

# The Anchor

A vibrant church, making Christian disciples and enriching lives through outreach.

## August 2025

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### Sunday's Schedule

9:00 a.m.:	Traditional Service
10:30 a.m.:	Modern Service
10:30 a.m.:	Faithlink Class
10:30 a.m.:	Searchers Class
10:30 a.m.:	Rise Children's Ministry
4:00 p.m.:	Women in the Word
6:00 p.m.:	Elevate Youth
6:00 p.m.:	Junior Youth

### Staff

#### Senior Pastor

Brian Sixbey

#### Assistant Pastor

Tommy Markham

#### Office Manager

Kassandra Brown

#### Music Director/Organist

Mark Biondolillo

#### Accompanist

Andrew Blackmon

#### Youth Director/Worship Leader

Larissa Luma

#### Treasurer

Ruth Simpkins

#### Part-Time Sexton

~

#### Nursery Attendant

Chelsea Kyme

#### Nursery Assistant

~



## "Be at Peace and Grow!"

Several months ago, a person in our church asked me how they could be part of the "in crowd" at church. Those weren't the exact words used, but that was the basic meaning. They felt like they were not living up to some expectations and wanted to know what expectations our church had. I'd like to explore this idea with you this month, in case you might be wondering the same, or if someone asks you a similar question.

First, as far as I'm concerned, there are no set expectations, except that I do expect Christ's followers to do their best to love God and their neighbors. I expect people to be who they are, and as long as they try to follow Jesus more closely, it's fine with me if they don't fit a certain pattern.

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That said, I have found a general pattern that seems to work for most people: Regular attendance (and that can vary) helps, not just so that people can get to know you or so that you can cross something off your list, but so that you can feel comfortable and find something that interests you, whether it's a ministry, a small group, or an interest you want to explore. Regular attendance also means that the people who currently lead can get to know you and offer opportunities for you to serve and be served.

Second, being part of a group, whether that's Sunday school, a Bible study, the choir, band, a more social group like the Fellowships of Circumstance, a ministry such as the Food Pantry, or something like the Yoga group, Karate, Scouts, or AA. Being part of a smaller group will help you get the personal connections that make your life meaningful, and often the help that leads people to make breakthroughs. I grew up in a very large church, and I didn't ever think I could know all the people, but I never felt left out because I knew my Sunday School, youth group, and children's choir folks. No one needs to become an extreme extrovert, unless that is who God made them to become, but we all benefit by meaningful connections. Loneliness is a very real and very damaging effect of modern life – small groups do a world of good to banish loneliness.

Finally, giving is also very important. I don't mean just financial giving but also giving of our time and talents. Each member of the body of Christ has something to give, something to offer, and something to learn and share (see 1 Corinthians 12 for more about the body of Christ). When we offer our time and talents, it will not always be easy or even received well by others, but it is how we grow. When we combine giving with regular attendance and a small group, we have the nurture, the friendships, and the challenges that help us become who we need to become.

Of course, different times in our lives will mean different things – caring for loved ones, working long hours, health challenges, and so forth will change what attendance, small groups, and giving looks like, and that is to be expected. I do not expect someone who is a caregiver for another to do heroic deeds at church – their caregiving is their ministry for the season, so church will be more about getting the nurture and friendship they need. I do not expect someone living at the edge of poverty or with strained finances to empty their purse or pocketbook,

either. At the same time, someone who has free time and free talents will be well served by offering them to bless others.

The key is – are we trying to follow Jesus more closely, shaping our minds, time, and talents to where the Holy Spirit leads? And by the way, some of those times when we feel like we are not growing, can be the times when we are growing the most. Frustrations and roadblocks can lead to fulfillment and breakthroughs – there is no single way to grow! The key is to keep trying.

One of the blessings of following Jesus is knowing, deep in our bones, that not only will he never leave or forsake us, but he is always in the process of transforming us – so our best days are always ahead of us! Sure, they will not look like the best days of the past, but they will be the best days of our present, and particularly our future.

