

From the Pastor's Study...



"Therefore prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves; set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed." (1st Peter 1:13)

For many of us July is a month filled with summer fun, outdoor activities, cookouts, and fellowship time with friends and family. However, as the summer heat continues many of us will naturally begin looking ahead toward what is next...or the fall. I know this will be especially true for our educators and students who will be returning to school very soon. This could also be true for farmers getting ready for a harvest, or even grandparents preparing their schedules for grandkid pickups/drop offs. In the coming weeks I'm sure all of us will begin making preparations in our own way for all that awaits us in August and September.

Those of us in the church are currently making preparations for Vacation Bible School this month, but we are also looking ahead toward many fall activities, studies, dialogue opportunities, and worship. As you personally prepare for what is to come this fall I hope you will make intentional plans to be a part of some of our programming ministries in the church. Sue, Nikki, Erin, and I will be looking to cultivate opportunities for you to be engaged in here at the church so that you can grow as disciples in your love for God and your love for those around you. My prayer is that all of us would prepare our hearts, minds, and bodies to be engaged in the work of sharing God's unconditional grace but also growing in that same grace day by day.

See you around the church!

Chris

FIRST UNITED METHODIST

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JOIN US!

Fellowship Time

Sundays
 10:00 am
 Gathering Area

Worship Service

Sundays
 10:30 am
 Sanctuary

Midweek Communion

Wednesdays
 12:00 pm
 Sanctuary

Wednesday nights

Choir Rehearsal
 6:00 pm
 Sanctuary
 United Methodist Youth
 6:00 pm
 Youth Room

FAQs about Rev. Chris Black's new appointment

Last week Rev. Chris Black announced that he will begin serving a new appointment beginning on July 1st 2025. Pastor Chris will remain as the full time appointed Pastor to First UMC of Madisonville, but he will also serve as the Part-Time Pastor of the historic Eleazar UMC which is in the Madisonville/Tellico Plains area. After his announcement Chris received several questions about this new opportunity. Here are the most frequent questions that he received:

When will you preach?

I will be preaching each week at 1st UMC of Madisonville and will preside there in worship at 10:30am as I have for the last 4 years. However, on the first and third Sundays of the month I will be with Eleazar UMC to preach at 9:00am. On those Sundays I will plan to leave Eleazar UMC by about 9:50am to commute 12 minutes to 1st UMC to preside in worship.

How often will you be at Eleazar vs First UMC during the week?

I will be at 1st UMC of Madisonville as normal each week, and will lead both congregations from my office here. I will go to Eleazar for meetings/emergencies/events on an as needed basis.

What about Pastoral Care?

I will be on call with them as I am with the congregation at 1st UMC of Madisonville.

Is a "Circuit" or a shared appointment a common thing?

Yes, it is a common practice and is unique to all Wesleyan denominations. The Methodist movement and the UMC Church has a long history of pastors serving multiple congregations at one time. A preacher being assigned to a circuit of churches has been part of our DNA as a denomination since our founding in the 1700's.

Can I go and visit the other church? Will they come and visit us?

Yes and (hopefully) Yes! We are better together!

What's the point of this?

This is an opportunity for both churches to share in ministry together and mutually benefit one another within our own unique contexts. We will be linked for service, outreach, and worship, but we will also be linked in our shared mission of *"making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world."*

If you have additional questions Pastor Chris would be happy to answer them for you.

Sue's News

JULY! Summer has just officially begun, but it seems like we are almost halfway through it! Most kids start back to school in early August and some of them before the end of July! Lots of people have already had a summer vacation trip, and others will be trying to cram one in during July. I am writing this on June 26, and it is only 87 degrees at the moment. Compared to the last few days, it is a cold snap! Our youth have been in the fellowship hall having lunch after a morning of ramp building at Sequoyah Village. I know they are happy for a little bit cooler day after enduring mid 90 degree days earlier this week. They have worked hard and accomplished a lot this week. They have worked on several sites in the Madisonville area. Drive through Sequoyah Village behind the church and you can see all the new ramps that have been built. I know that they have done work at the Lighthouse on 411 South. They worked on a project for the Monroe County Prevention and Wellness Coalition. They purchased items and made up and delivered hygiene kits to the Isiah 117 House. They have had great support from several adults who have worked side by side with them. Be proud of the things that our church has accomplished out in the community this week!

