

## CALLED TOGETHER PRAYER STATIONS

Sunday, September 10 – Sunday, October 15

Main Floor of BUMC

Throughout our Called Together Series, eight prayer stations will be available on the main floor of the church. These interactive stations invite us to pray with intention for our church and the people, places, needs, and ministries to which we are all called. The stations are self-directed and allow you to participate in just one between worship services on a Sunday or come by during the week and slowly work through all eight.

Station	Location	Color on Map
Called Together for our <b>Children</b>	Playground/Nursery Breezeway	Yellow
Called Together for our <b>Online Community</b>	Narthex, outside Elevator	Light Green
Called Together for our <b>Community</b>	Narthex, near Prayer Garden Entrance	Red
Called Together for <b>Worship</b>	Narthex, near Sanctuary Entrance	Blue
Called Together for <b>Each Other</b>	Haney Hall Breezeway	Pink
Called Together for our <b>Students</b>	Main Lobby	Green
Called Together for <b>Hope</b>	Memorial Chapel	Light Blue
Called Together for <b>Healing Housing</b>	A291/A292 Hallway	Orange

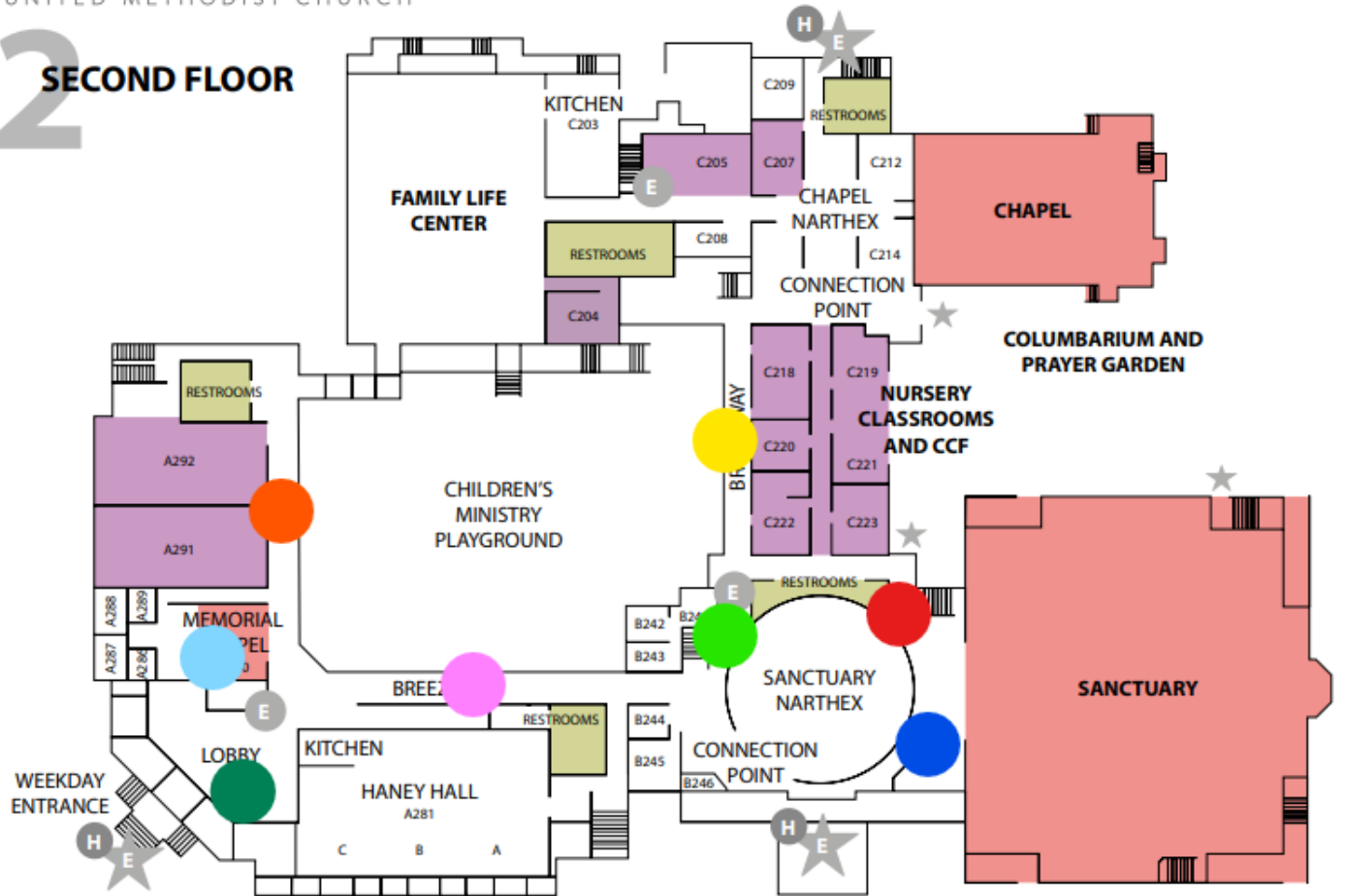


### BUILDING MAP LEGEND

- CLASSROOMS
- WORSHIP CENTERS
- RESTROOMS
- BUILDING ENTRANCE
- E ELEVATOR ACCESS
- H HANDICAP ENTRANCE

## 2

### SECOND FLOOR



## **CALLED TOGETHER: FOR EACH OTHER**

*And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,  
to which indeed you were called in one body.  
And be thankful.  
Colossians 3:15*

Although we are looking forward to renovations on our building that will sustain Christ's ministry through this congregation, we know that the church is bigger than the building.

