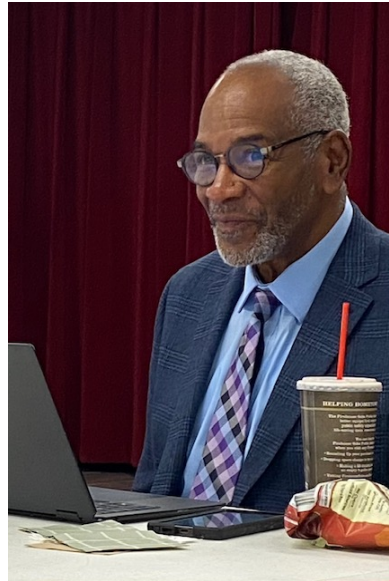


The Informer

FALL 2026, ISSUE 2
OCTOBER 21, 2026



Above: A sizeable group of FUMC Change Conference attendees this year.
Right: FUMC Church Board Chair Vikki Massey and A2D Rev. Dr. Russell Morrow



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 FUMC CHARGE CONFERENCE

FUMC's annual Charge Conference for 2026 was held on Sunday, October 4th at 12 noon in Williams Hall. We welcomed our new Associate to the District Superintendent of our Southwestern District of our Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference Rev. Dr. Russell Morrow and his wife Elaine for an afternoon celebrating our church's accomplishments over the past year, and looking toward the year ahead with HOPE.

Dr. Morrow began our Charge Conference with a reading from Isaiah, chapter 6 – Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us.?" And I said, "Here am I, send me." Dr. Morrow stressed, "God is still working, and all things are possible."

He asked those gathered a series of questions..."What is God teaching FUMC in this season?" And those gathered answered: patience, trust,

faithfulness and surrendering.

Dr. Morrow asked, "Do you ever give up hope? What follows hope is deliverance, in offering everything you have to God. More of God's goodness and grace is being manifested here."

He asked, "What is your next faithful step?" The answer was to begin meeting those in our community where they are, instead of waiting for them to come to us.

Dr. Morrow said, "I believe in God winks, from today's sermon, God is saying to you, be the Good Samaritan, take a chance, see what God is going to do. This is a great season to take a risk, trust God, and see what will happen."

He asked, "What has God been doing amongst you?" There was much to share, about our Weekend Backpack Ministry, Food Pantry Ministry, Creation Care Ministry programs and seminars, Children & Youth Ministry, School Year Kick-Off Breakfast,

and the potential for new partnerships with our city leaders, in particular, surrounding the issue of mental health.

"What have you learned about mission?," Dr. Morrow queried. It was noted that Millington is a community that is growing, and we as church need to be more forward in our thinking in meeting new people. Dr. Morrow acknowledged, "When a congregation gets older, it's sometimes hard to try something new."

Another question: "How are people becoming disciples or what do we do to help them become disciples?" Kathryn Boyer noted the Church Leadership Board is currently reading and studying the book "Get Their Name" together, and relationship building is key to discipleship. And following up, Dr. Morrow inquired, "Whose life has been changed by

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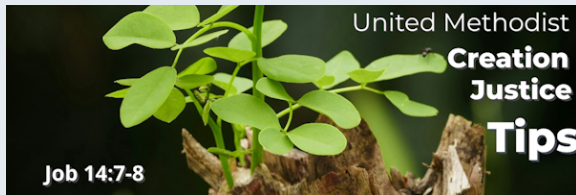
Page 2: Creation Care Corner, Coming Up, Worship Through Giving

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Page 4: Prayer Concerns, Visitation Teams

Creation Care Corner

REGENERATE, RENEW



Ours is a faith of resurrection, renewal, regeneration. Our lives are a call to live that faith. Creation care gives us down-to-earth opportunities.

The opening book of the Bible reminds us, “God saw everything God had made and indeed, it was very good” (Genesis 1:31). The first commandment given to humanity is to tend and care for the garden God gave us (Genesis 2:15).

Regenerate! On a personal level, compost your food and lawn scraps; plant for pollinators; consider rewilding at least a portion of your property.

