



## Pastors Notes

August is here and that means that our summertime lifestyle will be giving way to the tick of the school calendar clock. Soon, the kids will be writing their essays about what they did over the summer. I remember one childhood summer went to visit relatives in Hale, Michigan. We enjoyed the cooler weather and even got to be in the 4th of July town parade. There was a lot of fishing, family and fun. It also included my first airplane ride. There were a lot of memories to share in my essay which I titled "To Hale and Back." My teacher did not see the humor. As we grow older, we fondly remember the summer of our youth. It didn't seem to be as hot back then. There was always something to do, baseball, swimming at the pool, fun and movie time at the Optimist club or just sitting outside, listening to the top 40 to the hum of the cicada. It was a time of slowing down and enjoying life. We have had a full summer. Eight of our youth spent a week at Lakeview Methodist camp and came back excited over all that happened. We gathered at the Berry nursery for the annual church picnic and enjoyed the food and fellowship. In July, we welcomed 50 children of the community for Road Trip VBS. Thanks to Angela and all the crew for making the three day journey enjoyable for the children. In worship, we will complete our sermon series on the markers of Thrive-clarity, witness, abundance, kinship and will focus on August 3rd on the last marker, joy. Through July, we have sung from our favorite hymn list and in August we will sing the old Cokesbury standards. We also welcomed our new camera technology to make online worship a more community experience. But as in all good things, the times they are a changing. Soon, reading and writing and arithmetic will be the song in the air. On Thursday, August 7th at 6pm, the community will gather for a prayer walk at GSISD. You are welcome to join us as we pray for each campus. We will welcome a new year at a growing Children's Christian Academy in mid-August. On August 17th at 3pm, there will be a meet the teacher at CCA. To help prepare, a snack list is available to help supply the needs for the teachers and students. Psalm 74:17 "It was you who set all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter." As we end summer, I invite you to pick up a SOAP (Scripture, Observation, Application and Prayer) reading schedule for August. Let us search the Word together.

In His Grace,  
Kelly



# August 2025

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST



### CHURCH

Grand Saline, TX 75140

#### Sunday Activities:

Sunday School—9:55 am

Worship—10:55 am

Tribe— 5:00pm

#### Office Hours:

Mon. – Thurs.

10am- Noon, 1- 3pm

#### Office Phone Number

(903) 962-3151

#### Email:

[gsumc2016@gmail.com](mailto:gsumc2016@gmail.com)

#### Website:

[www.fumcgrandsaline.org](http://www.fumcgrandsaline.org)

#### Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/gsumc/](https://www.facebook.com/gsumc/)

**Dr. Kelly S. Krone**  
Senior Pastor  
903-780-7013

# Joy Choir Discovery Center Trip

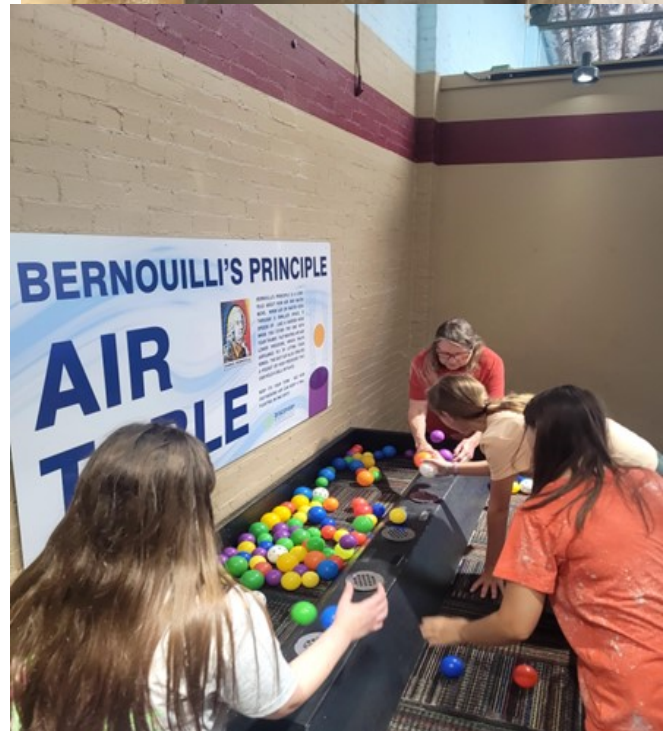
We closed out our end of the Choir year with a grand time at the Discovery Science Center in Tyler.