The church is the people. The body of Christ. The disciples of Christ who are seeking and learning and worshiping and growing. The children of God who are lost and lonely and broken and tired.

You will see stacks of index cards. Each card has a family name on it and represents each household that makes up our congregation.

Pick up a card (or several cards) and hold it in your hands. Read the name(s) and pray for that home:

*God, remember the \_\_\_\_\_ family. Be with them and never leave them.  
Give them signs of your goodness. Help them. Comfort them.  
May they put their hope in you and travel along your paths for them.  
Amen.*

Now that you have prayed for them, place your finger in the ink and leave your fingerprint on the poster. Write the name of the family you prayed for on top of your fingerprint. Remember that our fingerprints never fade from the ones we touch. Trust that your prayer has reached God today and touched the one for whom you prayed. Take that card with you and continue praying for that family.

## **CALLED TOGETHER: FOR OUR COMMUNITY**

*Beloved, since God loved us so much,  
we also ought to love one another.  
1 John 4:11*

These colorful flags are inspired by an ancient Tibetan tradition. It is said that as the elements of weather blow these cloth squares, the prayers written on them will be sent out into the world as blessings in the wind. We imagine that as God's breath blows through these flags, the prayers they bear are spread far and wide.

We are making our own prayer flags to claim our desire for peace in the world and in our lives. Find a blank prayer flag on the banner. Use a marker to write a word, name, phrase, or prayer that represents your hope for our community and for our world.

You may want to pray for love between neighbors, peace in communities, hope for our future, reconciliation of broken relationships, relief from disasters, wisdom in leadership. And you may want to intercede for our neighbors on Franklin Road, the mission and ministry of other churches in our community, the concerns of our city/county/state, the division in the United States, or any number of concerns for our world.

When you are finished, hold the flag tightly in your hands and pray over what you have written. These will be hung in our Prayer Garden campus for these prayers to be sent out into the world.

## CALLED TOGETHER: FOR OUR CHILDREN

*But Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."  
And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.  
Matthew 19:14-15*

At BUMC, we see children leading worship as acolytes. We celebrate milestones of faith with them. We are inspired when our children's choirs sing in worship and when we see hundreds of kids gathered for Vacation Bible School. They have deep wells of energy and passion. They ask big, important questions about God and about the Bible and about how it all works. Even while coloring in their bulletin during worship, they are listening and growing and absorbing the language of faith.

Jesus joyfully welcomed children into his presence and laid his hands on them. Today, we use our hands to pray for our children, too.

Flatten the kinetic sand before you. Place your hand in the sand so you can see your handprint. Look at each of your five fingers. Trace your fingers in the sand slowly and pray for our children and the ones who surround them.

**Thumb:** Pray for the children closest to you: your own kids, grandkids, nieces/nephews, etc.

**Pointer:** Pray for Parents, our Kids Ministry Volunteers, and our preschool teachers

**Middle:** Pray for the Kids Ministry Staff (Ellen, Abby, Heather, Kathleen, Gretchen, Lori, Jenny)

**Ring:** Pray for Kids who have never been to BUMC, but will grow up here in the future

**Pinkie:** Pray for yourself – that God would open you to ways to love and lead our kids

## **CALLED TOGETHER: FOR OUR STUDENTS**

*If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.  
If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me and night wraps itself around me,"  
even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.  
Psalm 139:9-12*

Our teenagers may appear confident and strong, but underneath their brave exterior is an interior world that can be filled with worry and anxiety.

They are being driven to succeed in every arena of their lives while also worrying about making their parents proud, staying connected to their friends, and simply fitting in. They are spinning so many plates while receiving so much pressure from different places, including themselves.

Before you is a collection of rocks. A rock is an element of the earth. It is heavy and strong. It is grounded and stable. A rock is peaceful and still.

Choose a rock and hold it in your hands. Pay attention to its temperature when you pick it up. Notice the warmth it receives from your hands. Allow it to feel heavy in your palms. As you hold that rock, search for peace in the moment, the simple peace of a rock.

As you hold that rock, remember our teenagers. Remember the heavy burdens they are bearing and their need for peace. Pray for our students at BUMC and the teenagers in our community. Pray that they may know God's peace and the comfort of God's presence. When you are finished, place your rock in the cylinder. We will give this pillar of rocks to the Student Ministry as a symbol of their church's prayers for them.

