

# FOREST FIRE

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

August 2024

## A Word from Pastor Drew

James 5:13-14, 16, 19-20

*<sup>13</sup> Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup>Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and then pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord... <sup>16</sup> Confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so the you may be healed. <sup>19</sup>My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, <sup>20</sup>you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.*

In her bestselling book, Traveling Mercies, Anne Lamott explains why she makes her son go with her to church. She says, “The main reason is that I want to give him what I found in the world, which is a path and a little light to see by. Most of the people I know who have what I want – purpose, heart, balance, gratitude, joy – are people with a deep sense of spirituality. They are people in community who pray or practice their faith, people banding together to work on themselves and for human rights. They follow a brighter light than the glimmer of their own candle, they are part of something beautiful.” Then she says, “When I was at the end of my rope, the people at my church tied a knot in it for me and helped me hold on.”

The book of James pictures the church as the place where fellowship, prayer, and singing go hand in hand. Verse 13 says, “*Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise.*” It’s a place where people confess their sins to one another and are restored; where people visit the sick and pray for them; where people are cheerful and sing for joy. On any given Sunday the church contains people who are near giving birth and those who are near dying. On one side is a young mother who feels her life will never be right after her divorce. On the other side is a woman newly engaged, who anticipates that marriage will be the closest thing to heaven. There is a young man who is not sure he believes in God anymore; there is one preparing for ministry. There is a woman who fears for her life after her recent diagnosis of cancer; there is one celebrating her fourth time as a survivor of breast cancer.

Life together in the church is a mixture of people at every stage of life. Take any one of these people apart from the community of faith and her/his life would be so much less. One of the secrets of church is that it is life lived in community. Theologian Robert McAfee Brown has said, “I believe that we are placed here to be companions – a wonderful word that comes from *cum manis* (with bread). We are here to share bread with one another so that everyone has enough.” As we become companions among ourselves, awareness grows that such companionship deserves to be extended. Our bread – our faith – is shared. God lives not, I think in the bread and wine, but in the breaking of bread, the sharing of wine. Bread unbroken does not fortify the heart. But bread divided among all who hunger will sustain the spirit. There is just something about sharing our bread, sharing our faith, sharing our lives together in the Church of Jesus Christ that makes life right. This rightness is a home for the heart.

Anne Lamott relates a story told by her pastor. When the pastor was seven years old, she had a best friend who got lost one day. “The little girl ran up and down the streets of the big town where they lived,

but she couldn't find a single landmark. She was very frightened. Finally, a policeman stopped to help her. He put her in the passenger seat of his car and drove around until she finally saw her church. She pointed it out to the policeman, and then she told him firmly, "You could let me out now. This is my church, and I can always find my way home from here."

Then Anne Lamott concluded with these words, "And that is why I have stayed so close to (my church) – because no matter how bad I am feeling, how lost, or lonely, or frightened, when I see the faces of the people at my church, and hear their familiar voices, I can always find my way home."

- Drew

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

**Conference News** Some people have asked who will be the new bishop for the Tennessee-West Kentucky Conference of which we are a part of here at Forest Heights. Bishop William McAlilly is retiring at the end of August. The Southeast Jurisdictional Conference moved bishops this past week and have assigned Bishop David Graves to be our bishop starting September 1. He has been a bishop since 2016 and is coming from South Georgia Conference and Alabama-West Florida Conference. He is a native to Knoxville, graduating with his bachelor's degree from UT Knoxville. His master's degree in divinity is from Emory University in Atlanta. He will be the residing bishop of the Kentucky Conference (all but West Kentucky) and the Central Missionary Appalachian Conference (Redbird).

Our former district superintendent Dan Camp has retired so Bishop McAlilly has developed a different system of this job into a new Cohort District Superintendent (CDS). Reverend Sharon Karamoko will be our CDS for the counties of Madison, Haywood, Crockett, and Lauderdale while she will continue to be the pastor at Wesley Chapel.

