

First Steps Carnival and Picnic



On May 30, First Steps marked the end of another school year with a family picnic and fundraiser Carnival for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. Despite rainy day accommodations, which required moving the festivities inside, the event was a resounding success. First Steps children and their families enjoyed fun, games, and good food, all while raising money for a great cause.



July Special Missions Offering

The Special Offering for the month of July will support Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee. Second Harvest Food Bank provides food to people experiencing hunger in 18 counties in East Tennessee. They supply food for two of FUMC's missions, the Morgan-Scott Project and Food for Kids. 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.

New Staff

Leigh Anne Henderson,
Evening/Weekend
Facilities Team Member,
began May 27.

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Oak Ridge, TN 37830

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First Things

July 2025

Summer Cookout

Celebrating Healing at First
Recovery's Annual Cookout



First Recovery held its annual cookout during the week of Vacation Bible School (VBS). The cookout was a tremendous success, having grown each year and reaching new heights in its third year. We would like to extend our gratitude to the Recovery Ministry Committee for their support, and especially to Shawn Roach for her outstanding efforts in making this event possible.

Watching the fellowship of seventy-five individuals who are building community through First Recovery is truly inspiring and serves as a reminder of God's healing power. Events like this in our community are precisely why Anderson County has experienced a decline in overdose deaths for two consecutive years. Thank you, First Church, for supporting this life-saving ministry.

Joys and Concerns

Please be in prayer for:
Joanne Boyle, who recently moved to Nashville to be closer to family.

Recently Hospitalized:
Lois Withrow, Jerry Johnson

In Sympathy:
Dawn Anderberg (died 5/28), mother of Rodney Anderberg.
Mabel Yee (died 6/13), service arrangements are pending.

A Note from the Pastor

Read Philippians 4: 4-7

There once was a king who offered a prize to the artist who could paint the best picture of peace. The picture that the king picked looked like this: The mountains were bare and rocky. Above them was an angry sky from which rain fell and lightning thundered. Down the side of the mountain was a massive, rushing waterfall. Behind the waterfall a tiny bush grew out of a crack in a rock. In the bush a mother bird had built her nest. There, amid the rushing, angry water, sat the mother bird on her nest in perfect peace.

Someone asked the king why he picked this picture. “Because” explained the king, “peace does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble, or hard work. Peace means to be amid all those things and still be calm in your heart. This is the real meaning of peace” (author unknown).

Paul wrote to the Philippian church about how they can experience peace while he was under lock and key in a Roman prison. In any and every situation we can bring our requests, our needs, our problems to God in prayer and leave them, with gratitude, in God’s capable hands. God cares for you and me, and God cares about you and me.

Every time you start to feel worried and anxious, make the conscious decision to pray about whatever is bothering you and hand the situation over to God. And be thankful! “And the peace of God, which transcends all

July Birthdays

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| 1 Elaine Brubaker, Malachi Dawn, Andy Johnson, John Leitnaker | 14 Betty Dreyer, Sam Snow |
| 3 Andrew Brady, Judy Chilton | 15 Judy Hill, Jan Melcher |
| 4 Mike Watkins | 17 Pam Dagenhart, Susan Garrott, Kay Lezatte, Kevin Tupper |
| 5 Cheryl Creek, Sally Dagenhart, Rachel Dawn, Ron Flippen, Jeanie Gregory, Erin Webb, Martin Grossbeck | 18 Thelma Tyndall |
| 6 Trudy Cartagena, Denny Siemsen | 19 Byrl Adkisson, Cooper Bell |
| 7 Don Batchelor, Jason Gallaher, Marsha Thomas, Tom Mooney | 20 Abby Ragan, Tina Trent |
| 8 Colin Anderson, Carinne Cheney, Alan Owen | 21 Jeffrey Martin, Steve Larson, Dick Schreiber |
| 9 Molly Jernigan, Evelyn Martin, Evelyn McKamy, Rachel McMillan | 22 Dutch Blijlevens, Eric Kelly |
| 11 Madeline Luby, Bennett Ochs, Katie Ingersoll | 23 Carolyn Lindsley, Andrew Miller |
| 12 Melinda Brown, Lawrence Carico, Elaine Graham, Angie Luby | 24 Joyce Moore, Dauna Sample |
| 13 Linda Horton, Dick Ketelle, Cindy Reed, Conlin Webb, Carol Yoakley-Terrell, Barbara Hudak-Scheirer | 25 Barbara Casey |
| | 26 Richard Evans |
| | 27 Rose Anne Bell, Carlos Reed, Shelly Doyle |
| | 28 Finnley Mindrup |
| | 29 Glenn Greer, Jason Harder, Kandy Pearson, Brian Wilson |
| | 30 Liz Batchelor, Pat Frye, Ron Lands |
| | 31 Christina Bean |

understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

I pray that July will be, for you, a month filled with the peace of God.

Blessings,
Rev. Ken Sauer, Co-Lead Pastor



All Around First Church

Chapel Pipe Organ Project

First Church has been very fortunate to acquire a small pipe organ for the Chapel! The organ was listed for sale in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and even has wood details that match the center of the Chapel's rose window. This modest organ was in the home of a professional organist and, near the end of July, will be reassembled in our Chapel so that we can enjoy it for many years to come.

Along with the new pipe organ, the Chapel will be rearranged to suit the new instrument better and to encourage more use of the space. Please, bear with us as we work to transform the space into a more useful and inviting area. If you have questions about this project, reach out to Josh Sumter (jsumter@fumcor.org).



Stewardship Report

As of May 31, 2025

- 2025 YTD Offering: \$604,339
2025 YTD Budget Expenses: \$620,223
2024 YTD Offering: \$552,530
May Special Offering (Music Ministries): \$3,389



Game Night VBS teaches children about the Fruit of the Spirit.

Every summer, First Church hosts Vacation Bible School (VBS). VBS is the Children and Family Ministry’s biggest event of the year, and our most fun! With colorful decorations, lively music, engaging lessons, and a variety of crafts and games, VBS provides kids with an opportunity to explore the Bible in an energetic and welcoming environment. This year, the children explored what it means to live a life filled with the Fruit of the Spirit. Through the “Game Night” theme, kids learned that to live a life like Jesus, we must show others kindness, patience, have self-control, and be joy-filled.

VBS would not be the wonderful week it is without our volunteers, who run our rotations and make meaningful connections with our students. We would also like to thank our church congregation for your financial support and your prayers.

Wesley Heritage

Charles Wesley, brother to John and fellow founder of the Methodist movement, was a prolific lyricist and hymn writer. He wrote between 6,500 and 9,000 hymns in his lifetime. How long would it take Josh to play all those hymns on the new Chapel pipe organ?