Our big event for July will be our Bible School that will be July 13-17 from 6-8:30pm each evening. We will again be joining forces with Madisonville Presbyterian Church and we will have classes for all ages from children through adults. If you would like to provide garden vegetables, desserts and other supper items, please let Kathleen Cornett know. Several people have volunteered to be helpers, but we can use more. It is going to be a great week of fun, fellowship and learning!

July is going to be busy. I am looking at our July calendar (which you can pick up in the gathering area) and there are happenings at our church on at least 22 days in July. Many of the days have at least 2 things on the schedule and several have three, four and five things that will be taking place. Check the schedule and get involved!

See you in July!

Sue

CONTACT US...

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We support our Church by...

Our Gifts:

- Helping to build ramps for the Monroe County community.
- Being a volunteer during our amazing Vacation Bible School!!

Our Presence:

- In church average for June-97
- Joining the youth during their mission trip and providing a meal for them.

Coffee Bar

July 6th
Glenda Parker

July 13th
Janet Tweed

July 20th
Open

July 27th
Open

Flowers

July 6th
Communion Sunday

July 13th
Open

July 20th
Open

July 27th
In honor of Carolynn and
Alfred Greenwood's
Anniversary

A thank you from one of our church leaders

Who is the First United Methodist Church?

It's you and me. Everyone of us has something to bring to the church, whether it's our time, our service and/or our money. Each one of these plays an important part in making up our church. We have many wonderful programs and missions. Jesus said we are to be servants and to spread the gospel to all people. One way to do this is to tithe or give to the church in order to support our everyday expenses, missions and programs. We need to be able to provide money for everyday expenses such as lights, heat, air, water, insurance, staff, paper for bulletins, Ignite program materials, Wednesday night meals for our youth, and providing meeting rooms for community groups such as Lions Club, Isaiah 117 House and Boy Scouts to name a few. I invite you to join me in helping us to be an active church, supporting our daily mission to provide a place to serve and worship our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you for being a church who is caring and actively serving Jesus Christ.

Regina Warfel

First UMC Trustee and Treasurer

Our church family did a great job donating backpacks this year. We did 26 backpacks for Monroe Co. students for the Christmas in July program sponsored by Good Shepherd. A big thank you to everyone who helped on this mission.

Thank you,
Regina Warfel

Supporting our Church with Prayers...

- ♦ Jennifer Waller and Family
- ♦ Harrell Family
- ♦ Nelson/Stratton Family
- ♦ Dr. Dennis Trammel
- ♦ Conley Family
- ♦ Liszeski Family
- ♦ Reedy Family
- ♦ Maiuri Family
- ♦ Wengert Family
- ♦ Peery Family
- ♦ Strickland Family
- ♦ Kefauver Family
- ♦ Stuckey/Huff Family
- ♦ Family of Betty Hicks
- ♦ Larson Family
- ♦ Ruppel Family



Volunteer Spotlight: Vanessa and Jerry Barr

For many years now Vanessa and Jerry Barr have faithfully (and voluntarily) led our youth programming here at First United Methodist Church. This group meets weekly on Wednesdays from 6:00pm to about 8:00pm (sometimes later depending on who is hanging out or wanting to chat.) They rarely ever miss a Wednesday night, and welcome all who come into the doors of the church with a meal, fellowship, activities, games, prayer, and a brief Bible lesson. The Barr's have also spearheaded other opportunities for the youth to be together like offsite activities and dinners. This is in addition to their work leading our youth on the annual Holston Conference retreat called **Resurrection** every January. Lastly, they have worked tirelessly each year to facilitate both off site and local mission trips for our youth group. All of the experiences listed above can have a profound impact on the trajectory of a young person's relationship with God and even their career and life as a young/older adult. Vanessa and Jerry have made numerous disciples over the years, and we are blessed as a church that they continue to do so. I hope you will find ways this month to thank the both of them for all their voluntary work in ministry here at First UMC.

