

# The Anchor

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

## October 2025

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## “Are We Home Yet?”

You know the feeling – you’re in a car, truck, SUV, bus, van, plane, or train, and if there is a child around and if the trip will take more than five minutes – the question will come up: “Are we there yet? How much longer?”

A friend of mine, a long-time youth pastor, had a good solution: He would tell them how long the trip would take before they started, but every time someone asked, “How much longer?” His answer was “Twenty minutes.” All the adults he worked with would give the same answer, “Twenty minutes.” I think that’s a great

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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

way to deal with the frustration, at least from an adult perspective.

But the question still comes up, even when we go far past our teenage years. How much longer until I'm the person I want to become? How much longer until I can retire? How much longer do I have on earth? Am I home yet – no, not in my home on earth, but in my forever home? As we begin to lay out everything to get ready for Homecoming, I think it's a valuable question to ask. What does it mean to go home? Does our church, our faith, our community, tell us anything about home?

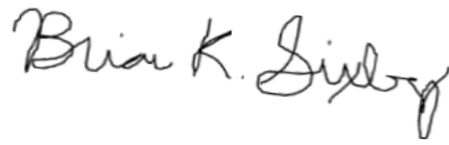
The idea of "homecoming" as a church body is that we have been the spiritual home or birthplace of many people through the years, and homecoming is a time to celebrate and remember how we have been home for people. And the idea isn't just an American idea – the British also have a homecoming Sunday every year – they call it "mothering day," as in going back to your mother church, the community that was your mother in faith.

But I think homecoming is more than that, as important as it is to remember, regather, and reflect. Homecoming is actually a reminder that our destination isn't just a church family on earth, but a reminder that we have an incredibly wide and deep home we all hope to get to. Whether we call it heaven, the new creation, the city of God, or just being with Jesus in eternity – we actually don't belong to earth – our origin and destination is the One who made the heavens and the earth.

So, the next time you ask those deep questions about who we are, where we are going, and what the point of it all is, remember that Homecoming is more than an event – it is preparation for eternal life that begins right now. And yes, please do invite friends, family, and those who were part of our church before, but who have moved elsewhere. Remind them that if they cannot physically come, they can join us online, and if they have passed from this life, they are no longer members of our church, but members of the church Triumphant and Eternal, and we will see them again!

And yes, I'll give you a breakdown of what we're doing in another article, but for now, get excited

about Homecoming, and invite the people you love to be part of it! Thank you for being part of our church family and our eternal family as well!



### Prayers

Randy Brown  
Jim Branstetter's sister  
Bonnie Hulton's grandchildren Jacob & Ashley  
Pastor Tommy  
Brian Eubank, Sr.

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.

**October Team Leader:** Marilyn Eubank

**October Members:** Marilyn Eubank, Judy Adams, Kathy Cato, Joyce Fly, Bonnie Herncall

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

If you or someone you know is in need of healing or strength please come take a prayer shawl out of the case in the west hallway. Anyone who is interested in joining the Prayer Shawl Ministry to knit or crochet should join us in the Edith Spencer Room on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.

# Financial Fundamentals October 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.

**HALLELUJAH!!!** Except for some sidewalk work by the Prayer Garden, our major repair and replacement projects on the Boiler, HVAC, and Roof are complete! Now, all we need to do is pay for them. The total **project cost to date is \$216,106.90**. Of that **we have raised a very significant \$121,479.50**. The balance was paid for through a loan we must pay back. Our wonderful congregation has really stepped up to this point and is continuing to make donations. **This is your chance to help us avoid some interest payments.** The year end is often a time when extra, special donations help us finish the year covering all our regular expenses. This year we still need it plus your additional help with paying down the loan. **Thank you for your support to date and in the future!**

Speaking of year end contributions, they are always needed just to pay our bills. At this point we are still behind on our Conference and District obligations and have not set aside planned reserve funds for future major maintenance. We need everyone's help. If you are fortunate to have stocks that have done well this year and/or have an IRA with a required minimum distribution, contributions to First Fox Hill can be of mutual benefit. Talk with your tax and/or financial advisor and touch base with Bill Bryan, Finance Chair, before taking any unfamiliar action, but don't delay and miss out.

