

FOREST FIRE

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

October 2026

A Word from Pastor Drew

From Enemy to Brother

²² “— and I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea that are in Christ; ²³ they only heard it said, “The one who formerly was persecuting us is not proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy.” ²⁴ And they glorified God because of me.”

Galatians 1:22-24 New Revised Standard Version

Who in this world do you consider your enemy? Perhaps Abraham Lincoln was onto something when he asked, “Do I not destroy my enemy when I make him my friend?”

Prior to his conversion, the apostle Paul wreaked havoc among the early church. He arrested, imprisoned, and approved their executions, including Stephen, the first official martyr of the Christian Church. News of his violent, persecutory rage spread rapidly across Jerusalem, causing many believers to flee Jerusalem to escape his wrath. Not only did news of Paul’s tyranny spread, but also the news of his transformation following his conversion! Paul heard that the churches of Judea which we in Christ heard from other sources saying, “***He who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith which he once tried to destroy.***” Upon hearing this news, the churches of Judea *glorified* God, not necessarily because of Paul himself, but because of God’s transformative work in Paul’s life!

Notice the response of the churches of Judea upon hearing that Paul was preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ. He was the one who had persecuted and violently oppressed the early church for their faith in Christ. The churches of Judea had every reason to resent Paul for what he did to them as members of the body of Christ, yet they *greatly* rejoiced in the Lord when they heard that Paul had been transformed by the power and love of Jesus Christ and was now preaching Christ across numerous regions. Their response to Paul’s conversion demonstrated a heightened level of spiritual maturity because despite being persecuted by Paul, they did not withhold celebration when they learned of his salvation! This man who was once their enemy was now a fellow brother in the faith, and that alone was cause for rejoicing!

Jesus said, “But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.” After all, who knows what might happen?

Pastor Drew

Friendship from Kathy Cohan

Hello! I am Kathy Cohan, a new member of the church, transferring my membership from Milan First United Methodist Church. I moved from Milwaukee, WI after retiring from Children's Hospital of WI where I was a pediatric medical social worker for nearly 20 years. Most of my employment years involved working with children.

I have been married for 34 years to Mark who is of the Jewish faith. We have a blended family of six children, his 3 daughters and my 3 sons (the Brady Bunch reversed!) and 14 grandchildren. Many of them reside in other states.

We built a home in Medina in 2005 and lived there until 2022 when we downsized and moved to our current neighborhood, Copper Creek, in Jackson.

I am a quilter, currently finishing a King size one for the first grandchild to marry next May. I enjoy sewing, too. I am a passionate Sudoku solver, jigsaw puzzler and reader (my favorite author is Daniel Silva).

I have been active in 2 Bell Choirs for 36 years and am currently subbing in ours. Rev. Drew's sermons, the excellent music and missions drew me to this church. I shall be happy to serve with this community of friendly/caring/Christians in any way I can.

Friendship, from one to the other Be blessed

Nurture Area News

Laity Sunday will be observed on Sunday, October 11th during morning worship. Lay Speaker, Delores Smith, will be giving the message and Tapestry will provide special music. The ministry of the laity (our members) is a vital part of sharing God's love, work, and grace in our community and the world.

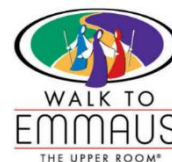
All Saints Day On Sunday, November 1st, we will celebrate the lives of those who have joined the Church Triumphant since last All Saints Day. We will remember and celebrate the lives of Ann Jeffords and Bob Reeves during the observance of this day.

Bible Study The Wednesday Bible Study with Drew meets each Wednesday morning in the Resource Room at 10:00 a.m. The text is "Introduction to the Bible" by William Barclay. Join us for this insightful study. For more information about the class, see Pastor Drew.

Outreach / Missions

Room at the Table: we continue to welcome 70 - 80 men, women, and children to our table at Studio 45. Thank you to Marianne Archer and Pam Finney who took the helm in September along with our faithful team of servers. Room at the Table will take place again on October 25th.

