

The Informer

SUMMER 2026, ISSUE 1
JULY 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.

A REPORT FROM OUR LAY DELEGATE: ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026

A report from our Lay Delegate Kathryn Boyer

At Annual Conference this year, we centered on the theme, "Rekindling Our Call" drawn from 2 Timothy 1:6-7, "For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline". We lived into this through worship, celebrating calls to ministry, hearing testimonies, engaging in faithful discernment in conference business and a renewed commitment to God's call on the church.

Each day featured a time of worship where we sang together, prayed together, and shared in Holy Communion together. We heard sermons from our Bishop David Graves, Conference Lay Leader Janice McCallen, our District Superintendent Dr. Deborah Smith, and African Methodist

Episcopal Church Bishop Harry Seawright. They all encouraged us to fan into flame the gifts God has entrusted to us!

Five elders were ordained into full connection, one deacon was ordained into full connection, three clergy were commissioned as provisional elders and a provisional deacon, and one licensed as a local pastor. Thanks be to God for these 10 individuals who answered God's call to ministry! And, we also celebrated the 70th anniversary of the ordination of women in the Methodist tradition!

We were inspired by "Witness to the Flame" stories that reminded us how God is still in the business of rekindling gifts and transforming communities. We heard from a few people, but the one that really touched me was told by Rev. Samantha Hall, pastor of Church Grove UMC in Benton, Kentucky. She told the story of how her members took the closing of their church and turned it into a lasting legacy of generosity through

significant gifts to ministries and community organizations like St Jude Children's Research Hospital right here in Memphis!

I know what you're thinking. "Kathryn, did y'all do any work? Or, just have fun?" Well, we had a lot of fun. There is just something about gathering with more than 700 United Methodists in one place and worshipping and celebrating how we have seen God working in our lives. But, we did pepper some business in here and there. Voting members approved eight resolutions

- Housing Allowance Resolution for Retired, Disabled, or Former Clergypersons
- Resolution on Ending the Use of the Death Penalty in Tennessee and Kentucky
- Resolution on Faithful Christian Witness in the Israel-Palestine Conflict

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Creation Care Corner

DO WHAT YOU CAN



Imperfect action is better than perfect inaction. Remember that when you feel overwhelmed by the enormity of our climate crises. Do what you can, wherever you can, whenever you can. It's very Wesleyan.

- **Get rid of your junk catalogs.** Over 100 million trees are cut down annually to produce junk mail. You get waste, clutter, and deforestation. Opt out of unwanted catalogs through Catalog Choice, a free service from the Story of Stuff.org.

- **Improve access to nature.** Research has found that two hours a week in nature significantly improves health and wellbeing.

- **Don't mix hot and plastic.** Heat causes plastic to release micro plastics and harmful chemicals, which harm human health. Don't microwave food in plastic. Don't drink hot coffee or tea in "paper" cups lined with plastic. Don't feed your baby with a plastic baby bottle. Use shatterproof glass or ceramic instead.

- **Shop farmers markets.** Your purchases support pasture-raised meats and eggs, fresh fruits and vegetables, organic and regenerative farming practices. Additionally, because the produce is from the local area, transport emissions and costs are cut.

UMC Creation Justice

Volunteers Needed for Centenary UMC's Summer Reading Program

Centenary UMC is continuing the Summer Reading Program started by Project Transformation several years ago. Volunteers are needed to help read with children Monday-

Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through July 17th. Volunteers can choose the days and times that fit their schedules.

Pastor Amanda would be happy to drive a group of volunteers and join in this ministry any day but Wednesday. This is a ministry FUMC has helped with in the past with groups traveling together to Centenary UMC to help. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Linda in the church office.



