



THE SPIRIT

FOUNTAIN CITY UMC
MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

I love going to the movies. There is something almost sacred about sitting in a movie theater, popcorn in hand, maybe a smuggled-in Kbrew to drink... I mean, of course, a soda, within reach, and allowing myself to rest. Not scroll. Not multitask. Not produce. Just be.

For a couple of hours, I am immersed in a new world, one that asks nothing from me except to be present. It's something I don't indulge in nearly enough.

In a culture that rewards constant output, the act of sitting still and receiving a story feels almost countercultural. Cinema, at its best, becomes a kind of liturgy of rest. It reminds us that we are not machines, even as we increasingly live alongside them.

Storytelling holds a profound place in our human experience. It has me wondering where, when, and how we share our stories as people of God. Each of us carries a story worth knowing. These stories may stretch us, invite us to wrestle with new possibilities, and even confront the unknown within ourselves or our communities. But-and this is the important part- it is worth that risk.

We are called to share our stories in creative and nuanced ways, and we are also called to rest. I'm learning these aren't always separate practices. Especially when we get creative in how we share... rest and creativity become deeply intertwined. When we rest, we make space for imagination. When we engage in stories, we participate in something larger than ourselves.

So, as we move toward the end of the school year, I invite you to remain rooted in rest. Keep asking questions that spark curiosity. Nurture your creativity. Tell your story in ways that inspire.

Because your story matters. You matter.

Blessings,
Pastor Rachel



Wednesday Night Programming

Our time together on Wednesday nights has come to an end for this season, but don't worry, we'll be back on August 19 with more opportunities to learn and grow!

In the meantime, your voice matters. What would help you engage your faith more deeply? What topics or practices would help you live into loving God, loving your neighbor, and loving yourself more fully? Share your ideas by emailing pastor.rachel@fountaincityumc.org. Your input will help shape what's ahead this coming year.

Pastors

Rev. Don Hanshew, Senior Pastor
Rev. Rachel Collins, Pastor of Discipleship

Email: pastor.don@fountaincityumc.org
pastor.rachel@fountaincityumc.org

Pastor On Call

Text or call 865-689-7894
(After hours & weekends)

Sunday Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. Traditional Service (Sanctuary)
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday Morning Discipleship
- 11 a.m. Journey Contemporary Service (Gym)
- 11 a.m. Traditional Service (Sanctuary)

Childcare & children's ministry are provided from 8:30 a.m. through the conclusion of 11 a.m. worship.

**PRAYERS, PRESENCE, GIFTS,
SERVICE, AND WITNESS**

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

**OUR GIFTS:
WEEKLY OFFERING**

Mar 16-22	\$30,056
Mar 23-29	\$15,301
Mar 30-Apr 5	\$34,996
Apr 6-12	\$19,852
Apr 13-19	\$39,409



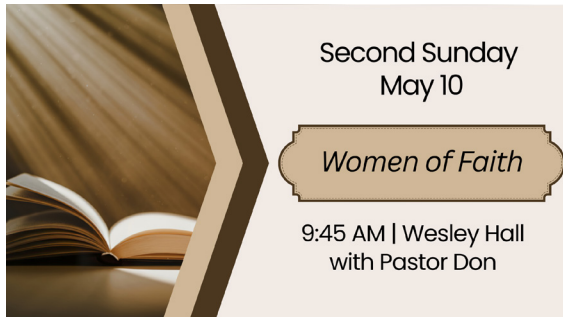
Volunteer At The Welcome Center

Volunteers are needed to serve in the Welcome Center on Sunday mornings! This is a wonderful ministry where we greet members and welcome guests to the church in a warm and caring environment.

We need greeters, guides to show guests to Sunday school classes and services, people to manage our magnificent display of breakfast goodies, and to make coffee and help with clean up.

Email Britney Barthol to say YES to volunteering at the Welcome Center!
(connections@fountaincityumc.org.)

**Second Sunday Study | May 10 at 9:45 a.m.
Women of Faith:
The Often Overlooked Voices of Scripture**



From Shiphrah and Puah to Mary Magdalene, the story of God’s people is full of remarkable women whose courage shaped history. As we celebrate Mother’s Day, we will look at several whose names you may have missed but won’t forget anymore!

