



RE: Update on Church Security Measures after Sunday night shooting near FUMC.

September 20, 2021

Sunday, September 19, a high school student was walking home around 8:30 PM after attending our student ministry program when two assailants exited a vehicle and started shooting at him. This took place several blocks from our church campus. Contrary to rumors, **the shooting did not take place on church property**. Thank God he was not hit or physically injured. The Stuttgart Police Department responded quickly and put the student into protection.

A meeting convened at noon today to brief participants on the facts and timeline of the event and to review our current security measures for our children, students, and adults. The meeting included Administrative Board Chairman George Dunklin, the Administrative Board Vice Chairwoman Rebecca Seyller, Finance Chairman Carl Brothers, the chairman of the church's Security Committee Ricky White, Pooh White our Student Discipleship pastor and Pastor Bryan Fink.

We have taken security seriously the last couple of years, even hiring an armed security officer to patrol the campus during our Sunday and Wednesday evening ministries. We also have a highly trained security team in place on Sunday mornings during our worship services. Additionally, we installed brighter outdoor lighting and security cameras throughout the campus.

It was determined that FUMC will take your security and the security of our children and students to the next level by doing the following:

- We are arranging to add a second officer to help patrol the premises on Sunday and Wednesday evenings, beginning this Wednesday.
- The Security Committee will add more cameras around the premises and more lights. Especially, but not limited to the parking lot west of the Christian Life Center and the lot immediately south of the Christian Education building.
- The Stuttgart Police Department will increase their visibility with patrols around the church campus on Wednesday and Sunday during children and youth activities.
- We are also instituting immediately, a strict drop off and pick up time for the Sunday and Wednesday student and children's activities.

Sunday:

Students are to arrive between **5:15-5:30 PM** and picked up from **7:00-7:15 PM** on Sundays at the main entrance to the Christian Life Center.

Children are to arrive between **5:15-5:30 PM** and picked up from **6:30-6:45 PM**. The children are to enter using the glass enclosed breezeway that connects the Christian Education Building to the Sanctuary.

Wednesday:

Students may be dropped off between **5:00-5:15 PM** and picked up between **7:45-8:00 PM**.

- Pooh will no longer be taking students home after student activities on these nights. So, please make the necessary arrangements to secure your children are picked up.

If you have questions, please reach out to Pooh, Amy or myself. We would be glad to answer them for you.

Again, we want you to know that we take the safety and trust of your children and students very seriously and will continue to work to that end.

Making Christ First at First United Methodist Church,

George Dunklin, Administrative Board Chair

Bryan Fink, Pastor