

The Informer

WINTER 2026, ISSUE 2
MARCH 18, 2026



VISION: First United Methodist Church seeks to create a culture of hospitality and a discipleship pathway for all of God's people. We seek to be in mission and service to meet certain needs in our community and around the world.

OUR FOOD PANTRY DIRECTOR: SAMMIE KYLE

Sammie Kyle has been serving as the Director of our Food Pantry since 2021, and as a volunteer in the pantry for several years before taking on this leadership role.

As our Food Pantry director, Sammie completes all the paperwork associated with the pantry including our contract and various forms related to our partnership as a satellite of the Mid-South Food Bank, along with our partner agreements and forms associated with retailers who donate to our pantry including the Millington Kroger and Aldi grocery stores. As a designated partner of the Mid-South Food Bank, we follow their regulations and guidelines, and are able to purchase food items at a significantly reduced cost to help stock our pantry.

Sammie also coordinates the volunteer groups who serve in our pantry on the days it is open – every Tuesday, first

Thursday and third Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and maintains the computer database of our patrons, Mid-South Food Bank orders and invoices, along with retail and monetary pantry donations.

Tuesday's volunteer group includes members from our church, Hampton Memorial Methodist Church, Christ Church Memphis, and Community Baptist Church, among others. On the first Thursday of every month, the ladies of St. William Catholic Church, our neighbors around the corner, serve as volunteers in our pantry, and on alternating third Saturdays of every month the St. William Knights of Columbus and employees of Indmar Marine Engines in Millington volunteer in our pantry.

There also are two volunteers who pick-up donated items from our local Millington Kroger and Aldi grocery stores each week. Charles Pack has been volunteering with the pantry for many years and picks up donated items from Kroger. He is a member of

Forestview Church of Christ, and FUMC's Lay Leader Roy Hall picks up items from the Millington Aldi store. In addition, our pantry receives produce and other items from a food rescue ministry at Collierville United Methodist Church, which visits Costco and Trader Joe's in Memphis, routinely delivering those items to our pantry on Mondays. Clearly, our food pantry ministry is an ecumenical and community-wide effort.

"I want to thank all of our volunteers who pitched in and worked together while I was hospitalized and on medical leave. All of our volunteers are great, and I really appreciate everything they did, and felt very confident and pleased they could keep our pantry running smoothly in serving our community in my absence," Sammie stresses.

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Creation Care Corner

SHOULD CHRISTIANS CARE ABOUT BIRDS?

Part of being a Christian is creation care. Should Christians care about birds? God did and does. When he created them he called them “good.” He ordered Noah to take into the ark “two of every living thing.”

Genesis 9:15 is best read with open eyes- God’s great covenant of life, symbolized by the rainbow, was with “all living things.” “All,” not just us. Why? God’s design is infinitely complex and interconnected. It all works because it all works together. And the second reason that birds are so important? We can count them. That is important because they actually are “canaries in the coal mine” of God’s ecosystem. They are both predator and prey, they control insects and live off them, they pollinate and distribute seeds, and many other living things — fish, amphibians. Now, they are delivering us a very troubling message. Bird populations are down almost 30 percent since the 1970s. There are three billion less birds in the U.S. than there were.

Our ecosystem is degrading quickly. Consider bluebirds. Their parents must feed them about 8,000 insects. Songbird nestlings do not eat seeds. The trees and plants that God put here in North America together, thrive together. Plants native to a region can provide 35 times more food than imported trees and shrubs. The fruit from our native shrubs has 50 times more fat and stored fat is what makes the miracle of bird migration possible.

And after all, Jesus did say “His eye is on the sparrow...”
from Jim Cubie
Evangelical Environmental Network

COMING UP...

Sunday Worship @ 10 a.m., Sunday School @ 8:50 a.m.
Live-streaming at 10 a.m. on our Facebook page or later on our YouTube channel:

First United Methodist Church – Millington TN or
Website: www.fumcmillington.org



Sunday, March 22, 2026

Scripture: John 8:2-11

Message: *The good news is...rooted in justice, mercy & faithfulness*

Sunday, March 29, 2026 – Palm Sunday

Scripture: Mark 11:1-11

Message: *The good news is...inspiring us to act*

(Guest Pastor Rev. Amanda Crice – Our Pastor Amanda will be away at a confirmation retreat with our confirmands.)

