



August 28, 2025



**FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH OF FRANKFORT**

211 Washington Street
Frankfort, KY 40601

Office Hours:

9:00 am—3:00 pm M-T

www.fumcfrankfort.org

Twitter: @fumcfrankfort

Facebook: www.facebook.com/fumc.frankfort

CAPITAL CITY METHODIST

FUMC Is a Growing Church!

Dear First Friends,

I am happy to say that First United Methodist Church is a growing church! Growth manifests itself in a myriad of ways and can be reflected via numerous metrics. I want to share some of the ways in which we are growing and seeking to grow as a congregation.

First, our worship attendance is rising. At this time last year, the combined average attendance in our two worship services was 167. For this year, our average so far is 185. That is a 10% increase. For reference, our average attendance for all of 2024 was 170.

Currently, I am meeting with six individuals who are interested in learning about church membership and Christian discipleship in the Methodist tradition. Additionally, we are seeing and getting to know a good many new people on Sunday mornings. In fact, we are welcoming new guests almost every week.

To grow in our love for everyone, I need your help. When you see someone you don't know, introduce yourself to them. Be proactive. Don't wait for them to come to you. Don't worry about discovering that you already know them, or should know them, but have forgotten. Don't worry that they've been members for two hundred years and have just returned from a ten-year sabbatical from worship. I often use a simple "trick" when I'm unsure. I approach them with a smile and say, "Help me remember your name/s." If I should remember, they'll nearly always kindly tell me their name/s. If not, they typically respond by saying, "You shouldn't be expected to know our names. We've never been here before." It's virtually foolproof. Bottom line, it doesn't take much to help people feel welcome, but the little it takes depends on you. A smile and a "good morning" are the easiest. If you feel comfortable doing so, strike up a conversation. It doesn't have to be lengthy. Just relax and be yourself. And by the way, you'll be able to tell if they're not especially interested in talking yet. And if they're not, it's probably not your fault, they're just feeling their way.

We have grown our staff recently by welcoming Tori Brown as our Office Administrator. Tori will be working thirty hours per week, but office hours will remain 9 am-3 pm Monday-Thursday. Diana Gregory will be helping Tori get acclimated for a while and finishing up some projects. She will continue producing our monthly newsletter for the foreseeable future. Please know that when these two women are in the office, they are very busy. They, along with our volunteers, are eager to help you during office hours. In return for their helpfulness, please remember that even if someone is at the desk outside of office hours, the office is still closed. Also, even though Tori is a member of our church and we are used to seeing her on Sundays and at other times, she is not perpetually on duty as our Office Administrator. I trust you will kindly understand and keep this in mind.

During the month of September, I strongly encourage you to grow in your listening skills by attending our Holy Listening training at 10:00am on Sundays in Asbury Hall, led by the Rev. Dr. Leanne Hadley. Leanne is a highly skilled teacher of Holy Listening, and you will not want to miss this opportunity to learn from her. I am convinced that to listen is to be a clear representation of Christ in the world. Holy Listening will help all of us to be the hands and feet of Jesus in downtown Frankfort and to strive to love everyone. Holy listening will help us to grow as individuals, to grow God's kingdom, and to cooperate with the Holy Spirit to grow our church.

Finally, during October, we will grow through intentional education about our financial stewardship—what it means to God, what it means to the church, and what it means to each and all of us. Stay tuned for more information about how all of us can deepen our partnership in sustaining our vital, growing ministry.

Isn't it exciting to be a part of a growing church?

Faithfully yours,
Pastor Tom

The Practice of Holy Listening taught by Rev. Dr. Leanne Hadley

Holy Listening: Holding safe, non-judgmental space where God's presence can be felt so that people of all ages and life circumstances can share their hopes, fears, griefs and joys with us and with God.

The practice of Holy Listening is a method developed by Leanne and is being implemented in schools, hospitals, churches and organizations nationally and internationally. As we seek to live into our mission of "being the hands and feet of Jesus to our community" and to "welcome everyone," our ability to listen well is a skill we will need.