Your latest giving statements should be out soon. These are not bills, but a way for you to help us make sure we have properly recorded the information which may be important for the upcoming tax time. Be sure to check yours as soon as you receive it and let us know of any issues, including if you don't receive one you expect.

**Regular giving** is usually the most convenient. Your contributions count whether they are through the offering plate, in the mail, or on-line. One way to help you stay up to date may be on-line where you can easily make one-time gifts or regular recurring

donations. Get started at our web site [www.firstumcfoxhill.org](http://www.firstumcfoxhill.org) by clicking 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. As noted above, those with **IRA funds** which must be withdrawn and/or **appreciated stocks**, 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 to [billb-1111@cox.net](mailto:billb-1111@cox.net).

Total One Fund – Through August 2025		
Income For Planned Expenses <sup>1</sup>		\$288,901
Total One Fund Expenses (excludes pass through <sup>2</sup> )	Planned	\$397,616
	Actual	\$307,063
Pass Through Income <sup>2</sup>		\$1,085
Pass Through Expense <sup>2</sup>		\$3,950
"Pay-It-Forward" Contributions		\$1,719
LUMENs Fund Raiser Income		\$25
LUMENs Fund Raiser Expense		\$0
Roof & Boiler Repair Income 2025 <sup>3</sup>		\$94,494
Roof & Boiler Repair Expense 2025		\$101,791
<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.		
<sup>3</sup> Does not include \$153,922 net loan for roof project.		

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First UMC  
Fox Hill



# Announcements

## Fifty Plus

• **We need at least 4 more participants now** for our outing to see *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*, at **Regent University on Sunday, October 12**. Laughs, disguises, and mystery await in this door-slamming farce! Don't miss this uproarious blend of showbiz glitz and spine-tingling suspense! **Cost is \$23.00 plus your meal afterwards. Reserve your spot now!!!**

• **Sunday, November 23: *Hooey-Hahs & Foofaraws*, CNU**. The sleepy little burg of Battue Haven, MN, is an idyllic suburban gem of picket fences and manicured lawns until, suddenly, with a literal Bada-bing-bada-BOOM!!... the sudden arrival of two mob enforcers. **Cost is \$12.00 plus your meal afterwards.**

• **Saturday, December 13: *A Christmas Carol*, Williamsburg Players**. A traditional holiday classic for the entire family, guaranteed to fill you with the Christmas spirit and warm your heart. **Trip cost is \$19.00 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](mailto:abandbb1@cox.net), or by phone to 757-851-0748.

## Nights Welcome

FUMC Fox Hill will again participate in the A Night's Welcome winter sheltering program. The location schedule is still being worked out but our dates to supply meals are November 20, January 15, February 19, and March 19. The United Methodist Men will take care of the first one but we need other groups to sign up for the remaining dates. As in the past each group will prepare the dinner meal and breakfast bags for the following morning and UMM will deliver the food and serve the dinner meal.

### Dinner Meal:

Protein and side dishes, bread, dessert. Casseroles work well. Meals need to be delivered hot and ready to serve to the church by 5:15pm for delivery.

### Breakfast Bags:

Breakfast item such as Pop Tarts or breakfast bread, fruit cups (not applesauce), cereal bars, anything else that is shelf stable. Also a beverage, preferably juice, and I am told that small cans of V8 are a preferred choice. Use paper bags and put the delivery date on the bag so that the ANW staff can track them for food safety.

Any questions please contact me.

Dave Rogers, 757-848-3006, [drogers51@cox.net](mailto:drogers51@cox.net)

## Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

It's Shoebox time again! Through Operation Christmas Child, our church can help fulfill the Great Commission and share the Gospel around the world. A shoebox is more than toys and school supplies—it is a tangible expression of God's love.

Thirty-two years ago, Samaritan's Purse, a Christian relief organization, began Operation Christmas Child with just a few thousand shoeboxes collected by a church in Charlotte, NC. Since then, shoeboxes have been sent to 170 countries and territories. By God's grace, last year 11.9 million were sent from the United States, contributing to a worldwide total of 232 million.

Each child who receives a shoebox is also invited to participate in a 12-lesson discipleship program led by trained volunteer teachers.

In our Narthex, you'll find a display table with preprinted boxes and labels if you would like to prepare a gift. Please bring completed boxes back by **Sunday, November 23, 2025**—the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

For questions, contact **Mary Jane King** at 757-851-8628 or [mjking@gmail.com](mailto:mjking@gmail.com).



