The second Summer Shoppe served 52 families and 248 individuals – a 40% increase over last year. It was a BIG undertaking! Many thanks to all who shared so generously with our community through donations of time, talent, and treasure!

July Special Missions Offering

The July Special Offering will benefit the Family Resource Center (FRC) of Oak Ridge. Housed at Willow Brook and Glenwood Elementary Schools, the FRC offers a variety of services to our Oak Ridge Schools students and their families. Programs include: Food for Kids (hosted and coordinated by FUMC volunteers together with other community volunteers), school supplies, a Clothing Closet, and tutoring programs. The FRC also offers community resource networking, case management, and emergency assistance for families for rent, utilities, medicines, gasoline, food, clothing, and transportation. Adult programs include parenting and budgeting classes, and job skills and resume assistance. The FRC is a vital community resource right here in Oak Ridge. If you would like to support the July Special Missions Offering, you can 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

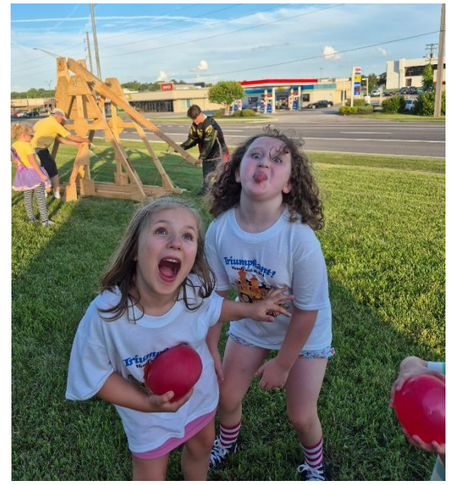
Office: 865-483-4357
Pastor-on-call: 865-272-9862
https://fumcor.org

First Things

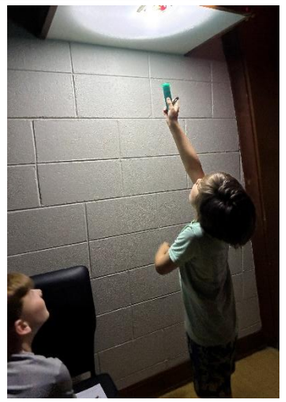
July 2026

Huzzah!!!

Vacation Bible School was Triumphant!



HUZZAH!!! VBS was a huge success! We spent the week focusing on lessons like trusting God when we're cornered, waiting, outmatched, or preparing for battle. Battling what exactly? Battling our fears and temptations. We revisited passages on Moses parting the Red Sea, Joshua conquering Jericho, David defeating Goliath, and putting on the armor of God. Snacks were eaten, crafts were created, games were played, stories were told, and dances were performed and perfected! It was a very energetic and fun week for our 25 registered kids!



A HUGE thank you is due to all the leaders who volunteered to make the week spectacular and meaningful for our kids! Their sacrifices of time and presence made the week what it was for these kids. Rest assured, God used every volunteer to plant seeds of faith in the lives of these young people. Perhaps now they move into the future with a little more courage and trust, having learned that God goes with them into whatever battles they face.

Prayer Needs

Recently Hospitalized:
Tim Burchell, Ed Ducko, Linda Goodwin, Wayne Houlberg, Dan Ingersoll

In Sympathy:

Steve Bell (died 5/30); service was at FUMC on June 6.

Katie Johnson (died 6/5); service was at FUMC on June 10.

Pat Ryan (died 6/8); service is scheduled at FUMC on July 18.

A Note from the Pastor

Summer has a way of slowing us down, not just in our schedules, but in our spirits. The long days invite us to linger a little more, breathe a little deeper, and pay attention to the world that God keeps renewing right in front of us. For who spend time at home can become a gentle reminder that God's love reaches us right where we are.

