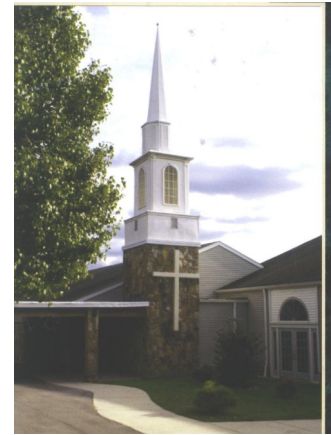


March 2021
Volume 39 No. 3

The Messenger

Fairfield Glade Community Church



Dear Church Family,

Who doesn't like a good story? Whether a story read in a book, watched on television, or told by someone, we all enjoy a good story. If life is anything, it is a story.

What is your life story? What is my life story? What is our life story?

Creation stories are sacred, attempting to answer the fundamental questions of existence: Who are we? Where did we come from? Why are we here? What ultimately matters? How are we to live? What happens when we die?

We are all part of the sacred creation story. In his book "Thank God for Evolution," Michael Dowd describes it this way: "Each of us is a story within stories. A child's life story is part of her mother's story and her father's story. The story of their family is part of larger stories, too---the story of their neighborhood, their church, their town, their state, and their nation. Those stories, in turn, are contained within the story of a religious tradition, a civilization, humanity as a whole, and then beyond to the story of our planet, our star system, the Milky Way Galaxy, and, finally, to the story of the Universe itself.... Thus the contour of any one story is affected by the *larger stories*. Indeed, when we search for meaning of an event, we are asking: 'How does this event fit into the bigger picture?'" This bigger picture is ultimately, at the most transcendent scale, the Great Story---the sacred

story of everyone and everything.

How does the story of our church family fit into the bigger picture, the Great Story? And how does each of our stories fit within the one story of our church family?

I enjoy hearing everyone's story, learning the life story of each person within our church family. That tells me a lot about who we are today as a church family. We can all be enriched by each other's story.

How well do we know each other's story in our church family? What have we learned from each other's story? How much do we appreciate, honor, and celebrate each other's story?

In this month of March 2021, our oldest church member, Ruth Shelly, will be 100 years old. Hers is a very long story!

Yet, our bigger Christian story is much, much older than that---more than 2,000 years old! Actually, our Christian story, the story of Christ, is even way older than that too, according to the stories we read in the Bible:

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers---all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together" (Colossians 1:15-17).

In his classic book, "The Coming of the Cosmic Christ," Matthew Fox describes how in these biblical stories "Jesus is seen as human and time-bound as well as preexisting and transcending." According to Fox, "The church is meant to signify the historical presence of this cosmic and reconciling Christ, to be a microcosm of the macrocosmic order that Christ brings to the universe."

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1 - Pastor)

Every Sunday worship service is intended to draw our stories deeper into the story of the cosmic Christ; and outside the worship service, one of the most tangible ways we can bring our story in touch with the story of the cosmic, universal Christ is in nature.

The famous naturalist John Muir encouraged all Americans to “Go up into the mountains and get close to God.” For Muir, “Every natural object is a conductor of divinity, and only by coming into contact with them...may we be filled with the Holy Ghost.”

In the mountains, said Muir, is “where everything is wild and beautiful and busy and steeped with God.”

Muir experienced nature’s story in much the same way as reading a story in the Bible: “Here were miles and miles of tree scripture along the sky.” God spoke to Muir through nature: “Rocks and waters, etc., are words of God and so are men. We all flow from one fountain Soul. All are expressions of one Love.”

We as human creatures are stories inseparable from the rest of the other creatures’ stories and the creation story itself, for all form the story of God’s one whole universe. “Wonderful, how completely everything in wild nature fits into us, as if truly part and parent of us,” proclaimed Muir. “The sun shines not on us but in us.... The trees wave and flowers bloom in our bodies as well as our souls.”

All it takes is for us to step out of our human-made homes. We can then experience what Muir experienced: “I only went out for a walk, and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in.”

Of course, some of us may have physical limitations that prevent us from taking a long walk on a trail in the woods and mountains. But we can go to an overlook like Daddy’s Creek near the Glade, or Black Mountain near Crab Orchard, or even Lilly Bluff Overlook in the

Obed Wild and Scenic River national park area.

