

October 2025



In the Political Landscape

H.R.1, referred to as the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” became law July 4, 2025. Most people probably heard something about it in the news media. The full bill can be found at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/1> 1. Tennessee’s impact is found at <https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/news/2025/9/22/new-federal-law-updates-snap-work-requirements-for-able-bodied-adults-without-dependents-abawds-in-tennessee.html>. This legislation directly affects many in our community and several outreach ministry recipients, and the evolving laws are already driving behavior in our local community. Recipients who receive SNAP benefits (a.k.a. “food stamps”) will be required to work, volunteer, or participate in a job training program at least 20 hours a week (80 hours a month). If recipients cannot verify work, training, or volunteer hours, they risk losing benefits. Such changes are likely to increase assistance requests to churches and other non-profit agencies, many of which have already seen funding cuts. How should we prepare or respond?

I believe our church is positioned well to engage with struggling families and journey with them towards wholeness. Changes in benefit requirements may create a trigger in certain people. Hopefully, participants from our adult spring study *When Helping Hurts* imagine some possibilities taking shape. As noted in the book, “Three common triggers for change for individuals or groups are: 1) a recent crisis; 2) the burden of the status quo becoming so overwhelming that they want to pursue change; or 3) the introduction of a new way of doing or seeing things that could improve their lives.” (Corbett, Steve; Fikkert, Brian. *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor . . . and Yourself* (p. 208). Moody Publishers. Kindle Edition).

Some will proactively respond to these new requirements. For example, one man recently asked how else he could volunteer at your church to help him keep SNAP benefits. I am proud of his response. Others may not respond until the last minute or at all. We can all help by communicating these changes to anyone impacted. Indeed, many personal or family crises are coming, but as the authors warn, “Never waste a crisis” (Corbett & Fikkert, 208)!

Some good news is a growing number of congregants have developed stronger relationships with homeless neighbors and SNAP recipients, and we can leverage these relationships and the emerging crises as framework for good ministry. We should be prepared, wise – even “shrewd” – see 9/28 sermon on Luke 16), as we anticipate the Spirit to guide families in crises to our doors. My first plea is to pray how our church might respond in grace and expectant faith so that we can better “make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.” Another step is to gather for discussion in pursuit of the Spirit’s leading. *When Helping Hurts* participants, especially, or anyone interested in discussing our church’s response to these changes in welfare benefits, are encouraged to gather for discussion in the **fellowship hall Tuesday, October 14, @ 9AM**. Notes can be shared with those interested but unable to attend.

New Room Conference recap

A handful attended the New Room Conference in Montgomery, AL, September 17-19. The name comes from our heritage. *New Room* is the oldest Methodist building in the world, located in Bristol, England. Founded in 1739 by John Wesley, the New Room became the cradle of the worldwide Methodist movement (www.newroombristol.org.uk/). While Seedbed’s conference doesn’t take us to the exact place where the historic New Room is, it does take folks to the Spirit behind the movement. Many are counting on the Spirit to do it again.

Among the collective takeaways among our New Room participants to be sown into local fields of God’s kingdom are prayer, worship, and outreach – in that order. If you want to consider these topics, join us Monday, October 13, at 11:45 in the fellowship hall to talk more. You can even bring your own lunch if you’d like. Contact office staff to join next year’s conference September 23-25, again in Montgomery. For more, see seedbed.com/newroomconference2026/

In Christ,
Ryan Heatherly

Dear Church Family,

Greetings from us to you all!

Much is happening with our youth this fall. Besides Sunday School and Wednesday nights we have just finished the third of what I expect will be 18 Sunday evening confirmation classes. We currently have 8 young people participating in this program. The class is being led by Pastor Ryan with the assistance of MacKenzie Miller and myself. I believe it is going well. We have selected 5 of the mentors for the class with the remaining 3 to come shortly. If asked we hope you will say yes to this important relationship in the lives of our youth.

On October 4th we will be having our first fundraiser of the year, renting out the church parking lot for the Autumn Street Fair. The funds from this fundraiser will be used to help fund a field trip to The Ark Experience in Kentucky. I recently went there to check it out and believe it will be a great experience for our youth group. Anyone will be welcomed to come along so watch for details.

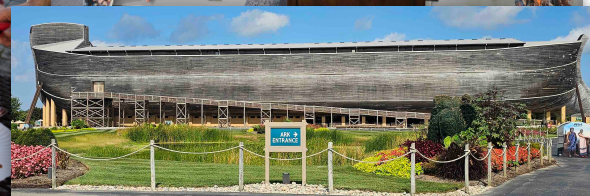
Then, on October 5th, between 1st and 2nd services we will be having an open house and are inviting everyone from both services for coffee and doughnuts into our classroom in the CCC building to see what's going on with us and to offer you all to have the opportunity to become part of our mural and part of our story. This will be during Sunday School class from 9:15-10:15.

