

The Anchor

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

September 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
Mikell Bond
Nursery Attendant
Chelsea Kyme
Nursery Assistant
~



"The Sign Question"

Without fail, nearly every time I see Hunter Francis, he has a question for me: "What do I put on this sign this week?" You see, Hunter has been putting up the church sign since Moses was in diapers (not really, but he has done it a long time!) He and I agree that whatever goes on the sign should be things the community would be interested in, so that's why you haven't seen signs advertising Bible studies and the like – we do note special services and the like, but we try to focus on general interest things.

Continued on page 2

The issue is – there are more than a few weeks in a year when there isn't a general interest item. Except, now, for September! We will be part of several general interest items. First, we are all invited to a Hampton-wide United Methodist Church cookout on September 7. It'll be from 11am-2pm at the Courtyard shelters by the playground at Sandy Bottom Park. This will be a low-key event, where the goal is simply to gather together, share food, and get to spend time with our neighbors from around the city.

This is the "first fruit" of the gatherings I have been arranging for the Hampton pastors since April. We are working towards some training and other events in the future, but we thought a cookout/potluck/picnic would be a good start to future events, since it would foster relationships.

The second event will be for us specifically – we are planning a Homecoming weekend for October 25 and 26. Of course, we plan to bring one of our former pastors to bring the message at a 10am combined service on Sunday, and of course, we plan to have a potluck meal to follow. However, we also plan to have a tent revival on the Saturday before, October 25, with not just one or two, but several pastors to bring a message of hope, love, faith, and salvation. The tent revival will feature excellent music, as expected, and we'll also be looking for ways to make it family-friendly. Perhaps you've never been to a revival, or perhaps your idea of revival is preachers yelling and scaring people, but be assured – our goal is not to scare people towards Jesus, but to honor Jesus by loving the people he brings into our lives.

If you haven't figured it out yet, I brought up the sign as a way of introducing these events, and as a bonus, to let you know about one of the many unsung heroes we have in our church family. Like every family, people sometimes move, sometimes pass on, sometimes go in different directions, but like the best of families, we find the greatest joy and satisfaction when each of us shares in life together and develop into our full potential. I don't need you to be exceptional or give of yourself to the point where you have no life, but I do encourage you to find ways to share your talents, blessings, hopes, and even your fears. You may be surprised to discover there are many people just like Hunter, who do things in our church and in our community, not because it brings

them fame, but because they have a gift and a hope to share. That's why I am glad to be your pastor, even fifteen years and a few months after I first arrived here!

It's my honor to serve alongside you!



Prayers

Pastor Tommy
Bruce Fleenor
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.

September Team Leader: Marilyn Eubank

September Members: Marilyn Eubank, Kay Foster, LaRose Richardson, Kathy Fisher, Patty Biondolillo



Thank You To Martha's Ministry

Thank you so much for the delicious food provided after the service for Nancy Forrest. It was a blessing to be able to receive people at home and have time to fellowship. Because Jay and I were away from our home church, we felt especially loved during our time of grief. Please accept this donation to continue blessing others as you have our family.

In Christ,
Jay, Jennifer, & Cary Forrest
Family of Nancy Forrest

Financial Fundamentals September 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.

When you read this, the majority of our two huge projects – new boiler and new roof – should be essentially complete with only some minor residual wrap-up. Thanks to the generosity of the First Fox Hill congregation, about half of the combined projects have been paid for with the balance funded through a loan. That loan will involve payments of \$908 monthly. We will, however, be doing all we can to pay it off early saving on interest expense. We raised half in a year, let's see if we can do the balance in less time! **Please help us accomplish that goal in the near future.**

We are entering the period when we compile our **annual spending plan** or budget for 2026. The process involves the functional chairs and their committees estimating what it will take for their areas during the coming year. The Finance Committee then compiles that data for review and presentation to the Church Council for approval before it is presented to the Congregation at the Charge Conference.

While the spending plan is broken into nearly 100 different line items, they are all funded through what we call the **General (or One) Fund**. That gives the Finance personnel the ability to apply available funds where most needed at any given time. We sometimes have special giving requests – like the boiler and roof or youth mission trip – but it is important to remember that we could not exist without the funds to pay for everyday things like utilities (to heat, light, and cool the building), our staff's salaries, the AV and IT equipment/systems that allows us to amplify and stream our services/programs, run the office, supply the kitchen, clean the building including restrooms, as well as fund our missions and programs.

