

# FOREST FIRE

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

July 2025

## A Word from Pastor Drew

**“Love is patient; love is kind; love in envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist of its own way...” 1 Corinthians 13:4-5**

The community of Alcoholics Anonymous, and its sister organization, Narcotics Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous, and others, meets several times each day in the city of Jackson TN, and in most cities throughout the world. Some have referred to AA as “the midnight church.” There are those who say, (and they might be right), that as much “church” goes on in an AA meeting on a Saturday night, as goes on in most sanctuaries on Sunday morning. Alcoholics Anonymous has not only saved countless lives over its history, but has also changed the way much of the world looks upon addiction. It is an amazing story.

AA members are about as diverse as you can get. They probably disagree on more than what they agree on, but what they have in common is stronger than anything that divides them. And what they hold in common is stronger than anything that divides them. And what they hold in common is a true understanding of our condition as flawed human beings, and the necessity of a *higher power* to help us live with our condition. I believe it was the Russian writer, Solzhenitsyn, who once said, “*The difference in good and evil in not between me and you; it is the line the runs through the middle of every human heart.*” It is the war that goes on in each of us, the line between thinking of ourselves only, and thinking of others, or between what seems good for me, and what seems to be “the common good.”

Paul says that love is the higher power that Christians are supposed to use in making our decisions. When Paul describes this love, he says, “*love does not insist on its own way.*” Love does not try to control other people. It is the higher power that we are to use in making decisions on how to live with other people. I don’t know what other people would use as their higher power. I only know that we, as Christians, are to use love. I would guess that if we were to talk about what we believe, and especially if we were to act on it, the way AA members do with their creed, in humility and acceptance, that others would listen. There are millions of people in this world who suffer from slavery to self. They would recognize what we are talking about. They may use different language in talking about it, but they would understand, and they would say, “I believe that, too.”

This year, as we approach our national holiday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, it might be good to consider this idea in our political views. I believe that “common ground” is what can be found in this quote from Judge Learned Hand, who many years ago wrote a book called The Spirit of Liberty. The Apostle Paul could have written these same words:

*“The spirit of liberty is the spirit which is not too sure that it is always right: The spirit of liberty is the spirit which seeks to understand the minds and the hearts of other human beings. The spirit of liberty is the spirit which weighs their interest alongside its own without bias. The spirit of liberty remembers that not even a sparrow falls to the earth unheeded. The spirit of liberty is the spirit of Him who some 2000 years ago taught us a lesson that we have never learned, but have never forgotten, that there may be a Kingdom where the least shall be heard and considered, side by side with the greatest.”*

Drew

## *Friendship ..... Carol & Bob Reeves*



My name is Carol Reeves. I was born on a farm in a blizzard in North Dakota. A doctor came for my delivery about 10 miles on a sleigh to reach our farm. I attended school in Church's Ferry until graduation. I enrolled in the University of North Dakota. Later, I went to Georgia to see my brother who was in the Air Force near Savannah. I liked it so much down there I decided to stay for a while. I got a job and lived in a boarding house. This is when I met Bob, who was an Air Traffic Controller on the base and for the local traffic. We were married there and started our family.

After Bob's retirement we traveled in the US. We spent several winters in Tucson, AZ. We went to several foreign countries and to ND. Now we visit NC to visit our son and his family. We have 2 children, a son, Bobby Jr, living in Raleigh, NC and Mary, our daughter, who lives in Knoxville, TN. We moved back to Memphis in 1962. We have 2 granddaughters and 2 great-granddaughters. We have had a good life filled with love and enjoyment for 65 years, all because of a blind date.

We are United Methodists. We were members of the following churches: Asbury Memorial, Savannah, Georgia, Colonial Park, Memphis, Oakhaven UMC, Memphis, Somerville UMC, Aldersgate UMC, Jackson, Forest Heights, Jackson. We have many new friends with good fellowship and spiritual uplifting.

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



Ballet Rejoice dancers, Riley Jones, Allie Kate Heit, and Leila Heit performed their beautiful interpretive dance during our worship service on June 8<sup>th</sup>.

Dear FHUMC Friends, It was our great pleasure to worship again with the congregation during Pentecost Sunday. The dancers of Ballet Rejoice are always humbled to use their talent of dance and movement as an expression of praise. Thank you for your warm welcome, kind words, and generous donation to Ballet Arts. All funds are greatly appreciated and used to continue our gifts to our community. Peace and Love, Kim Borden.

## **Nurture Area News**

A big thank you to our grill masters, John Archer and Bill Wyatt, for grilling the hamburgers and hot dogs for our Fifth Sunday Fellowship. They were delicious. Thank you too goes out to all who helped prepare the “sides” and those who helped set-up and clean up. Your willing hands are a blessing to us.

Be sure to take a minute or two to look at pictures of our “church life” on the television in Wyatt Fellowship Hall. Marianne Archer put the video together from pictures taken by Beverlyann Jetton. It’s exciting to see where God is moving us.

**Freezer Blessing Update:** Spinach lasagna has been added to our entrée list for this ministry. Beef stroganoff has rotated off. We still have poppy seed chicken, potato soup, taco soup, frozen cherry salad, wild and cheesy chicken, green bean casserole, baked macaroni and cheese, along with dessert selections.

Please feel free to take a meal to members of our

## **United Women in Faith**

In July we will meet on Thursday, July 17th at 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

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.

At our June meeting Susan Montgomery and Jean Ralston reported on the UWF Mission U Conference. The emphasis this year was on hope.

It was decided to have our August meeting be a dinner meal at a restaurant to be selected. All women of the church are invited. Please contact Susan Montgomery or Sue Bryant in the office if you are interested in attending.

