

The Informer

SUMMER 2026, ISSUE 2
AUGUST 26, 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.

BACK TO SCHOOL 2026

Our 29th year of hosting our Millington Municipal Schools School Year Kick-Off Breakfast is in the books, held on Tuesday, August 4th, with our volunteers arriving at 6:15 a.m. for a 7:15 a.m. start time.

Again this year, the event was just across the street from our church campus in the Millington Central Middle High School cafeteria. As always, it's an opportunity for our church to reach out to our neighbors and show our support for the educators, staff and administrators of our hometown schools as they begin another year helping our students to learn, grow and thrive.

On the menu: donuts, sausage balls, fruit and yogurt, with lots of coffee and juice to get the day started, too, along with some bookmarks, post-it notes and chocolates – a few happies to grab on the way to convocation and getting classrooms ready for students.

Our Pastor Amanda offered a prayer and blessing for a safe school year filled with much learning and joy.

She also took the opportunity to share information about two of our ministries with those in attendance, for families and students in need: our Food Pantry and our Weekend Backpack Ministry.

Our food pantry serves about 3,000 hungry people annually, open with teams of volunteers from across our community every Tuesday, first Thursday and third Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. As the designated partner of the Mid-South Food Bank in our area, our pantry serves persons within the 38053 zip code living in Shelby County. Those needing help with food can call our pantry at (901) 872-2771 on the days and times it is open, to schedule an appointment to come and pick-up food that day.

Our Millington Municipal Schools are federally classified as Title 1, meaning every

student receives a free breakfast and lunch on the days they are in school.

Our Weekend Backpack Ministry serves to bridge the gap for children living in food insecure homes by providing easy-to-prepare and eat breakfasts, lunches and snacks during the weekends the children are not in school. Over the past several years, this ministry has expanded to feed 100 students across all four Millington schools.

Volunteers pack the food bags to cover two weeks for each pack, and meet in our Hospitality House every other Monday at 6 p.m., working so efficiently that packing 200 bags takes less than an hour.

Our Weekend Backpack Ministry Annual Sponsorship Drive is currently underway. A donation of \$100 will help feed a student for the entire

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Creation Care Corner

START WITH SOMETHING



*"If we start with something,
work together, and stay ambitious,
hope stops being a thing we wait to feel
and becomes something we create."*

—Malala Yousafzai

Start with something. Choose one or two easy changes to make, perhaps swapping single-use water bottles for a reusable one or refusing plastic bags. Commit to your action and allow it to lead you to another "something" you can do for Earth.

Use and reuse the same natural fiber dryer balls 1,000-plus times instead of single-use, chemical-laden dryer sheets. Think of the difference for your wallet, your health, and the landfill.

For packed lunches for school, purchase foodstuffs in the largest package available and then **divvy them out into reusable containers** for the day. Avoid the trash of "snack size" packaging that adds to the landfill, teach your children an alternative to the throw-away culture, and empower them to do something good for the environment.

Change your light habits. To save money and Earth, transition to LED bulbs. Also, engage the whole family in turning off lights when they are not in use. This easy practice is a reminder to care for Earth in other actions too.

Avoid the toxic trio: food, plastic, and heat. Do not cook meals in a sealed plastic bag. Don't heat up leftovers in plastic in the microwave. The heat releases chemicals from the plastic into the food you consume.

Tree planting season (September–March) is coming. Now is the time to **investigate potential tree sources** and planting services, including local government, nonprofit foundations, and nursery businesses. Trees pull down carbon from the atmosphere and nourish the soil, provide habitat and food for birds and other pollinators, and give shade in the summer and allow sun in the winter, reducing the need for fossil fuel energy.

United Methodist Creation Justice

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, August 30, 2026

Scripture: Exodus 3:1-15

Message: *Drawn into Calling*

Sunday, September 6, 2026

Scripture: Exodus 12:1-14

Message: *Drawn into Covenant*

Wednesday, August 26th – Young Disciples 5:30-7 p.m.-WH

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

Sunday, August 30th – 5th Sunday Potluck 11 a.m.-WH

Tuesday, September 1st – Bill Williams Men's Bible Study 8 a.m.-WH

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

Wednesday, September 2nd – Young Disciples 5:30-7 p.m.-WH

Choir Practice 6 p.m.-Choir room

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

Thursday, September 3rd – Food Pantry 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Monday, September 7th – Labor Day – Church Offices Closed

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

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

Anna Circle 6:30 p.m.-WH

Wednesday, September 9th – Susanna Circle 12 noon-WH

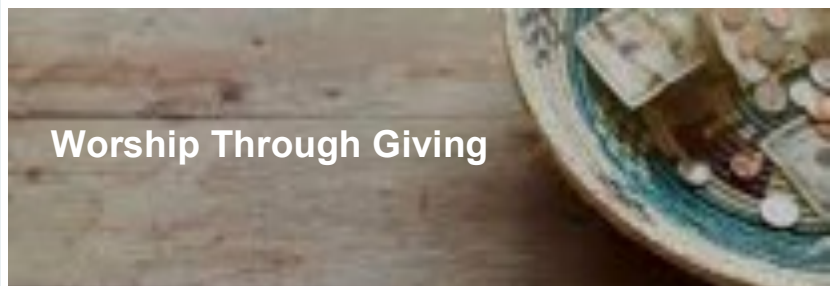
Young Disciples 5:30-7 p.m.-WH

Choir Practice 6 p.m.-Choir room

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

Sunday, September 13th – SPRC Meeting 11 a.m.-WH

Monday, September 14th – Backpack Ministry 6 p.m.-HH



Worship Through Giving

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

Week of July 1 st	\$ 9,118.32
Week of July 13 th	\$ 4,391.00
Week of July 20 th	\$ 2,193.00
Week of July 27 th	\$ 2,307.00
July 2026 Total Giving	\$18,014.32

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school year. And, this year, you can offer a donation in honor or in memory of someone special, and we'll send them or their family a specially designed card letting them know.