At this time, we are behind on our **Apportionments** which help to fund the greater UMC operations. Thanks for all your help.

Your contributions count whether they are through the offering plate, in the mail, or on-line. For many, if not most, of our members, **regular giving** is the most convenient. One way to help you stay current may be on-line where you can easily give one-time or set up regular recurrent donations. Get started at our web

site 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. 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 to billb-1111@cox.net.

Total One Fund – Through July 2025		
Income For Planned Expenses ¹		\$259,412
Total One Fund Expenses (excludes pass through ²)	Planned	\$347,914
	Actual	\$273,627
Pass Through Income ²		\$1,085
Pass Through Expense ²		\$3,950
"Pay-It-Forward" Contributions		\$1,433
LUMENs Fund Raiser Income		\$25
LUMENs Fund Raiser Expense		\$0
Roof & Boiler Repair Income 2025 ³		\$83,594
Roof & Boiler Repair Expense 2025		\$100,882
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 funds collected in late 2025.		

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Support
First UMC
Fox Hill



From the AV Team

To Our Live Stream Viewing Audience,

We sincerely apologize for the recent interruptions during our Sunday morning live-stream broadcasts.

While we are committed to providing consistent weekly services, our efforts are occasionally hindered by issues beyond our control—specifically, our internet service provider (Cox). Unfortunately, we've experienced several recent instances of reduced bandwidth, which have disrupted our live streams. We deeply regret any inconvenience this has caused and are actively exploring alternative options to ensure a more stable and reliable connection.

What to Do If the Livestream is Interrupted:

- **If you're watching on our church website** and experience an interruption, please wait a few minutes. We may be able to reestablish the connection.
- **If you're watching on Facebook**, unfortunately, the stream will be disconnected for the remainder of the service.

If you are unable to reconnect during the **9:00 AM traditional service**, we encourage you to try joining us for the **10:30 AM modern service**—provided bandwidth has been restored. Pastor Brian shares the same sermon at both services.

Missed Both Services?

You can always watch the **archived version** of the service on our church website's media page. These are typically posted within a couple of hours after the live broadcast, using our backup recording.

Help Us Improve

We welcome your feedback—how are we doing, and how do you usually connect to our services? If you have ideas to improve our broadcasts or make them more accessible, please let us know:

- Email the **church office** at: churchoffice@firstumcfoxhill.org
- You can also reach **Jim directly** at: comanche1@cox.net

Join the Production Team

We're always looking for a **few good people** to join our production team! We've intentionally simplified our setup to make it accessible to non-professionals—though the “back row” might look intimidating at first glance, don't worry, we provide full training.

Ideally, a full production team includes:

1. Front-of-house audio
2. Presentation visuals
3. Livestream producer/director
4. Mobi-cam operator
5. Dedicated livestream audio (“make-up” audio)

Let us know what role interests you—no multitasking required if that's not your thing!

Thank you for your patience, understanding, and continued support. We are grateful for your presence—whether in person or online.



Mission Trip Report: Diné Christian Church, White Rock, Utah

Dates: July 24 – August 1, 2025

Submitted by: First UMC Fox Hill, Elevate Youth

Overview

From July 24 to August 1, our team of nine teenagers and five adults from Elevate Youth partnered with Pure Water Ministries and Dine Christian Church in White Rock, Utah. We went with open hands and open hearts, ready to worship, serve, and learn. Our time was filled with youth ministry, shared meals, worship, and countless conversations. More than anything, it was about building relationships with God, with each other, and with our Navajo brothers and sisters in Christ.

Worship

Saturday Night Worship – July 26: Our trip began with a community worship service fully led by our youth. They sang, shared personal testimonies, and invited others to respond to God's call. That night, three teenagers gave their lives to Christ, and a baby was dedicated to the church. It was holy ground, humbling, powerful, and unforgettable.

