

First United THE FLAME

Methodist Church of McMinnville

JANUARY 2026

Our church legacy is long and strong. Many would agree that McMinnville FUMC has helped improve the quality of life for Warren Countians for decades. As we continue this journey together, I recognize that we have not yet engaged in strategic planning on a church-wide basis during our time together. Given the evolving context of our church and community, I believe now is the time to come together and thoughtfully chart our future. You are invited to join this important process.

Our first strategic planning session will be held as a church council meeting, which is open to anyone, but any voting would be reserved for members of the church.

- **Date:** January 11
- **Time:** 2:00–3:30 PM
- **Location:** Fellowship Hall

During this session, we will review our current circumstances and receive input from all participants. We will conclude after an hour and a half, regardless of how much is accomplished, and continue our work in subsequent meetings. This approach will help us honestly assess where we are and identify opportunities to more fully live out our disciple-making mission.

Why strategic planning? Familiar sayings remind us that systems are designed to produce the results they get, or how about, “Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results,” and finally, “failing to plan is planning to fail.” By planning together, we can ensure our efforts are purposeful and aligned with God’s vision for our church.

I hope you will be part of this journey as we aim to strengthen our legacy and serve our community as God’s kingdom breaks in around us.

New to Us? You’re Invited.

Part of the church experience is meeting others, building relationships, and finding your place in the life of the congregation. If you are new to the congregation within the past two or three years (a flexible benchmark), we want to invite you to a newcomers’ dinner January 13, 2026, at 6:00pm. The gathering will be hosted in the home of Shelley & Mike Lopez on Wilson Lane in McMinnville. Because space is limited, reservations are necessary and will be accepted in the order they are received. If you are interested in this event, express your interest to Pastor Ryan or office staff.

Free Community Film Screening & Town Hall

Warren County residents are invited to a free screening of *Beyond the Bridge* on January 22, at 6:00 PM at the Park Theater, hosted and presented by MATCH (McMinnville Action to Create Housing) & Ascension Health Care. Addressing homelessness requires collaboration and from many perspectives across our community. This documentary sheds light on important local and national issues related to homelessness and community response. Following the screening, a town hall discussion will be held where participants can share questions, reflections, and insights. This community event is offered with the support of the Warren County Executive Terry Bell and McMinnville mayor Ryle Chastian.

Wishing everyone a terrific New Year,
Ryan Heatherly

Dear Church Family,

As we finish 2025 and begin 2026 I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and prayers. Directing our youth is a challenging effort which is made easier by your generosity and help. Though our program has not grown much over the past year, we are holding our own. We have had a total of 24 individuals, including a few adults come through our program in 2025. We have 8 active youth participants, 4 partially active, and several visitors who have attended multiple times. With the challenges we face as United Methodist, I'm satisfied with these numbers, but seeing more youth in our program is my heart's desire and seeing spiritual growth in those we have currently is even more gratifying, and that I have been able to witness personally.

So, again I say thank you and ask for your continued support and prayer.

Peace and Love in Him,
Bruce





The Community Chorus Concert, a tradition of heralding Christmas in song, sounded great and the attendance was 231!





A good turn out attended the Christmas at Beersheba Springs.



The staff had a great Christmas Party with food, games, prizes and a gift exchange.



Rick Murphy spinning the "Wheel of Fortune"



The staff had to unwrap the ball of saran wrap with kitchen gloves! Gifts were wrapped inside.





Anew

The calendar gives us a New Year to begin anew. God, however, gives us grace to begin again “morning by morning”— even minute by minute. With that gift of grace, we renew our resolve to care for Earth and justice.

John Wesley began a New Year tradition of leading people in renewing their covenant* with God. At the very beginning, God gave us a garden to tend and till. Now is the time to renew your commitment to be good stewards of Earth. Choose one new thing you can do throughout the year to care for creation. This is John Wesley's covenant prayer: *Wesley's Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed for thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine.
So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven.
Amen.

Stop wearing plastic. Are you surprised? Synthetic fibers from clothing are a significant contribution to micro plastic pollution. Go back to nature— wool, cotton, silk, and even bamboo and hemp. Plastic doesn't go away.

Plastic bottles or aluminum cans? Technically, both are recyclable. However, due to multiple factors beyond putting it in the recycling bin, plastic is less likely to be recycled into new products. On the other hand, the systems for recycling aluminum are effective. Choose aluminum.



