

# Florence United Methodist Church

Spring 2023

## Pastoral Staff

**Senior Pastor:** Dr. David Grout

**Associate Pastor:** Rev. Anna Merlo

**Church Office:** 859-371-7961

## Welcome To Florence!

See [www.florenceumc.com/live](http://www.florenceumc.com/live) for more info. Please send prayer requests to [doris@florenceumc.com](mailto:doris@florenceumc.com) or call the church office!



**Pastor David's Retirement**  
Congratulations to Pastor David Grout retiring this year after 40+ years in ministry. Pastor David has faithfully served at Florence Methodist for the past 5 years.

On Sunday, June 4th we will have one service at 10:00 a.m. and a retirement brunch immediately following the service. Please plan on attending the service and the brunch to wish The Grouts the best in their future endeavors. A basket for cards/gifts will be available for well wishes. Pastor David and Pam will be moving to Florida sometime in the fall. We thank God for their ministry and wish them all the best!

## 2023 VBS is coming!!

**Monday – Friday, July 10-14**

9 am – Noon: Morning session for 4 yrs old – 6<sup>th</sup> grade **9 a.m. Registration is closed (Full).**

6:00 – 8:30 pm: Evening session for K – 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Volunteers are needed to make this a wonderful experience for children! We need teachers, game leaders, Hospitality Team and have many more areas to serve.

Youth helpers! (7th grade -12th grade)

Childcare is available for volunteers' children 3 and under.  
Contact: Anna Merlo 859-445-8866 or [anna@florenceumc.com](mailto:anna@florenceumc.com)



## 50th Wedding Anniversaries

Any couples who have celebrated or will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in 2023, please contact Doris in the church office:859-371-7961 or Joy Tucker by email: [aetucker@fuse.net](mailto:aetucker@fuse.net). A reception is being planned for our 50th anniversary couples! More news to follow in the June newsletter.

## Congratulations to Our Graduates

Graduate	School	Plans to Attend in Fall:
Colin Albrecht	Ryle	University of Kentucky
Brooklyn Cole	Boone	Northern Kentucky University
Caroline Duvall	Ryle	University of Kentucky
Matthew Merlo	Conner	University of Louisville
Michael Morelli	Conner	Northern Kentucky University
Mari Odland	Ryle	Eastern Kentucky University

Graduate	Graduating From	Area of Study
Kylie Cummings	NKU	BA, Education
Cory Cummings	Gateway	AAS, Nursing
Jake Gideon	Western Michigan	BS
Abby Joslin	Gateway	AAS, Medical Ass't
Stephen Lee	NKU	BS, Communications
Hope Marsh	Kentucky Wesleyan	BS, Zoology
Kellie Reeves	Trine University	BS, Nursing

# *From your friends at Florence UMC*

## Missions & Ministries

**Be Concerned: 859-291-1340**

**SNL Mission: Meal served on the  
2nd Sunday of month**

**Ida Spence Mission  
ginac.idaspence@gmail.com**

All of these groups appreciate donations of one serving size portions of easy to open canned goods, laundry detergents, and personal hygiene items . The large olive green donation bins are in the breezeway

Submissions for the next edition of the Community Connection are due **no later than June 10, 2023**



Creative Beginnings Christian Preschool Board is looking for 2 new members for the upcoming school year. One will be the treasurer. If you have a heart for children and for faith-based academics and would like to serve this way, please reach out to Katie O'Neill

[katie\\_jennings@hotmail.com](mailto:katie_jennings@hotmail.com)

### **Ministry Highlight: Sunday Night Live**

Every Second Sunday of the Month we serve a meal at SNL (formerly known as Grace Mission) now located at the First Christian Church, 14 W 5th Street in Covington. We also give out bags with food and basic hygiene items. Every month Amy Joslin and her family pack the "necessity bags". We are running low on much needed staples for this ministry. Please donate items for the food bags for SNL: Peanut butter, granola bars, Spaghetti in individual one serving size, Vienna Sausages, Crackers, packets of cookies, etc. Also needed, bottled water, hygiene items. Thank you for thinking of our homeless community and for providing food and comfort.

## Upcoming Events

**June 4** Pastor David's Retirement Reception

**June 18** Rev. Michael Sweeney's first Sunday

**June 25-30:** Mission Trip to Hinton Center, NC

**June 27:** Hoxworth Blood Drive

**July 10-14:** VBS (mark your calendars to serve!)



Every five minutes, someone in the Tri-State area needs blood. We are in the midst of a national blood shortage and need all eligible donors to make an appointment. Our church is having a blood drive on June 27. The best way to make an appointment is to click on the link that is in the Friday email newsletter or if you prefer, go to the Hoxworth website: [donateblood.uc.edu](http://donateblood.uc.edu) and find our Church link for June 27 12 noon to 6 p.m. to schedule your appointment.

### **Sunday Servants Needed**

Each week we need a certain number of volunteers to help facilitate our Sunday Worship Services. Help is need in the following areas: Door Greeter , Welcome Center Greeter

Children's Check In for Nursery and Children's Church

Ushers for bulletins and passing offering plates

Coffee Ministry

If you can help in any of these areas, fill out the form at the Welcome Center or call the church office 859-371-7961!

Thank you for your willingness to serve!

*My peace  
I give unto you  
Let not your heart  
be troubled,  
neither let it be afraid.*



*John 14:27*