## Homecoming Weekend at First UMC Fox Hill

**Saturday, October 25 – Tent Revival (3:00–4:30 p.m.)**

Join us in the main church parking lot for an afternoon of worship and celebration!

- **Music** from our accompanists, choir, and praise band
- **Preaching from:**
  - Rev. Kenny Newsome (served First UMC Fox Hill 1990–2000)
  - Rev. Rich Meisner (pastor of Main Street UMC, Suffolk; grew up at First UMC Fox Hill)
  - Guest Rev. Reason Chandler (Woodland UMC)

A tent and metal chairs will be provided, but you're encouraged to bring your own lawn chair for comfort. In case of extreme weather, the service will move indoors. Restrooms will be available throughout the service.

## **Sunday, October 26 – Homecoming Service (10:00 a.m.)**

- **Sunday School** at 9:00 a.m.
- **Worship** led by Pastor Kenny Newsome, with special music from our talented music teams
- **Potluck Meal** following worship in the Fellowship Hall
  - Fried chicken provided
  - Please drop off your dish in the kitchen when you arrive

Volunteers are welcome to help with set-up and clean-up. Contact Pastor Brian if you'd like to serve.

## First UMC Fox Hill

THE CHURCH ON THE CORNER

# HOMECOMING: THE REVIVAL

**REVIVAL:**  
SATURDAY,  
OCT. 25, 2025  
3PM-4:30PM



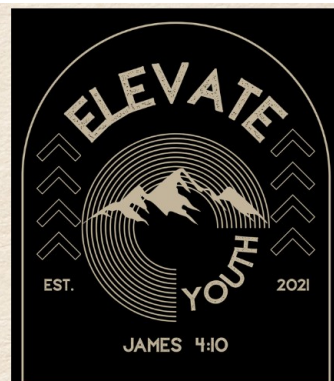
**SERVICE & LUNCH:**  
SUNDAY,  
OCT. 26, 2025  
10AM-12:30PM

## Elevate Youth

T-shirt

free for youth;  
\$15 for everyone else!

 ORDER NOW



## Pumpkin Patch

All of a sudden the weather has changed! Everywhere you turn there's the smell of cinnamon, pumpkin, and crisp autumn air. The leaves are changing, and that can only mean one thing—**Pumpkins are coming!**

At First UMC Fox Hill, this is such an exciting time. Soon the gourds will arrive, and many hands will be needed to spread them across the lawn. The booth will be set up, and volunteers will help welcome the groups of kids who come to visit.

This all takes a lot of helping hands, and we'd love for you to be part of it. If you'd like to volunteer, keep an eye out for the board and calendar that will go up at the beginning of October. Consider signing up—bring your family, friends, class, or group along to join the fun. No special talent is needed, just a willing spirit!

If something comes up and you can't make your scheduled time, please let us know so we can work out a substitute.

Thank you for being part of this ministry, and **Happy Pumpkin Patch!**

### Contacts:

- Pat Parker – 757-869-8233
- Mary Parker – 757-846-1194
- Steve Phillips – 757-768-9114
- Dave Sharp

# Pumpkin Patch

*Saturday, October 25, 3PM  
Homecoming: The Revival*

### Current schedule of events follows:

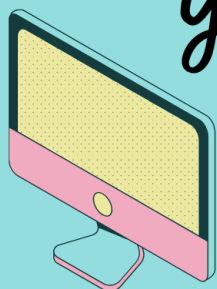
- 9/28/25: Sign up in the Narthex
- 10/13/25 9:00am: Outdoor Set up
- 10/15/25 2pm: Unload Pumpkins & Dinner
- 10/16/25 - 10/31/2025 Pumpkin Patch Open
- 11/1/25 9am: Pumpkin Patch Cleanup

*Sunday, October 26, 10AM  
Combined Worship Service  
& Potluck*



## youth tech desk

ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH, BRING YOUR TECH QUESTIONS AND  
DEVICES TO OUR YOUTH IN THE NARTHEX FOR ANY HELP YOU MIGHT NEED  
BETWEEN SERVICES