This is part of our church becoming a more connected community. We need more intergenerational connections as well. Being a senior citizen myself, I can vouch for the blessings that comes from connection with my Juniors and Seniors have so much experience to offer. After all, we are all part of one body, the church, the bride of Christ.

We long for your prayers and support and also, your presence in our lives. We hope to see you soon!

Peace and Love in Him,

Youth Director,
Bruce Watson



Dear church family,

As we approach the final quarter of the year, we're reaching out to ask for your support for a cause close to our hearts—our ****FUEL Feeding Program****.

This initiative ensures that no student in our school community goes through the day hungry. For many of our children, the meals they receive at school may be the most substantial nourishment they get all day. We believe that ****a full stomach fuels a focused mind****, and your support can help us keep this vital program running strong through the rest of the school year.

We are currently seeking monetary donations to help cover the rising costs of food, supplies, and distribution. With your help, we can continue to provide healthy meals and snacks for our students who need them most.

Every contribution, big or small, goes directly to feeding the students of Bobby Ray Elementary and Warren County Middle School and giving them secure food for the weekend, as this may be some of the only food they eat while not in school.

To donate, please bring/send your contribution to the church office or at Sunday service. If writing a check, write F.U.E.L. on the memo line.

Let's work together to finish this year strong—with ****full hearts and full bellies****.

With sincere gratitude,
Your FUMC Missions Team



Dear church family,

September was a fun-filled month! We kicked off our Sunday school classes with a carnival themed day. We had games, prizes and lots of fun! On Wednesday nights we've been learning techniques on how to deal with our anxieties. That's been very helpful for all of us.

The month of October will be busy as well. On Saturday October 4, our youth group will be doing a fundraiser in our parking lot while the Autumn Street Fair is going on. Let's make sure we support them! On Halloween, Friday October 31st, we will be doing a trunk-or-treat in our parking lot from 5:00-7:00pm. Bring your cars, decorate them, dress up & get ready to hand out lots of candy while making connections with the children of our church and our community. This is always so much fun. There will also be prizes given for the top 3 best trunks!! As always, we appreciate donations of candy from the church so it can be given out during the trunk or treat. Candy can be dropped off at church Monday thru Thursday 8am-4pm or brought to any church service.

Your sister in Christ,
Julie Holt



Regenerate! On a personal level, compost your food and lawn scraps; plant for pollinators; consider rewilding at least a portion of your property. On a larger scale, examine your agricultural practices (cover crops, low till, no chemicals...) for changes that will regenerate the fertility of the soil.

Tree planting season is coming. **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.

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.

Compost food waste and more (leaves, shredded paper, pet fur, coffee filters). Compost, which is nature's way to regenerate and nourish the soil. Browse for easy and effective options: backyard bin, indoor machine, commercial pick up, sharing a service with a neighbor.



New Room Conference 2025



New third graders receiving Bibles



The kids gifted the pastor a monogrammed Fanny pack in reference to a sermon he gave.



First United Methodist Church, Julie,
Jimmy, and the FUMC family,

Thank you for sharing your
afternoon with us! The back to school
party was great. Your popcorn table
and booth was a solid five-stars! ★★★★★

Lisa, Hamilton Street Activity Center



pregnancy care center
of McMinnville

PRESENTS

More Than Imagined

A HARVEST OF HOPE

Join us for the Pregnancy Care Center of
McMinnville's Annual Fundraiser!
Enjoy an evening of delicious food, warm
fellowship, and a silent auction — all in
support of a great cause, bringing hope to
families in our community.
We can't wait to see you there!

OCT 23 2025

5:30 IN THE EVENING AT
WARREN CO FARMERS MARKET PAVILION
100 MARKET ST.
MCMINNVILLE, TN

SEE REVERSE SIDE TO
PURCHASE TICKETS



pregnancy care center
of McMinnville

TICKETS: \$50 Each

Tickets may be purchased by
scanning our VENMO code below.
Please note the names of attendees
in the memo blank. This allows us
to place your name on the list for
entry.



Tickets may also be purchased in
person at our office during open
office hours.

OUR OFFICE IS LOCATED AT:
101 MAGNESS DR.
MCMINNVILLE, TN
OPEN MONDAY AND THURSDAY
10AM TO 3PM



Thank you for giving gifts

TO: General, Staff Salaries & Local Church

IN MEMORY OF: Cecilia Murphy, Mike Florida

BY: Patricia & Wes Bryan, Donna Campbell,
Mac & Susan McWhirter, Dana & Monte Mullican,
Ronnie & Debbie Dunham, Janice Sailors



Hurry! The deadline to
sign up for pecans is soon.
There is a sign up sheet on
the board. You can also call
the church office at 473-4419 or text Cindy
Ratz at 517-442-6808. Price TBD soon.
Deadline to sign up is October 13. You can
choose individual bags of halves and/or
pieces, or a box that contains 24 bags.



