

The Informer

FALL 2026, ISSUE 1
SEPTEMBER 23, 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.

FUMC FEEDING MINISTRIES: CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

During Annual Conference this past June, a one-time special hunger offering was established to help address food insecurity throughout our Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference, in partnership with the ENCORE Ministry Foundation.

The offering sought to support local churches and United Methodist organizations in our conference with established feeding ministries across the Tennessee-Western Kentucky area. Thanks to the generosity of ENCORE Ministry Foundation, every dollar raised through the annual conference offering was matched dollar-for-dollar.

Our FUMC Millington Food Pantry is a recipient of one of the \$1,275 grants distributed to more than 40 United Methodist churches and organizations across our conference area with feeding ministries.

"I am thankful that the churches of our Annual Conference and across the connection seek to be an Acts 1:8 light to our communities," said Bishop David Graves.

"ENCORE Ministry Foundation is grateful for our continuing partnership with the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference and for the generosity demonstrated through this year's Annual Conference offering," ENCORE Ministry Foundation's Executive Director John Rivas said.

"By matching those gifts, we were able to multiply the impact of every dollar and strengthen the work of congregations addressing food insecurity in communities across our conference. This partnership is a wonderful example of what we can accomplish when we join in ministry — turning generosity into tangible expressions of Christ's love for our neighbors."

This grant underscores the blessings of our United Methodist connection. Over the past

decade, Millington FUMC has been the recipient of a wide range of grants to assist our church in its ministries and missions including, but not limited to United Methodist Communications grants for a free neighborhood postcard mailing, free advertising on WKNO radio, and the creation of a new church website; a Small Church Improvement grant for a new compressor for the HVAC unit for the church offices; more than \$40,000 in Stay UMC grant funds for the sustainability of our church; and an ENCORE Senior Ministries grant for two AED defibrillators.

We are grateful for the generosity of our brothers and sisters in Christ across our Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference who contributed to the special Annual Conference offering and to ENCORE Ministry Foundation for their matching funds to

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Creation Care Corner

SEPTEMBER TIPS - SLOW DOWN



Creation
Justice
Tips

*Slow down.
Move through the world
in a way that truly sees
God's creation.
Breathe deeply, opening to the Spirit.*

September is prime time to plant trees.

Choose sites at your home or church. Work with volunteers to get the trees planted. Talk about the project and why trees are important. Find out if your local government has canopy goals and identify locations that can be planted.

September and October are peak migration season for many birds. **Help the birds** out by minimizing outdoor flood lights and seasonal light displays.

Go scraggly. Even **just a month of refraining from mowing will reduce erosion and runoff in your yard while replenishing our groundwater supply**, which helps keep streams alive during drought periods. Tell your neighbors what you are doing and why. Invite them to ignore the chore too.

Don't discount the "small" things you can do. **Commit to picking up at least 3 pieces of litter a day** and in a year you will have disposed of more than 1,000! Invite your children to participate in the challenge too. You'll be teaching the next generation by showing that you care.

Use the air—it's free! **Open your dishwasher instead of drawing energy to dry the dishes. Hang dry your laundry** or a portion of a load to shorten the cycle at least occasionally. Let your hair dry naturally instead of using a blow dryer.



And, remember to bring your aluminum cans to our recycling center in our Flame Center parking lot. Your rinsed out, empty

cans help fund the activities of our **Creation Care Ministry**, such as special seminars and Creation Care Sunday, as well as help our environment.

UMC 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, September 27, 2026

Scripture: Exodus 17:1-7

Message: *Water from the Rock* – Guest Pastor: Rev. Dr. D'Leigh Harvell

Sunday, October 4, 2026

Scripture: Luke 10:25-37

Message: *Changemaking Starts with Compassion*

Wednesday, September 23rd – Young Disciples 5:20-7 p.m.-WH

Choir Practice 6 p.m.-Choir room

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

Saturday, September 26th – Emmaus Walk 7:30-10:30 p.m.-Sanctuary

Monday, September 28th – Weekend Backpack Ministry 6 p.m.-HH

Tuesday, September 29th – Bill Williams Men's Bible Study 8 a.m.-WH

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

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

Choir Practice 6 p.m.-Choir room

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

Saturday, October 3rd – Munford UMC Charge Conference 12 noon-WH

Clopton UMC Charge Conference 1 p.m.-WH

Covington UMC Charge Conference 2 p.m.-WH

Embury UMC Charge Conference 3 p.m.-WH

Emmaus Walk 7:30-10:30 p.m.-Sanctuary

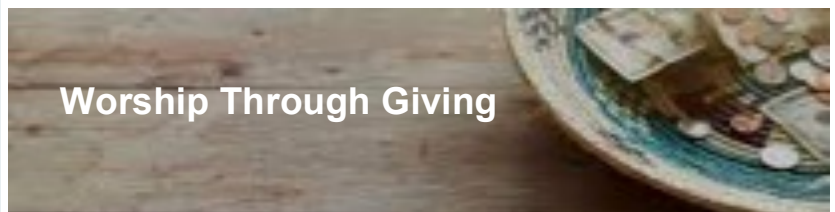
Sunday, October 4th – FUMC Charge Conference 12 noon-WH

Campground-Hopewell UMC Charge Conference 2 p.m.-WH

Gratitude UMC Charge Conference 3:30 p.m.-WH

Tuesday, October 6th – 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 August 3 rd	\$13,191.57
Week of August 10 th	\$ 5,045.02
Week of August 17 th	\$ 2,684.00
Week of August 24 th	\$ 4,605.23
Week of August 31 st	\$ 3,522.00
August 2026 Total Giving	\$ 29,058.82

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help us serve as the hands and feet of Christ in our community.