## Birthdays

Stephen Struck	10/1	Abigail Holcomb	10/11	Christopher Clinton	10/19
Riley Roberson	10/1	Dawn Eanes	10/11	Kathy Rogers	10/20
Chuck Farmer	10/1	Ron Mayo	10/11	Jennifer Musser	10/20
Dave Sharp	10/1	Donna Francis	10/11	Vicky Coiner	10/21
Stephanie Routten	10/2	Marsha Spencer	10/12	Brett Palko	10/21
Jaden Loyd	10/2	Elliott Thurston	10/13	Carol Hudgins	10/21
Adrienne Soulé	10/3	Doug Carr	10/13	Debbie Bollinger	10/22
Robert Wright	10/3	Brad Bauer	10/13	Amber Palmer	10/22
Carla Mingee	10/3	Doris Dickert	10/14	Alison Sheppard	10/23
Erin Bunting	10/3	David Weaver	10/14	Brian Ward	10/24
Chloe Howell	10/4	Paolo Hawley	10/14	Robin Davis	10/24
Miriam Meyers	10/4	Terri Greer	10/15	Tiffany Roberson	10/24
Rick Nolin	10/5	Mark Robinson	10/15	Susan Dow	10/25
Paxton Ward	10/5	Emily Struck	10/15	Julie Williams	10/25
Bobby Weaver	10/6	Cody Simpson	10/15	Theresa Nystrom	10/26
Andrew Walden	10/6	Erin Gillespie	10/16	Abbey Snow	10/26
Leslie Crandol	10/7	Joann Smith	10/16	Kay Royster	10/27
John Pickin	10/8	Jeff Sandford	10/17	Wyatt Sheppard	10/28
Robert Hoyt	10/9	Kathy Brookman	10/17	Corey Felix	10/29
Tyler Chase	10/9	Victoria Haight	10/17	Luke Knaub	10/30
Zachary Struhs	10/10	Jeannie Hastedt	10/19	Owen Carper	10/30
Melissa Miller	10/10	Calvin Vaughan	10/19	Elizabeth Apperson	10/31
Cynthia Hearn	10/10	Les Bollinger	10/19	Chris Foster	10/31
				Kathryn Hawley	10/31

## Anniversaries

Ron & Debra Kravitz	10/1	Jim & Mary McAnally	10/10
Don & Cindy Johnson Jr.	10/1	Marc & Susan Nadeau	10/10
Mike & Pam May	10/4	Bryce & Nicole Quinn	10/14
Martin & Florence Dunn	10/4	Mark & Melissa Doughty	10/14
Preston & Nicole Lewis	10/4	David & Leslie Crandol	10/17
James & Nancy Johnston	10/5	Kassandra & Peter Brown	10/18
Mike & Lanie Avery	10/7	Lloyd & Kathy Cato Jr.	10/18
Salvatore & Effie Nicosia	10/8	Donna & Christopher Evers	10/19
Ed & Joyce Fly	10/10	Steve & Heather Riss	10/27
Berry & Gina Simpson	10/10	Chip & Melissa Herncall Jr.	10/31



## October

**Tuesday, October 7 Church Office Closed**

**Wednesday, October 8 Church Office Closed**

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

**Sunday, October 12**

10:00 a.m. Elevate Youth Tech Services: Narthex

12:30 p.m. Fifty Plus Outing: Regent University

**Monday, October 13**

5:30 p.m. Vision Team Meeting: Tri-X Room

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

6:30 p.m. The Collective: Youth Council

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

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

**Wednesday, October 15 Anchor Newsletter Deadline**

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

2:00 p.m. Pumpkin Delivery, Unload, and Dinner

**Thursday, October 16- Friday, October 31**  
Pumpkin Patch

**Sunday, October 19**

3:00 p.m. Critter Sitters Team Social (private): Picnic tables

4:30 p.m. Charge Conference: Sanctuary

**Tuesday, October 21**

11:00 a.m. Bagging for Food Pantry

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

**Wednesday, October 22**

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

12:00 p.m. Food Pantry

**Saturday, October 25**

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

3:30 p.m. Homecoming Tent Revival

**Sunday, October 26**

10:00 a.m. Homecoming Single Service and Potluck

**Monday, October 27**

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

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

**Tuesday, October 28**

8:00 a.m. Facilities Team Meeting

## 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.**