Purchase organic food. The few extra cents you pay at the grocery support farmers who avoid using the synthetic pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers that have been proven to deplete the soil. Organic farmers also refuse to subject their livestock to antibiotics and growth hormones. Organic farming practices are healthier for soil, livestock, and for those who eat the food.

Reap the harvest. Shop for food locally at farmers markets. See and give thanks for those whose work feeds you and others. Care for the planet by reducing the carbon emissions that come from shipping food long distances. Eat more fruits and veggies and reduce the high cost to your body and the planet from many other foods.

Rake leaves this fall as a family, a group of friends, or a church youth group helping someone. Look for ways to turn the leaves into mulch so they continue to feed the soil, rather than bagging them and sending them to the landfill. Talk about the process God supplies for continuing to regenerate the land, which in turns sustains life.

Plan meals, buy local, buy less, buy in-season, buy organic, store appropriately, use the freezer, reduce meat consumption, grow veggies, eat leftovers, make soups and smoothies, compost peelings and ends, share with others. Eat happily, knowing you are helping us all.

United Methodist Creation Care 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, October 25th, 2026

Scripture: Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Message: *How Far Can You See?*

Guest Pastor: Rev. Dr. G. Lee Ramsey

Sunday, November 1st, 2026

All Saints Sunday & Communion Sunday

Scripture: Luke 6:20-26

Message: *Blessed Are You*

Guest Pastor: Rev. Dr. Jonathan Lewis

Wednesday, October 21st – Young Disciples 5:30-7 p.m.-WH

Choir Practice 6 p.m.-Choir room

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

Saturday, October 24th – Millington Police Department Trunk or Treat 5- 7 p.m.-Discovery Park, 5152 Easley Street

Tuesday, October 27th – Bill Williams Men’s Bible Study 8 a.m.-WH

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

Wednesday, October 28th – Young Disciples 5:30-7 p.m.-WH

Choir Practice 6 p.m.-Choir room

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

Friday, October 30th – Millington Primary PTO Trunk or Treat 5-7 p.m.-Millington Primary School, 6445 William Osteen Dr.

Monday, November 2nd – Weekend Backpack Ministry 6 p.m.-HH

Tuesday, November 3rd – Bill Williams Men’s Bible Study 8 a.m.-WH

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

Wednesday, November 4th – Young Disciples 5:30-7 p.m.-WH

Choir Practice 6 p.m.- Choir room

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

Worship Through Giving

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

Week of September 6 th	\$ 7,246.79
Week of September 13 th	\$ 8,646.00
Week of September 20 th	\$ 1,827.00
Week of September 27 th	\$ 3,314.00
September 2026 Total Giving	\$ 21,033.79

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evangelism?” Our Wednesday night Children’s and Youth Ministry programs were cited as an example, with some 15 in attendance who have found a home at our church where they are loved and cared for. Madelyn Welch, who was confirmed earlier this year, was present at Charge Conference, and the full-immersion baptism and confirmation of Abigail Gillespie earlier this year were noted.

Following an accounting of FUMC’s accomplishments, our church’s business reporting included the Trustees report, which outlined maintenance issues surrounding our Flame Center gym over the past several years, with flooding and damage caused by burst pipes due to harsh winter storms in 2023 and 2024, resulting in interior reconstruction and an astronomical increase in the church’s insurance premiums. The more than 30-year-old building currently has no working air conditioning units. According to our contractors, two are repairable, but the church currently has no funds available for this repair. The heating is still in working order. Our pastor and Church Leadership Board members have been in preliminary discussions regarding the possible lease of our Flame Center to the City of Millington and the Millington YMCA.

The Finance report noted we have had to utilize funds held in reserve over the past several months, our financial footing is currently stable. Our church leadership is currently crafting our 2027 budget, and cost-saving measures are anticipated in the year ahead.

