



The Messenger

The mission of Springfield First United Methodist Church is to love God and love people, so that the Gospel is shared and disciples are shaped.

September 2025

From the Pastor's Pen

Greetings in the name of Christ our Lord!

September is a very important month. Of course we're back to school, which is good. The weather gets cooler, which is great. And it's football season, which (for some) is phenomenal.

But the primary import of September is the date of the 22nd: the shared birthday of Bilbo and Frodo Baggins. Who, if you didn't know, are hobbits from the imagination of J.R.R. Tolkien. While not historical figures, their birthdays give us the opportunity to pause and reflect on what these little folk can teach us about life and faith.

Hobbits aren't warriors, kings, or great leaders. They're small, quiet, home-loving people. They prefer gardens to battlefields and second breakfasts to fame or fortune. And yet, again and again, it's the hobbits who find themselves at the very center of the story—carrying burdens too great for them, but persevering nonetheless. Tolkien seemed to delight in reminding us that the heroes of his world were the least likely ones.

Which is a theme that's deeply biblical. Throughout scripture, God consistently chooses the overlooked, the ordinary, and the underestimated to accomplish the divine will. Gideon called himself the least in his family, yet God made him a judge over Israel. Mary was a young girl from a backwater village, yet she was chosen to bear the Messiah. The apostles weren't people of status or influence, but fishermen and tax collectors who were entrusted with the good news of salvation. Indeed, St. Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 12.9 that God's power is made perfect in our weakness.

That's a truth that should encourage us in our own walk. Most of us will never be "great" by the world's standards. We may feel small, ordinary, and unimportant. But in God's story, there are no small characters. Every act of faithfulness, every quiet prayer, every unnoticed act of kindness matters in God's kingdom. Like hobbits, we may not seek adventure, but God often places before us opportunities to live courageously and faithfully in ways that shape lives more than we can ever know.

So as this month unfolds—and perhaps as you smile at the thought of hobbit birthdays—remember that our Maker has written you into a wondrous story. You may feel ordinary, but the God who works through the humble and the small is at work in you. And that, dear friends, is cause for gratitude and hope.

Peace,
Pastor Jason



MEMORIALS

Given By:

Grand Sweep Class
Bill & Sheila Locke
Betty Doble
Neil & Mona Sutherland
Mary Nicholson
David & Janet Reed

" "

Eva Pulley
Neil & Mona Sutherland
Gene & Norma Beck

Given By:

Gene & Norma Beck

In Memory of:

Linda Lang
Linda Lang
Linda Lang
Linda Lang
Linda Lang
Linda Lang
Sally Bell
Tom Bennett
Linda Lang
Ronnie Brooks
Linda Lang

In Honor of:

Virginia Brown

Fund:

Budget
Budget
Budget
Budget
Budget
Budget
Budget
Budget
Budget
Budget
Budget

Fund:

Budget



Springfield First United Methodist Church
511 S. Oak Street, Springfield, TN 37172

Rev. Jason Jones
Pastor

Kevin Nooner
Lay Leader

Laura Gotcher
Office Administrator

Andrea Hunter
Treasurer/Communications
Coordinator

Travis Gotcher
Director of Technology

Jon Gower
Director of Music Ministries

Chris Keller
Associate Director of Music
Ministries

Jamie Harris
Nursery Coordinator

Charlotte Herndon
Nursery Caregiver

Andrew Hunter
Facilities Manager

Zoila Lara & Team
Custodians

Church Office
615-384-4800

Chancel Flowers

Available Dates:

October 26
November 9
January 4, 11, 18, 25
February 1, 8, 15, 22





190 Years LOVING GOD AND LOVING PEOPLE

What a joyous day in the life of our church! August 17th was filled with so much love and excitement! Springfield First United Methodist Church came together in a BIG way! Our Love for God was apparent, and our Love for People showed in the faces and actions of the 260 guests who attended. Thank you to all who made this momentous day possible!



TOGETHER IN PRAYER

Let us gather as a community to celebrate the blessings around us and lift up the concerns that surround us!



God Is All We Need: A Reflection on Prayer Ministry

by Zena Smith

Over 20 years ago, Patsy Borthick, Martha Parker, and I saw the need to make sure that all prayer requests were known and actually prayed for. We also felt the need to pray together prior to our worship services for the pastor and the congregation.

We had wished for a Prayer Room! So we met at Patsy's kitchen table, held hands, and prayed for GUIDANCE! We had no clue how to begin a prayer ministry, but we asked God and He indeed began to lead us.

Our numbers grew quickly from 3 to 10 people. Some of these folks had never really prayed much before; some were seasoned in prayer. Growth continued and great was our thankfulness!

