

The Anchor

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

Feburary2026

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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
Office Manager
Kassandra Brown
Music Director/Organist
Mark Biondolillo
Accompanist
Andrew Blackmon
Youth Director/Worship Leader
Larissa Luma
Treasurer
Ruth Simpkins
Part-Time Sexton
Mikell Bond
Nursery Attendant
Chelsea Kyme



“Washing Ashes”

I mentioned last month that I have a hard time planning ahead at the end of the year, and I have to confess that I used a mental game to get past writing this article: I thought about the word “ash” and realized there are many words built from “ash” – for instance, bash, cash, dash, gash, lash, mash, rash, sash, and wash. If you allow for more letters, it nearly becomes infinite – quash, stash, clash, and so forth. However, it’s interesting to note that “ash” and “wash” are nearly at opposite ends of the spectrum. Ashes are things we sweep off, wash off, rinse off, or just generally don’t like to keep around because they are dirty in some way – they stain, smell, or just look like dirt. We would wash ashes away gladly!

Continued on page 2

But, when we peer into how ashes are used, especially in the Bible, it gets more interesting. Ashes are used to make soap, and they are good for fertilizing and cleaning. In the Bible, ashes are also used as a symbol of purification – as in putting on sackcloth and ashes in repentance (this reference shows up 9 times, 7 in the Old and 2 in the New Testament). Ashes also symbolize death and ruin, as in cities burned to ash. Ashes also resemble dust, which is what we are made of - “then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.” (Genesis 2:7) In fact, the service of death and resurrection (funeral service) has as a standard phrase for the prayer of committal – “ashes to ashes, dust to dust” to remind us that we came from nothing and return to nothing, except by the grace of God. So – in fact, ashes are used for washing – washing the body, the mind, and the spirit!

All of this is to say – when we get to Ash Wednesday and starting the season of Lent, keep in mind that the ashes are doing a lot of work! They are a reminder that we survive and thrive by the grace of God. They are a reminder to take our mortality seriously and make the most of whatever time we have left on earth. They are a symbol of repentance and a symbol of becoming clean. Most of all, they are a physical reminder of the spiritual reality that we are beloved children of God!

Brian K. Sixel

Light in the Darkness!

Following our Christmas celebrations, Epiphany Sunday, and Baptism of the Lord Sunday, our next series will follow the theme of light in the darkness – all the ways Jesus shows up in the dark places of our lives, and leads us to be there for others in their darkness. As John wrote, “The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:5) Join us as we see how Jesus pierces the darkness and gives us the calling of spreading light in every corner of the world.

Ash Wednesday

We are teaming up with Phoebus for Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday. Ash Wednesday is **Wednesday, February 18, 7pm at Phoebus**. We will be hosting Maundy Thursday, **Thursday, April 2, 7pm at First UMC Fox Hill**.

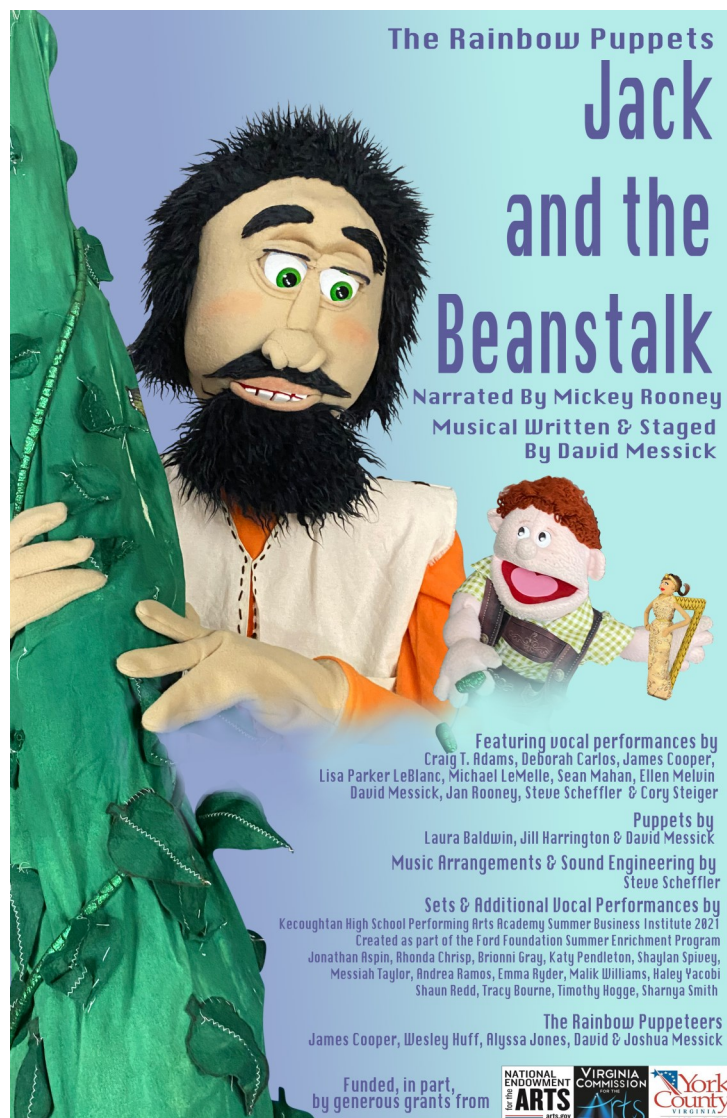
Confirmation begins in February!