The pictures showcase the fun we had. We continue our Summer break from rehearsal's, but will begin our new year in September.

We welcome new members from our Church and the Community. Please pray for our ministry!

In Loving Service,

Gail and Martha





# Joy Choir Discovery Center Trip



Electric



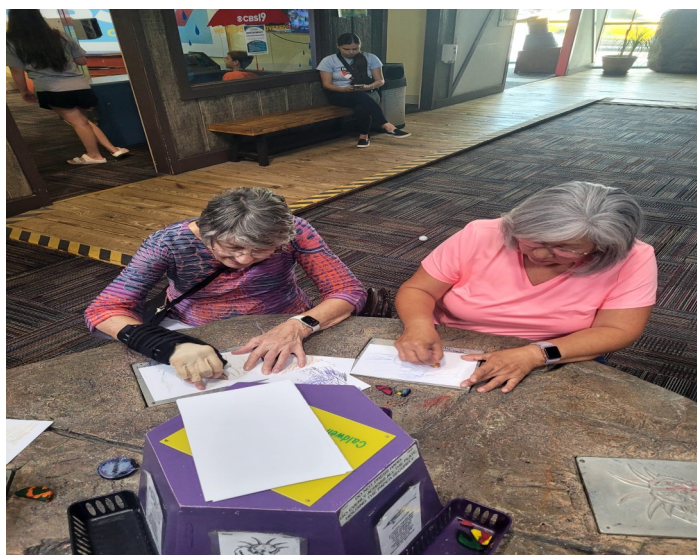
Sonic



Rock Climbing



Tornado Tunnel

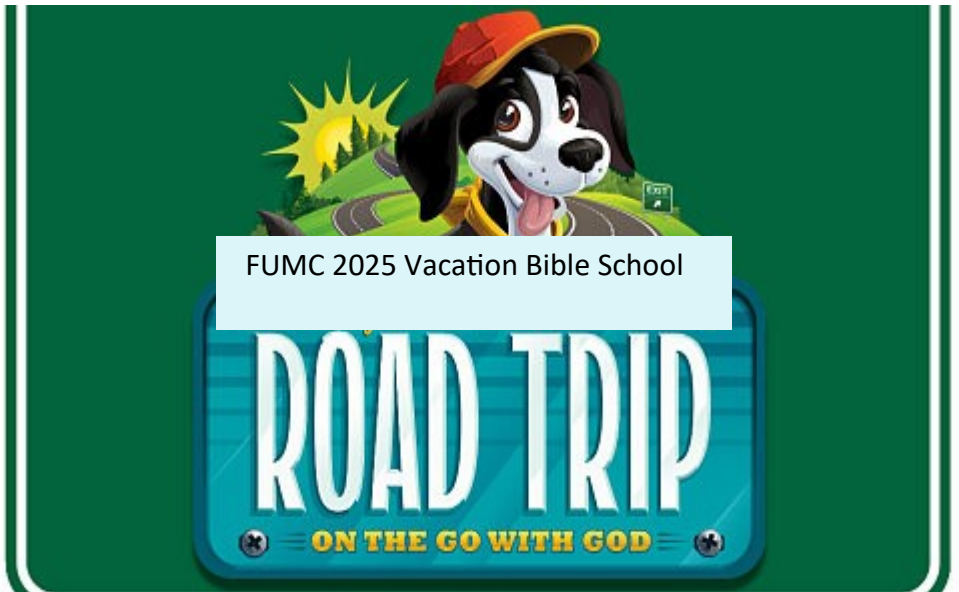


Coloring



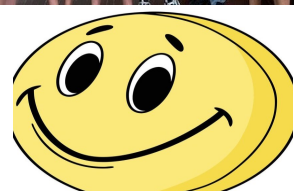
Sailing







# FUMC VBS 2025





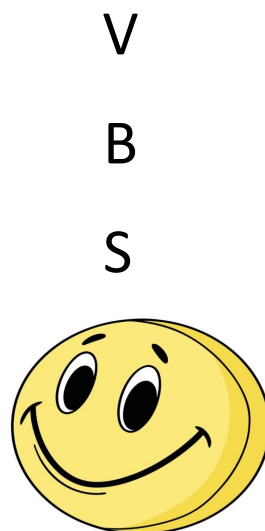


# FUMC 2025 Vacation Bible School





# FUMC VBS 2025





# FUMC VBS 2025







# FUMC VBS 2025







# FUMC VBS

## 2025





# Breaking Bread *Community* Food Pantry



**"For I was hungry and  
you gave me food."  
(Matthew 25:35a)**

**903-962-3151**

**1st & 3rd  
THURSDAYS  
4PM - 6PM**

**Serving our neighbors in the  
Grand Saline & Fruitvale ISDs**

The budget cuts that we keep reading about have finally had a very real impact on Grand Saline and our neighbors. I received a call today that the East Texas Food Bank has been asked to reduce spending by over 2 million dollars. In effort to do this as fairly as possible, they compared and contrasted the amount of non-processed, whole foods being received and distributed per county, and per town.

Van Zandt County and Grand Saline/Fruitvale are at the top of the lists, based on the amount of produce provided to our clients through Breaking Bread and our Mobile Pantry. I consider this a great compliment, as it shows that our clients are receiving fruits and vegetables at or above recommended levels.

