

# FOREST FIRE

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

**April 2025**

## **A Word from Pastor Drew**

“Consider how the wildflowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon, in all his splendor, was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you – you of little faith! (Luke 12:27-28)

During this time of year, I love to visit gardens to see flowers. It's one of my favorite ways to relax. Flowers become so beautiful just by doing what they were made to do, without any stress. Looking at them, I'm reminded that I can trust God to take care of me, too.

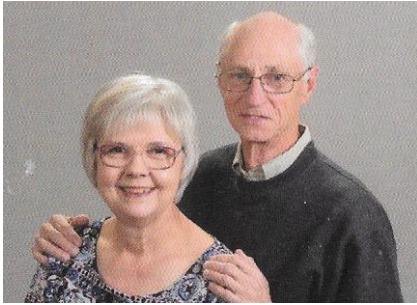
We can get overwhelmed with everything we must do in our busy lives. We might even start worrying about the future. But Jesus tells us not to worry and to look at the simple beauty of nature to inspire us to make a different choice. He tells us to think about how wildflowers grow as a reminder that God cares for everything he made – including us. These verses remind us that God loves and cares for even the most minor parts of his creation. The flowers grow naturally, depending on God for everything they need. They don't worry about whether they'll have enough. They trust what God provides for them – in the process, they become beautiful. We may worry about what we need for our health, money, relationships, and much more. But Jesus says to look at the flowers and learn from them. They grow well under God's care without worrying – just by being what God made them to be.

Beautiful flowers also show us how amazing God's work is in our lives. God's care for us includes paying attention to every little detail. Just as flowers grow without effort, trusting God to provide, we can rest assured that God will meet our needs. We should still work hard on what God has given us to do. But we never need to worry about our needs being met because we can always trust God to provide what we need. So, let's enjoy the simple beauty of flowers and let their beauty remind us of God's beautiful care for us. May we grow in faith, knowing that the God who clothes the flowers so well will take care of us, too!

Drew

TWK Annual Conference will be held June 1-4 at Collierville United Methodist Church. The opening session for the conference will be Sunday Evening, June 1<sup>st</sup>. This is an inspiring session. If anyone is interested in carpooling to the session, there is a sign-up sheet at the communication desk near the office.

# *Friendship ..... Linda & Ernie Wilson*



Ernie and I met in May of 1966. Our first date was to my senior prom. We dated that summer and then I left for college at Michigan State University. We continued to date and then in the fall of that year he received his draft notice from the U.S. Army. We decided to get married before he had to leave for the service.

After basic training he was sent to Ft. Rucker, Alabama. We lived in Enterprise, Alabama while he went to helicopter maintenance school. Then he was sent to Viet Nam, serving as a helicopter crew chief.

I went home and got a job. I was able to join him in Hawaii for R&R. After his tour of duty, we came to Tennessee to visit one of Ernie's Army buddies. We really liked Jackson and decided to move here in November of 1968.

We had our first daughter, Stacy in 1970 and our second daughter, Samantha, in 1977. We have one granddaughter, Edy, who will be 16 in May.

Ernie went back to school and graduated from Christian Brothers College in Memphis. Over the years Ernie worked for Truex Chevrolet, Touchstone, ABB, and Mill Masters, but probably his favorite job was working and maintaining the buildings at First Presbyterian church for nearly 20 years. He officially retired in December, 2024.

We visited Forest Heights in 1974 and joined a couple of years later. We attended a Sunday School class where Ken Marston was teaching. Paul Clyton was the pastor at that time (our 3-year-old daughter called him "creature Clayton" and he loved it).

In 1979 the church started a Mother's Day Out program with Vi Pucket as director. After a year she chose not to continue, and I was hired to replace her. We worked to become licensed by the State as a full-fledged preschool and expanded our hours so we could offer full time care. I served as preschool director for 32 years and retired in 2012. At times the going was difficult but also very rewarding being able to offer a program that was beneficial to children and also very much needed by parents. I am pleased the preschool has continued to thrive and serve the community.

