

February 2026

FUMCHS News

A Monthly Newsletter Highlighting Events at Your Church!



INSIDE:

From Pastor Tim -
Page 1 & 2

Birthdays - Page 2

Julie's Corner - Page 3

Giving as Service -
Page 4

Happenings - Page 5

From Pastor Tim

On the first Sunday of the month, and other times as well, we gather around the “Table of the Lord.” We share in The Lord’s Supper (Holy Communion, eucharist (“thanksgiving”). Since the first days of the early church, this “table time” has been a central element of worship. Believers share in a “remembrance” of Christ’s sacrificial love and offering for our salvation. More so, we believe that Christ is present with us when we partake of the bread and the cup.

“Christ’s real presence in the Eucharist refers to the unique way in which He is present...[The] Lord’s Supper is not merely symbolic but an occasion where the risen Christ truly meets and nurtures His followers. This real presence has long been a point of deep theological interest and practice, recalling Christ’s command to “Do this in remembrance of Me” (Luke 22:19).”¹

Throughout the centuries, different understandings of how Christ is present with us have developed.



Lisa
Roy
Susan
Rhonda
Jill
Magnolia
Douglas
Luke
Lance
Linda
Jacob
Ava
Barbara
Bruce
Nixon
Sharon
TJ

Transubstantiation. In the Roman Catholic tradition (and others), through the priest's invocation of the Spirit, the physical substance of bread and wine becomes the literal body and blood of Christ. Christ is newly sacrificed for us, and for our salvation, each time the eucharist is celebrated. The Protestant Reformation rejected this understanding, citing Hebrews 7:27:

... [Christ] does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself.

Consubstantiation. Drawing upon an understanding of real presence developed by Martin Luther, Lutherans and other traditions believe that when consecrated, the physical substance of bread remains bread, yet Christ co-exists in the bread; the physical substance of wine is still wine, yet Christ co-exists in the wine. This seems like a real "headscratcher," until you consider that scripture teaches us we are filled with the Holy Spirit, living now "in Christ," yet still flesh and blood, sinful and fallible people. We are "both/and."

Real Presence. United Methodists and others believe that Christ is present with us in ways that transcend a physical presence, uniting with us at the table and providing spiritual nurture and guidance. Key texts for this understanding are Matthew 18:20:

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

And Luke 22:19:

And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me."

The word "remembrance" is a translation from a Greek word: anamnesis, which means more than a mental recall; it means literally "to make present." Christ promises that when we are "at the table," he is present and participating in the life of the gathered community. And that's the bottom line. Christ is with us. Glory to God!

In faith, hope and love,
Pastor Tim

¹ What is Christ's real presence in the Eucharist? (BibleHub)

Love that Last

By Julie Collett



***“When the Love of God
pours out of you, people
notice.”***

February talks a lot about love—cards, flowers,
quick gestures, big feelings.
But the kind of love that changes lives?
It’s quieter. Steadier. Less flashy.

God’s love doesn’t show up once a year with balloons.
It shows up daily—with patience when we’re tired,
grace when we fall short, and
faithfulness when life feels uncertain.

Real love looks like:

- Staying when it would be easier to pull away
- Serving without needing recognition
- Choosing compassion even when frustration is loud

Love that lasts is built in ordinary moments—small choices, repeated often.

As a church, we’re called to live that kind of love.
Not perfectly.
Intentionally.

This February, my encouragement is simple:
Let love move you beyond words and into action.
Into listening.
Into serving.
Into showing up.
Because when love is lived out consistently, it becomes visible.
And visible love changes everything.



A Stylish New Look

Have you seen the shop lately? Vicki has been hard at work giving Shoppers Paradise a fresh transformation! By trading the old yellow for a modern, fashion-forward "latte" palette, she's created a space that feels contemporary and high-end.

This beautiful update makes our ministry even more welcoming for the community. Next time you're in, be sure to check out the new look and thank Vicki for her vision!



Helping Hearts Saturday – A Success

Helping Hearts Saturday was a wonderful reminder of what happens when people show up with willing hands and open hearts.

Volunteers came together to serve behind the scenes and throughout our church spaces—cleaning, organizing, and caring for the little details that make a big difference. Every act of service, seen and unseen, reflected love in action.

Thank you to everyone who gave their time, energy, and heart.

Your service strengthens our church family and blesses more people than you may ever realize.

Helping Hearts Saturday continues each month, and everyone is welcome to be part of it. Whether you can give an hour or a morning, your presence matters.

You can actively participate in the church in various ways. There are numerous opportunities to contribute your time.

HELPING HEARTS SATURDAY!

The 4th Saturday of every month*
Starting at 9:00 AM
Check for holiday exceptions.

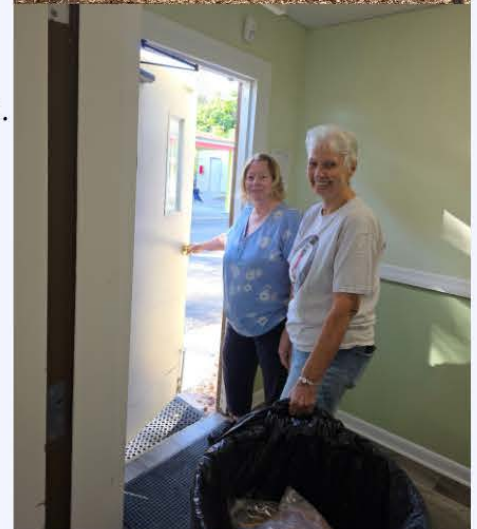
Clean & Fix

Behind the Scenes

Be a Greeter

Meet Friends

Join us once a month to help our church!





Backpack Ministry – Apples & Oranges Needed

Thanks to an abundance of donated fruit, many children were fed over the weekend through our Backpack Ministry—children who often do not have reliable access to food at home.

Apples and oranges may seem simple, but they make a real and immediate difference.

If you are able, please continue to bring apples and oranges to the church by Wednesday at noon.

Your generosity helps ensure children are cared for in practical, meaningful ways.



♥ Blessing Bags – Volunteers in Action

Volunteers spent time preparing blessing bags, filling them with care and intention for those in need. After the work was done, there was time to sit, laugh, and reconnect—reminding us that service builds community as much as it meets needs.

Thank you to everyone who gave their time and heart. These quiet acts of kindness ripple farther than we can see.

February 6, 7:30a ~ RTD Food Truck

February 6, 5p-8p ~ Parent's Night Out

February 9, 10:30a ~ Fellowship Meeting

February 14, 4-7p ~ Scout Troup 812

Sweetheart BBQ (dine-in or take out)

February 16 - President's Day

February 20, 7:30a ~ RTD Food Truck

February 26, 7p ~ Church Council

February 28, 9a ~ Helping Hearts

February 28, 4p ~ Singles Night Out



Weekly Studies

Pastor's Bible Study Tuesdays 10a & 7p

Mid-day Bible Study Wednesdays 10:45a

Spirit Rising Thursdays 7p

Where: Youth Building, Worship Room



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B e l o n g , B e l i e v e , B e c o m e

Pastor Tim Smiley's Sermon Plans

February 1 ~ "The Covenants That Keep Us."

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Music

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