Sunday Morning Worship – July 27: The next morning, our teens again led the entire service including music, Scripture, and testimonies. Our Youth Director preached on unity, hope, and calling. What struck us most was not just the opportunity to serve but the warmth of the welcome. We felt like family, not visitors.

Youth Camp – July 28 to July 31: For four days, we hosted a youth camp at Dine Christian Church with games, crafts, music, Bible lessons, and lunch each day.

When camp began Monday morning, only two teenagers showed up. Quiet questions filled our minds: *Did we prepare for nothing? Did we miss what God wanted to do?* That afternoon, our team circled up to pray. We asked God to bring whoever needed to be there and to use us however He chose.

By Thursday, our last day, sixteen teens had come through the doors. More importantly, connections had been made, stories had been shared, and trust had begun to grow. It was a living reminder that we prayed, and God provided.

Food Ministry and Outreach

Food became the unexpected heartbeat of our ministry. We had planned two cookouts, one after the Saturday worship and one midweek for campers and families, but it turned into much more.

Every day, our youth served lunch to the teens at camp. These meals gave space for laughter, conversations, and friendships to form. And then came the surprise of extra food. Instead of wasting it, we packed it up and shared it with families in the community. What we thought was surplus became blessing. Over and over again, we were reminded that God's table always has room for more.

Outcomes

- **Spiritual Growth:** Three teenagers made commitments to Christ, and our own youth discovered what it means to step into bold leadership.
- **Relationships:** New friendships were built, especially with another youth group that joined during the week. We are now calling ourselves "sister youth groups" and hope to reunite again.
- **Flexibility and Leadership:** Plans shifted daily, attendance changed, schedules bent, but our youth responded with grace and courage. They learned to lead with humility and joy.
- **Cultural Awareness:** Many of our teens had never experienced life on a reservation. Being welcomed into Navajo culture was eye-opening, humbling, and transformational.

Conclusion

This trip changed us. We came to serve, but we left having been shaped ourselves by the faith of the Dine Christian Church, by the resilience and generosity of the community, and by the unmistakable presence of God in our midst.

We are deeply grateful to the congregation at White Rock for their hospitality, and to every person who supported us through prayer and giving.

We carry these stories home with us, and we are already praying about when and how we can return. The good work God began on the Navajo Reservation is not finished yet.

Announcements

Fifty Plus

Following our Planning Potluck Picnic in the Park, we have been working diligently on the 2025 – 26 season for the Fifty Plus group at First Fox Hill. Here are some preliminary dates to mark on your calendar.

- **Tuesday, September 30:** Sign up now for a fascinating morning at the **Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel Visitor Center**. We'll have a presentation, Questions and Answers, and time to see the pictures and models. You've probably seen it for longer than you like, now learn what it is all about. **Cost is \$3.00 plus your meal afterwards. Reserve your spot now!!!**
- **Sunday, October 12:** *The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940*, **Regent University**. 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.

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.

THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING!!!

Arrival time and day is scheduled for 2 pm, Wednesday, October 15. So, MARK YOUR CALENDAR ... this is a BIG day, and we will need your help – rain or shine, on time or not! Following the unloading of the truck we will enjoy dinner together hosted by the Phoebus Women's Club.

The Annual Pumpkin Patch is an Important event for FUMC-FH! The Patch is a great opportunity to share fun and time with your fellow church members and the community that surrounds us. People come from far and wide to shop, play, and photograph in the church's Patch. We get a chance to share with them and earn substantial funds for our programs and ministries.

ELEVATE YOUTH

UPCOMING EVENTS

5 OCT 6-7:30PM	SKYZONE TRIP \$5 PER PERSON
14-16 NOV TBD	CALLED TO LEAD RETREAT
20 DEC 5-10PM	UMW CHRISTMAS DINNER
21 DEC 6-8PM	ELEVATE YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

THE COLLECTIVE

TABLETOP

Board game & Video game group that meets on Saturdays from 6-7

YOUTH COUCL

A group of students who meet every other second Monday to help plan, lead, and shape our youth ministry.

HANDS & FEET

A team that meets monthly, as needed, to organize and serve in hands-on mission projects in our community.

