



October: A Season of Gratitude

31 Days of Giving Thanks

October brings cooler days, changing leaves, and the beauty of the harvest season. Everywhere we look, creation reminds us of God's goodness and faithfulness.

The harvest season is also a wonderful time to pause and consider the blessings God has placed in our lives. Gratitude changes our perspective. It reminds us that even in difficult seasons, God is still good, still present, and still worthy of our praise.

"O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever." — Psalm 136:1

This month, let's make gratitude more than something we feel on Thanksgiving. Let's make it a daily practice.

31 Days of Gratitude

October 1: Thank God for the gift of a new day.
"This is the day which the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it." — Psalm 118:24

October 2: Thank God for your family and the people who love you.

October 3: Thank God for His protection.
"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want." — Psalm 23:1

October 4: Thank God for your church family.

October 5: Thank God for answered prayers—and for the prayers still waiting for an answer.

October 6: Thank God for His mercy.

"It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not." — Lamentations 3:22

October 7: Thank God for the beauty of His creation.

October 8: Thank God for the people who have encouraged your faith.

October 9: Thank God for His Word.

October 10: Thank God for another opportunity to serve Him.

October 11: Thank God for His provision.
"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." — Philippians 4:19

October 12: Thank God for the gift of friendship.

October 13: Thank God for lessons learned through difficult seasons.

October 14: Thank God for His faithfulness.
"Great is thy faithfulness." — Lamentations 3:23

October 15: Thank God for the ability to forgive and be forgiven.

October 16: Thank God for the simple blessings we sometimes overlook.

October 17: Thank God for those who have gone before us and left a legacy of faith.

October 18: Thank God for His peace.
"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." — Philippians 4:7

October 19: Thank God for your home.

October 20: Thank God for the opportunity to be a blessing to someone else.

October 21: Thank God for His grace.

October 22: Thank God for the strength He gives us when we feel weak.

October 23: Thank God for the changing seasons and the reminder that He makes all things beautiful in His time.

October 24: Thank God for the people who pray for you.

October 25: Thank God for the privilege of worship.

October 26: Thank God for hope.

"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing." — Romans 15:13

October 27: Thank God for the blessings hidden inside ordinary days.

October 28: Thank God for the opportunity to share His love with others.

October 29: Thank God for the times He carried you when you couldn't carry yourself.

October 30: Thank God for the future He holds.

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord... to give you an expected end." — Jeremiah 29:11

October 31: Thank God simply because He is God.

"O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: because his mercy endureth for ever." — Psalm 118:1

A Prayer for October

Heavenly Father,

As the leaves change and the harvest season surrounds us, help us to remember the many ways You have blessed our lives. Open our eyes to blessings we sometimes take for granted. Give us grateful hearts, willing hands, and joyful spirits.

Help us to be thankful not only when life is easy, but also when we are walking through difficult seasons. Teach us to trust Your faithfulness, celebrate Your goodness, and share Your love with others.

May our gratitude become an offering of praise to You — not just this month, but every day.

"In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." — 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Amen



Ministry in 2027

The love of God the Father, forgiveness in Christ, and power of the Holy Spirit be with you! Our Nominations & Development Team continues to move towards completing full rosters of 2027 ministry teams this month through October. We give thanks for their contributions in helping connect people with opportunities to serve. The chart below indicates the current status for 2027 ministry teams. If inspired to serve, please reach out to one of the following nominations team members: Ryan Heatherly, Daria Myers, Wes Newman, Lorie Pierce, Matt Campbell, Debbie Dunham, Belinda Ivins, Karen Ethridge, Jimmy Haley, or Bobby Boyd.