*Friendship, from one to the other ..... Be blessed*

**Church Security Announcement** – The Safe Sanctuary Policy is in the process of being updated, and at the April 26<sup>th</sup> Church Council meeting it was agreed that in order to ensure the safety of our Preschool we will keep all doors of the church locked during the hours that the Preschool is in session. Please come to the Fellowship Hall door to be admitted if you do not have the code. Press the button for admittance and someone will either come let you in or unlock the door for your admittance. We will try to make this as convenient as possible and we thank you for your help.

## **Nurture Area News**

A big thank you to all who helped prepare food, set-up, and host our Fifth Sunday Fellowship and Maundy Thursday meals. You are indeed a blessing to our congregation.

**Freezer Blessing Ministry** – If you or someone in our congregation is recuperating from an illness or surgery, or in need of a meal, please take one from our well stocked freezer. This ministry is sponsored by the Sojourners Sunday School Class and several members of our congregation.

**Women’s Study** – The Women’s Study, “The Cup of our Life” concluded on April 21 after seven weeks of great sharing and fellowship. We ended our time together making a mosaic cross from broken cups. The cross is a symbol of how the pieces of our lives come together in Christ. The cross along with other visuals from each session are on the Welcome Table in the Fellowship Hall.

Special thanks to Janette Chaplin, Callie Ulum, Beverlyann Jetton, Kristin Nation, Marianne Archer, Jean Ralson, and Sue Wyatt for providing leadership for this group.

**Wednesday Bible Study with Drew** – We thank Drew for leading our in-depth study of Luke. Your insights and encouraging words lead to our fuller and growing knowledge of God’s presence and Grace. We appreciate too, the discussion and fellowship within the group. Watch the Forest Fire for date and topics for our next study.

**Save the Date** – Come celebrate Elaine’s Retirement on Sunday, May 18, following our worship service. Elaine has served as our Music Director for seventeen years. Her faithful dedication and love for Christ has been shared through her gift of music.



We are collecting cards, letters and monetary gifts for a money tree to present to her at the reception. If you would like to add to these gifts, please bring to church office by May 14<sup>th</sup>.

## **United Women in Faith**

In May we will meet on Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Gayle Crocker will have the program and Kitty Hawkins and Marilyn Kemp will provide refreshments.

UWF has several ongoing projects. We are donating items and/or cash at each meeting to support the Reelfoot Teen Room at Christmas. We have applications for anyone interested in reading to the daycare children.

In May we will have a candle-burning ceremony during a Sunday morning worship service where the congregation can donate to global missions of UWF by honoring or memorializing a special person in their life. If you would like to participate in any of these projects, please see any UWF member.



## CANDLEBURNING

The United Women in Faith will have our CANDLEBURNING Service during our morning worship service on Sunday, May 11. The gifts given will go to support missions here and around the world. \$5.00 or more may be given to honor or remember a person or group. Your gifts will honor the person being remembered and will honor our congregation by burning the candle both on May 11<sup>th</sup> and at the Annual Meeting of the Tennessee River District United Women in Faith. The main candle will burn 8 seconds for each \$5.00 gift. Most of all your gifts will honor God by helping the needs of people throughout the world. In addition, during the service individual candles will be lit for each person being honored or remembered. The names of the honorees will be listed in a bulletin insert on Mother's Day. Gifts may be placed in the offering plate, sent to Marcia Tate, United Women in Faith treasurer, or to the church office by Wednesday, May 7.

Your gifts will be greatly appreciated.

IN HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

GIVEN BY \_\_\_\_\_

(Make checks to United Women in Faith)

## Outreach Area News

**IT'S SHOEBOX TIME!!!** Each year Forest Heights participates in the United Methodist Christmas Shoe Box ministry. Our shoeboxes will be shipped to Central America, Mexico, and the Caribbean. Unlike other shoebox project, our boxes must contain specific items including a complete set of clothes. You can assist with this ministry in several ways:

1. **Pack a shoebox** – This is a fun family project. Shoeboxes are provided along with the list of items to include (and not to include)
2. **Provide needed items** – A list of items we need is on the Communication table by the church office. Our list includes items like: hair bows, barrettes, pony tail bands, washcloths, small (very small) toys, nail care kits, socks, and underwear.
3. **Make a financial donation** – Don't like to shop? We will do the shopping for you! Please make your checks out to Forest Heights UMC and write Shoebox in the memo line.
4. **Sign up for a work day** – We will have several work days in June and July to organize supplies, pack boxes, and double check the boxes we receive from outside church (quality control).