May 2026 Calendar of Events

- May 9:** Singers & Seniors Day Trip
- May 10:** Mother’s Day | Flower Cart in Courtyard
- May 10:** Second Sunday Study | 9:45 am | WH
- May 15:** Preschool Graduation | 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary
- May 16:** Cemetery Cleanup Day | 9 a.m.
- May 25:** Office Closed for Memorial Day
- May 31:** Mission Trip Youth/Parent Meeting 5:30 pm in Wesley Hall



May 10 is Mother’s Day!
Make plans with your mother and entire family to attend church together to celebrate the women in your lives. We will have our amazing flower cart for the ladies in the courtyard again this year with photo opportunities. So, let’s make some memories!

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!



Connect with FCUMC! Realm offers church members and attenders connection to small groups and Sunday Discipleship classes, online giving, church event registrations, and the latest church news. Want to get signed up? Contact Chad Chamberlain in the church office at chad.chamberlain@fountaincityumc.org

At Fountain City UMC, service is an intricate part of what we do. Service to those who come through our church doors, service to the Fountain City community and greater Knoxville area, and service around the world through our mission partners. Check out the opportunities below to give back and help those in need.

A HEART FOR SERVICE

2026 Hands on Mission Project Kits Due By May 4!

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.

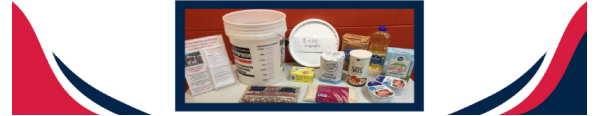
This year, we continue the special tradition but with a new twist. FCUMC is assembling kits for children in Liberia, however, we will also provide virtual kits for \$5 per kit to Zimbabwe. This remains a powerful testimony to being the hands and feet of Christ. Please indicate in the memo line of your checks either "Zimbabwe virtual kit" or "Liberia shipping cost". Please bring your completed buckets and cash/checks to the church office by May 4, 2026. **Thank you for supporting this important mission of Holston Conference!**



2026
HANDS ON
MISSION PROJECT



- Food Buckets For Liberia
- Virtual Kits for Zimbabwe



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)

Goodies For Gresham Middle School

FCUMC is sponsoring an end of the year meal for the Gresham teachers/staff on Monday, May 4. Homemade desserts are needed and can be dropped off on Sunday May 3 or by 10 a.m. on Monday, May 4 in the church office.

Gresham Prayer Partners

Thank you to everyone who has served as a Gresham Prayer Partner this school year. As school comes to a close (the last day is May 21!), please remember to spoil your prayer partner with gifts of prayer, praise and appreciation! And don't forget those summer birthdays! We need to send all gifts/cards to GMS before the last week of school. Please bring all packages to the designated boxes at the church by Sunday, May 10.



Prudence Spencer, FCUMC Facilities Director Needs Volunteers

- **Strong men** to carry heavy things various daytime and weekend hours (one day a week).
- **Cleaners, Organizers, Painters, Plumbers, Electricians, Carpenters, Masonries, Welders, and Landscapers** | various weekday and weekend hours.
- **Celebrate Recovery Setup** | Tuesdays at 2 p.m.
- **Journey Set up** | Sundays at 8 a.m.
- **Friday Family Funday Volunteers** | Begins May 22 | Set up at 5:30 p.m. and clean up at 9-9:30 p.m. Volunteers will host every six weeks.

Email Prudence to volunteer at prudence.spencer@fountaincityumc.org



ADULT MINISTRY

Young at Heart

There is so much to entertain for Young at Heart in the coming months! Just because programming on Wednesdays is winding down doesn't mean the fun is stopping. Singer and Seniors will soon be on their way to Abingdon VA. Use the QR code to the right to learn more and register for all of that fun!

Singers & Seniors Day Trip!
Musical in Abingdon, VA
Saturday, May 9, 2026

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



Details & Register



Interested but need to stay more local?

Lunch Bunch happens every 3rd Thursday of the month. (Except July!)

