

July 2026 Steeple Bell



I had the joy in June of attending the annual session of the Kentucky Annual Conference, along with clergy and laypersons representing nearly 400 churches across most of Kentucky. The theme of the worship services and the overall gathering drew from 1 Timothy 1:6-7 in which Paul encourages Timothy to “fan into flame the gift of God” as leadership was passed to him from Paul over the churches in Ephesus. In verse 5, Paul reflects on the faith passed on to him by his ancestors and that he had witnessed in Timothy’s grandmother and mother, and now in Timothy.

The earliest Methodists arrived in Kentucky in the waning days of the Revolutionary War. Their faithful witness, in word and deed, has been passed from each generation to the next ever since, though like all of us they were far from perfect. For much of that time, year after year, members and clergy have gathered annually to give praise to God for what they have seen God do in them individually and collectively; telling the story of how they loved and helped their neighbors, how children and adults experienced faith and baptism, how they had worked together to start new churches, and wrestled with how to expand kingdom values of faith, mercy, justice, equity, hope, and love that applied to all people.

One of the highlights I had at the KYUMC annual conference, as well as, at my own TN/WKY annual conference, was celebrating 70 years of the ordination of women in the United Methodist Church. While John Wesley was slow to come around, he was convicted by the Holy Spirit to allow women to preach and to lead in the early Societies and Class meetings, but it would take another 200 years before they could be ordained in our tradition. At both conferences, clergywomen gathered during the conference for a photo to thunderous applause. Among those 100+ TN/WKY women of different ages, nations, and races, were dozens I had been mentored by, served alongside, or had some hand in mentoring. God’s presence and gift, jumping like fire from person to person, and generation to generation, all like Timothy and his foremothers, filled with a powerful indwelling of faith that bears fruitful ministry.

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Pictured above: Kentucky Annual Conference.
Below: Tennessee/WKY Annual Conference.





Where There Is Christ, There Is Freedom.

Thank you for sharing your spirit of generosity with the Clothes Closet. We've collected:

Deodorant 59
Toothpaste 95
Shampoo 26

Mouthwash 2
Shaving cream 2
Conditioner 14
Razors 4
Toothbrush 2
Makeup remover 2
Body wash 3
Lotion 1

More food items were also donated, including: canned chicken 6, canned beef 2, corned beef 1, and canned salmon 1.

BUMC is asked to donate cereal and oatmeal during the month of July. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Christ encourages us to stand firm in freedom, using it not only for our personal pleasures but to serve others in love. Galatians 5:1,13. God's heart is shown as you continue to sacrifice your time and finances ensuring a better life for someone else.

As the 4th of July approaches, please remember freedom is still being sought for many. Christ commands us to be active for the oppressed. Let's celebrate by welcoming those society has cast out. When we love like Jesus, freedom can truly ring!

***Freedom Blessings,
Charlotte Shepard
BUMC Mission Team Chair***

Mountain Mission Pickup July 22

The United Methodist Mountain Mission will pick up at our church Wednesday, July 22. Please bring your items in beginning Monday, July 20. The staging area will be in the gym, on the side nearest the exterior doors. Drop-offs may be made during church office hours Monday and Tuesday. The truck will be here early Wednesday morning.

Pastor's Pen Continued from Page 1

As our nation celebrates 250 years, Brandenburg UMC approaches 200 years of fanning into flame the gift of God, witnessing untold thousands of lives and souls changed in our little town, a circle of faith passed on to each generation, to each person who has joined its history. Our nation and our church have cause to celebrate the good we've accomplished together, even as we commit ourselves to learn from our mistakes and dedicate ourselves to passing on an even stronger legacy that permeates and transforms the world in which we live. We have come a long way, but with God's help may we go farther as we continue to strive with God and each other for God's will to be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

1 Timothy 1:3-7 – I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline.

***Blessings,
Pastor Jason***

Jordan Hunter Ordained

Congratulations to Jordan Knipp Hunter, who was ordained as an elder of the United Methodist Church during the 2026 Kentucky Annual Conference.