Wednesday, March 18th – Lenten Bible Study 12 noon-WH

Young Disciples 5:30-7 p.m.-FC

Choir Practice 6 p.m.-Choir room

Youth Group 6:30-8 p.m.-FC

Saturday, March 21st – Creation Care Program – Everything Bluebirds 10 a.m.- 12 noon-WH

Food Pantry 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sunday, March 22nd – Church Board Meeting 11:15 a.m.-WH

Monday, March 23rd – Grief Support Group 4 p.m.-History room

Weekend Backpack Ministry 6 p.m.-HH

Tuesday, March 24th – Bill Williams Men’s Bible Study 8 a.m.-WH

Food Pantry 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Wednesday, March 25th – Lenten Bible Study 12 noon-WH

Young Disciples 5:30-7 p.m.-FC

Choir Practice 6 p.m.-Choir room

Youth Group 6:30-8 p.m.-FC



Worship Through Giving

Needed Monthly Giving to Support 2026 Budget: \$37,380.48

Week of January 4 th	\$ 5,884.00
Week of January 11 th	\$ 8,077.00
Week of January 18 th	\$ 5,102.00
Week of January 25 th (Virtual Worship/Ice)	\$ 340.00
January 2026 Total Giving	\$19,403.00

Week of February 1 st (Virtual Worship/Ice)	\$ 3,540.00
Week of February 8 th	\$ 5,363.57
Week of February 15 th	\$ 4,045.50
Week of February 23 rd	\$12,097.75
February 2026 Total Giving	\$25,046.82

A Little Bird Told Me:



Everything Bluebirds
 A Creation Care Informational Program
 for our Community

Guest Speaker: Don Warmbrod
 President, Shelby County Bluebird Club

Saturday, March 21st, 2026
10 AM – 12 NOON

Millington First United Methodist Church
 Williams Hall (across from the Performing Arts Center)
 8029 Wilkinsville Road, Millington

- Light refreshments will be served
- Everyone in the community is invited

Hosted by the Creation Care Team
 @ Millington First United Methodist Church
info@fumcmillington.org
 (901) 872-4414



continued from page 1, Sammie Kyle

In addition to overseeing our pantry, Sammie is also part of a volunteer team that includes Jean Russell and Bonita Dunavant, who pitch in on Monday mornings to help count and deposit the Sunday offering. Sammie can't remember how long she has been helping with this task, but says she was trained by the best – Jan Cleveland. Sammie also is one of several people who volunteer to sit in for me (Linda) in the church office, when I have a doctor's appointment or take some vacation time.

Sammie holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Mississippi University for Women (this writer's alma mater, too) in history and social sciences with an education certificate, and she taught third grade, junior high school and high school in Byhalia, Miss., for a few years before moving into the corporate sector.

In Memphis, at Campbell's Soup Company, Sammie worked in the sales division, as a secretary, office manager and then with their human resources department. Sammie also served as an office manager at HEM, a company that sold and placed advertising in the yellow pages (phone directories), and as a customer service representative for Creedo Specialty Pharmacy, helping patients with cancer and multiple sclerosis secure the medicines they needed.

Sammie also is a graduate of Central High School in Memphis.

Sammie says she's been a member of our church since Rev. Roy Williams was the pastor. Her brother Phillip, who passed away in 2023, also was a member of our church, as is her sister-in-law Joyce Kyle. Sammie has two nephews: Barton and Morgan.

What does she like about FUMC? Sammie says, the people. "I like the way I feel when I am there. The preaching and the lessons are important, and the people make you feel welcome." She adds, "It reminds me of the church I grew up in, Capleville Methodist. Two of the founders of that church were my great-grandparents."

Sammie enjoys reading, and has a collection of vintage women's magazines like Good Housekeeping from the 1920s, '30s, and '40s. She also likes classical music, as well as music from the 1930s, '40s and '50s.