**Room at the Table** This will be our second year to participate in Room at the Table. We will be providing a hot meal to families who reside at Studio 45 Suites (formally the Scottish Inn). Our first meal will be served on Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>. Our menu includes Turkey and dressing, sweet potatoes, green beans, and desserts. Please see the sign-up list on the Communication Table by the church office.

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ. In March, Forest Heights collected \$2,629 for UMCOR. Two weeks later, severe storms hit this area and Forest Heights provided a pickup truck load of plastic storage totes filled with hygiene supplies. Other ongoing ministries that you may be interested in are: **Project 20/20** – recycling used prescription eyeglasses and **The Blessing Box**. Carol Bryant delivers non-perishable food items to area Blessing Boxes. We recognize that you cannot participate in every project. It is our goal to give you a variety of options for ministry.

**Christmas Shoebox Project:** Our big summer mission project will be coming up in June and July. Several people have asked what items they can be looking for as they shop. Here are a few ideas: small flashlights with batteries (Dollar Tree has flat flashlights near the checkout), nail care kits, sharpened pencils, small notebooks, wash cloths, wide tooth combs, ponytail bands and hair clips.



### **SEARCH FOR NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR IS UNDERWAY**

As we wish Elaine Jones well on her retirement, we have begun an open search for our new music director at Forest Heights UMC. A search committee has been formed by the SPRC and, after approval by the church council of a detailed job description, they have begun advertising and accepting applications for the position. All members of the congregation are encouraged to share the vacancy with anyone they know who might be qualified and interested in fulfilling this role on our staff. The complete job description can be requested from our church office. Any interested applicants are invited to submit a resume to the church office by email at [office@fhumc.com](mailto:office@fhumc.com) or by mail at our church address, Forest Heights UMC, 863 W. Forest Ave., Jackson, TN, 38301. The deadline for applicants to respond is May 15, 2025.

### **Preschool Easter Egg Hunt**

The Witness committee assisted the Forest Heights Preschool on March 17<sup>th</sup> with annual Easter Egg Hunt. We served refreshments to the parents, guests, and preschool workers. Each person was given a small gift bag with a brochure of all the activities at Forest Heights.



## May Birthdays

5 Elizabeth Grisham  
9 Edy Wood  
9 Betty Lyons  
12 A. J. Kennedy  
13 Collins (Coco) Flynn  
19 Ondra Farmer  
20 Kitty Hawkins  
26 Robert Reeves  
26 Sue Wyatt  
28 Gloria Johnson  
30 Jordan Mathenia  
31 Adrian Thomas

## May Anniversaries

8 Carroll & Russell Gallimore  
29 Marcia & Steve Law

## Calendar for May 2025 - find the **Weekly Calendar** under the “**Events**” tab on [fhumc.com](http://fhumc.com)

May 1			Pastor Drew on Vacation
May 5	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Worship Committee Meeting
May 7	11:00 a.m.	Choir Room	Tapestry Practice
May 7	12:30 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Ladies of the Yarn
May 7	4:30 p.m.	Sanctuary	Handbell Practice
May 7	5:30 p.m.	Choir Room	Chancel Choir Practice
May 8	5:00 p.m.	Studio 45 Suites	Room @ the Table
May 11	11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Mother's Day UWF Candle Burning
May 13	9:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Preschool Program Practice
May 14	9:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Preschool Program Practice
May 15	9:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Preschool Program Practice
May 15	3:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	United Women in Faith
May 15	6:00 p.m.	Sanctuary	Preschool Spring Program
May 18	12:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Elaine Jones Reception
May 21	11:00 a.m.	Choir Room	Tapestry Practice
May 21	12:30 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Ladies of the Yarn
May 21	4:30 p.m.	Sanctuary	Handbell Practice
May 21	5:30 p.m.	Choir Room	Chancel Choir Practice
May 28	11:00 a.m.	Choir Room	Tapestry Practice
May 28	12:30 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Ladies of the Yarn
May 28	4:30 p.m.	Sanctuary	Handbell Practice
May 28	5:30 p.m.	Choir Room	Chancel Choir Practice