Staying in love with God during these warm months doesn't require travel, activity, or even leaving your favorite chair. It begins with noticing the holy in the ordinary. A morning spent near a window can become a moment to whisper a prayer of gratitude. Watching sunlight move across the room can become a small practice of the presence of God. Even listening to the hum of a fan or the soft sounds of the house can remind us that God meets us in stillness as surely as in activity.

Summer also gives us space to reconnect with Scripture, with memories that have shaped us, and with the steady love of the One who has carried us through every season. Maybe this is the time to reread a favorite psalm, revisit an old devotional, or call someone who has been on your heart. These small, faithful practices help keep our spirits open and tender.

My prayer for you is simple: that this summer, you feel God's love not as something you must chase, but as something already surrounding you: warm, steady, and faithful as the season itself.

In Christ's Love, Pastor Ken

July Birthdays

1 Elaine Brubaker, John Leitnaker

3 Judy Chilton

4 Mike Watkins

5 Cheryl Creek, Sally Dagenhart, Ron Flippen, Jeanie Gregory, Erin Webb, Martin Grossbeck

6 Trudy Cartagena, Denny Siemsen

7 Don Batchelor, Jason Gallaher, Marsha Thomas

8 Colin Anderson, Carinne Cheney, Alan Owen

9 Molly Jernigan, Evelyn McKamy, Rachel McMillan

11 Madeline Luby, Bennett Ochs, Katie Ingersoll

12 Melinda Brown, Lawrence Carico, Elaine Graham, Angie Luby

13 Linda Horton, Conlin Webb, Carol Yoakley-Terrell, Barbara Hudak-Scheirer

14 Betty Dreyer

15 Judy Hill, Jan Melcher

17 Pam Dagenhart, Susan Garrott, Kay Lezatte, Kevin Tupper

18 Thelma Tyndall

19 Byrl Adkisson, Cooper Bell

20 Abby Ragan, Tina Trent

21 Steve Larson, Dick Schreiber

22 Dutch Blijlevens, Eric Kelly

23 Carolyn Lindsley, Andrew Miller

24 Joyce Moore, Dauna Sample

25 Barbara Casey

26 Richard Evans

27 Rose Anne Bell, Shelly Doyle

28 Finnley Mindrup

29 Glenn Greer, Jason Harder, Kandy Pearson, Brian Wilson

30 Liz Batchelor, Pat Frye, Ron Lands

31 Christina Bean

Stewardship Report

As of May 31, 2026

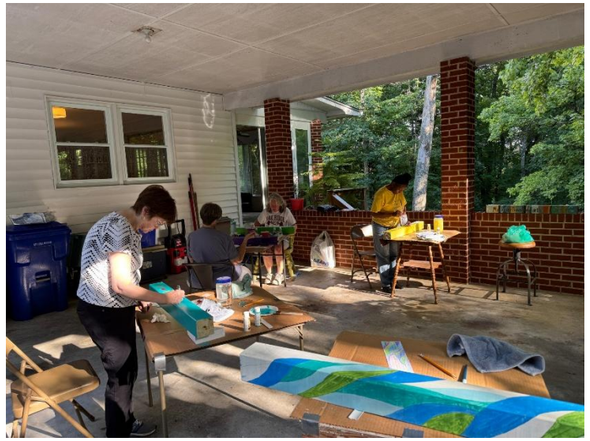
2026 YTD Offering and Income: $663,881
2026 YTD Budget Expenses: $607,344
2025 YTD Offering and Income: $604,754

May Special Offering (First Recovery): $2,915

All Around First Church

Rainbow Sunday

On Sunday, June 14, First Church came together for worship in what was a beautiful tapestry of song and message demonstrating our hope, justice, and belonging. Special thanks to guest preacher, Rev. Caryl Griffin Russell, and the Choral Majority of the Appalachian Equality Chorus. (Photos by Kali Bargiel)



The Tuesday Creativity Group made Peace Poles as part of the Rotary/Altrusa Peace Pole Project.

First Steps CDC kicked off the summer with plenty of fun, games, and food!