



Earn. Save. Give.

As members and friends of First United Methodist Church, we have the joy each fall to reflect prayerfully on how we will financially support the ministries of our congregation in the coming year. Our 2024 financial stewardship campaign, "Earn. Save. Give." will be the focus of worship services on two Sunday mornings: October 29 and November 5, All Saints' Day. Our campaign theme is distilled from an encouraging statement the founder of Methodism, John Wesley, offered to Christians: "Earn all you can. Save all you can. Give all you can." Like so many before us, we now have the opportunity to generously share the grace of Christ, as it has been shared with us.

Our Finance Committee has set our goal for this campaign to fund our 2024 general budget at 250 Estimates of Giving for a total of \$1,210,000. That goal is very reachable when we consider how many new members and families are now a part of our congregation! However, to achieve it, we must work together, each of us sharing a portion of the gifts God has generously provided to us. Our church leaders have turned in their Estimates Of Giving, and we are thrilled to announce we are already at 37% of our campaign goal!



In order to complete our campaign goal and support all of our ministries and programs for 2024, we are asking everyone to:

- Pray about your financial support for next year.
- Spend time examining our "An Overview of Church Finances" booklet, available at fumcor.org/give (contact our office if you would like a paper copy).
- Call or email our Office of Business and Finance if you have questions about our current financial situation or your past giving.
- Please turn in your 2024 Estimate of Giving card on or before our Commitment Sunday on November 5.

You may provide your Estimate of Giving by going to our church website (www.fumcor.org/give), returning your completed card via mail, calling/emailing our Finance office, or bringing the card with you to worship on November 5. You may also contact one of our pastors if you would like to discuss how best you can support our congregation. Help us continue the ministry of our church and expand our outreach in the name of Christ by making your Estimate of Giving toward our 2024 budget.

Children's Sabbath This Sunday

Jesus taught us to welcome and bless little children. Join us this Sunday as we offer our worship to God with a keen awareness that our children are present and listening!

Church at Camp Recap

The Church Council retreat at Wesley Woods from October 13 to 15 was an amazing experience. Our church council, which we consider a "dream team," worked diligently, enjoyed quality time together, and left with a renewed passion and vision for our collaborative work! In addition to the retreat, we had a fantastic turnout of 89 individuals for Church at Camp Day worship service. The service was beautiful, held by the fireplace, with Steve Reddick playing acoustic guitar. It was a vibrant worship experience that included communion. One significant outcome of this weekend was the realization that we have a camp ministry! Shelby Fowler, Director of Children and Family Ministries, and Denna Hornby, Associate and Youth Pastor, will join forces to plan future camp ministry events.

Jones Library Delights!

We are thrilled to share these updates from Jones Memorial Library! Our webpage has received a delightful makeover, making it easier than ever to explore our vast collection of literary treasures. Plus, we have reintroduced the card catalogue online, allowing you to conveniently search for your favorite books from the comfort of your home.

But that's not all! Introducing our brand new check-out process for the comprehensive Small Group Collection. This resource is now more accessible than ever, so make sure to take advantage of it.

We also kindly invite anyone who may have a book at home that you are no longer reading to return it to us. By doing so, you help us ensure our files are up to date and enable others to enjoy the wonders of literature. So, come on over and immerse yourself in the magic of Jones Memorial Library. Browse, read, and check out books from our amazing collection. Start your literary journey today!

Save Lives and Give Comfort

The Sager Brown Team is preparing to depart on October 28, so please contribute funds to the United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) Sager Brown depot through our church. Your donation will help provide necessary supplies for hygiene kits and other kits. Please send or bring your donation for this worthwhile project to FUMC with "UMCOR Sager Brown Kit" written on your envelope or a personal check marked for SB Kits on the memo line by October 22, 2023.

In Sympathy:

We ask for prayers for Robert and Kay Moss in the death of Robert's brother, George, on October 11.

In the Hospital:

We know of no one.

Dismissed:

Mable Yee
June Martin

Our Giving:

Weekly offering:	\$ 12,735
2023 YTD offering:	\$ 1,054,294
2022 YTD offering:	\$ 1,049,088
Mission offering:	\$ 850

Worship for October 22

Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost

Scripture: Romans 8:14-16

Sermon: What Did Jesus' Blessing Do For Those Children?

8:45 & 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship - Sanctuary
11:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship - Multipurpose Room
Preaching: Rev. Mark Flynn



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The Legacy of White Supremacy in Christianity

Rev. Leah Burns, Holston Conference Associate Director of Connectional Ministries for Multicultural Ministries, will teach a class open to all people during the four Sundays of November. The book, *White Too Long: The Legacy of White Supremacy in Christianity*, by Robert P. Jones will serve as the resource. Through the lenses of Christian theology and American history, Jones delves into the history of white supremacy and its ongoing influence on American Christianity. Jones takes readers on a journey to recognize and address the current crisis, with a focus on finding ways to repair the damage caused by white supremacy.

Each session will include group discussions and teaching by Rev. Burns. **A warning for potential participants: the resource material contains graphic descriptions of violence against Black people and hard truths about white Christianity.** However, our church leaders believe that our congregation is capable of engaging in this important and potentially life-changing discussion, despite the potential for discomfort.

The final session will be dedicated to "Where do we go from here?" The goal is to develop practical and actionable ideas for removing the stain of white supremacy from our lives, both as a collective and through individual actions.

To fully participate, it is important to read the book beforehand. We encourage participants to engage in conversations with each other between sessions. The final session will be devoted to generating practical ideas for removing white supremacy from our religious lives.

Journeying Through Grief: Finding Hope and Healing

Join us for a transformative seven-week Grief Support Group, beginning on Thursday, October 26, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. This group is designed to provide solace and guidance to anyone navigating the difficult path of loss, whether it be recent or from the past.

Led by retired pastor Rev. Bob Cantrell and FUMCOR member Gielda Reese, this group aims to equip participants with a deeper understanding of the grief process and offer a safe space for individuals to share their personal experiences.

Please extend the invitation to anyone who may benefit from this healing journey. To ensure a meaningful experience for everyone, we kindly request you either call the office at 865-483-4357 or email Rev. Jenny at jcaughman@fumcor.org to register, as group size is limited. Child care is available - if needed, please contact Shelby at sfowler@fumcor.org.

Pastors Mark Flynn, lead • Jenny Caughman, spiritual care • Denna Hornby, associate
Contact Information 865.483.4357 • www.fumcor.org • Pastor on call: 865.272.9862