The Staff-Parish Committee (SPRC) report included a pastoral reassignment for Pastor Amanda, as was announced to our congregation during Sunday worship on September 27th. In addition, Pastor Amanda will be taking a voluntary salary cut of \$30,000. She also will be taking a three-month sabbatical from April-June 2027, during which time FUMC will be assigned an interim pastor to focus on Sunday worship and congregational care, with a new pastor assigned to FUMC beginning July 1, 2027. The SPRC report was unanimously approved by those present.

The Nominations Committee report noted the committee will be meeting next month to fill leadership positions. It was announced that Kathryn Boyer has agreed to serve as our new Lay Leader and Lay Delegate to Annual Conference beginning in January 2027.

In her Pastor’s Report, Pastor Amanda reiterated much of what had been discussed regarding FUMC’s accomplishments for the year, tailoring her report to our TWK Conference Discipleship Priorities. Under “Culture of Call,” she noted in-person worship attendance over the past year has averaged 47. While giving remains faithful, as attendance has continued to decline due to deaths, disaffiliation and an aging congregation, in July 2026, expenses exceeded income by roughly \$20,000. However, the Holy Spirit continues to be with us in our ministries as our Food Pantry Ministry saw a marked increase in the number of persons served due to a government shutdown last fall, that saw our military families here in Millington going without paychecks and SNAP benefits disrupted. And, our Weekend Backpack Ministry continues to feed 100 children living in food-insecure homes each weekend they are not in school.

Under “Disrupting and Dismantling Racism and Discrimination” Pastor Amanda cited FUMC’s longstanding relationship with its “sister church” St. James CME. Unfortunately, our shared day of worship together on Martin Luther King Day has been cancelled the past several years due to inclement weather. She suggested it may be time to revisit new ways to connect with our Wesleyan brothers and sisters in working toward building God’s “beloved community.”

Addressing “Mental Health and Well-Being,” our church is working to strengthen our advocacy through a new partnership with the City of Millington to establish a peer advocate community mental health resource. Pastor Amanda and one lay person have been trained to begin working as partners with the state-recognized Emotional Fitness Center Program, expanding our caring ministries as we respond to the growing mental health needs in our community. Our annual Grief Group continues to be an impactful ministry with the majority of participants over the past five years coming from our community and not members of FUMC. This ministry, and our Blue Christmas service embody compassionate care for those navigating loss and trauma.

“Professions of Faith” was another area covered above, when noting our church’s accomplishments, with the two young ladies this year, along with the eight youth in 2024, marking the first confirmation class for FUMC in nearly a decade.

Outlining “Spiritual Leadership and Development” Pastor Amanda highlighted our 2026 Lenten worship series “Tell Me Something
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Memorials In Memory Of...

Catherine Sullivan

Ken & Diane Sullivan
(Backpack Ministry & Budget)

Deborah Moore

Bill Moore
(Budget)

James Hayden

Bill Moore
(Budget)

Jesse Smith

Carey & Ann Parham
(Coffee Fund)

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, Buddy & Connie Forney, Peggy & Keith Watson, Ida Rose, Carole McCullough, Pat Williams' niece Kirby, David Tickle, Kris Tickle, Tim Sullivan, Joan, Kim Young, Rita Beckham, the family of Danny Armitage, the family of Corky Close, those affected by Hurricane Isaias, Adam Westmoreland, Carol Harrison, the people of Panama, Danny Brown's wife Tess, David Stewart

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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Good' which invited our congregation to seek signs of the good news of Jesus Christ. During the summer we focused on the Lord's Prayer, grounding ourselves in Jesus' teachings on prayer and the ancient use of prayer beads as a tangible reminder of God's presence.

In closing, Dr. Morrow said, "I see hope here," as your church continues to follow where the Holy Spirit is leading in ministry and service.

Visitation Teams – A Re-Start



Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, FUMC has two-member visitation teams, members of our congregation who would visit folks on our prayer list, as well as our homebound church family as a means of fostering connection, care, and community.

If you can spare some time to visit a member of our church family, please let the church office know. Also, if you already have a visitation buddy in mind to start a team of two together, let us know that, too. Thanks!