Each Sunday, during the month of September, join us in Asbury Hall, 10-11:00 am, as we become Holy Listeners in a world that needs less talking and more listening.

Your friends, family and neighbors are invited to join us!

If you have any questions, please reach out to Leanne at 719-930-3598.

Triple L

Living Longer and Loving it
A group for older-ish adults

**Fire Safety and Hands on
Fire extinguisher
lessons!**

Tuesday, Sept. 23, 10:00am
Asbury Hall



First UMC, 211 Washington St

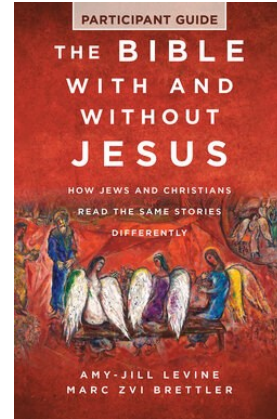
Studies have found that individuals with robust social networks have a significantly happier and longer life, compared to those with weak social connections.

Program: Our Fire Marshall will give a fire safety in our homes presentation and then, we will all have the opportunity to use a real fire extinguisher.



**Food Drive at both Kroger Stores
September 20 10 am—4 pm**

Adult Bible Study Each Thursday in September



Dates: Each Thursday, September 4 – October 9

Time: 10 to 11:30 in the Wesley Center

Place: Susanna Room

Leader: Rev. Tonya Kenner

We will be reading and discussing "The Bible With and Without Jesus: How Jews and Christians Read the Same Stories Differently," by Amy-Jill Levine, retired Vanderbilt Divinity School professor, and Marc Zvi Brettler, Duke University Professor.

The writers look at prominent scripture passages giving context and interpretation for both Jewish and Christian followers. Passages include Creation, Adam and Eve, A Virgin Will Conceive, Isaiah's Suffering Servant, Sign of Jonah and "My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me."

Each session will include a video and discussion of participants' readings. We hope to see you there! Friends are always welcome!

Books are available in the church office for \$18. Contact Rev. Tonya Kenner or Rev. Dr. Leanne Hadley to register.

Anna's Friends

Saturday, September 27



A group for people who have lost a spouse

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace and Lunch

Time: 9:00 am

(Meet at the Walgreens West to ride the bus together.)

Where: The Lincoln Birthplace and Lunch in Hodgenville.

Cost: \$5 for the bus and plus cost of lunch.

Children's Ministry News

GNN Prayground Update for Fall

Starting on September 7 our activities in the "pray ground" will mirror the main topic of the sermon. Each week the children will have a guiding question and ways to express their answer that follows the main focus of the sermon for the day.

You might not notice much difference because the activities will still be kid-friendly and expressive, but we want to be as intentional as possible to connect what the kids are hearing in the service and what they are doing with their hands.

What is a Prayground?

A space at GNN for children who have a hard time sitting still can be active and moving while they listen and absorb worship.

We also have a nursery available (with a weekly lesson) for infants and toddlers if you need. But, please know that children of all ages are welcome in our worship services and are never expected to leave!



Kids Caring About GAP! NEW Weekly Offering in Sunday School.

Our children took an immersive journey through GAP Ministry and experienced first-hand what it is like to be one of our GAP friends, from the warm welcome, to meeting with a pastor, to receiving food for the day and gift card, going to the GAP store and the David's Project room.

Then we invited them to take home a GAP Bank and begin collecting coins to bring with them to Sunday School each week. The money collected will be used for our "Kids Mission Sundays" when we will make small food treats for our unhoused friends who stop by without a referral.

Parents, please help us by encouraging your child to bring an offering each week.



The amount made from the Camp Is Sweet Bake Sale is \$2,509. These monies go to pay for our campers to attend church summer camps.

