

The Informer

SUMMER 2025, ISSUE 3
AUGUST 27, 2025



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.

STEWARDSHIP 2025

Stewardship is rooted in the belief that everything we have – our time, talents, resources, and the earth itself – is a sacred trust from God.

While we often relegate stewardship to being merely about financial giving, true stewardship is an expression of our discipleship. As we seek to be faithful disciples, we make a holistic commitment to managing all aspects of our lives in service to God and neighbor. In other words, stewardship is a spiritual discipline.

Therefore, in our current *Back to Basics: Stewarding Our Faith* worship series, we are considering the **spiritual disciplines** that form a strong foundation in our faith journey with Jesus – **worship & prayer, studying Scripture, financial giving, volunteer service, and sharing our faith story through intentional Christian witness.** These spiritual

practices are the basic ways we live out the promise we made to God, to one another, and to ourselves when we joined this local congregation of the United Methodist Church and vowed to support it with **our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.**

Each week, we're taking a look at a different spiritual practice, studying where we learn about this practice from Scripture and the life of Jesus, and then taking note of some practical ways to grow in our faith. Don't



miss the **companion devotion pamphlet** to the *Back to Basics* worship series (available in the vestibules outside the sanctuary). This devotional guide offers

weekly Scripture passages to study, questions for individual reflection or family conversations, and a **Weekly Walk Challenge** to take our next faithful step as we seek to grow in the Spirit.

When we boil down stewardship to its most basic principles, we discover that a faithful disciple of Jesus makes intentional decisions to live out their faith beliefs through their everyday words and actions. Responsible stewardship reflects our gratitude to God and acknowledges our shared responsibility to support the UMC's mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Through worship, Biblical study, and community engagement, a disciple's commitment to stewardship becomes a living expression of faith, our response to God's grace as we say, "Thank you, Lord, and I love you."

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Creation Care Corner

MAKING A SWITCH



For party fun on a hot day switch to magnetic, silicone water balloons, which are refillable, reusable, and remarkable as a creative alternative to latex, single-use, and dangerous-to-wildlife traditional balloons.

Plastic bags, made from fossil fuels, end up as waste in landfills and oceans. Wildlife often mistake them for food and eventually humans are harmed through the food chain. Switch to reusable tote bags, like the ones given out on Creation Care Sunday with the FUMC logo

Each year, around 20 billion disposable diapers are sent to landfills, adding 3.5 million tons of waste and potentially introducing pathogens, according to the EPA. The switch to cloth diapers saves money, reduces exposure to unknown chemicals, and decreases landfill waste.

The U.S. uses 6.5 million tons of paper towels annually, each ton requiring 17 trees and 20,000 gallons of water to produce. Decomposing towels in landfills emit methane. Switch to old fabric (especially flannel) to make absorbent washable alternatives or buy rolls of paper towels made of bamboo.

The average American family uses 500 plastic snack bags each year, which are made from non-degradable polyethylene and may contain BPA. Switch to reusable silicone options to reduce waste and help keep plastics out of food and the environment.

The loofah and pouf are often confused. Poufs are colorful plastic-mesh scrunchies for the shower that contribute to landfill and ocean pollution and release microfibers into water. Loofahs come from the luffa plant. They are sustainable and can be composted. Switch to eco-friendly loofahs.

Switch from “new” to “new-to-you” clothing and other items. Be adventurous and go to a thrift store. What you buy gives new life, keeps the item out of the landfill, and likely supports a charitable cause, as well. Donate your no-longer-needed clothing and other items, too.

From 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, August 31st, 2025

Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:14-17

Message: *Back to Basics: Study*

Sunday, September 7th, 2025 Communion Sunday

Scripture: Romans 12:1-8

Message: *Back to Basics: Serve*

Wednesday, August 27th – Young Disciples 5:30-7 p.m.-WH

Choir Practice 6 p.m. – Choir room

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

Monday, September 1st – Labor Day – Church Offices Closed

Tuesday, September 2nd - Bill Williams Men's Bible Study 8 a.m.-WH

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

Anna Circle 6:30 p.m.-WH

Wednesday, September 3rd – 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 4th – Food Pantry 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sunday, September 7th – Finance Committee Meeting 11:15 a.m.-WH

Monday, September 8th – Joy Circle 1 p.m.-WH

Tuesday, September 9th – Bill Williams Men's Bible Study-WH

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

Wednesday, September 10th – 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 2025 Budget: \$33,617.29

