

**Overall Survey Results: First United Methodist Church
August/September 2009**

- Total average attendance August/September = @170
- Total Membership = 471 (**according to roll; plus 12 affiliate members. Several on the list no longer attend FUMC, but haven't transferred membership elsewhere.)
- Total # survey respondents = 126 which is a 74% response from regular attendees or 26% total membership**

% given is based on the total # responses per question. All % are rounded up.

The survey was divided into categories that focused on our purpose statement:
The purpose of First United Methodist Church is to lead people to Christ (evangelism), nurture them in the faith (Christian education), incorporate them into the family (fellowship and communications), prepare them for ministry (Christian education), that God might be loved and worshiped (worship).

As you read the survey and think about the responses, please be mindful of how each work area supports the FUMC mission statement. Think about how you can use your gifts and talents to help make our programs better than they already are.

Gender: 77 female, 50 male

0-17	9
18-23	10
24-34	13
35-54	23
55-64	26
65-74	27
75-84	12
85-89	3
90+	3

Membership in # years

Within past year	11	
Member 1-5 years	21	
Member 5-10 years	19	
Member 10-15 years	12	
Member 15-20 years	3	
Member more than 20 years	52	
Not a member	6	
Did not respond to question	1	

Small group involvement

involved in Sunday School	83/126	
in an FUMC Bible Study		
in an FUMC Small Group	10/126	8%

Choir	18/126	14%
Bells	9/126	7%
Women in UMW	31/77	40%
Quorum	9/126	7%
Paradigm	12/126	9%
Aldersgate	7/126	5%
Men's Study Group	7/50	14%
Church Work Area	33/126	26%
Administrative Area	19/126	15%

Community Awareness of FUMC

FUMC not well known in area	22/126	17%	FUMC efforts to raise awareness of church programming insufficient	51/126	40%
FUMC is well known	67/126	53%	Believe FUMC efforts sufficient	31/126	25%
Unsure	36/126	28.5%	Unsure	43/126	34%

New Member Education Classes

interested in New Member Education classes	106/126	84%			
what it means to be a Christian	43/126	34%			
structure of the United Methodist Church, local to global	68/126	54%			
Past/present of FUMC	52/126	41%			
Opportunities to serve at FUMC	77/126	61%			

Communications Data:

- 59/126 use Facebook
- 13/126 use Twitter
- 17/126 use LinkedIn
- 16/126 use My Space
- 7/126 use Google Pages

The *most effective* methods of communication

Announcements	5	.03%
Call/post	2	.02%
Website	2	.02%
Phone	3	.02%
Small groups	3	.02%
Tidings (email)	27	21%
Tidings (USPS)	49	38%
Social networking sites	14	11%
Word of mouth	6	.04%
Worship bulletin	6	.04%

Other	5	.03%
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Receive Tidings by: (these are raw numbers out of 126 responses, not %)

- postal service = 75
- email = 34
- both ways = 8
- do not receive it at all = 5

Contribute to Tidings:

- often = 8
- sometimes = 33
- rarely = 45
- did not know they could contribute to the Tidings = 11
- never contribute = 35

Prefer Announcements during worship:

- printed and said aloud = 76
- only printed = 37
- just given aloud by liturgist = 9

How Groups Communicate:

Email	87	69%
Call post	11	.09%
Phone	73	58%
USPS	20	16%
Word of mouth	60	48%
Tidings	48	38%
Social networking sites	32	25%

Church wide planning event participation:

Interested in church-wide events/activities	51	40%
Might be interested in church-wide events/activities	50	40%
Not interested	9	.07%
Unsure	9	.07%
Willing to participate in all day planning event	19	15%
Participate in 2-hour discussion forum	72	57%
Participate in weekend retreat	26	21%

Not interested (planning event) 31 25%

Missions Data:

FUMC offers me the opportunities I need in missions: (number responses/ not %)

- 41 strongly agree
- 58 agree
- 17 neither agree nor disagree
- 0 disagree

- 0 strongly disagree
- 4 do not know
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Have/have not participated in mission trip:

Never been	66
1-2 trips	30
3-5 trips	15
5-7 trips	2
7-10 trips	2
10 or more trips	5

Of those who have never been on a mission trip, people would be more willing to go if:

Shorter trip	11
Longer trip	5
More affordable	17
Local	23
Abroad	10
Construction purpose	12
Medical purpose	11
Education purpose	16
If church-wide	9
Limited to small group	8
Different time of year	6
Not interested in going	22

Unable to go: 18

FUMC has been to: Morgan-Scott County, Guatemala, ASP, New Orleans, Virginia, Kentucky, Hancock County, Arizona, Missouri, North Carolina, Costa Rica, Hungary, Alaska, and Sneedville.

Participation in local mission projects:

- 76 with the Angel Tree = 60% of survey participants
- 60 with Holston Conference mission kits
- 54 with bell-ringing for the Salvation Army
- 52 with FISH
- 42 with Morgan-Scott
- 39 respondents have worked with KARM
- 39 with the Burundi family
- 38 with the Wesley House
- 20 with IHF
- 20 with the Emerald Youth Foundation
- 10 with the Linus Project

FUMC members also participate in Habitat, Mobile Meals, Ronald McDonald House, Volunteer Ministry Center and Holston Home for Children.

Worship Data:

FUMC offers me the opportunities I need in worship:

Strongly agree	56	44%
Agree	59	47%
Neither agree nor disagree	1	.007%
Strongly disagree	2	.02%
Does not know	1	.007%

Which service do you attend?

	8:30	10:45	12:30	
	0			
Weekly	36	87	20	
Monthly	7	11	0	
Occasionally	39	10	11	
Annually	1	2	6	
Never	36	9	83	

Regarding the 8:30 service:

- 4 of those who attend do so in addition to other services
- 16 go in place of other services.

