

Wesley Heritage

John and Charles Wesley, George Whitefield, and William Morgan formed a “holy club” at Oxford in 1729, beginning the Methodist movement. By the time of John’s death in 1791, the movement had 72,000 members in the British Isles and 60,000 in America.

Let's get connected.

If you are active at FUMC and have an email address on file, you received an email on April 26 inviting you to join Realm Connect. Through Realm Connect, you will be able to update and add personal information, upload profile pictures, view your financial statements and giving, and see pictures and contact information for other church members (an online, on-demand church directory)!

We encourage you to join Realm Connect. On your smartphone, tablet, or computer, follow the link in the email to get started. If you would like to be listed in the new online directory but don't have an email address or electronic device, please call the church office at 865-483-4357 and let us know you would like to be added!

May Special Offering

The special monthly offering for May will go toward First Recovery. First Recovery is a vital ministry of FUMC that offers help, hope, and healing to individuals struggling with substance misuse disorder. Ministries like First Recovery show us how faith-based healing, recovery coaching, and peer encouragement can be transformative. They offer a blueprint of second chances rooted in spiritual care and human dignity. First Recovery is a growing ministry that serves a significant need in our community. To support the May Special Offering, mail a check to: First UMC, 1350 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. Notate “monthly offering” in the memo line.

First United Methodist Church
1350 Oak Ridge Turnpike
Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Office: 865-483-4357
Pastor-on call: 865-272-9862
<https://fumcor.org>

First Things

May 2026

A Night of Resilience and Recovery

First Recovery welcomes Tom Farley.



First Recovery recently hosted a memorable evening featuring author Tom Farley, who shared his personal story of recovery and life with his famous brother, the late comedian Chris Farley. His testimony was a profound reminder of the power of resilience when facing loss and struggle in the public eye.

We also had the joy of celebrating FUMC Church Member Heather Atwell’s two years of sobriety! The room was filled with emotion as First Recovery’s women’s coordinator, Brandi Pedigo, and Caroline Beidler presented Heather with a special moment of recognition.

Special thanks to Caroline Beidler for organizing this event and for sharing copies of her new book, *When You Love Someone in Recovery*, with our attendees.

First Recovery meets weekly in an "open meeting," which means anyone—regardless of their personal history—is welcome to join us to hear stories of God’s grace and transformation. You don’t have to be in recovery to be a part of First Recovery; our doors are open to everyone.

Joys and Concerns

New Members:

Anne Travis joined 3/29 by UMC transfer.

Duncan Frazier joined 4/19 by UMC transfer.

Recently Hospitalized:

Ed Ducko, Melinda Holder, Jerry Johnson, Chuck Melcher, Pat Ryan

In Sympathy:

Evelyn Martin (died 3/10); service was held on March 14.

Dean Niehaus (died 3/26); service arrangements are incomplete at this time.

Patricia “Pat” Coffey (died 4/1); service was held at FUMC on April 9.

A Note from the Pastor

Letting Summer Become a Season of Renewal

As summer approaches, our daily rhythms often shift. Longer days, warmer weather, and changing schedules can make it easy to drift away from the practices that keep our spirits grounded. This season can also be a wonderful opportunity to create a faith-filled routine that brings steadiness, comfort, and connection.

One simple practice is to anchor each day with a moment of quiet—perhaps reading a favorite Psalm, offering a short prayer, or sitting in stillness while noticing God’s presence. Even five minutes can gently reorient the heart.

Staying connected matters, too. A weekly phone call with a friend from church, participating in worship through the livestream or in person, or joining a small group by phone can nurture a sense of belonging. These small touchpoints remind us that we are part of a community that cares for one another.

Finally, look for signs of grace in ordinary moments: sunlight through a window, a kind word from a neighbor, the beauty of creation just outside your door. Let these become reminders that God meets us right where we are.

May this summer be a season of renewal, peace, and gentle spiritual growth.

In Christ’s Love,
Pastor Ken



May Birthdays

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Mark McClure | 16 Connor Thornburgh |
| 2 Ivy Cook, Steve Cristy, Linda Goodwin, Steve Gordon, Carole Krummel, Rod Lee | 17 Tom Kiser, Susan White |
| 4 Peter Magill | 18 Dorothy Cole, Mary Ann Shults |
| 5 Jarrett Burgess, Fred McLean | 19 Roger Macklin |
| 6 Louise Archer, Addie Driskill, Betty Greer, Beth Van Fossen | 20 Sarah Lively |
| 7 Curt Holmes | 21 Janelle Reuter |
| 8 Angela England | 22 Elizabeth Nottingham |
| 9 Rebecca Beams, Scott Shepherd, Spencer Shults, Elizabeth Whitus | 23 Becky Horton |
| 10 Hank Chilton, Ella Hay, Becky Szymanski, Shawn Fox | 24 Claire Gibson, Charlie Hahs, Everly Peters |
| 12 Linda Battle, Ellen Kennel, Cynthia Markus-Brock, Meagan Whitney | 25 Caroline Benton, Dick Davis, Will Jeter, Chuck Melcher, Jessica Folino |
| 13 Richard Whitman | 26 Scott Benton, Diana Griffith, Kara Renegar, Steve Shults |
| 14 Danielle Gallaher, Henry Kittle, Janice Lovelace | 27 Matt Benton, Sylvia Mooney |
| 15 Betsy Asnip, Christina Butcher, Abby Caughman, Nancy Vath, Bruce Spangler | 28 Lori Harder, Chris Lindsley, Pat Smith, Matthew Sigeas |
| | 29 Fred Barry, Ann Farrar, Dawn Hammer |
| | 30 Miriam Bonner, Sara Gilmartin, Anita Greenlee, Jenna Orszula |

Stewardship Report

As of March 31, 2026

- 2026 YTD Offering & Other Income: \$391,428
- 2026 YTD Budget Expenses: \$357,111
- 2025 YTD Offering & Other Income: \$397,719
- March Special Offering (McCaskill Scholarship): \$650.00

All Around First Church

Next Gen Ministries

Despite the rainy weather, the children's Easter Egg Hunt was a success! Over 2,000 eggs were hidden (thank you, youth!) and then found (thank you, children!) in four different locations inside the church building. A huge thank you goes out to all the children who participated and their parents who got them there that morning!

Next Gen Ministries will be adding a part-time staff person soon! After reading resumés and conducting interviews, the person we have selected to serve as the Children's Ministry Coordinator will be arriving next month. We are excited to welcome them aboard to expand our children's ministry with new ideas and energy.



Above: Children's Easter Egg Hunt

Left: Youth outing to an Escape Room over Spring Break



The first Evening Grace service was held in the Chapel on Easter. At 6:00 p.m. on the first Sunday of every month, all are invited to gather in this worship rooted in the 12-steps and featuring jazz music.



In Maundy Thursday worship on April 2, congregants gathered around the Lord's Table.



Silly FUMC staff!



Girl Scout Troops 20040 and 21158, which meet at FUMC, recently made a generous donation of the famous Girl Scout cookies to Community Meals.