

FOREST FIRE

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

February 2025

A Word from Pastor Drew

HE WAS BRILLIANT. Clearly a child prodigy, the pride of Salzburg, a performer par excellence. One of the most brilliant and gifted composers of all time left earth at the young age of thirty-five. The man lived most of his life in abject poverty. He died in complete obscurity!

His official name was Johannes Chrysostomus Wolfgang Amadeus Theophilus Mozart. With a handle like that, he *had* to be famous. We call him *Mozart*.

What lives on are Mozart's *unique contributions*: his style, his eminent innovations, the inimitable "Mozart touch." No other musical sound is like it. It is his, altogether. A *timeless trophy*, created by a genius, captured on the score, bringing warmth and delight to endless generations. In his music, Mozart lives on. Unexcelled.

God's Word speaks of this solemn reality: How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? "*Your life is like the morning fog – it's here a little while, then it's gone. What you ought to say is, 'If the Lord want us to, we will live and do this or that.'*" (James 4:14-16) Otherwise, you are boasting about you own pretentious plans, and all such boasting is evil.

What do we learn from this? First, *life is brief*. On most grave markers, there is a little horizontal line illustrating a lifespan. Mozart's stone reads: "1756 – 1791." That's it. If only that "dash" could speak.

Second, *opportunity is now*. Not later. Your contribution, though small, is uniquely yours – a timeless trophy you invest daily.

Third, *death is sure*. You can't escape it. It's coming, friend. And at that time, like Mozart, you may seem insignificant to others. Forgotten, even. The only thing that will live on will be your personal contributions, your unique lifetime investments. You cannot presume on tomorrow. It may not come. You have only today.

Turn to the Lord today and commit your time, gifts, affections, and investments to Him. Make certain His name is made known and His grace transferred through your brief, but meaningful years on earth. Think of your life as a timeless trophy of His goodness to future generations.

Drew

Friendship



This month's highlight is on Ms. Ida Tumbaga, an invisible but very active member of Forest Heights. Ms. Ida has been homebound for many years but stays connected through letters, cards, and the telephone. Many of you have received a warm, welcoming call from Ida when you came to Forest Heights. She has the last three editions of our church directory sitting by her recliner. Ida is the last surviving member of what I lovingly call the Three Musketeers – Ida, her sister Rosalina, and her brother-in-law, Tim. Where one member

of the team was, you were sure to find the other two. (pictured are Ms. Ida (left) and sister Rosalina on the right).

Ida was born, raised, and educated in the Philippines. She later moved to Hawaii and finally to Tennessee to join her sister, Rosalina. Her career background was that of a hospice social worker. She said that serving others was modeled in her family. – her father was a pastor in the Evangelical Christian Church. Church was always an important part of her life. She grew up knowing that God loved her and walking in His path came naturally to her.

Ida attended the Philippines Wesleyan College and the University of Tennessee School of Social Work. She holds three bachelor's degrees – a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Science in Education, and a Bachelor of Science in Social Work. Ida started working with Hospice of West Tennessee in 1989 and immediately felt at home. She enjoyed the loving, caring, and supportive environment. She built a strong relationship with her patients and their families. In 2004 the Jackson Sun did a Community Profile on Ms. Ida, calling her “an angel in a hula shirt” (referring to the time she lived in Hawaii). Ida enjoyed working with Camp Bluebird, sponsored by West Tennessee Healthcare, for cancer patients.

After visiting at Forest Heights, she knew immediately that this is where her church home should be. For many years she was active in the Methodist Women, the knitting circle, helped with the Bazaar, and with Ann Shaw's encouragement, Ida helped on a Habitat for Humanity house.

Perhaps one of Ms. Ida's greatest spiritual gifts is one of hospitality and encouragement. She has never met a stranger and has a remarkable recall of names and faces. Once you meet Ida, you will be friends for life

Friendship, from one to the other *Be blessed*

Serving Each Other and Our Community

Nurture Area News

A big thank you to all who participated in our 2024 March to the Manger. Funds from this offering are designated to provide help to anyone in our congregation who has an emergency need. Our pastor oversees this fund. This year you gave \$1458.00 to support this ministry. Thank you for your generosity.

Freezer Blessings Update

This ministry, to people of our congregation, has been providing meals to folk who have been in the hospital, recuperation or in rehabilitation from an illness or injury. If you know of someone in need, please take them a meal. Meals are kept in a freezer marked Freezer Blessing in the storage room across from the kitchen. Instructions are posted on the freezer and plastic bags are available to put the frozen food in.