One of my favorite scenic views of nature overlooks the 14th hole on Druid Hills golf course. I’ve actually conducted a wedding ceremony there on the overlook at sunset for one of the couples of our church family!

If unable to get out of your home, then I highly recommend a subscription to the National Geographic magazine or regularly watching television shows such as Nova and Nature on PBS.

When COVID has finally subsided, I hope we can once again have an outdoor worship service at the Marina as well as our annual church picnic at one of the parks in the Glade.

An idea that has been swirling around in my head for several years is how we can allow access to the back area of the church grounds’ natural woods for walking and a place to sit, which may include wildflower gardens, perhaps adjacent to the Columbarium. We might even think about building an outdoor pavilion like some other churches enjoy in the summer, including for worship services.

One of the primary features of our worship sanctuary that I cherish are the clear windows from which we can enjoy a glimpse of the beautiful natural outdoor views while sitting in our pews. It reminds me during the worship service that our church family and our church story are within a bigger story that goes beyond the walls of our building, for by melding our church’s story within the bigger story of God’s universe, Jesus becomes “the Cosmic Christ who reconciles all creation in God by healing human consciousness that has been at war with creation” (Fox). Peace be with you and all of creation.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Pastor James



March 2021

Birthdays

Donna Lauzon	03/01
Ben Dempsey	03/02
Kathleen Norton	03/03
Randy Moore	03/04
Billie Kelley	03/05
Dee McConnaughey	03/05
Ruth Shelley	03/07
Donald Eppelheimer	03/09
Dave DeVold	03/12
Wayne Roberts	03/12
Jim Hansen	03/19
Kathryn Rydz	03/22
Zella Bacon	03/25
Ed Lewis	03/25
Tom Banik	03/28
James McNutt	03/28
Jack Hunter	03/29
Marie Moran	03/30
John McArthur	03/31

Anniversaries

Dwain & Kathy Graham	03/02
Donald & Linda Eppelheimer	03/10
Ed & Julie Steele	03/12
Fred & Vicky Wong	03/21
Ron & Judith McPherson	03/26

New Addresses:

Carl & Arlene Genske
15400 Silver Pkwy, Apt. 101
Fenton, MI 48430

Rosemary Stuckmann
2720 Lavender Lane
Green Bay, WI 54313

Laverne (Skip) Killian
Moved to Uplands Village, Wharton House
Room 108
Mailing address:
P.O. Box 447
Pleasant Hill, TN 38578

MORGAN SCOTT needs for MARCH:

Toilet Tissue, Instant Potatoes,
Soup, Canned Vegetables

Any donations can be left in the vestibule near the Fireside Room (the outside door is unlocked). Please give the office a call to let them know you have left items and they will bring them into the church for the Morgan Scott pickup.

Fairfield Glade



The Rev. Dr. James E. Janeczek, Pastor
521 Snead Drive, Fairfield Glade, TN 38558
(931) 484-7412 or (931) 456-9529
Email: ffgcomchurch@ffgcomchurch.org
www.ffgcomchurch.org

February 2021

Fellow Community Church Members,

Each year our offerings and giving are getting more and more precious!

The Missions Committee tries to be diligent in our support of worthwhile community agencies providing much needed financial help. In addition to our budgeted monies, we support three individual denominational offerings through the United Church of Christ and the Presbyterian Church USA (divided equally).

In March, during Lent we give to One Great Hour of Sharing; in October, for WorldWide Communion Sunday we give to Peace and Global Witnesses; and at Christmastime, we support retired Pastors and ministerial workers through the Christmas Joy offering. All are worthwhile endeavors.

“Lent” for 2021 will be February 17 through Easter April 4. Please consider an offering for One Great Hour of Sharing. This is a worldwide project helping families and communities in over 100 countries. This mission helps provide relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry and support for the poor.

With this letter you are receiving an offering envelope for your donation. Please use the envelope and place it in the offering plate on Sunday or mail it directly to the church. No matter the envelope you use (UCC or PCUSA), monies will be divided equally between the two denominations. We will be happy to include your offering through Easter April 4, 2021. Please be sure to write “One Great Hour” on the memo line of your check.

All of our gifts, both big and small, help people in challenging situations. We ask you to prayerfully support this mission through Fairfield Glade Community Church.

In Christ,
The Missions Committee

**An inter-denominational congregation affiliated with:
The Presbyterian Church (USA) and The United Church of Christ**

Thanks to Don!

