

The Anchor

A vibrant church, making Christian disciples and enriching lives through outreach.

July 2026

In This Issue

"Keeping Your Cool"	p.1-2
Financial Fundamentals	p.3
Food Pantry	p.4
Announcements	p.5-6
Birthday/Anniversary	p.7
Calendar	p.8

Sunday's Schedule

9:00 a.m.:	Traditional Service
10:30 a.m.:	Modern Service
10:30 a.m.:	Faithlink Class
10:30 a.m.:	Searchers Class
10:30 a.m.:	Rise Children's Ministry
5:00 p.m.	Elev.Yth: Mission Team
6:00 p.m.:	Elevate Youth
6:00 p.m.	Junior Youth

Staff

Senior Pastor

Rev. Dr. Brian Sixbey

Assistant Pastor

Rev. Becky Holland

Office Manager

Kassandra Brown

Music Director/Organist

Mark Biondolillo

Accompanist

Andrew Blackmon

Youth Director/Worship Leader

Larissa Luma

Treasurer

Ruth Simkins

Part-Time Sexton

Mikell Bond

Nursery Attendant

Chelsea Kyme



"Keeping Your Cool"

I am not a fan of hot weather. Hot weather makes me want to pull out a fan, find a swimming hole, hide inside air conditioning, and avoid the sun. However, I find myself reflecting on my experiences through the years. Like many of you, I didn't have air conditioning growing up – we used box fans in the windows. It wasn't pleasant, but it was livable. Likewise, I remember one summer I worked as a camp counselor at Camp Overlook. We had no a/c in the camp and we used box fans. By Friday every week, I had adjusted to the heat, but I spent the weekend in a/c – by Monday, I wished I'd just stayed in the heat!

Continued on page 2

Don't worry – I'm not arguing that a/c is bad or that we should live under the stars. I will still find every shade I can when I'm outside, and I rejoice when I can be cool inside on a hot day. Rather, I am noting that some of the things we think we need or require for a good life may not be as necessary as we think.

Let's remember what we have been through in the past several years: We experienced COVID-19, disaffiliation, all the challenges of aging, and we are slowly beginning to see signs of the future of our church in the guests we have welcomed and who have chosen to become part of our congregation, many of whom are youth and younger adults. All of these things have changed us and challenged us.

Like the hot days we spent outside in our youth, not every experience is pleasant, but every experience teaches us, fundamentally, that our God provides for us and for God's mission in the world. Heat conditions us for heat, and while we have to be careful to stay hydrated, especially as we age, heat reminds us that we have bodies that can adjust to unpleasant things.

Challenges in how, where, and when we worship and gather are not all pleasant, but they remind us that God meets us when we set aside time to be present with God and each other. Saying goodbye to old friends and meeting new friends is not easy and it brings us grief, but it also gives us an opportunity to do ministry in new ways, and to revive some of the old ways that served us in the past. For instance, when we said goodbye and God bless you to Pastor Tommy (not a forever goodbye, but for the role and place he's had among us for decades), it hurt, but God provided Pastor Becky, who brings a different perspective, set of skills – and to add icing on the cake, Becky is restarting some of the ministries Pastor Tommy had done so well.

One of the blessings that comes with the summer heat is often a change and slowing down of our schedules. Whether we are traveling, staying home, or just doing things differently, summer often gives us some breathing room. Please enjoy that breathing space! Garden, visit your neighbors and family, relax, and when the heat gets to you and your body gets tired, rest! And I encourage us particularly to take time to notice – what's happening in our lives that we haven't seen? What's happening in our neighbor's

lives we haven't noticed? What's happening in the community that we didn't see yet? And how might God be calling us to act?

So, this summer, I encourage us all to enjoy some extra space and time to rest, to take Sabbath and keep it holy. We do not need to be always busy to be productive, and we do not need to be productive to be accepted in God's eyes. Rather, God asks us to relax as well as work, to take time to be holy, and not always be doing something "important."

When the summer begins to end, kids head back to school, and our church calendar starts to fill again, I want us rested and ready – not just to make the Pumpkin Patch strong, and not just to start all the meetings up again – but ready to engage in the hard and blessed work of being the body of Christ for our neighbors, for ourselves, and for Christ's mission!

As always, I am privileged to be your pastor and a fellow servant of Christ alongside you -

Brian K. Sibley



Jones Middle School
Bonnie Harper
Michael Adams
Brian Eubank, Sr.

We continue to pray for our homebound, those with chronic conditions that may require ongoing treatment, and those unspoken prayers.

Financial Fundamentals July 2026

This report briefly addresses finances at FUMC Fox Hill. The latest information is in the weekly bulletin available at church or through our web site.