Over the past few months, the Mobile Pantry program has already been forced to close one half of their produce distributions to save money. We were spared because our partners at ETFB were able to show their supervisors photos of smiling young Grand Saline ISD students working shoulder to shoulder with our members serving our community. Maureen and Blair went to bat for us, holding us as a shining example of inclusion, encouraging young people to learn the value of volunteerism.

Maureen called today to say that they really tried to keep us, but we will no longer have a monthly Mobile Pantry. She was going to call Superintendent Micah Lewis and share the news with him as well.

I would like to personally thank each of you who has shown up, sacked up, and distributed literally tons of fruits and vegetables. You made this fun. I know we touched lives and made new friends, and it is because of you.

blairbear :)



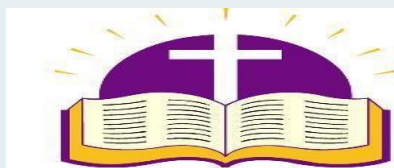
## Shop for Operation Christmas Child

Items that are needed for the Shoe Box: Colored pencils, crayola's, small note books (size to fit shoe boxes), little scissors, glue sticks, cheap water color sets, etc. Or anything that will fit in 7" X 11" shoe box.

Please bring the items to the office or put in the wagon by the office door.  
We will have a packing party early November!



Workers needed for  
Church Nursery.  
If you are interested,  
please contact Gail Hill,  
903-312-5283



