

### New Beginnings

When my father turned sixty, he told me, “Well, here goes my trip into my seventh decade.” I said, “Pop, you’re sixty, not seventy.” He said, “I’ve *completed* six decades. I’m **STARTING** my seventh. Correct?” I had to agree, though I thought it put a damper on his birthday. He found it humorous.

Now that I am traveling into my seventh decade, it’s given me time to reflect on who I am, what God created me to be, and what I am called to do in this season. The only way to arrive at any answer to these questions is to pray. Not just a one- or two-time prayer full of wants and desires and things that we want God to give us, but constant prayer. Believing that the best definition of prayer is “communicating with God,” that means *listening* a lot more than talking. We shouldn’t want to interrupt the Almighty.

In the midst of listening to God, I have become very aware that my clock is running. In this season of my life, it seems to be that God wants me to finish well. While God is never done with us – even in our last breath – I know that my best years are fewer in number than ever before, and I want to be useful.

Sixty years, nearly forty of it in pastoral ministry, has taught me that listening is also a tool for the work of the Church. As I have begun listening and asking the occasional question or two, this much I know: Covington First UMC is a great church with great people, who loves its God and its community. I also know that the past ten or so years have been *tough*. Death, tragedy, sadness, and upheaval have been challenging to our psyches and our souls. As I listen to you and to God, my work here seems clear: to be a healer, a shepherd, and an encourager.

I read several of the late Eugene Peterson’s books when I graduated from seminary. In one of them, he repeated the words of John Calvin regarding the human heart: left to our own motives, we allow our hearts to produce idols, not faith... and that allows congregations to make pastors a “quality-control engineer” of their church.

That’s not me.

So, I want to take seriously the roles of being a healer, a shepherd, and an encourager. My hope is that by getting to know you, living among you, and learning and listening more about Covington and its people I may do those things, and do them well! Feel free to contact me if you’d like to meet sometime, whether it be about church or faith matters, or simply to get to know me better. That will help me do my work better. You can call the church office to get my phone number so you can call or text me.

May the peace and love of Jesus Christ be with us all!

Sky +

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**FUMC Office Hours:**  
**9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.**  
**Monday-Friday**

*“Leading people to  
Christ, Learning to  
be Disciples,  
Loving through Service.”*



## Vacation Bible School

We had an amazing week at Camp Live It Out VBS! We had a blast learning how we can live it out and love like Jesus! We spent the week dancing, singing, listening to Bible stories, playing games, eating snacks, making crafts, and working on mission projects! We had lots of campers and are so thankful to all of the volunteers! What a FANTASTIC week of blessings!!











JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL

# *Ladies*

## Fellowship Faith & Fun Gathering

HOSTED BY

***UNITED WOMEN IN FAITH***

MONDAY, AUGUST 11 at  
12:00 NOON

LIBERTY HALL  
204 East Liberty Ave  
Covington, TN

Salads, Drinks & Dessert will be  
served  
Door Prizes

# Serve Tipton 2025

Serve Tipton is about a weeklong, local mission opportunity. We cross denominational lines to join the Christian community together as we serve our city. We are asking that students attend for the entire week and not pick or choose certain days; to treat this as a normal mission trip, one where we stay local, though.

**July 28-31.**

This will be a time of local missions where we can give back to our community.

We will be partnering with local churches to serve Tipton County and will have different mission projects in the morning, come back for lunch, and follow-up with a fun activity.

The days will be from 9:30 am-3:00 pm. Each day will start at Covington First UMC in the Christian Life Center.

Cost is only \$40 to help cover supplies, food, a shirt, and activities.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your youth leader.



## Blessing of the Backpacks



**SCHOOL WILL START  
BACK SOON AND WE WILL  
HAVE OUR BACKPACK  
BLESSING ON SUNDAY,  
AUGUST 3 DURING BOTH  
WORSHIP SERVICES!**



July 18 Callie Winberry  
 July 19 Sara Gangaware  
 July 21 Tommy Cheairs  
       Jax Nix  
       Chad Smith  
       J.C. Thornton  
 July 24 Hartley Howard  
       Benjamin Smith  
 July 25 Lynne Fisher  
       Nellie Drew Shrum

July 26 Jaylee Bryant  
 July 28 Jack Owen  
 August 1 Bill Franklin  
 August 2 Keith Anderson  
       Martha Brasfield  
 August 4 Debbie Neal  
       Mike Racine  
 August 6 Cade Carter Sampson  
 August 8 Linda Ray  
 August 10 Jeffrey Nix  
       Carter Todd  
       Carolyn Turner  
 August 12 Amy David  
       Kyle Witherington  
 August 14 Lee Delashmit  
 August 16 April Katrosh  
       Laura Richardson  
 August 17 Addy Ray

## ***GIVING & ATTENDANCE***

### **July 6, 2025**

In Person 8:30 service:	48
In Person 11:00 service:	62
Sunday School:	42
Facebook Views 8:30 service:	490
Facebook Views 11:00 service:	571
Offering:	\$7,326.00

