

From the Pastor

September is here! Where did summer go? For parents, this season means the return to school; for college football fans, it may mean fall Saturdays watching players compete on the gridiron. In the ministry world, however, September brings glimpses of an upcoming year — including the reports, budgets, and seasons of recruitment which come with it.

Financial Status of Accounts

As we begin forecasting the church's budget for 2027, I am reminded of the health of some of our restricted accounts. Praise the Lord! Some restricted accounts are particularly well funded, while others are not so well funded.

As of August 25, 2026, our **Good Neighbors Fund** has a balance of approximately **\$298,000**, while our **Missions Fund** has a balance of approximately **\$18,000**. (Traditionally, our church receives a second offering during Communion to support the missions budget. Given the current health of the missions balance, might we consider reallocating future Communion offerings to other designated ministries which may be underfunded or emerging? Please bring your suggestions to finance chair Powell Wallace or me - Ryan).

The **Prayer Shawl Team** received a **\$10,000** inheritance from a former supporter last year, bringing their balance to more than **\$15,000**. Finally, the **Pastor's Discretionary Account** currently has a balance of approximately **\$14,000**. As its name suggests, the use of these funds is guided by the pastor's discretion and is intended to respond to needs and opportunities that arise in the life of the congregation and community.

"Restricted" donations mean those balances can only be used for the purpose specified by the donor. For example, prayer shawl proceeds cannot be used for missions, outreach, vice versa, etc. As we look toward 2027, these balances invite us not simply to think about what we have, but about how the resources entrusted to us can best serve God's work through this congregation. Good stewardship asks us to consider where our resources are most needed and where we are called to support the local church, financially and otherwise.

Ministry in 2027

If numbers aren't your thing, let's turn our attention to our **2027 Ministry Teams**! Whether you are interested in serving out front in ministry or working behind the scenes, consider joining a ministry team. Our Nominations & Development Team is organizing ministry teams this month. We give thanks for their faithful work in helping connect people with opportunities to serve!

More than half of our ministry teams require membership in the local congregation, but please check with Pastor Ryan if you have questions about membership requirements. You may also offer your service to a member of our nominations & leadership development team – Daria Myers, Wes Newman, Lorie Pierce, Matt Campbell, Debbie Dunham, Belinda Ivins, Karen Ethridge, Jimmy Haley, & Bobby Boyd.

- 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

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

I hope you have enjoyed our journey through the Genesis and the stories of the patriarchs & matriarchs of our faith. September may bring cooler weather - and certainly a new sermon series! We are going to look at various calls of Jesus through the gospels and New Testament. This series is inspired by a couple pages in our adult study last spring – Thom Rainer’s book *The Anxious Generation Goes to Church*. Rainer contends, “Jesus’ method of inviting people to follow him was as varied and personal as the people themselves (P. 149)”. Here is a preview:

Scripture	Christ Calls
The Ordinary	Simon Peter & Andrew
The Seeker	John the Baptist’s disciples
The Outsider	Zacchaeus the tax collector
The Weary	those burdened by life
The reluctant / divided	Counting the cost
The failed	Simon Peter
The enemy	Saul
All	The wedding feast
The church	Make Disciples

Share your story!

You are invited to share your story as part of the series! How did you first come to First UMC of McMinnville? Was it an invitation from someone, the beauty and history of our historic building, a community connection, or simply a nudge from the Holy Spirit? As part of this sermon series on how Jesus calls us, we’d love to hear your story—no preaching required, just a few minutes sharing how you came to this church and how God has been at work along the way.

See you Sunday & Wednesday!

