



A. Frank Smith UMC

January 2020

Let's talk about our future

All Church meeting 2/2/2020 @ Noon

The Leadership Team met last night (1/12/2020) to discuss plans for future ministries including building out the youth room upstairs in the new wing and renovating the current Fellowship Hall and kitchen.

One of the issues we discussed was the need for more communication with our church family about the plans and decisions the Leadership team has been making. Restarting our monthly newsletter was big on our list of better communication ideas. (We decided against hiring sky writers.)

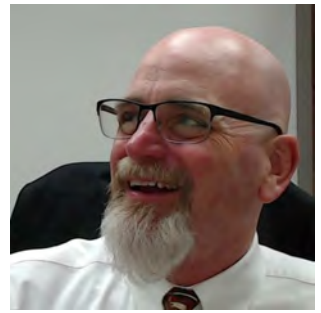
We also want to make a more concerted effort to receive input and feedback from our church family on the hopes and dreams you have for our church.

As part of this desire to share more with the members of the church, we are having an All Church meeting immediately after the worship service on February 2, 2020. This will be your opportunity to hear from the Leadership Team, ask questions, and make suggestions.

This is not a charge conference or a business meeting. It is an opportunity for you to be part of the dreaming and planning for our future.

We hope you join us February 2nd at Noon so we can start moving forward together.

An Epistle from John



Yesterday I was recording some of the chapters from *The Gospel of Mark* for our **2020 New Testament Challenge**. As I sat in my quiet office reading the passages multiple times (*you wouldn't believe how many mistakes have been made—Thanks be to God for the miracle of audio editing software*), I realized how important inflection is to the stories. Words that are on paper can have different meanings depending on the inflection you give to them.

"*Why are you thinking these things?*" is a fairly straightforward statement but inflection can change it.

"**WHY** are you thinking these things?" might show exasperation.

"*Why are **YOU** thinking these things?*" could be heard as questioning the person's intelligence.

"*Why are you thinking **THESE THINGS?***" would probably be taken as suggesting the topic was inappropriate.

The words are the same but **you** change the meaning. The inflection (attitude) you bring to the words changes everything.

When you read the bible, what attitude do you give the writers and speakers? Do you think of Jesus as kind and compassionate and therefore hear words as loving? Even his rebukes? Or do you think of God as harsh and cold so that even the most tender words carry an unpleasant undertone?

Do you hear sarcasm in the words of Paul? Or is that frustration? Or anger? Or tiredness? Inflection matters.

How about when you read something on Facebook? Inflection matters.

Now the big question, what about your life? You may be going through the same things someone else is but the inflection you bring to the circumstances make all the difference. Inflection matters.

Let's devote ourselves to bringing positive, loving, kind, inflections to our reading and to our world. The circumstances in the world may not change but how you view the world can. Inflection matters.



Dana Hargrave

Shane Austin

Marianne Cote'

Donna Cote'

Cornel Mot

Barbara Whiteman

Tommye Worley

Susanne Hargrove Hill

Deysy Castillo

Steve Selman

Clint Corley

Joan Felder

Summers & Marcia Hassell

Tommie Martin

Billy Bradley

John Burris

Milroy Weinert

Tiffany Walker

Lester & Joane Hunter

Autumn Anthony

Lisa Howard Thomson

The Schultz Family

Marjorie Warner

Rose Peacock

Ethel Best

Family of Baby Brett

Ray & Cathy Penn

Belissa Hicks

Dan Watkins & family

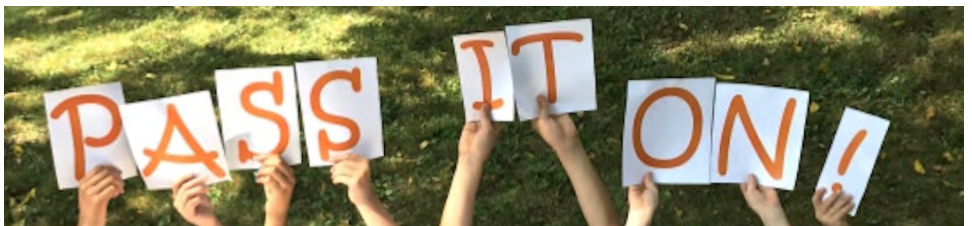
Kenny Calloway

Kenneth Walley

Don Henley

Dianne West

Dawson Grammer



Forward the email. Post it on Facebook.