It's my honor to serve alongside you!



### Prayers

Jack Morehouse  
Brian Eubank

We continue to pray for our homebound, those with chronic conditions that may require ongoing treatment, and those unspoken prayers.

### Martha's Ministry

Martha's Ministry is a wonderful group of ladies who give their dedicated service and outpouring of love to grieving families in their time of need. These ladies graciously prepare a reception for family and friends either at the church or in their homes. This ministry of the church, can always use more help! If you are interested, please call or email Marilyn Eubank.

**August Team Leader:** Marilyn Eubank

**August Members:** Evelyn Boone, Marilyn Eubank, Nanci Browning, Amy Johnson, Jo Ann Smith, Joyce Wilson, Beverly Stanley, Pat and Sue Brooker

# Financial Fundamentals August 2025

This report briefly addresses finances at FUMC Fox Hill. The latest information is in the weekly bulletin available at church or through our web site.

As I write this in mid-July, I can report great news, good news, and some not as good.

- First, some great news: Our Youth Mission Trip to the Navajo nation was fully funded!!! When you read this, they will soon be back, if not already home.
- Some more great news is that our loan to repair/replace our building's roof has closed and the funds are in our bank. The roofing company is working with us to schedule the work which is expected to take about 3 weeks once underway.
- The good news, actually also great, is that you, our super congregation, have been, and continue to be, generous with your contributions to both the youth and major maintenance projects. Donations to the boiler and roof campaigns have paid for our brand-new boiler and will allow us to make early extra payments on the roof loan principle. The extra payments will reduce our long-term interest expense. Keep up the great work!
- Finally, there are our routine monthly expenses. Our income to cover operating expenses from salaries, to utilities, to Apportionments, programs, maintenance, etc., are down and leaving us with a cash flow challenge. We know we have called on you for our major projects, but we still need to cover routine expenses. Please help us make those payments.

Yes, it is summer and vacation time. Yes, you have been helping well for some really important projects. And yes, we need to pay all our bills. Your contributions count whether they are through the offering plate, in the mail, or on-line. Giving to the General (One) Fund gives us the flexibility to cover the most urgent cash flow requirements. If on-line is your preferred route, get started at our web site –

[www.firstumcfoxhill.org](http://www.firstumcfoxhill.org) and click on Give. If you are reading this online, [click here](#) for easy on-line access.

Or use your camera to scan this QR code which is

regularly seen in our publications and live stream. For those with IRA funds which must be withdrawn and/or appreciated stocks, you may be able to achieve some added benefits by using them for direct contributions. Always talk with your tax and/or financial advisor before taking any unfamiliar action. Also talk with Bill Bryan, our Finance Chair, about your plans.

Please direct **concerns/questions** about FUMC FH finances to our financial staff via the office or Bill Bryan, Finance Chair, at (757) 851-0748 or by e-mail

## Total One Fund – Through June 2025

Income For Planned Expenses <sup>1</sup>		\$ 222,723
Total One Fund Expenses (excludes pass through <sup>2</sup> )	Planned	\$ 298,212
	Actual	\$ 228,129
Pass Through Income <sup>2</sup>		\$ 2,675
Pass Through Expense <sup>2</sup>		\$ 2,685
"Pay-It-Forward" Contributions		\$ 2,132
LUMENs Fund Raiser Income		\$ 25
LUMENs Fund Raiser Expense		\$ 0
Roof & Boiler Repair Income 2025		\$ 82,227
Roof & Boiler Repair Expense 2025		\$ 53,417

<sup>1</sup>Includes regular and memorial contributions, building use income, interest, not listed, etc.

<sup>2</sup>Represents contributions for non-budget items, e.g., flowers, special mission programs, not listed, etc.

