

FOREST FIRE

The Monthly Newsletter of Forest Heights United Methodist Church
863 West Forest Ave., Jackson, TN 38301
FEBRUARY 2026

A Word from Pastor Drew

Jesus said to them, *"I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst."* (John 6:35)

Several years ago, the World Methodist Church held its convention in Nairobi, Kenya. The sacrament of Holy Communion was celebrated. Seventy loaves of bread were ordered for the service, but twenty-five consecrated loaves were not used. What to do with the leftover loaves? After the worship service church leaders gave the remaining bread to the security guards, the housekeeping workers, and to the hungry and homeless people walking the streets in search of food. As they gave the bread, the leaders would say: *"This is the body of Christ, shared with you by Christian friends from around the world."*

In the fourth gospel, Jesus declared to the multitude, *"I am the bread of life."* He was speaking, of course, to people who were alive – that is, they were alive whether or not they believed in him. But there is an important difference between existence and life. It is possible for people to exist without really living. What Christ offers people, through his body, which is the church, is life. This has been expressed in many ways – wholeness, peace, joy – but it must be freely offered, and it must be freely received.

What a difference it might make in our attitude toward evangelism and church growth, if we could remember that the same bread which feeds us is the bread with which we, in turn, are called to share with others. It is after all, common knowledge that hungry people go where they can get food; that an empty bird feeder brings no birds to your house; that restaurants with quality menus usually have the biggest parking lots. Likewise, people will come to the church which offers the best nourishment for their lives.

In the church, a meal not shared is a meal not finished.

Pastor Drew

Friendship Dusty King



My association with Forest Heights United Methodist Church began the summer of 2012 when I convinced Terry that I should go to Junaluska, too. I was welcomed by this friendly, curious group of people who sang a lot.

In no time, I began to participate in church activities: baking and delivering turkeys, cooking for Room In the Inn, packing shoeboxes, etc. Everything was done by COMMITTEE!

At the same time, I was serving on the Vestry of St. Luke's Episcopal Church (went there to rest). On a Sunday in April, after church, Terry and I were married by Rev. John Middleton. Church members provided a bring-a-dish reception. It was marvelous!

I am forever grateful for the friendships that have come from this church and the Biblical Knowledge imparted by Rev. Drew Brewer, an amazing teacher.

Yours in Christ,

Dusty

Friendship, from one to the other Be blessed



Nurture Area News

A Big Thank You to all those who helped take down the Chrismon Tree and other decorations of the season. You are indeed a blessing.

Lenten Bible Study

Paster Drew will be offering a Lenten Study using Adam Hamilton's book Why Did Jesus Have to Die, The Meaning of the Crucifixion. This group study will meet on Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. beginning February 18th. There was an insert in the bulletin on January 25th and also on February 1st, allowing members to order books. Fill out the insert and place it in the offering plate. You can also notify Sue Bryant, 731-668-5209, by February 9th to have your book reserved. Each book copy is 15.00 payable when you receive the book.

Ash Wednesday Service

When: Wednesday, February 18th, 11:30 a.m.

Join us and members of Wesley Chapel UMC as we observe the beginning of Lent. Words, music, and the imposition of ashes will lead us as we enter this contemplative church season. We encourage you to come as you prepare for the Lenten season.

Worship Well Grant Update

As you may have heard, our church was awarded a \$10,000 matching grant through the McAlilly Fund of the Encore Ministries offered by our Conference. This grant written by our grant team received approval by our Church Council at its Fall meeting. The Council also approved our Worship Well fund-raising effort. We are pleased to announce that your giving has surpassed the amount needed to match the \$10,000 awarded by the Grant. Below you will see the projects that will be completed in the next twelve months. Overage will be used to supplement any price increase and to establish an ongoing fund for future improvements. Many thanks for all the gifts given to reach our goal. Your generosity will enable us to enhance our worship space and other areas of our facility. We look forward to the completion of the projects.

