Wesleyan Heritage

John and Charles Wesley are most closely tied to the Methodist movement, which gave birth to what is now the United Methodist denomination. But United Methodists aren't the only Wesleyans. 80 denominations in 138 countries trace their roots to the Wesleys and the Holy Club at Oxford.

UWF Fellowship

The First Church United Women of Faith Christian Homemaking Circle recently gathered with some of our FUMC friends for fellowship at The Glen of Oak Ridge.

November Special Offering

The monthly Special Offering for November will support First Church's Shoppes. Summer Shoppes was busy this year, providing food and household staples to a record number of families. Now, Christmas Shoppes season is in full swing, and your support is greatly appreciated! Monetary donations will help provide meals and staples for families, as well as Christmas gifts for our neighbors in need. We are so grateful for your support! If you would like to give to the November Special Offering, follow the link below or 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

November 2026

All Things Adults

Tried, true, *and* new opportunities bring adults together.

For years, the XYZ Luncheon was a mid-month, mid-day staple for adults in our church and community. After a brief hiatus, the Adult Luncheon made a comeback last year with hit programming that included "The Missing Goats." Around the same time, several new regular fellowship opportunities for adults of all ages began. On any given week, you can find First Church folks together with community members enjoying coffee at Calamity's, walking along Melton Hill, gathering for Mahjong Mondays, playing pickleball at ORHS, or doing crafts around the church. These offerings stand alongside other longstanding activities like Ballroom Dancing and Bridge. Most recently, the newly formed "Senior Travelers" have launched a monthly "day trip" to a nearby destination. In October, the Senior Travelers visited the Amish Community in Muddy Pond, TN, and in November they will take a cruise on the Knoxville Star Riverboat.

Joys and Concerns

Recently Hospitalized:

Ed Ducko, Matt Holder, Bob Schultz

In Sympathy:

Sandy Elkins (died 10/17); services at FUMC on Nov. 7, 6:00 p.m.

Ken Luckmann (died 10/18); graveside service at Oak Ridge Memorial Park on Nov. 20, 3:00 p.m.

Carole Stoops (died 10/22); services in Indiana.

Dana Parker (died 10/25); services at FUMC on Nov. 7, 1:00 p.m.

A Note from the Pastor

What helps you remember?

In Luke 7, Jesus is invited to dinner at the home of Simon the Pharisee. During the meal, an unnamed woman, known in the community only as a sinner, enters the room. She kneels at Jesus' feet, washes them with her tears, dries them with her hair, kisses them, and anoints them with costly perfume. To Simon, her presence is scandalous. Surely, he thinks, a true prophet would recognize what kind of woman she is.

Yet Jesus sees far more than Simon. He sees a woman whose heart has been transformed by grace. He also sees Simon's self-righteousness. Through a simple parable about forgiven debts, Jesus reveals a profound truth: those who know they have been forgiven much often love much. Then Jesus says, *"Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little." (Luke 7:47).*

Many of us have been taught to divide the world into categories: good and bad, saints and sinners, *"us"* and *"them."* We draw lines based on politics, social issues, beliefs, or behavior. But Jesus consistently blurs the lines we draw. If godliness depends on moral perfection, then none of us can stand. We all depend on God's mercy.

That is why confession and pardon are such vital parts of worship. Together, we acknowledge our human condition and our need for grace. Like the woman at Jesus' feet, we come with our failures, our gratitude, and our hope. And like her, we hear Christ's words: *"Your sins are forgiven... go in peace."*

The more we remember that we are all beloved, forgiven people, the less we judge and the more we love. What helps you remember your common humanity with all God's children, judge less, love more, and live in Christ's peace?

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Ken

November Birthdays

1 Mark Haste, Nancy Kile

2 Lloyd Langford

3 David Daugherty, Greg Hinkel, Jennifer Johnson, Ben Young

4 Bill Hope, Margo Witcher

5 Michelle Boliak, Pat Wilson

6 Meredith Fuller, Sherry Fuller, Steve Reddick

7 Joe Craven

8 Ed Ducko, Keys Fillauer, Dick Pearson, Terry Pfeiffer

9 Bill Altman, Jim Charles, Judy Gooch, Cooper Henry, Lee McClure, Jordan Oxendine, Dottie Thompson

10 Joan Marshall, Sonya Opachick, Elana Watson

11 Ethan Brady, Gloria Larson, Bella Young

12 Evelyn Boyd, Mary Wilson

13 Bonnie Schreiber, Roger Petrie

16 Julie Cole, Greg Irby

17 Paul Fellner

18 George Smith, Tyler Kizzire

19 Lee Baur

20 Laura McLean, Teresa Outhier

21 Mike Hardy

22 Sitaly Bailey, Kim Lezatte, Allie Marascia, Nelda McAfee, Daniel Abercrombie

23 Jana Brayton, Adam Washington

24 Kaylie Gallaher

25 Scott Gillenwaters

26 Chase Brown, Kevin Duffy

27 Eric Bishop, Liz Clary, Hal Cousins, Bob Martin, Ann Siemsen

28 Jake Cheney, Bill McWhorter, James Stokes, Zachary Hicks

29 Charles Campbell

30 Katie LeForce, Kennedy Tull

All Around First Church

Evening Grace worship continues to bring together the First Church and First Recovery communities for a monthly service on the first Sunday evening of each month. Special music is led by Trent Gilmore. In October, First Recovery Women's Coordinator Brandi Pedigo shared a message about acknowledging our shortcomings.

After several years living and working in Oak Ridge, and participating in the life of FUMC, Johnson Dhanasekaran recently returned to his home in Madurai, India.

Stewardship Report

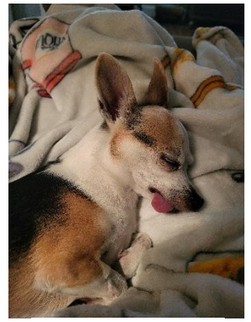
As of September 30, 2026

2026 YTD Offering and Income: $1,134,419
2026 YTD Budget Expenses: $1,122,507
2025 YTD Offering and Income: $1,125,649

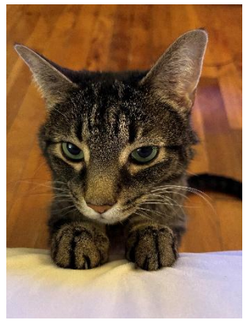
September Special Offering (Youth): $2,040

Staff Pets

Some days there's so much activity around First Church, it may seem like an animal house. But for many staff members, there's nothing as relaxing at the end of a busy day as getting home to our cuddly pets. Meet our First Church staff pets!



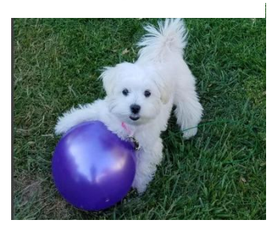
Sadie – Angie



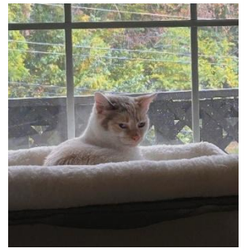
Murphy – Kali

Jack – Ken and Clair

Millie – Mike



Cleopatra – Paul

Bindy – Denna

Jack Harlow, (left), **Guppy** (above), **Derby Bowhank** (right) – CJ