

The Informer

SPRING 2026, ISSUE 1
APRIL 8, 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.

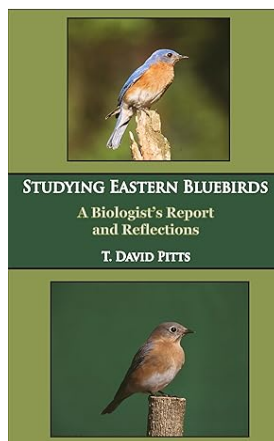
CREATION CARE: EVERYTHING BLUEBIRDS

More than 30 people from our church and throughout the Millington-area community gathered on Saturday, March 21st in our Williams Hall for a program on "Everything Bluebirds" offered by our Creation Care Ministry with guest speaker Don Warmbrod, president of the Shelby County Bluebird Club.

Warmbrod stressed the purpose of the Shelby County Bluebird Club is to increase the number of bluebirds in our area. The Shelby County Bluebird Club serves as the Southwest Tennessee chapter of the Tennessee Bluebird Society. It is where folks in Shelby County come together to care for nature right in our own backyards. The club protects Eastern bluebirds by building habitats, teaching hands-on conservation skills, and welcoming families and kids into the joy of community science. Guided by stewardship, integrity, and education, the club helps bluebirds thrive across our parks, neighborhoods,

and schoolyards.

In the city of Millington, there are bluebird boxes in three of the city's parks and at Edmund Orgill Golf Course, as well as here at our church. Ray and Bonita Dunavant are active members of the Shelby County Bluebird Club and our Creation Care Ministry, helping monitor and maintain the bluebird boxes around town and here at church, too.



Warmbrod admitted the first thing he raised in his own bluebird boxes were squirrels. He cited three sources that helped him learn about bluebirds: Studying Eastern Bluebirds: A Biologist's Report & Reflections by

T. David Pitts, a retired ornithologist from the University of Tennessee at Martin; sialis.org – a website dedicated to bluebirds (*sialis* is the Latin name for the Eastern bluebird); and the North American Bluebird Society – nbluebirdsociety.org.

On average, the Eastern bluebird will lay 4-6 eggs, in nests composed of up to 3,000 pieces of grass and pine needles, with the mama bird incubating those eggs from 12-14 days. Once hatched, the baby birds will be fed about 4 grams of food each day, leaving the nest on average in about 17 days. Typically, the birds will feed on caterpillars, crickets, grasshoppers and spiders, but, Warmbrod also characterized bluebirds as a "disaster species" which can thrive when their ecosystem has been damaged by subsisting on berries.

Baby bluebirds have a 25 percent

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Creation Care Corner

CREATION CARE SUNDAY: APRIL 26TH



This year's Creation Care Sunday worship service is on April 26th. Our guest speaker will be Dr. Martha Lyle Ford. Dr. Ford is currently program coordinator for the Center for Green Faith. She has

spent much of her life's work focusing on caring for and protecting God's creation. Previously, she served as the director for the Center for Faith and Imagination at Memphis Theological Seminary. Ford received her doctorate from MTS in land, food and faith formation and Master of Divinity in environmental ethics and ministry with the poor from Vanderbilt University.

During the Sunday School hour on Creation Care Sunday, our Creation Care Ministry team will present its 3rd annual Every Day is Earth Day Information Fair in Williams Hall. The line-up will include information and displays on backyard birds, hummers and bluebirds, bird photography, and soil conservation, a plant swap (bring a plant/take a plant), a bluebird house raffle (with proceeds going toward Creation Care programs), and door prizes.

The Susanna Circle Pop-Up Sweet Shoppe also will be a part of Creation Care Sunday this year, with lots of tasty treats for sale.

Everyone in our community is invited! Join us!

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, April 12th, 2026

Scripture: John 20:19-31

Message: *Holy Doubt*

Sunday, April 19th, 2026

Scripture: Luke 24:13-35

Message: *Hearts on Fire*

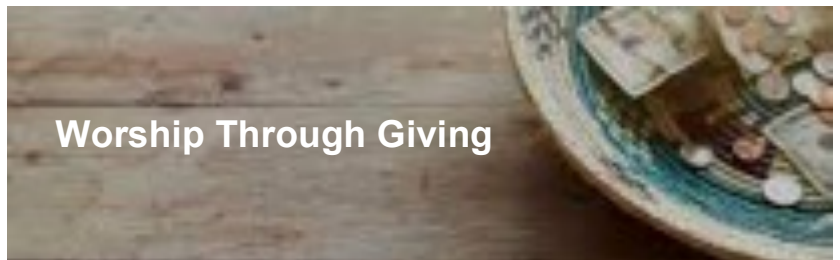
- Wednesday, April 8th – Susanna Circle 12 noon-Home of Rita Beckham
 - Young Disciples 5:30-7 p.m.-FC
 - Choir Practice 6 p.m.-Choir room
 - Youth Group 6:30-8 p.m.-FC
- Sunday, April 12th – Capital Campaign Committee 11:15 am-WH
- Monday, April 13th – Grief Support Group 4 p.m.-History room
- Tuesday, April 14th – Bill Williams Men's Bible Study 8 a.m.-WH
 - Food Pantry 10 am-1 pm
- Wednesday, April 15th – Young Disciples 5:30-7 p.m.-FC
 - Choir Practice 6 p.m.-Choir room
 - Youth Group 6:30-8 p.m.-FC
- Saturday, April 18th – Food Pantry 10 am-1 p.m.
- Monday, April 20th – Grief Support Group 4 p.m.-History room
 - Weekend Backpack Ministry 6 p.m.-HH
- Tuesday, April 21st – Bill Williams Men's Bible Study 8 a.m.-WH
 - Food Pantry 10 am-1 pm
- Wednesday, April 22nd – *Young Disciples will not meet.*
 - Choir Practice 6 pm-Choir room
 - Youth Group will not meet.*