Soon, prayer vigils started which were supported by many, both in participation and attendance. Some of the prayer vigils were even opened up to the community, especially on Good Friday. Our ministry was forming! We began teaching how to pray. These teachings were led from the Upper Room or other prayer groups.

About 15 years ago, we began leaving our church building and became the church in the community hand in hand with other Christ followers. For a time, we gathered and did prayer walks into areas we felt led to go (sometimes in very tough and rough areas) and we quietly prayed. We joined with eight additional churches from different denominations, but we were unified through the prayer ministry! We bonded with our love for God and love for one another.

God kept leading us to expand our boundaries to include many Robertson County Christ followers in some of our prayer gatherings. In 2020, when our country was in such disunity, we were led to facilitate a Countywide Prayer Gathering on the Square. There were around 300 Christ followers in attendance! We divided into 40 small prayer groups and prayed for our nation and community to RETURN to God: to feel God's presence, His power, and His love. It was such a moving and beautiful gathering, no one wanted to leave!

This spiritual journey that God has led me on for all these years has transformed my life with joy, peace, and the awareness that GOD IS ALL WE NEED! For this I give all praise and glory!

"Lord, teach us to pray!"

The disciples saw Jesus praying often, even through the night. They wanted to be just like Him so they asked, "Lord, teach us to pray." He answered them by giving them the Lords Prayer...the perfect example of how to pray. But sometimes we just don't feel like praying. So, in times such as this, just...

"Be Still and Know I Am God!"

One year ago, Pastor Jason began a prayer time every Wednesday at noon in the Prayer Room. This time of prayer is both renewing and powerful to those who attend. It is a time to lift up those who are in need of prayer and celebrate the joys around us. It is a time to be still and reflect: to be in community and to know we are wrapped in God's unwavering love!

Come and be with God and us...HE will be waiting for you!



"My House Shall be Known as a House of Prayer"

Our Time to Reflect...

Do we intentionally take a few minutes, regardless of how busy we are, to be with God each day?

Is everything we do, think, or say really soaked in prayer?

Do we actually pause and pray for the person asking for prayers, other than saying we will?

Do we join with others to pray at the altar on Sunday mornings?

Do we pray for our pastor, our church, and its leaders and ministries?

Do we have a relationship with God?

SEPTEMBER COMMUNION OFFERING

The mission focus for September is the Reelfoot Rural Ministries program. RRM was founded in 1963 and is located in Obion County, Tennessee. The program has been serving people in need in the northwest Tennessee and southwest Kentucky areas. These are very impoverished areas with many needs. Their mission statement is: Following Christ in building relationships, we provide resources and offer hope to our Reelfoot Lake neighbors. They provide the following community services: grocery distribution, dental and eye clinics, home repairs, utility assistance, and emergency relocations. They also offer the following children's services: day care center, Christmas toy store, back pack buddies program, and providing school supplies.

Please prayerfully consider supporting September's Communion Offering to Reelfoot Rural Ministries.



Thank you UWF for volunteering to host August's Community Breakfast! You ladies are a huge blessing to our church and our community!

This August, UWF served 118 people. A record for SFUMC! Way to go ladies!



**The Event Team
meets to discuss
Fall Social
September 9th @ 6PM
in the Fellowship Hall**

Mark Your Calendar!

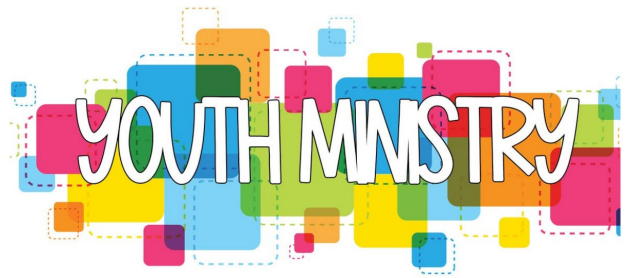


**Fall Social
October 25th**



We Are Hiring!

Ministry Profile available @ springfieldfmc.org
Contact the church office @ 615-384-4800 if you or
someone you know may be interested.



Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. -Proverbs 22:6

Staff Appreciation Breakfast October 5 @ 10 AM

Come show your love and support to SFUMC staff.



Remember in your prayers....

