

# FOREST FIRE

The Monthly Newsletter of Forest Heights United Methodist Church  
863 West Forest Ave., Jackson, TN 38301

July 2024

## A Word From Pastor Drew

**“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way...” 1 Corinthians 13:4-5**

The community of Alcoholics Anonymous, and its sister organizations, Narcotics Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous, and others, meet several times each day in the city of Jackson, TN, and in most cities throughout the world. Some have referred to AA as “the midnight church.” There are those who say, and they might be right, that as much “church” goes on in an AA meeting on a Saturday night, as goes on in most sanctuaries on Sunday morning. Alcoholics Anonymous has not only saved countless lives over its history, but it has also changed the way much of the world looks upon addiction. It is an amazing story. I would recommend reading the book, or watching the movie, My Name is Bill W.

AA members are about as diverse as you can get. They probably disagree on more than what they agree on, but what they have in common is stronger than anything that divides them. What they hold in common is a true understanding of our condition as flawed human beings, and the necessity of a higher power to help us live with our condition. I believe it was the Russian writer, Solzhenitsyn, who once said, “The difference in good and evil is not between me and you; it is the line that runs oft through the middle of every human heart.” It is the war that goes on in each of us; the line between thinking of ourselves only and thinking of others; or between what seems good for me, and what seems to be “the common good.”

Paul says that love is the higher power that Christians are supposed to use in making our decisions. When Paul describes this love, he says, “love does not insist on its own way.” Love does not try to control other people. It is the higher power that we are to use in making decisions on how to live with other people. I don’t know that we, as Christians, are to use love. I would guess that if we were to talk about what we believe, and especially if we were to act on it, the way AA members do with their creed, in humility and acceptance, that others would listen. There are millions of people in the world who suffer from slavery to self. They would recognize what we are talking about. They may use a different language in talking about it, but they would understand, and they would say, “I believe that, too.”

This year, as we approach our national holiday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, it might be good to consider this idea in our political views. I believe that “common ground” is what can be found in the quote from Judge Learned Hand, who many years ago wrote a book called The Spirit of Liberty. The Apostle Paul could have written these same words:

“The spirit of liberty is the spirit which is not too sure that it is always right. The spirit of liberty is the spirit which seeks to understand the minds and hearts of other human beings. The spirit of liberty is the spirit which weighs their interests alongside its own without bias. The spirit of liberty remembers that not even a sparrow falls to the earth unheeded. The spirit of liberty is the spirit of Him who some 2000 years ago taught us a lesson that we have never learned, but have never quite forgotten, that there may be a Kingdom where the least shall be heard and considered, side by side with the greatest.”

### **Appreciation for Your Expression of Sympathy**

Dear friends at Forest Heights,

Thank you all for many expressions of sympathy shown to our family following Mom’s death. She loved being a part of this congregation, and we treasure your care and concern for us. Your cards, prayers, presence, and the delicious meal are so appreciated. With gratitude,  
The family of Nancy Wheatley

**Our Sympathy** is extended to the family and friends of Mary Louise Smith. May God surround them with comfort during this difficult time.

## **Serving Each Other and Our Community**

### **United Women in Faith**

The United Women in Faith will meet Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. Sue Wyatt will lead the devotional and Margaret Harrison will provide refreshments. This meeting is open to all women associated with our church. Please come and invite a friend!

### **June’s Fifth Sunday Lunch**

A big thank you to the United Women of Faith who hosted our Fifth Sunday Lunch. The food was delicious! A shout out to our Grill Masters, John Archer and Bill Wyatt for grilling the burgers and hotdogs as well as the men’s ensemble, “Four-tify” for providing wonderful music. We thank you all for your donations to United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR). Your monetary gifts, minus the cost of the burgers and hotdogs, enable this arm of the United Methodist Church to work in areas affected by natural disaster and other needs.

### **Wednesday Bible Study**

Just a reminder to join us each Wednesday morning for Bible Study with Drew. This study meets at 10:00 and is studying the Book of Philippians. We meet in the resource room on the second floor of the main building.

**Audio-Visual Ministry** Thank you to all who donated to the Audio-Visual Ministry. Donations are still being accepted from any who wish to contribute.

## Friendship

Having been born in the country and reared on a farm strongly factors into my being the person I am today. I was born in the early days of the Post-Depression era to poor Weakley County folks. This enhanced my survival and resilience instincts which still guide me. My name is Russell Noyel Gallimore. I go by Russell, Brother Russell, Rev. Gallimore, Mr. Gallimore, and other monikers best left unknown. I am the oldest of two sons born to Noyel and Flora Scarce Gallimore on October 12 (original Columbus Day), 1935. My brother Gary (a retired Biology teacher in the Memphis City School System) and I both were born at home. My father was a natural-born mechanic and farmer. My red-headed mother was the pianist at my home church, Mt. Vernon, between Sharon and Sidonia. We all worked in the fields, growing strawberries, corn, cotton, soybeans, wheat, and lespedeza for hay. We also raised livestock. We were hired by neighbors when time permitted. It was heaven when a tractor replaced mules!