Last month I wrote “First Fox Hill finances continue to be very tight for 2026.” That situation continues. We need your energetic, financial support throughout the year.

Comparing different years is not an exact science, but it is significant to note what donations are running a little over 20% behind our 6-year average through May. If you are not where you would like to be, this is a good opportunity to help fill the gap. For many this may be a hard time; for others investments may have helped. Please keep your church in mind.

You may not have thought about it, but cash flow can be almost as great a challenge as just covering our expenses. For example, as we enter the summer, we just incurred nearly \$5,000 for maintenance (crawl-space encapsulation) cost at the parsonage on top of \$1,700 for a new refrigerator/freezer in April. Add those to our \$4,300 annual cost (payable in June) for software supporting live streaming, the web site, and our app. A third major expense just incurred is our support of the Food Bank and Hampton Ecumenical Lodging and Provisions (HELP), totaling \$3,000.

Note below that we have a significant loan balance from our 2025 major HVAC expenses and total roof repair. We pay nearly \$1,000 monthly and are eager to pay down the principle to reduce interest expense. Special gifts over-and-above your support for operational expense are always appreciated.

We will soon be sending the second quarter Donation Statements by e-mail. After a few bugs were fixed, the first quarter went well. As always, if you have any questions, please let us know so we can address the issue. Need to update your e-mail address? You can do so by phone call or, better yet, by emailing it to churchoffice@firstumcfoxford.org. If you don't have email, that's fine, we will catch you in person at church or send your report by postal mail.

For many folks, on-line giving can be a convenient way to provide their church support throughout the year.

Gifts to the One Fund – General Offering allow the staff flexibility in managing funds effectively. [Click here](#) for easy on-line access. You can also use your phone and the donation QR Code or go to www.firstumcfoxford.org, click on give, scroll down to GIVE ONLINE, and click. There you can set up one-time gifts or automatic regular giving on a weekly, twice a month, or monthly schedule.

Please direct concerns/questions about FUMC FH finances to our financial staff via the office or Bill Bryan, Finance Chair, at (757) 851-0748 or by e-mail to billb-1111@cox.net.

Total One Fund – Through May 2026		
Income For Planned Expenses ¹		\$180,298
Total One Fund Expenses (excludes pass through ²)	Planned	\$221,600
	Actual	\$185,913
Pass Through Income ²		\$4,868
Pass Through Expense ²		\$1,118
“Pay-It-Forward” Contributions		\$1,188
LUMENs Fund Raiser Income		\$270
LUMENs Fund Raiser Expense		\$0
Roof & Boiler Repair Income 2026 ³		\$3,444
Roof & Boiler Repair Expense 2026		\$14,542
Loan Principal Balance – June 1		\$147,644
¹ Includes regular and memorial contributions, building use income, interest, not listed, etc. ² Represents contributions for non-budget items, e.g., flowers, special mission programs, not listed, etc. ³ Does not include \$153,922 net loan for roof project.		



Food Pantry June Update

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with shopping, bagging, distribution, and cleanup. Your time and dedication make this ministry possible.

This month we served **90 households**, representing **333 persons (126 children, 127 adults, and 80 seniors)**, helping provide food to last several days.

We welcomed **8 new households**.

We distributed **148 bags**, with each bag containing **10 non-perishable food items, one bottle of maple syrup, and approximately 3 pounds of frozen protein**.

As always, those who came to receive food expressed how important this assistance is to them and their families. They were very thankful to the church and volunteers for maintaining a food pantry they have come to depend upon.

I also wish to thank the congregation for their amazing support in keeping the Red Food Pantry tub filled week after week.

Mary and the Food Pantry Team



2nd Quarter	Households	Individuals	Children	Adults	Seniors	New Families	Bags Served	Lbs. of Food	Cost***
April	79	286	107	107	72	2	128	1340.6	\$ 37.44
May	83	297	121	101	75	10	134	1011.88	\$ 386.75
June	90	333	126	127	80	8	148	1150	\$ 27.28
Totals	252	916	354	335	227	20	410	3502.48	\$ 451.47

*** Food obtained at the Foodbank had no cost to the Food Pantry.

Cost was higher this quarter to help in funding condiment bags of ketchup, mustard, and BBQ sauce for the May Food Pantry distribution

Announcements

Fifty Plus

As we get ready for a new season of activities, we will gather for our annual **Fifty Plus Potluck Picnic in the Park at Gosnold's Hope Park, 901 E. Little Back River Road**. Plans are to **meet at the Cherry Shelter** (fourth left after entering the park). Mark your calendar now for **5 pm, Tuesday, August 11**. We will provide fried chicken, soft drinks, and paper products; you provide a dish to share. **Cost is just \$3.00**. When you sign up, be prepared to tell us what you plan to bring, e.g., appetizer, salad, vegetable, entrée, dessert, other. In addition to great fellowship, we'll chat about possible future activities.