Week of July 1 st	\$ 3,330.00
Week of July 7 th	\$ 9,295.00
Week of July 14 th	\$ 6,534.00
Week of July 21 st	\$ 1,941.00
Week of July 28 th	\$ 2,946.80
July 2025 Total Giving	\$24,046.80
Tithe.ly \$340.00	

FUMC KICKS OFF THE 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR

Year 28 of our School Year Kick-Off Breakfast was held on Monday, August 4th, across the street from our church, in the cafeteria at Millington Central Middle High School for the 390 teachers, administrators and staff of our Millington Municipal Schools. To help get their year off to a good start, the menu included donuts, sausage balls, mini quiches, fresh fruit, yogurt, coffee and juice. Pastor Amanda also offered a prayer and blessing over those gathered.

In addition, there were lots of “happies” for the teachers and staff to take with them, including lotions, stress balls, bookmarks, pens, chocolates and backpack tags. The backpack tags were the same as those given to the children, youth, college-bound students, teachers and administrators in our congregation during our Blessing of the Backpacks worship service on Sunday, August 3rd, a more recent tradition, this year marking its fifth year.

Each of Millington’s four schools also received a special gift of a plaque with an inspirational or motivational message to hang in their school offices.

Millington is growing with 2,600 students enrolled in our school system, 130 of whom are pre-k children enrolled in the newly opened Early Learning Academy. A new middle school also is currently under construction with an anticipated completion date of December 2026.



Weekend Backpack Ministry Returns for 2025-26 School Year Next Month

Our Weekend Backpack Ministry will begin helping to feed our Millington Municipal School students living in food insecure homes for the 2025-26 school year next month. This year, our church family, local businesses, civic organizations and other concerned citizens in our community are being offered the opportunity to **sponsor a hungry child in honor or in memory of someone special, for a donation of \$100, which covers the cost of food for one student for the entire school year.**

Our communion offering for the month of September will be dedicated to supporting this ministry.

In addition, if folks also are interested in purchasing food items for the backpacks, we are beginning to collect items in advance of the September start time. Last year, ministry leaders Kathryn Boyer and Megan Welch began offering a wider variety of food items for the 100 students served, including:

CapriSun juices, instant oatmeal packets, Pop Tarts, NutriGrain bars, GoGo Squeez applesauce, Quaker Chewy granola bars, Lance peanut butter crackers, Lance peanut butter cookies, mandarin oranges, single serve microwave macaroni and cheese, Cup a Soup, Chef Boyardee microwave pasta, and ramen noodles. Items may be brought to the church office or Williams Hall collection closet.

The ministry anticipates serving more children this year, with the addition of students at Millington Central Middle High School, and will begin meeting in September to pack the bags every two weeks. **If you have questions or would like to volunteer to help pack, contact the church office or Kathryn Boyer at (208) 599-5768.**



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 Rogenmoser, Laura Comes Hubbard & Clint Hubbard, KateLynn Faulkner, Leslie Gill & family, Ray & Bonita Dunavant, Joe Keehner, Anne Brentworth, Peggy & Keith Watson, Missy Young's co-worker Noel, Carl & Marie Doherty, peace in the Middle East, James Baltesperger and parents Matthew & Mary Jennings, Carol Harrison's son Tommy, Sherry Davenport, Caleb, Susan Corum's friend Julie, Kerry Mazoch, Leda Roberts, Sammie Kyle, Wanda & Gene Fretwell, Rosalie Wood's brother-in-law Wade, Charles Pack & family, the family of Jane Kellner, Tom & Martha Hunter, Sherry Martinez & her boys, the family of Nancy Foshee, Candy Smith Vincent, Bette Peterson, Elbert Martz, Peggy Robbins & the other family involved in her car accident, the family of Fannis Forsythe, the family of Charles Miles

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

Church Yard Sale Slated for October 3rd & 4th

If you haven't already started, it's time to start doing some early fall cleaning for our Church Yard Sale slated for Friday, October 3rd and Saturday, October 4th in our newly refurbished Flame Center.

Everyone can begin bringing items for the yard sale to the Flame Center now, during church office hours 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday-Thursday, just call in advance to let us know you're coming.

EvyLou Turner, who is spearheading this effort for us, asks that all clothing be clean and on hangers. She also asks that you price your own items in advance. She says the best way to price items is to go to the Goodwill or Salvation Army websites and look for the pricing chart they use for tax deductions to help you price items. Evylou also is asking for many volunteers to help with this church-wide event. If you can volunteer or have questions, contact Evylou Turner at (901) 581-1880.

