

# FOREST FIRE

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

## A Word from Pastor Drew

### **Making Room (Matthew 16:24)**

This is the season of Lent, which will lead us to Easter. For seven weeks we will journey with Christ through the last events of his life. We will walk the long road to Jerusalem. We will share a meal in an upper room. We will stand at the foot of the cross. We will sneak into a cemetery at daybreak in hopes of glimpsing the empty tomb. The purpose of this journey is to bring us closer to God, closer to each other, and closer to the people we are created to be.

Jesus has important words for us as we begin this journey. He says, “if anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can one give in exchange for his soul?” Deny yourself...empty yourself...make room; then you can make this journey with me.

But is there any room at all left in us for God to make this change? How do we “deny ourselves?” How do we find this “holy spaciousness” within? That is why the discipline of self-denial is so important, or should we say *crucial*, during this season.

We are call to make room this season...make room for God to enter in and change us. That is what the old tradition of giving something up for Lent is all about. It is about making room...room for God to do something new.

It is the greatest form of hospitality.

Pastor Drew

# *Friendship ..... Nancy Geise*



My Friend Nancy

Nancy began her journey with Forest Heights because of an empty seat. Susan Hays had invited her to a Wednesday night supper assuring her there would be plenty of food. I knew Nancy from St. Luke's and invited her to sit at our table. An empty seat just happened to be next to Barry Geise. Then, there was Wednesday morning Bible Study. Terry and I knew Barry liked her and encouraged him to ask her to lunch. But Jeopardy was at 11:00. Barry never missed Jeopardy! Finally, Susan Hayes passed out free tickets for a breakfast fund raiser. Both Barry and Nancy attended. ❤️ Barry would come to Nancy's house every evening to watch Jeopardy. He knew all the answers. He watched the show every morning.

The romance continued to blossom. Then Covid struck. Nancy and Barry wanted to wed. Nancy contacted Deacon Tommy Rhoads on a Saturday, May 2020. "When?", he asks. "Tomorrow", she says. Tommy and Roxanne came after church on Sunday and performed the ceremony. They had four chocolate cupcakes for the wedding feast.

The next day, Nancy became a member of Forest Heights UMC!

Nancy's friend,  
Dusty King

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

### **Communication News**

The Faith and Innovation team of our conference is providing weekly Lenten Devotionals for our reflection. You can find a link to these devotionals on the home page of our church website, [fhumc.com](http://fhumc.com), or you can go directly to our conference website, [twkumc.org](http://twkumc.org), for the devotionals and other conference information.

### **Nurture Area News**

#### **Ash Wednesday Service**

We shared our Ash Wednesday Service with the members of Wesley Fellowship UMC on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Harrell Nation provided the message, "Prayer for the Journey", for the service.



## **Holy Week** – March 29-April 5

Sunday, March 29 – Palm Sunday. 11:00 a.m. Begin your Holy Week with palm branches, special words and music.

Thursday, April 2 – Holy/Maundy Thursday. 5:00 p.m. Join us for a catered meal in the Fellowship Hall before a worship service of remembrance beginning at 6:00 p.m. Holy Communion will be served as we remember the Last Supper of Jesus and his disciples.

Friday, April 3 – Good Friday 5:00 p.m. Join us for a Tenebrae Service in our sanctuary. This service of “shadows” commemorates the passion, suffering, and death of Jesus. It features spoken word and the gradual extinguishing of candles symbolizing the darkness of that day.

Sunday, April 5 – Easter 11:00 a.m. Come celebrate the Risen Christ at this service. This glorious day will be celebrated with word, song, prayer, and the fresh flower Easter Cross. Be sure to bring fresh lowers to adorn the cross when you come to worship.

**Holy Thursday Meal** 5:00 p.m., April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our meal will be catered by Rachel Cathy this year. The Menu for this meal is: Fresh strawberry and spinach salad with homemade poppyseed dressing, Petite homemade yeast Rolls, Poppyseed chicken over rice, Seasoned green beans, and Lemon sheet cake. Tea also provided.

Cost: \$15.00 per person; Reservation needed. Please fill out the attached reservation Form or call the church office to make your reservation by Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

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### HOLY THURSDAY MEAL RESERVATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Meals: \_\_\_\_\_

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### **Needing a place to get your steps in?**

If you are interested in walking for exercise, we'd like to know. Eighteen laps around our gym will log in one mile. Please indicate your interest by signing the “Walkers” sheet found on the communications Tabel outside the church office by Sunday, March 15. Hours for walkers will be announced.

**Fifth Sunday Fellowship Lunch** March 29<sup>th</sup>. Join us for our Fifth Sunday Fellowship lunch on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Bring a dish or two to share and enjoy this time together. We will be celebrating the baptism of Callie Ullum that day and look forward to sharing this time with her.

A short update on the projects of the “Worship Well” grant will also be given.

### **United Women in Faith**

Members of United Women in Faith will be attending a district meeting, Saturday Mar. 21<sup>st</sup> at 10 a.m. in Milan, TN. Anyone who is interested in going should talk to Susan Montgomery or Beverlyann Jetton. Our next regular meeting will be Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. Margaret Harrison will bring refreshments, and Marcia Tate will present a devotional. During the business meeting we will begin making plans for the Candle-Burning Service which will be held on Mother’s Day, May 10<sup>th</sup> during the worship time. Next month you will receive more information about this special opportunity to give to global missions while honoring or remembering the special people in your life. We hope you will consider visiting one of our meetings. All women in the church are **always** invited to attend.

## Church Council Meeting

After our unexpected "vacation" from church in January/February, the council met on Sunday Feb 22, 2026 right after church. We caught up on what is happening at Forest Heights UMC.

