

The Informer

FALL 2025, ISSUE 1
OCTOBER 29, 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.

CHARGE CONFERENCE 2025

FUMC's 2025 Charge Conference with our District Superintendent Rev. Dr. Deborah Smith was held on Tuesday, October 14th at 4 p.m. in Williams Hall.

Dr. Smith opened our Charge Conference asking the question; "What are you afraid of?" She asked for examples in the Bible where it states not to be afraid. As it is getting close to Advent, she recalled Luke 2:10, "Fear not, for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." Others in attendance cited Psalm 23, "I will fear no evil for thou art with me," and Isaiah 43:1, "Fear not, for I have redeemed you."

Some of the things those in attendance named as fears included: guns, crime, divisiveness, the current state of our nation, fear for our immigrant neighbors who are being detained and arrested, public policies affecting those who are losing health care, and the current

government shutdown, which is bringing unpaid federal workers to our food pantry.

Dr. Smith asked those in attendance to pause and take two deep breaths. She said, "You are not alone, I see the weight you carry," and shared Psalm 94:19, "When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought me joy."

As we moved on to the business of the Charge Conference, the minutes were unanimously approved. The clergy compensation package as outlined by our SPRC Chair Evylou Turner was unanimously approved. Finance Committee Chair Don Lowry noted we are paying our bills, but will have a substantial insurance bill coming due in January (due to two years of flooding in our Flame Center gym). Lowry also noted the Finance Committee is looking toward establishing a capital fundraising campaign to help meet this financial obligation, as well as build a nest egg for the future of our church. The Lay Delegate and Alternate Delegate to

Annual Conference, Roy Hall and Kathryn Boyer respectively, were unanimously approved. FUMC's church leadership roster, including the move to a One Board Model of church leadership, was unanimously approved, and the Trustees report noting the re-opening of our Flame Center gym, and an earnest effort to secure a lower insurance premium working with the UM Insure group also was unanimously approved.

In her Pastor's Report, Pastor Amanda noted the addition of two new members to our church family over the past year – Debbie Wadlington and Leslie Gill – as well as honored the lives of three members who have passed away – Trish Kilzer, Charles Miller and Fannis Forsythe.

She noted our congregation has been through a season of healing,

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Creation Care Corner

REGENERATE & RENEW

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). Regenerative agriculture practices are proven ways to do so.



Fall tree planting season is here. Investigate potential tree sales 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 sun in the winter, reducing the need for fossil fuel energy.

Most actions taken on behalf of God's creation are helpful, but some have more impact than others. One of the biggest categories is food. Become aware of food waste and reduce it, take up composting, choose less or no meat, buy locally and in season. Everyone needs to eat; everyone can contribute to caring for the Earth.

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 in this season 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.

Some food-waste issues are systemic, but many come down to things individuals and families can do: Plan meals, buy local, buy less, buy in-season, buy organic, store appropriately, use the freezer, reduce meat consumption, grow veggies, eat leftovers, make soup and smoothies, compost peelings and ends, share with others. Eat happily, knowing you are helping us all.

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, November 2nd – All Saints & Communion Sunday**

Scripture: Ephesians 1:11-23

Message: *Remember Me*

Sunday, November 9th

Scripture: Psalm 145

Message: *You'll Never Walk Alone*

Wednesday, October 29th – Young Disciples 5:30-7 p.m.-WH

Choir Practice 6 p.m.-Choir room

Youth Group 6:30-8 p.m.-Williams Hall

Thursday, October 30th – Capital Campaign Committee 5 p.m.-WH

Monday, November 3rd – Joy Circle 1 p.m.-Williams

Weekend Backpack Ministry 6 p.m.-HH

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

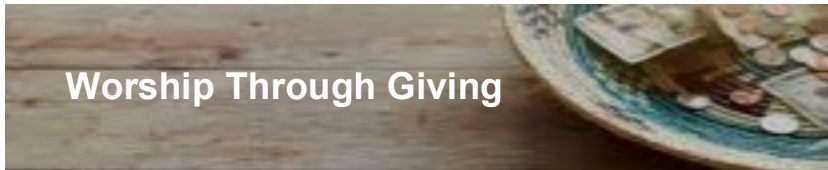
Choir Practice 6 p.m.-Choir room

Youth Group 6:30-8 p.m.-Williams Hall

Thursday, November 6th – Food Pantry 10 a.m.-1 p.m. (St. William)

Friday, November 7th – Youth Fall Retreat-Lakeshore

Saturday, November 8th – Youth Fall Retreat-Lakeshore



Worship Through Giving

Needed Monthly Giving to Support 2025 Budget: \$33,617.29

Week of August 1st \$18,622.45

Week of August 8th \$ 9,172.00

Week of August 15th \$13,384.00

Week of August 22nd \$ 2,671.05

August 2025 Total Giving: \$43,849.50

Tithe.ly \$2,426.45

Week of September 1st \$ 7,285.95

Week of September 8th \$ 5,165.00

Week of September 15th \$ 7,330.00

Week of September 22nd \$ 1,920.00

Week of September 29th \$ 2,727.00

September 2025 Total Giving \$24,429.95

Tithe.ly \$405.00

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participating in a Triumph Over Trauma workshop with Rev. Neelley Hicks through our Stay UMC Grant.

