



THE SPIRIT

FOUNTAIN CITY UMC
APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER



Come Sit With Me

A few days ago, a man pulled up to the church. That morning he'd been searching for a local church that was doing good things for the community, typed it into Google, and we were the first one to come up. So he loaded up his car with about 80 pounds of canned food and drove it over. He said he grew up in a church, but hadn't quite found his way back yet. He dropped off those bags, shook a few hands, we invited him to church and said thank you, and he left.

I haven't been able to stop thinking about him.

Easter is coming. Is there somebody in your life who might be searching or carrying something heavy and not quite sure where to put it down?

Scripture gives us the story of Andrew. After he met Jesus... **"He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah.' He brought Simon to Jesus."** — John 1:41-42

Andrew didn't do anything fancy or creative. He just went and found his brother and said, in so many words, come sit with me. That was enough to change Simon's whole life. Forever.

We have the same invitation to offer. It's just you saying: come sit with me. We can figure out the rest together.

Easter is coming. Let's channel our inner Andrew and invite someone to "come sit with me" for Easter.

In Easter Hope,
Pastor Don



Church Council Meeting Update: March 26, 2026

Thursday evening, Church Council heard reports from the Trustees and Finance Committees. Trustees reported that we need to replace the 50-ton HVAC servicing the Sanctuary, Choir Room, Old Fellowship Hall, and some smaller rooms in that area. They looked at various solutions and brought a motion to Church Council that we move forward with two Trane 25-ton compressors which will be installed by Shoffner. The total cost will be finalized soon but will not exceed \$150,000. The motion was approved. Trustees also informed the Council of some units that are not fully functional and will need to be replaced the next time they break as well as some units that are working right now, but are the same age and brand of the ones that are not fully functioning. The replacement cost of the three partially functioning units that service the children's wing is estimated to be about \$250,000.

Our Finance Committee researched the various ways the church could fund the \$150,000 purchase and any near-term additional HVAC expenses. They brought a motion for the solution they determined was best which was to apply for a loan or line of credit for an amount not to exceed \$570,000 from Home Federal Bank. The plan is to ask for a loan large enough to cover any potential expenses but only borrow the amount we need, when we need it. An additional motion was made and approved that if the loan didn't get approved in time, that we would use our three-month reserve funds to pay the \$150,000 invoice until the loan is approved.

Our work isn't finished; the Generosity Team will begin to explore fundraising options - including a campaign or series of campaigns, grants, and other methods. We invite you to be in prayer for all of the committees and leaders of the church as they discern God's will and act as good stewards of the resources God has entrusted to our care.

You can also prayerfully consider how you can contribute to our HVAC repairs and replacements. God will provide a way, you just need to have your heart ready to hear how God will use your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and/or witness and have your voice ready to say, "Here I am, Lord, send me!"

Misty McComas,
Lay Leader of Fountain City United Methodist Church

PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS, SERVICE, AND WITNESS

OUR GIFTS: WEEKLY OFFERING

Feb 16-22	\$22,509
Feb 23-Mar 1	\$56,126
Mar 2-8	\$41,132
Mar 9-15	\$20,715

Thank you for your contributions to the Ministries of Fountain City UMC. Give Now.



April Menus

- 1** No Fountain City Fellowship meal or programming due to Holy Week
- 8** Chicken and Wild Rice Casserole (recipe by Melissa Charles)
- 15** Sandra Hatcher's Egg Bake (recipe by Debbie Dykeman | Breakfast for dinner!)
- 22** Cola Roast (recipe by Sarah Risdahl)
- 29** Sarah's Fried Chicken (recipe by Sarah Clay Freeland). **Last Fountain City Fellowship Meal of the semester**

- There will be a "light meal" option each week
- Meals with pork products will have a non-pork option
- Kids meals will be available upon request
- All sides will be announced weekly due to availability
- Meal are \$5 for Adults | Kids 18 & under eat free

Please help the kitchen staff plan by registering for meals. This also helps us manage our resources and reduce waste. You can register by writing it on a pew pad in the notes section, by calling the church office at 865-689-5175, or using this QR code.



