FOREST FIRE

The Monthly Newsletter of Forest Heights United Methodist Church
863 West Forest Ave., Jackson, TN 38301
November 2025

A Word from Pastor Drew

Remembering the Saints

Barbara Brown Taylor describes the Feast of Saints as a *"family reunion."* She writes: "*What is it that makes a saint? Extravagance. Excessive love, flagrant mercy, radical affection, exorbitant charity, immoderate faith, intemperate hope, inordinate love. None of which is an achievement, a badge to be earned or a trophy to be sought; but all are secondary by-products of the one thing that truly makes a saint, which is the love of God, which is membership in the body of Christ, which is what all of us, living and dead, remembered and forgotten, great and small, have in common."*

Some of us may do more with that love that others and may find ourselves able to reflect it in a way that causes others to call us saints, but the title "saint" is one that has been given to us all by virtue of our baptisms. The moment we rose dripping from the holy water we joined the communion of saints. So, All Saints' Day is a family reunion indeed, of a clan made kin by Christ's blood. There are heroes and scoundrels at the party, beloved aunts and estranged cousins, relatives we adore and those who plainly baffle us. But they are all ours, and we are all included."

On All Saints' Sunday we recognize Abraham and Jacob, Peter and Paul, Mathew and Thomas, as well as St. Ignatius and St. Augustine, plus all the whom we have loved and lost (especially) during the last year. Because of them and because of one another and because of the God who binds us all together, we can do more than any of us had dreamed to do alone.

The point is this: In the eyes of church, death does not put an end to our relationship with the people who have been precious to us. These people still live in us and around us. Brothers and sisters in Christ never die; they are just with us differently. Jesus is Lor over all things, including death itself.

Pastor Drew

Friendship …… Kathleen Wilson

I grew up on Walnut St. in Paris, TN as the youngest of three girls. My mom started the kindergarten program in Paris while my dad worked for the US Fish and Wildlife Service. He loved his gardening and taught me to love it as well on the old Gov. Porter property that was beside our house.

My oldest sister by six years, Jeanne (went to Lambuth) lives in Tyronza, Arkansas with her husband Charles. They have raised six of their seven grandchildren. My middle sister by four years, Lilli passed away just shy of nine years old from brain cancer. I was almost four at the time of her death.

I grew up taking art, piano, and voice lessons. Band included playing the clarinet oboe, flute, and a few other instruments. Singing in the church choirs growing up at First Baptist instilled my love for worship music. I started college at Murray State University majoring in music. I ended up being certified to teach music, but changed my major before graduation to speech a language pathology.

My first job took me to Bowling Green, KY where I worked in the schools as a speech pathologist while earning my master's degree. My next job was at Western Kentucky University where I was the Speech and Hearing Clinic director and instructor in the department.

Life took a major turn and I moved to metro Detroit for 17 years. I loved the seasons and attractions there while learning so much about working with people from diverse cultures, religious, and language backgrounds. During my years in Michigan my mother was diagnosed with cancer and passed within a year. Several years later my father was diagnosed with vascular dementia. I knew it was time to move back to the home where I grew up.

I am blessed with a wonderful daughter, Jana Young who teaches science in the Academy at Northeast Middle School. She and her husband Tommy, a surveyor and vice president at LI Smith in Paris, live with my grand dog, Freckles who has passed every level of dog training.

I became a United Methodist at the suggestion of my sister since they attend Marked Tree UMC in Arkansas. I found Aldersgate UMC several years ago and joined not long after meeting Ondra, Kitty, Carol, and other dear friends.

I enjoy walking, yoga, gardening(flowers), arts and crafts, playing canasta, and a variety of other things. If anyone is interested in sharing in any of those activities, let me know. I love my family at FHUMC.

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

Nurture Area News

All Saints Day

During worship on Sunday, November 2, 2025 we will observe All Saints Day. We will celebrate our members who have joined the Church Triumphant since All Saints Day 2024. Each one will be named and remembered. This year we will remember and celebrate:

Karen Johnson **Mary Wright** **Jackie Morgan** **Ann Phillips**

Save the Date

Our fifth Sunday Fellowship Bring-a-dish lunch will be held on Sunday, November 30th. Bring a dish or two to share and enjoy fellowship time. A short program by the McAlilly Grant Team highlighting some exciting improvements to our sanctuary will follow the meal. See you on the 30th.

Need a place to walk?

Our gym is open to walkers weekdays to get their steps in. If you are interested, call the church 731-668-5209 to get the entrance code.

Hours for walking: 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Bring a friend and get your steps in.

Advent is Coming

We will be preparing the sanctuary and church for the Advent and Christmas season on November 24th at 9:30 a.m. All hands needed for this joyful time of decorating.

United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith will meet Thursday, November 20th at 3:00 in the church fellowship hall. There will be no meeting in December so we will use the November meeting to make plans for 2026. This would be a great time to join our group! All women of the church are invited to attend.

SENIOR OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST AT 90!

This was the 27th year for Russell Gallimore to compete in Southwest District Senior Olympics...in the 90-94 age bracket. In six events, he played down in either the 75-79 or 85-89 age groups. He medaled in all nine events, eight Gold and one Silver. He competed in Cornhole, Horseshoes, Shuffleboard, and Table Tennis. He has won a total of 339 District and State medals and finished eighth in Shuffleboard in the Nationals. Russell is active in Forest Heights ministries, serving as usher, liturgist, and Sunday school teacher. He even fills the pulpit occasionally

A Letter from Sandy Thomas

As most of you are aware, the Church Council accepted the resignation submitted by Sandy Thomas as the church Pianist. Sandy wants her letter of resignation to be shared with the congregation. The letter is as follows:

Oct. 6, 2025

Dear Forest Heights Friends,

I am stepping down from my position as pianist. It has been a wonderful blessing to serve here and love so many sweet friends. When I came, my husband had died – but I found peace every Sunday. I knew God led me there and gave me a place to serve.

