



THE FLAME

First United Methodist Church of McMinnville

July 2026

How did you start coming to First UMC of McMinnville? Did the historical architecture pique your interest? Did a civic organization meet at the church, reducing anxiety for your first visit to worship, because you knew your way around the building? Did someone invite you? We want to explore how you first came to this church. Ideally, you would be willing to share those responses for purposes of strengthening the congregation and edifying the believers. The most effective way to share these responses would be on video with the goal of sharing as part of worship or a sermon series. Please notify me if you are open to sharing such responses. (No preaching required – just sharing your story). I hope to collect a variety of stories, from seasoned members to more recent newcomers. This will be an ongoing project, but stories can be gathered as soon as the Holy Spirit nudges you towards a courageous and faithful witness.

In Christ,
Ryan Heatherly

Yard Sale Survey

We are deeply grateful for the many supporters of the yard sale within the FUMC congregation and staff. The results were strong, and our net proceeds exceeded \$9,000 — wow!

We welcome your honest feedback—the good, the challenging, and everything in between. Your responses will help us evaluate this year's sale and shape future efforts. An electronic Google Form of this will survey will be made available also. A few printed copies will be in the lobby if you choose to participate.

July is here and its busy as ever. We are still preparing for VBS on July 25 and I still need lots of volunteers to make this happen. Here's what's needed: Craft station leader, recreation leader, bible story time leader, and escorts to help navigate groups of kids from one station to another. We will have a VBS volunteer meeting on Wednesday July 1st at 4:00pm so please plan on attending. You will also need to complete Safe Sanctuary training before VBS so we are compliant with church policy. We need these spots filled asap. So many kids in our church and community love coming to VBS at FUMC! Lets make this a year they wont forget!

With much christian love,

Julie Holt
Director of Children's Ministry

1. How did you participate in the yard sale? (Check all that apply).

☐ Donated items ☐ Helped with sorting (e.g., clothes, household items) ☐ Assisted with pricing ☐ Helped with setup ☐ Helped with tear down ☐ Worked as a cashier	☐ Helped with the bake sale ☐ Prepared or served food ☐ Worked during the sale (floor help, customer assistance, etc.) ☐ Prayed for the event ☐ Shopped / attended ☐ Other: _____
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2. Do you have a story or moment from the yard sale that stood out to you?

3. The most challenging moments of the yard sale were when:

4. If we have another yard sale, we could improve it by:

5. Instead of a yard sale, we could achieve similar results by :

6. Please rate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Disagree nor Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
I felt connected to God while preparing for the yard sale.					
I felt connected to God during the two days of the yard sale.					
The involvement of participating neighbors (those earning support) was meaningful and respectful.					
I had a clear understanding of my role.					
Donations were easy to drop off and organize.					
The time required was reasonable given the impact.					
I feel confident in how the proceeds will be used.					
I would like more information about how funds are distributed.					
"I understand how the yard sale directly supports our unsheltered/financially distressed neighbors.					
I would be willing to help again next year.					
The yard sale positively impacted our community beyond the church.					
The yard sale was worthwhile.					
The yard sale was more trouble than it was worth.					
I would support having a similar purpose-driven yard sale next year.					

Congratulations to Adam Rush who was ordained at the TWK Annual Conference as an elder. Adam was FUMC's former youth director and associate pastor. He currently serves in Mayfield, Kentucky. We are very proud of him!



Ryan & Beth & Julie at Annual Conference this year.



UPCOMING EVENTS: JULY

- 1 VBS Volunteer Meeting @ 4:00pm
- 1 Deborah Bible Study @ 6pm
- 2 Good Neighbors
- 4 Pancake Breakfast on the Square 7 -11
- 8 Deborah Bible Study @ 6pm
- 13 Prayer Shawl
- 14 Staff Meeting
- 15 Church Council Strategic Planning @ 1:00pm
- 15 Deborah Bible Study @ 6pm
- 22 Deborah Bible Study @ 6pm
- 29 Deborah Bible Study @ 6pm
- 25 Vacation Bible School 9am-3pm

CREATION FOR JUSTICE TIPS

Stop using Styrofoam. This single-use “convenience” has its raw materials extracted from the earth, leaches harmful chemicals into hot food or drink, adds to the volume of methane from landfills, and exposes production workers to permanent nervous system damage. **Switch to reusable containers** for food and drink.

Fossil-fuel-based fabrics (polyester, nylon, acrylic, spandex, lycra) when washed release microplastics into water systems and then the food chain, harming sea creatures and ultimately humans. **Choose natural-fibers clothing** (organic cotton, linen, wool, silk, hemp, bamboo). Wash what you have less frequently and more gently.

