

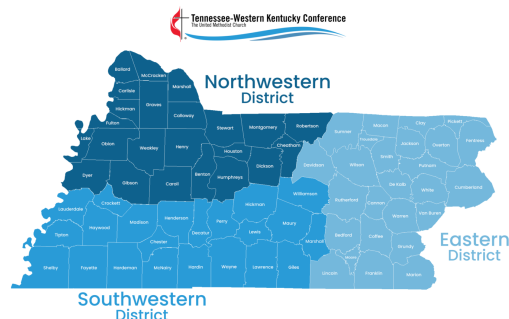
The Informer

SPRING 2026, ISSUE 2
MAY 13, 2026



REKINDLING OUR CALL

TENNESSEE-WESTERN KENTUCKY ANNUAL CONFERENCE 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.

2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SLATED FOR JUNE 7-10

This year's Annual Conference of our Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference of the UMC will be held June 7-10 in Murfreesboro, TN at Murfreesboro First UMC.

This year's gathering will be focused on a proposal to redistrict our conference as set-forth by the TWK Districting Strategy Team. In light of changes in our conference due to the disaffiliation process, the current structure with nine districts has been deemed not sustainable or financially feasible.

With much research, prayer and a focus on strengthening access to conference resources and connection between churches large and small, and their districts, the Districting Strategy Team has labored for more than a year and a half in crafting a proposal with a team structure, and balance in the number of clergy, churches, and types of churches in each district.

The proposal calls for the creation of three districts, labeled by geographic regions as Northwest, Southwest, and Eastern.

A team structure for staffing each district has been developed which will include a District Superintendent, three or four quarter-time, Associates to the District Superintendents (A2D) who will carry additional responsibilities with the TWK Conference, two full-time District Administrators, and a volunteer Lay Leader for each district, with a clear goal toward strengthening connections and collaborations between the Conference and local churches as well as offering solid peer support.

This proposal, if passed by Annual Conference is expected to generate some \$450,000 in savings to our TWK Conference.

The projected appointments to the team for our Southwestern District include:
District Superintendent: Rev. Dr. Jathaniel Cavitt

Associates to the District Superintendent: Rev. B.J. Brock, Rev. Sharon Lewis Karamoko, and Rev. Russell Moore, and District Administrators: Chris Grosson and Amy Replogle

During our Sunday, April 19th worship service, our SPRC Chair Evelyou Turner announced that Bishop Graves and the Cabinet have projected Pastor Amanda to return to our church as our pastor for the coming year, which begins in June. All appointments are finalized at Annual Conference.

Pastor Amanda and Kathryn Boyer, who is serving as our Lay Delegate to Annual Conference this year will be in attendance in Murfreesboro to vote on the redistricting proposal and other resolutions brought forward during Annual Conference, and our Music Director Debbie Welch will be in attendance as well.

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Creation Care Corner

CREATION CARE SUNDAY 2026

What Jesus Says About Creation Care

Our church celebrated Creation Care Sunday on April 26th with our Creation Care Ministry’s third annual “Every Day is Earth Day Information Fair” held in Williams Hall, during the Sunday School hour. The event included information on backyard birds with a photo display, bluebirds and hummers, soil conservation, a plant swap, a bird house raffle, and door prizes. The Susanna Circle Pop-Up Sweet Shoppe also was in Williams Hall, selling yummy jams made from the fruits of God’s creation and sunflower-shaped cookies, reflecting the beauty of God’s creation.

As the celebration of God’s creation moved into our worship service, during the Children’s Moment Debby Clifton shared with Lora Plowman’s grandson Koby, that God calls us to be caretakers of creation, even our pets, like our dogs, including his Stella Lou.

The FUMC Quartet featuring the voices of Elisabeth Baum, Kathryn Boyer, Michael Welch and Adam Westmoreland offered special music with “I Sing the Almighty Power of God.”



Dr. Martha Lyle Ford was our guest speaker during our worship service. She has spent much of her career focused on caring

for and protecting God’s creation with a particular interest in the Hatchie River Wildlife Conservancy. She holds a doctorate in land, food, and faith formation from Memphis Theological Seminary and Master of Divinity in environmental ethics and ministry from Vanderbilt University.

Dr. Ford focused on Matthew 22:36-40, often referred to as “The Greatest Commandment” (to love God and neighbor), in her sermon “What Jesus Says About Creation Care.”

She said, “This foundational scripture is the essence of creation care, as we filter everything we do through the lens of how we show love for God, neighbor and ourselves.” She stressed, “Through creation care, we are honoring God’s handiwork, and what God called ‘good.’”

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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, May 17th, 2026

Scripture: Luke 24:44-53

Message: *Living the Sequel*

Confirmation Sunday, May 24th, 2026 – Pentecost

Scripture: Acts 2:1-21

Message: *Spirit Unbound*

Wednesday, May 13th – Susanna Circle 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.-WH

Saturday, May 16th – Food Pantry 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sunday, May 17th – Church Board Meeting 11:15 a.m.-WH