At this writing, co-leaders of this ministry, Kathryn Boyer and Meagan Welch are in consultation with counselors across our Millington schools gathering the names of students and acquiring permission from parents and guardians to send food home. It is anticipated that the first food bags will go home with students in mid-September. In addition to packing the bags, volunteers also pick up the bags from our church and deliver them to our schools each Friday. To donate to this ministry scan the QR code in this year's flyer, or click on the donate button on our church's website. You may also write a check to the church, designating our Weekend Backpack Ministry on the memo line...and cash works, too 😊

On Sunday, August 9th, we celebrated our annual Blessing of the Backpacks worship service with Pastor Amanda offering a prayer over our students of all ages in attendance, as well as our teachers and administrators. Each student and adult, too, was offered a backpack tag proclaiming 'You & Me? – We're Neighbors!'

And, as school has gotten underway, our Wednesday night programming also has returned with our Young Disciples meeting from 5:30-7 p.m. and our Youth Group meeting from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in Williams Hall for games, a meal and a Bible lesson. If you would like to provide a meal for our kiddos on Wednesday evenings, please contact Pastor Amanda or Linda, in the church office. *(There's a bit more Back to School to see on page 4.)*

Foundations for the Future Campaign: August Update

Friends, we want to share an important update on our church's finances and celebrate the impact your generosity has already made through the *Foundations for the Future* campaign. Over the past several months, your giving has produced **two immediate and deeply meaningful results.**

First, because of your generosity, we were able to deposit **over \$30,000 into our investment account**, nearly doubling our reserves. That money is now earning income through money-market investing to strengthen our church's long-term stability.

Second, your giving allowed us to establish a **\$25,000 cushion in our church's bank account** for unexpected expenses. And, that cushion has already proven essential. In January's snow and ice storm, the Flame Center gutters were damaged, requiring a **\$4,500 repair**. Because of your generosity, we were able to address that need immediately and responsibly. These are real wins and signs of hope...and we are grateful. But, we also need to share some difficult financial realities.

To fund our 2026 budget fully, our church needs to receive **\$37,380 in income every month**. So far this year, we have been an average of **\$16,000 below that goal each month**. During the summer, as utility bills rose and payroll continued, we had to dip into our \$25,000 cushion for regular operating expenses. By the end of July, our finances were approximately **\$20,000 in the red**.

So, here is where we stand today. We are profoundly grateful for your over-and-above generosity to the *Foundations for the Future* campaign. Because of you, we nearly doubled our rainy-day fund. Yet as we work to replenish that fund, we feel it is important that you are aware of our current rainy financial situation.

Right now, the greatest need is giving to our church's general fund – the tithes and offerings that sustain our everyday ministries. While you are welcome to continue giving to the



Memorials In Memory Of...

Catherine Sullivan

Ken & Diane Sullivan
(Backpack Ministry &
Food Pantry)

Jeff Dobbins

Carol Harrison
(Budget)

Jesse Smith

Carol Harrison
(Budget)

Linda Cooper & Roy Hall
(Budget)

James Hayden

Bill Moore
(Budget)

Debbie Moore

Bill Moore
(Budget)

Honorariums In Honor Of...

Debbie Welch & Our Chancel Choir

Rosalind Finton
(Budget)

Lindy Bayles

Carol Harrison
(Youth)

Rev. Amanda Hartmann Westmoreland

Dot Green
(Backpack Ministry)

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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, Betty Russell, our military service members, Katelyn Faulkner, Gerald Young, Peggy & Keith Watson, Danny & Katie Armitage, Ricky & Barbara Parham, Laroy & Sandy Stone, Micki Pfrenger, Dianne & Bob Baker, the family of Jesse Smith, Carol Harwood, Barbara Hill, Mary Taylor, Roger Chrisman, Ida Rose, Clint Hubbard, the family of Rev. Sam Pace, Rosalie Wood's friend Jillian, Carole McCullough, Bill Bates, Pat & Brenda Daugherty, the family of Glenda Tackett, Pat Williams' niece Kirby

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

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campaign, during this financial crunch, campaign gifts will first be used to rebuild our \$25,000 cushion before being deposited into the investment account.

Summer is historically our lowest giving season. Many of us travel, or stay home during extreme heat, and sometimes we simply forget to give when we aren't physically present in worship. To help, we offer several options: **automatic giving** (also known as ACH or EFT) set up through our business office, and **online giving through Tithe.ly**, which allows you to give even when you're away.

Finally, we want to end on a note of hope. Whatever trials we face as a congregation, we move forward together, with faith in God and in fellowship with one another. We loved gathering with you at our 5th Sunday Potluck in May, sharing food and laughter as we learned new fun facts about each other. Our next 5th Sunday potluck is this Sunday, **August 30th**, and we hope you'll join us again. As John Wesley reminded us, "*The best of all is, God is with us.*" And because God is with us, we can face every challenge—and every opportunity—side by side.



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