Projects to be completed:

- Replace Chancel area Carpet
- Repair Cove Lighting
- Improve the Sound System
- Improve the Pavilion Walkway
- Improve the Video System
- Purchase an AED



Jackson Handbell Festival On February 28th, Forest Heights Handbell Choir will be taking part in the Jackson Area Handbell Festival held at 1st Baptist Church on Highland Ave. Our choir has been working hard on the music to be played at this festival. The combined handbell choirs will give a concert to conclude the festival. If possible, let's all plan to attend the concert in support of Forest Height's ringers. The time of the concert will be posted on Forest Height's website and posted in the bulletin.

United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith met on the afternoon of January 15th. Susan Montgomery led the discussion on the outlining the activities of the group for 2026. The following is shared so that all the women of Forest Heights can better understand the organization.

Our Vision: Turning faith, hope, and love into action on behalf of women, children, and youth around the world.

Our Mission: United Women in Faith seeks to connect and nurture women through Christian spiritual formation, leadership development, creative fellowship, and education so that they can inspire, influence, and impact local and global communities.

Our Local Purpose: To be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church

We believe love in action can change the world. United Women in Faith

Outreach / Missions

Room in the Inn Forest Heights will be hosting Room in the Inn on January 30th in partnership with Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church. We will provide supper, an overnight place to sleep, and breakfast for men who otherwise would be without these benefits. Sign-up sheets will be placed on the desk outside the office for you to sign-up to help. Room In the Inn for February will be on February 22nd.

Communication

In this season of sickness and cold weather, remember that you can access our worship services online if you are not able to attend in person. One easy way to do that is through our website, www.fhumc.com. On the home screen, look for the message that says, "Click HERE for our most recent services." You can also find our weekly calendar and upcoming events on our website. Take a look!

SPRC: The Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) met on Tuesday, January 20, for its first meeting of the year. This meeting was primarily an organizational meeting for training and completion of the annual church profile for the conference. We also heard a report from our pastor, Drew Brewer, on his thoughts and vision for the upcoming year. Because the committee works with personnel issues, our specific work remains confidential. However, we will make the congregation aware of our meetings and report any pertinent information to the council each quarter. Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, at 4:30 p.m. Our committee members are Marianne Archer (chairperson), Janette Chaplin, Paul Finney, Jean Ralston, Marcia Tate, Carol Reeves, Roy Morgan, Ron Pannel, and Kristen Alvarado. We encourage you to contact any of us with any concerns or joys you have related to our staff.

In Sympathy Forest Heights extends Christian Sympathy to Sandy Thomas and her family. Sandy's mother, Betty Hearn, passed away on Friday evening. We pray for comfort for Sandy and the rest of her family.

Walk to Emmaus

Over the past year or so, our church has begun to host some of the events for the West Tennessee Emmaus community. Prayer requests have been lifted up in our worship service as well for the upcoming men's and women's walks this spring, which will be held March 5-8 and March 19-22. In case you are not familiar with the Walk to Emmaus, I wanted to give you some brief information regarding this event and the West TN Emmaus community.

The Walk to Emmaus is what I would describe as a spiritual renewal weekend that is designed to strengthen the participant's walk with God and to help make the participant a stronger and more involved local church member.

There are two walks per year for men and two walks for women and these take place in March and October. The men's walks are usually the first weekend in March and the first weekend in October with the women's walks occurring two weeks after the conclusion of the men's walks. The walks will be from Thursday evening through Sunday evening.

The West TN Emmaus community has been in existence since some time in the 1980s, and there are many people who have participated in these walks. Beverlyann Jetton is active in this community and she is serving on the team for the women's walk this spring. I am also serving on the team for the men's walk this spring.

I know there are others in our congregation who have also participated in the Walk to Emmaus and have served on teams as well.

I would like to encourage all who have not been on the walk to consider doing this at some point. I think you would find it very meaningful.