In Christ,

Ryan Heatherly

Dear brothers and sisters,

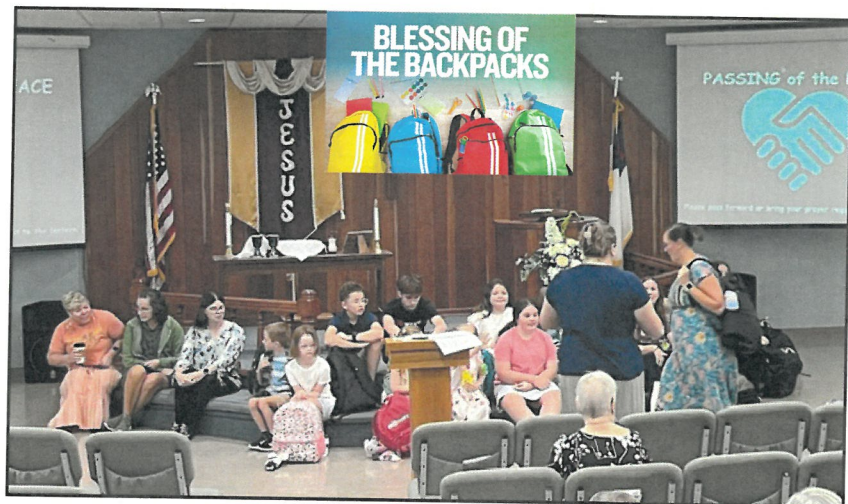
We've had a busy month in the children's department. We have 2 kiddos going into 3rd grade this year so in keeping with the tradition of our church and the UMC we presented bibles to Libby Gill and Tommie Harvey. There were lots of smiles on these little girls' faces, and ours too! We also had a "Blessing Of The Backpacks" service where students, educators, bus drivers, school nurses, counselors and anyone that's on staff at any of the schools in our county brought their backpacks and themselves to the altar and were prayed over. We prayed for a successful school year and for everyone to be shining lights of Jesus Christ to those around us. That's always a very special service.

We are back at it on Wednesday nights and we kicked it all off with an ice cream social. Don't get me wrong, we still had a lesson but that ice cream with all those yummy toppings and a bunch of our kids all together just made it so much sweeter! I must say that we have a very sweet, very knowledgeable group of kids in our church. I always enjoy my time teaching and chatting with the kids of our church, no matter the age. I've been the children's director for 10 years now and my time has been very well spent pouring into the children of our church. I am so honored to be able to do that and I am very thankful for the relationships that I have with all of our families.

The month of September brings the Warren County A&L fair! Keep your eyes on the bulletin for plans for our kiddos on the week of the fair. I would also like to say a huge THANK YOU for the recent donation to our children's ministry of \$1000. That is very much appreciated and we will make good use of that money to further our ministry.

With lots of Christian love,

Julie Holt



THANK YOU FOR YOUR MEMORIAL GIFTS

To: Children's Ministry, General Fund, Local Church Ministries

In Memory of: Dick Scott-Welch

Given By: Wes & Pat Bryan, Joe & Charlotte Hamby, Larry & Ann Layne, Leann Cordell & Tanya, Woody & Becky Woodiel, D. Michael Harris

Thank you to everyone who knew, helped cared for, and loved Dick Scott-Welch for showing such love and kindness when Dick passed away. Our hospitality team loved on Dicks family with very good food and the family truly enjoyed and appreciated it. Thank you to Pastor Ryan for a wonderful memorial service. It was beautifully done. Love,
Julie Holt

Prayer Shawl & Jimmie Dean Bush:

Thank you so much for your kind words of encouragement and thoughtful gift. Please thank the knitters for thinking of me. The shawl is beautiful.

Thank you for the prayers, they meant so much.

Love Carolyn & Family (Woodside)

Good Neighbors Cooks & Driver Schedule

Sept. 3

Cook: Mary Koelbl

Route 1:Sandlin

Route 2:Sub

Route 3:Sandlin

Route 4:Dodson

Route 5:Alsbrook

Sept. 17

Cook: Dennis Kronlage

Sandlin

Kronlage

Hall

Spanjer

Sub

Pecans for Sale!

The United Women of Faith are doing their annual pecan fundraiser. **Orders can be placed beginning Sept. 22 until the deadline of October 11.** The cost will be \$13 per bag of halves or pieces. They usually arrive after the first week of November. Orders can be placed by contacting Cindy Ratz at 517-442-6808, the church office at 473-4419, or by using the sign up sheet on the bulletin board outside of Tena's office in the Historic Building.



United Methodist Creation Justice Tips for September

Plan a congregational art show. Invite all ages to contribute the ways they see God's creation through their photography, painting, poetry, or crafts from natural sources. Let the show speak for care for Earth and for justice and restoration to repair the harm people and planet experience.

September is prime time to **plant trees**. Choose sites at your home or church. Work with volunteers to get the trees planted. Talk about the project and why trees are important. Find out if your local government has canopy goals and identify locations that can be planted.

September and October are peak migration season for many birds. **Help the birds out** by minimizing outdoor flood lights and seasonal light displays.

Go scraggly. Even just a month of refraining from mowing will reduce erosion and runoff in your yard while replenishing our groundwater supply, which helps keep streams alive during drought periods. **Tell your neighbors what you are doing and why.** Invite them to ignore the chore too.