Check out the newly reupholstered altar podiums. After the church was renovated last year, I noticed that the two old altar podiums needed attention. Don Eppelheimer was just the person to do the job!

He recently delivered them back to church. I just expected a piece of carpet to be stapled to the outside. But his time, design and craftsmanship were a much better plan. All I can say is: Perfection. What a beautiful restoration!

Thank you, Don.

Sincerely, Nancy Burleson

Do You Shop For Groceries?

Our Missions program needs you! Purchasing Food City gift cards is a very easy way to support our Missions program, as the church receives a percentage of the amount of the cards sold. This in turn helps the church to financially assist important local causes such as Kids on the Rise, Peavine Care Center and the House of Hope, among many others. Please give Carolyn Rau a call at 456-4936 to get your card(s) in order to help Community Church support these worthwhile organizations.



FGRS COVID Relief Program for Fairfield Glade Residents

Starting immediately, Fairfield Glade Resident Services (FGRS) is providing delivery services of prescriptions, fresh meals and groceries to help those who are quarantined in their homes.

For prescriptions and over-the-counter medicines (all from Kroger Pharmacy in FFG), call the pharmacy at 931-484-0333 to let them know you would like a delivery, and pay for your items over the phone. A volunteer will deliver the items to your home.

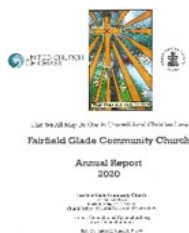
Fresh meals can be delivered by FGRS volunteers from certain local restaurants, and they can also deliver groceries from Kroger or Walmart using their curbside service. Prefer Food City or Publix? FGRS can teach you how to use Instacart to receive their groceries.

Call the FGRS Delivery Hotline at 931-335-9945 to receive further information and to register for the program. The Hotline is monitored 7 days a week from 9am to 5pm.

For questions, please contact Don Rohrer at Rohrer33@comcast.net.

How Do You Do?..... will be taking a timeout for a couple of months. Covid and interviewing did not work well together. Have a Happy and Blessed Easter and may the Bunny leave you many jelly beans and candy corn. Be back soon.

Ed Broderick



2020 Annual Report is Available

The Fairfield Glade Community Church Annual Report is now available on the church website, ffgcomchurch.org/churchboard. Hard copies are available upon request by calling or emailing the church office.

Women's Fellowship Shows Thanks to Good Sam's Staff

Women's Fellowship provided posters in January showing our appreciation for the hard work the staff of Good Sam's has been doing to keep our residents and neighbors safe during this pandemic.

A contest of sort was held to encourage ladies to participate in this activity. Posters were submitted by Gloria McCracken, Nancy Burleson and Kathryn Rydz. These are posted in the facility and have been tagged as created and donated by the Women's Fellowship of Fairfield Glade Community Church.

Ladies were given the opportunity to vote via e-mail on their favorite poster. Once the voting was counted, Gloria McCracken was determined to be the winner for her submission of "Nurses Share their Hearts."

Thanks to all who participated by creating posters as well as voting on your favorites.

The administrators and staff of Good Sam's were appreciative of your talent, time and love shown to them during this time.



Submitted by Jamie Freels

**Fairfield Glade Community Church
Treasurer's Report
Financial Summary
January 2021**

	Month of January	Year-to-Date
Income	\$38499	\$38499
Expenses	22479	22479
Income in excess of expenses	+ 16020	+ 16020

January Income:

\$28,030 in general contributions
 \$ 6,910 in investment gains from Endowment and Reserve Funds
 \$ 3,000 donation directly to Endowment Fund
 \$ 559 in other miscellaneous income

January Expenses:

\$17,844 for Pastor and staff salaries and annual bonuses
 \$ 3,096 for Property and Facilities which includes utilities and fire detection
 \$ 1,201 for administrative expenses
 \$ 338 for other miscellaneous expenses

If more details are desired, you may view the complete Income & Expense report posted monthly in the Fellowship Hall.

The Finance Committee & the Church Board have reviewed these financials and confirm that all funds are properly managed.

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**Connecting with the Pastor**

Even though the church office is closed due to the COVID pandemic, and we need to practice social distancing, Pastor James is still available. You are encouraged to call Pastor James on his cell phone at anytime about anything. He would enjoy hearing your voice. Phone 813-734-3138.