Secret Angels Needed for Kings Center Children



The mission of the City of Angels Program is to make a positive difference in the lives of the children and youth in Frankfort who attend activities at the Kings Center. A one-on-one relationship is developed between a sponsor (either an individual or a group such as a Sunday school class, a church circle, a club, etc.) and a child. The anonymous sponsor, known as a Secret Angel, provides emotional support through monthly correspondence, gifts on special occasions, and spiritual support in the form of daily prayer for the child and his/her family. A person may also participate as a donor. The concept is simple: Helping children know that the community loves them.

Angel Responsibilities

- *Pray each day for the sponsored child;*
- *Send one card/letter a month to encourage the child;*
- *Donate \$ 100 yearly toward expenses such as food/snacks, field trips, school supplies and other activities;*
- *Provide Christmas gifts from a wish list;*
- *Recognize the child on his/her birthday with a card.*



**If you would like to be a Secret Angel for a child at the Kings Center please contact Kay Scott at kaykellerscott49@gmail.com or fill out the form on the back of this brochure and mail to:
The Kings Center
Box 1351
Frankfort, KY 40602**

Kings Center Play Dates—We had a wonderful playdate with the children and youth from the Kings Center this summer and it went so well that we would like to invite the children to come once a week to play, pray and grow in faith and friendship. Would you be interested? If so, please contact Leanne.

Music Jam
on the
pastor's porch

**Thurs, Sept. 25
6 - 7:30 pm**

Come play with us!
207 Washington Street



Join us at the Averill House as we play music together... for beginners and those who have been playing for a while! Bring your lawn chair, your instrument and let's play!

September Birthdays

1	Mary Doris Steve Pewitt		Jaida Snow Eric Wayman	25	Connor Hanson Katherine Woolums
2	Sheila Burnett	16	Betty Connor Zach Criswell Janice Osborne	27	Christina Huntington Whitney Lawson
3	Paul Kenner			28	Rayden Steele Renee Thomas
4	Libbie Drake John Norfleet	17	David Abney Houston Hancock Addisyn Steele Betty Troutwine Zachary Wasson	29	Tom Barbour Susan Buffin Samantha Criswell Bill Salyers Jenny Salyers Josh Toppass James Harry Wilson
5	Yvonne Bailey Karen O'Connell				
7	Grace Higgs Boyd Phillip Shepherd	19	Bryce Burton		
8	Phyllis Hail Randy Tillett Dillion Hubbard McKenzie Steel	20	Jordan Criswell Stephanie West		
		21	Lyda Gaus		
		22	Nancy Atcher Matthew Clements Jack Gilbert Sam Gilbert Michael Lewis		
9	Shirley Norfleet				
10	Vivien Kurtz Ramona Ramey				
		23	Tracey Doyle Jeremy Steele		
13	Scotty Tracy				
14	Melody Stephenson D.J. Wasson	24	Carrie Bass Joseph Gaddis Caroline Powell Evan Ramey Bethany Smith		
15	Finn Lowe Katie Smith				



SEPTEMBER
BIRTHDAYS



... to the family of **Mike Sebastian**, who passed away on July 29. You may send condolences to his wife, Patti Sebastian.

... to the family of **Caleb Swinford**. Caleb passed away on August 11. His parents are Regina and Bill Swinford.

... to the family of **Betty Ratliff** who passed away on August 15. Betty is survived by her son, Paul Ratliff and daughter, Ellen Dickerson.

Steamy Summer at GAP

The dog days of summer are almost over and the GAP Ministry is beginning to plan ahead for cooler temperatures. This summer was miserable for our homeless neighbors. They endured not just heat but also strength-sapping humidity at the end of July and August. Despite this, we met with individuals who expressed their hope for the future and a surprisingly positive outlook despite their plight.

We provided a gas card, a bit of food, and prayers for Roger who was headed to Northern Kentucky and a fresh start. Rev. Smith asked him to let us know in a month whether life had improved, and sure enough a warm email arrived thanking the GAP ministry for compassion and prayers. He was pleased to say that things were turning around for him.

Roger is working two jobs and although still homeless, he acquired a gym membership so he can take regular showers. He expressed his thankfulness for the opportunity of a new beginning. We are blessed to be a blessing in this church!

