



Bookwalter United Methodist Church

4218 Central Avenue Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37912

(865) 689-3349

www.bookwalter-umc.org

August 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

Last night I sauteed a nice batch of jumbo shrimp. About halfway through this delicacy, the inside of my mouth and tongue started to go numb. This was not a complete surprise because this happened before. I appear to have developed a bit of an allergy to this shellfish in my old age.

I have tried vehemently to deny this. It must be a coincidence. Perhaps something else is causing it. Maybe this is a residual Covid side effect. I really do not want to be allergic to shrimp because I love those little abominations (Leviticus 11:9-10).

It is undeniable that these crustaceans are the cause of my symptoms. And yet, I continue to eat them despite their potential to harm me.

What a perfect analogy for sin in our lives. It is very attractive and enjoyable and we may engage in it despite knowing it is bad for us. It seems harmless enough until you consider James 1:15- *"Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death."*

My shrimp allergy may not be enough to kill me (yet), but all sin left unchecked has one end. Let us continue to fall before Jesus in repentance and rest in His grace. **Steve**

PACK-A-BACKPACK

You have one more Sunday (August 3rd) to bring in plastic folders (*all colors but white*) and wide-ruled notebook paper for Inskip Elementary.

Pack-A-Backpack distribution is Tuesday August 5 in the Inskip gym. Join us at 4:00 to set up. The actual giveaway is 4:30-6:30 p.m.

WESLEY FOUNDATION COLLECTION

We are extending the collection time for UT students through Sunday August 10. Please donate some small, practical items to help freshmen settle in comfortably such as: Tissues, Deodorant, Razors, Laundry pods, feminine hygiene products, baby wipes, mini tool kits, Command strips, flip flops, batteries, phone chargers or any other dorm-friendly items you can think of.

Thank you

BOOKWALTER DEVOTIONAL

Calling All Writers, Artists, and Everyday Souls of Bookwalter Introducing: The Bookwalter Daily Devotional for 2026!!

In 2026, we want to fill each day with the voices, visions, and prayers of our people. That's right—365 devotionals created by the Bookwalter family. Whether you feel called to write a reflection, pen a prayer, or share through art—this devotional welcomes all forms of heartfelt expression.

Every person—child, teen, adult, and elder—is invited to contribute at least one devotional entry (hopefully more!). You might choose to write, draw, paint, color, or share something creative that speaks your truth. There are only 2 requirements: include a short note or sentence explaining the meaning or message behind your submission and a scriptural reference.

This devotional will be shared with our entire church family, with special care given to our homebound members—offering them a daily reminder that they are deeply connected to a loving, vibrant community. And here's the good news: every Bookwalter family will receive a copy to use for personal and/or family devotions. Additional copies may be purchased at a very nominal cost.

To sign up or ask questions, please contact Pat Newman at patn.106@gmail.com or (865) 394-3295. The deadline to sign up is August 31. Writing and creative guidelines will be available.

Let's journey through the year together—one day, one heart, one community, one family in faith.

HOPE AND RESTORATION WOMEN'S EVENT

We are excited to welcome Dr. Carol Price-Guthrie as our guest speaker on Friday evening, October 3rd and Saturday October 4th for this special occasion.

Topics will include Restoring Our Joy, Renewing Our Strength, Beauty From Ashes and the Power of Forgiveness.

Saturday will also include break-out sessions on the following: Self Care, Prayer, Art Therapy and Stress Management. Make plans to join us and tell your friends.

CANDLER BIBLE STUDY

We have a unique opportunity to really experience and benefit from our United Methodist connection. The Candler School of Theology at Emory University, (*Where Rev. Doyal attended seminary*) offers an outreach program that allows the public to access seminary scholars and classes through their outreach arm, Candler Foundry.

Fountain City UMC will host such a class weekly from August 27 through October 1, 2025, and you are invited to participate. The class, entitled "How to Read the Bible for All it is Worth" will be held on Zoom. The Rev. Larry Varghese, Doctoral Student in Hebrew Bible, is the instructor.

The class access fee is fully paid by FCUMC, so registration for the class is all that is required, there is no additional charge. Rev. Rachel Collins tells me we can meet as a group at Bookwalter as we already do and others can join online individually.

Just let Rev. Doyal know if you are interested in participating and I will register on behalf of all of us.

The course description reads:

Let's admit it, the Bible can be tricky to read sometimes! In this 6-week course, you will learn more about some of the Bible's most challenging features, including its language, organization, context, history, and diverse writing styles.

Along the way, you will develop perspectives that will help you read even the most difficult passages in Scripture with greater understanding. The goal of the course is not only to help you better appreciate what the Bible is and how the Bible works, but also to read it on your own with greater confidence and insight.

WACKY WEDNESDAYS

A big thank you to all who made our Wacky Wednesdays such a success. The donations and volunteers were amazing. We had several new families join us for these evenings. Thanks to the youth who helped with all the kiddos.

Join us for service Sunday as we celebrate our wacky Wednesday participants and their families. We will have hamburgers and hotdogs after the service. Please bring some side dishes. As a bonus, we will have homemade ice cream.

