



### **Confirmation Classes at McMinnville First UMC**

We are excited to announce a **Confirmation Class** for 6 – 12 graders forming at McMinnville First UMC—a special journey of learning, growth, and discovery as we explore what it means to follow Christ and live faithfully as part of the church.

Classes will be led **by** Pastor Ryan Heatherly, McKenzie Holt-Miller, & Bruce Watson with the support of our church family. Through **Scripture, media, readings, discussion, and hands-on experiences**, we will walk alongside our youth as they discern their readiness for a commitment of faith or baptism.

**Parent & Student Interest Meeting:** An informational orientation for parents and students will be held **Sunday, September 7 at 6:00 PM** in our **Christian Community Center (CCC)**. Regular confirmation classes are tentatively scheduled for **Sunday evenings, 5:00–6:30 PM in the CCC** (subject to input and unless otherwise stated).

**Who's Welcome:** McMinnville First UMC youth and community friends are welcome to attend. Those who fully participate in the confirmation course will experience the full benefits. At times, leaders may invite other church members to join sessions to reinforce learning objectives.

**Our Path Together:** Youth input during the initial meeting will help shape our shared journey. We hope you will prayerfully consider this opportunity and let us know if you plan to attend so we can be ready to welcome you.

**How You Can Help:** We invite all church members and attendees to be part of this important ministry. First, please pray for our youth and leaders during this time! Second, prepare yourself spiritually to say “yes” if a student asks you to serve as a mentor—this is part of our calling as brothers and sisters in Christ. Others may be approached to share a testimony or give witness to your faith during one of the sessions. If you would like suggestions on being a mentor or feel led to volunteer, please talk to one of the confirmation leaders. Thank you for supporting such an important ministry opportunity.

---

**Wednesday Night Adult Study – *The Anxious Generation*** Many participants still await the arrival of paperback copies of *The Anxious Generation*, but we will still discuss technology and its role in our spiritual life each Wednesday until books arrive. Paperback copies are \$16, hardbacks are \$17, or a Kindle version is \$12.99. If you would like a tax-exempt copy of *The Anxious Generation*, please request one during office hours and pay in advance to simplify things for staff. To ensure your own copy, please order in advance by calling 473-4419 during office hours or emailing [tena@mcminnvillefumc.com](mailto:tena@mcminnvillefumc.com). If payment is not possible, we can happily order copies to be given away. Plan to read the introduction through chapter 3 during September.

**No lay servant courses this fall** - Our Caney Fork District will not host any lay servant courses this fall (held most recently at Centertown UMC). Expect opportunities in the winter or spring of 2026 for further training.

**2026 Ministry Teams:** If you are interested in working out front in ministry or behind the scenes, consider joining a ministry team. Our nominations & development team is organizing our ministry teams this month. Give thanks for their faithful work! More than half require membership in the local congregation, but check with Pastor Ryan to verify. Ministry teams include:

- Finance Committee
- Board of Trustees and the Incorporation
- Nominations and Leader Development Committee
- Staff-Parish Relations Committee
- Missions team
- Shepherding Team
- Worship team
- Prayer Shawl team
- Annual Conference delegate

In Christ,  
Ryan Heatherly

**\*\*Exciting Changes Coming to Sunday School This September!\*\***

September is upon us, and with it comes so many exciting things—cooler weather, the county fair, and the return of Sunday school! We're thrilled to kick off the new season with some exciting updates on the children's side of church. Whether you're brand new to Sunday school, haven't been in a while, or attend regularly, we hope you love the new structure.

**\*\*New Classes and Familiar Faces\*\***

We're expanding our Sunday school offerings to better serve our children and meet them where they are developmentally and spiritually.

\* **\*\*Ages 2–4\*\*** will now have their very own class, taught by **\*\*Brenda Spanjer\*\***. Brenda is an incredibly patient and loving teacher who connects with kids of all ages. We're blessed to have her leading our littlest learners!

\* **\*\*Kindergarten through 2nd grade\*\*** will be taught by **\*\*Carolyn Moge\*\***, who has been faithfully leading our preschool class for the past few years. Her storytelling brings God's word to life, and the kids absolutely adore her.

\* **\*\*3rd through 6th grade\*\*** will be led by **\*\*McKenzie Holt-Miller\*\***. McKenzie's enthusiasm and deep love for Jesus shines through every lesson, and her students always look forward to her class.