- Paul Chaplin

### **New on our website**

If you explore our church website at [www.fhumc.com](http://www.fhumc.com) you will find several headings. One of those headings is "Newsletters." Just as you can find links to our recent church newsletters there, now you can also find links to our TWK conference weekly e-news. For the past several months, Beverlyann Jetton has been faithful to forward to the congregation by email the e-news she received each Thursday. Now, instead of looking for that email from Beverlyann, you are encouraged to go to our website, select Newsletters from the menu, and click on the TWK conference e-news for the week.

**Wednesday Bible Study** will resume on August 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. We will study the Gospel of Luke. Please read Chapter 1 for the first session. Join us upstairs in the resource room whenever you are able.

**United Women in Faith** will meet Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. Jean Ralston will provide the devotion with Pam Finney and Marcia Tate providing refreshments. During our June meeting we had a total of 14 present and welcomed new UWF member, Marcia Law, and visitor Cindy Langhans, pastor of Grand Junction UMC. We discussed holding a Candle Burning for Missions in the future. A Candle Burning Ceremony gives everyone in the church an opportunity for donors to honor someone, living or deceased, during a Sunday morning worship service. The money raised is used on missions for women, children and youth. More details will be provided as plans are finalized. We also launched our card ministry. If you know someone who needs a card from United Women in Faith, please contact any member and give them a note with the name, mailing address, and reason for the card (if appropriate). We want to invite everyone who has not attended a meeting yet, to come and experience United Women in Faith. You will have a wonderful time of fellowship and fun while studying God's word and finding ways to help others.

**June's Fifth Sunday Update** A big thank you to all who donated to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) during our Fifth Sunday fellowship meal. \$1,142.32 were collected for this project. We want to thank "Four-tify" and Ondra Farmer for providing wonderful quartet music for us. An encore presentation has been requested.



Mark your calendar for Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup> for our fall 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday fellowship gathering. Watch the September edition of Forest Fire for more information.

### Handbell Notes:

Our handbells have been refurbished. They are beautiful and will be working much better for our ringers. Margaret Harrison, director and the handbell players resume practice during August. Anyone interested in learning to play and/or becoming a member let Margaret or a player know. You are welcome to join us or even observe a practice on Wednesdays at 5:00 in the sanctuary.

### Friendship

This month our focus is on our new pamphlet. Marianne Archer worked with our committee to develop this flyer that is full of church activities, dates, times, places to be and more. This flyer will be placed in our greeting bags that we give to first time visitors to our church service on Sundays. We also include some type of snack, a prayer square, a small writing tablet or something we find interesting or helpful along with the information on what it means to be a United Methodist at FHUMC. Friendships, from one to another.....be blessed.

**Forest Heights United Methodist Church**  
 Leadership Staff  
 Pastor: Rev. Drew Brewer  
 Administrative Assistant: Sue Bryant  
 Music Director: Elaine Jones

**OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE**

**ROOM IN THE INN** – provide dinner and breakfast once a month during the winter months for men staying overnight at First United Methodist Church.

**ROOM AT THE TABLE** – provide an evening meal once a month during the summer for the food insecure at Studio 45 Suites.

**CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES** – partner with the North Alabama UMC conference to fill shoeboxes to be distributed to children in Central and South America. (June/July)

**REELFOOT RURAL MINISTRIES TOY STORE** – provide toys for the toy store at Reelfoot Rural Ministries, a United Methodist agency serving northwest Tennessee. (Nov)

**UMCOR** – support the United Methodist Committee on Relief to assist globally during disaster recovery.

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT**

**BIBLE STUDY** – ongoing weekly studies on Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. in addition to Sunday school classes.

**MUSIC MINISTRY** – weekly choir practice each Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. Handbell practice each Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. Ensembles, soloists, and guest musicians are also welcome to participate in worship.

**LADIES OF THE YARN** – weekly meetings on Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. to share in a knitting/crochet ministry.

**UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH** – monthly meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday at 3:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.

**LOOK AT OUR WEBSITE FOR...**

- More information about who we are and what we believe
- A link to our recent services on YouTube
- Our up-to-date weekly calendar
- A list of our upcoming events
- Copies of our newsletter
- A list of our church leadership team
- A link to our conference weekly newsletter

You will find all that and more at [www.fhumc.com](http://www.fhumc.com)  
 We're also on Facebook and YouTube! Just search for Forest Heights UMC.