### **FROM THE TRUSTEES**

As you heard a few weeks ago, our church received a \$22,500 grant this spring from the conference for building repairs that we submitted. We would like to give you an update on how that money has been used so far:

- Windows upstairs have been replaced to repair rotten frames, leaks, and cracks. We were able to replace the old ones with energy-efficient windows.
- Heating and air conditioning unit in choir room has been replaced.
- Drains on roof have been repaired in preparation for new doors outside the choir room and under the steeple. Leaks over time have caused the doors to rot and these roof repairs should prevent future damage.

We anticipate the doors mentioned above will be repaired/replaced soon to complete this project.

## Outreach Area News



Room at the Table: As we continue to minister to the families at Studio 45, we are meeting new people and learning a little of their journey. I am asking for prayer for Mr. Bobby, a gentleman with end stage liver cancer. He is estranged from his family – his only family are the friends he has made at the hotel. Our church has been able to provide him with new clothes (he has lost a great deal of weight) and we are bringing him a hot meal twice a week. Please lift him up in your prayers as we share the Love of Jesus with him.

Our next time to serve at Room at the Table will be on Thursday, July 10<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up on the Communication Table to serve or provide food items

Christmas Shoeboxes: We have been able to give out to area churches just over 1,000 empty shoe boxes. Forest Heights plans to fill about 120 boxes again this year. Please pray for the children who will receive these boxes, that they will know that they represent the love of Christ.

Work days to fill the boxes are scheduled for **July 16<sup>th</sup> (set up/organize), July 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>** (fill boxes and clean up). I will also need help the end of July and early August to inspect the boxes we receive from outside churches

**Outstanding needs:** play jewelry for little girls, small flashlights with batteries, small toys, boys' underwear (ages range from 3 yr to 12), hair bows, barrettes, and ponytail bands. You may purchase these items or donate financially. Please make your check out to Forst Heights and write Shoeboxes in the memo line.

Mission team: We have the privilege to host a youth mission team from three churches in Minnesota. These young people will be at our church on July 12 and depart the next day for their final destination in Knoxville. We will serve them supper and a hot breakfast the next morning. If you are near the church that evening, drop by and greet our guests.

## **TWKUMC 2025 Annual Conference Video Recordings**

The recordings from the annual conference are now available on the conference website at [twkumc.org/ac2025/media/](http://twkumc.org/ac2025/media/). They are arranged by day with business session and worship services. Photographs from the conference will also be available via that page, so check back soon

## Correction to the Directory

Please correct the telephone number given for Marcia Law. The correct phone number is:

(731)217-9491

## Thank You

Dear FHUMC Family,

I am so very humbled by the love, the kindness, and the generosity that you showed me through honoring me with such a wonderful retirement reception, and of course the money tree! What a blessing! But, most of all, I thank you for your genuineness and support that I felt on Day One, seventeen years ago. You are a very special congregation!

I bought patio table and chairs, umbrellas, new cushions, pillows, and rug for old patio furniture.  
Thank you! Elaine Jones



## *Happy Birthday & Anniversary*

### July Birthdays

1 Susan Montgomery  
6 Gordon Eubanks  
13 Bray Finney  
14 John Borden  
26 David Thomas  
28 Carroll Gallimore  
29 Ron Pennel  
30 Gary Deaton

### July Anniversaries

11 Marianne & John Archer

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

July 2	10:30 a.m.	Choir Room	Tapestry Practice
	11:50 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Lunch/Bible Study – Moses
	1:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Ladies of the Yarn
	4:30 p.m.	Sanctuary	Handbell Practice
	5:30 p.m.	Choir Room	Choir Practice
July 5	3:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall/Kitchen	Wheatley Gathering

## **Calendar for July 2025 (cont)**

July 6	9:15 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Fellowship Time
	9:30 a.m.		Adult & Youth Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Worship Service
July 9	10:30 a.m.	Choir Room	Tapestry Practice
	11:50 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Lunch/Bible Study – Moses
	1:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Ladies of the Yarn
	4:30 p.m.	Sanctuary	Handbell Practice
	5:30 p.m.	Choir Room	Choir Practice
July 10	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Preschool Steering Committee
	5:00 p.m.	Studio 45 Suites	Room @ the Table
July 13	9:15 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Fellowship Time
	9:30 a.m.		Adult & Youth Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Worship Service
July 14	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Worship Committee
July 16	All Day	Resource Room	Christmas Shoebox Workday
	10:30 a.m.	Choir Room	Tapestry Practice
	11:50 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Lunch/Bible Study – Moses
	1:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Ladies of the Yarn
	4:30 p.m.	Sanctuary	Handbell Practice
	5:30 p.m.	Choir Room	Choir Practice
July 17	All Day	Resource Room	Christmas Shoebox Workday
	3:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	United Women in Faith
July 18	All Day	Resource Room	Christmas Shoebox Workday
July 20	9:15 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Fellowship Time
	9:30 a.m.		Adult & Youth Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Worship Service
	12:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Church Council Meeting
July 23	10:30 a.m.	Choir Room	Tapestry Practice
	11:50 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Lunch/Bible Study - Moses
	1:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Ladies of the Yarn
	4:30 p.m.	Sanctuary	Handbell Practice
	5:30 p.m.	Choir Room	Choir Practice
July 24	5:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Preschool Staff Meeting
July 27	9:15 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Fellowship Time
	9:30 a.m.		Adult & Youth Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Worship Service
July 28	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Worship Committee
July 30		Choir Room	Tapestry Practice
	1:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Ladies of the Yarn
	4:30 p.m.	Sanctuary	Handbell Practice
	5:30 p.m.	Choir Room	Choir Practice