Ministry Team	Duties	Additional # of Members Sought	Workload Expected (1 being least; 10 being most)	Church Membership Required
Church / Administrative Council	Governing body of local church	Could have 1-2 more (At-large Youth & Young adults welcome)	6	Yes
Finance Committee	Sets budgets	Could have 1-2 more	3	Yes
Staff-Parish Relations Committee	Human resource functions & staff issues	Need 3-4 more people	8	Yes
Worship team	Plan weekly & special worship events	Could have 1-2 more	4	No
Nominations and Leader Development Committee	Layperson recruiting, training, & spiritual development	Need 3-4 more people (Youth & Young adults welcome)	3	Yes
Board of Trustees & Incorporation	Oversee church property & assets; legal officers	Need 2-3 more people	6	No
Missions team	Kingdom work, outreach & evangelism	Could have 1-2 more	5	No
Prayer Shawl team	Create & share gifts as part of congregational care	Open to all	5	No
Shepherding Team	Congregational care & encouragement	See Jimmy Dean Bush or Linda Cantrell for info.	5 (send cards monthly)	No
Annual Conference member (delegate)	Attend TWK UMC Annual Conference (June); votes on conference matters	Can have 1-2 additional district at-large AC members	4	Yes
Media Team	A/V related to worship	1-3	4	No

- For further consideration of ministry teams, please see https://www.umc.org/en/content/section-2-the-ministry-of-all-christians?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Thanksgiving Community Worship Gathering:

Warren County churches are tentatively planning a shared worship service for Sunday, November 22. First UMC's charge conference will take place earlier that afternoon. The time and location for worship will be confirmed and shared in October. For now, please save the date!

In Christ, Ryan Heatherly

It's been a fun-filled September here at FUMC children's and youth departments! We have been getting in the rhythm of school, sports and back together on Wednesday nights. We enjoyed the Warren County A&L Fair as well. It looks like our kids have had a blast! As for me, there was no riding of rides but I sure did get my fair share of fair cheeseburgers, candy apples and caramel apples. I always love checking out the art work that kids of the church enter into the fair. We have some really talented artists among us.

I wanted to share some upcoming events for this fall. These events are an open invitation to the whole church. Intergenerational events are always a good way to connect with our children and youth. It not only is good for the kids to connect with seasoned christians in the church, but it does us older ones so much good to connect with younger ones. We have some very special kids and young adults in our church. If you haven't connected with them in the past, why not use these upcoming opportunities to get to know them better?

Wednesday September 30 we will not have Wednesday night activities at FUMC due to a large portion of our members being at New Room Conference. But I am offering for any children, youth and their families that would like to attend the Blessing of the Animals service at St. Matthews Episcopal Church to please let me know and I will be glad to go with you. Bring your pet if you want them to receive a special blessing. Of course they need to be on a lease and/or pet carrier. That service is at 6:00pm and the address is 105 Edgewood Ave McMinnville.

We will also be going to Cedarwood Pumpkin Patch on Sunday October 18. We will meet there at 2pm and FUMC will pay for all children and youth admissions to the pumpkin patch. Then on Sunday November 8 Jon & Belinda Ivins are graciously hosting us at their goat farm. If you would like to ride the church van please meet at church at 2:15. If you would like to meet at their farm, meet us there at 3pm and the address is 212 Aussie Ln Morrison, TN 37357.

We have lots of fun things happening here at FUMC! Thank you to all the parents for letting me be a part of your kids lives and thank you to our church family for pouring into the children and youth of our church. God is on the move here! Hallelujah!

With much Christian love,
Julie Holt
Director of Children's Ministry



October Creation Justice Tips

According to research, just two hours a week in nature have a positive effect on health and psychological wellbeing—and the benefit holds regardless of age, income, or chronic illness. **Build nature time into your routine** and your family's. Take a 10-minute nature break, eat lunch outside, talk and walk. Love yourself and your loved ones.

