

The Anchor

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

January 2026

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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



“The Mental Block”

Every year, I try to plan my sermons well in advance so that our wonderful musicians have time to prep the choirs, bands, and so forth. Most of the time, I can stay a few months ahead, but every year I have the same issue – I get a block in December! Once I work past December, the block lifts and I can push ahead again.

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This is such a frequent occurrence for me that I no longer shake my head at it, but accept it as a routine, with apologies to Mark and Larissa. However, as many of you might point out: “A failure to plan is a plan to fail.” So I have found some workarounds.

The first workaround is that the first two Sundays of January are always set ahead of time. The first Sunday is Epiphany, or “Three Kings Sunday.” And the second is Baptismal renewal, or “Baptism of the Lord.” Those two weeks give me a little cushion.

The second workaround is for me to realize that just because I want to have the best Christmas Eve sermons I can possibly produce, if what follows Christmas Eve isn’t significant, then it doesn’t matter. Sure, we all have special days in our lives, days that we want to be especially good – perhaps birthdays, anniversaries, and the like. But most of our lives are lived in ordinary days. What makes those days special is not some secret sauce, but realizing that “with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day.” (2 Peter 3:8) In other words, every day is a special day when we walk with the Lord. Every day is a chance to learn, to grow, to be stretched, and to witness the goodness of God. After all, isn’t the real meaning of Christmas that God took on human flesh in order to transform us, and transformation into maturity (“the full measure of the stature of Christ” (Ephesians 4:13)), not just getting older, is what our lives are about? The babe in the manger is lovely to look at and think about – but how that babe has changed everything is what we are here to experience.

Perhaps you are like me, and you experience “glitches” in your plans or roadblocks that seem to prevent you from moving forward. If so, take heart – you are just as human as Jesus was! And step forward, knowing that even if you can’t see the way in front of you, Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. (John 14:6)

Brian K. Sibley

Light in the Darkness!

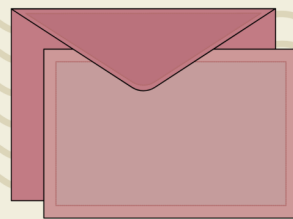
Following our Christmas celebrations, Epiphany Sunday, and Baptism of the Lord Sunday, our next series will follow the theme of light in the darkness – all the ways Jesus shows up in the dark places of our lives, and leads us to be there for others in their darkness. As John wrote, “The light shines 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.

Thank You!

Dear Marilyn and all the ladies of Martha’s Ministries.

Thank you for all of the time & talents that you shared with my family. What a beautiful reception you provided for my father’s funeral. The love and compassion that was shown to myself and my family truly touched my heart.

Thank you,
Lisa Haight & family



ENVELOPE FUNDRAISER

**FOR THE YOUTH’S MISSION TRIP
TO KNOXVILLE, TN**

PICK ANY ENVELOPE FROM THE 1-100 BOARD IN THE NARTHEX—THE NUMBER ON IT IS THE AMOUNT YOU’D LIKE TO GIVE. IF YOU WANT TO RECEIVE GIVING CREDIT, YOU CAN JOT YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS ON THE ENVELOPE. THEN JUST DROP IT IN THE OFFERING PLATE. THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SUPPORTING OUR MISSION—YOU’RE MAKING A REAL DIFFERENCE!

Financial Fundamentals December 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.

While it is still December when this is being written, we are about to enter a new year. Finances are an important part of most everything we do here at First Fox Hill. We wholeheartedly thank you for your continued support. Clearly, donations are how we are able to do all we do. Programs and ministries require staff and materials to make them happen, while utility, maintenance, equipment, A/V, and IT expenses are needed to support it all. And, like all United Methodist churches, we share connectional expenses supporting programs worldwide. We expect to finish the year in decent financial shape due to your regular support, as well as careful spending by the paid staff and our wonderful volunteers.

As you know, we incurred substantial expenses for our major HVAC and roof repairs/replacement. Your contributions have paid for about one-third of the cost and continue to make our monthly payments, but we still have a 6-figure loan to pay off as soon as possible to minimize interest costs.

Everyone is in a different financial position, but if you have been blessed with the ability to make a directed “over-and-above” contribution toward that loan principal, your support is truly appreciated. If you have any questions about how you can help, be sure to talk with your personal tax and/or financial professionals and check in with Bill Bryan, Finance Chair, before any unfamiliar transactions.