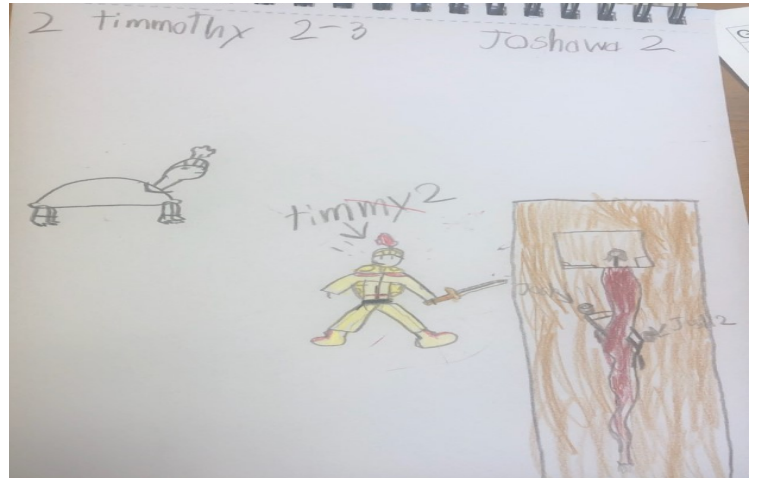
Sunday Morning Adult  
Sunday School



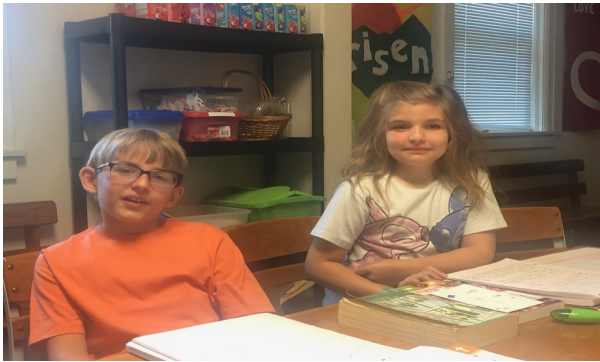
The Adult Sunday School meets every Sunday morning at 9:50am to 10:45am in the Pairs and Spares room, directly next door to the Church Office. We love new members, and you will be welcomed with loving, friendly faces. Someone in our class will greet you at the door and make you feel right at home. **Please join us.** If you are interested in attending our class, just come on in! Any questions, please call Emile Clifford, Class Teacher- (903) 360-0924, and—we look forward to seeing you! Our August lessons are in the Books of Corinthians, Ephesians, Hebrews and Peter.



# Children's Sunday School - Join us at 9:55am



## Our drawings of Rahab and the spies



## Willow and Remington

The students in 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School Class have been working thru

*The Bible made easy for Kids.*

Currently, we are reading the Old Testament Stories together, and then they draw something they have read about in their "Sketch Book" and note the scripture relating to the sketch. In years to come they will have their drawings to remind them of their stories. The book gives the Biblical story and then helps apply the scriptures to their lives.

We have also learned the books of the Old Testament sung to a familiar tune and will soon start on the Books of the New Testament.

The first page of their Sketch Book is the Apostles Creed printed in their own handwriting. Many thanks to the teachers who work with these students: Brenda Miller, Debbie Zajac, Pam Harrison, and Gail Hill.

**Congratulations to Ella Martin who is promoting from the Elementary Sunday School to the Youth Department!**





# The Craft Group

Crafters met July 1st. We are meeting once a month during the Summer months on the 1st Tuesday of the month. Beginning in September, we will go back to meeting twice a month, first and third Tuesday of each month. Our August meeting is scheduled for August 5th. We will begin making fall decorations for the three Nursing Homes in Grand Saline. No special skills are needed, just be ready to enjoy each other's company as we put together fall decorations. Help us to help lift up someone else. 😊

Everyone needs someone to care about them. You might just be that person. Join us at 10:00am in the Genesis Building August 5th, we will be happy to see you!

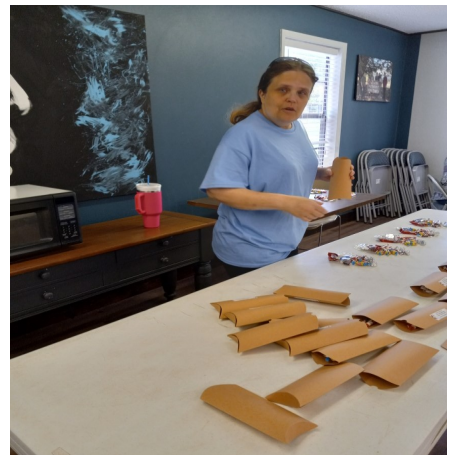
Crafters are always looking for new friends to help in this mission of the Church.

Crafters

GSFUMC

Jolene Morgan

(903) 738-2789



We say its  
handcrafted,  
but really, it  
comes from  
the heart ❤️





# Children's Christian Academy News

Dear Church Family,

Did you know that when you support our preschool, you're doing more than helping young children learn their ABCs? You're investing in families, community outreach, and the future of our church's mission.