Upon recommendation from the SPRC, the Church Council has approved the formation of a Committee of Pastoral Visitation. This committee will be appointed by and serve under the direction of the pastor to assist in hospital and home visitation of church members. Committee members may also be asked to provide transportation and physical assistance to the pastor for hospital and home visits. If you would like to be considered as a member of this committee or would like more information, please contact Rev. Drew Brewer at the church office, 731-668-5209, or office@fhumc.com.

**SPRC:** 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 Pennel, and Kristen Alvarado. We encourage you to contact any of us with any concerns or joys you have related to our staff.

## Outreach / Missions



### **HOPE IN THE MIDST OF THE STORM:**

In the wake of Winter Storm Fern, Area Relief Ministries is deeply grateful for the prayers and support of our community and churches. Amid the power outages, impassable roads, and single digit temperatures Area Relief Ministries was able to provide our unhoused neighbors with around the clock, life-saving shelter for over one week. A special thank you to **MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH and FOREST HEIGHTS UNITED METHODIST** for allowing us to use their facilities. Together we provided shelter for 9 days, 180 beds, 540 hot meals, and countless snacks.

**Room in the Inn:** We enjoyed hosting the men at Room in the Inn last week. Together with Wesley Chapel, we served a delicious meal of meatballs, mashed potatoes, fresh salad, and lots of delicious desserts. Our next meals will be Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> and April 19th. Please look for the sign-up sheet on the communication table by the church office.

**Food Pantry:** As part of our outreach ministries, Forest Heights has opened a small food pantry located in our pre-school area to assist some of our staff and families. We are also helping with the food pantry at the University of Memphis, Lambuth as part of the ministry of the Wesleyan Student ministry.



**Recycle your bags:** Wonder what you can do with all those Wal-Mart and Kroger shopping bags? Both the Pre-School and our Outreach Ministry could use them. Please place your clean used bags in the church kitchen.

## Notes of Thanks from our members

Thank you, thank you, thank you. For all the calls prayers and thoughts during the two weeks of weather. Tommy and I had no lack of food because we did grocery shopping on Monday before it hit and our power stayed on. We stayed warm and well fed. Bless you all.

Thanks to John Archer for my pull bars at the front door and trip to the eye doctor. I broke my glasses while he attached the pull bars.

Evelyn Sutton

From T.J. Clanin

I want to give a big thank you to the members of Forest Heights for the Prayer Shawl brought to me after the Blessing of the Threads on February 8<sup>th</sup>. I want to give my appreciation to those who created the shawl and those who blessed it. I can feel the love in the entire shawl. Blessings to you all

## New Addresses:

**Mavis Johnson** has a new address and telephone number. Her new address is: Mavis Johnson, Jackson Meadow Rm 208, 25 Max Lane Dr, Jackson, TN 38305. Her telephone number is: 731-736-0125.

The address for **John Archer Sr.** has changed. His new address is 3131A N Highland Ave, Jackson, TN 38305 (A room number is no longer needed)

**Gayle Crocker** has moved to Charter Living. Her new address is: 1200 N. Parkway, Apt 112, Jackson, TN 38305

## *Happy Birthday & Anniversary*

### March Birthdays

5 Gail Crocker  
10 Dan Montgomery  
13 Cheryl Thomas  
13 Jerry Ervin  
13 Janette Chaplin  
14 Ruth Shelton  
14 Hugh Archer  
15 Peggy Sheffield  
18 Linda Montgomery  
19 Marcia Law  
20 Luke Finney  
20 Chase Rice

### March Anniversaries

## Calendar for March 2026 - find the **Weekly Calendar** under the "**Events**" tab on [fhumc.com](http://fhumc.com)

March	1	9:15 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Fellowship Time
		9:30 a.m.		Adult & Youth Sunday School
		11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Worship
March	2	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Worship Committee

## Calendar for March (cont)

March	3	4:30 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	SPRC Committee
		5:30 p.m.	Resource Room	Young Adults Bible Study
		6:00 p.m.	Gym	Wheatley Team
March	4	10:00 a.m.	Resource Room	Lenten 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
March	5	4:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall & Gym	Emmaus Men's Send-off
March	8	9:15 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Fellowship Time
		9:30 a.m.		Adult & Youth Sunday School
		11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Worship
		5:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary	Emmaus Closing
March	10	5:30 p.m.	Resource Room	Young Adults Bible Study
		6:00 p.m.	Gym	Wheatley Team
		6:00 p.m.	Sanctuary	Emmaus Follow-up
March	11	10:00 a.m.	Resource Room	Lenten 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
March	12	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Preschool Steering Committee
March	15	9:15 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Fellowship Tim
		9:30 a.m.		Adult & Youth Sunday School
		11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Worship
		5:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall & Gym	Room in the Inn
March	16	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Worship Committee
March	17	5:30 p.m.	Resource Room	Young Adult Bible Study
		6:00 p.m.	Gym	Wheatley Team
March	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
March	19	4:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall & Gym	Emmaus Women's Send-off
March	22	9:15 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Fellowship Time
		9:30 a.m.		Adult & Youth Sunday School
		11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Worship
		5:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary	Emmaus Closing
		3:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall/Gym	Room In the Inn
March	23	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Worship Committee

## **Calendar for March (cont)**

March	24	5:30 p.m.	Resource Room	Young Adults Bible Study
		6:00 p.m.	Gym	Wheatley Team
		6:00 p.m.	Sanctuary	Emmaus Follow-up
March	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
March	26	3:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	United Women in Faith
March	29	9:15 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Fellowship Time
		9:30 a.m.		Adult & Youth Sunday School
		11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Worship
		12:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Lunch
March	31	5:30 p.m.	Resource Room	Young Adults Bible Study
		6:00 p.m.	Gym	Wheatley Team