

# FOREST FIRE

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

November 2024

## A Word from Pastor Drew

“...giving thanks to God the Father at all times, and for everything...” (Ephesians 5:20a)

It sounds on the surface, like an impossible commandment. “.. **at all times, and for everything...**” What are we to make of this incredibly bold statement by Paul. How do we give thanks for the hard times, the tragedies, the things that people do to one another? How do you give thanks for a bad day? The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company, a church, a home. I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me, and 90% how I react to it.

Corrie Ten Boom in her autobiography, *The Hiding Place*, relates an incident which taught her this principle. After have been capture by the Nazis in WWII she and her sister, Betsy, had just been transferred to the worst German prison camp they had seen yet, Ravensbrück. Upon entering the barracks, they found them extremely overcrowded and flea-infested. Their Scripture reading that morning in **1 Thessalonians** had reminded them **to rejoice always, pray constantly, and give thanks in all circumstances**. Betsy told Corrie to stop and thank the Lord for every detail of their new living quarters. Corrie at first flatly refused to give thanks for the fleas, but Betsy persisted. She finally succumbed. During the months spent at that camp, they were surprised to find how openly they could hold Bible study and prayer meetings without guard interference. It was several months later when they learned that the guards would not enter barracks because of the fleas.

The power of gratitude enabled Paul to tap into the everlasting grace of God. It energized him. It enabled him to see life in the face of death, to see faith in the face of doubt, to see hope in the face of despair. It enabled him to draw the power of the kingdom into his own being and feed it out to other people. And all of that is available to you and me-when we are grateful, when we are thankful. Many people are frightened because the future looks uncertain. Some are afraid because they have listened to those who play upon the fears of their brothers and sisters for personal gain – either political or financial. Many of the folks are angry, because the economy has cost them their jobs or their security. Many are bitter, because they believe they are powerless to do anything. I sympathize with these folks, but I want to say honestly this morning that I do not agree with them. My future is not at all uncertain, and I am not insecure, because my life is in the hands of God who loves me – right where it should be, has always been, and will always be. And we are not powerless, because we possess the most powerful gift of all – the gift of gratitude.

- Drew

## Welcome

We welcome Jackie Morgan as a new member of Forest Heights. We look forward to worshipping and serving with her. Be sure to introduce yourself to Jackie as you welcome her to our church family.

**Friendship** If you enjoy this FRINDSHIP moment, great, but if not, either way it is TJ's fault. She is hard to say NO to.



In 1956, my family moved from Kingsport, TN to Jackson, which was home for them. My dad was an agent for various bread companies thus making it necessary to travel. I completed my education in six different schools from Oklahoma City to Kingsport and Jackson, TN

Now Janie, the name I call her, was born and raised in Jackson and attended only 2 schools. I'm including all this to say country girl meets city boy, and the rest is about to unfold. We met during our freshman year at Beech Bluff High School in 1956. I saw her in study hall and I was smitten. We shared some classes together and as time passed with several hayrides to Chickasaw as well as ball trips, we became an "item" and quickly were "going steady." In the 50's that meant you did not date anyone else. She was a cheerleader and I was a basketball manager. This "going steady" continued into our senior year and beyond. On November 23, 1961, we married at Trinity United Methodist on Chester Street.

Janie began her first jobs with Cawthon's Shoes and CIT Financial Services. I started my first job with Central Services as a computer operator. In April of 1964, we became proud parents of a boy whom we named Michael Todd. In 1967, we made our first move to Memphis. Janie worked for CIT as needed and I worked at First National Bank in computer operations. We moved back to Jackson in 1973. Janie started as a teller with First National Bank and I started with Townsend Supply as a computer operator. In 1985, we made a second move to Memphis. Janie transferred with First American as manager in commercial lending. I worked for the City of Memphis as a computer programmer for 3 years. I then transferred to the Finance Division as Records manager and Deputy Comptroller for the Memphis City Council. Knowing we were going to retire in 2006 and move back to Jackson, we began renovation in 2004 on her family home built in 1949. Though he did not live to see the renovation completed, Janie's dad was still living at home and enjoyed seeing the construction taking place.