April 2026 Calendar of Events

April 2: Maundy Thursday Worship Service
7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

April 3: Good Friday Worship Service
7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

April 5: Easter Sunday Worship Services
Normal Sunday Schedule

April 5: Butterfly Release | 10:45 a.m. | Courtyard

April 10: Youth Group Late -Nighter | 5pm-12am

April 12: Second Sunday Bible Study | 9:45 a.m. | WH

April 12: Growth & Connection Class | 9:45 a.m.
Room 138

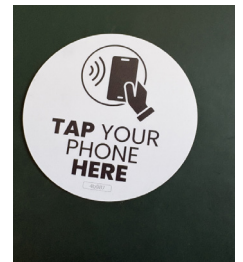
April 16: Lunch Bunch | 11:30 a.m. | Tomato Head

April 18: UWF Wesley House Tablescapes at
Cokesbury UMC

April 26: Shepherd Team Training | 12:15 p.m. | WH

Connect With One Tap

See the small sticker on the chair or pew in front of you? Just tap it with your phone and you'll instantly have access to online giving, our calendar, events, sign-ups, and more. No app, no download, no QR code to scan. It takes about two seconds and works on any smartphone. Whether you're new to Fountain City UMC or have been here for years, this is an easy way to stay connected to everything happening in our church. Give it a try!



Rev. Rachel Collins,
Pastor of Discipleship at Fountain City UMC

Second Sunday Study: Easter and Evidence

April 12 | 9:45 a.m. | WH

Easter is central to the Christian faith, but why do we believe it actually happened? This Second Sunday Bible Study will explore the historical foundations of the resurrection and help us think clearly about faith, doubt, and hope.

Whether you have questions, want a stronger foundation, or simply want to learn, this class will offer a thoughtful and approachable place to begin. Facilitated by Rev. Don Hanshew.

Let's come together during this holiest of weeks to worship, reflect, and celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This sacred time offers us all an opportunity to deepen our faith, find spiritual renewal, and experience the power of God's love.

HOLY WEEK

Maundy Thursday • April 2

Worship Service | 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper as Jesus shares the Passover meal with his disciples, instituting Holy Communion by breaking bread and sharing wine, symbolizing his body and blood. A lesson in humility and service, Jesus also washes his disciples' feet, telling them to do the same for others.

Good Friday • April 3

Tenebrae Service | 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Good Friday is a solemn time to reflect on the crucifixion of Jesus Christ and the depth of His love as we observe increasing darkness with our Tenebrae service. Jesus' death is the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of humanity, paving the way for salvation and reconciliation with God.



Easter Sunday Celebration

Come, celebrate Easter at one of our worship services, and join Fountain Kids on the front lawn for a breathtaking butterfly release to symbolize the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We will witness the beauty of transformation as butterflies take flight toward the flowers on the cross, symbolizing new life in Christ.



Scroggie Mission Endowment Fund

Every year, the Scroggie Mission Endowment Committee is tasked with stewarding Lucy Scroggie's generous financial gift to fund missions. Through a formal grant process, the committee vets applications to ensure Lucy's heart for missions is well represented by her dollars. In life, Lucy was whip smart and adventurous, with a heart for mission work. She was valedictorian in high school and went on to earn her B.S., M.S. and PhD in various chemical sciences. She was a creator and craftswoman, from photography to needlepoint to woodwork. Her attitude of service and generosity was evident in everything she touched. Lucy passed away in 2007 at the age of 72, and in her death bequeathed Fountain City UMC a financial gift to fund missions. Through her endowment, she also bestowed the church the honor and privilege of granting hundreds of thousands of dollars to charitable organizations in Knoxville and beyond.

