

FOREST FIRE

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

June 2024

A Word From The Pastor

“The message of the cross is foolishness in the eyes of the world, a stumbling block to many.” 1Corinthians1:18

Paul believed that when you get through preaching, the only name on anyone’s lips should be the name of Jesus Christ. That was the standard Paul to which held himself. *“When I came to you,”* he wrote the church at Corinth, *‘I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.’* He came to them *“in weakness and much trembling.”* He said he would not dazzle them even if he could, so that their faith would rest not on his wisdom but on the power of God.

We do not know for sure what all of Paul’s weaknesses were, but he and everyone else knew he had them. Of course, this is the same Paul who founded at least seven churches and wrote thirteen eloquent letters that are quoted to this day.

But Paul knew that there is nothing in the gospel of Jesus Christ about being impressive or successful. There is nothing in it about being the biggest or the best at anything at all. The good news of God in Christ is this: when the bottom has fallen out from under you; when you have crashed through all your safety nets; and you hear the bottom rushing up to meet you – **you cannot fall farther than God can catch you.**

You cannot be too picky about where His catch happens, I’m afraid. Sometimes it happens after the funeral is over. Sometimes it comes when we find ourselves at the end of our resources, financially, emotionally, or spiritually. But the good news that Jesus brought back to us can never be revoked or taken away. God is stronger than death. So much stronger than our own limitations. Way past where we can see how it works, God is able to take our weakness, our fear, and our trembling and turn it into fullness of life.

Thanks be to God, Drew

Thank you

The family of Reverend Harold Montgomery would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, cards, visits, gifts, and other expressions of support and sympathy after his death. Harold loved his church family and the outpouring of love we felt from you means so much. Thank you.

Serving Each Other and Our Community

Wednesday Bible Study This session of our Bible study lead by Drew is on the book of Philippians. The class meets in the Resource Room on the second floor. Bring your Bible and join us each Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. Feel free to attend any time.

Fifth Sunday Fellowship Dinner

Mark your calendar for Sunday, June 30 for a grilled hamburger and hotdog lunch immediately following our worship service. Our “Women of Faith” group will host this event so you don’t have to bring a thing. These ladies will provide all sides and desserts. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be grilled to perfection by our grill masters.

The fellowship dinner will feature an emphasis on the United Methodist Committee on Relief. UMCOR provides assistance as needs arise from weather or other catastrophic events around the world. We ask that you consider a donation for each lunch as a connectional ministry of the United Methodist Church. Our Outreach team will direct the net donations to UMCOR for relief efforts.

Adult Sunday School News

Are the Ten Commandments just a list of rules to be hung on a wall? Were they handed down to different people at a different time? Come join us on June 2 as we begin this 12-week study of Words of Life by Adam Hamilton during Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. in the Resource Room upstairs. Jean Ralston and Ernie Wilson will be leading the discussion of this book. Books are available for purchase for \$19 through the church office.

Friendship

I have a beautiful painting of the log cabin in Sugar Tree, a farming community near Camden, Tennessee, where I was born on January 6, and named Mavis Catherine Barnes. My father James Barnes was plowing a field when he was killed by a lightning strike. My mother died a few weeks later after a lengthy illness. My twelve-year-old sister was taking care of my two brothers and me until family members took us to live with them.

I was the lucky one! In my family, newlyweds Bill & Frances Barnes adopted me. They were serving the Sharon Methodist church. I was much older when I learned that I was legally adopted. “No one could ever take me away.” Mother was always saying, “We can’t leave that baby here!” God could never have given me better parents. Being a preacher’s kid prepares one for the years ahead.



There were four generations of Methodist ministers in my family but it ended with me! I knew teaching was the direction I wanted to go. After high school graduation I went to Lambuth College. I attended and met my future husband, Bob Johnson. Two years later we were married and moved to Chattanooga. About one and a half years went by and we moved back to Memphis. While in Memphis, I gave birth to a girl and twin boys who are grown. We now have five grandchildren and six great grand kids.

A wonderful opportunity arose for us to return to Jackson. Bob and his friend opened a new business, Johnson & Daniel Oil Company.

Since the University of Memphis moved to Jackson, I continued my education taking night classes. I earned a Bachelor of Science, Master of Education, and Doctor of Education. My parents attended my graduation and I walked straight to them and handed my diploma to my mother and said, “You two deserve this because you have encouraged and helped me all of my life.”

I began my teaching career at Beach Bluff High School as a librarian for two years. A librarian position opened at West Jackson Elementary School, so I moved to that position. The principal Bill Bonsen wanted me to take the brighter students in fifth and sixth grades and challenge them to a higher level of education. It turned out to be the best teaching I have done and I will never forget. It was fun and the children always met the challenge. Mr. Bonsen took the program to the principals’ meetings and soon the program went system wide.

I became principal at Lincoln School which became Lincoln Magnet school for Math and Science. What an adventure! There were two labs, four teachers for the labs, and a bank of computers for each classroom with teacher assistants for each grade level K-5. Middle school grades were added later. (I was rather good about writing grants for our school.)