You probably noticed we manually passed out most of our donation envelopes for next year; the rest we will mail. If you do not receive envelopes and would like some, we are happy to take care of that; just let the church office know. Simply put, the change resulted from more people making online contributions and, not surprisingly, related significant increase in postal costs.

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.

Annual donation statements will be distributed by the end of January. Please check yours carefully as soon as you receive it and contact us promptly if you have any questions or issues. If you don’t receive a statement you are expecting, let the office know so we can address the issue before last-minute tax time.

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 November 2025		
Income for Planned Expenses ¹		\$457,832
Total One Fund Expenses (excludes pass through ²)	Planned	\$546,722
	Actual	\$447,975
Pass Through Income ²		\$4,365
Pass Through Expense ²		\$4,178
“Pay-It-Forward” Contributions		\$2,684
LUMENs Fund Raiser Income		\$25
LUMENs Fund Raiser Expense		\$0
Roof & Boiler Repair Income 2025 ³		\$65,834
Roof & Boiler Repair Expense 2025		\$251,123
Loan Balance – Nov1		\$158,967
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.		



Announcements

Fifty Plus

Our annual **"Planning Breakfast"** is scheduled for **Saturday, January 17, 2026** at the **Poquoson Diner at 480 Wythe Creek Road, Poquoson, about 20 minutes from church**. We'll **meet at church by 8:00 am** and take the bus for the first 24 people who sign-up to ride; the rest will drive themselves or carpool. Enjoy an 8:30 am breakfast from the brunch menu, chat about the spring trip and possible future outings, fellowship, and select individuals to support with cards in 2025. **Sign-up now so we have a good count.**

The word is out! **Tuesday, April 14 – Saturday, April 18 we will be touring Chattanooga, TN including Asheville, NC and Pigeon Forge, TN.** Details are in the flyer in the Narthex, available on the First Fox Hill web page, or from Anne or Bill Bryan. Don't miss out: **Seats are limited and deposits are required by Feb 1.** Open to members, past travelers, friends, and families.

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.

More to come. 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.

Poinsettia Dedications

In honor of:

Our loving parents:
Ken & Becky Felix, Kenny & Lori Ward
Given by Corey & Sarah Felix

Pastor Tommy Markham
Given by Becky Thompson

Gail Gulla
Anne & Bill Bryan
Given by Bonnie Hulton

Kassandra Brown
Given by Pat & Mary Parker

In Memory of:

Wayne Grigg
Given by Judy Grigg

Judy Dale Adams
Given by Michael D. Adams

Jane & Conway Rogers
Evelyn & Bud Lee
Given by Kathy & Dave Rogers

Mickey & Louise Gulla
Fred & Tisma Penfield
Given by Michael, Gail, Mike, & Brandon Gulla

Our parents
Given by Jane & Jesse Barbour

Mom, Dad, & Big Bro
Given by Dave Sharp



District Training

In Mission and Ministry Together

JANUARY 31, 2026
EBENEZER UMC, STAFFORD

Save the date to join us!

Training Tracks:
Faith Formation
Foundation of Care
Nuts and Bolts
Mission and Outreach
Technology



Happy Advent!

Mission River District is excited to share information about our upcoming **District Training Event**. With more than thirty sessions offered, we invite you to join us for a day of learning, collaboration, and practical tools to support and strengthen your ministry.

Training Tracks

Five training tracks will be offered throughout the day:

- **Nuts and Bolts** – Essential skills for the daily operations of the church
- **Missions and Outreach** – Explore how churches are engaging in mission locally and beyond
- **Faith Formation** – Deepen discipleship and explore opportunities for spiritual growth
- **Foundations of Care** – Sessions focused on pastoral care, support, and individual well-being
- **Technology** – Practical ways to use technology to enhance ministry

We encourage churches to attend as a team and spread out among sessions, then bring back new insights and ideas to strengthen the whole congregation.

Event Details

Date: January 31

Time: 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Ebenezer UMC, Stafford

Lunch: Provided at no cost

Registration & Information

- **Register online:** <https://www.cognitoforms.com/VAUMC/MRDDT26>
- **Sessions & descriptions:** [Click Here](#) (or use registration link)
- **Suggested tracks/course combinations:** [Click Here](#) (or use registration link)

We look forward to learning and growing together in ministry.