Our Food Pantry has had a change in hours, now open every Tuesday and third Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Our pantry is open on the third Saturday of each month, thanks to volunteer teams from the St. William Catholic Church Knights of Columbus and Indmar Marine Engines in Millington.

Currently, our pantry is in need of protein: canned chicken, tuna and salmon, as well as peanut butter, canned or jar spaghetti sauces with meat, and canned beans. Items may be dropped off at the church during church office hours – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday-Thursday.

Our Weekend Backpack Ministry held its first pack of the 2026-27 school year on Monday, September 14th. This ministry meets every other Monday evening at 6 p.m. in our Hospitality House to pack two weeks of food bags, which are delivered on Thursdays and Fridays to Millington Primary, Intermediate, and Central Middle High School.

Journey Church, located at 3719 Shelby Road in Millington, is joining us in this ministry this year by feeding, packing and delivering food bags to students at Millington's Early Learning Academy, their nearby neighbor, offering us an opportunity to expand and lend a helping hand to even more children, as FUMC is again serving 100 children this year, living in food insecure

For its first pack, the food bags also included special "welcome back to school" backpack tags from our Blessing of the Backpacks worship service, as well as information about our Food Pantry for parents and guardians who may need extra help with food for their families.

It's still not too late to sponsor a child for the school year, with a \$100 donation to this ministry. You can even make your donation in honor or in memory of someone special, and we'll send them or their family a card, letting them know of your generosity. You can donate through our Tithe.ly app, through the donate button on our church website, or with a check or cash, designated to our Weekend Backpack Ministry.

The ministry also is always in need of staple items for the food bags, which include; ramen noodle or Cup Noodle packages, microwave macaroni and cheese and CapriSun juices. Donated items may be dropped off during church office hours, the same as items for our Food Pantry. And, if you would like to come and help pack on a Monday evening, check out the announcements in our weekly church-wide email and in our Sunday bulletin for the Mondays this ministry is meeting. The ministry team, led by Kathryn Boyer and Megan Welch has the packing so well organized that it generally only takes under 45 minutes to pack 200 bags, every other Monday.

Our Food Pantry Ministry has been in service to our community since the early 1980s and our Weekend Backpack Ministry is moving toward a decade of service as well, feeding our neighbors in need.

Memorials In Memory Of...

Catherine Sullivan
Ken & Diane Sullivan
(Backpack Ministry)

Greg Finton
Rosalind Finton
(Budget)

Honorariums In Honor Of...

Nora Morrissey
Grandpa Andy & Gran Sandy
(Backpack Ministry)

Saoirse Morrissey
Grandpa Andy & Gran Sandy
(Backpack Ministry)



2026 Charge Conference Slated for Sunday, October 4th

Our 2026 Charge Conference is on Sunday, October 4th, at 12 noon in Williams Hall. Rev. Dr. Russell Morrow, our Associate to the District Superintendent for our Southeastern District of our Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference, will be with us to celebrate our church's accomplishments over the past year, and offer guidance to our congregation in the year ahead. Our church leadership and all those in our congregation who are interested are encouraged to attend.

Prior to his appointment, Dr. Morrow, an ordained Elder, was Lead Pastor of Mullins UMC.

A native of Jamaica, New York, he holds a Bachelor of Arts from Wilberforce University, the nation's oldest HBCU owned and operated by African Americans; a Master of Divinity from Payne Theological Seminary, the oldest free-standing African American theological seminary in the U.S.; and a Doctor of Ministry from United Theological Seminary.

Dr. Morrow has more than 45 years of ministry experience, beginning in the African Methodist Episcopal Church before joining

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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, Mona Hanson, Betty Russell, our military service members, KateLynn Faulkner, Gerald Young, Peggy & Keith Watson, Danny & Katie Armitage, Ricky & Barbara Parham, Laroy & Sandy Stone, Dianne & Bob Baker, Carol Harwood, Barbara Hill, Mary Taylor, Roger Chrisman, Ida Rose, Clint Hubbard, Carole McCullough, Pat & Brenda Daugherty, Pat Williams' niece Kirby, Jade Lowry, Ron Wood, the family of Ernie Salera, David Tickle, Kris Tickle, Tim Sullivan, Joan, Nancy Carroll's son David, the family of Buddy Thomas

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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the United Methodist Church in 1997. He has served congregations across multiple states and throughout the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference, including serving in long-term leadership roles in cross-racial ministry settings.

His work has included youth development, community outreach, and initiatives focused on racial justice and unity, including after-school programs, music ministry, and partnerships with the Boys and Girls Club.

Dr. Morrow also is the founder and executive director of New Generation Ministries, Inc., in Memphis, sharing the message of hope, deliverance and victory across generations with a primary focus on youth and young adults, helping them grow in wisdom, maturity and faith.

He and his wife, Elaine, have four children and four grandchildren and enjoy spending time with family, music, writing, and travel.

Our church also will be the hosting space for several other Charge Conferences in our area the weekend of Saturday and Sunday October 3rd and 4th, including: Campground and Hopewell UMC, Clopton, Covington First, Embury, Gratitude and Munford UMCs.

To learn more about Dr. Morrow, you may listen to TWK Table Talk – This Is My Story, by clicking on this link;

<https://www.podbean.com/ep/pb-t35fp-1869eae>