## **CALLED TOGETHER: FOR WORSHIP**

*Praise the Lord! Praise God in his sanctuary;  
praise him in his mighty firmament!  
Praise him for his mighty deeds;  
praise him according to his surpassing greatness!  
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord!  
Psalm 150:1-2, 6*

While our styles of worship will vary, the subject of our worship never changes. We gather to worship the Triune God who is so very worthy of our praise!

Besides the holy scriptures in the Bible, the songs of our faith in our hymnal have instructed us and shaped our understanding of God more than any other text. Our hymns have influenced the modern music that is being written today, the new music that is speaking souls with new melodies and new poetry.

But as we continue to sing new songs to God, it is important that we not forget the old ones. The hymns that remind us of our parents or grandparents. The hymns that we hum when we're anxious. The hymns that we sing to our children. The hymns that remind us who we are.

In front of you is a community hymnal. Flip through the pages. Find a song you love. And sign your name in the margins next to a song that matters to you, a song that speaks to you, a song that reminds you of who you are. Your name is left in this hymnal as a commitment to continue to bring your praises to God regardless of the space in which you gather to do that.

## **CALLED TOGETHER: FOR HOPE**

*So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:  
everything old has passed away;  
look, new things have come into being!  
2 Corinthians 5:17*

Most of us have known darkness. We have been broken and unable to recognize God's work in the world and each other. The pain and suffering in front of us can blind us to the light. The darkness worries us, troubles us, distracts us.

Some of the darkness is inside of us. Some of the darkness swirls around us in the lives of the people we love.

It is in the form of addiction, anger, jealousy, prejudice, depression, loneliness, abuse, materialism, anxiety, hopelessness, fear, illness, heartbreak, insecurity, job loss, doubt, rejection.

Consider the darkness that disturbs you. Light a candle to break through the darkness. Take time in Memorial Chapel to pray and simply be still in the presence of God.

Memorial Chapel is always open, even once these prayer stations have been moved out. Come to this space anytime for prayer and silence.

## CALLED TOGETHER: FOR OUR ONLINE COMMUNITY

*“The Lord watch between you and me, when we are absent one from the other.”  
Genesis 31:49b*

On Sundays in worship, we always greet our online worshippers at the beginning of the service. But so often the distance between us creates a spiritual distance within the church family. We forget that each person worshipping online is a unique and precious child of God who is connected by streaming for a variety of reasons:

They are **aging**. The members on whose shoulders we stand. They worship from assisted living facilities and memory care and their private residences.

They are **sick**. Under the care of doctors, unable to leave a hospital bed or unwilling to risk getting sicker. They worship from hospital rooms and rehab facilities and easy chairs.

They are **out of town**. Worshipping with us after moving or having never been on campus. They worship from Minnesota and Maine and Florida and Virginia, all over the US and world.

They are **college students**. Far from home and remaining connected to their church family. They worship from dorm rooms and apartments.

They are **exhausted**. Hungry for good news and connection but unable to get everyone dressed and out the door. They worship from porches and sofas and bean bags and recliners.

They are **depressed**. Too weary to be around other people, but not too weary to tune in. They worship from bed and blankets and a cup of coffee.

They are **traveling**. Out of town for work or play, but not willing to miss worship with their church. They worship from beaches and mountains and campsites and lakes.

For these reasons and more, hundreds of people are joining us online every week. We give thanks for their role in the body of Christ and the greater unity we know because of them.

Look over the silhouette images on the poster. As you do, recognize that while you can't see their faces, each one represents a child of God. Pray that God would connect your heart to the hearts of our brothers and sisters who worship with us online. Next time you arrive for worship, use the last minutes before the service begins as an opportunity to pray for online worshippers. Maybe even take the time to light a candle at one of the candle stations for them.



## **CALLED TOGETHER: FOR HEALING HOUSING**

*“Who needs a doctor: the healthy or the sick?  
I’m here inviting outsiders, not insiders—  
an invitation to a changed life, changed inside and out.”  
Luke 5:31-32, The Message*

Healing Housing is a nonprofit residential recovery program serving women with limited resources throughout Middle Tennessee who are healing from addiction. They provide women a stable home and extensive support services, rooted in love, acceptance and the power of community, to women transitioning from drug and alcohol treatment.

They seek to provide women the tools, structure, and loving environment in which they can remain sober, find mental health and financial stability, and develop their own spiritual path.

We know that addiction does not discriminate. It is a disease that has touched every family. We give thanks that women are getting lasting help in recovery through Healing Housing. We are thankful for women finding purpose, community, faith and new life through this transformational ministry.

At Healing Housing, they say “Love Lives Here.” And while we know that love *does* already live here in the form of God’s love for the women, their love for each other, and the love of volunteers and partners, we want to send them even more love.

Write a brief note expressing your love for these women, even though you don’t know them. Your note can take the shape of encouragement, scripture, support, or hope. It can be as short as a couple words or several sentences. Once you have written your little love note to the residents of Healing Housing, place it in the box. At the conclusion of these stations, we will deliver all of these notes as a bundle of love to Healing Housing.