If you want to learn more about being a disciple, growing in your faith, asking and seeking answers for hard questions, then talk to Pastor Brian about joining confirmation. Whether you have been baptized or confirmed before, all ages can join in. We’re tentatively scheduled to begin Sunday, February 22 at 5pm, and there’ll be an information meeting Sunday, February 8, 5:30pm.

Rainbow Puppets

Thursday, Feb. 5, 6:30pm!

We are thrilled to host the Rainbow Puppets for their Jack and the Beanstalk show on Thursday, Feb 5, 6:30pm. If you have time to help set up, break down, run a popcorn machine, or be a greeter, please let Pastor Brian know. This is another wonderful opportunity to reach out to our neighbors and welcome them in for family friendly entertainment.



The Rainbow Puppets
Jack and the Beanstalk
Narrated By Mickey Rooney
Musical Written & Staged By David Messick

Featuring vocal performances by
Craig T. Adams, Deborah Carlos, James Cooper,
Lisa Parker LeBlanc, Michael LeMelle, Sean Mahan, Ellen Melvin
David Messick, Jan Rooney, Steve Scheffler & Cory Steiger

Puppets by
Laura Baldwin, Jill Harrington & David Messick
Music Arrangements & Sound Engineering by
Steve Scheffler

Sets & Additional Vocal Performances by
Kecoughtan High School Performing Arts Academy Summer Business Institute 2021
Created as part of the Ford Foundation Summer Enrichment Program
Jonathan Aspin, Rhonda Chrisp, Brionni Gray, Katy Pendleton, Shaylan Spivey,
Messiah Taylor, Andrea Ramos, Emma Ryder, Malik Williams, Haley Vacobi
Shaun Redd, Tracy Bourne, Timothy Hogge, Sharnya Smith

The Rainbow Puppeteers
James Cooper, Wesley Huff, Alyssa Jones, David & Joshua Messick

Funded, in part,
by generous grants from

NATIONAL
ENDOWMENT
OF THE
ARTS
VIRGINIA
COMMISSION
OF THE
ARTS
York
County
Virginia

Financial Fundamentals January 2026

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.

I am pleased to report we began 2026 with all our bills paid and a decent balance in our bank accounts. We paid all of our Apportionments. In order to watch our cash flow carefully, we intentionally did not make our planned set asides for possible future major maintenance, but hope to make up for that in the near term. Already in January we have made a large repayment of principle on our loan with funds not needed for the work.

As most of you know, we secured a large loan to cover the huge cost of our new boiler, HVAC repair, and roof replacement. The need for the climate control equipment was obvious as they just plain broke, and while we know the roof replacement was needed. That was even more clearly demonstrated by the long-term damage uncovered during the work. Our challenge now is to repay the loan as quickly as possible to save us interest expense. We are receiving recurring “over and above” donations toward that cause, but we will soon have a directed campaign to that end. No need to wait, you can help now.

Annual Donation statements are being passed out as I write this in mid-January. We are trying to minimize postage costs, but will mail the balance at the end of January. If you do not receive yours and/or have any questions, please contact the office promptly so we can get that addressed. Likewise, if you didn't receive **donation envelopes for 2026** and would like some, talk to Cassandra in the office.

Cash and checks work great and the envelopes are for that purpose. If you would like to make your donations on-line, we are happy to make that easily available for you. Many people find it convenient and helpful. If you are reading this online, [click here](#) for easy on-line access. You can also use your phone and the donation QR Code or manually go to our web page www.firstumcfoxhill.org, click on give, scroll down to GIVE ONLINE, and click. There you can set up one-time gifts or automatic regular giving on a weekly, twice a month, or monthly schedule. Gifts to the One Fund – General Offering allow your financial staff flexibility in

managing our cash flow effectively.

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 to billb-1111@cox.net.

