



The Kedron Connection

**Kedron United Methodist Church-
6650 Kedron Church Road
Smyrna, TN 37167
Phone (615) 223-7858**

Website: www.kedronumc.org

Facebook: Kedron UMC

Reverend Angela Hawkins, Pastor

Phone: (615) 554-4272

Email: angelamhawkins@gmail.com

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From Our Pastor

When I was little, I used to go on hospital visits with my dad. I played in the brown-carpeted indoor children's castle at Vanderbilt, explored all the literature in the chapel at St. Thomas, and sat with people's families while they were in surgery. On the way home we ate Chinese food at Peking Gardens (which has long since closed) and stopped by the (United Methodist) Cokesbury bookstore. My dad browsed the preaching section and bought joke books. I sat in a small chair (this was before the giant ark seating area for children) and read Bernstein Bear books. We always ran into friends and colleagues and this time of year often went with the express and sole purpose of gathering gossip about clergy appointments.

On the way out of the store, my dad (who was the most frugal person I've ever met and never bought frivolous things like gum) would buy me gum out of the gum machine by the door. I didn't like gum. But I really, really liked the candy coating. By the time we got to the car, I would have eaten through the candy coating, and Dad would produce a Kleenex from his pocket (that I'm convinced he carried solely for this purpose) and took the slobbery, candy-less gum from me. Even now, when I think about that gum machine, I can't help but smile. Years later I was still hanging out in the Cokesbury store—so much so they offered me a part-time job. I worked for them off and on for ten years, meeting incredible people and learning about the publishing world. Finding resources to fit the varying needs of customers was fun and often heart-warming. Dealing with any institution, of course, also has its quirks. I had lunch one day with a friend from the General Board of Higher Education and discussed the difficulties of an institution so terrified of dying that it was hunkering down and cutting off its own air supply by refusing to take risks. I said, "If they don't do something drastically different, they're going to die!" My friend looked at me and said very calmly, "Yes. They are going to die. And that's ok. *Kerygma* (proclamation) will spring up somewhere else."

It was an eye-opening moment for me. I'd spent my entire life to that point trying to fix the church (and the publishing house) because I thought what I had experienced was what everyone needed to experience. It was disturbing to hear that the things I'd grown up with were dying—that I wouldn't be able to take my children to read Bernstein Bear books at Cokesbury. But it was also kind of relieving. And exciting—to think that we can trust that *kerygma* will continue to spring up all around us—and in us—that God is always doing a new thing, even when we can't see it yet.

Today I am writing from my ipad. The last time I was in a Cokesbury store, I bought a book that I saw in the store—I bought a kindle copy—from my phone. Today I will attend a de-consecration of the Cokesbury store I worked in for so long and we will close the doors for the last time. Times are changing. It is disturbing. And sad. And exciting and heart-warming. I can't wait to see where we will go from here—what we will think of next.

Institutions that survive for a long time must be flexible—they must be completely changeable and adaptable. They must take great risks. And often that does not happen. And that's ok. We need not fear that our children will not have their own heart-warming memories and experiences. (They may not even want my slobbery, candy-less gum in a Kleenex ☺) God is at work in all times and places. May God help us grieve—and then help us celebrate the new life that is springing up all around us—even in ipads.

Fellowship Supper

Our First-Wednesday Fellowship Supper will be May 1. Jerry York and Mike Allen go fishing and have offered to share with us. Jerry, Mike, Marc Lewis and Randy Bradshaw will cook the fish and also chicken for our supper. Thanks to these men who all relatives of Dot Pressley. Others please bring side dishes and desserts. We will eat at 6:30 p.m. Join us for this special evening of good fellowship and good food.

Men's Breakfast

The monthly First-Saturday Men's Breakfast will be May 4. We will eat at 7:00 a.m. Men, come be with us.

Choir Practice

We will continue to meet at 9:15 on Sunday mornings. We will meet briefly after Sunday morning worship services except on May 12.