**\*\*New Curriculum: Big Faith\*\***

We're also excited to introduce our new curriculum: **\*\*Big Faith\*\***, offered by Cokesbury. This dynamic, Christ-centered program is designed to help kids grow in their relationship with God through engaging lessons, activities, and scripture.

**\*\*Come As You Are\*\***

If you've never been to Sunday school, or it's been a while, now is the perfect time to jump in. We know that starting something new can sometimes feel intimidating—especially for little ones—so please know that I'm here to help. If your child is nervous about joining a class, I'd be happy to sit with them to help ease the transition. We're in this together, and I want to walk alongside you as you guide your child's journey with Christ.

**\*\*A Church-Wide Request\*\***

As we begin this new chapter, we ask for your prayers. Pray for our teachers, our students, and our church family as we grow deeper in our faith and open our hearts to God's love. With your support, we can build a strong foundation of faith for the next generation.

If you have any questions, feel free to call me or catch me at church. I'd love to chat.

Blessings,  
Julie Holt  
Children's Director of Ministry





### Calling all Volunteers!

The church has been invited to volunteer at Riverview Terrace, the assisted living facility on 114 Highland Dr. near the church. Alyssa Sherrill is the current activities director and she reached out requesting groups to come sing, play bingo, do a craft or some fun activities with the residents. These activities need to be scheduled with her in advance and could be weekly or monthly and should be at 10:00a.m. or 2:00p.m. Home Health comes on the 2nd Monday and Tuesday so it would be best to avoid those days.

Riverview Terrance currently has 27 residents but not everyone participates in each activity. Bingo usually has the highest participation with about 18 coming to play. They currently have Westwood Church of Christ doing church with them on Sunday and a couple doing Bible Study on Wednesdays at 2:00pm.

If you are interested in volunteering or forming a group of volunteers please call the office or speak with Pastor Ryan.



American  
Red Cross

*Thank you!*



Warren County Community / 1<sup>st</sup> United Methodist – McMinnville, TN

Sponsor Group

**August 26, 2025**

Date of Drive

**23**

Total Number of Donors

**1**

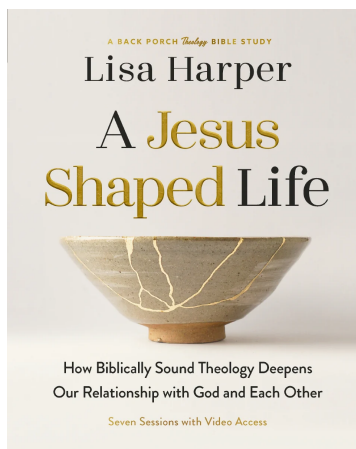
First Time Donors

**24**

Units Collected

**56**

Potential Number of Lives Saved



A NEW BIBLE STUDY begins September 22, Monday, at 10:00am in the Outreach Building.

This seven-week Bible study by Lisa Harper, titled *A Jesus Shaped Life*, is your invitation to explore the depths of God's character, God's love for you, and how your relationship with Him transforms you. Ultimately, you will experience how biblically sound theology deepens your relationship with God and each other.

Join Marsha Newman and Peggy Bratcher to learn and grow together on our journey of faith.

**As a SUPPORTER, you can...** use your financial resources to undergird the work of frontline organizations that are protecting wildlife and habitats, stopping drilling in Alaska and other federal lands, cleaning up oceans, planting millions of trees.

**As a DOER, you can...** minimize food waste and maximize through composting what you can't minimize, pick up litter, plant pollinator and food gardens, and turn out lights especially during spring and fall bird migrations.

**As an INVESTIGATOR, you can...** be on alert for green washing, the practice of using language to imply sustainability but not following through with appropriate action. Telling the public to recycle plastic when very little is actually recyclable is one form of green washing.



# Calendar

**Monday, Sept 1 Labor Day (6 PM Fellowship Hall)** - Fantasy Football Draft. See Joe Harvey to reserve a space.

## **Wednesday Night Programming @ 5:00 PM Meal & 6:00 PM Study**

Join us as Wednesday night programming and meals have began. Our adult study is *The Anxious Generation*. If you'd like the office to order a copy for you, please let the staff know—paperback (\$16) or hardback (\$17) available. You can write a check to the church and put in the memo it's for Wednesday night book or stop by the church office to pay.

Due to a kitchen vacancy, we'll be trying different meal options in the weeks ahead. We are forming **4–5 kitchen teams** (2–4 people each) to rotate meal preparation on Wednesday nights. If you are interested in helping, please contact Lucinda Smith.