Mom loved FUMC the church members were like family and held such a special place in her heart. The time with Maranatha was one of her greatest joys! We are so grateful to Pastor Ryan and other congregation members for coming to the graveside service. With love and thanks,

Kitty Young (family of Barbara Gillespie)

Dear FUMC,

Thank you for the very meaningful Prayer Shawl gifts. Bunny and I are most appreciative of this very special gift during a difficult time. Your love, kindness, and support lessens the pain. We appreciate your continued prayers which give us comfort and strength.

Kitty Young (family of Barbara Gillespie)

The Missions Committee would like to thank everyone who adopted a resident at Generations Group Homes for Christmas. I'm sure your acts of kindness brought a little of the "magic" of the Christmas season to all the recipients. Thank you for your time, generosity, and love.

The Staff would like to thank everyone for the generous gifts you gave us this Christmas season. Your thoughtfulness and kind words brighten our days.

JANUARY GOOD NEIGHBORS SCHEDULE

January 1
No Meals

January 15
Cook: Dennis
Route 1 Sandlin
Route 2 Dennis
Route 3 Hall
Route 4 Dodson
Route 5 Alsbrook

Thank you for your Giving

In Memory of: Cecilia Murphy

Donors: Jim & Lorie Pierce, John Sterbenz

To: Pastor's Discretionary, General Fund

Thursday, January 8 - Shepherding Team 10am
Monday, January 12 - Prayer Shawl Meeting 10am
Tuesday, January 20 - UMW Meeting 9:30am

FUMC work day on our local Habitat for Humanity home is to be scheduled one Saturday between March 14 & April 25, Participants should suggest to Pastor Ryan preferred work days ahead of H4H's organizational meeting Monday, January 12.



Rachel Waters has resigned from FUMC and her last day is December 31. She will miss everyone and has enjoyed getting to know everyone. She thanks you for your kindness.

Please contact Tena Basham for any bulletin/Flame requests.



BEYOND THE BRIDGE A SOLUTION TO HOMELESSNESS

a new film by A Bigger Vision Films

January 22

Thursday - 6:00 PM

Park Theater McMinnville

FREE ADMISSION



Town Hall Panel **BEYOND THE BRIDGE**
Immediately after the film A Solution To Homelessness

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| Ryle Chastain Mayor City Of McMinnville | Terry Bell County Executive Warren County | Mark Farley Executive Director U.C.D.D. & U.C.H.R.A | Neal Kelley Regional President Ascension Saint Thomas | Shelle Fonn Executive Director HOME. |
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LEARN MORE

Beyond The Bridge is Presented By:



Ascension Saint Thomas
River Park



McMinnville Action To Create Housing
An interfaith nonprofit
Matching our neighbors with housing

DEAR CITIZENS OF MCMINNVILLE AND WARREN COUNTY,

WE INVITE YOU TO THE FREE SCREENING OF BEYOND THE BRIDGE ON JANUARY 22, AT THE PARK THEATER THAT MATCH IS HOSTING AND PRESENTING.

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF OUR UNHOUSED NEIGHBORS REQUIRES COLLABORATION AND COLLECTIVE ACTION FROM ALL OF US.

THIS DOCUMENTARY SHEDS LIGHT ON IMPORTANT ISSUES. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO JOIN US FOR THE SCREENING AND STAY FOR THE TOWN HALL MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE FILM, WHERE YOUR QUESTIONS AND INSIGHTS ARE WELCOME.

WARM REGARDS,

TERRY BELL, COUNTY EXECUTIVE
RYLE CHASTAIN, MAYOR



www.mcminnvilleactiontocreatehousing.org

SCAN THE
QR CODE
TO RESERVE
FREE TICKETS



JANUARY

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---------------------|--|---|--|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| | | | | 1 | 2 Charles & Karen Ethridge | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11 Burck Hershman Delia Hershman | 12 | 13 Dalton Pack | 14 | 15 Linda Young Josh & Sara Dodson | 16 | 17 |
| 18 | 19 Vivian Dodson | 20 Kathleen McCoy | 21 Bobby Boyd Gracie Holt Matt Campbell JR Montgomery | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 Emily Hennessee Mary Nelle Smith Wes & Pat Bryan | 28 | 29 Eulalia Jones | 30 | 31 Molly Davis |