The Walk to Emmaus is a wonderful 72 hr. spiritual renewal weekend coordinated by The Upper Room of the United Methodist Church. This Fall's retreat dates are: MEN'S RETREAT, OCTOBER 1 - 4 and WOMEN'S RETREAT, OCTOBER 15 - 18. Both retreats will be held at Lakeshore in Eva, TN. Please see Pastor Drew, Marcia Tate, or Kevin or Susan Wheatley if you are interested in attending.



Once again, Forest Heights is privileged to welcome the Emmaus Community to host the opening and closing services at our church. Your Walk to Emmaus actually begins here at Forest Heights!

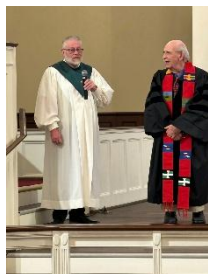
Amy's Closet: The box for contributions to Amy's Closet has been moved from the Communication desk, but donations will be accepted at any time. If you have any donations, just drop them off in the office and we will pass them on. If needed, a new push will be started for the second semester after Christmas.

The Witness Committee

Preemie and children's caps have been donated to Ronald McDonald House. Upon discharge from the hospital and ready to go home the families are given a "Going Home" gift bag. One of the items in the bag will be a hand knitted or crocheted cap which are lovingly crafted by "Ladies of the Yarn" at Forest Heights. Thank you "Ladies of the Yarn".

United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith met on Thursday, September 17th for their regular monthly meeting. As part of the fund raising for the Reel Foot Toy Store Teen Room it was decided to have a homemade pie sale after church the Sunday before Thanksgiving. More information will be made available in the November Newsletter. The next meeting will be October 22nd.



Welcome New Member We want to welcome Ronnie Guyton as our newest member.

Many of you may have met Ronnie. He has blessed us by joining the Chancel Choir and taking part in the Wednesday Bible Study. Ronnie joined Forest Heights by Profession of Faith on September 20th. We are so happy to have him join us.

Preschool Trunk or Treat

Friday Oct. 30 – starts at 3:30

(Arrive and decorate trunks around 2:30. Park along the outside edges of the parking lot. There are 74 children in preschool. If you need help with supplying candy, let the Preschool Steering Committee know. Questions: contact Paul or Janette Chaplin) **SIGN UP SHEET ON THE DESK OUTSIDE THE CHURCH OFFICE.**

MEET THE CHURCH STAFF

Our Financial Assistant – Delores Smith



Unless you've stopped by the church office on a Tuesday or Thursday, you may not have met Delores Smith, our financial assistant. Delores was hired in 2024 to manage the financial operations of the church. She takes care of paying our bills, creating reports for our finance committee, posting transactions to the budget, and otherwise keeping us financially in line with the conference. She does this work for two other United Methodist churches in Jackson as well. If her name sounds familiar to you, you may remember her from one of her previous positions. Delores worked for 12 years as our district office administrative assistant before retiring in May 2024. (We barely let her retire before we hired her!) She has also served on many conference and district committees, including as an officer for United Women in Faith (previously United Methodist Women) at both the district and conference levels. You can understand why many of us still turn to Delores for help with anything related to the United Methodist Church. She can either answer us immediately or direct us to the person who can.

In her personal life, Delores is married to Tony, and they have three sons, two of whom are married and still live close to home in Trenton, TN. The other is married and now lives in Kentucky. Delores and Tony also have three grandchildren, and they keep her busy! You may meet her on her way to Jackson if she's the carpool driver for the day or traveling to an area town to watch her youngest granddaughter play softball. In her spare time, Delores enjoys reading and going to the beach.

Delores is an active member of First United Methodist Church in Trenton where she teaches Sunday school and serves as liturgist. She even led one of our women's studies at Forest Heights last year. She is a certified lay minister and speaks in other churches a few times a year. In fact, Delores is going to speak at Forest Heights on October 11 as we celebrate Laity Sunday. Make plans to be at church that day and say, "Hi!" to Delores. Let her know we are happy to have her on our staff.