Jordan is the daughter of the Rev. Willard and Julie Knipp. She was in elementary school when her father served as our senior pastor. She followed in her father's footsteps, receiving a BA in Christian Ministries from Lindsey Wilson College and an MDiv from Asbury Theological Seminary.

The Rev. Hunter is married to Matthew Hunter and is serving as senior pastor at Leitchfield United Methodist Church.

The Olympic rings are centered in the background, with a blue sunburst effect radiating from behind them. The rings are in their standard colors: blue, yellow, black, green, and red.

Run the Race. Keep the Faith. Go for the Gold!

Vacation Bible School at Brandenburg United Methodist Church
Saturday, July 18, from 10 am - 3 pm.
All are welcome – Pre-K through 6th-Grade

Please join us for an Olympic-themed Vacation Bible School where children will discover what it means to pursue God's best in every area of their lives. Through games, music, crafts, Bible lessons, food, and fellowship, children will be encouraged to keep their eyes on Jesus, give their best effort, and grow stronger in their relationship with God.

Registration for VBS is now open.

The QR code at right will take you to the registration link.



VBS Volunteers (youth & adult) Needed

If you would like to help with this one-day VBS event, please contact Melissa Vowels at 502-296-7338. VBS orientation for volunteers will be Sunday, July 12, in the Children's Ministry area, immediately after the 11:00 service. Please make every effort to attend.

A blue backpack with a white patch on the front. The patch features a red cross and the text 'BUMC T.W.I.G.S. City winning illustrating God's Spirit'. Several colorful pencils are fanned out behind the backpack.

Back-to-School Backpack Blessing Event

Wednesday, July 8 6:00 pm
Pizza served afterward



The TRIBE TIME summer has been centered around POP UPS! Random days and nights of throwing together a get-together to enjoy some fun, devotion, and fellowship time. With everyone's busy schedules, this has been a lot of fun!

Our first pop-up consisted of pizza and basketball in the gym with a devotion centered around the intentionality of including Jesus, the Bible, prayer time, and devotion time into our busy summer schedules. We welcomed several new youth members who came as guests of a few of our regulars. Thank you for encouraging our youth to invite their friends!

On June 17, we popped up to Santa Claus, IN to visit Holiday World for the day. Our group of 24 enjoyed PERFECT weather, short lines, and some yummy treats as well as a parking lot devotion from Isaiah. Thank you to Heather Papp and Michelle Funk for driving and chaperoning our youth for the day!

Since this is an even year summer (2026), we headed to church camp in Martinsville, IN from June 22-26. Our weekly focus was on Psalm 23 and our Good Shepherd. We enjoyed great worship, Bible study in large group and small groups, some intentional youth group time together each evening, and a ton of fun and activities throughout the week! Thank you to Melissa Stiff and Adam Papp for supporting our youth as camp chaperones with me!

JUNE WAS FUN! Looking ahead to July – our next POP-UP will be to support our Children's Ministry on July 8 with the backpack event and then some recreational fun and devotion time. If your youth can make it, please try to get them to church by 5 pm to help with the backpacks. If they can't make that, our TRIBE TIME together will be from 6:30-7:30 pm afterward – they are welcome

to join us at any time and are encouraged to bring a guest! Helping with the backpack program would be a GREAT way to earn community service hours for school and to include on scholarship applications for our youth!

July 15 – we are popping in for a POOL PARTY with the TRIBE! Ms. Melissa is graciously hosting our crew at her home from 6:00-7:30 pm where we will enjoy some sweet treats and sunshine! Unfortunately, rain will cancel this event.

July 18 is VBS and any and all youth are encouraged to assist Ms. Melissa on that day. If you have a youth who can assist, please text Ms. Melissa at 502-296-7338 ASAP so she can schedule you to assist, even if it is just for a few hours. This is a great way to earn community service hours toward scholarships as well.

July 28 we are headed to the Forrest Frank concert at the KFC YUM! Center in Louisville! We are excited to be serving alongside Compassion International during the concert helping them distribute their sponsorship packets to concert guests. Lucky for us, we also get to enjoy the concert for FREE!! Win-Win!

