FOREST FIRE

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

November 2026

A Word from Pastor Drew

Give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever. – Psalm 107:1

If you want to feel better physically, if you want a better outlook on life, remember that verse. Every morning when you get up, instead of fretting and complaining, instead of turning to the media to see how bad everything is, just go and look out of the window. Take a deep breath and say, "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good."

The art of thanksgiving is one of the most important skills a human being can develop. Sadly, I believe most of us are somewhat lacking in this area. But very closely related to thanksgiving is the art of appreciation. And if we develop the ability to appreciate, we also develop the capacity to be thankful.

Begin with acknowledging the small wonders of life, those little things like hot coffee or the smell of a rose, fresh sheets or bread warm from the oven. It is God's will that we "give thanks for everything" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). All of us have simple, beautiful things that Almighty God has given us, which we can appreciate. Open your eyes and see that God "does wonderful things without number" (Job 5:9). Gratitude every day!

There's another reason to be thankful for our blessings. Gratitude activates the flow of even more blessings in our life. And by the same token, ingratitude, fear, or doubt has the opposite effect. If you hold a thought – positive or negative – you create a soil that is hospitable to the germination of the fact for which the thought is the symbol. And the seed you plant, whether good or bad, "produces a crop yielding a hundred…times what was sown" (Matthew 13:23).

So don't entertain negative thoughts. Fight them, with God's help. Keep them out of your mind.

We used to sing an old hymn with this refrain:

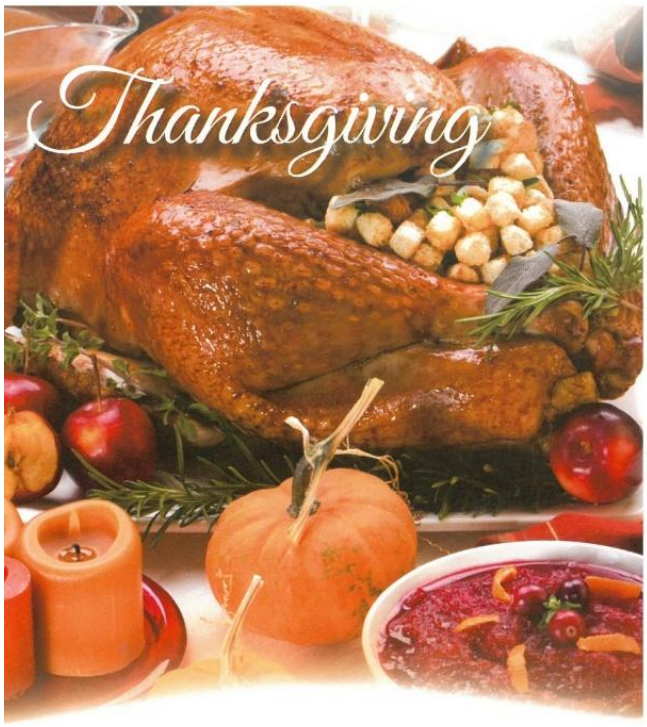
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done!

How long has it been since you have counted up your blessings? When you invite a person to recount his troubles, you are likely to find he can do so all too readily. But if you can get somebody to enumerate his blessings to you, and you look at his face as he does it, you see somebody who really has light in his heart. Let the light of gratitude shine in your life!

Pastor Drew

Friendship …… Message from TJ Clanin

After he said this, he took some bread and gave thanks to God in front of them all. Then he broke it and began to eat. – Acts 27:35 (NIV)



Dear Lord,
Thank You for this gift of food
You've placed upon our table —
And help us all to do Your work
In any way we're able.

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

Nurture Area News

All Saints Day Rememberance On Sunday, November 1st, during morning worship we will remember and celebrate those of our congregation who have joined The Church Triumphant since last year's All Saints Day. This year we will remember and thank God for the lives of Ann Jeffords and Bob Reeves.

Deck the Halls Join us on Monday, November 23rd as we prepare the sanctuary and other areas of our church for Advent and Christmas. Many hands ae needed as we "hang the Greens". Meet in the sanctuary at 9:30 on the 23rd. . . . Fa-la-la-la-la-la-la-la-la.

Advent Studies Two Advent studies are being offered this Advent season. We hope that you will join us as we prepare for the coming of Christ.