Our Members & Constituents: Kathy Keegan; Rev. Jason Jones & wife, Kristy; Andy Lang; Sandy Long; Carrie Malone; Sue Osborne; Jamie Harris; Ryan Herndon; Mindy Mosier; Donnie Jones; Amy Haynes; Virginia Sory Brown; JoAnne Nicholson; Liz Boggs; Sharon Hargraves; Mary Nicholson; Gail Holman; Peggy Ruth

Our Extended Church Family: Marlene Rathbun (Kristy Jones' mother); Michelle Pentecost (Andrea Hunter's mother); Nick Bernard (Friend of Sheri Daly); Brad & Pat Fellows (friends of Gene & Norma Beck); Joyce Hawkins (Mindy Mosier's mother); Katheryn Crafton (Sharon Hargraves' sister); John & Tammy Ellis (church neighbors); James Lee (mail carrier's husband); Steve Parker (Betty Moore's grandson); Tammy Gambill (friend of Barbara Holland); Gloria (friend of Julie Godwin); Justin Hacker (friend of Gene & Norma Beck); Charlie McCamant (Matt's father); Mark Moss (friend of Pete & Donna Clinard); Diane Wieland (friend of Kendra Hester); Joe & Patricia Williamson & Family (friends of Don & Kathy Smith); Grayson Spain (friend of Amy & Curtis Castle)

Our Military: Sergeant Samuel Bratcher (Husband of Emma Castle Bratcher, son-in-law of Curtis and Amy Castle)

Our Shut-ins: Beverly Bunch; Vicky Cherry; Catherine Clark; Shirley Dunn; Jackie Ebright; Martha Hammond; Mary Hayes; Wayne Hutcheson; Carrie Malone; Janet Reed; Linda Watts; Sue Osborne

OCTOBER 5



-HELEN KELLER

**"What we once
enjoyed and deeply
loved we can never
lose, for all that we
love deeply becomes a
part of us."**

WE REMEMBER

Sally Bell
04.06.32-07.28.25
Linda Lang
07.28.50-07.30.25
William Hinkle
02.04.59-08.06.25
Wanda Lockwood
07.22.35-08.10.25
Ronnie Brooks
07.18.42-08.14.25
Grace Stiers
12.26.37-08.21.25

The Power of Healthy Communication by Burns Rogers

Good communication is essential and one of the most important tools we have for building strong, Christ-centered relationships—whether in marriage, family, friendships, or the church community. Poor communication can result in hurt feelings, create conflict, or produce a sense of disconnection. The good news is that healthy communication can be learned and practiced. It may try your patience in the beginning, but forming new habits will foster healthy dialogue and deepen connections.

Scripture encourages us to “speak the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15). This requires a willingness to be vulnerable because it means being honest about our thoughts and feelings while also showing care, humility, and respect. Of utmost importance is learning to listen not just to respond, but to understand. Doing so will foster an environment where others feel safe and heard.

Healthy communication takes patience, prayer, and practice—but it’s worth the effort. Whether you’re navigating a difficult conversation that you have avoided or building a new relationship with and growing closer to someone, remember: God is present in our words and can guide us toward deeper connections with others and a sense of peace.

STEWARDSHIP

Consider this:

If you buy an everything bagel at Dunkin Donuts for \$2.49 and a pumpkin swirl cold brew for \$3.29, you’ve spent \$5.78. What if you skipped a day of that and gave the \$5 to your pledge once a week? Five extra dollars could help our church continue its many ministries and possibly make room to support additional ministries.



GIVING OPPORTUNITY CHART

THE CHART BELOW ILLUSTRATES HOW INCREASING YOUR PLEDGE CAN HELP FURTHER THE CHURCH'S MISSION

WEEKLY PLEDGE	TO KEEP OUR CHURCH STRONG	FOR THE GROWTH OF OUR CHURCH
\$20	\$22	\$24
\$50	\$55	\$60
\$100	\$110	\$120
\$275	\$303	\$330
MONTHLY PLEDGE	TO KEEP OUR CHURCH STRONG	FOR THE GROWTH OF OUR CHURCH
\$100	\$110	\$132
\$300	\$330	\$396
\$400	\$440	\$528
\$700	\$770	\$924
\$850	\$935	\$1122

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

JOIN US FOR A HEARTWARMING WORSHIP
SERVICE CELEBRATING OUR BELOVED PETS
AND THEIR COMPANIONSHIP!

ALL CREATURES
GREAT & SMALL
ARE WELCOME!