Happy Advent!

Jenn Robinson-O'Brien

Certified Lay Minister

District Director of Lay Servant Ministries

Director of District Training

Mission River District

"This is my story, this is my song - Praising my Savior all the day long"

Jones Middle School Update

Blessings abound! We dropped off 7 large boxes of food at Jones Magnet MS. Each box contained 45 pounds of a wide variety of food and a \$20 Food Lion gift card. The Counseling Director, Shawn Hare, was quite grateful for our church's generosity. Thank you to each of you who stepped up in a BIG way to support these 7 families especially given the short notice. God is surely working through us to love our neighbors!



FUMC-Fox Hill Missions Team

As Christians we are called to spread the Word and show love to others. Do you have an interest in reaching out to our community? Connecting with and supporting people/projects outside of our immediate area? Please join our Missions Team! We will have a planning meeting on January 14 at 4:30 at FUMC-Fox Hill to generate ideas for our work as the FUMC-Fox Hill Missions Team. No particular skills are needed, just a willing heart and an interest in generating ideas! Contact Pat Leary (757-876-3688) or Kathy Fisher (757-850-4462) with any questions/ideas.

Birthdays

Etando Namtee Clement	1/1	Ellianna Kasongo	1/15	Billy King Jr.	1/22
Josh McNutt	1/2	Jermarion Sykes	1/16	Dennis Lee	1/22
Chuck Rochelle	1/2	Mary Jane King	1/16	Sara Moon	1/22
Lori Ward	1/5	Dan Milne	1/16	Charley Winston	1/23
Carolyn Green	1/5	Kimberley Overby	1/17	Erin Malinowski	1/23
Roxanne Milne	1/7	Thomas Carroll	1/17	John Kravitz	1/23
Cindy Robinson	1/7	CJ Felix	1/17	Karmen Walden	1/23
Luke Robison	1/8	J. D. Triplett	1/18	Matt Allen	1/24
Sandra Chong	1/9	Kimberly Gaskins	1/18	Jean Pickin	1/24
Andrea Golden	1/10	Amy Kinser	1/18	Bill Allen	1/25
Christyne Ogdin	1/10	Jennifer Day	1/18	Michael McCabe	1/27
Kathy Steinke	1/10	Theresa Embler	1/18	Richard Stocker	1/27
Brian Sixbey	1/11	Daniel Golden	1/19	Ruth Simkins	1/27
Channing Ward	1/13	Caralea Getten	1/19	Louellen Weaver	1/27
Jim McAnally	1/14	Evon Ferrell	1/21	Mitchell Woods	1/28
Louise Russell	1/14	Sam Snow	1/21	Mark Brown	1/28
Sandra Neill	1/14	James Dilley	1/21	Cindy Gibbons	1/29
Allison Peretin	1/15	Ron Kravitz	1/22	George Woodley	1/31

Anniversaries

Patrick & Pat Parker	1/16
Ron & Debbie Charlton	1/18
Kenny & Lori Ward	1/31



January

Monday, January 12

5:30 p.m. Vision Team Meeting: Tri-X Room
6:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting: ESR
7:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting: Tri-X Room

Wednesday, January 14

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting: Tri-X Room
4:30 p.m. Missions Team Meeting: Tri-X Room

Thursday, January 15 Anchor Newsletter Deadline

Saturday, January 17

8:30 a.m. Fifty Plus Planning Breakfast: Poquoson Diner
(meet at church by 8 a.m. to ride the bus)

Tuesday, January 18

1:00 p.m. Vibrant Worship: Tri-X Room
7:00 p.m. PPSRC: Tri-X Room

Wednesday, January 21

12:00 p.m. Fellowship of Circumstance for Women
5:30 p.m. Howe Farms HOA Meeting

Saturday, January 24

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

Monday, January 26

6:00 a.m. Phoebus Women's Club Meeting: Faithlink Room
7:00 p.m. Ballroom Dance Class: FH

Tuesday, January 27

8:00 a.m. Facilities Team Workday
11:00 a.m. Bagging for Food Pantry

Wednesday, January 28

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting: Tri-X Room
12:00 p.m. Food Pantry

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.

January Team Leader: Marilyn Eubank, Pauline Snider

January Members: Glenda Helms, Jo Ann Markel, Shelby Sours, Sue Morehouse, C.J. McCarthy

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.**