Our preschool is more than a place of learning—it's a ministry. Every day, we prepare children for kindergarten with love, patience, and joy, laying a strong foundation not just for academic success, but for a life rooted in faith and compassion.

But our impact doesn't stop at the classroom door.

We walk alongside families, offering encouragement and support during one of the most formative seasons of their lives. Whether it's through a listening ear, a helping hand, or a shared prayer, we care deeply for the whole family—not just the child.

We also believe in giving generously. Our preschool contributes to our local food pantry, supports a local soldier overseas with care packages, and gives faithfully—paying our tithe to the church along with other monetary gifts. These are not just donations; they are extensions of our calling to love and serve.

And behind it all are our incredible teachers. We strive to provide them with a positive, uplifting work environment—a place where they feel valued, supported, and inspired to pour into our children with excellence.

We invite you to partner with us. Your prayers, your encouragement, and your financial support make this ministry possible. Together, we can continue to nurture young hearts, support families, and be a light in our community.

With gratitude,  
Eva Carnes, CCA director

## List of snacks needed for CCA

**Graham crackers, Ritz crackers, Goldfish crackers, Saltines, jar of peanut butter, dye free boxed Jello, butter cookies, fresh fruit: apples, oranges and bananas. Muffins or banana bread.**





The Brunch Bunch is a Ministry of our Church that sends greeting cards to help someone's day be better and know they are loved and thought about! If anyone has a special person that we can send a card to, please contact Sue Myers and we will be happy to send it. We hope you will join us for this rewarding Ministry. As we say, ***"the more the merrier."*** Praise God to all those who come to make out cards and to those receiving them.

Our meeting was on July 28th, Pastor Kelly led us in prayer. Those attending: Gail Hill, Emile Clifford, Pastor Kelly, Sue and Dean Myers and Maxine Watson. We sent out 57 cards for the month of August!! And praying that they will send sunshine and a smile to all who receive...

Our next Brunch Bunch meeting is Tuesday, August 25th at 11:00am, we will be sending cards for September 2025.

We always have a delicious lunch! If you would like to come, just bring yourself and a dish or just join us to encourage others.

We always have a wonderful gathering, enjoying the company and making out cards to those who need some love and comfort at this time.

Love in Jesus, Sue Myers



The Flower Chart for 2025 is up in the Narthex. If you would like to sign up to have flowers in memory of or in Honor of someone and the date you would like. The Crafters can make the arrangement for a \$20.00 donation to the Craft Group. You may bring fresh flowers or have a Florist deliver them to the Church on Saturday before the specified Sunday.

If you have any questions, please call Jolene Morgan (903) 738-2789 or the Church office (903) 962-3151.





Youth Sunday School  
Middle School and High School  
Growing in Christ



## EQUIPPING THE NEXT GENERATION

Angela Gowins, Teacher



Adult Handbells and Adult Choir are on break for the Summer.

If you know of someone who would like to sing a Solo, Duets or other Musical Groups interested in singing during Worship, please notify the office.



The Gathering Sunday School class meets at 9:55am

*"Multiple generations on a journey seeking to live as Christians today."*

The Wired Word curriculum used by The Gathering Class uses Scripture and current events to encourage learning through thoughtful discussion. Each week we examine a current event and Scripture selected by The Wired Word to find relevance for our lives whether it be our family, work, or church relationships. We look forward to the New Year.