A cooking day is scheduled for Monday, February 3, at 10:00 a.m. We will be preparing four items on the menu and ask that you join us in the church kitchen to help prepare the food. Financial gifts to the ministry are always welcome. If you'd like to contribute, place your gift in an envelope and mark it Freezer Blessings. We thank the Sojourners Class for sponsoring this vital ministry.

Looking for a way to serve?

Join our Usher or Greeter team. These teams provide hospitality each Sunday morning. If you are interested, contact Sue Wyatt or Sue Bryant.

Save the Date

**Handbell Festival Concert
Saturday, February 22
First Baptist Church
2:00 p.m.**

Our handbell choir is participating and invites you to join them for this concert. You'll be glad you did!

United Women in Faith

During our first meeting of the year, our United Women in Faith chose "Teens" as our mission focus for 2025. We will work all year obtaining items and monetary donations to support the Teen Room at Reelfoot Rural Ministries. We hope to have a representative from Reelfoot to come and meet with us to provide information and ideas. We are very excited about this ministry opportunity.

United Women in Faith is open to any woman in the church and we would like to extend an invitation for each of you to come and visit with us at our next meeting! Our next meeting will be Thursday, February 20th at 3 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Come and see what you have been missing!

Outreach Area News

This has been a busy month at Forest Heights. We hosted **Room in the Inn** in early January and quickly followed with assisting both **Area Relief Ministries and the First United Methodist Church with the warming shelters** during our cold weather. Once again, it's time for Room in the Inn. We will be hosting the men on **Sunday, February 2nd**. This month's menu will include Turkey with all the trimmings. Please see the sign-up list on the Communication Table near the Church Office. Our last two Room in the Inn dates will be Sunday, March 2nd and Tuesday, April 8th.

This quarter's outreach emphasis is on education. We are featuring Ms. Amy Tate's 11th-grade U.S. History class at North Side High School. Many community groups assist students with school supplies, but few assist teachers with the supplies they need. Many of our teachers have difficulty obtaining supplies for their classroom and purchase them from their own pocket (or do without). Please help us support one of our own teachers. Needed supplies include: Sharpened pencils, disinfectant wipes, erasers, wide-ruled notebook paper, Kleenex, and pocket folders. Please bring your school supplies to the church office.



Marcia Tate collecting the school supplies for her daughter, Amy Tate. Keep the supplies coming. The supplies run out very quickly and need to be replaced.

Forest Heights was so pleased to assist one of our youths in attending the Chrysalis Walk the weekend of January 18 & 19. Averi was among the girls attending and went with the support of our congregation.

Recently the Ladies of the Yarn took 90 warm hats to the patients at the Kirkland Cancer Center. We were greeted by Kim from Support Services. She was delighted to receive the hats and made the comment that any hat would keep the head warm but these were special as they were knitted with love and prayers. These hats will warm the head and help heal the soul.



Thank you

A Sincere Thank you to all the friends at Forest Heights who gave us a remembrance at Christmas. What a loving thing to do. May Jesus see your act of kindness and continually bless you, always and forever.

Love to you,
Sandy Thomas

February Birthdays

14 Marilyn Pennel
18 John Archer
24 Carol Reeves
25 Don Senter

Calendar for February 2025

Feb 2	6:00 p.m.	Jackson 1 st UMC	Room in the Inn
Feb 5	9:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Ladies of the Yarn
Feb 5	10:00 a.m.	Resource Room	Bible Study Resumes
Feb 5	11:00 a.m.	Choir Room	Tapestry Practice
Feb 5	4:30 p.m.	Sanctuary	Bell Choir Practice
Feb 5	5:30 p.m.	Choir Room	Chancel Choir Practice
Feb 11	5:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Pre-School Training
Feb 19	9:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Ladies of the Yarn
Feb 19	10:00 a.m.	Resource Room	Bible Study
Feb 19	11:00 a.m.	Choir Room	Tapestry Practice
Feb 19	4:30 p.m.	Sanctuary	Bell Choir Practice
Feb 19	5:30 p.m.	Choir Room	Chancel Choir Practice
Feb 20	3:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	United Women of Faith
Feb 22	2:00 p.m.	1 st Baptist Church	Jackson Handbell Festival Concert
Feb 25	5:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Pre-School Training
Feb 26	9:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Ladies of the Yarn
Feb 26	10:00 a.m.	Resource Room	Bible Study
Feb 26	11:00 a.m.	Choir Room	Tapestry Practice
Feb 26	4:30 p.m.	Sanctuary	Bell Choir Practice
Feb 26	5:30 p.m.	Choir Room	Chancel Choir Practice
Feb 27	5:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Pre-School Training

You can always find the **Weekly Calendar** and more details about **Upcoming Events** under the “**Events**” tab on fhumc.com.