Don't discount the "small" things you can do. **Commit to picking up at least 3 pieces of litter** a day and in a year you will have disposed of more than 1,000! Invite your children to participate in the challenge too. You'll be teaching the next generation by showing that you care.

Rescue school uniforms from going to the landfill. Organize friends or a whole school to have a uniform swap periodically. Tout the benefits of the savings for families and for Earth.

Use the air—it's free! Open your dishwasher instead of drawing energy to dry the dishes. Hang dry your laundry or a portion of a load to shorten the cycle at least occasionally. Let your hair dry naturally instead of using a blow dryer.

Advocate for clean air. Particulates from industrial plants, smoke from wildfires, heat-trapping carbon dioxide and methane from uncapped, no-longer used oil wells and from landfills—all need people to speak up against the practices that fill the air we breathe with danger.

In the indigenous Lakota tradition, **consider plants, animals, and the environment in a relational way** rather than as objects in our environment to be owned or used. How would our thinking and actions change if we thought of our environment as something we are in a relationship with?

Green space is critical infrastructure. And like all infrastructure, access to it isn't equally distributed. Lower-income neighborhoods consistently have less tree canopy, hotter temperatures, and worse health outcomes. Restoring forests, urban and otherwise, is one of the most accessible public-private acts of justice. **Speak up for your neighbors.**



United
Women
in Faith

United Women in Faith Purpose: To be a community of women whose PURPOSE is to know God, and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship, and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Ladies, you're invited to the **Caney Fork District Annual meeting on Sunday, October 11 at 2:00pm** in the fellowship hall. We will be having afternoon tea.

We will assemble "Birthday Kits" in honor of our "Let's Celebrate Together" theme. Please bring a 13x9 disposable aluminum baking pan, box cake mix, 12 oz. can of soda, one container of frosting, birthday decor of napkins, small plates, and birthday cards.

Registration is due by October 4 and the fee is \$5.00 per person to cover snacks. Please contact Marsha Newman by September 28th if you plan to attend and she can register everyone as a whole unit.

All ladies are welcome to attend, even if you have not previously been part of the United Women in Faith group.



Tennessee Mental Health Consumer's Association is looking for donations. They are a peer support center on 1035 Sparta Street. Contact Eryn McKee at 931-474-4053 if you would like to donate. They are in need of the following:

Clothing (all types and sizes of men's and women's), Jackets, socks & shoes, Hygiene products (soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, deodorant, dry shampoo, etc.), Depends, and Bibles. All help is appreciated.

McMinnville First will have their Charge Conference on November 22 @ 2:00pm.



Gentiva Hospice is looking for volunteers. Contact Ashley Cantrell, Volunteer Coordinator at 931-474-8015 or 931-314-9343 if you are interested in volunteering. All volunteers will receive the training and support needed to carry out their assigned duties. There are many different ways to volunteer so reach out with any questions.

MES partners with The Children's Advocacy Center. On Friday, October 9th from 10:00am - 3:00pm come help us "Stuff the Bucket". Please bring canned goods, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, 2-in-1 shampoo, shelf stable snacks, drinks, coloring books, crayons, and journals to MES! The bucket truck will be in the FUMC parking lot.

Food For The Poor Radiothon

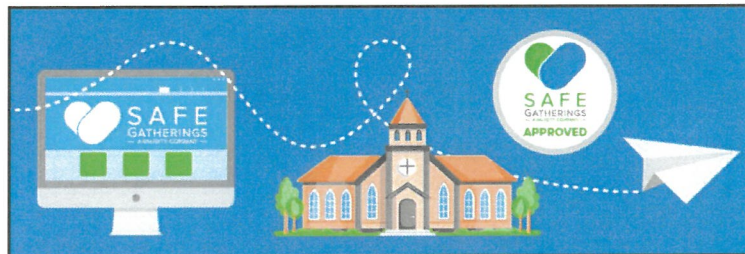
Main Street Media in McMinnville is partnering with **Food For The Poor** for a special Giving Day on September 15 across our local radio stations, and we would love to have your church be part of it. Throughout the day, we'll be encouraging our community to come together to help provide food and other critical assistance to children and families living in poverty.

Give: Prayerfully consider making a donation of any amount.

Pray: Most importantly, we would be grateful for your prayers over this effort, the communities we hope to reach, and the families who will be impacted.

Contact Samantha Hollis, Media Strategist at 931-314-6733 or 931-473-4149 with any questions.