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Fox Hill



## Announcements

### Fifty Plus

As we get ready for a new season of activities, we will gather for our annual **Fifty Plus Potluck Picnic in the Park at Gosnold's Hope Park, 901 E. Little Back River Road**. Plans are to **meet at the Cherry Shelter** (fourth left after entering the park). Mark your calendar now for **5 pm, Wednesday, August 13**. We will provide fried chicken, soft drinks, and paper products; you provide a dish to share. **Cost is just \$3.00**. When you sign up, be prepared to tell us what you plan to bring, e.g., appetizer, salad, vegetable, entrée, dessert, other. In addition to great fellowship, we'll chat about possible future activities.

**Contact Anne or Bill Bryan with your ideas and to sign-up** so we have a headcount – in person, at [abandbb1@cox.net](mailto:abandbb1@cox.net), or by phone to 757-851-0748. Please do it NOW.

## First UMC Fox Hill

THE CHURCH ON THE CORNER!!

AUGUST 10, 2025  
2PM-5PM

### DOG DAYS

COMMUNITY FUN &  
WELLNESS EVENT!!

OUTDOOR FUN & GAMES  
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS  
VENDORS

WE WILL BE COLLECTING SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATIONS  
FOR ASBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.

## YOUTH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

JOIN US AS WE WORK TO LINE UP  
VOLUNTEERS WITH NEW SMALL GROUPS  
THAT WILL BEGIN WITH THE SCHOOL YEAR!

16 AUGUST, 2025

INFORMATION SESSION

1-2PM

## Birthdays

Peggy Horsley	8/1	Becky Barnes	8/13	Nancy Jo Reynolds	8/24
Don Rye	8/2	Andrew Coe	8/13	Madison Reynolds	8/24
Emma Rogers	8/2	John Rochelle	8/14	Joseph Palma	8/24
Lauren Maninga	8/3	Nanci Browning	8/14	Teresa Hodges	8/25
Mark Biondolillo	8/3	Samuel Gillespie	8/15	Kaitlyn Walden	8/25
Sandy Williams	8/4	Sean Norton	8/15	Ryan Ferguson	8/25
Ashley Conner	8/4	Rebecca Cross	8/16	Brian Eubank Sr.	8/26
Danielle Gaskins	8/5	Mark McKenney	8/16	Kenny Holmes	8/26
Ashley Harris	8/6	Donna Leavell	8/16	Courtney Blodgett	8/26
Martin Dunn	8/6	Susan Compton	8/16	Janet Holden	8/26
Teresa Seekins	8/6	Holly Blackmon	8/18	Dakota Maninga	8/26
Laura Blackmon	8/6	Shanaya Brown	8/18	Tiffany Quinn	8/27
Jennifer Killmer	8/6	Dennis Perry III	8/18	Mary McAnally	8/27
Ronnie Gurganus	8/8	Courtney Darden	8/20	Michael Adams	8/28
Logan Lindeman	8/8	Connie Rowe	8/21	Kim Sagaser	8/28
Jeremiah McKenney	8/8	Doug Peters	8/22	Donnie Coe	8/28
Mark Stanley	8/8	Bill Satterfield	8/22	Cade Black	8/29
Beth Hearp	8/8	Lesley Tonkin	8/22	Mary Branch	8/29
Cindy Pereira	8/9	Kelly Ogdin	8/23	Brian Gibbons	8/29
Graham Currin	8/10	Brendan Nicosia	8/23	Rhonda Chesson	8/30
Royal Greer Jr.	8/10	Mary Johnson	8/23	Steven Alhouse	8/30
Michael Hoyt	8/10	Rachel Felix	8/23	Terrie Galay	8/30
Bruce Fleenor	8/11	James Hancock	8/23	Parker Tuttle	8/30
Jeff Verry	8/12	Chris Moore	8/24	Ginny Tuttle	8/31
Patrick Parker	8/13	Donnie Brookman	8/24	Crystal McKenney	8/31
Glenda Helms	8/13	Glenn Emory	8/24	Oliver Haas	8/31

## Anniversaries

David & Clela Farlee	8/2
Don & Karen Tackett	8/4
Mike & Jennifer Williams	8/8
Steven & Martha Alhouse	8/8
Ken & Becky Felix	8/9
Tom & Mary Gore	8/10
Les & Debbie Bollinger	8/13
Alison & Larry Sheppard	8/14



