

January 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

Children's - Page 5

## **From Pastor Tim**

What is Your Intention?

My ninth grade Civics teacher, Mr. Bruhn, gave us the assignment to think about a career choice, and then to gain knowledge about it through research and an interview with someone currently in that career. At fourteen, my intention was to become a computer programmer and make \$10,000 a year. It didn't work out that way, I can happily say!

We intend to be and to do many things in our lives, and not all of them are fulfilled. Sometimes that elicits great disappointment; sometimes we say, "Thank you, Lord, that it turned out differently for me." But this I know is true: without clear intention, followed by a long-term plan of action, most of what happens in our lives is the

result of chance or circumstance or what someone else chooses for us. Much of what we intend is sabotaged by short-term thinking.

Dr. Henry Cloud is a clinical psychologist who, over the years, has also served as a business consultant and leadership coach and speaker. I have often heard him speak at Christian leadership conferences. He traffics in wisdom and truth-telling. In his book, *Nine Things You Simply Must Do to Succeed in Love and Life*<sup>1</sup>, Dr. Cloud writes:

*Sowing and reaping is much bigger than the immediate connection between what I am doing now and what will occur immediately following. Sowing and reaping is about what I will ultimately end up with (take in, live with, be stuck with, and so on) if I sow this particular behavior, choice, attitude, value, or strategy. It is the long-term view. More accurately, it is the end view. What will happen in the end? is the question the wise person seeks to answer.*

He uses the phrase “playing the movie to the end” to describe intentionality. “Any one thing you do is only a scene in a larger movie. To understand that action, you have to play it out all the way to the end of the movie.”

Beginning this January, we will explore what it means to live an intentional life. Have you long desired to develop a creative gift? Dreamed of traveling to new places? What are you doing to transform the dream into reality? Do you desire to be a “good” person? If so, what does being good and doing good look like over a long period of time? What is the end result? What will you have at the end of the movie when the credits are rolling? Do you intend to become a faithful follower of Jesus? Do you intend to be generous with your resources? What does “storing up treasure in heaven” mean? Desires and dreams, without intentionality, remain desires and dreams. Develop the muscle of intentionality and you can take the first of many steps toward that for which your heart longs.

I hope to see you intentionally in worship this Sunday.  
Yours in faith, hope and love, Pastor Tim

<sup>1</sup> *Nine Things You Simply Must Do to Succeed in Love and Life.*  
Nashville: Thomas Nelson © 2004.

JANUARY  
BIRTHDAYS

Carolyn  
Mary Ann  
Duane  
Jean  
Judy  
Linda  
Karen  
Barbara  
E. Jean  
Marilyn  
Melissa  
Randy  
Deborah  
Betsy  
Tim  
Joe  
Kathryn  
Tim  
Stephanie  
Thomas  
Brendan  
Chloe  
Allison

# A Fresh Start for the New Year

By Julie Collett



The New Year gets people fired up. New goals. New habits. New plans.

But here's what's not new—  
Not every year.  
Not every month.  
Not every week.  
Not even every minute.

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

God.

He's been here since before time was a thing—because He made time. His love isn't seasonal. It doesn't expire. It doesn't need a relaunch or a rebrand. It was here before you were born, and it will still be here long after we're gone.

So yes—we're stepping into a fresh start this New Year as a church. But not because God needs to change.

Because we do.

We're starting with you.

When the love of God pours out of you, people notice. Not in a flashy way. In a real way. A grounded way. A “something's different about you” way.

That love attracts connection.

Connection leads to friendship.

Friendship opens the door to community.

Community grows into commitment, study, service, and perspective.

That's how churches grow—not by pressure, not by perfection, but by presence.

So this year, we're choosing a fresh start rooted in God's never-ending love. And like sourdough—slow, steady, alive—we'll rise. We'll grow. And we'll do it together.

No hype. No rush. Just love doing what love does best.





### Shoppers Paradise Thrift Ministry

Our Shoppers Paradise Thrift Ministry provides essential goods at gentle prices and shares many items with neighbors who are struggling. Along with helping the community, this ministry also supports the church by bringing in helpful resources, encouraging volunteer service, and giving our congregation a way to stay closely connected to the needs of those around us.

*Make an impact in just 20 minutes! Sunday mornings are a great time to give back. Join our greeting team and serve once a month by welcoming guests as they arrive. It's a small commitment that makes a huge difference in our church family.*

## A Labor of Love

By Julie Collett

### Love in Service

True joy grows when we serve alongside one another. Shoppers Paradise is more than a place to help—it's a place to connect, encourage, and share life. As we offer our time to the Lord's work, He deepens our friendships in beautiful ways.

**Growing Bonds:** Serving together helps friendships form naturally as we talk, listen, and care.

**Joyful Laughter:** Lighthearted moments remind us that God's work can be full of joy.

**A Culture of Love:** Every Helping Heart fills our church with warmth, comfort, and grace.

In every act of service, we strengthen our church and our love for one another.

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!



# Children's December to Remember...

From blueberry fun to creative art and sweet frosty moments.



## Studies Resume January 5

**Pastor's Bible Study Tuesdays 10a & 7p**

**Mid-day Bible Study Wednesdays 10:45a**

**Spirit Rising Thursdays 7p**

**Where: Youth Building, Worship Room**

First United Methodist Church  
10100 SE Federal Highway  
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Norm Geible, Traditional  
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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

January 4 ~ "Broken & Beautiful"

January 11 ~ "Intentional Fullness: Prayers."

January 18 ~ "Intentional Joy: God's FUN'D."

January 25 ~ "Intentional Community:  
Unoffendable."

February 1 ~ "The Covenants That Keep Us."