Green space is critical infrastructure for health and wellbeing. And like all infrastructure, access to it isn't equally distributed. Lower-income neighborhoods consistently have less tree canopy, hotter temperatures, more pollution, and worse health outcomes. **Speak up for parks and trees to be placed so that all neighbors benefit.**

Weave love of creation and neighbor into your worshipping community's practices through liturgy, fellowship, education, and contemplation. See to it that creation justice is not just an occasional program or a single campaign or the purview of one committee but a dimension of the congregation's shared life.

Who pays for pollution? Not the polluters! Challenge government to shift the cost back to where it belongs. As citizens and people of faith, follow Jesus' story of the persistent widow (Luke 18:1-8), who stuck to her mission and finally convinced the unjust judge. Keep bringing injustice to planet and people to the attention of the powers that be. **Write letters, sign petitions, make calls.**

Put your money to work for justice. When you buy organic, you guarantee more farmers can grow healthy, safe food. When you buy fair trade, you provide living wages and fight poverty. When you bank with a community bank or credit union, you are investing locally and likely not funding fossil fuel projects. Choose justice.

Persist in the "little things" you do to help the planet—recycling, composting, planting, thrifting, ride sharing, consuming less, using alternatives to plastic—and talk about what you are doing and why. People pay attention to the practices and words of people they know. You make a difference.

When something proposed is harmful, raise your voice to connect the dots for people and officials of how the results are injurious. Encourage others to listen and act. Go after change. **Turn your private frustration into public pressure.**

Love for the next generation is the number one reason why people care about climate change. Keep in mind your children, grands, greats, and future generations as you make choices for your lifestyle and for how you spend your energy addressing the environmental and justice issues of today. **Be proactive for their sake.**

In the face of fast-tracked, hyperscale data centers, join the community demanding transparency, truth, time, and guardrails. **Learn about the inherent creation justice issues**, and raise your voice along with your neighbors'. Sing out like the canary in the coal mine.

The gifts of God—sun and wind—are free and renewable. Using them rather than continuing with fossil fuels will save our planet. A crucial benefit from the switch is less incentive to go to war over limited fossil resources. **Join with others and use your power**—your voice, your actions, your advocacy—to love Earth.



You're Invited!

Encourage one another and build each other up.
1 THESSALONIANS 5:11

Celebrating Our
Prayer Shawl Ministry

Sunday, November 8
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
Fellowship Hall

Please join us as we celebrate more than 20 years of the FUMC Prayer Shawl Ministry!

For more than two decades, these faithful ladies have shared their time, talents, prayers, and love for Christ by creating beautiful prayer shawls and other handmade gifts to bless and encourage others.

Come celebrate this wonderful ministry and the many lives touched through their faithful service.

Refreshments will be served.

Everyone is welcome!

Prayer Shawls Wrap Hearts in Love

Prayer Changes Things

🎵 8:00 WORSHIP SERVICE UPDATE

Beginning in **October**, our worship team, **Praise Hym**, will be playing during the **8:00 a.m. service on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month.**

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we explore and seek **other meaningful worship alternatives** for the Sundays when our worship team is not playing.

Thank you for your grace and support as we work together to continue creating a beautiful worship experience for everyone. ❤️

“Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!” — Psalm 100:1



Thank You For Giving:

TO:
General Fund, Children & Youth Ministry

IN MEMORY OF: Dick Scott-Welch

GIVEN BY: Donna Campbell, Ann Heath-Welch

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**. **Deadline to sign up is October 11.** You can choose individual bags of halves and/or pieces, or a case that contains 24 bags. The cost will be \$13 per bag. They usually arrive after the first week of November.



Good Neighbor Cooks & Driver Schedule



Oct 1	Oct 15
Cook: Mac	Cook: Brock's
Route 1: Sandlin	Route 1: Sandlin
Route 2: Sub	Route 2: Sub
Route 3: Sandlin	Route 3: Miller
Route 4: Young	Route 4: Dodson
Route 5: Alsbrook	Route 5: Alsbrook



Be the change.
Give blood.