I attend worship because:

Inspiration	102	
Family attends	44	
Music	88	
Sermon	104	
Fellowship	93	
Children's sermon	18	
Prayer time	54	

Willing to adapt to a change in Sunday morning schedule:

Yes	87	69%
Maybe	23	18%
Unsure	5	.04%
No	5	.04%

From 'education' data: "would be willing to rotate the Sunday school hour and worship hour to have a lesson which corresponded with the sermon":

Willing	70	55%
Maybe	25	20%

Unsure	17	13%
No	10	7%

I am satisfied with the music in worship:

- 62 strongly agree
- 41 agree
- 11 neither agree nor disagree
- 5 disagree
- 1 does not know

Music congregation prefers to sing:

- 62 people prefer to sing classical/traditional music
- 48 gospels and spirituals
- 36 contemporary/praise
- 55 a variety

Music styles people want to hear:

- 68 traditional music
- 39 gospel
- 41 contemporary
- 67 a variety
- 51 people want an anthem
- 52 a solo
- 46 a duet
- 49 an instrumental
- 102 a variety

Admin/Church Council/Trustees/Staff-Parish Data:

Use of Church Facilities:

- 54 find it easy to schedule use.
- 10 find it easy to schedule use, but have trouble getting into the building.
- 2 people do not find it easy to schedule use,
- 53 people have never scheduled use of the church facilities.
- 1 person did not know that use of the church facilities must be scheduled.
- 55 people do not know who to call if they encounter problems in the building.

Who they would contact to get Involved/Lay leadership team:

call the pastor	54	43%
lay leadership team	7	.05%
leader of group interested in	71	56%
Other staff members	30	24%
A fellow member	62	49%
Use comment card	6	.05%

Wait for invitation	4	.03%
Do not know what to do	6	.05%

In the case of a personal concern or problem people would feel comfortable approaching:

Pastor	103	82%
Other staff	32	25%
Other staff	28	22%
Prayer team	42	33%
Fellow member	76	60%
Small group/SS leader	53	42%
Small group/SS member	40	32%
Would not feel comfortable approaching anyone	3	.02%

Church staff members are easy to find and accessible to me when I need them.

Strongly agree	39	31%
Agree	61	48%
Neither agree nor disagree	12	10%
Disagree	5	.04%
Strongly disagree	0	0%
Do not know	3	.02%

Fellowship Data:

FUMC offers me the opportunities I need in fellowship:

- 38 strongly agree
- 58 agree
- 13 neither agree nor disagree
- 8 disagree
- 1 strongly disagrees
- 2 don't know

I get to know members through:

Monthly mixers	30	24%
Small groups and SS classes	88	70%
Ritual of friendship	56	44%
Visitation	11	.09%
Don't have formal opportunity to meet other members	8	.06%

Christian Education Data:

FUMC offers me the opportunities I need in Christian Education:

- 20 strongly agree = 16%
- 74 Agree = 59%
- 13 Neither agree nor disagree = 10%
- 7 disagree = 5%

- 1 strongly disagrees = .07%
- 7 do not know = 5%

Sunday School Class participation: involved in some SS class = 88

Of the 88 involved in Sunday School:	
Participate in Children's SS	4
Participate in Youth SS	6
Keystone	9
Trinity	10
Joy	27
Disciple	10
Christian Forum	21
Pilgrimage	4

Those in Sunday School Classes chose their class based on:

- Age= 43
- Life stage=46
- common interest=51
- topics of study=35

Other reasons for choice of SS class included : "people we felt comfortable with," "need to help start/support new class-Keystone," "Deep and enduring relationships," "More Bible in the Sunday School lessons than other classes I visited," "Matt leading youth," "review Bible," "members," "friends," "expertise of leader," "minister recommended and ss leader called," "the friendship and support of class members," "compatibility with other Sunday School members," "format of class," "really liked the person teaching when we first started attending-- Professor at UT, long gone, forgot his name"

Desired topics for Sunday School Classes:

book or series study	11/126	8%
more in-depth scriptural study	30/126	24%
Contemporary issues	19/126	15%
Their stage of life	17/126	13%
More variety in lessons	38/126	30%

Those NOT in a Sunday school Class = 38 or 30%

Of those 38; under age 18	6	16% (of 38 respondents)
Ages 24-34	7	18%
18-23	9	24%
35-54	4	11%
55-64	3	7%
Over 65	7	18%

Of the 38 not attending, they would attend if:

At a different time	9
On different day of week	6
Lesson correspond with sermon	3
More blending of age groups	3
A group for their own age	9
Lessons on contemporary issues	13
Not interested in attending at all	11

“Would be willing to rotate the Sunday school hour and worship hour to have a lesson which corresponded with the sermon”:

Willing	70	55%
Maybe	25	20%
Unsure	17	13%
No	10	7%

Christian Education/Children’s Program: Children involved: 12 have children under the age of 12. 2 responded that their children are involved in the CDC.

Wednesday evenings	#	%	Children’s Ministry	#	%	Vacation Bible School	#	%
Weekly	7	58%	Always	6	59%	Always	3	25%
Occasionally	3	25%	Sometimes	2	16%	Sometimes	4	33%
Never	2	16%	Never	1	.08%	Rarely	1	.08%
						Never	4	

Christian Education/Youth Program: Of the 9 youth that responded,

Always participate in Quorum	4	44%
Rarely	4	44%
Never	1	11%

Christian Education/College Program: Of the 10 college students who responded

Always participate in Paradigm	7	70%
Sometimes	2	20%
Never	1	10%

Christian Education/Young Adult Program: Of the 15 young adults who responded

Always participate in Aldersgate	5	33%
Sometimes	3	20%
Rarely	2	13%
Never	5	33%