- **May 21** | Litton's! Keeping it really local this time, we can't wait to fill up the space with fun and laughter.
- **June 18** | Aspire Park's "The Pearl"
- **July 6** | We are going to mix it up a little bit and head out earlier in the month. Join in for Mighty Musical Monday at the Tennessee Theater, featuring House Organist Freddie Brabson on the Mighty Wurlitzer Organ, joined by Tipton Station! Tipton Station is a bluegrass band located in South Knoxville. They are all current students or recent alumni of South-Doyle High School and have been playing music together for three years! Pack your own lunch to eat in the theater and then a little pocket money, because we will walk over to Cruze Farm's ice cream parlor after the show! Leaving the church at 11:15 a.m. and returning at 1:30 p.m.

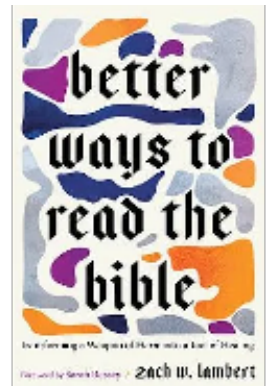


YOUNG ADULTS MINISTRY

Better Ways to Read the Bible by Zach Lambert

It is not too late to join this group of people in their twenties and early thirties as they explore the Bible and consider how faith moves into action through a variety of books.

The group meets Sunday evenings from 6 to 8 pm in a variety of locations. Reach out to Pastor Rachel at pastor.rachel@fountaincityumc.org for details on where to find them this week.



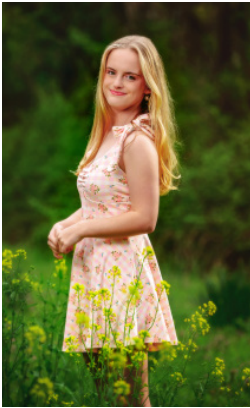
Preschool Graduation

Join the staff and families of Fountain City UMC Preschool for a graduation celebration as the Class of 2026 embarks on a new chapter - Kindergarten!

Graduation will take place on May 15 at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Everyone is invited!

Congratulations Class of 2026 Graduates!



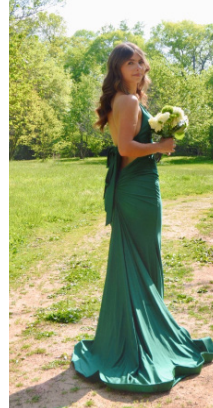
Darby Brown is graduating from Central High School and plans to study Pre Dental Hygiene at Pellissippi State Community College and later transfer to ETSU with the goal of being a pediatric dental hygienist. Parents are David & Misty Brown



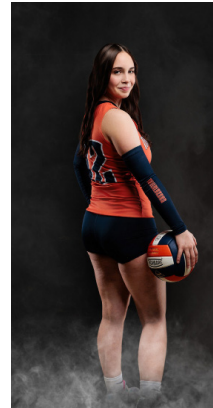
Lara Calhoun is graduating from Central High School on May 19. She will attend UTK in the fall and major in Elementary Education. Parents are Brett & Paula Calhoun.



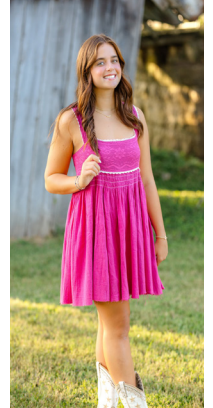
Anna Lee Castleberry is graduating from Webb School of Knoxville and plans to attend UTK in the fall majoring in Journalism & Media on a pre-law track. Parents are Chris & Betsy Castleberry.



Chelsea Charles is graduating from Central High School. She will attend Pellissippi State to pursue a degree in Business Administration. Parents are Seth & Joy Charles.



Abrey Thomas is graduating from Knox County Virtual School and plans to attend Johnson University to pursue a degree in Nursing. Parents are Seth & Joy Charles.



Emory Slack is graduating from Lipscomb Academy and will be attending the University of Tennessee Chattanooga. Father is Foster Slack.



Aidan Brown is graduating with a Bachelors of Science degree in Political Science from UTK. He is the son of Alice Brown and Chad Chamberlain.



Thomas Hanshew is graduating with an Applied Psychology degree and Art History minor from New York University, ready to pursue his Mental Health Counselor License with interest in the intersection of art and mental health. Parents are Don & Carol Hanshew.