We are proud of the **Forest Heights Preschool** and the excellent rating it consistently receives from the TN Dept of Human Services. Our preschool serves children ages infant through 5 years old. Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. For more information, you can reach the preschool office at 731-668-2690.

**Worship and Fellowship Times**

**Every Sunday Morning**

9:15 Fellowship time with coffee  
 9:30 Sunday school  
 11:00 Worship service

**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday Lunch**  
 Stay for lunch immediately following the worship service once a quarter when there is a month with a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday

Forest Heights United Methodist Church  
 863 W. Forest Ave.  
 Jackson, TN 38305

We welcome you to Forest Heights UMC where the Life, Teaching, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ is at the core of who we are!

863 W. Forest Ave., Jackson, TN 38305  
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 Email: [office@fhumc.com](mailto:office@fhumc.com)  
 Website: [www.fhumc.com](http://www.fhumc.com)

*You are always welcome to join us for any activity!  
 Please stay in touch and let us know if we can serve you in any way.*

### YouTube

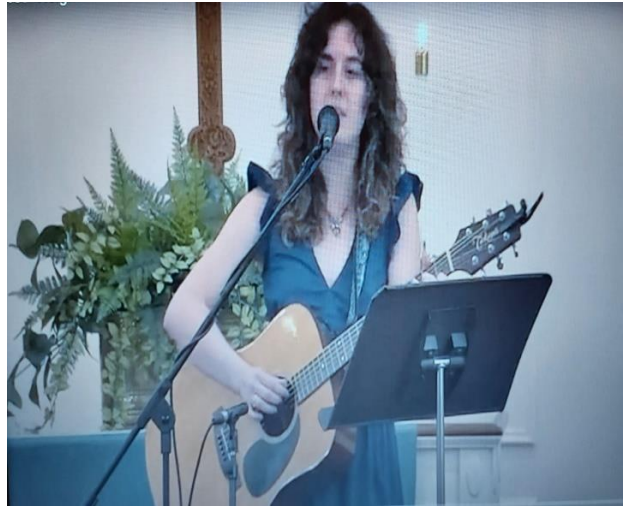
Reminder – You can subscribe to our YouTube channel to receive notification when a new post is available. Watch anytime by clicking on the link for our website or by searching YouTube. If you want to get notifications or have an easy way to look for our services, consider clicking on that subscribe button.

**Adult Sunday School Class** has a new name and we invite you to join us each Sunday morning at 9:30. The Sojourners meet in the Resource Room on the second floor. We are currently studying Adam Hamilton’s book entitled Words of Life – Jesus and the Promise of the Ten Commandments Today.

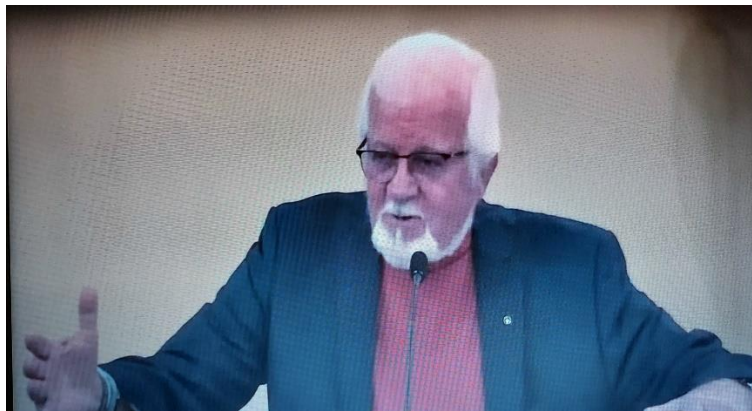
### From our Worship Services

We have been blessed by many talented guests during our services. Some of those who have added to our worship experience include these musicians who have family attending FHUMC. If you were not able to hear these services (or want to listen to them again), the ministry of these two outstanding musicians is on our YouTube broadcasts during July.