Thank you for considering joining us. We're excited to see what our community can do when local churches, businesses, families, and neighbors come together to **feed the hungry, share the Gospel, help those in need, and give hope.**



First United Methodist has a Safe Sanctuary Policy to ensure the safety of all our children, youth, and vulnerable adults. If you are supervising or working as a volunteer or employee with individuals in these categories in church-sponsored activities or events, you are required to complete an online training course through Safe Gatherings as well as a background check. Please contact Tena at the office to receive a link in your email to begin the training course which may take up to 2 hours to complete. Once you have completed the training and read the church policy, please come by the office to sign an acknowledgement form to verify you have read and understand your responsibilities.

The following list below shows who has recently completed their training and when they need to renew. Trainings and checks have to be renewed every 3 years. If your name is on this list and you have completed training but have not signed the acknowledgment form, please come by the office to do so.

Peggy Bratcher: 7/20/29, Dewayne Fox: 1/22/29, Stacie Harris: 1/28/28, Julie Holt: 2029, Jon Ivins: 8/21/2029, Mary D. Koelbl: 6/15/29, Steve Koelbl: 7/16/29, Triston Luman: 7/24/29, J.R. Montgomery: 7/24/29, Wes Newman: 3/10/28, Beverly Schmidt: 4/20/27, Cerissa Smith: 7/27/29, Brenda Spanjer: 7/16/26.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

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

Calendar of Upcoming Events & Meetings

Wednesday, September 2 @ 5:00pm

Meal hosted by Dennis Kronlage's team

Wednesday, September 2 @ 6:00pm

Training & Orientation on Faith-Based Initiatives aligned with TN Dept. of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services.

Wednesday, September 2 @ 7:00pm

Choir Practice Resumes (check with Donna Campbell)

Thursday, September 3: Good Neighbors

Thursday, September 3 @ 5:00pm

Feed WCHS football team.

Monday, September 7: Labor Day, office is closed

Tuesday, September 8 @ 10:00am Staff Meeting

Tuesday, September 8 @ 6:00pm: Fantasy Football Draft

(See Joe Harvey or Hudson Heatherly to play)

Wednesday, September 9 @ 5:00pm

Meal at restaurant to be determined by Ryan

6:00pm: Abide Bible Study, Children & Youth Activities

7:00pm: Choir Practice

Thursday, September 10 @ 10:00am

Shepherding Team Meeting

Thursday, September 10 @ 4:00pm: Lay Leadership Development & Nominations Committee meeting (Please come by the office to sign letters if you have not done so.)

Friday, September 11 - Saturday, September 19
Warren County A & L Fair

Sunday, September 13 @ 11:50: Trustees Meeting

Sunday, September 13 @ 1:00: SPPRC Meeting

Monday, September 14 @ 10:00am

Prayer Shawl Meeting

Tuesday, September 15 @ 9:30am: UMW Meeting

Wednesday, September 16 @ 5:00pm

Meal hosted by Lucinda Smith's team

6:00pm: Abide Bible Study, Children & Youth Activities

7:00pm: Choir Practice

Thursday, September 17: Good Neighbors

Friday, September 18: Fair Day (No school)

Monday, September 21 @ 4:00pm: Church Council Strategic Planning Session

Wednesday, September 23 @ 5:00pm

Meal hosted by Peggy Bratcher's team

6:00pm: Abide Bible Study, Children & Youth Activities

7:00pm: Choir Practice

Wednesday, September 30 - Friday, October 2

New Room Conference (Tentatively no Wed. meal or activities)

Saturday, October 3 from 8:00am - 5:00pm

Autumn Street Fair

Youth Parking Lot Fundraiser

October 5-9: Fall Break Week (No Wed. night meal or activities)

Saturday, October 10 from 11:00am - 3:00pm

Recovery Fest at Freedom Life Church

October 11 @ 2:00pm: United Women in Faith Caney Fork District Annual meeting

Monday, October 12 @ 10:30am: Finance Budget Planning Meeting

Please sign the clipboard passed around on Sunday during early service or call the office by Monday morning if you plan on attending the Wednesday night meal. This helps us to be better stewards in our food preparation and keep it more cost effective.

Meals begin at 5:00pm and Bible study follows at 6:00pm.