Presented by our Creation Care Ministry
3rd Annual Everyday is Earth Day
Information Fair
 Sunday, April 26 @ 9 AM
 Millington First United Methodist Church
 8029 Wilkinsville Rd., Williams Hall
Everyone is welcome!

- Backyard Birds & Bird Photo Display
- Hummers & Bluebirds
- Soil Conservation
- Plant Swap
- Bluebird House Raffle
- Door Prizes



www.fumcmillington.org
 (901) 872-4414



Worship Through Giving

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

Week of March 2 nd	\$ 6,516.00
Week of March 9 th	\$ 5,602.57
Week of March 16 th	\$ 5,728.84
Week of March 23 rd	\$ 1,529.00
Week of March 29 th	\$ 3,736.85
March 2026 Total Giving	\$23,113.26

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survival rate, while adult bluebirds have a 50 percent survival rate. The bluebird’s habitat plays a key role in their survival as it can be threatened by invasive birds such as starlings and sparrows, as well as fire ants, and by predators such as raccoons, cats and snakes.

When placing a bluebird box, Warmbrod recommended an open lawn with scattered trees, if on a pole, the box should have a baffle, or galvanized pipe around the pole to guard against predators, and the box also should have two holes to allow bluebirds to escape attacks and help increase survival.

What do bluebirds eat?...Mealworms, along with goldenrod, sunflower seeds, as well as holly, rosehip and Hawthorne berries.

Warmbrod encouraged those present to consider joining the Shelby County Bluebird Club. The club is more than nest boxes – it’s a community. By joining, you can help protect Eastern bluebirds, connect with other nature enthusiasts, and support conservation right here at home. Membership dues are \$15 annually. Additional information can be found at: shelbycountybluebirdclub.com

Warmbrod is the former owner and CEO of Hollywood Feed in Memphis. He also is a former pilot for Braniff Airlines, as well as having served as a pilot in the U.S. Air Force for five years. He and his wife Diane have been married for 57 years. They have two children and three grandchildren.

Memorials In Memory Of..

Laura Comes Hubbard

Dot Green
(Budget)

SCENES FROM HOLY WEEK 2026

This Lenten season has been filled with times for reflection and prayer, meaningful worship services, beautiful music, fun, and fellowship with church family and new friends, too. This year, on Maundy Thursday, we invited our partners in community ministry from the NSA Mid-South Chapel to join us in a fellowship meal to thank them in person, for their steadfast support of our feeding ministries. There were 30 of us gathered! On Good Friday, prayer stations in our sanctuary guided us through Holy Week as we walked with Jesus on his journey to the cross. On Holy Saturday we welcomed children from our church and the community for a morning filled with snacks, crafts, and an Easter Egg Hunt with too many eggs to count, just in time to beat a rainstorm! And, on Easter Sunday, 100 souls gathered in our sanctuary, which was overflowing with greenery and flowers gifted in honor and in memory of those dear to us, along with beautiful music from our Chancel Choir, all anchored by a stunning flowering cross, symbolizing the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus.



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 & Mary Jo Rogenmoser, Missy Young's co-worker Noel, peace in the Middle East, Carol Harrison's son Tommy, Tom & Martha Hunter, Baby James Baltensperger & parents, Carl & Marie Doherty, Mona Hanson, Caleb, Dan Corum, Betty Russell, Lewis Smith, our military service members, Rosalie Wood's granddaughter Josie, Dale Cooper

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

Confirmation Retreat 2026

In March, our confirmands Madelyn and Abigail with Pastor Amanda joined around 25 other students and leaders for a weekend of learning, worship, and fellowship at Lakeshore Camp's Confirmation Retreat. In addition to fun like playing gagaball and weaving gimp keychains, they learned about the Wesleyan understanding of grace, sin and redemption, Methodist history, sacraments, and the church. With a deeper appreciation for how God is working in their lives and in the church, our confirmands have just a few short weeks until we celebrate Confirmation Sunday on May 24, which is also Pentecost Sunday.

