shop for refreshments, people to decorate the tables and arrange the treats, and people to stay after the concert and clean up. The time commitment is reasonable and can be tailored to the level of involvement with which you are comfortable.

## **Sermon Disc Duplication**

Our sermon CDs are an important outreach – to shut-ins, to family members away from Butler, and to friends in need of an encouraging word from the Bible. Members serving on this team create duplicates from the master CD (this sounds impressive but is not a technical process), affix the labels, and place the finished CDs in plastic sleeves for distribution. From time to time, special CDs, like the Seeds of Hope welcome disc, are also duplicated. Anyone, young or old, can serve on this team! The only requirement is attention to detail.

# Kidz Ministries

## PreK

Teachers and helpers take care to sign children in and out. They encourage positive interaction among the children as they take part in playtime, story time, singing, and craft time. All teachers and helpers have cleared background checks before being able to work with our children.

## Spectrum

Small Group Leaders spend 45 minutes with their small group every week teaching a story, playing a game, leading a craft, and instructing children how to live as a follower of Christ. Substitutes do the same as a small group leader on an as-needed basis. Spectrum also has volunteer check in/out teams that rotate over several weeks. The check in/out teams make sure all children are checked in and out by the same person. They are also our first responders in case of emergency. Everyone participating in Spectrum has cleared a background check.

## Nursery

Paid and volunteer staff lovingly care for children while they are in the nursery. Children play, are read to and do crafts. If an older child brings homework, they will also receive help. Both staff and volunteers on the nursery are scheduled, based on the need for childcare and the availability of the individual. All of the nursery staff has cleared background checks.

## Special Programs

Several times a year, special programs take place for children. On each team is needed activity, decoration, food, and publicity leaders. Activities should be age-appropriate and theme-based. Decorations also need to be theme-based and appropriate for the space being used. Quantity of food and space to prepare must be determined. Making sure the right publicity takes place for the target

# 13

audience will determine if radio, newspaper, bulletin, postcards, or other forms of communication will be needed. Everyone participating has cleared a background check.

## **FROGS**

FROGS leaders take care to check in/out all students participating in the program each week. Leaders take on different roles within the team. Some leaders help with the main teaching of lessons. Some leaders lead the games. Other leaders organize the crafts. All leaders go on two retreats every year. Everyone on the team has cleared a background check.

## **RECESS**

The RECESS (Resourcing Every Child Entering School Soon) Ministry helps to prepare kids for back-to-school all over Butler County. The ministry received donated supplies to fill new backpacks for local children in need. RECESS also works with Children and Youth Services to provide new clothing for kids of all ages for the start of school. Volunteers are needed to donate clothing and school supplies, sort materials that are donated and deliver items for the start of the new school year.

## **Youth Ministry Team**

The youth ministry reaches out to students grades 7-12 with exciting programs and events hoping to help students become fully-devoted followers of Christ. The Youth Ministry Team plays an integral role in building relationships and discipling students, both from within the church and those who are not a part of the church. Being a part of the Youth Ministry Team (YMT) is an amazing opportunity to influence students and to help reach future generations. We are always looking for adults who are willing to set aside a few hours a week to influence the faith, future, and families of these amazing students. The YMT meets monthly for a planning and teaching time, in order to make sure the youth ministry is successful in reaching the students of Butler.

## **The Remedy Setup Team**

We have an amazing youth ministry, which requires a lot of set up prior to each Sunday night youth service. Each week we transform Epworth Center into an area for teenagers to feel comfortable and to experience God. This team meets several hours prior to the youth service to help set up the youth area. This team makes the youth ministry look good. Without an attractive environment, many students will not attend. Therefore, we try to make the service environment attractive to teens as well as something we can use to help students come to know Christ better.

**14**

## **Vacation Bible School**

What a fun week VBS is at First Church. Around 200 kids come to our church to Worship God and learn more about Him! This team organizes the week under the direction of the Children's Director. It is a blast!

## **Hip Hop Dance Team**

This ministry is for the youth of our church (grades 7 through 12). It gathers to learn hip hop dances to perform for the church and for others!

## **Beginnings**

At First Church, we like to help new parents by supporting them with information pertaining to their new baby. This ministry mails packets to parents when they have a new baby to let them know First Church cares!

# **More Great Ministries!**

## **Kindness in Action (KIA)**

Kindness in Action is a team of people who gather on a monthly basis to reach out through practical acts of kindness to our community, so that our community can see the love of God. This team is responsible for events like the winter coat drive last Christmas and is truly able to meet the needs of our community through their generosity and the generosity of others. KIA outreaches range from passing out bottled water to collecting clothes for the needy. Regardless of the outreach, these team members find fulfillment in doing Christ's work in our city.

## **Altar Flowers**

Did you ever wonder where the altar flowers come from and just how the announcement makes it into the bulletin? Did you ever wonder who puts this all together? This ministry figures out the calendar for the year as to who will have flowers on the altar, organizes everything between the buyer and the florist and makes sure the information goes into the bulletin.

## **Athletic Ministry**

We have a team of people at First Church who love to play sports! If you are one of them you should consider joining the Athletic Ministry. This ministry has a softball team that competes against other churches. There is also great exercise gym in the Annex called the Lord's Gym.

## **Bulletin Boards**

The Bulletin Boards are a great way to use your creative juices for the good of God and our church. The bulletin boards, which are in Asbury Chapel, are changed regularly to help advertise the events of the church.

## **Church Picnic**

With five services, it is difficult to everyone who attends First Church. This event gets the entire church in one place and helps us all to get to know one another. If your passion is in hospitality and you like to plan big events, please sign up to help with this large event that is one of the only gatherings that brings the church together as one big family.

## **Military Mailings**

In these troubled times, it is wonderful that we remember our soldiers who are overseas serving our Country. This team collects needed items and mails packages to those serving in the military from our congregation and the Butler area.

## **New Member Orientation**

First Church welcomes around 100 people every year into our congregation. This team hosts the orientation and dinner for the new members to enjoy.

## **Prayer Covenant**

There are many needs to be kept in special prayer at First Church. The Prayer Covenant is a devoted group of people who pray specifically for the pastors of our church on a daily basis for specific needs. It is a truly dedicated group of people who are very passionate about prayer and our church.

## **Quilters**

The Quilters meet faithfully every Wednesday morning through afternoon in Wesley Hall. Quilting is their passion, and their quilts are made for many different organizations and benefits. If you share this passion and would like to share your Wednesdays with these ladies, please sign up to join this team!

## **Tailgate Parties**

Four times a year First Church likes to gather to socialize, meet and enjoy some great food! This team organizes the Tailgate Parties for the rest of the church and enjoys using their gift of hospitality.