There are several health issues I am going through, and having to wait so long to see the different doctors is indeed frustrating. But it will all work out with God's help.

I will love you all forever, and remember your kindness to me. Thank You.

Sandra Thomas

Forest Heights is now in the process of seeking a new Piano Accompanist for our Sunday worship and to accompany our vocal groups. Sandy Thomas, who has graced us with so many wonderful pieces over the years, has submitted her resignation due to health concerns. At the past Church Council meeting, that resignation was accepted. A search committee will begin seeking someone to fill the position in the very near future.
The folks in the music ministry desire to gift Sandy with a monetary donation to thank her for her loyal service to Forest Heights. They would like to extend the opportunity to participate to the entire congregation. By necessity (tax laws) a check cannot be issued from the church to Sandy as a gift. Consequently, we are asking if anyone wishes to participate, that they bring a cash donation, or a check made out directly to Sandy, to the church office. A collection box has been set aside to keep the donations and will be given to Sandy after services on November 9th.

Outreach / Missions

Toys for the Reel Foot Christmas Store

During the month of November Forest Heights is collecting toys to send to the Reel Foot Rural Mission for their Christmas Toy Store. Reel Foot allows parents to purchase donated items at a reduced price to ensure that Christmas is a joyful time for their children. You will find a table set in the entrance hall outside the Pastor's office to place your unwrapped gifts. Thank you for supporting this mission of our church.

Trunk or Treat for our Preschool

On October 24th, our members of our congregation took part in the Forest Heights Preschool Trunk or Treat. The groups had a wonderful time treating the preschool children on our parking lot.

Marilyn convinced Paul to decorate then is all ready

Janette and Susan claimed the back fence area

Jerry and his skinny dachshund; Marcia all ready; Our young adults with some help from Harrell & Janice

From the Preschool Steering Committee

You are invited to attend the Preschool's Thanksgiving Program on November 21st at 3:00 p.m. in our Gymnasium. Come cheer on the preschool children as they celebrate Thanksgiving.

THE GALLIMORES SAY THANK YOU!!

You folks are the best! Thank you for the wonderful response to my 90th Birthday on Sunday, October 12th. Your presence, your calls, your many cards, and your sincere love and care for Carroll and me during the past year and eight months following her fall (that left her with a broken neck in two places...Orthopedic doctors tell us it will never heal) have been awesome. Carroll thanks you for the wonderful help in setting up the reception and then serving and cleaning-up on Sunday. Words fail to convey the love and appreciation we have for each of you and to the entire church community. May our God multiply His blessings upon the mission and ministry of the Forest Heights Church. Peace! Russell & Carroll Gallimore

Happy Birthday & Anniversary

November Birthdays

6	Samantha Wood
19	Tim Burgher
26	Janice Nation

November Anniversaries

8	Lynn & Tim Burgher
23	Jane & Huck Huckabee
24	Arlene & Gary Murphy

Calendar for November 2025 - find the **Weekly Calendar** under the **"Events"** tab on fhumc.com

November	2	9:15 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Fellowship Time
		9:30 a.m.		Adult & Youth Sunday School
		11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Worship Service
				(All Saints Day)
		12:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Lay Leadership Meeting
November	4	6:00 p.m.	Gym	Wheatley Team
November	5	10:00 a.m.	Resource Room	Bible Study: Hosea (Last)
		11:00 a.m.	Choir Room	Tapestry Practice
		12:15 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Ladies of the Yarn
		4:30 p.m.	Rm 204A	Handbell Practice
		5:30 p.m.	Choir Room	Choir Practice
November	6	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Preschool Steering Committee
November	9	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 meets
November	10	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Worship Committee
November	11	6:00 p.m.	Gym	Wheatley Team
November	12	11:00 a.m.	Choir Room	Tapestry Practice
		12:15 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Ladies of the Yarn
		4:30 p.m.	Rm 204A	Handbell Practice
		5:30 p.m.	Choir Room	Choir Practice
November	16	9:15 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Fellowship Time
		9:30 a.m.		Adult & Youth Sunday School
		11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Worship Service Laity Sunday
		2:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Charge Conference
November	18	6:00 p.m.	Gym	Wheatley Team
November	19	11:00 a.m.	Choir Room	Tapestry Practice
		12:15 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Ladies of the Yarn
		4:30 p.m.	Rm 204A	Handbell Practice
		5:30 p.m.	Choir Room	Choir Practice
November	21	3:00 p.m.	Gym	Preschool Thanksgiving Program
November	23	9:15 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Fellowship Time
		9:30 a.m.		Adult & Youth Sunday School
		11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Worship Service Laity Sunday
		12:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Church Council Meeting
November	24	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Worship Committee
November	25	6:00 p.m.	Gym	Wheatley Team
		11:00 a.m.	Choir Room	Tapestry Practice
		12:15 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Ladies of the Yarn
		4:30 p.m.	Rm 204A	Handbell Practice
		5:30 p.m.	Choir Room	Choir Practice
November	26	Church Office	Closed	Administrative Assistant on Vacation
November	27		Church Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday	
November	30	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	5th Sunday Lunch