### **July 13, 2025**

In Person 8:30 service:	87
In Person 11:00 service:	113
Sunday School:	73
Facebook Views 8:30 service:	506
Facebook Views 11:00 service:	807
Offering:	\$4,910.00

*Pray*  
WITH US

### **Physical Concerns**

Faye Beckett  
 Gail Ganier  
 Cali Garcia  
 Beth Lakey  
 Sophie Nolan  
 Shirley Young

### **Undergoing Treatment for Cancer**

Lydia Anderson	Rickey Lindsey
Kenneth Coulston	Jennifer Jones Moore
Janet Greggs	Johnny Nichols
Robert Hurt	Ellen Sherrill

### **Condolences**

Family of Barbra Racy

## TRIBUTES & MEMORIALS

In Memory of **Duke Brasfield**

Organ Restoration Fund by The Larry Davis Family

In Memory of **Yvonne Bryant**

Organ Restoration Fund by Keith and Debbie Bryan

Organ Restoration Fund by The Larry Davis Family

United Women in Faith by Beverly Smith

In Honor of **Wanda Butler and her Wonder Crew**

Bereavement Meal Fund by The Larry Davis Family

In Memory of **Katie Cooley**

Organ Restoration Fund by Lee Wilson

In Memory of **Larry Davis**

Organ Restoration Fund by The Larry Davis Family

In Memory of **Tammy Davis**

Organ Restoration Fund by The Larry Davis Family

In Memory of **Roger Ganier**

Organ Restoration Fund by The Larry Davis Family

Education Building Renovation Fund by Don and Beth Willingham

In Memory of **Rosemary Sanders Hanson**

Organ Restoration Fund by Keith and Debbie Bryan

Organ Restoration Fund by Morris and Karen Griffin

Organ Restoration Fund by Beverly Smith and Jay Smith

In Memory of **Donna Jones**

Organ Restoration Fund by Keith and Debbie Bryan

In Memory of **Nancy Lindsey**

Organ Restoration Fund by The Larry Davis Family

In Memory of **Andrew McDow**

Organ Restoration Fund by Ted and Carolyn Turner

In Honor of **Rev. Lee and Mary Leslie Dawson Ramsey**

Organ Restoration Fund by Ted and Carolyn Turner

In Memory of **Bennie Roe**

Organ Restoration Fund by Keith and Debbie Bryan

In Memory of **Ann Sanford**

Organ Restoration Fund by The Larry Davis Family

In Memory of **Jeff Sanford**

Organ Restoration Fund by The Larry Davis Family



## TRIBUTES & MEMORIALS

In Memory of **Stephen Smith**  
Organ Restoration Fund by The Larry Davis Family

In Memory of **Roy Clay Turner**  
Organ Restoration Fund by The Larry Davis Family

In Memory of **John Earl Wells**  
Organ Restoration Fund by The Larry Davis Family



# JAMES BIBLE STUDY

**WEDNESDAY'S AT 10:00 A.M.**

**NEW BEGINNINGS ROOM**



## **Event Calendar**

### **Sunday, July 20:**

- 8:30 AM: Modern Worship - Christian Life Center
- 9:45 AM: Sunday School
- 9:45 AM: Meet and Greet for Rev. Sky and Liz McCracken - Fellowship Hall
- 11:00 AM: Traditional Worship - Sanctuary
- 2:00 PM: Pickleball - Christian Life Center

### **Monday, July 21:**

- 10:00 AM: Pickleball - Christian Life Center

### **Tuesday, July 22:**

- 9:00 AM: Tipton County Line Dancers - Christian Life Center
- 4:00 PM: Pickleball - Christian Life Center

### **Wednesday, July 23:**

- 10:00 AM: Adult Bible Study - New Beginnings room

### **Thursday, July 24:**

- 7:00 AM: Men's Prayer Breakfast - Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 AM: Pickleball - Christian Life Center

### **Saturday, July 26:**

- 9:00 AM: Bread of Life Food Pantry, Munford

### **Sunday, July 27:**

- 8:30 AM: Modern Worship - Christian Life Center
- 9:45 AM: Sunday School
- 11:00 AM: Traditional Worship - Sanctuary
- 2:00 PM: Pickleball - Christian Life Center

### **Monday, July 28:**

- 10:00 AM: Pickleball - Christian Life Center

### **Tuesday, July 29:**

- 9:00 AM: Tipton County Line Dancers - Christian Life Center
- 4:00 PM: Pickleball - Christian Life Center

### **Wednesday, July 30:**

- 10:00 AM: Adult Bible Study - New Beginnings Room

### **Thursday, July 31:**

- 7:00 AM: Men's Prayer Breakfast - Fellowship Hall
- 10:00 AM: Pickleball - Christian Life Center

### **Saturday, August 2:**

- 9:00 AM: Bread of Life Food Pantry, Covington



## **WORSHIP TIMES**

### **Modern Worship**

Sundays at 8:30 a.m.  
Christian Life Center

### **Traditional Worship**

Sundays at 11:00 a.m.  
Sanctuary

## **First United Methodist Church**

145 W. Church Avenue  
Covington, TN 38019

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