Total One Fund – Through December 2025		
Income for Planned Expenses ¹		\$506,547
Total One Fund Expenses (excludes pass through ²)	Planned	\$596,393
	Actual	\$490,837
Pass Through Income ²		\$8,422
Pass Through Expense ²		\$8,390
“Pay-It-Forward” Contributions		\$2,909
LUMENs Fund Raiser Income		\$1,025
LUMENs Fund Raiser Expense		\$247
Roof & Boiler Repair Income 2025 ³		\$97,996
Roof & Boiler Repair Expense 2025		\$219,756
Loan Principle Balance – Jan 1		\$158,801
¹ Includes regular and memorial contributions, building use income, interest, not listed, etc.		
² Represents contributions for non-budget items, e.g., flowers, special mission programs, not listed, etc.		
³ Does not include \$153,922 net loan for roof project.		

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Support
First UMC
Fox Hill



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.

February Team Leader: Marilyn Eubank,

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

Prayers

Brown Family
Steele family
Brian Eubank, Sr.

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



Thank you!

On behalf of the pack, I would like to thank the UMM for sponsoring the race for the second year in a row!

Thanks,

Nathan Graybeal
(Cubmaster - Pack 151)

Fifty Plus

Did you miss your chance? Maybe, maybe not. The sign-up deadline was February 1, for our Tuesday, April 14 – Saturday, April 18 trip to Chattanooga, TN including Asheville, NC and Pigeon Forge, TN!

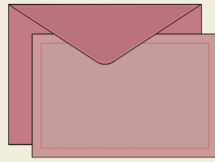
Check immediately to see if we have any space left.

Details are in the flyer which can be [found here](#), in the church Narthex, available on the First Fox Hill web page (www.firstumcfoxhill.org), or from Anne or Bill Bryan. **Don't miss out!**

Be sure to join us on Sunday afternoon, **June 14**, for a rousing ***Mystery Patriotic Musical*** performed by the **Williamsburg Players**. Contractual requirements preclude naming the show till March, but it will be a great afternoon out on Flag Day. Afterward we will stop for a meal. Cost is \$19 plus your meal.

Watch First Fox Hill publications for more details and contact Anne or Bill Bryan to sign-up – in person, at abandbb1@cox.net, or by phone to 757-851-0748.

ENVELOPE FUNDRAISER

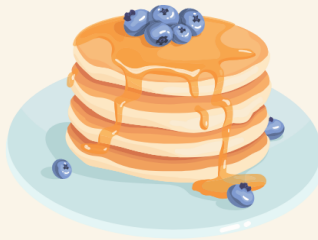


FOR THE YOUTH'S MISSION TRIP
TO KNOXVILLE, TN

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO HAS CONTRIBUTED TO OUR ENVELOPE FUNDRAISER! IN JUST TWO WEEKS, WE'VE ALREADY REACHED OVER 15% OF OUR GOAL, AND WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR GENEROSITY. IF YOU HAVEN'T PARTICIPATED YET, PLEASE CONSIDER HELPING US KEEP THE MOMENTUM GOING. EVERY GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

Shrove Tuesday

PANCAKE DINNER



February 17th

Rolling Dinner from 6-8 p.m.

Donations will go towards Elevate Youth's mission trip to Knoxville, TN this summer!

HOT COCOA BOMBS

FOR PRE-ORDER ON SUNDAYS FEBRUARY 8TH AND 15TH IN THE NARTHEX.
PICK UP ON AT THE SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH BETWEEN 6 AND 8 P.M.

4 BOMBS | \$5

Elevate Youth

SHROVE TUESDAY

50/50 RAFFLE!

50% to the winner
50% supports tour mission trip to Knoxville, TN

YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE IN ATTENDANCE TO WIN; WE WILL WRITE YOUR NAME AND NUMBER DOWN.

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE ON FEBRUARY 8TH AND 15TH IN BETWEEN SERVICES AND AT THE SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER.

FEB 17TH
WINNER DRAWN AT 7:00 P.M.

TICKET PRICE:
1 FOR \$5;
5 FOR \$20

Save the Date
February 7, 2026



An Evening with Andrew Blackmon

A Benefit Concert

Sharing His Life's Score

Join us for this special one-man concert as Andrew Blackmon tells the story of his life through music. Drawing from a lifetime of performances at First Church UMC Fox Hill, Peninsula Community Theatre, Williamsburg Players Community Theatre, our own Phoebus UMC and more, Andrew will share selections from the many paths his musical journey has taken — **classical, pop, musical theatre, gospel, and more** — and from the instruments he has mastered, including **piano, organ, and beyond**.

The evening will also include a **time for audience requests**, making the performance unique to you.