Pastor Amanda shared that we are sustaining our ministries and have seen growth in our Youth and Children's ministries seeing about 15 students for Wednesday night programming ranging from kindergarten through 11th grade, even after graduating four seniors this year. Our Weekend Backpack Ministry began with 100 students this year with the addition of Millington's Early Learning Academy and students from Millington Central Middle High School. We anticipate that number will increase during the school year, as we usually end the year with 100 students. This year, with a first-time fundraising effort, we were able to raise \$6,000 to help fund this ministry.

We anticipate another round of fundraising, if needed, when the second semester begins in January.

Our food pantry continues to serve Millington-area residents as an ecumenical and community-wide effort with volunteers from several churches serving in the pantry and donations coming from the community as well. In particular, our partnership with the chapel at NSA Mid-South has resulted in a significant number of food donations to our pantry on an ongoing basis.

Concluding our Charge Conference Dr. Smith said, "You are all doing the work of the kingdom. Let the Lord continue to move [you] forward."

Memorials In Memory Of...

Catherine Sullivan

Ken & Diane Sullivan
(Backpack Ministry)

Sharon Thomas

Joe & Tina Baltensperger
(Backpack Ministry)

Navy Wives Clubs' National Convention Designates FUMC's Weekend Backpack Ministry As Featured Non-Profit

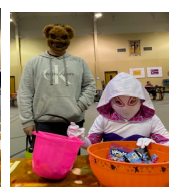
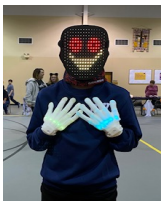


This past Wednesday, October 22nd, Pastor Amanda spoke to the **National Convention of the Navy Wives Clubs** held at the Pat Thompson Center at NSA Mid-South. She shared the work of our Weekend Backpack Ministry, which the local chapter – **Navy Wives Club #119** and host of this year's convention chose as the convention's non-profit charity focus. The response was overwhelming with **food donations filling our church truck, in addition to monetary donations from clubs across the nation totaling \$1,050.** Pastor Amanda estimates that the in-kind and monetary donations compose 20 percent of our Backpack Ministry's operating budget for this school year. We are grateful to Navy Wives Clubs throughout the country who have donated, and especially to the local Navy Wives Club #119 for their long-standing partnership and support of our Food Pantry and Weekend Backpack ministries. Thank you!



TRUNK OR TREAT 2025

A steady rain didn't dampen the spirits of those in attendance at this year's Trunk or Treat event held on Sunday, October 26th from 1-3 p.m., in our Flame Center gym. Lots of kiddos and their families came out to join us for fun, and a cornucopia of candy!



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, Leslie Gill's daughter Sophia, her baby & boyfriend Caleb, Missy Young's co-worker Noel, Carl & Marie Doherty, peace in the Middle East, Carol Harrison's son Tommy, Sammie Kyle, Tom & Martha Hunter, Peggy Robbins & the family involved in her car accident, Linda Evans Lowe, Clyde & Virginia Turnage, Buddy & Connie Forney, Julie McCullough, Baby James Baltensperger & parents, the family of Alderman Mike Caruthers, Russ & Pamela Morphis, Chad & Kim Stewart, Bobby Lowry, Rita Beckham, Johnny Willis, Anne Brentworth, the family of Ian Hudson, the family of Jackson Perry, Tim Wilson, the family of George Henderson, Henry & Sarah and family, Erlin, Mona Hanson, those in the path of Hurricane Melissa

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

FUMC Yard Sale nets \$5,004.77! Thank you to Evelyou Turner for leading this effort, and to everyone who donated items and volunteered!



Dear Church Family,
Thank you for your prayers, cards, concern and support throughout my illness and recovery.

Love you all,
Sammie Kyle

Thank you

Save the Date

2nd Annual Friendsgiving & Cookie Swap



Our 2nd annual Friendsgiving & Cookie Swap is slated for Sunday, November 16th from 2-4

p.m. in Williams Hall. Our guest speaker will be Sherry Ragett, from our UMC ministry partner Golden

Cross. This ministry provides needed household items for low-income senior citizens living in Wesley Independent Living Centers across West Tennessee, including Wesley Towers here in Millington. There also will be a mini Christmas market featuring items for purchase to help us kick-off the holiday giving season, with proceeds benefiting Gold Cross Ministries. Bring cookies to share if you want, and spend a fun, informative afternoon of fellowship with church family and friends.



Don't forget to "fall back" one hour, setting your clocks back on Saturday evening, to be on-time for church this Sunday!