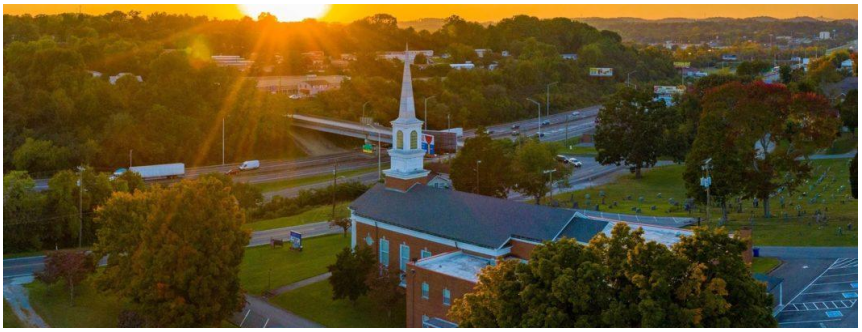

Bookwalter United Methodist Church

4218 Central Avenue Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee 37912
(865) 689-3349
www.bookwalter-umc.org

October 2026

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

There are several significant news stories capturing our attention right now. Our state is in the national and even international spotlight as the Tennessee Department of Corrections failed to successfully carry out the execution of Christa Pike. This obviously raises again the divisive issue of the death penalty. I doubt any thoughts of mine would change anyone else's, but I encourage everyone to pray about their position considering their faith.

Another controversial topic right now centers around Cornell University's handling of an undergraduate woman sexually assaulted at a fraternity party on campus two years ago. I would say "allegedly" but the perpetrators bragged about it online, so it clearly happened. This raises multiple issues of safety, consent and the prejudices too often involved in the handling of such cases. Here again… your minds are probably made up about everyone involved but I ask you to pray that your heart is in line with what the Lord would want.

Finally, there is a story that is both disturbing and inspiring. Captain Smit Machchhar was a couple of hours into his flight from Dubai to Israel when his co-pilot violently attacked him with a knife.

This was an apparent attempt to hijack and crash the plane. While fighting for his own life, Smit says he was also determined to save the 170 passengers on board. As the jet plunged 17,000 feet, Smit managed to unlock the cockpit door and allow passengers in to overpower the co-pilot.

I find it intriguing how the man is being described as "heroic" despite the fact he could not fight off the other guy ala' James Bond or Jackie Chan. He literally opened the door for others to come to his aid. This is something that can have a direct impact in our lives… the willingness to ask for help. If you are struggling physically, mentally or spiritually, the temptation might be to "stay strong" on your own. Be a hero… let others help.

Steve

PECANS

Mary Mahoney is now taking orders for pecans. Pieces will be $11 a bag and Halves will be $12 a bag. She must have your order by Sunday, November 1st so we can receive the pecans before Thanksgiving.

CHARGE CONFERENCE

Our annual meeting with the District Superintendent will be held on Wednesday evening, October 21st at 6:00 PM. This year Heiskell will join us at Bookwalter.

Trunk or Treat is scheduled for Sunday, October 25th. We will start at 5:30 pm and stop when we run out of people or candy, whichever comes first. The Big Blue Barrel is in the Fellowship Hall to receive your candy donations. If you would like to do a "trunk" or table or station, please contact Ms. Edie or Ms. Alicia.

The youth will be having a fundraising Bake Sale on Sunday, October 18. Please support their efforts to go to Resurrection '27 with monetary or baked donations.

HOMECOMING

Bookwalter's Homecoming is Sunday, November 1, 2026. We are celebrating 144 years as a church. A covered dish luncheon follows our 11:00 a.m. Worship Service. Greg Chandler with Smoky Mountain Health and Hospice will be our speaker. Remember to "Fall Back" as DST ends.

This will also be **All Saints Sunday**, which we will observe by lighting white candles for people we have lost since last November. Please bring a free-standing white candle if you would like to participate.

THANKSGIVING COLLECTION

We will again collect 250 boxes of stuffing, packets of gravy and Kool-Aid. Have your donations in by Nov. 15.

2026 Christmas Concert Information

Mark your calendars for our 2026 Christmas Concerts:

Saturday, December 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 20 at 3:00 p.m.

We will be partnering with Central High school and the Knoxville Youth Symphony Orchestra to support their fundraising efforts through our Christmas Concerts.

Be sure to check out the **Countdown to Christmas Board** if you have not already. We started with 100 envelopes, numbered $1 through $100. Select an envelope, place your donation inside along with the attached sticky note with your name and if you would like your gift to be made in honor or in memory of someone special.

Completed envelopes may be placed in the offering plates. We will tally the gifts, and our final giving tiers and recognitions will be included in the Christmas Concert programs, just as they have been in years past.

Individuals and families will once again have the opportunity to sponsor one of our instrumentalists and have that musician's chair named in honor or in memory of someone special.

Look for our Instrument Sponsor Tree on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall, where you will find ornaments representing each of the instruments featured in this year's concert. Choose the instrument you would like to sponsor, complete the information on the back of the ornament, and return it with your donation.

Your special chair recognition will then be included in our Christmas Concert programs!

Bailey