And, Sammie has always had a dog since she has been on her own. The last three have all been rescues, including her current canine companion Billie Jean. She laughs, "They wag their tails and don't tell you 'no.'"

Memorials In Memory Of...

Laura Comes Hubbard

Steve & Rita Beckham
(Budget)

Carol Harrison
(Budget)

EvyLou Turner
(Budget)

Susie Armstrong

Carol Harrison
(Budget)

2026 HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Wednesday, April 1 @ 12 noon – Lenten Bible Study

Join us during Holy Week as we step into the story of Jesus' last 24 hours in our final Lenten Bible Study session. This time of learning as we read Scripture together will deepen your spiritual walk with your Savior as we move towards the miracle of Easter morning.

Thursday, April 2 @ 6 p.m. – Maundy Thursday Potluck

Every time we celebrate communion, we hear these words: "On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread..." In his final moments before submitting to arrest and eventually crucifixion, Jesus spent time sharing a meal with his closest friends. So, we, too, will gather with friends and share in a meal as we give thanks for Christ's ultimate sacrifice of love. And, this year, we're inviting our friends from the NSA Mid-South Chapel to join us, as an expression of thanks for their support of our feeding ministries and Golden Cross at the Wesley Independent Living Center in Millington.

Friday, April 3 @ 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – Good Friday Prayer Stations

Why do we call one of the most tragic days in Christian history *Good Friday*? On this day, we remember a day of suffering that ended in Jesus' crucifixion...events that sound like anything but good. Yet, we also remember that in Jesus' terrible death God's good purpose of loving and redeeming the world is proclaimed. Our sanctuary will be open with prayer stations that invite you to grieve the tragedy of Good Friday and draw closer to God's love, forgiveness, and grace.

Saturday, April 4 @ 10 a.m. – Easter Egg Hunt

Come one, come all for a day of Easter fun! Enjoy games, crafts, snacks, and egg hunts for ages 0-12. Invite your friends and neighbors as we celebrate the miracle of Easter and God's love together!



Our First UMC Prayer Concerns

Please note: When a person or concern is added to the prayer list, they will remain for three weeks unless otherwise specified.

Amanda Bass & family, Peggy Winnenberg, the people of Ukraine, Roger Thompson, Jim Rogenmoser, Miss Young's co-worker Noel, peace in the Middle East, Carol Harrison's son Tommy, Tom & Martha Hunter, Buddy & Connie Forney, Baby James Baltensperger & parents, Carl & Marie Doherty, Mona Hanson, Caleb, Dan Corum, Sandy Keehner, Andy Faulkner, Stacey Mills, Diane and Don Lowry, Linda Evans Lowe, Andrea Jackson, Pastor Amanda & Adam, Clint Hubbard & the family of Laura Comes Hubbard, Kenny Galloway, Tom Wilson, Rhonda Jones, Betty Russell, Lewis Smith, our military service members, Mary Boyer & her parents, Shirley Crow & family, Robbie Reilly, the family of Ray Robinson, the family of Russell Crenshaw, the family of Tommy Campbell, the family of Judith Esgro

If you have a prayer concern or request, please contact the church office @ (901) 872-4414 or Linda @ info@fumcmillington.org.

Dear FUMC Family,
Adam and I would like to share our deep appreciation for the many expressions of sympathy in the loss of my mother Laura Comes Hubbard. Your care and compassion communicated through cards, text messages, meals, gifts, prayers, and more have been a comfort to our broken hearts in this season of grief. Thank you for loving us so well. We are grateful for each of you!



With love and gratitude,
Pastor Amanda & Adam

The Good News of the Gospel is so good, sometimes, it surprises us! Like butterflies that hatch early before Easter reminding us that God's resurrection power is at work in the world even now. Like children who enthusiastically color cards for the church's sick or homebound members to tell them they are loved, remembered, and prayed for. Like confirmands growing in faith as they learn — just like last year's palms transform into this year's ashes for Ash Wednesday — God can transform our messy lives into something meaningful.

There is Good News all around us!

