

# FOREST FIRE

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

**August 2025**

## **A Word from Pastor Drew**

### **Embracing the Storm**

“Storms can serve as a divine wake up call to hear God’s voice again.”

When I was young, we had a puppy who was deathly afraid of storms. When it thundered, he would pace around, looking for an exit. One day, a ferocious storm came while he was outside. My beautiful, loving dog panicked, running into the street and getting hit by a car.

In life, we encounter all types of storms that bring panic and fear. But what would happen if we embraced our storms? Jonah had a calling from God. But some major issues in Jonah’s life were hindering that call. Instead of going to Nineveh, Jonah resisted and boarded a ship in the opposite direction (Jonah 1:2). God responded with a storm: “Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up.”

Storms are often God’s tool to accomplish His purpose in our lives. Like Jonah, we might think running away is the easiest solution. And, while it might bring immediate relief, it ultimately compounds the intensity of our issues. We run from hard marriages or difficult conversations. As a pastor, when I counsel couples to go to the hard places, they would often resist. So did Jonah. He was fixated on little things God doesn’t care about and ignored the big things God did care about.

One encouragement I take from Jonah’s story is that God is not afraid to call people with issues. That doesn’t mean it excuses us. But, in the process of our calling, God starts to deal with us. Storms can serve as a divine wake up call to hear God’s voice again. Jonah went into the ship and fell asleep. When we run from God, we avoid spiritual reality. We shut out anything that reminds us of our condition. We don’t want to deal with the issues God wants us to deal with.

Friends, God is not limited in how he can speak to you. He speaks to us through his word, but he can also use a storm to get our attention. If you find yourself like Jonah, disobedient and disconnected from your calling, there is time to turn around. Take notice of what happened to God’s prophet. Get up, wake up, and call out to God.

Drew

## *Friendship ..... Lee Hirsh*

Hello Brothers and Sister in Christ. I'm Lee Hirsh and I've lived most of my life away from this beautiful place called Tennessee.

When T.J. asked me to write something about myself, it was strange for me to fit a life time of living into a capsule. Regretably, I'm not a person of few words. I had a wonderful childhood – born in Killan, Alabama in 1937 to Paul Lewis and Dorothy Pelt Lewis. My Dad started with TVA when both were young. We followed my dad where work took him, living in small houses and boarding house. When I reflect back, I'm so proud of my very young parents, they showed such maturity.

My childhood church stood on a hill, a small white church with wooden floors that spoke loudly when you walked in. Good old hymns are what I remember most. We moved to Jackson when I was entering the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. I attended Jr. High, Jackson High, 1 year at Lambuth & the Church of Christ in downtown Jackson, next to Casey Jones old home place. I was baptized there.

At 19 I left home to become a Flight Attendant with Braniff Airways whose base was Dallas, TX., later becoming Braniff International, to continued my education in real time. That lasted 33 years.

### Life Happened!

I've attended church at almost every denomination, searching, and I Joined 3. I attended 4 educational establishments to further my education, and I still don't have a paper certificate. I've had numerous jobs after Braniff's demise. I worked at Southern Methodist University for 4 years in administration until my mom came to live with us.

I married twice and was blessed with 2 beautiful children that in turn have given the world 6 beautiful children and I have 2 bonus grand children by my daughter's 2nd husband. There are 8 grandchildren in all. Life Happens!

In living as long as I have, there has been a lot of living between each event, some good, some not so good. But morning came and God always saw me thru, with more good days than bad.

By being gifted by my career choice, I got to see a lot of this world. Africa was one of my favorites. While there on a safari in the middle of nowhere, at a restaurant stop. I go to the rest room and heard this voice I recognized from grade school – while washing my hands. I ask this person if she was Ann Greer. She said, "I used to be, but I just got married." Her husband was doing his Residency Internship in Dallas. Ann told a reporter with the Dallas Morning News and he wrote an article about us reuniting in a rest room in Africa – Life is so unexpectedly interesting.

My interests are varied. I enjoy family, people, gardening, reading, writing, and travel of course. I used to enjoy cooking but not so much anymore. I love animals and new adventures, as simple as finding a beautiful rock! And last but not least, I love learning especially about God. I'm always in awe of what he will do in one's life, if they believe.

I happened to find Forest Heights by exploring different churches in the neighborhood. I met Pastor Drew and liked him. He seemed so down to earth. Then the Bible Study started and I was hooked! I love Drew's messages. They always seem to pertain to real life, and the church reminds me of what church should be – LOVE GOD – LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR!

Thank you all for being wonderful human beings! For being so welcoming to all and that includes me! GOD BLESS US ALL.

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

## **Nurture Area News**

**Ministry Opportunity** Our Homebound Visiting Team is seeking folk to join us as we visit our homebound members. We typically make our visits on the first Monday of each month. The visits last around fifteen to twenty minutes and includes sharing communion. If you are interested in serving, please meet with Sue Wyatt in the Fellowship Hall, this coming Sunday following worship.

A Big Thankyou the Noon Bible Study lunch ladies. Jean Ralston, Beverlyann Jetton, Marcia Law, Marcia Tate, Cheryl Thomas, and Sue Wyatt for planning, purchasing, and serving the lunches for this time together. Your gift of hospitality is indeed a gift to us.

**Freezer Blessings cooking day** Join us in the church's kitchen on Tuesday, July 29 at 11:00 a.m. to replenish our Freezer Blessings meals. All hands are welcome.

**Save the Date** Sunday, August 31  
Fifth Sunday Fellowship Lunch  
Menu: Jerry Ervin's Smoked Bar-be-que.  
Bring a dish or two to share.