It has been a blessing to spend some time with our youth this summer so far, and I look forward to the fun and fellowship we will have in July! I have been very intentional about our devotion time during each event and sharing connections in the scriptures to even the little things in our daily lives – even if it is going to Holiday World or playing basketball together. If you would love to lead one of our 10-15 minute devotions at any of our pop-ups, please reach out to me. It is good for our youth to hear from other adults and recent grads!

As we move into the fall and Halftime begins again, if you would like to assist with youth on Wednesday nights, please let me know! We'd love to have some adult support as small group leaders during our Tribe Time each week.

*In Christ,
Kelly Wilson*







"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."
– John 15:5

Melissa Vowels

Summer is in full swing, and what a joy it has been to gather together for fellowship and fun! Our recent pool party was a wonderful time of laughter, connection, and community. From splashing in the water to sharing conversations poolside, it was a beautiful reminder of the blessings we find in spending time together.

As we enjoy the relaxation summer brings, it's also an important season to stay rooted in our faith. Whether traveling, spending time with family, or simply enjoying longer days, let's be intentional about keeping Christ at the center—through prayer, worship, and acts of kindness. Even in the midst of summer activities, our faith can remain strong and vibrant.

We also have some special upcoming events you won't want to miss:

Backpack Blessings – July 8 @ 6 pm.

Backpack Blessings is an interactive and meaningful experience for our children and families. Participants will journey through the church on a fun scavenger

hunt, collecting school supplies along the way. At each stop, they'll also be reminded of God's Word and encouragement for the school year ahead. It's a special way to equip students both physically and spiritually as they prepare for a new school year.

VBS Orientation for Volunteers - July 12th immediately following the 11:00 service

For those who are helping with VBS, THANK YOU! We will be hosting a volunteer orientation to review schedules, expectations, and activities. This is a great chance to get prepared, ask questions, and connect with fellow volunteers as we get ready to serve together.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) – July 18, 10 am - 3 pm

Run the Race. Keep the Faith. Go for the Gold. Please join us for an Olympic themed VBS where children will discover what it means to pursue God's best in every area of their lives. Through games, music, crafts, Bible lessons, food and fellowship, children will be encouraged to keep their eyes on Jesus, give their best effort and grow stronger in their relationship with God. We look forward to continuing this season of growth, fellowship, and service together. We are so grateful to surround our children with the love, encouragement, and support of such a caring church family.

*In Christ's love,
 Melissa*





Christmas Shoebox Update

It may not be Christmas in July, but many new elves were working very hard helping to organize the items for the shoeboxes. Mary and I would like to thank all who said yes to coming out and helping with this mission that is so dear to our hearts. With all the help we had, we managed to cut about a week's worth of work down to 3.5 hours. Everyone worked well together, and we even had some smiles under the sweat. We look forward to working with everyone again in the fall.

Mary Lou Lotz and Mary Plemmons
Operation Christmas Child Co-Chairs



Sunday School Teachers Needed



Children's Ministries director Melissa Vowels is seeking a Sunday School teacher (or teachers) for the TWIGS. All help is welcome – either once a month or more frequently.

Please contact Ms. Melissa at 502-296-7338 if you would like to assist with this ministry.

Ladies' Tea Saturday, July 11

During the Civil War reenactment in Brandenburg next weekend, Brandenburg United Methodist Church will sponsor a Ladies' Tea hosted by Jane Slinger. The tea party will be held Saturday, July 11, at 11:30 a.m. in the Family Life Center.





Brandenburg UMC has been a long time partner with Habitat for Humanity which is now The Fuller Center for Housing in Meade County.

The first Fuller Center for Housing home built in Meade County was dedicated March 10, and the celebration was featured in the latest information piece from the Fuller Center for Housing Organization, along with a message from President David Snell (pictures at right).

The Fuller Center is currently seeking applicants for a new home build as well as dedicated board members.

On September 19, 2026, at 5:30 pm., The Fuller Center will host its second Foundations of Hope Gala at the Farm Bureau Building in Brandenburg. We are in need of donations and sponsors. Feel free to think big or small because there will be both silent and live auctions.

I hope you can join us as we raise funds to continue making homeownership possible. Please feel free to contact me at 270-925-6608 with any questions or ideas of how you can help. Thank you for sharing the dream of housing.