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**Fairfield Glade Community Church**  
**Special Board Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing**  
**January 28, 2021**  
**Minutes - Draft Pending Board Approval**

**Members Present:** Don Eppelheimer, Ed Freels, Meredith Gaffney, Pastor James Janeczek, Jerry King, Barb Kitchen, John Schaefer, Marty Smith, Cheron Stenson, Candy Sutton-Weber, John Zanichelli

**Members Absent:** Jim Kime, Bob Walsh

**Guest:** Polly McArthur

**Call to Order**

Declaring a quorum, President Marty Smith called this Special Board Meeting to order at 2:00pm. Following his opening prayer, he stated that the sole purpose of this meeting is to decide whether or not the church should reopen for services in February.

**ERT Presentation**

Marty verified with Board members that they received, prior to this meeting, the following emails regarding the Covid-19 pandemic from Emergency Response Team (ERT) members: Polly McArthur's presentation, Gene Pino's ERT recommendation that the church remain closed through February, and Jim Hansen's statistics. He then opened the floor to Polly.

Polly reviewed her presentation titled, "*Considerations for Resuming In-Person Services*", expanding information on each considered item, which included: New Case, Active Case, Hospitalization and Death Trends; Cases at Good Samaritan Society; and Spread of Variants. She emphasized the exhaustion of health care workers and lack of bedspace in local hospitals.

Following a question-and-answer session, Marty invited Polly to either stay for the remainder of the meeting or sign out. At this time, Polly departed the meeting with the Board's appreciation and gratitude for both her presentation and for the entire ERT's diligence in keeping our congregation safe during the pandemic.

**Motion**

A motion was made by Marty Smith to re-open the sanctuary for services on February 7, 2021, following the same ERT guidelines and safety precautions currently in place, and encouraging those who are not comfortable attending church services to remain at home and watch the services on YouTube. The motion was seconded by Don Eppelheimer.

**Discussion**

The ensuing discussion focused on how reopening our church would affect the overall data presented by the ERT and how much strain would be added to health care workers and hospital bed space if the church was reopened. The Board also discussed the Covid-19 cases experienced by our congregants and Pastor and the fact that none were the result of attending a worship service in our sanctuary. Finally, consideration was given to the fact Lent and Easter are the holiest time of the Christian year and how reopening the church would provide not only an opportunity for congregants to worship in person (if they chose to do so), but also provide a bit of an outlet for the loneliness that is building during this pandemic. After this discussion, each Board member individually voiced his/her thoughts and opinions on reopening the church.

The motion was unanimously approved by Board members present.

*(Continued on page 9)*



### **Additional Actions**

The ERT was asked to compile data, if possible, on the number of our congregants who have received Covid-19 vaccines, and continue their diligent work forming recommendations to the Board. Pastor James was asked to contact both the SE Conference of the UCC and the Presbytery of East TN in an attempt to determine the percentage of churches open and the percentage of congregants attending in-person services.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business for this Special Board Meeting, a motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting at 3:05pm following Marty's prayer.

Submitted by  
Patty Smith, Minutes Clerk

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## **Fairfield Glade Community Church Board Meeting via Zoom Video Conferencing February 11, 2021 Minutes - Draft Pending Board Approval**

**Members Present:** Don Eppelheimer, Ed Freels, Meredith Gaffney, Pastor James Janeczek, Jim Kime, Jerry King, Barb Kitchen, John Schaefer, Marty Smith, Candy Sutton-Weber, Bob Walsh, John Zanichelli

**Members Absent:** Cheron Stenson

**Call to Order:** Declaring a quorum, President Marty Smith called the Board Meeting to order at 2:00pm, followed by prayer by John Zanichelli.

**Agenda Review:** Two items were added to the agenda: (1) purchase of a printer for the Treasurer/Counting Room, and (2) approval of Missions Committee letter.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the January 14 Board Meeting and the January 28 Special Board Meeting were approved as written.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Treasurer's reports were forwarded to all Board members prior to this meeting. Marty Smith reported that General Fund income for January was \$38,040 and expenses were \$22,479.

The Treasurer, Pam Schwer, recommended changing the format of the Church Finances Report published in the *Monthly Messenger* to make it more informative. Pam, Michael Nowacki, Roy Koskinen, and Marty met to discuss the format change and will send it to all Board members when finalized.

The printer in the Counting Room is no longer functioning properly and needs to be replaced as soon as possible. Pam is contacting Dennis Tryon, IT Committee Chairman, with a replacement recommendation.