## **United Women in Faith**

United Women in Faith will meet Thursday, August 21 at 5:30 p.m. for a Dutch treat meal at Brooksie's Barn. There will be no business meeting, just a time for fellowship and fun. We would like to invite all women in the church to attend and enjoy a meal with us. (You do not have to be a member or plan to become a member). We hope you will consider coming so that we can all get to know each other a little better!

## **Women's Fall Retreat**

Ladies of the church, does a peaceful weekend away at beautiful Lakeshore Camp sound like just what you need? The United Women in Faith of the TWK Conference will hold their annual Spiritual Life Fall Retreat on September 5 – 7. Our retreat leader this year will be Rev. Linda Furtado. Her topic is "Jesus, Now What? Living Your Life Every Day." Check-in is on Friday, September 5, at 4:30 p.m. and check-out is on Sunday, September 7 at noon.

Cost for the weekend is \$135 or \$165 (depending on selected room accommodations) and includes 5 meals, from dinner on Friday night through breakfast on Sunday morning. You can register by mailing in a registration form (see Susan Montgomery) or online at [twkuwf.org](http://twkuwf.org). Registration deadline is August 22. All women are invited to attend the retreat whether or not you are a member of UWF.

## **FROM THE TRUSTEES**



The doors under the steeple have been replaced completing the projects using our grant money.

Representatives of Harris Trim Carpentry completed the hanging of the new doors.

## Outreach / Missions

**ZZZZZ**Well, Forest Heights showed up and showed out again! July was a busy month! Not only did we host Room at the Table, but we also housed 32 young people from churches in Minnesota as they were traveling to a mission activity **and** completed our Christmas Shoebox project by packing 130 boxes. WAY TO GO, FOREST HEIGHTS!!! Here are a few highlights of our activities:



**Room at the Table:** We will be serving about 70 meals again on Thursday, Aug 14<sup>th</sup>. Please sign up at the Communications Table to help. Our menu will be a Farmers Market Buffet (a nice way to say – vegetables!)

**RIFA is looking for volunteers to help with Pack the Bus**, their annual food/snack drive that benefits their Snack Backpack ministry, which feeds approximately 1,000 children every week during the school year. **Pack the Bus will be Aug 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 – 3:30.** Activities include passing out flyers at Walmart and Kroger and lifting small bags of food onto the bus. **If you are interested in volunteering, please call RIFA at 731-427-7963**

**Hope Luther League:** On the evening of July 12<sup>th</sup>, Forest Heights was pleased to welcome a youth mission team from northern Minnesota to spend the night in our church. We provided supper on Saturday Evening and Breakfast Sunday morning. The group was on the way to Knoxville, TN to serve with an organization called Next Step. The youth will be working to help reroof some buildings and with other tasks. Our Outreach Committee organized lodging and meals for the group which had driven down to Memphis earlier on Saturday and came on over to Jackson Saturday evening. The Jackson Fire Dept joined us for dinner Saturday night. The youth enjoyed exploring the fire equipment, including pulling and aiming a fire hose. It was not long before the girls were on the receiving end of the water.



**Shoebboxes:** Our 2025 project is almost behind us – now we need to plan for 2026. If you like to yard sale or Thrift shop, watch for these items: Shorts and tops for children ages 3 – 12, Small stuffed toys, other small toys such as jump ropes, match box cars. We also will need new underwear and socks for ages 3-12.



**Looking ahead to September:** In Sept. we will fill Ms. Amy Tate’s school closet. Paper, Kleenex, and folders are a few of the things needed. Watch the Sept Newsletter for more ideas.

### **Note of Thanks**

I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, texts, and food that I received following my recent knee replacement surgery. I feel truly blessed to belong to such a caring congregation.

Marcia Law

## *Happy Birthday & Anniversary*

### **August Birthdays**

1 Paul Finney  
3 Arlene Murphy  
10 Jane Huckabee  
11 Marilyn Deaton  
12 Beverlyann Jetton  
15 Reid Finney  
19 Kevin Wheatley  
31 Jean Ralston

### **August Anniversaries**

9 Susan & Kevin Wheatley

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

August 1	7:30 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	FHPS Teacher Inservice
August 2	8:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall; RR	Emmaus Team Mtg.
August 3	9:15 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Fellowship Time
	9:30 a.m.		Adult & Youth Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Worship Service
August 6	11:00 a.m.	Choir Room	Tapestry Practice
	1:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Ladies of the Yarn
	4:30 p.m.	Sanctuary	Handbell Practice
	5:45 p.m.	Choir Room	Choir Practice
August 7	1:00 p.m.	Kitchen	United Women In Faith
August 10	9:15 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Fellowship Time
	9:30 a.m.		Adult & Youth Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Worship Service
August 11	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Worship Committee
August 13	11:00 a.m.	Choir Room	Tapestry Practice
	1:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Ladies of the Yarn
	4:30 p.m.	Sanctuary	Handbell Practice
	5:45 p.m.	Choir Room	Choir Practice
August 16	8:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall; RR	Emmaus Team Mtg.
August 17	9:15 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Fellowship Time
	9:30 a.m.		Adult & Youth Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Worship Service
August 20	11:00 a.m.	Choir Room	Tapestry Practice
	1:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Ladies of the Yarn
	4:30 p.m.	Sanctuary	Handbell Practice
	5:45 p.m.	Choir Room	Choir Practice
August 21	5:30 p.m.	Brookie’s Barn	United Women in Faith Dinner
August 23	8:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall; RR	Emmaus Team Mtg.
August 24	9:15 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Fellowship Time
	9:30 a.m.		Adult & Youth Sunday School
	11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Worship Service
August 27	11:00 a.m.	Choir Room	Tapestry Practice
	1:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Ladies of the Yarn
	4:30 p.m.	Sanctuary	Handbell Practice
	5:45 p.m.	Choir Room	Choir Practice
August 31	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	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Lunch