Bible Study

The Bible Study led by Rev. Travis Perry continues. The group meets at Kedron on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.

Handwork Ministry

The Handwork Ministry meets the third Wednesday of the month to knit and crochet. The May 15 meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. at Kedron. Please plan to join us if you knit, crochet or want to learn.

Bucket Offerings

In May the offerings placed in the buckets carried by the children at Sunday morning worship will be contributed to Ardeth Obenauf's June mission trip to Brazil.

Mission Trip

The mission trip to Sager Brown Depot organized and led by Ron Obenauf is May 5 through May 10. Let us remember these volunteers in our prayers as they go to Louisiana to aid the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

Food Bank

You may bring donations for the Smyrna/LaVergne Food Bank to the church the first and second Sundays of the month and they will be delivered to the Food Bank. The suggested item for May is peanut butter. However, any non-perishable foods are accepted. Shampoo, deodorant and diapers are also needed.

Rutherford County Laity

The Rutherford County Laity Fellowship will meet May 20 at Blackman UMC at 7:00 p.m.

Happy Birthday to:

Travis Perry	May 8
Ron Obenauf	May 11
Lynne Lee	May 12
Lytle Hodge	May 14
Fay Fraley	May 19
Wayne Lee	May 20
Teresa Palmer	May 22
James Neville	May 26
Jackie Smith	May 26
Jeanne Neville	May 27
Linda Lee	May 30

Happy Anniversary to:

Charles & Sunya Sprinkle	May 29
Marc & Kristy Fraley	May 30

1 Chronicles 16:31 spoken by David was the quote in the April newsletter.

Outreach

At the April meeting the Administrative Council voted to contribute funds to the Sager Brown (UMCOR) mission trip and Ardeth Obenauf's mission trip to Brazil. Also it was decided to sponsor a hole at the MOJO (Men of Jesus Organization) golf tournament in May.

Who Said This?

"Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you."

NRSV (hint, Ephesians)

Praying Together

Jesus, you are the shepherd.
We are the sheep.
Bless us all day
and when we sleep.
Help us to trust
in your tender care.
Give us your blessings
and help us to share. Amen.



May Calendar

- Wednesday, May 1:
6:30 p.m. Fellowship Supper
- Thursday, May 2:
National Day of Prayer
- Saturday, May 4:
7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
- Sunday, May 5:
8:45 a.m. Sunday School
9:15 a.m. Choir Practice
9:30 a.m. Worship Service
10:30 a.m. Choir Practice
- Tuesday, May 7:
10:00 a.m. Bible Study
- Thursday, May 9:
Ascension of the Lord Day
- Sunday, May 12:
Mother's Day
8:45 a.m. Sunday School
9:15 a.m. Choir Practice
9:30 a.m. Worship Service
- Tuesday, May 14:
10:00 a.m. Bible Study
- Wednesday, May 15:
9:30 a.m. Handwork Ministry
at Kedron
- Sunday, May 19:
Day of Pentecost
8:45 a.m. Sunday School
9:15 a.m. Choir Practice
9:30 a.m. Worship Service
10:30 a.m. Choir Practice
- Tuesday, May 21:
10:00 a.m. Bible Study
- Sunday, May 26:
Trinity Sunday
8:45 a.m. Sunday School
9:15 a.m. Choir Practice
9:30 a.m. Worship Service
10:30 a.m. Choir Practice
June newsletter
information due
- Tuesday, May 28:
10:00 a.m. Bible Study

Mothers and Women in the Bible

M ___ ___ ___ Mother of Jesus (Matthew 1:18-25)

O ___ ___ ___ ___ Daughter-in-law of Naomi (Ruth 1:4-14)

T ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ Christian woman raised from the dead by Peter (Acts 9:36-43)

H ___ ___ ___ ___ Mother of Ishmael (Genesis 16:15)

E ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ Mother of John the Baptist (Luke 1:5-57)

R ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ Jacob's wife (Genesis 29:9-12)

S ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ One of the women at the tomb (Mark 16:1)