Note of Appreciation

The generosity and love shown to the Reeves family following Bob's passing has been truly amazing. We have been so blessed by the many cards, gifts, visits, memorials, expressions of love, and wonderful meals shared with us during this very sad time.

It means so much to know that others care, and Forest Heights has shown us that in such a meaningful way. Your kindness has brought comfort to our family during this difficult time, and we are deeply grateful.

With love and appreciation,
Carol Reeves and family

Congratulations to Teresa McSweeney



Forest Heights wishes to Congratulate one of our own. At the Leaders Education Foundation's EmpowerED event on September 17th, described as an evening dedicated to celebrating the transformative power of education and the extraordinary individuals who make it possible, Dr. Teresa McSweeney was honored with the "Inspiring Students Award."

As Chief Innovation Officer at Jackson-Madison County School System, Dr. Teresa McSweeney has expanded opportunities through innovative education and workforce-focused learning. She led the creation of the STEM Innovation Center and Innovation Impact Institute, increasing student access to robotics, engineering, and career pathways. Her leadership has also secured more than \$200K in grant funding.

Forest Heights celebrates this achievement with Teresa and her family.

Church Council Meeting

The Church Council will have a called meeting to work on long range planning on Thursday October 22 at 530. Council members are urged to be in attendance. Light supper will be provided.

Happy Birthday & Anniversary

October Birthdays

12	Valeta Marcom
12	Frances Eubanks
12	Russell Gallimore
16	T.J. Clanin
20	Marianne Archer
24	Sue Bryant
24	Dot Simpson
25	Pam Finney
25	Ernie Wilson

October Anniversaries

7	Bill & Sue Wyatt
29	Ernie & Linda Wilson

Calendar for October 2026 - find the **Weekly Calendar** under the **“Events”** tab on fhumc.com

October	1	4:30 p.m.	Sanctuary, F. H., Gym	Emmaus Send Off
October	4	9:15 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Fellowship Time
		9:30 a.m.	Resource Room	Sunday School
		11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Worship
		5:00 p.m.	Sanctuary	Emmaus Men Closing
October	5	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Worship Committee
October	6	5:30 p.m.	Resource Room	Young Adult Bible Study
		6:00 p.m.	Gym	Wheatley Team
		6:30 p.m.	Sanctuary	Emmaus Men's Follow up
October	7	10:00 a.m.	Resource Room	Bible Study – Introducing The Bible
		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
October	11	9:15 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Fellowship Time
		9:30 a.m.	Resource Room	Sunday School
		11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Worship
October	13	5:30 p.m.	Resource Room	Young Adult Bible Study
		6:00 p.m.	Gym	Wheatley Team
October	14	10:00 a.m.	Resource Room	Bible Study – Introducing The Bible
		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
October	15	4:30 p.m.	Sanctuary, F.H., Gym	Emmaus Women Send Off
		7:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Emmaus Selection
October	18	9:15 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Fellowship Time
		9:30 a.m.	Resource Room	Sunday School
		11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Worship
		5:00 p.m.	Sanctuary	Emmaus Women's Closing
October	19	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Worship Committee
October	20	5:30 p.m.	Resource Room	Young Adults Bible Study
		6:00 p.m.	Gym	Wheatley Team
October	21	10:00 a.m.	Resource Room	Bible Study – Introducing the Bible
		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
October	22	3:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	United Women in Faith
		5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Special Church Council Mtg.
October	25	9:15 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Fellowship Time
		9:30 a.m.	Resource Room	Sunday School
		11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Worship

Calendar for October 2026 cont.

October	27	5:30 p.m.	Resource Room	Young Adult Bible Study
		6:00 p.m.	Gym	Wheatley Team
		6:30 p.m.	Sanctuary	Emmaus Women's Follow Up
October	28	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
October	30	3:30 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Preschool Trunk or Treat