7:00 PM – Dessert in the Fellowship Hall

7:30 PM – Concert in the Sanctuary

PHOEBUS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

300 E. Mellen Street, Hampton, VA 23663

Make your reservations now by calling (757) 722-8009,
by email to: phoebus@phoebusumc.org, or on our facebook page.

Suggested Donation: \$15.00 per person

(Cash or checks only, please)

Benefits Church Operating Expenses

Birthdays

Marjorie Decker	2/1	Kay Foster	2/9	Nancy Geith	2/18
Sue Morehouse	2/1	Juliana Hodges	2/9	Ian Osborne	2/20
Edwin Stanley	2/2	Kaleb Hodges	2/10	Cheryl Huber	2/20
Mary Haughey	2/3	Thomas Gulbranson	2/10	Nancy Rogers	2/20
Charles Embler	2/3	Jacinda Mason	2/10	Don Johnson Jr.	2/21
James Jimerson	2/3	Bruce Stephens	2/10	David Hooper	2/22
Michaela Myaouenuh	2/3	Mike Williams	2/11	Gregory Cato	2/22
Joyce Wilson	2/4	Ted Rogers	2/11	Christopher Moffat	2/22
Lynda Routten	2/4	Brooklyn Hildebrandt	2/12	Mykela Scott	2/22
Gladys Fleshman	2/4	Marty Dunn II	2/12	Kenneth Gulbranson	2/23
Ernie Gurganus Jr.	2/4	T. J. Harman	2/12	Maude Casey	2/24
Berry Simpson	2/5	Sharon O'Neil	2/13	Michael Westphal	2/24
Oliver Nadeau	2/5	Holly Griffith	2/13	Linda Horner	2/24
Elijah Nadeau	2/5	Jeff Winston	2/13	Shelley Sanderson	2/25
Michael Andrews	2/6	Donald Green	2/15	Janet Clough	2/25
Marcy Messick	2/6	Cody Winston	2/15	Pam Roberts	2/25
Lydia Simpson	2/7	Jim Branstetter	2/15	Laura Delk	2/25
Michael Pavusa	2/7	Ed Fly	2/16	Emma Westphal	2/25
Forest Gilbert	2/7	Heather Riss	2/16	Angela Ward	2/26
Rome Thibeault	2/8	Shan Sixbey	2/18	Pat Leary	2/27
River Eanes	2/9	Leah Haas	2/18	Robert Smith Jr.	2/28
Rick Holden	2/9			LaRose Richardson	2/28

Anniversaries

Mike & Kathy Monteith	2/2
Amnobe Clement & Etando Namtee Clement	2/3
John & Marjorie Decker	2/5
Richard & Martha Stocker	2/6
Kelly & Christyne Ogdin	2/6
Steven & Angela Ward Sr	2/10
Scott & Linda Williams	2/16
Keith & Rachael Melanson	2/18
Bobbie & David Peterman	2/28



February

Saturday, February 7

All Day Pine Wood Derby: Cub Scout Pack 151: FH

Sunday, February 8

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Info Meeting: FH

Monday, February 9

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

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

Wednesday, February 11

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

4:30 p.m. Missions Team Meeting: Tri-X Room

Thursday, February 12

3:30 p.m. Hampton Pastors Gathering: Buckroe Coffee Co.

Sunday, February 15 Anchor Newsletter Deadline

Monday, February 16 Presidents' Day Church Office Closed

Tuesday, February 17 Shrove Tuesday

6:00 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner

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

Wednesday, February 18

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

5:30 p.m. Howe Farms HOA Meeting

Sunday, February 22

5:30 p.m. Confirmation Classes begin: FH

Monday, February 23

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

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

Tuesday, February 24

8:00 a.m. Facilities Team Workday

11:00 a.m. Bagging for Food Pantry

Wednesday, February 25

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

12:00 p.m. Food Pantry

Saturday, February 28

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

Small Groups

Monday

10:00 a.m.

Yoga: FH Stage

1:00 p.m.

"The Book" Club: Tri-X Room

Tuesday

10:00 a.m.

Shawl Makers: ESR

12:00 p.m.

Dominoes: FH Stage

Wednesday

9:30 a.m.

Soul Sisters: Faithlink

3:00 p.m.

Love Unites: ESR

5:45 p.m.

Wesley Bells Rehearsal

7:00 p.m.

1st Fox Hill Family Choir Practice

Thursday

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

6:00 p.m.

Elevate Youth: The Collective

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

3rd Thursday

6:30 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

UMW

Thursday Morning Circle:

1st Thurs., 10 a.m.: FH

UMM

Dinner and Meeting:

3rd Mon., 6:30 p.m.: FH

Scan the QR code below to subscribe to our email updates.



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