



Bookwalter United Methodist Church

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June 2025

Bailey Hueser, Choir Director
Todd Spangler, Pianist

Reverend Stephen K. Doyal, Pastor
Betsy Payne, Secretary

Edie Jo Hall, Children's Director
Taylor Stephens, Youth Director

*Sharing God's love with our neighbors,
inviting them to share in the joy of Jesus Christ.*

ARTICLE

As I prepare to head to Holston Annual Conference the week of June 1-4, I find myself reminiscing about time spent at Jake Junaluska through the years.

My first recollections were as a preacher's kid. I had almost as little interest in the official meetings back then as I do now. The Lake was just my playground. I would spend my days at the pool or basketball court or in the arcade playing video games or ping pong. This is when and where I met some of my lifelong friends who were also preacher's kids. We formed bonds over canoes, boat tours and ice cream night.

The summer of 1983 I was part of the Youth Ministry Travel Team. See below for a photo of my in my orange overalls as we sang "We Are A Rainbow" for the crowd.



As a teenager, I first heard of the initiative to fund Africa University. This effort captured my imagination and as part of the Youth Council, we helped raise money to send to Africa. It was the fulfillment of a decades-long dream when I was able to travel to Zimbabwe in 2001 to witness the realization of this mission firsthand.

After I accepted my own call to ministry, the lake became a workplace rather than a playground. Of course, I enjoyed taking my own children to these sessions to make their own memories. Not all were pleasant, though, as my daughter Stephanie was traumatized from being chased by a goose taller than her.

The night of my ordination stands out as it set the course for the next three decades of my life. I stood on the stage in Stuart Auditorium in front of hundreds of people representing hundreds of churches. In the crowd were my family and friends. After I answered the historical questions, Bishop Clay Lee and my father laid hands on me, and told me to "Take Thou Authority" to administer the sacraments and lead the life of a church. Still going.

Steve

OUTREACH MEETING

We will meet on June 14 at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel Class and via Zoom.

COFFEE HOUSE CHURCH

Our speaker for the Coffee House Church on June 29 will be Don Dare. Dare is a Reporter/Anchor at WATE 6 News, specializing in consumer and investigative stories. His work often intersects with themes of food safety, health news, and consumer health, while also exploring topics related to regional interests and travel.

"I like to tell positive stories," Dare said, explaining he likes to warn people of scams, expose people when it can prove crimes, investigate stories, and "be fair."

Dare has been with WATE since 1996 after he traveled to a Boy Scout camp in Johnson City. Known in Knoxville now as a supporter of Boy Scouting, he helped re-charter and start Pack 55 at Fountain City United Methodist Church.

Join us for breakfast at 10:00 a.m. Sunday, June 29 and stay for the service at 11:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

SMALL GROUPS

Building Community, Growing Together

Bookwalter is launching a new small group initiative - spaces where faith meets fellowship, and where we uplift one another in meaningful ways. Whether you're seeking spiritual growth, support, or simply a place to connect, there's a group for you. Come as you are, and let's walk this journey together!

Want to learn more or find a group that fits? Reach out - we can't wait to grow with you! Contact Pat following worship on Sunday, via email at patn.106@gmail.com, or phone/text (865) 394-3295 for more info.

YOUTH ASSEMBLY

We have 6 young people going to the campus of TN Wesleyan College for Youth Assembly June 23-27. Thank you for the generous donations received and the \$941 raised at the bake sale!

FOOD BUCKETS

We collected 10 food buckets for our Hands-On Mission Project this year. These are being sent to the Ishe Anesu School in Mutare, Zimbabwe following Annual Conference next week.



Bookwalter Buckets ready for delivery

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS

We are excited to be offering Wonderful Wednesdays for the month of July for the children. All are welcome.

July 9th is outdoor game night. We will have larger than life outdoor games such as Giant Yahtzee, Huge Twister and others.

July 16th is Tie Dye night. We will tie dye t-shirts, shoes, bandanas, and anything that is 100% natural fiber such as cotton.

July 23rd is Art Night. Come prepared to bring out your inner artist with painting, sculpting, and other art forms.

July 30th is Water Night and our finale. We will have many kinds of water games and activities and homemade ice cream.

Please invite the children you know for this unique opportunity to learn about the Gospel of Jesus through play.

Also, we will be asking the congregation to donate materials throughout June. Be on the lookout for items you can donate.

WARMING CENTERS

In the Fountain City community, we have recognized a rise of unhoused neighbors. In response, and as you may have heard, Fountain City UMC hosted the North Knoxville Warming Center when temperatures were predicted to be below 20 degrees.

As we are preparing for the next winter season (December-February), we are seeking other UM partners and would like to invite you to a volunteer informational session on **June 11th, 6:30 PM**.

At this session we would:

Give an overview of what we have done

Answer questions and concerns you may have

Encourage and equip you to invite your congregation to participate as volunteers (we are not asking for financial assistance from your church).

We are also exploring the potential to host the warming center at another site.

So, if you are interested in being in ministry together to help address the needs of our most vulnerable neighbors on the coldest and deadliest nights, we would love to have you attend this informational one-hour session.