- Drew will be leading a study beginning on Tuesday, Nov. 24th, at 10:00 a.m. (Tuesday that week only – others held Wednesday Dec. 3rd, 9th, & 16th). This discussion-based class will be using Max Lacado's book, "Because of Bethlehem". Books are available in the church office for $12. Please read Chapter 1 for Nov. 24th.
- A Women's Advent Study will begin on Monday, November 30th at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We will be studying a book by Lisa Toney entitled, "The Strength to Carry – Faith for the Life You Didn't Choose". Books are available in the church office for $12. Please read the daily reading for Chapter One for the first gathering. Susan Wheatley, Marcia Tate, Marianne Archer, and Sue Wyatt will serve as facilitators of the study.

Save the Date – Christmas Cantata
December 13th – 3 p.m.
Our Chancel Choir accompanied by a ten piece orchestra and Margaret Harrison will present "This Is Christmas". Invite a friend or two and enjoy the music of the season. A reception will follow the cantata.

Outreach / Missions

Room at the Table: We have completed our second year serving meals at Studio 45. Together we have served over 480 meals (although an exact count is difficult). A huge THANK YOU to everyone who provided food for our meals, served, or helped clean up. YOU ARE A BLESSING!!!



Room in the Inn: As we enter the winter months, we transition from serving at Studio 45 Room at the Table to Area Relief Ministry's Room in the Inn. This church has been so responsive to meeting the many needs in our community. You are indeed the hands and feet of Christ. We will be hosting Roon in the Inn at our church on **Sunday, Nov 15th. Please look at the sign-up sheet on the communication table by the church office.** You are invited to come serve a meal or just come and enjoy a meal with our guests. We are once again blessed to have Wesley Chaple UMC join us in this mission.

Food pantry: Forest Heights contributes to two Food Pantries – one located in our Preschool and one at the University of Memphis, Lambuth Campus. We also contribute food items to several of the area Blessing Boxes.

Food Insecurity Grant: Our church is receiving a $1,2000 grant from the Tennessee Western KY Conference. This grant was made possible in part by the offering collected at Annual Conference this year. This money will be used to enhance our food pantry and feeding programs.

Reelfoot Christmas Store: One of our longstanding mission projects is to support the work of Reelfoot Rural Mission and their Christmas Store. We will once again collect **NEW, UNWRAPED** gifts for children (ages birth to 18 yrs). The United Women in Faith has worked hard to collect items for teens – an age group that is often overlooked. Our giving table is located in the hall by the pastor's office. **We will take the toys to Reelfoot on WEDNESDAY, DEC 2ND, leaving the church at 11:30**. While visiting Reelfoot Rural Mission is certainly fun, the high point of the trip is often our stop at Boyette's Restaurant. If you plan on joining us on this trip, please sign up on the list at the Giving Table.



The Ladies of the Yarn delivered several baskets of knitted hats to the Kirkland Cancer Center. We also took hand-knited primi caps to the Ronald McDonald House and caps and socks to be placed on the warming tree by The Ned. Please feel free to take a shawl and give it to a friend who is facing a crisis in their life or who needs encouragement.

May God's grace be upon these gifts of yam, warming, comforting, enfolding, and embracing. May they be a safe haven, a sacred place of security and well-being. May they sustain and embrace in good times as well as difficult ones. May the one who receive these gifts be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace and wrapped in love.
(written by Janet Severi Brown, adapted by Sue Wyatt)

United Women in Faith

The United Women in Faith met on October 22nd. The program featured a devotion by TJ Clanin on the significance of the word "Love". The closing devotion was given by Diane Sanford on the topic of Unity.

As part of the fund-raising for the Reel Foot Toy Store Teen Room there will be a homemade pie sale the Sunday before Thanksgiving. The ladies will set up in the Fellowship Hall and have pies available for $15.00 each. Sales will be from 10:15 to 10:45 and immediately after the worship service. Monetary donations to the Teen Room will also be accepted.

Addition to Directory

Please add Ronnie Guyton's information to your directory

Ronnie Guyton
83 H C Walton Dr.
Jackson, TN 38301
Ph: 731-803-7271
Email: ronnieguyton20@gmail.com

Preschool News

The Forest Heights Preschool children will present their Thanksgiving Program on Friday, November 20th in the Gym. The program will start at 10:00 a.m.

The Preschool is in need of plastic shopping bags for cleanups. If you have plastic bags that you can donate, drop them off at the preschool office or in the church office.

Sojourners Class Celebrated Fall

The Sojourners Sunday School Class gathered at Bill and Sue Wyatt's home to celebrate Fall holidays on Friday Evening, October 23rd. Eating a playing games were the main activities of the evening. They shared a few pictures of the attendees.









MEET THE CHURCH STAFF

Our Administrative Assistant – Sue Bryant



Sue Bryant became our administrative assistant in 2024 and has done a wonderful job creating bulletins and newsletters, sending congregational emails, maintaining church records, moving the office files into a digital format, and generally keeping the office running smoothly. But how well do you really know Sue outside the office?