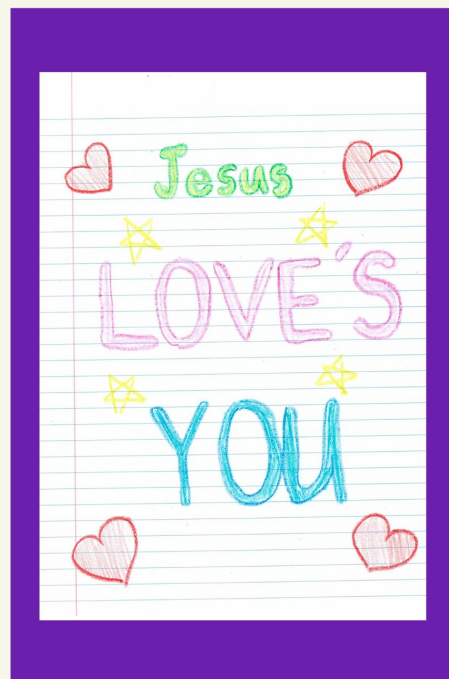
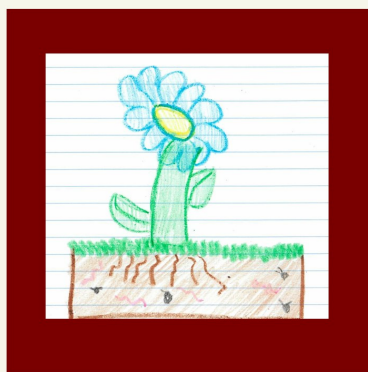
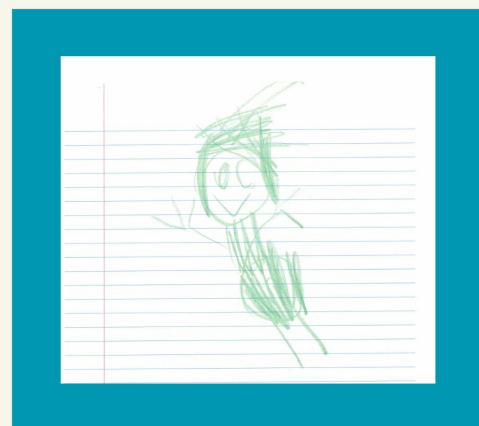


October 4 @ 10 AM

photo booth, pet & human treats,
blessing medallions, and more!



Children's Art Showcase



SUNDAY DRAWINGS
BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
SFUMC KIDS



These drawings were collected from the notebooks in our busy bags.
We have some very talented kiddos here at SFUMC!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

September

Attendance in Worship...

Sunday, August 3

In person 9am125
In person 11am71
Sunday School.....87

Sunday, August 10

In person 9am118
In person 11am66
Sunday School.....90

Sunday, August 17

In person 11am259
Sunday School.....101

Sunday, August 24

In person 9am107
In person 11am55
Sunday School.....92

Printed Prayer Lists are located in the gathering space outside of the Moore Center & the Sanctuary



Roy Gibson	3	Noreen Nooner	13	Chuck Lalance	27
Shane Shoemaker	3	Jennifer Pelton	14	Winfield Wilkins	27
Lisa Crabtree	4	Chase Moore	15	Scott Gibson	28
Richard Beirne	5	Janey Richardville	15	Scott Morton	28
Lew Holt	5	Kathryn Howell	16	Annette Stroud	28
Bonnie Layton	5	Kim Farmer	17	Eddie Woodside	28
Emily Richter	5	Stephanie Francis	17	Susannah Brown	29
Donna Anderson	6	Dixie Tanner	17	Eric Carneal	29
Jill de Graauw	6	Betty Glodoski	18	Tanner Collins	29
Emily Hollingsworth	6	Kathryn Williams	18	Jeff Dodd	29
Charlotte Herndon	7	Randall Moulton	19	Jim Iddins	29
Whitney Holmes	7	Gene Beck	20	Annie Rone	29
Emmett Stark	7	Angie Long	20	Amy Haynes	30
Charles (Chuck) Turner	7	Finn Simplot	20	Robert Price	30
John DeValk	8	Zena Smith	21	Reagan Bumgardner	1
Kaylee Hollingsworth	9	Adrianna Mayhew	22	Tom Krueger	1
Robert Vance	9	Patsy Fyke	23	Robert Boyd Moulton	2
Kenneth White	9	Butch Jones	23	David Allen	3
Theodore Randa	10	Bill Locke	23	Sarah Farmer	3
Clint Simplot	10	Lori Hart	25	Sandy Long	3
Brenda Allen	11	Gretchen Nutter	25	Candace Dinwiddie	4
Elizabeth Fort	11	Kellen YoungeDyke	25	Debbie Williamson	4
Kevin Fyke	11	Karen Kritsch	26	Letty YoungeDyke	4
Cody Wilkins	12	Elsa YoungeDyke	26		

October

September 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Office Closed	2	3 FLOW 6pm	4 Staff Retreat UWF General Meeting 6:30 PM	5 Office Closed	6
7	8	9 Event Team 6 pm FH	10 FLOW 6pm	11	12	13
14 Bible Presentation 9am	15 Worship Planning 5pm	16	17 FLOW 6pm	18 Trustees 6:30pm	19	20
21	22	23 OWLS Game Day 1-4	24 FLOW 6pm	25 Praise Team 7pm	26	27
28	29	30	1 October	2	3	4 Blessing of the Animals