Charlotte Shepard
Fuller Center Board Member/Secretary



Fuller Center of Meade County President Nik Powers with Kathryn Rider at the March 10 dedication of her new home in Ekron. The wall hanging features messages of hope from supporters and volunteers.



Prayers for Flood Survivors

Our prayers go out for all of those who suffered loss of material things or peace of mind in the surrounding area because of flooding last week. We have been in touch with Meade County Emergency who promises to be in touch if there is current or future need we might fill. While our Early Response Team is still in formation, we have 10 people who've had an initial training, and we are communicating in case we need to put together a volunteer group to serve. Please let the office know if you'd like to learn more about how you might serve with this group.

JULY CALENDAR

Regular Weekly Events:

- Sunday, July 5, 12, 26
9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service
10:00 a.m. Sunday School/Small Groups - all ages
11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
- Sunday, July 19
10:30 a.m. Shared Worship Service in Sanctuary
12:00 p.m. Congregational Life Potluck Lunch
- Wednesday, July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
7:00 a.m. Brothers in Christ
6:30 p.m. Study on hymns of Charles Wesley and the Gospel of Mark, music room
- Thursday, July 9, 23
10:00 a.m. Sisters in Christ
- Saturday, July 11, 18, 25
7:00 a.m. Brothers in Christ

Current Events:

- Thursday, July 2
Office Closed
- Saturday, July 11
10:30 a.m. Ladies' Tea for Civil War Reenactors
- Sunday, July 12
12:10 p.m. VBS Volunteer Orientation
- Saturday, July 18
9:00 a.m. All-Day VBS - Go for the Gold!
- Wednesday, July 22
6:00 a.m. Mountain Mission Pickup

Communion Offering for July
Alms Fund

Our communion offering for July will go to support the Alms Fund of Brandenburg United Methodist Church.

The Alms Fund is used to provide assistance to members of our church family and the community at large when they find themselves in a difficult situation. Alms support is used primarily for electric and water utilities, less frequently for propane gas, gas cards and medication, and occasionally for food.

The following is a recap of the number of families assisted and funds expended each year.

Year	# Assisted	Amount
2024	31	\$3,743
2025	46	\$5,366
2026	40	\$5,611 (January-June)

Your generosity will help us continue to provide much-needed assistance to our friends and neighbors.

SERVING ON SUNDAY IN JULY

- Contemporary Service (9 a.m.)
Greeters: Atrium: Wayne Weber
FLC Entrance: Debbie Weber
Ushers: Chad Barley contacts ushers
Communion Servers: Pastor Jason, TBD
Welcome Center: Ilene Aebersold
- Traditional Service (11 a.m.)
Greeters: Atrium: Robyn Proctor
Sanctuary Entrance: Betty Barger
Ushers: Ron Barger contacts ushers
Communion Servers: Pastor Jason, TBD
Tellers: TBD
Welcome Center: Robyn Proctor
Follow-up for First-Time Guests: Judy Stone

- Hospitality: Provide food/Staff cafe
- | | |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| July 5 | Peggy Darnall/Barb Thompson |
| July 12 | Kailtlynn & Dakota French |
| July 19 | Betty Barger |
| July 26 | Jane Slinger |

Congregational Life Update
– Lesley Wilson, Team Chair

The Congregational Life Team has been busy, hosting Muffins for Mom in May and Donuts for Dad in June.

The next event coming up will be Sunday, July 19, with a shared service in the sanctuary at 10:30 a.m., followed by a meal in the Family Life Center. The church will provide chicken tenders and drinks. The rest of the meal will be an old-fashioned potluck with members asked to bring salads, vegetables, and desserts. Wear your red, white and blue! Weather permitting, the bounce house will be set up for the kids, and they'll have some icee pops as well.

The Fall 2026 session of Halftime will kick off Wednesday, August 12, with a Hawaiian theme. The church will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, potato salad, corn salad, and ice cream for dessert. Stay tuned for more information about this special night.



SWIFT
(Sisters Worshiping
in Faith Together)

The next SWIFT Bible Study event will be Tuesday, August 18, at 6:30 p.m. Nursery will be provided.