**Gideon Sunday** was held at Forest Heights on July 14. We appreciate and thank Gary Deaton for providing a touching message. The special offering for Gideons work totaled \$952.90. Thank you to all who supported this ministry.



## **Room at the Table**

In July, we celebrated our second successful dinner at Studio 45 Suites. Our August dinner will be on Tuesday, August 20<sup>th</sup>. Our youth prepared brownies for dessert. Please check the Communication Table by the church office for the sign-up list. Each month, we have been feeding over 100 men, women, and children. Thank you to each of you who have so faithfully helped with this project. (Pictures later in newsletter.)

**They Are on the Way!** Our Christmas Shoeboxes are packed and ready to begin their long journey to Panama, Honduras, Haiti, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, and the Dominican Republic. Forest Heights not only packed over 125 shoeboxes but served as the collection hub for the western portion of our conference. Thank you to the many people who participated in making this project successful. (Pictures later in newsletter.)



As Autumn approaches, we have several mission outreach projects that we invite you to participate in: **Room at the Table** (Aug, Sept, & Oct), **Room in the Inn** (Nov – April), **Winter coats for Lincoln Elementary School**, and **Reelfoot Toy Store**. Let's continue to make a difference in our community.



**Update on ramp project:** Last year our church had an opportunity to build a ramp for Ms. Rosalina and Ms. Ida. The wood was green at that time so we couldn't apply stain. The project is now complete and looks great!



The **West Tennessee Emmaus** community will be meeting at Forest Heights UMC in the months of August and September on Saturday mornings while preparing for the fall walks in October. The community appreciates being able to meet at our church. Emmaus is a 3 day, 72 hour experience of spiritual renewal designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people. The weekend begins on Thursday evening and ends on Sunday afternoon. It is based on the story of how Jesus appeared on the road to Emmaus. Luke 24:35 If you would like more information Pastor Drew, Beverlyann Jetton, or Marcia Tate would be happy to answer any questions. The weekend dates are:  
Men's walk October 3-6 Women's October 17-20

**Forest Heights Preschool** has had fun this summer. We had visits from JPD, S.W.A.T., and the JPD helicopter. The helicopter landed in front of the church and allowed all our children a chance to sit in it. The JPD bomb squad showed their amazing robot, Smokey, that they use in certain circumstances. We can't forget about our amazing water days that cooled us from the heat of summer. We will finish the summer with visits from the JPD K-9 unit and Hooker Farms coming with all their animals for us to see. The Farmer's Perk will bring their delicious donuts and organic coffee.

We are excited and proud to say we had our unannounced state licensing visit with Kirsten. She primarily looked at our Summer Program along with walking through every room and checking a few files. We had an amazing score 96/100. We are proud of all staff as they go "above and beyond" caring for all children and families as if they are their own. We will be saddened to see our school age kids go back to school soon but will look forward to having them back next summer.

### Preparation and Serving for Room at the Table





## Preparing Christmas Shoeboxes



**From the Editor-** Many pictures were sent in for this newsletter. Unfortunately, I had to make difficult decisions on which to include. Our future newsletters will not be able to accommodate as many pictures, so enjoy this colorful edition. It is important to note we do not use pictures of children unless we have written permission from legal guardians. As an adult, if you do not want pictures of you or your family included in the newsletter or on our Facebook page, please let me know as soon as possible.  
-Kathleen

### **Keep your directories/contacts up to date:**

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

### **Happy Birthday in August to:**

Paul Finney	August 1	Reid Finney	August 15
Arlene Murphy	August 3	Harvey Howell	August 18
Marilyn Deaton	August 11	Jean Ralston	August 31
Beverlyann Jetton	August 12		

No Anniversaries this month

### **Calendar for August 2024 and beyond**

- August 1 Deadline for filled UMC Christmas shoeboxes to be at church
- August 7 Music Ministries resume practices
- August 14 10:00 a.m. Wednesday Bible Study begins a new session in the resource room
- August 15 3:00 p.m. United Women of Faith meets in the fellowship hall
- August 20 Room at the Table
- September 29 Fifth Sunday Lunch
- October Emmaus Walks: 3-6 Men, 17-20 Women