I attended Sidonia Grammar School and was class Valedictorian of Sharon High in 1953. I was pursuing a Pre-Mechanical Engineering degree at Lambuth when I answered the call to preach on January 8, 1956, at the old Highland Hts. Methodist Church in Hicksville. Five months later, I was appointed pastor of four churches in Big Sandy (Benton County) and was a rising senior at Lambuth that fall. I did play-by-play of Lambuth men's basketball for three years over WTJS radio. I graduated *cum laude* in 1957 along with classmate Mavis (Barnes) Johnson. She and I were "pallet babies" while her Dad, W.T. Barnes, was pastoring my home church, Mt. Vernon. He also baptized me as a child. I was pastor of his granddaughter and great-grandchildren at Ripley First and assisted him in baptizing a great-grandson.

Upon my 1960 graduation from Vandy, I received a new appointment: LaGrange-Moscow-Rossville in Fayette County where I was also a substitute teacher and principal, and a daily school bus driver. Finally, I met and married my bride of 60 years, Carroll Hensley from Bemis. We were married on May 8, 1964, in the Bemis Methodist Church. Our church members warmly welcomed her by naming her the Commissioner of County Elections. This was during tense Civil Rights registration drives. Who could forget Tent City in Somerville?

Our first son Stanley was born in 1966, while we were serving Salem in Milan. After a sojourn in Symsonia, KY, we served Adamsville First-Larger Parish. We were blessed with two more sons, Glenn, and Kevin. We then served Bolivar First where our sons began their schooling. Then it was on to Memphis for 16 ¼ years, serving Scenic Hills, St. Paul (and part-time Chaplain for UTCHS), and Aldersgate. We retired from Ripley First in 1998, and served Center Ridge near Lexington for six years, building a new sanctuary. I re-retired in 2004, but later served as interim pastor back at Ripley First, and then three times as interim back at Adamsville First.

I am presently in my 69<sup>th</sup> year as an ordained minister. In retirement I became active in the Senior Olympics in 2000 (still participating), playing most team sports and some field events. I have played in the Nationals and have earned 300-plus district and state medals and been a member of the Tennessee State Board.



Other significant events include being a staff announcer at several radio stations, attending a news conference and concert with the Beatles in 1966, living next door to Congressman Ray Blanton (later, Tennessee Governor), and knowing and preaching the funeral of legendary McNairy County Sheriff Buford Pusser of Walking Tall fame at the Adamsville Church of Christ. I have served as a judge and machine operator in Madison County elections since 1998. I enjoy mechanics, electronics, photography, computers, and playing the piano. Carroll and I are proud grandparents of seven surviving grandchildren (four boys, three girls), ranging in age from five to thirty-one. We love Forest Heights where I serve as liturgist, usher, and fifth Sunday adult class teacher. We are truly inspired by pastor Drew Brewer's excellent sermons!

## Room at the Table



By the time you have received this newsletter we will have hosted our first Room at the Table at Studio 45 Suites, a hotel that houses many homeless and low-income families. Thank you for being so supportive. We are looking forward to hosting a dinner each month. **Our next date is Tuesday, July 23.**

Please see the sign-up list by the church office for information on what items are needed.

## Christmas in July... Yes, it is true: you can celebrate Christmas in July!

Forest Heights will again be packing Christmas Shoeboxes for our United Methodist missionaries in the Caribbean and Central America. Please look at our updated needs list on the desk by the church office. We will have several workdays to pack our boxes and to quality-check the boxes we receive from outside churches. **Our first workdays will be Wednesday, July 17 and Friday, July 19<sup>th</sup>.**



## Handbell Notes:

Our wonderful handbell choir is taking a break from practice while the bells are being refurbished. Once the work is completed practice will resume and the sounds of handbells ringing will once again fill the air with music. We thank all the members of this choir and the director for their dedication and lovely music.



## **fhumc.com**

If you haven't checked our church website lately, **fhumc.com** has many wonderful information sections. There are easy-to-use tabs. The weekly calendar, upcoming events, and the monthly newsletters are there as well. We are blessed to have Marianne Archer as our communications coordinator who keeps our website up to date. If there's Wi-Fi, it's available on your computer, notebook, or your phone!

### **New Address:**

Ruth Shelton

9001 Telecom Dr. Apt D2, Milan, TN 38358

- **Please** put address, email, and phone changes in your directories. We include these in newsletters. We have several people who have moved, but they are still getting mail sent to old addresses.

### **Happy Birthday in July to:**

Carroll Gallimore	July 28
Ron Pennel	July 29
Gary Deaton	July 30

### **Anniversary Blessings to:**

Marianne & John Archer	July 11
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## **Calendar for July 2024 and beyond**

Month of July- Tapestry, Chancel, and Handbell Choirs on vacation from regular practice

July 1 Deadline for items purchased for UMC Christmas showbox to be at church

July 14 Church Council Meeting following worship service

July 17 Workday for Christmas Shoeboxes

July 19 Workday for Christmas Shoeboxes

July 23 Room at the Table

August 1 Deadline for filled UMC Christmas shoeboxes to be at church

September 29- Fifth Sunday Lunch