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, July 12th, 2026

Scripture: Colossians 3:12-17

Message: *Pardon: Forgive Us as We Forgive Others*

Sunday, July 19th, 2026

Scripture: Psalm 121

Message: *Protection: Deliver Us*

Wednesday, July 8th – Young Disciples Summer Days 10 a.m.-4 p.m.-WH

Sunday, July 12th – SPRC Meeting 11:15 a.m.-WH

Tuesday, July 14th – Bill Williams Men's Bible Study 8 a.m.-WH

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

Wednesday, July 15th – Young Disciples Summer Days 10 a.m.-4 p.m.-WH

Saturday, July 18th – Food Pantry 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sunday, July 19th – Capital Campaign Committee Meeting 11:15 a.m.-WH

Tuesday, July 21st – Bill Williams Men's Bible Study 8 a.m.-WH

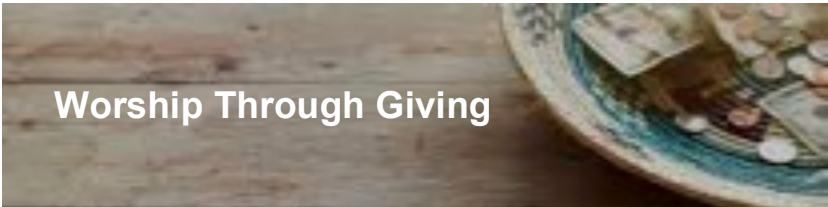
Food Pantry 10 a.m. -1 p.m.

Wednesday, July 22nd – Young Disciples Summer Days 10 a.m.-4 p.m.-WH

Sunday, July 26th – Church Board Meeting 11:15 a.m.-WH

Tuesday, July 26th – Bill Williams Men's Bible Study 8 a.m.-WH

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



Worship Through Giving

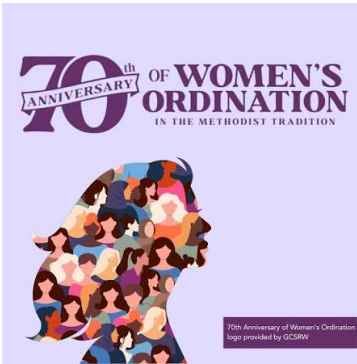
Needed Monthly Giving to Support 2026 Budget: \$37,380.48

Week of May 1 st	\$10,565.57
Week of May 11 th	\$ 4,183.13
Week of May 18 th	\$ 7,390.00
Week of May 25 th	\$ 2,973.00
Week of May 31 st	\$ 800.86
May 2026 Total Giving	\$25,912.56
Week of June 1 st	\$ 3,940.00
Week of June 8 th	\$ 7,731.66
Week of June 15 th	\$ 3,637.00
Week of June 22 nd	\$ 2,101.00
Week of June 28 th	\$ 1,425.00
June 2026 Total Giving	\$18,834.66

continued from page 1, 2026 Annual Conference

- Resolution for Distribution of Proceeds from the Sale of Closed Church Property
- Recommended Tennessee-Western Kentucky Parental Leave Policy
- Resolution of Racial Justice, Voting Rights, Democratic Integrity, and Faithful Public Witness
- Resolution for the Creation of a Strengthening of the Black Church Committee
- TWK Redistricting Resolution

I am happy to discuss these resolutions with you if you are interested, but the one I want to highlight is the redistricting resolution. On July 1st, the nine districts of our conference were reconfigured into three: Northwestern District, Eastern District, and Southwestern District.



We are now a part of the Southwestern District with Jathaniel Cavitt as our District Superintendent and Russell Morrow serving as our Associate to the District Superintendent.

We left this conference with a renewed commitment to God's call on the church. We are being called to fan into flame the gifts God has given us. Where is God calling you to fan into flame the gifts God has entrusted to you?

Memorials In Memory Of...

Catherine Sullivan

Ken & Diane Sullivan
(Backpack Ministry &
Food Pantry)

Susie Armstrong

Ron & Jean Russell
(Budget)

Buzzy Roberts

Ron & Jean Russell
(Budget)

Jack Tickle

Ken & Diane Sullivan
(Food Pantry)

Tim Sullivan

Ken & Diane Sullivan
(Food Pantry)



Meet Our New Tennessee-Western Kentucky Southwestern District Team

As our Lay Delegate Kathryn Boyer noted in her Annual Conference report (above), our church is now part of the Southwestern District of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference, with a new structure and new leadership.