RECOVERY FEST 2026

McMinnville's Largest Recovery Event — Presented by the Warren County Prevention & Intervention Coalition

Saturday, October 10, 2026 • 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM • Freedom Life Church • McMinnville, TN

300+

Attendees in 2025

GROWING

Largest Event in McMinnville

FREE

Open to All — No Entry Cost

1 DAY

High-Impact Community Reach

THE BIGGEST RECOVERY EVENT IN MCMINNVILLE

Recovery Fest 2026 is not just an event — it's a movement. After drawing **over 300 attendees in 2025**, this year's event is on track to be the **largest single-day recovery gathering Warren County has ever seen.**

Hosted by the Warren County Prevention and Intervention Coalition, Recovery Fest brings together individuals in recovery, families, healthcare providers, faith communities, and local organizations — all under one roof, with one shared purpose.

This is a free, public event. That means every person who walks through the door is reachable, receptive, and connected to your brand as a community leader.

WHY YOUR INVESTMENT MATTERS

- **Unmatched local visibility** — logo on shirts worn by hundreds across the community long after the event
- **Targeted audience** — patients, families, providers, employers, and community leaders in one place
- **Brand = impact** — sponsors are seen as active investors in Warren County's health and future
- **Growing year over year** — 2025 set the bar; 2026 will break it
- **Multi-channel exposure** — signage, stage, shirts, program, website, and social media
- **Credible platform** — backed by a county-recognized coalition with real, measurable outcomes

Secure Your Sponsorship Before Tiers Fill Up

Recovery Fest 2026 is on track to be the most-attended community event in McMinnville's recovery history. Your name belongs on it.

CONTACT TO SPONSOR OR REGISTER AS A COMMUNITY PARTNER

Warren County Prevention and Intervention Coalition

Trey Surles • 615-580-0699 • trey.surles@warrenprevention.org • warrenprevention.org

Scan the QR Code below to register on our website



Recovery Fest 2026 is a free, open-to-the-public event. All sponsorship proceeds directly support event production and community outreach.

2026 SPONSORSHIP TIERS

All sponsoring businesses receive logo placement on official Recovery Fest 2026 t-shirts. The higher the tier, the larger and more prominent the placement.

GOLD SPONSOR \$1,500+

The premier sponsorship — maximum visibility, maximum impact.

- LARGEST logo placement on the back of all official event t-shirts — worn by attendees, volunteers, and staff
- Premier logo position on the main stage banner and all event signage
- Named recognition from stage at event opening AND closing
- Logo featured on event websites, all pre-event promotional materials, and social media
- Dedicated social media spotlight post (1,000+ followers) before and day-of
- Featured listing in the printed event program distributed to every attendee
- Prime-location sponsored booth or table at the event
- Post-event impact report with attendance data and reach metrics
- Certificate of appreciation + priority recognition in all coalition press releases

T-Shirt Benefit: Your logo featured LARGEST on the back of every official Recovery Fest 2026 t-shirt.

Gold sponsors receive the most prominent shirt placement — ensuring your brand is visible throughout the event and across the community for months to come.

SILVER SPONSOR \$1,000

Strong visibility and stage presence at a high-value investment.

- Medium logo placement on the back of all official event t-shirts
- Logo on the main stage banner and event signage
- Recognition from stage during the event
- Logo included in the printed event program
- Listed on the event website and included in coalition social media posts
- Booth or table space at the event
- Certificate of appreciation

T-Shirt Benefit: Your logo printed on the back of every official Recovery Fest 2026 t-shirt at medium size.

Hundreds of shirts in circulation = ongoing brand exposure beyond the event day.

BRONZE SPONSOR \$500

A meaningful entry point with real community visibility.

- Smaller logo placement on the back of all official event t-shirts
- Name/logo listed in the printed event program
- Recognized on event social media as a Bronze Sponsor
- Listed on the event website
- Certificate of appreciation

T-Shirt Benefit: Your logo on the back of every official Recovery Fest 2026 t-shirt.
Every shirt is a conversation — your brand, your commitment to recovery, on display all year long.

COMMUNITY PARTNER BOOTH

Free of charge. Community Partner Booths are available at no cost to nonprofits, treatment programs, churches, and recovery organizations. We want every available resource in front of our attendees — no organization should sit out because of budget.

Donations are warmly welcomed but never required. Our priority is ensuring the community has access to every resource possible.

- Dedicated 10x10 booth space to share resources, services, and information
- Listed in the event program as a Community Partner
- Direct access to 300+ attendees and their families
- An opportunity to be part of McMinnville's most impactful recovery event

Recovery Fest 2026 is a free, open-to-the-public event. All sponsorship proceeds directly support event production and community outreach.