Nix the balloons. They are not biodegradable, and they consequently harm birds and marine life. Also, helium is a nonrenewable gas needed in welding, rocket propulsion, and even scuba diving. Wasting helium in the momentary fun of balloons jeopardizes the other uses. Instead, **add sparkle and fun to an event** with tissue-paper pom poms, garlands from upcycled materials from home, fabric bunting, streamers made from recycled paper, or bubbles.

Have you ever thought of the “R’s” as a spiritual practice? Reduce is a spiritual practice. (Do I need this? Is it harmful in any way?) Reuse also challenges us spiritually. (God is a creator. How can I avoid being a “waster”?) Recycle is important too. (What creative ways can I find to give something a second life?) **Reduce, reuse, recycle**—John Wesley would be proud of you.

Do you know someone with asthma or COPD? (“*Lord, when did we see thee...?*”) The air pollution that affects our climate also harms the health of people. Jesus challenged us to **care for the “least”** among us, including children and older adults whose lungs are vulnerable. People in poverty and people of color especially suffer from compromised health due to air pollution. Climate action is also action for justice.

Come clean with household products. **Use non-toxic, natural cleaning products** instead of chemical-based ones that harm your health and the environment. White vinegar is an option, as are other branded products from eco-friendly suppliers. Browse for “natural cleaning products.”

Continued

Thank you for your memorial gifts

In Memory of Helene Vickers

From: Linda Cantrell &

Jeff & Jimmie Dean Bush

To: General Fund

Good Neighbors

Cooks & Driver

Schedule

July 2

Cook: Mary

Route 1: Sandlin

Route 2: Hinds

Route 3: Sandlin

Route 4: Dodson

Route 5: Sub

July 16

Cook: Dennis

Route 1: Sandlin

Route 2: Dennis

Route 3: Hall

Route 4: Spanjer

Route 5: Alsbrook

Dear FUMC:

Thank you for all the meals you have provided to the Empower program these past two years! We appreciate the church allowing us to use the facility as well.

Best Regards,

Brittany Westendorf

EMPOWER UPPER CUMBERLAND

Spread the ban. Banning single-use bottles and bags prevents millions of tons of plastic from entering the waste stream, forces companies to innovate, and helps shift consumers’ mindset as people recognize the harm. Contact your employer, city council, and state lawmakers to say, “No more!” Make it official.

When you shop online for anything, check the “About” portion of the website before you buy. Find out what the company is or is not doing to care for creation and justice. **Support those sources that help—not harm.** Look for B Corp and other companies that give back 1% for the planet.

Clean up the harm at a beach or waterway near you. Organize. Pick a date and time. Get any needed permissions. Spread the word. Make cleanup a crusade with photos of pollution and harmed marine life. Figure out the logistics for salvaging recyclables and only trashing trash. Bring supplies. Make the job fun! Or just start and lead by example.



PANCAKE BREAKFAST

ADULT PLATES INCLUDE:

2 PANCAKES

2 SLICES OF BACON

DRINK: Choice of Coffee, Orange
Juice, or Bottled Water

CHILD'S PLATE INCLUDES:

1 PANCAKE

1 SLICE OF BACON

DRINK CHOICE



HOSTED BY:

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
200 W. MAIN ST.
MCMINNVILLE, TN

Serving from 7 to 11:00 am
Saturday, July 4
on the Court Square in
Downtown McMinnville

COST:

Adults: \$10.00

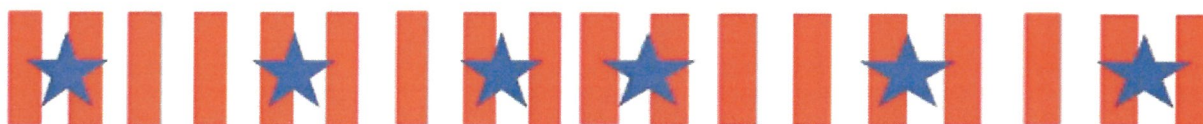
Children under 10: \$6.00

Coffee or Orange Juice
without breakfast \$2.00 each

Bottled Water: \$1.00

Extra side of bacon
(2 slices) \$3.00

Proceeds will go to our FUEL program which helps feed the children on weekends when school is not in session.



July

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Cindy Chandler Lea & Alex Street	2 Dick Scott-Welch Tom & Dianna Thaxton	3 Charlie & Diane Grove	4 Julie Holt Lorie Pierce
5 Doug Haynes Mary Anne Noblin	6	7 Lucinda Smith	8 Carolyn Mogey Paula Stotts Monte & Dana Mullican	9 Powell Wallace	10	11
12	13	14	15 Macy Dodson Elliot Harvey	16	17 Joe & Samantha Harvey	18
19	20 Sharon Baugh	21 Robin Phillips Rowdy Hicks	22	23 Thomas & Peggy Bratcher	24	25 Ray & Betty Troop
26	27 Wes Bryan Tricia & Ken Murray	28	29	30	31	