Tuesday, May 19th – Bill Williams Men’s Bible Study 8 a.m.-WH

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

Wednesday, May 20th – Young Disciples 5:30-7 p.m.-FC

Choir Practice 6 p.m.-Choir room

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

Sunday, May 24th – Confirmation Sunday 10 a.m.-Sanctuary

Monday, May 25th – Memorial Day – Church Offices Closed

Tuesday, May 26th – Bill Williams Men’s Bible Study-WH

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

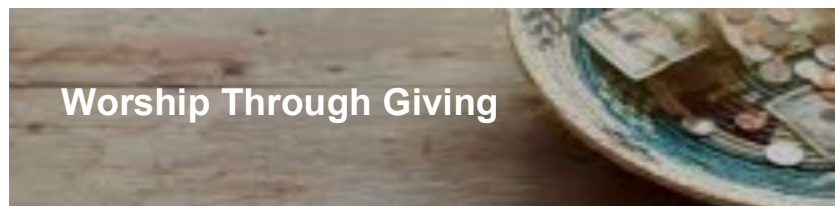
Wednesday, May 27th – Choir Practice 6 p.m.-Choir room

Sunday, May 31st – Foundations for the Future Church Family

Celebration Potluck 11:15 a.m.-WH

Tuesday, June 2nd – Bill Williams Men’s Bible Study

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



Worship Through Giving

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

Week of April 6 th	\$ 9,430.57
Week of April 13 th	\$ 5,467.38
Week of April 20 th	\$ 1,362.00
Week of April 27 th	\$ 2,035.00
April 2026 Total Giving	\$18,294.95

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Dr. Ford added, “Jesus has a particular message of love for ‘the least of these,’ the poor, the marginalized. They are God’s children. It’s up to us, who have privilege, power and access, and as followers of Christ, to make sure there is enough access to clean air and clean water for everyone.”

Further, she noted we can love ourselves through Sabbath and rest. We are created and loved by God. We are to tend to ourselves as we tend to each other and to creation. Concluding, she stressed, “The Greatest Commandment is essential to creation care. Christianity is all about love.” (The photos below are courtesy of Kathryn Boyer.)



Memorials In Memory Of...

Susie Armstrong

Karla Hornsby
(Budget)

Catherine Sullivan

Ken & Diane Sullivan
(Budget)

Carl Doherty

Carol Harrison
(Budget)

Steve & Rita Beckham

(Budget)

Buzzy Roberts

Carol Harrison
(Budget)

Maxine Sullivan

Ken & Diane Sullivan
(Budget)

Kathryn Tickle

Ken & Diane Sullivan
(Budget)

Honorariums In Honor Of...

Diane Sullivan

Ken Sullivan
(Budget)

Foundations for the Future Campaign Update

Millington First United Methodist Church is celebrating six months of remarkable generosity through the **Foundations for the Future** capital campaign. Rooted in Psalm 145:4—“One generation will praise your works to the next one, proclaiming your mighty acts”—this campaign continues the legacy of faithful stewardship passed down through generations by rebuilding the church’s investments and savings for “rainy day” expenses.

Since the campaign launched in November, the congregation has given \$113,332.74, including an extraordinary \$42,000 estate gift from Pat and Angelina Hodges. Because of this generosity, the church successfully paid the 2026 insurance premium of \$56,734.39, a critical annual expense required to keep ministries operating safely. After paying that bill, the church still holds \$56,598.35 in campaign funds—real momentum for the future.

With these gifts, the church has already reached 20% of its long-term goal of \$500,000 for the five-year campaign, and the first deposit into the investment account has nearly doubled its balance. Going forward, all campaign gifts—beyond maintaining a \$25,000 operating cushion approved by the Church Board—will be deposited quarterly into the investment account to grow and support future ministry needs. Our next milestone is within reach: raising an additional \$86,667.26 by the end of 2026.

How can you give to the Foundations for the Future campaign?

- Sunday morning giving — place gifts in the offering, marked “Foundations for the Future” on the memo line or envelope.
- Online giving through [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly) — select the Foundations for the Future fund.
- Automatic giving — contact Business Administrator Mary Boyer to help set this up.

Every gift strengthens the foundation of faith for future generations of ministry at Millington First UMC.



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, peace in the Middle East, Carol Harrison's son Tommy, Tom & Martha Hunter, Baby James Baltensperger & parents, the Doherty family, Mona Hanson, Caleb, Dan Corum, Betty Russell, Lewis Smith, our military service members, the family of Coriuan Bean and all those affected by the gun violence at Shelby Farms, Katelyn Faulkner, Gerald Young, Shirley Crow & family, Peggy & Keith Watson, Steve & Rita Beckham, Carol Harrison

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

St. Anne's Laundry Love Ministry in Need of Volunteers



The congregation of St. Anne's Episcopal Church, 4063 Sykes Rd., in Millington has been serving our neighbors in need through their Laundry Love Ministry at Spin City, 4735 Navy Rd., for nearly a decade. The ministry, which is fully funded through the Episcopal Diocese of West Tennessee, seeks to provide economic and budgetary relief to disenfranchised families through the cost of doing laundry. St. Anne's provides the needed items, such as detergent, bleach and dryer sheets, as well as the cost of using the laundry and dryer machines.

The ministry meets every other Tuesday from 3:30-6 p.m., and serves anywhere from 13-20 families each afternoon. Many of their guests are homeless, living in our local hotels, or simply do not have affordable access to do their laundry. This vital ministry has assisted some residents of the Wesley Independent Living Center in Millington, as well as disabled veterans, and large families with as many as seven children.

The congregation of St. Anne's needs volunteers to help in this effort to help load the washing machines properly so they are full, as well as put the detergent and funds into the machines. St. Anne's is a small congregation averaging 15-20 in attendance on Sundays and shares a long history with FUMC in partnering with our ministries serving as volunteers in our Food Pantry and providing both monetary and food donations for the pantry as well. If you can help with this ministry, please contact Beth Goforth at (901) 254-9542.