Brian & Shan Sixbey	8/14
Paul & Iris Avery	8/14
Dave & Kathy Rogers	8/14
Kathy & Jim Steinke	8/14
Brady & Lindsay Broich	8/17
Mason & Debbie Green	8/19
Dennis & Martina Lee	8/20
Mark & Patty Biondolillo	8/24



## August

### Sunday, August 10

2:00p.m. Dog Days

### Monday, August 11 Roof Repair Begins

5:30 p.m. Dog Days Committee Meeting: Tri-X Room

6:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting: ESR

7:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting: Tri-X Room

### Tuesday, August 12

1:00 p.m. Vibrant Worship Meeting: Tri-X Room

### Wednesday, August 13

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting: Tri-X Room

### Friday, August 15 Anchor Newsletter Deadline

### Tuesday, August 19

7:00 p.m. PPSRC: Tri-X Room

### Wednesday, August 20

12:00 p.m. Fellowship of Circumstance for Women

### Friday, August 22

9:00 a.m. Elevate Youth: 24 Hour Film Festival

### Saturday, August 23

2:00 p.m. Book Club: Robinson Home

### Monday, August 25 Back to School

6:00 a.m. Phoebus Women's Club Meeting: Faithlink Room

### Tuesday, August 26

8:00 a.m. Facilities Team Meeting

11:00 a.m. Bagging for Food Pantry

12:00 p.m. Fellowship of Circumstance for Men

7:00 p.m. Nominations Committee Meeting: Tri-X Room

### Wednesday, August 27

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting: Tri-X Room

12:00 p.m. Food Pantry

## Small Groups

### Monday

10:00 a.m. Tri-X Monday School

10:00 a.m. Yoga: FH Stage

1:00 p.m. "The Book" Club: Tri-X Room

7:00 p.m. Ballroom Dance Class: FH

### Tuesday

10:00 a.m. Shawl Makers: ESR

### Wednesday

3:00 p.m. Love Unites: ER

7:00 p.m. Elevate Youth Bible Study: Youth Room

### Thursday

11:00 a.m. Pastor Tommy's Reunion Group

5:00 p.m. TABS: Tri-X Room

6:00 p.m. Karate for Christ: FH Stage

### Saturday

9:00 a.m. Saturday Morning Sisters in Christ: Faithlink

7:00 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal: Sanctuary

## Scouts

**Tuesdays:** 6:30 p.m. Pack 151 Meeting: FH  
7 p.m. Scout Troop 151: FH

**1st & 3rd Fridays** 6 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 1038: Ed Wing

**2nd & 4th Friday** 6 p.m. Crew 1151 Meeting: Tri-X

## AA Meetings

### Wednesdays & Fridays - 6 p.m.

Buckroe New Hope AA Group: FH - Kitchen

### Saturdays - 9 a.m.

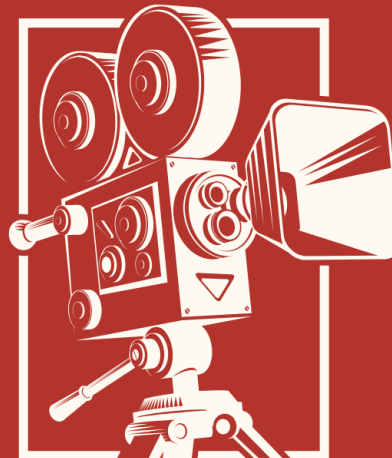
Buckroe Men's AA Group: FH - Kitchen

**Check the bulletin and weekly emails for calendar updates. Meeting times and dates may change during the summer and/or holidays.**

# 24 HOUR FILM FESTIVAL

**22-23**  
**AUGUST '25**

**9 AM TO**  
**9 AM**



Elevate Youth is hosting a lock in with our youth group where they'll be broken into teams and given 24 hours to write, direct, and film a short