Ginni Biggs—Leader



*Tribe is on  
Summer  
break*





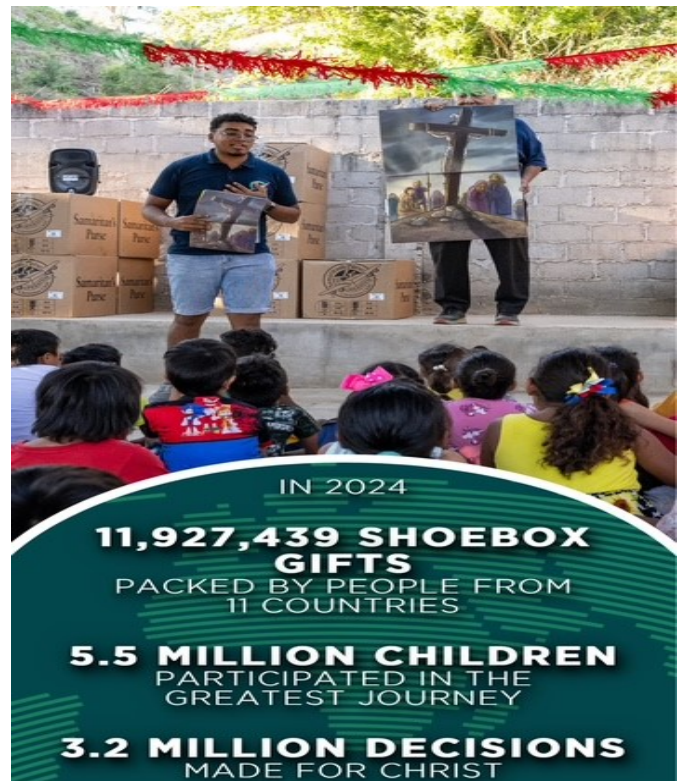
## *Bible Study Wednesdays at 3:00 pm*

*\*No Bible Study on these dates: May 7, May 14, October 1, October 8, November 26, December 24, December 31\**

*Tom and Beverly Rodgers home  
8602 FM 16, Van*



## Operation Christmas Child





# Men's Breakfast

Food, Fellowship & Faith

2nd Saturday each month  
at 8:00am  
in the Genesis Building

Oh, what fun!! Another joyful  
Breakfast Club! ❤️



**FUMC Women's Breakfast**

**3rd Saturday each month at 8:30am**



# First United Methodist Church Cross Wall's

If you would like to have a Cross on the wall, please contact Pastor Kelly or Maxine in the office.

The procedure is: purchase a Cross of your choice, bring it to the office with a note of how you would like the inscription on the plaque. (usually two lines will fit, sometimes 3).

The cost for the plaque is \$25.00, make the check payable to the Church and add Cross Wall in the memo. There is lots of room left on the 2nd wall!





A graphic for 'Family Night'. It features a large black cross shape. The word 'FAMILY' is spelled out with Scrabble tiles along the top arm, and 'NIGHT' is spelled out with large black letters on a green background to the right. The word 'EVENING' is spelled out with Scrabble tiles along the bottom arm. To the right of the cross are three colored boxes: a blue box with 'food', a yellow box with 'games', and a pink box with 'family'.

food

games

family

**First Wednesday  
each month at 6:00pm  
in the Genesis Build-  
ing**

*Join us for a night of great  
fellowship,  
good food and a night of fun!!*

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Taco Tuesday gathering every  
Tuesday at the Dairy Queen in  
Van @ 1:00pm