Gaige Harold is graduating from Halls High School and signed with Roane State where he will play basketball and study Business Administration. Parents are Dale & Liz Harold.



Jaylen Stolz is graduating from Northview Academy in Kodak. He will pursue a career in business and will also join the Tusculum University football team on scholarship. Grandparents are Justin & Cindy Dunlap



Samuel Swanger, grandson of Susan Todd, is graduating from L&N Stem Academy and will attend UTK, Herbert College of Agriculture. Parents are Michael and Becky Swanger.



FOUNTAIN CITY UMC IS SO PROUD OF YOU!

YOUTH MINISTRY

It's Mission Trip Time!

Come join the FCUMC Youth as they travel to Kimball, WV to assist with flood cleanup efforts and home repairs. Departure is on Saturday, June 27 and the return date is Thursday, July 2. Lodging will be at a local UMC.

The cost of the trip is \$75 which covers food, transportation, and lodging. \$25 is due at the time of registration, and the remainder is due by June 1, 2026. (installment payments are available by contacting the church office). If you have any questions, please contact Matt Randle at matt.randle@fountaincityumc.org.



PLEASE NOTE: If you are a Youth Volunteer, please select “Youth Volunteer” as your Registration Type.

PARENTS: There will be a mandatory Mission Trip Youth/Parent Meeting on Sunday, May 31 at 5:30 p.m. in Wesley Hall. Dinner will be served.

Register >>



FOUNTAIN KIDS

FOUNTAIN KIDS SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- Fountain Kids Sunday School • 9:45 a.m.
- Fountain Littles Sunday School • 9:45 a.m.
- Fountain Kids Bible Experience • 11 a.m.
- Fountain Littles Childcare • 11 a.m.

Join Fountain Kids on Sundays for Sunday School and Fountain Kids Bible Experience. Check-in on Sunday mornings is located at the Kidcheck station at the Welcome Center at Door #2.

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. | Sportalooza and Outing



Register



Register For Camp Rainforest VBS

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 >>



We Offer Our Sympathy to

Dolores Smith, in the death of her son,
Kenneth Smith, on March 31, 2026.

Donna Lewis and Bart McFadden on the death
of Robert "Bob" McFadden on April 15, 2026

Cindy Dunlap in the death of her uncle,
William "Buddy" Roach, on April 21, 2026.

IN MEMORY & IN HONOR

General Ministry & Missions

In Memory of Bill Alley by Jim & Pam Hoos, Woody & Kathy Farrell, David & Lucy Smith, Tom & Martha Dolinak, Karen Needy, Ken & Lynne Carringer, Ted Flickinger, Jr. & Julie Howard, Paula Wright, and Thomas & Sandra Dickenson
In Honor of Sandy Morgan by Tom & Emily Cloud
In Honor of Becky Ripley by Tom & Emily Cloud
In Memory of Kenneth Smith by Wanda Majors

Choir Fund

In Memory of Fran Burroughs by Alan & Beth Witt

Sound & Tape Fund

In Honor of the Sound Room Guys by Chris Alley

Youth Endowment Fund

In Memory of Bill Alley by Lee & Susan Iglehart

Youth Fund

In Memory of Tom Schumpert by Melody Johnson

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 deadheading flowers, pulling weeds 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!



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!

Cemetery Cleanup Event | May 16



FCUMC will host cemetery cleanup days in May and October each year to care for and honor those laid to rest there. Volunteers of all ages are welcome. Please consider joining us for a time of service and fellowship as we work together to keep this sacred place beautiful.

Sign up for May 16 >>



Altar flowers are a wonderful way to honor or remember those we hold dear. This year, we are taking registrations for altar flower sponsorship in a new way. Using Realm, congregants can select a Sunday to sponsor in 2026, specify the colors or types of flowers to be used in the arrangements, and enter the dedication they would like to see in the bulletin that Sunday morning.



The cost for altar flower sponsorship is still \$65 and can be paid online at the time of registration. Registrations are only one per Sunday and are first come, first serve, so please register using this QR code to select your Sunday!



Contact Chad Chamberlain in the church office at 865-689-5175 or chad.chamberlain@fountaincityumc.org with any questions or for more information.