Scroggie Mission Recipients 2026 – Totaling \$43,855

- Celebrate Recovery North at FCUMC
- FCUMC - Come Home to Bethlehem 2026
- FCUMC - 2026 Fountain Kids Vacation Bible School
- FCUMC - 2026 Rise Against Hunger
- Jubilee Project Safe & Healthy Homes in Hancock County, TN
- UTK Wesley Foundation Spring Mission Trip
- Norwood UMC Food Ministry
- FCUMC - This is Us Couples Event & Couples Ministry Launch
- Isaiah 117 House
- FCUMC - Kitchen Ministry | One More Meal Mission
- FCUMC - Young Adult Ministry | Young Adult Discovery Conference

2026 Hands on Mission Project

Thanks to the generosity of Holston churches, millions of dollars of school supplies, food buckets, and health kits continue to flow to our mission partners in Liberia and Zimbabwe, serving as vital lifelines of support.

This year, we continue the special tradition but with a new twist. FCUMC will assemble kits for children in Liberia, however, we will also provide virtual kits for \$5 per kit to Zimbabwe. This remains a powerful testimony to being the hands and feet of Christ. Please indicate in the memo line of your checks either “Zimbabwe virtual kit” or “Liberia shipping cost”. Please bring your completed buckets and cash/checks to the church office by May 2, 2026. **Thank you for supporting this important mission of Holston Conference!**

Virtual Kits for Zimbabwe | \$5.00

Food Bucket List for Liberia

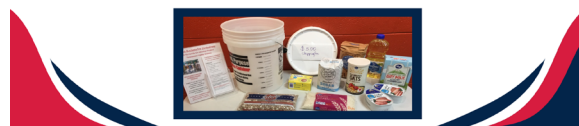
- Pack in a **new** 5-gallon bucket with lid
- 2 bags of rice (2 lb.) or 1 bag (4lbs)
- 1 oatmeal (18 oz. or less)
- Include \$5 for shipping
- 2 bags sugar (4 - 5 lb.)
- 1 bag dried beans (2 lb.)
- 1 cooking oil (48 oz. or less)



2026 HANDS ON MISSION PROJECT



- **Food Buckets For Liberia**
- **Virtual Kits for Zimbabwe**



Shepherd Team Training

April 26 • 12:15-1:45 pm
Wesley Hall (Free Lunch)

Engage with guests and members
to create a welcoming and
safe experience.

Interested in serving as a Shepherd at Fountain City United Methodist Church? Join an upcoming Shepherd Training on April 26 from 12:15–1:45 p.m. in Wesley Hall.

This training will equip you to help create a safe, welcoming, and Christ-centered environment by guiding guests, responding to needs, and supporting the flow of services.

Whether you're new or currently serving, this is a great opportunity to grow, connect, and step into this important ministry role. Lunch will be provided. Come be part of helping others feel seen, safe, and welcomed.

See you there!

Our Favorite Hymns Are About to Become a Sermon

This June, we're doing something a little different. We want to know the songs of faith that have shaped you, moved you, or stayed with you through the years. Starting the Sunday after Easter, all four of our worship services will have a chance to vote on their favorite hymns. The songs with the most love behind them will inspire a brand-new sermon series, with Pastor Don and Pastor Rachel digging into the history and meaning behind each one.

There's actually a word for what we learn through the songs we sing together: hymnody. And we think it's worth a few sermons. Dust off your hymnal, flip through your Spotify playlist, and start thinking about the songs that matter most to you. Your vote shapes what we preach.

Camp Wesley Woods Golf Tournament Monday April 27



Camp Wesley Woods is one of East Tennessee's premier Christian camps offering a spectacular setting, an incredible staff, and an outstanding program. Camp can be expensive for some families, but Camp Wesley Woods believes every child should have the opportunity to experience summer camp. The Scholarship Program is a need-based program designed to make a session at Camp Wesley Woods available to every child.

By participating in the 22nd Annual Camp Wesley Woods Golf Tournament, you're helping children in East Tennessee experience the joy of Camp Wesley Woods. For more information on sponsorship and tournament details, please visit the Camp Wesley Woods website >>



Purpose

United Women in Faith shall 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 expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.