Which of the following facts do you think are true?

1 – Sue rode a motorcycle throughout the United States.
2 – Sue was recruited to Tennessee for a job.
3 – Sue enjoys reading books of all genres.

If you said "Yes" to all of them, you are correct!

1 – Sue, with her husband and sometimes their two daughters, took several motorcycle trips in the 80's and 90's. They traveled from Iowa to Michigan and the Great Lakes, to the Smoky Mountains, and to the Grand Canyon. Sue has many fond memories of the special anniversary trips she shared with Don and values the family times she spent with him and their girls, Lori and Kay.

2 – Sue began her career as a PE teacher. She taught school until 1973 when Lori was born. When she later returned to work, she found work at a factory and soon moved into the quality department. Then, in 1998, Sue was recruited as a Quality Engineer by NOMA Outdoor Products to set up the quality system in their Jackson, Tennessee, plant. She moved with her family to Tennessee and has remained here ever since.

3 – Sue's favorite hobby is reading. She says her mother was a devoted reader, so she is just following in her mother's footsteps. Sue enjoys reading a variety of books. She might read a nonfiction book, then a romance novel, followed by a book of historical fiction. She especially enjoys reading World War II historical novels.

A special note: October was an extra-special month for Sue. She turned 80 years old and celebrated this milestone birthday with her daughters on a weekend trip in Nashville. Lori, from Clarksville, and Kay, from Washington state, made this a memorable time for her.

Thank you, Sue, for everything you do to keep our church running smoothly on a day-to-day basis. We appreciate your smile, your friendship, and your dedication to Forest Heights UMC.

In Service to Our Church





Forest Heights has many members who pitch in to help keep our building and grounds in good shape. We spied Helen Mullins and Vallie Branum out cleaning up our front flower bed before winter sets in and Sue Wyatt and Cheryl Thomas raking up the area along the sidewalk next to the preschool. We are blessed by their care for Forest Heights.

Church Council Meeting

The final Church Council Meeting for 2026 will be held on November 15th immediately following the church service. Lunch will be served.

The Long Range Planning Meeting

Members meeting to plan for our Church's future success met on October 22nd and identified 4 key areas for success. The group has been asked to send our leader, John Borden, 8 ideas that will prepare FHUMC for future success in the key areas. Please try to submit your ideas not later than November 6th. The next meeting will be at 5:30 p.m. on November 12th in the Fellowship Hall. At that meeting we will examine the compiled list of ideas. Anyone from the church is welcome to attend the meeting and give their input.

Happy Birthday & Anniversary

November Birthdays

6	Samantha Wood
19	Tim Burgher
26	Janice Nathion

November Anniversaries

8	Lynn & Tim Burgher

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

November	1	9:15 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Fellowship Time
		9:30 a.m.	Resource Room	Sunday School
		11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Worship
November	2	5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Jackson Juniorettes Mtg
November	3	6:00 p.m.	Gym	Wheatley Team
November	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
November	5	5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	SPRC Meeting
November	8	9:15 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Fellowship Time
		9:30 a.m.	Resource Room	Sunday School
		11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Worship
November	9	10:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Worship Committee
November	10	6:00 p.m.	Gym	Wheatley Team
November	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
November	12	5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Long Range Planning Meeting

Calendar for November 2026 (Cont.)

November	15	9:15 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Fellowship Time
		9:30 a.m.	Resource Room	Sunday School
		11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Worship
		12:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Church Council Mtg.
		5:30 p.m.	F.H. Kitchen, Gym	Room in the Inn
November	17	6:00 p.m.	Gym	Wheatley Team
November	18	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
November	19	3:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	United Women in Faith
November	20	10:00 a.m.	Gym	P.S. Thanksgiving Program
November	22	9:15 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Fellowship Time
		9:30 a.m.	Resource Room	Sunday School
		10:15 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	UWF Pie Sale
		11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Worship
		12:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	UWF Pie Sale (cont)
November	23	9:00 a.m.	Church	Dec. Church-Advent/Christmas
		11:00 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Worship Committee
November	24	10:00 a.m.	Resource Room	Advent Study – Because of Bethlehem
		6:00 p.m.	Gym	Wheatley Team
November	25	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
November	26	Church Office Closed – Thanksgiving Holiday		
November	29	9:15 a.m.	Fellowship Hall	Fellowship Time
		9:30 a.m.	Resource Room	Sunday School
		11:00 a.m.	Sanctuary	Worship – 1st Sunday Advent
		12:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	5th Sunday Lunch
November	30	5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Hall	Women's Advent Study