We have been fortunate to enjoy mutual interests. We enjoy dancing, especially square dancing and round dancing, singing, antiques, collecting, memory enhancing games on iPad, reading, short travels, and getting together with family, especially the great grands. We are so blessed to have a caring son and daughter-in-law, 3 grandsons and 2 granddaughters by marriage and 5 vivacious great grandchildren.

You may have heard the saying, "When one door closes, another door opens." During our 63 years of marriage, we have experienced closed doors and each time God provided an open door. Forest Heights UMC was our most recent open door due to disaffiliation. God is so good.

*FRIENDSHIP .... from one to another .... be blessed*

#### **EIGHTY-NINE AND STILL WINNING!**



Playing in his 25<sup>th</sup> year of Senior Olympics, our Sojourner's Sunday school class member Russell Gallimore won nine medals in recent District competition: seven Gold and two Silver. He earned them competing in cornhole, horseshoes, shuffleboard, and table tennis. A retired United Methodist minister, Russell just celebrated his 89<sup>th</sup> birthday on October 12

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

### **Nurture Area News**

#### **All Saints Day**

During worship on Sunday, November 3, 2024 we will observe All Saints Day. We will celebrate our members who have joined the Church Triumphant since All Saints Day 2023. Each one will be named and remembered. This year we will remember and celebrate:

Bill Simpson  
Mary Louise Smith  
Rev. Jerry Jeffords  
Rev. Harold Montgomery  
Nancy Wheatley  
Jerry Johnson

## **Advent Studies**

This year, we are offering two advent studies. One will be held on Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the Resource Room on the second level of our main building. Drew will be leading the four-week sessions using Bishop Will Willimon's book, *Heaven and Earth*. This study will begin on Wednesday, November 27<sup>th</sup> and continue through December 12. Books are \$12 and will be available through the church office in mid-November. Read Chapter 1 for Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> class.

The second study will be a Women's Advent Study beginning November 25<sup>th</sup> in the home of Sue Wyatt. This group will gather at 6:30 p.m. for their four-week study. Magrey R. DeVega's book, *The Christmas Letters*, will be our study guide. Sue and Marianne Archer will be our facilitators of this study. Books will be available mid-November (\$12). Please let Sue Bryant in the church office know, by Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>, if you will be joining the group. Please read Chapter 1 for our first gathering.

**Save the Date:** We'll be preparing the church for the Advent and Christmas Season on Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. Come join us as we "deck the halls" beginning at 9:00 a.m. that day. All hands needed.

## **Just a Reminder**

Meals from our Freezer Blessings ministry are available to our members. You can pick up a meal and deliver it to members who may need a meal as they go through a time of recuperation, rehabilitation, or dealing with a tough life experience. Find them in the Freezer Blessings freezer located in the room across from the kitchen. Instructions are on the freezer for your convenience.

## **Words of Appreciation**

A Big Thank you to all who made cookies and desserts for our Fifth Sunday Fellowship. We had a great time with the "Friends of Old Time Music."

Thank you to Susan Montgomery for her leadership in organizing our Laity Sunday service. We appreciate all those who participated. Your words and music added so much to our worship experience.

## **Calendar for Wednesday Bible Study Thru Holiday Season 2-24-2025**

Nov 6 – Regular Study on Luke

Nov 13 – No Bible Study

Nov 20 – No Bible Study

Nov 27 – Dec 18 – Advent Study (4 Weeks)

Thursday, Nov 28 – Happy Thanksgiving

Dec 25 – No Bible Study – Merry Christmas!

Jan 1 – No Bible Study – Happy New Year!

Jan 8 – Jan 29 - No Bible Study

Feb 5 – Study of Luke resumes thru Holy Week

## Outreach Area News

### **COATS FOR LINCOLN ELEMENTARY:**



Jean Ralston and Mavis Johnson made the delivery of our contribution of coats for the children at Lincoln Elementary School. Forty children's coats plus hats, mittens, and scarves were delivered to the elementary school just in time for the colder weather to show up. A few adult coats were donated and were taken to RIFA for them to distribute.