Birthdays

Tammy Winston	9/1	Erin McNeil	9/11	Jessup Triplett	9/19
Donna McDowell	9/1	Kathy Graumann	9/11	Kyan Pereira	9/19
Parker Ferguson	9/2	Xavier Scott	9/11	Lindsay Gulla	9/20
Steve Riss	9/2	Fred Foster	9/12	Julie Bell	9/20
John Capriotti	9/2	Alan Williams	9/12	Charlie Wright	9/20
Effie Nicosia	9/2	Daniel Bunting	9/13	Tyree Brown	9/21
Kathy Kromoff	9/3	Andrea Sanderson	9/13	Betty Knaub	9/21
Shirley Holmes	9/3	Kimiko Wood	9/13	Ben Godwin	9/21
Loretta Sherlock	9/3	Ean Moon	9/14	Hunter Francis	9/22
Jackson Westphal	9/4	Evelynn Moon	9/14	Alex Winston	9/23
Mimeo Soriano Jr.	9/5	Don Tackett	9/15	Harlie Broyles	9/24
Donna Evers	9/6	Preston Lewis	9/15	Lawrence Musser III	9/24
Robert Smith	9/6	Treyson Seely	9/15	Michele Winston	9/25
Adalynn Thurston	9/6	John Blake Jr.	9/15	Anne Powell	9/25
Mark Knaub	9/8	Sofia Seely	9/15	Al Castanien	9/26
Chris Carper	9/8	Holley Snider	9/16	Connor Hawley	9/26
Christine Woods	9/8	Charlene Creekmur	9/16	Sarah Tricarico	9/26
Glyne Conner	9/8	Lauren Taylor	9/16	Kaylyn Greer	9/26
Lori Peters	9/8	Raymond Hodges	9/16	Martina Lee	9/26
Ryan Eanes	9/9	Tony Kromoff	9/16	Carrie Hopkins	9/26
Thomas Blackmon	9/9	Janae Stupica	9/17	Beth Hughes	9/27
Jack Morehouse	9/9	Bev Stanworth	9/18	Martha Stocker	9/27
Erika McLemore	9/10	Timothy Holden	9/18	Ferdinand Clement	9/27
Jordan Moffat	9/10	Kathy Cato	9/18	Wayne Lewis	9/28
Elizabeth Ridout	9/10	Raygen Pavusa	9/18	Nathan Evers	9/28
Carmen Stupica	9/10	Sharon Priddy	9/19	Miriam Ridout	9/28
Nick Quinn	9/10	Kim Pudliner	9/19	Stuart Speth	9/29
Mike Martoni	9/10	Stephanie Craven	9/19	Elizabeth Barroso	9/30
Alice Cheslock	9/10	Kathy Monteith	9/19	Brian Currier	9/30
Donna Hamby	9/10				

Anniversaries

Susan & Terry Dow	9/3	Catherine & Michael Westphal	9/15
Ben & Katie Kessler	9/4	Gary & Terri Greer	9/15
Beverly & Reb Godwin	9/4	Bobby & Beth Hearp	9/25
Phyllis Holland-James & Jody James	9/6	Calvin & Pat Leary Jr.	9/25
DeeDee & Chuck Bullock	9/7	Tony & Kathy Kromoff	9/25
Terrie & Charles Galay	9/7	Diego Capriotti & Jeanne Godwin	9/28
Tony & Leigh Loyd	9/7	Jeff & Nancy Verry	9/29
Brent & Lynne Bunting	9/8	Brad & April Bauer	9/30
Ryan & Ginny Tuttle	9/8	Al & Betsy Castanien	9/30
Bruce & Roxanne Milne	9/10		



September

Monday, September 1 Labor Day

Church Office Closed

Saturday, September 6

11:00 a.m. Hampton Area UMC Cookout!

Monday, September 8

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

Tuesday, September 9

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

Wednesday, September 10

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

Monday, September 15 Anchor Newsletter Deadline

Tuesday, September 16

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

Wednesday, September 17

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

Monday, September 22

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

Tuesday, September 23

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, September 24

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

12:00 p.m. Food Pantry

Saturday, September 27

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

Tuesday, September 30

10:00 a.m. Fifty Plus Outing: HRBT Visitor Center

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.

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

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

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

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.**