 **American Red Cross**



Warren County
TENNESSEE



Warren County Community **Blood Drive**

First United Methodist Church - Outreach Building



MES Partners with
The Children's Advocacy Center
Come Help Us "Stuff the Bucket"

Friday, October 9th, 2020, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Please bring canned goods, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, 2-in-1 shampoo, shelf stable snacks, drinks, coloring books, crayons, and journals to MES!



Upcoming Events

Sign up for Wednesday night meals on the clipboard available during worship or call the church office & reserve by Monday afternoon.

Choir practices on Wednesday nights @ 7:00pm unless Donna Campbell announces differently.

Thursday, October 1: Good Neighbors

Saturday, October 3 from 8:00-5:00pm:
Autumn Street Fair
Youth Parking Lot Fundraiser

Sunday, October 4: Rev. Sherry Cochran preaching
World Communion Sunday (offering)

October 5-9: Fall Break Week (No meal, Bible Study, or Children & Youth activities. Ryan will be out of town.)

Thursday, October 8: Shepherding @ 10:00am

Friday, October 9: MES Bucket Truck

Saturday: October 10 from 11:00am-3:00pm
Recovery Fest at Freedom Life Church

Sunday, October 11: Lucas Holt preaching

Sunday, October 11 @ 11:45: SPPRC Meeting in CCC

Sunday, October 11 @ 2:00pm: United Women in
Faith Caney Fork District Annual Meeting

Monday, October 12 @ 10:00am: Prayer Shawl
Meeting

Monday, October 12 @ 10:30: Finance Budget
Planning Meeting in Fellowship Hall

Monday, October 12 @ 4:00pm: Church Council
Strategic Planning Meeting in CCC

Tuesday, October 13 @ 10:00am: Staff Meeting

Tuesday, October 13 @ 5:30: Host a meal for
Empower Group. Volunteers needed.

Wednesday, October 14 @ 5:00pm: Meal at
Restaurant to be announced. 6:00pm Abide Bible
Study Session 5 taught by Julie Holt. Ryan will teach
youth.

Thursday, October 15: Good Neighbors

Sunday, October 18 @ 2:00pm:
Cedarwood Pumpkin Patch
(All Children & Youth are invited and admission will
be paid for them.)

Monday - Thursday, October 19-22: Tena will be out
of the office on vacation.

Tuesday, October 20 @ 9:30am: United Women in
Faith meeting

Tuesday, October 20: Red Cross Blood Drive from
12:30pm-5:30pm in the Outreach Building
[https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-
results?zipSponsor=Warren019](https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=Warren019)

Wednesday, October 21 @ 5:00pm: Combined meal
in Outreach hosted by Lucinda Smith's team. 6:00pm
Abide Bible Study Session 6 taught by Julie Holt.
Ryan will teach youth.

Wednesday, October 28 @ 5:00pm: Meal hosted by
Peggy Bratcher's team. 6:00pm Bible Study &
Children & Youth Activities

Saturday, October 31: Halloween

Sunday, Nov 1: All Saints Sunday

Sunday, Nov. 8 from 9:30-10:30: Prayer Shawl
Celebration in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, Nov. 8: Jon & Belinda Ivins Goat Farm visit.
Time will be announced.

Monday - Saturday, Nov. 9-14 from 10:00am -
8:00pm: Wonderland of Trees 16th Annual Charitable
Event at Three Star Mall presented by Caring Hearts
United.

Sunday - November 22: Tentative Thanksgiving
Worship Service in the planning stages. Details in
next Flame.



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Noel Davis	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 Cory Sydenstricker Jim & Nancy Glenn	13	14 Jeff Bush	15 Josh & Mary Wanamaker	16 Thomas Bratcher Skip Zwemer 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 Debbie Winder
25 Anita Hobbs	26	27	28	29 Rick Murphy	30	31

You can view any recent Flame newsletters on the church website at <https://www.mcminnvillefumc.com/newsletter> if you missed the emailed version.