Upcoming Events

Sign up for this Wednesday's meal on the clipboard available during worship or call the church office & reserve by Monday afternoon.

Sunday, October 5 -Bruce and the youth Sunday School class would like to invite everyone from both services to come by their Sunday School class in CCC for an open house. Coffee and doughnuts provided. Come and see what they have been up to and have an opportunity to have your picture taken or bring us a photo to add to their mural, "TELL ME YOUR STORY! / WE ARE THE CHURCH!" 9:30AM-10:15AM.

Thursday, October 9 - Shepherding Team Meeting @ 10am

Monday, Oct 13

- Prayer Shawl Meeting at 10am
- Bible Study at 10am in the Fellowship Hall
- New Room Follow up @ 11:45am for participants or anyone welcomed. Meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Tuesday, Oct 14 @ 9am - When Helping Hurts Work group.

Tuesday, October 21 - UMW Meeting at 9:30am

Tuesday, October 28 - Blood Drive from 12:30-5:30pm in the Outreach Building

Friday, October 31, 5pm-7pm (Tentative)- trunk or treat on Halloween day. We need volunteers to set up their trunks to give away candy to the public. If anyone would like to donate candy, please bring on Sunday morning or during the church office hours. There will be a sign up sheet available on Sunday, October 5.

Sunday, Nov 2 @ 12:00 - Charge Conference

If you are interested in serving on a 2026 Ministry team, please see pastor Ryan. Teams include Finance Committee, Staff-Parish Relations Committee, Trustees, Nominations and Leader Development, Missions, Shepherding Team, and Annual conference delegate. See the August Flame for more details. You can view any recent Flame newsletters on the church website at <https://www.mcminnvillefumc.com/newsletter> if you missed the emailed version.

6-12th graders - confirmation class at 5-6:30pm each Sunday. Led by Pastor Ryan, McKenzie Holt-Miller, and Bruce Watson in the CCC.



New Room Conference is scheduled on September 23, 2026 - September 25, 2026. Early-Bird registration is \$259. After October 2 the registration is \$289.

We welcome Chris Kropff and Mike & Cindy Ratz as they joined the church in July and August.



Good Neighbors Cooks & Driver Schedule



Oct 2

Cook: Mac
Route 1: Sandlin
Route 2: Hinds
Route 3: Sandlin
Route 4: Young
Route 5: Alsbrook

Oct 16

Cook: Brock's
Route 1: Sandlin
Route 2: Hinds
Route 3: Miller
Route 4: Dodson
Route 5: Alsbrook

The poster features a dark blue background with a border of orange and yellow autumn leaves. At the top, the text "Be the change. Give blood." is written in a white script font. Below this is the American Red Cross logo. The Warren County Tennessee logo is on the left, and a QR code is on the right. The main title "Warren County Community Blood Drive" is in large, bold letters, with "Blood Drive" in red. The location "First United Methodist Church - Outreach Building" and address "200 West Main Street - McMinnville, TN 37110" are listed. The date and time "Tuesday October 28, 2025 12:30 - 5:30 PM" are prominently displayed. An Amazon logo is shown next to the text "All donors receive \$10 Amazon eGift Card!!!". At the bottom, instructions for scheduling an appointment are provided, along with the phone number "1-800-RED CROSS" and the website "RedCrossBlood.org". A small copyright notice "© 2025 The American National Red Cross | 418001-0" is at the very bottom.

Be the change.
Give blood.

American Red Cross

Warren County
TENNESSEE

Warren County Community
Blood Drive

First United Methodist Church - Outreach Building
200 West Main Street - McMinnville, TN 37110
Tuesday October 28, 2025 12:30 - 5:30 PM

\$10 **All donors receive \$10 Amazon eGift Card!!!**

To schedule an appointment log onto redcrossblood.org and enter zip code: 37110 or scan QR Code above call 1 800 RED CROSS

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Blood Donor App

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Birthdays and Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Noel Davis Jacob Rollins	2 Michael Mullican	3	4 Sydney Alambatin
5	6	7 Jimmy Haley Kate Alsbrook	8 Laura Sands Jeff & Jimmie Dean Bush	9	10	11
12 Jim & Nancy Glenn	13	14 Jeff Bush	15 Josh & Mary Wanamaker	16 Thomas Bratcher Joe & Charlotte Hamby	17 Odis Sandlin Donna Bruce Joan Gulick Shelley Lopez	18
19 Charm Sims	20 Beth Heatherly	21	22	23 Monte Mullican	24	25 Anita Hobbs
26	27	28	29 Rick Murphy	30	31	