United
Women
in Faith

Scripture

“Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices GOD is pleased.” Hebrews 13:16

RESPONSE Magazine

You can listen to Response Magazine in a podcast at uwfaith.org/resources/podcasts/.

Faith, Action and Sisterhood Circle Meetings

- **Ruth Circle:** Seeds of Hope, Mark 16:-1-7 | April 14 at 10 a.m. in Room 137
- **Sarah Circle:** Seeds of Hope, Mark 16:1-7 | April 14 at 1 p.m. in Room 137 (Bring an item for the Blessing Box)
- **Wesley Circle:** No April meeting is scheduled
- **Lydia Circle:** Wesley Foundation Supper | April 19 | Contact Chelsey Kent for more information

Our reading list for 2026 is now available. Ann Hunley will be sending it out soon. If you have questions about the reading program, please contact Ann Hunley on Realm.

FOUNTAIN KIDS

Easter Sunday | April 5

He is risen! He is risen indeed! Let's bring children to Jesus on Easter. Invite your friends and families. Children will receive an Easter gift. Let's bring one hundred children in to celebrate Jesus on Easter. The nursery will be open from 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.



Registration for Summer Day Camps is Open

- June 10 | 9-3 p.m. | Sports Camp and Outing
- June 17 | 9-3 p.m. | Cooking Camp and Outing
- June 24 | 9-3 p.m. | Kids Sportsarama and Outing

Register >>



Camp Rainforest VBS Registration Is Open!

July 20-23 | 6:00–8:15 p.m.

Let's explore the true nature of God! Get ready to explore five foundational truths about the nature of God, and embark on a wild, creature-filled Amazon adventure where kids learn that Jesus is Creator, All-knowing, our Refuge, Love, and Forever. We will have a snack dinner added this year. Register >>



Check out our new calendar! There are so many activities and events happening at FCUMC, so we've made it easier to find everything you need to know in one spot! This calendar has the most up-to-date details of everything Fountain City UMC. Use the QR code to access the new calendar!



ADULT MINISTRY

Lunch Bunch | Tomato Head | April 16 | 11:30 a.m.

The Lunch Bunch is all about good food and good company! We gather on the third Thursday each month to enjoy a meal together while exploring local spots. For April, we're heading to Tomato Head on Market Square. Please consider carpooling or riding the bus, which will leave at 11:05 a.m. from the church. This group is sponsored by the Young at Heart Group, and all are welcome. Come join us as we share a meal, laughter, and time together around the table!

Young at Heart



Hot Summer Nights July 23, 2026

- Salsa Dance Lessons
- Financial Harmony Discussion



Details & Register



Join us

and learn some



hot dance moves AND hot money tips!

Join Fountain City UMC's Couples' Ministry on Thursday, July 23 for our first quarterly date night! Grab your partner to learn some sweet dance moves, followed by some just as sweet financial tips. Shake your moneymaker, in more ways than one! It takes coordination and communication between couples to master the two-step, and the same could be said for mastering your money. Full details and registration information coming soon! Please use this QR code to fill out the interest form for Hot Summer Nights!



United
Women
in Faith

Wesley House Tablescapes will take place on Saturday, April 18 at Cokesbury UMC. Our unit has reserved one table for eight people. Please let Martha Routh know as soon as possible if you would like to attend (865-803-9861).

The Singers and Seniors ride again! On Saturday, May 9, the Chancel Choir and senior adults will take a coach bus to the Barter Theatre in Abingdon, VA. We will depart at 10:00 a.m. and return immediately following the show at approximately 6:30/7:00 p.m.

After a buffet lunch at Fiddler's restaurant, we will see *Always...Patsy Cline*. Curtain time is 2:00 p.m. The cost for transportation and show ticket is \$100. Individuals will pay for lunch on site (\$15 or less). Reserve your spot soon!

Singers & Seniors Day Trip!