**Monday, Sept 8** - Prayer Shawl Meeting at 10am

**Sunday Sept 14** - SPRC meeting at 4pm

**Tuesday, Sept 16** - UMW Meeting at 9:30am

**Saturday & Sunday, Sept 20-21 (All Day)** - Remote Area Medical Clinic; 267 Allen Drive, Sparta, TN 38583. Clinic doors open at 6am.

**Sunday, Nov 2** - Charge Conference

## **OUR CHOIR NEEDS AND WANTS YOU!**

If you would like to join with us for fun, fellowship, and lots of singing, come at 7:00p.m. on Wednesday Sept. 3 to the Sanctuary in the Historic Building. We will greet you joyfully and hope that you will be happy to join us, too! You don't have to read music; however, it is helpful if you can "carry a tune". 🎵 We will share our joys, cares, and fellowship with each other, unit about 7:15 and then we will begin our rehearsal. We hope to see you beginning next Wednesday and every Wednesday!

## **Good Neighbors Cooks & Driver Schedule**

### **Sept 4**

Cook Mary  
Route 1: Sandlin  
Route 2: Hinds  
Route 3: Sandlin  
Route 4: Spanjer  
Route 5: Prater

### **Sept 18**

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



*Come Get the Tea!*

Join UMW start up  
Tuesday, September 16th  
At 9:30am  
Lesson: Queen of Sheba



Thank you to everyone who donated hygiene products for the high school. The donations will last for several months because of your generosity. Thanks again! Dana Mullican



**Pecans for sale!**  
The United Women in Faith are selling pecans this year. There is a sign up sheet outside the church office. You can call the church office at 473-4419 or contact Cindy Ratz at 517-442-6808. Price TBD in October. Deadline to sign up is Monday, October 13.

To all of you at the Prayer Shawl ministry and especially to the one who knitted the beautiful shawl and the one who delivered it to us, thank you so much.

Words cannot describe how comforting it is to know there are others around you who are so kind and supportive when life is hard. The Shawl is beautiful and represents so much to us. We will treasure it always. Thank you!

So Grateful  
Lois & Sherri Hall



Gary Lane & Nan Johnson joined  
the church on August 3, 2025.

## Ronald McDonald Coke Tab Challenge

We will be taking coke tabs to the Ronald McDonald House in November!

So far we have **5 GALLONS** to take to RMDH so that families who need a place to stay while their child receives medical care can stay for free!

Our goal is **10 GALLONS!** Help us reach our goal!

We are still collecting coke tabs for RMDH! There are boxes for drop off in the Historic Building or the Outreach Building. Or give your coke tabs to Mrs. Julie or Emily Holt. Help us reach our goal of 10 gallons!



Every Child TN is a statewide initiative to mobilize all Tennesseans to care for children, youth, and families before, during, and after foster care.

## How can you get involved?

## Become a foster parent

There is always a need for more foster homes. We're here to walk with you through this journey.

**Get your  
faith  
community  
involved**

Faith communities  
are important  
partners in  
supporting  
children, youth,  
and families

## Volunteer or donate a tangible good

There are many ways – big and small – that you can show up and support children and families.



Blessing of the backpacks on August 3, 2025.

Learn more on our website:  
EveryChildTN.org



 Tennessee Department of Children's Services, Authorization No. MK3PD6-1, 250 copies, June 2025. This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$0.68 per copy.

Check out the website or contact Kristal Ray, volunteer coordinator, of TN Valley with any questions.  
2160 Cowan Hwy Suite B, Winchester, TN 37398  
[kristal.ray@tn.gov](mailto:kristal.ray@tn.gov)



## *Birthdays & Anniversaries*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Josh Dodson Justin & Jennifer Smith	3 Beverly Schmidt	4 Melinda Miller Woody & Becky Woodiel	5 Susan Barrett Lea Street	6 Bert & Hilrie Brown Randle & Daria Myers
7	8	9	10	11 Jimmie Dean Bush	12 Nicole Burch	13
14 Diane Stanley	15 Mac McWhirter Karen Daus	16 Ray Troop Chuck & Susan Gulick	17	18 Ronnie & Debbie Dunham	19	20
21 Randal Rampp	22	23	24 Lucas Holt Kevin & Sydney Alambatin	25 Sandra Haynes	26 Taylor Lyle David Stubblefield	27 Hudson Heatherly Dwight & Nicole Burch
28	29	30				