Treasurer's reports were accepted as written and placed on file for audit.

**Membership Report:** One member, Barbara Garner, passed away during this reporting period. Membership now stands at 244. The Membership Report was accepted as written.

**Pastor's Report:**

- Pastor James expressed gratitude for support for himself, Lilly, and his family on the passing of his mother on January 11.
- With our improved A/V system and YouTube capability, Pastor was able to provide a time of prayer and sermon when the church closed due to inclement weather.
- February 17 begins the season of Lent with a blessing of the ashes on Wednesday.
- The Lenten Faith Development series begins February 17.
- John McArthur, Carole Danielson, and Pastor James will attend the Presbytery of East TN Quarterly Meeting via Zoom on February 13.
- In his conversations, Pastor James will begin confirming emergency contact information with congregants.
- Barbara Garner's sons have opted not to have a memorial service for her at this time.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Prayer Assignments:** Monthly assignments for Board meeting opening and closing prayers were emailed to all Board members.
- Registered Agent:** All non-profit organizations in the State of TN must have a specific person within the organization to receive all State mail. Vice President Jerry King volunteered to be the named Agent.
- Service Recognition/Farewell Plaques:** There was considerable discussion about the confusion surrounding recognition plaques and saying farewell to those leaving the congregation. Board Presidents have varied in not only to whom plaques should be given, but also the method in which the plaques were presented. It was agreed that the issue would be tabled until the next meeting, giving Marty time to draft a policy, email it to Board members, and for Board members to respond with their inputs.
- Restarting Committee Restructure Project (CRP):** The CRP Team members are Al Joseph, Judy Moore, Gene Pino, and Marty Smith. The mission of the Team is to realign the duties of the committees more cohesively and to reduce the number of committees. This will allow the Treasurer/Finance Committee to rebuild the Chart of Accounts. Finally, the CRP Team will draft and recommend appropriate changes to the By-Laws for the required vote of the congregation. The restructure had to be halted due to Covid-19 meeting restrictions. However, the CRP Team will be meeting soon to continue the project.
- Approval of Missions Committee Letter:** A motion was made by Marty Smith that the letter written by the Missions Committee to the congregation regarding giving to "One Great Hour of Sharing" be approved for mailing. It will also be published in the *Monthly Messenger*. The motion was seconded by Jim Kime. After discussion, the motion was approved pending modifications.
- Important Dates:**
  - Mar 28 – Palm Sunday
  - Apr 1 – Maundy Thursday, 5:00pm in-person service
  - Apr 2 – Good Friday
  - Apr 4 – Easter

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Feedback on Re-opening the Church:** Members of the ERT were disappointed that the Board did not follow their recommendation that the church remain closed. It was voiced that to-date almost everything recommended has been accepted/approved by the Board and put into action. Should the re-opening prove to be a mistake, the Board would re-address their decision. The Board wholeheartedly supports and appreciates the ERT.
- Follow-up Actions:** In response to a Board question, the ERT is considering the feasibility of determining how many congregants have/have not received the Covid-19 vaccination. Pastor James has general information he may be able to share, keeping names confidential. Pastor James said the SE Conference of the UCC and Presbytery of East TN are not officially tracking the number of their churches holding/not holding in-person services.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Missions Committee:** Because many congregants have asked for information on our church's donations, Ed Freels reported that a quarterly report on distributions will be published in the *Monthly Messenger* along with a short narrative on the Committee's decision process for those distributions. It was suggested that these reports also be posted on the church website.

#### **Property & Facilities:**

Sexton – discussion continues on hiring a sexton

Exit sign – was added to the back of the stop sign at the end of the southeast parking

Roof leaks – before the office renovation takes place, the roof in that area will be assessed and repaired if needed

Projects list – projects needing attention that may not be on the 5-year plan will be addressed

**Worship & Music:** Jerry King reported the March meeting is rescheduled to March 16. Lent and Easter plans are continuing with Pastor James.

**Technology & Communications:** Hope to kick-off the infrastructure review the end of March.

There was no additional committee information requiring attention or action by the Board at this time.

#### **Adjournment:**

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made, seconded, and approved to adjourn the meeting following prayer by John Zanichelli. Meeting adjourned at 3:15pm. The next Board meeting will be held on Thursday, March 11, at 2:00pm.

Submitted by  
Patty Smith, Minutes Clerk

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