If you would like to go on the walk this spring, it is not too late to sign up, and you can contact Beverlyann or myself for more detailed information about this experience. Also, even if you do not plan to go this spring, we would love to talk with you if you are interested in going sometime in the future.

Kevin Wheatley

Cell number: 731-415-1349

Email: kns wheat@eplus.net

Happy Birthday & Anniversary

February Birthdays

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

February Anniversaries



Calendar for February 2026 - find the **Weekly Calendar** under the **"Events"** tab on fhumc.com

| | | | | |
|----------|----|------------|--|-----------------------------|
| February | 1 | 9:15 a.m. | Fellowship Hall | Fellowship Time |
| | | 9:30 a.m. | | Adult & Youth Sunday School |
| | | 11:00 a.m. | Sanctuary | Worship |
| February | 3 | 5:30 p.m. | Resource Room | Young Adults Bible Study |
| | | 6:00 p.m. | Gym | Wheatley Team |
| February | 4 | 11:00 a.m. | Choir Room | Tapestry Practice |
| | | 12:15 p.m. | Fellowship Hall | Ladies of the Yarn |
| | | 4:30 p.m. | Bell Room | Handbell Practice |
| | | 5:30 p.m. | Choir Room | Choir Practice |
| February | 8 | 9:15 a.m. | Fellowship Hall | Fellowship Time |
| | | 9:30 a.m. | | Adult & Youth Sunday School |
| | | 11:00 a.m. | Sanctuary | Worship |
| February | 9 | 10:00 a.m. | Fellowship Hall | Worship Committee |
| February | 10 | 5:30 p.m. | Resource Room | Young Adults Bible Study |
| | | 6:00 p.m. | Gym | Wheatley Team |
| February | 11 | 11:00 a.m. | Choir Room | Tapestry Practice |
| | | 12:15 p.m. | Fellowship Hall | Ladies of the Yarn |
| | | 4:30 p.m. | Bell Room | Handbell Practice |
| | | 5:30 p.m. | Choir Room | Choir Practice |
| February | 15 | 9:15 a.m. | Fellowship Hall | Fellowship Time |
| | | 9:30 a.m. | | Adult & Youth Sunday School |
| | | 11:00 a.m. | Sanctuary | Worship |
| February | 17 | 5:30 p.m. | Resource Room | Young Adult Bible Study |
| | | 6:00 p.m. | Gym | Wheatley Team |
| February | 18 | 10:00 a.m. | Resource Room | Lenten Bible Study |
| | | 11:00 a.m. | Choir Room | Tapestry Practice |
| | | 12:15 p.m. | Fellowship Hall | Ladies of the Yarn |
| | | 4:30 p.m. | Bell Room | Handbell Practice |
| | | 5:30 p.m. | Choir Room | Choir Practice |
| February | 19 | 3:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall | United Women in Faith |
| February | 22 | 9:15 a.m. | Fellowship Hall | Fellowship Time |
| | | 9:30 a.m. | | Adult & Youth Sunday School |
| | | 11:00 a.m. | Sanctuary | Worship |
| | | 3:00 p.m. | Fellowship Hall/Gym | Room In the Inn |
| February | 23 | 10:00 a.m. | Fellowship Hall | Worship Committee |
| February | 24 | 5:30 p.m. | Resource Room | Young Adults Bible Study |
| | | 6:00 p.m. | Gym | Wheatley Team |
| February | 25 | 10:00 a.m. | Resource Room | Lenten Bible Study |
| | | 11:00 a.m. | Choir Room | Tapestry Practice |
| | | 12:15 p.m. | Fellowship Hall | Ladies of the Yarn |
| | | 4:30 p.m. | Bell Room | Handbell Practice |
| | | 5:30 p.m. | Choir Room | Choir Practice |
| February | 28 | 2:00 p.m. | Jackson 1 st Baptist Church | Handbell Festival Concert |