Current needs for the GAP ministry:

GAP Essentials Store:

Glasses: any strength “readers”

Tampons (we have plenty of pads)

Small Flashlights

Children’s OTC medicines (Tylenol, etc.)

GAP Daily Bread Bags:

Single serve pudding cups

Single serve fruit cups

Nabs – peanut butter or cheese

Small cracker stacks (Ritz, Townhouse, etc.)

\$20 Kroger Cards

Amazon items: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3A9JG9XYMR3YQ?ref=wl_share



Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry News

Evening Youth Ministry: No evening Youth Ministry for the next two weeks. We will officially begin our weekly evening gatherings on Sunday, September 7.

Youth Ministry Civil Rights Trip: We are discerning a date for our upcoming Youth Ministry trip. Special thanks to Eric Kennedy and Ronnie Nolan for their leadership on this trip! Parents, please watch your email and the YM group me for a group poll to find a date.

Youth Ministry Dinners: If you (or your group or calls) would like to provide dinner for our evening Youth Ministry Gatherings, please contact Ashli Watts or call Tori in the church office.

July Financial Snapshot

- **Tithes and Offerings (July):** \$57,483.80
- **Expenses (July):** \$68,043.44
- **Mortgage Balance (as of July 31):** \$723,020.91



YEAR-TO-DATE TOTALS

- **Tithes and Offerings (YTD):** \$405,172.95
- **Expenses (YTD):** \$498,572.09

Fire at Aldersgate Camp Lodge



As many of you know, Aldersgate Camp suffered a devastating loss on August 10th when the beloved O.P. Smith Lodge was destroyed by fire. This lodge was truly the heartbeat of the camp—serving as the dining hall, office, and summer staff housing. Its absence is deeply felt by all who have experienced the warmth and ministry of Aldersgate.

For years, the camp has been working toward building a new lodge. Even with the insurance settlement, the Bishop has announced that an additional \$1.5 million is needed to bring this vision to life. Plans are underway for a portable kitchen so that retreats and camps can continue.



If you feel led to support this vital ministry, please send your contributions to:

Aldersgate Camp and Retreat Center 125 Aldersgate Camp Road Ravenna, KY 40472

Please mark your donation "**New Lodge**" so it can be directed appropriately.

Save the Dates!

Sunday, September 7: Church Council for Everyone! 1:00 pm Susanna Room

Sunday, October 5: World Communion Sunday

Join us as we celebrate communion and remember that our brothers and sisters from around the globe are celebrating it with us as well! We will have special music, Leanne will be preaching, and of course, celebrating communion together.



Sunday, October 19: A Celebration of the Birthday of FUMC! (Please note: we will have one service at 10:00 am followed by birthday cake!)

Nancy Atcher is writing an original history of the roots of our church and the unique role lay people have always had in the United Methodist Church! It will be quite a celebration that you won't want to miss!

Sunday, November 2: All Saints Day and our Outdoor Tree of Loving Memories!

More information will be coming soon about this tender and beautiful service where we honor our church members who have died this past year. Plus, this year, we will have a space for





FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

211 Washington Street
Frankfort, KY 40601
502-227-7430
www.fumcfrankfort.org

Rev. Tom Corum

- *Senior Pastor*

Rev. Dr. Leanne Hadley

- *Associate Pastor*

Dr. Beth Wilson

- *Director of Music and Worship*

David W. Goins

- *Director of Contemporary Worship*

Roy Nance

- *Organist*

Steph Sorrell

- *Seminary Intern & Technology Coordinator*

Tori Brown

- *Office Administrator*

Diana Gregory

- *Newsletter Editor*



Bringing Hope to Children Since 1871

On Fifth Sunday (August 31) churches and individuals across Kentucky come together to support KyUMH, providing hope and healing to hundreds of youth and families with histories of abuse, neglect and trauma.

Consider donating this 5th Sunday to KYUMH: <https://www.kyumh.org/donate> .

Special offering envelopes will be available in the pew racks.