Rev. Dr. Jathaniel Cavitt is our new District Superintendent in the new Southwestern District of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference. He has served as Lead Pastor of Covenant United Methodist Church in Cordova, Tenn., since 2022.

Rev. Dr. Russell M. Morrow is our new Associate to the District Superintendent in the Southwestern District. Dr. Morrow previously served as Lead Pastor at Mullins UMC in Memphis.

Amy Replogle is the Administrative Assistant for the Southwestern District. She previously served as the District Administrative Assistant in our legacy Metro District.

ICYMI...Recent Happenings @ FUMC

Abigail Gillespie was baptized and confirmed on Pentecost Sunday, and Madelyn Welch also was confirmed on Pentecost Sunday – May 24, 2026. The NSA Mid South Chapel delivered MANY bags of food to our Food Pantry donated by patrons of the base commissary. And, our Foundations for the Future Campaign Committee hosted our first 5th Sunday church-wide potluck since the COVID pandemic, complete with a “people scavenger hunt” and prayer bead making craft for our Summer Worship Series – All My Days.



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, Mona Hanson, Caleb, Dan Corum, Betty Russell, our military service members, Katelyn Faulkner, Gerald Young, Peggy & Keith Watson, Danny & Katie Armitage, Ricky & Barbara Parham, Laroy & Sandy Stone, Stephanie Urban, Rosalie Wood's co-worker Rachel, Missy Young's co-worker Jan, Nancy Carroll's friend Sandra, Micki Pfrenger, Dianne & Bob Baker, the Raley family, Rhonda Jones, Rosalind Finton's sister Christine, Linda Bacon & family, Jesse Smith, Carol Harwood, Roy Hall, Barbara Hill, Mary Taylor, Roger Chrisman, John Proctor, Dixie Hall's son Christopher & fiancé Drew, Angel Adkins, Ida Rose, Kathy Overton & family

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

Our Young Disciples Summer Days in July kicked-off with a bang, celebrating World Cup Soccer and the 4th of July with the theme - God Has the Whole World in His Hands.

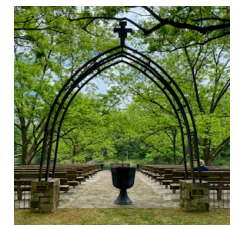
Activities included World Cup quizzes and games; 4th of July firecracker artwork and fun attire; and a field trip to visit our first responders in Millington sharing sweet treats to thank those working to keep us safe over the holiday weekend. Register your children and grands for July 15 & 22, \$25 each day.



**Save the Date: October 16-18 @ St. Columba – Bartlett
St. Clare Women's Silent Weekend Retreat**

St. Clare Retreats, a ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of West

Tennessee, offers silent retreats for women of all faiths. A silent retreat creates the space to listen more deeply while holding that same space for others, and that gift can reorient us entirely. This year's fall retreat will be led by the Rev. Patricia Matthews, Executive Director of The Interfaith Center in Little Rock, Ark. Patricia is an Episcopal priest, a certified yoga instructor, and a lover of reading and writing poetry. She plays the guitar, piano, and cello.



Registration opens July 22.

Questions? E-mail: Heather @ heartbrainbody@gmail.com

There's still time to register your children and grands for July 15th & 22nd. Come join the fun!

YOUNG DISCIPLES SUMMER DAYS

10 am to 4 pm
WEDNESDAYS
JULY 1, 8, 15 & 22
Ages 6-12 years

ONLY \$25/DAY
SAVE \$25 WHEN YOU REGISTER WITH 2 DATES

JOIN FRIENDS FOR BIBLE FUN, GAMES, CRAFTS, FIELD TRIPS AND MORE!

SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER TODAY!
MILLINGTON FIRST UNITED METHODIST