You might find me in a tree reading, especially when young. I like to cook. People like my cakes. My children wore the clothes I made for them for school. Comfortable things I like.

Looking back, when I was enrolled at Lambuth, we would walk over to Forest Heights church and found it warm. It was fun trying to enter the building with wood planks for a sidewalk.

Moving away and returning we found Forest Heights finished and welcoming. It has been my pleasure to say it's always been our church home always with warming hearts of all the people!

Friendships.....Be Blessed!

Room at the Table Tuesday June 25th will be our first time to host Room at the Table at Studio 45 Suites (formally The Scottish Inn). The hotel houses many low income and homeless families struggling with food insecurity. We are planning a simple menu since we will be serving over one hundred people. Please see the sign-up sheet on the table near the church office.



Christmas in July? Yes! Once again it is time for our United Methodist Christmas shoebox project. These boxes will be headed for Central America and the Caribbean where excited children are waiting. Recently, over 13,000 boxes were distributed in 9 different countries: Panama, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Ecuador, and Mexico. Last year Forest Heights completed over 100 boxes, and we would like to meet that goal again this year.

You can participate in this project by:

- Check our “needs list” located on the table by the church office. Purchase the needed items and return them to the church by July 1st. During July, we will have several workdays to pack our boxes.
- Filling a shoe box and returning it to the church by Aug 1st. This could be a great family project. Include the grandchildren.
- Sign up for one of our workdays. There will be jobs for all ability levels. Since Forest Heights serves as a collection hub for the western portion of our conference, we are responsible for checking and packing all the boxes that come in.
- Contribute financially – in addition to the supplies needed to fill the boxes, we will need \$600 to cover shipping (\$6 per box)



United Women in Faith The Forest Heights United Women in Faith (UWF) met Thursday, May 16th with 12 members present. We had a devotional on being quiet with God, elected officers, created a Psalm picture using stickers, and simply enjoyed being together. Our next meeting is Thursday, June 20 from 3:00-4:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Janette Chaplin and Sue Bryant will provide refreshments. Janette will lead a short devotion. A love offering will be taken up to support our card ministry. We will also turn in pledge cards to support missions both nationally and worldwide. Please come and find out about UWF.

TWK Annual Conference

Theme: **Boundless: Acts Continues**

Dates: **June 17-19, 2024 (Monday-Wednesday)**

Venue: **Murfreesboro First UMC**

265 W. Thompson Ln, Murfreesboro, TN 37129

The third Tennessee-Western Kentucky Annual Conference will be held on June 17-19, 2024, at Murfreesboro First UMC. The theme for this year's conference is "Boundless: Acts Continues" celebrating the boundless work of the Holy Spirit. Our key biblical text is the Acts of the Apostles. We will spend intentional time together, both before and during the conference, studying Acts and experiencing what it means to be a people of faith empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Online access will be available for those voting members who are unable to attend in person. There also will be a public livestream for congregation members to watch. If you have any questions or suggestions, please email staff at AC2024@twkumc.org.

Coming in the next few months: We are considering sending our newsletters by email to those who would like to have a copy electronically. Anyone who does not have email can still have hard copies mailed to their home addresses. We are considering financial and labor savings due to printing, postage, and time. This will also allow us to send your newsletter the day it is published, instead of you having to wait several days for mailing and delivery to your home. We will survey soon to determine those who prefer emailed copies vs hard copies through USPS.

Ponder these:

Don't just attend your church-

Love your church.

Serve, give, invite, worship, post, join, engage, and participate!

Anyone who thinks sitting in church can make you a Christian,

Must also think that sitting in a garage makes you a car.

Happy Birthday in June to our church family

Pastor Drew Brewer	June 5
Cande Russell	June 15
Lynn Burger	June 18
Sam Wheatley	June 18
Andraya Andrade	June 23
Paul Chaplin	June 23
Reggie Smith	June 25
Helen Mullins	June 27

Happy Wedding Anniversary to:

Paul & Janette Chaplin	June 4
Gary & Marilyn Deaton	June 5
Jerry & Elaine Ervin	June 5
Dan & Susan Montgomery	June 6
Tommy & Cande Russell	June 12
Ron & Marilyn Pennel	June 17
Greg & T.J. Clanin	June 20
Sam & Chris Wood	June 22
David & Cheryl Thomas	June 24
Paul & Pam Finney	June 28
John & Susan Haubold	June 30

Calendar for June 2024 and beyond

June/July Christmas Showbox Emphasis

June 2 Beginning of the new Adult Sunday School study on Words of Life. 10:00 a.m.

June 9 Final Handbell ministry until our bells are repaired. Handbell practice will return later in summer or fall.

June 17 Newsletter articles are due for July's publication

June 17-19 TWK Annual Conference in Murfreesboro

June 20 United Women in Faith meeting from 3:00-4:30 in fellowship hall.

June 25 First time for FHUMC to host Room at the Table at Studio 45

June 30 Fifth Sunday Fellowship Dinner supporting UMCOR

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

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