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## **Month of August 2025**

3rd : Dave Orchard & Kay Barber

10th : Tom Rodgers & Larry Tull

17th : Gary Barber & Pam Orchard

24th : Dave Orchard & Kay Barber

31st : Tom Rodgers & Larry Tull





Pastor Kelly and his family, Alice Matthews and family, Jolene and Jimmie Morgan, Jim Berry, Beverly Lowry, Bill Berry (Jim Berry's brother), Elaine Gwaltney (Gail Hill's cousin), Bill and Lisa Waldon (Sue Myers's daughter and son-in-law), Sue Duncan (Janet Cheatham's sister-in-law), Karla Friedman, Delois Currey, Dolores Means, Dean Stone, Nina Hernandez, Claudeane Sublett, Jaye Easterwood, Maxine Moore (Jaye Easterwood's sister), Dean Stone, Montgomery Martin (Sue Myers's grandson), Jane Johnson (Jim Berry's sister), Doris Welch (Marilyn Smith's sister), Shannon Curtis - heart problems, Cathy Masters, Laiken Welch (Brenda Miller's niece), Family of Tommie German she passed away in May, Jane Kepler, Danny Storey (Dr. Ron and Kay Sherbert's brother-in-law), Deena Kirkpatrick (member of Jill Krone's Church), Ann Berry, Asher Hawkins, Corbon Heizer (Gail Hill's grandson), Ron and Lou Lewis (Marilyn Smith's cousin), Wanda Hickman, Heidi Abell (Sue Myers's daughter), Shirley Alvey, Robert Good, Carolyn Thorn (Bruce & Janet Cheatham's niece), Hunter Redman (Family friend of Dean and Ann Stone), Suzan Storey (Dr. Rons sister), Laura Davis (Dean Phillips Grandmother), Debbie - asking prayers for her and her family, heart issues (Diane Ingram's sister), Donna Reynolds - cancer surgery (Kay Sherbert's Niece), Cary Majors, Bro. Benny Craft, lung cancer (friend of Maxine's), Macray Lewis (friend of the Currey family), Lynn Sloan Heflin (Celia Orr's Sister), Richard and Joyce Cross,

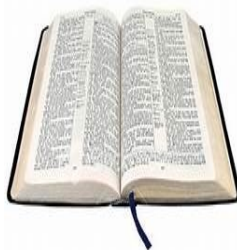
#### Presence and Gifts for July 2025

07/06 - 44	07/06 - \$ 4,158.20
07/13 - 62	07/13 - \$ 4,092.00
07/20 - 63	07/20 - \$ 1,906.00
07/27 - 66	07/27 - \$ 2,458.00

When making a check to a Ministry of the Church, make check payable to FUMC and  
add the specific Ministry at the bottom of the check.

#### Scripture Readers for August 2025

08/03 - Kathy Lea  
08/10 - Tom Rodgers  
08/17 - Tisha Conatser  
08/24 - Sue Myers  
08/31 - Addie Gowins



**Ushers for August**

**Dean Stone & Bobby Calhoun**





2025

**A Community on a Journey  
to Love God  
and Love Others**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1. Bob Gray Birthday	2. Tom Rodgers Birthday Beverly Lowry Birthday
3. Communion  Sunday School 9:55am Worship 10:55 am	4.	5.  Craft Group 10:00am	6.  3:00pm - Bible Study @ Rodgers Home  Game Night 6:00pm	7.  Food Pantry 4-6pm  Shane Carnes Birthday	8.	9.  Men's Breakfast 8:00am in Genesis Building
10.  Sunday School 9:55am Worship 10:55 am  Sunday School Graduation	11.	12.	13.  Bible Study 3:00pm Tom & Beverly Rodgers home Joy Choir 3:45pm  Danny Hughes Birthday	14. CCA Teachers return	15. CCA Teachers return  Faith Conatser Birthday  Pastor Kelly Birthday	16.  Women's Breakfast 8:30am
17.  Sunday School 9:55am Worship: 10:55am Board of Stewards 3pm  CCA 3:00pm Meet the Teacher Will be in Church  Tribe 5pm	18.  Adult Bells 5pm Choir 6pm	19.  CCA 1st day of School  Tammy Weidman Birthday	20. Bible Study 3:00pm Tom & Beverly Rodgers home  Joy Choir 3:45pm	21.  Food Pantry 4- 6pm  Jerry Ann Hughes Birthday  Eva Carnes Birthday	22.  Janet Cheatham Birthday	23.
24.  Sunday School 9: 55 am Worship 10:55am Tribe 5pm  Jim Berry Birthday	25.  Brunch Bunch 11am Adult Bells 5pm Choir 6pm	26.  Jim & Martha Berry Anniversary	27.  Bible Study 3:00pm Tom & Beverly Rodgers home  Ann Berry Birthday	28.	29.	30.
31.  Sunday School 9:55am Worship 10:55am  Potluck (Ice Cream) after Service  Tribe 5pm	<p>I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. Joshua 1: 9 Angela Gowins favorite Bible verse</p>				<p><b>Church Office Hours</b>  Monday -Thursday 10:00 am -12:00 pm 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Phone# (903) 962-3151</p>	