Let your friends and family know about the newsletter.

UPCOMING *Mark Your Calendars* **EVENTS**



January

JANUARY 13th

United Methodist Women Meeting- 2pm in the Fellowship Hall

Sisters@Heart Meeting - 6pm in the Covenant Room

JANUARY 15th

Choir Rehearsal - 7pm in the Sanctuary

JANUARY 16th

Men's Prayer Breakfast - 6am at the River Church

JANUARY 19th

Planning & Worship Committee Meeting - 6pm in the Covenant Room

JANUARY 22nd

Choir Rehearsal - 7pm in the Sanctuary

JANUARY 23rd

Men's Prayer Breakfast - 6am at the River Church

JANUARY 29th

Choir Rehearsal - 7pm in the Sanctuary

JANUARY 30th

Men's Prayer Breakfast - 6am at the River Church

Gifts

12/1

\$9,592

12/8

\$1,692

12/15

\$4,411

12/22

\$2,025

12/29

\$1,267

DISCIPLESHIP



Presence

12/1

75

12/8

77

12/15

53

12/22

75

12/29

48

Worship

Sunday School

24

26

38

29

26



Aaron Low	Jan 01	Presley Griffith	Jan 22
Lyn Henley	Jan 02	Leslie Lankford	Jan 25
Teresa Cox	Jan 02	Cameron Cox	Jan 26
Dana Hargrove	Jan 07	Abbey Shipp	Jan 28
Harrison Allen	Jan 11	Hayden Scott	Jan 28
Madelyn Low	Jan 15	Adilyn Henley	Jan 30
Cynthia Johnson	Jan 19		



Don & Frances Henley	Jan 18
Larry & Judy Griffith	Jan 30



We don't have everyone's birthday or anniversary. If you know one that is missing from the list, please call or email Donna at the church office. (936-858-4347) donna@afsumc.org

2020 New Testament Challenge

1/13—Matthew 6

1/14—Matthew 7

1/15—Matthew 8

1/16—Matthew 9

1/17—Matthew 10

1/20—Matthew 11

1/21—Matthew 12

1/22—Matthew 13

1/23—Matthew 14

1/24—Matthew 15

1/27—Matthew 16

1/28—Matthew 17

1/29—Matthew 18

1/30—Matthew 19

1/31—Matthew 20

2/3—Matthew 21

2/4—Matthew 22

2/5—Matthew 23

2/6—Matthew 24

2/7—Matthew 25

2/10—Matthew 26

2/11—Matthew 27

2/12—Matthew 28

2/13—Mark 1

2/14—Mark 2

2/17—Mark 3

2/18—Mark 4

2/19—Mark 5

2/20—Mark 6

2/21—Mark 7

2/24—Mark 8

2/25—Mark 9

2/26—Mark 10

2/27—Mark 11

2/28—Mark 12

3/2—Mark 13

3/3—Mark 14

3/4—Mark 15

3/5—Mark 6

3/6—Luke 1

3/9—Luke 2

3/10—Luke 3

3/11—Luke 4

3/12—Luke 5

3/13—Luke 6

3/16—Luke 7

3/17—Luke 8

3/18—Luke 9

3/19—Luke 10

3/20—Luke 11

**SIGN UP
NOW!**

Email Pastor John to get the daily email that includes both the text for the day and a link to Pastor John's recording of the daily reading.

john@afsumc.org

