



TO
EARTH
COME
DOWN

12.22.24



COLLIERVILLE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

454 W. POPLAR AVE.
& 104 N. ROWLETT ST.
COLLIERVILLE, TN 38017
WWW.COLLIERVILLEUMC.ORG
901.853.8383



WALK TO THE MANGER: During this season of Christmas celebrations, we often look for ways to share blessings with those around us. This year we would like to give you the opportunity to choose a ministry to support with your “Walk to the Manger” Christmas Offering. Which vital area(s) of ministry and mission at Collierville

UMC, would you like to make a difference in this year? Visit here to see the list of ministries and our target goals. Go to www.colliervilleumc.org/pledge to see the list of ministries and donate online or pick up a “Walk to the Manger” card outside either Sanctuary, select your ministries and turn it in with an accompanying check. THANK YOU for being a blessing to others! - Dr. Deborah C. Suddarth, Senior Pastor

YEAR END CONTRIBUTION REMINDERS 2024: Please note these important dates for all year end giving:

- Church Office open to receive donations December 30/31, 9am – 3pm
- The office will be closed 12/23-12/27
- All checks and online giving must be received on or before 12/31/24, to be reported as 2024 contributions.
- All stocks must be transferred/received by 12/20/24. Please call Debbie Ray for details on how to make this type of contribution.
- Online Giving: contributions made electronically that are received on or after 1/1/25 will be reported in 2025. Please consider making electronic gifts well in advance of 12/31/24 as it can take up to three days to process.
- Year End Statements will be emailed or mailed (if no email) in January.

Your continued support insures vital ministries take place in and through Collierville UMC. Thank you for being generous!

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS MARKET: This is a great way to purchase a meaningful gift for the people on your Christmas shopping list. You can purchase a card (any denomination) to give as a gift denoting that you made a contribution to your selected missions group. We will have a table set up in the Narthex of the Poplar Sanctuary each Sunday beginning 12/8 and going until close to Christmas!

We will be able to take checks, cash, and credit cards. Come see us!! Questions? Contacts: Katie Landers, katie.landern@gmail.com, Erin Bakken, ebakken@colliervilleumc.org.



DR. DEBORAH SUDDARTH STARTS SABBATICAL:

1/1/25 Many of you are aware that a couple of months ago the Staff Parish Relations Committee recommended and the Administrative Board approved sabbatical leave for the Rev. Dr. Deborah Suddarth. I want to remind everyone that Dr. Deborah's sabbatical will commence 1/1, just after the Advent and Christmas season rush, and run for 3 months ending 3/31/25.

The United Methodist Book of Discipline paragraph 350 says: “A clergy member may request a formational and spiritual growth leave of up to six months while continuing to hold an appointment in the local church. Such leaves are available to clergy members who have held full-time appointments for at least six years. Such a leave shall be with the approval of the [staff-parish relations committee], the [administrative board], and the district superintendent.”

Dr. Deborah has been with our church, CUMC, for 9.5 years, 6 as Executive Pastor and 3.5 as Senior Pastor. During her time of service, she has walked alongside us through a tumultuous stretch, including the untimely death of then Senior Pastor David Atkinson, the appointment [promoting her] to be our Senior Pastor, a contentious disaffiliation process, and the exit of many after the failed disaffiliation vote. Deborah then hired and rebuilt the staff team, pulled all of us church members together to revamp and revitalize our missions and ministries, ensuring a vital future for our congregation.

The SPRC wants Dr. Deb to have this personal and family time away for her own formational and spiritual growth. This will allow Dr. Deb to return with a renewed spirit and energy to lead us toward a new vision and core values that she, along with the Leadership Council, launched in November. Please keep her and her family in your prayers. Sincerely, Bill Daniels - Chairperson, Staff Parish Relations Committee

FRIDAYS AT THE POPLAR CAMPUS: Beginning 1/3, we will be closing most of the Poplar Campus building on Fridays to minimize unneeded costs. There will be staff working in the office, if you would like to meet with them, please contact them to set up an appointment. We have several Friday events that will still occur as planned and the Preschool will adhere to their normal schedule.



CHURCH MERCH: We are so excited that we now have ways to rep our church in our every day lives. We've got tees, tumblers, stickers, koozies and yard signs! Where? You can find us on Sunday mornings in the Narthex (by the Bride's Room). We take cash, checks and credit cards. These things make great Christmas gifts, too! Email Erin Bakken for more info: ebakken@colliervilleumc.org.

GIVING OPTIONS: Thank you for your continued financial support and generosity to further God's Mission and Vision through Collierville UMC! Thank you for being a blessing. Here are multiple options for you to utilize at this time:

- USPS: 454 W. Poplar, Collierville, TN 38017
- www.colliervilleumc.org/giving
- Church Center App

A poster for Christmas Eve Services on 12/24. The background is dark with stars. At the top, it says "CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES 12/24". On the right, there is a graphic of a globe with a Christmas ornament hanging from it, and the text "TO EARTH COME DOWN". The poster lists three service times: 4PM at Poplar Sanctuary (Modern Worship, Infant-5yr, Nursery available), 7PM at Sanctuary on the Square (Traditional Worship, Infant-5yr, Nursery available), and 10PM at Sanctuary on the Square (Traditional Worship). The website www.colliervilleumc.org is listed at the bottom.

WHO WE ARE: COLLIERVILLEUMC.ORG/WHOWEARE

VISION: *"Reaching out to transform lives by extending God's love to all."*

Our vision is to extend the hope, love, peace, and joy we experience in Christ to all of those around us, so that they, too, might truly experience Christ's transforming power in their life.

MISSION: *"To know Christ and to make Him known."*

We engage and connect people with a saving knowledge of Christ and then equip and send them to do the same for others.



SCRIPTURE • LOVE • HUMILITY • SERVANTHOOD • MISSIONS

NEXT STEPS:

JOIN/CONNECT: We want to make it easy for you to build lasting friendships and find people who share your interests. Our purpose is to help you connect to Christ and a faith community. Whether you're new here, attended for awhile, or are ready to jump right in, we are here to help you connect to a strong community that learns, serves and grows together: colliervilleumc.org/groups

SERVE: When you serve at Collierville United Methodist Church, you are a vital part of a team committed to helping you, and others, grow in Christ. We have serving opportunities that fit your gifts and availability: colliervilleumc.org/serve

CARE: You don't have to go through difficult seasons alone. Whatever you're facing, we know that a first step in a hard journey is to talk to someone. We have trained volunteers who listen and pray with people about whatever is going on in their life. colliervilleumc.org/careandsupport

GIVE: There is no better return on an investment than giving to God through the local church. If you feel led to give to the mission, vision, and ministry of this church, please visit our website for secure and automated giving: colliervilleumc.org/give

PASTOR ON CALL: If you need to talk with a pastor during an emergency or let the church know that you or another member are in the hospital please call 901.471.6630.



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