~Thank you~

YOUTH MISSION TRIP 2025: MONROE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

The forecast called for temperatures in the 90s. It would be the hottest week so far this year. And that seems to be fairly common for the weeks we choose for the annual youth mission trip. We know to drink lots of water, put on extra sunscreen and wear our hats. Then, we get to work. This year, we worked in our home community, and it was a tremendous experience.

One of our big projects this year was to build ramps for our neighbors at Sequoyah Village. We worked with Maddie Taylor of Safer Homes to determine residents who wanted a ramp. Maddie helped us make the initial connections, and then we worked with the office manager and residents directly. We originally had seven people who wanted ramps. We scoped the project and agreed to start with two. If those two came together smoothly, we would start on a couple more. By the end of Day 1, we were asked to build an eighth ramp, and we had four started. On Day 2, we added a ninth ramp to our job list. We all seemed to find a groove. One team would build the bases. Another would dig the post holes, mix the concrete and set the poles. A third group would attach kick rails, top rails and spindles. We were fortunate to have bonus help throughout the week, and although these folks couldn't be with us the whole week, their contributions were huge, including the difficult task of building the curved portion of the ramps and railing.



On Monday, we also started two other projects. A team shopped for the items needed to put together 30 hygiene bags for children when they arrive at Isaiah 117 House. The love and care the volunteers at the house pour out on the kids there is beyond measure. When we delivered the bags on Wednesday, the volunteers shared the history and purpose of Isaiah 117 House. We hope our contributions will help provide a little comfort to those staying at the house.



We also did maintenance work on the story strolls that the Prevention and Wellness Coalition constructed at Heritage Park in Vonore. We sanded plexiglass, cleaned each board and added weatherstripping to the boards to keep moisture away from the book pages. This is such a neat project. If you're taking a walk around the lake in Vonore, stop and read the children's story along the trail. The story changes quarterly and is a fun way to read a story to kids plus get a little exercise.



Jill Alliman and Sue Hamilton worked with our youngest volunteers-Mia Barr, Julia and Grace Chermely to clean out the storage closet that houses our Blessing Box supplies. They did a super job!



Another big project that we split over a couple days was moving rock around the perimeter fence at Lighthouse. We had the privilege of meeting Sharon Davis and residents at Lighthouse. Sharon shared the story of how Lighthouse has come to be and what a story it is. Residents also opened up about what Lighthouse means to them and how it has helped them find a better path. It's an honor to have someone share such a personal story with us, and we're glad to have the opportunity to help with Lighthouse. Moving the rock was hard, physical work. Shoveling rock into buckets and wheelbarrows and then carrying buckets and pushing those wheelbarrows were tiring tasks, but our team met the challenge head on. On the second day, God gifted us with two more helpers-they do landscaping and yard work for Lighthouse and then the crew paving the parking lot used their skid steer to move the rock pile closer to the fence in the back of the property. That helped us so much, and we were very grateful.



The hard work, the heat, the aches we may have are all worth it to share Christ's love with our neighbors. All the work during the mission week is to spread God's Word and live out our faith.



At the end of each day, our youth were ready to swim at the lake and have fun. The time together as a youth group is so important. We get to know one another more, share fun-and serious-stories, and tell others what this week meant to us. Our youth are absolutely amazing, and I'm so thrilled that many took the opportunity to get to know them and work alongside them. We are thankful for all those helping us this week-whether it be through time, funds, meals or drive-throughs for encouragement. It all meant so much to us.



We look forward to sharing more with you during the July 27th Youth Worship Service. If you have any questions in the meantime, let us know.

Thank you,
Vanessa Barr