Musical in Abingdon, VA

Saturday, May 9, 2026

\$100 per person
Registration & Payment
Deadline: May 2

Details &
Register



YOUTH MINISTRY

FCUMC Youth Late-Nighter

We are having a later-nighter event on Friday, April 10! The cost is \$15 per student, which covers food and games. We will play individual and group games with lots of prizes, and most important-have fun! If an FCUMC Youth Group student brings a friend, both will receive a \$5 discount on their registration when they sign up together! This event is open to all students grades 6-12. If cost is a concern or you have any other questions, please contact Matt Randle at matt.randle@fountaincityumc.org.

FCUMC Youth Late-Nighter

April 10 | 5 pm-12 am

Food and games | lots of prizes!

\$15 per student or get a \$5
discount when students invite
a friend and sign up together!



Sign up

OUR PRESENCE
Celebrating With Our Church Family

**Please join us in celebrating
the following blessings!**

The birth of Emori Kate Fine, on February 24, 2026.
Mother is Makayla Fine. Congratulations!

The birth of Davis James Marshall, on February 19,
2026. Parents are Abbey & Hayden Marshall.
Congratulations!

The birth of Kennedy Blake Shipman, on February
19, 2026. Parents are Alex & Courtney Shipman.
Congratulations!

The birth of Laurel Leigh Freeman, on February 27,
2026. Parents are Trevor & Haleigh Freeman.
Congratulations!

The baptism of Gracelynn Striebel, on April 22, 2026 in
the 11:00 a.m. Traditional service. Blessings!

New Member, Teresa Smith, joined our church family
on March 18, 2026 in her Fountain City Fellowship
Class. Welcome!

Join FCUMC's Grow Group!

Love to get your hands in the soil? New spring flowers pushing up through the ground get you excited? Do you find satisfaction in pulling weeds, deadheading flowers, and cleaning up flower beds?

If you said yes to any of these questions, you are invited to join the volunteer group that cares for the FCUMC grounds! It's almost time to mulch beds and plant spring flowers. We need help tending the gardens through spring, summer and fall. Email Prudence Spencer at prudence.spencer@fountaincityumc.org or Nancy Nolen at nmnolen@comcast.net to sign up!



We Offer Our Sympathy to

Chris Alley in the death of her husband,
Bill Alley, on March 15, 2026.

IN MEMORY & IN HONOR

General Ministry & Missions

In Memory of Tommy Schumpert by Woody & Kathy Farrell, Elizabeth Gryder, Jean Payne, and Charlie & Sharon Dobbins Johnson

In Memory of Mark Settle by The Irwin Family, Eddie & Leah Kilby, Susan Truxul, Pamela Nadolsky, and Kristi Cathey

In Memory of Pete Brown by Brenda Therry

Choir Fund

In Memory of Walter Griffin by Mark Biagi

In Memory of Bettye Lane by Mark Biagi

In Memory of Walter Griffin by Woody & Kathy Farrell

In Honor of Kendall Marine by Joe Marine

Sloan Scholarship

In Memory of Tommy Schumpert by Mark Biagi

In Memory of Ruth Crawley by Mark Biagi

Youth Ministry Endowment

In Memory of Mark Settle by Lee & Susan Iglehart

Campaign 320

In Memory of Tommy Schumper by David & Lucy Smith

Our next community meal will be **April 25 at 5:30 p.m.** in Wesley Hall. Join us as we open our doors to the community for a warm meal and fellowship! This event is open to everyone in the church, our housed and unhoused neighbors, and of course, anyone else who is hungry.

We have some great cooks so come and eat with us!



Understanding Communication Dynamics

Sundays, April 12-May 17 | 9:45 a.m. in Room 138

Have you ever questioned why certain conversations seem to fall flat? Or how can you express one thought, yet someone interprets it entirely differently? This class delves into our innate wiring and examines how personality and communication styles influence our daily interactions—whether at home, in the workplace, or in relationships. Additionally, we will explore the insights from the book *I Said This, You Heard That* by Kathleen Edelman.

This class is facilitated by Cassidy Taylor who is currently an Academy Coach at Central High School, and a former College and Career Advisor at Powell High School. Cassidy's background is in education, including early childhood. Come grow, connect, and learn together.

Learn More >>