**U.M.C.O.R Collection.** Thank you, Forest Heights, for the outpouring of generosity during the recent storms and floods in Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina. We have sent \$3022.00 to help directly with relief efforts.

**MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES:** We have closed this year's chapter on **ROOM AT THE TABLE** at Studio 45 Suites. We served over 500 meals and met many new friends. We are preparing for the winter months at **ROOM IN THE INN**. Our first meal will be on Sunday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please sign up to provide food items or to serve. We will be using the Mission Center at First UMC to serve the men at Room in the Inn. Forest Heights will also be part of an emergency response team for severe weather. You will receive an e-mail outlining the needs if we have life-threatening cold weather. Thank you for being the hand and feet of Christ.

..... and a teeny tiny need: Last year I noticed the rooms we use for Room in the Inn did not have any Christmas decorations. As you decorate for Christmas, if you have any extra decorations or a tree that you want to donate, please see Beverlyann Jetton.

### **Pictures of Room at the Table**



### **Reelfoot Toy Store**

One of the highlights of our Christmas season is collecting and delivering toys to Reelfoot Rural Ministries. We have a collection table near the Pastor's office. Please place new, unwrapped gifts for children – infant through teen years. The toys will be delivered on November 12th. If you would like to accompany the group going to Reelfoot to deliver the toys, please sign up at the Communication Table by the church office. Of course, what is a trip to Reelfoot without a trip to Boyettes!!!

### **United Women in Faith**

United Women in Faith had a wonderful "Autumn" themed meeting in October. Find a member and ask them, "How is being a Christian like being a pumpkin?" Our next meeting will be Thursday, November 21, at 3:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Elaine (Squeaky) Ervin and Jean Ralston will have the refreshments and we need a volunteer to do the devotional. Yes.....this means you! Please contact Susan Montgomery if you are willing.



## News from Forest Heights Preschool

The Preschool held their Halloween Trunk or Treat on Friday afternoon, October 25<sup>th</sup>. Five of our Forest Heights members supplied treats and there were about eight others who participated.



On November 8<sup>th</sup> the Forest Heights Preschool children will be doing their Thanksgiving Program at 10:00 a.m. All are invited to support our preschoolers as they give their Thanksgiving performance.

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

Jackie Morgan     24 Sutton Place, Jackson, TN 38305

### **Happy Birthday in November to:**

- 6     Samanth Wood
- 19    Tim Bugher
- 26    Janice Nation

### **November Anniversaries**

- 8     Lynn and Tim Burgher
- 12    Julia & Harvey Howell

### **Calendar for November 2024**

Nov 1, 4-7	9:00-10:00 a.m.	Preschool using gym for Thanksgiving Practice
Nov 3	5:30 p.m.	Room in the Inn
Nov 6	10:00 a.m.	Regular Bible Study on Book of Luke
Nov 7	10:00 a.m.	Finance Committee Meeting – Fellowship Hall
Nov 8	10:00 a.m.	Preschool Thanksgiving Program
Nov 13 & 20		No Bible Study
Nov 21	3:00 p.m.	United Women of Faith – Fellowship Hall
Nov 25	6:30 p.m.	Women’s Advent Study – Sue Wyatt’s
Nov 26	9:00 a.m.	Prepare Church for Advent – Sanctuary & F. Hall
Nov 27 – Dec 18	10:00 a.m.	Advent Study – Resource Room
Nov 28		Church Office Closed – Happy Thanksgiving

## **A Word of Thanks**

Forest Heights Friends, I believe you have used every means available to express your love and support for Gordon and for me during his ICU stay, hospitalization, and rehab. You have prayed, sent the most thoughtful cards, notes and emails, advised, sent gifts and food, done kind deeds, visited, called, you have done it all! So, there's no way my words can thank you enough for all of this! Please know that ALL these things have lifted us every day.

We are so thankful to have found and been so loved by Forest Heights United Methodist Church.

Sincerely,

Frances and Gordon Eubanks