Contact Anne or Bill Bryan with your ideas and to sign-up so we have a headcount – in person, at abandbb1@cox.net, or by phone to 757-851-0748. Please do it NOW.

And be sure to watch the First Fox Hill pubs to keep tab on activities as soon as they are published so you don't miss out. September and October will be here before you realize – opportunities on the horizon!

Become a Volunteer in Christ

We invite all members of our church family to prayerfully consider serving as a Volunteer in Christ.

Volunteering is a meaningful way to live out our faith—serving others with compassion, using our gifts, and strengthening the body of Christ. Whether you can offer your time, talents, or simply a willing heart, your service matters and makes a difference.

There are many opportunities to serve within our church, and we welcome individuals of all ages and experience levels.

If you feel called to serve, please sign up at the welcome desk or email the church office at churchoffice@firstumcfoxhill.org.

“Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received.” – 1 Peter 4:10

We look forward to serving alongside you!



GRADUATION SUNDAY

GRADUATES OF 2025

FERDINAND CLEMENT

Graduating from Phoebus High School
Will attend Virginia State University this fall
Majoring in Psychology

MARIE CLEMENT

Graduating from the University of Virginia
Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering
Plans to pursue a career in Civil Engineering

GRADUATION SUNDAY

STUDENTS REACHING NEW
MILESTONES

DONALD COE

Graduating from 8th Grade at
Jones Magnet Middle School
Will attend Kecoughtan High
School this fall

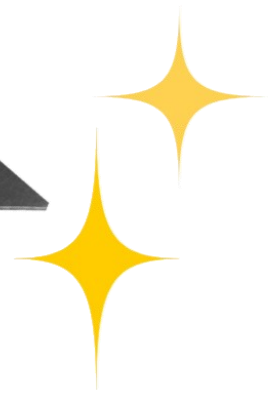
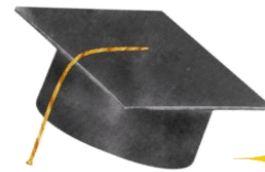
ETHAN FATKIN

Graduating from 8th Grade
at Ann H. Kilgore Gifted Center
Will attend Kecoughtan High School
this fall

GAVIN FATKIN

Graduating from 5th Grade
at Ann H. Kilgore Gifted Center
Will continue at Kilgore in the fall

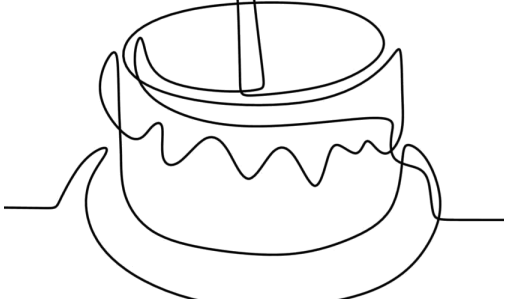
PLEASE JOIN US FOR A RECEPTION FOLLOWING
THE 10:30 SERVICE TO HONOR OUR STUDENTS



Birthdays

Steve Taylor	7/1	Zachary Parady	7/6	Zyien-Elizabeth Townsend	7/18
Catriona Sixbey	7/1	Coby Peters	7/7	David Edmonson	7/19
Breanna Chase	7/1	McCoy Tuttle	7/7	Kyle Greer	7/19
Melaney Jenkins	7/1	Mary Chase	7/7	Erin Isom	7/20
Karen Tackett	7/3	Rae McCabe	7/7	Lee Brookman	7/20
A J Johnson	7/3	Susan Nadeau	7/7	Mike Gulla	7/20
Katie Seguin	7/3	Victoria McLarty	7/8	Dallas Jenkins Jr.	7/20
Steven Ward Jr.	7/3	Brett Belbin	7/8	Rebecca Crist	7/20
Marty Ridout	7/3	Marie Clement	7/8	Ashley Hawley	7/22
Valerie Sikora	7/3	Judy Adams	7/9	Roxanne Farmer	7/22
Manning Freeman	7/4	George Honeycutt	7/9	Grace Hughes	7/23
Timothy Brooker	7/4	Kitty Lawrence	7/10	Peter Brown	7/24
Kaleb Caricofe	7/4	Angela Roach	7/11	Elie Chitman	7/24
Susan Brooker	7/5	Kyle Morris	7/12	Carrie McKenney	7/25
Presley Ward	7/5	Khy McLarty	7/13	Hayley Smith	7/25
Paisley Ward	7/5	Pauline Snider	7/13	Joshua Messick	7/26
Gabrielle Irby	7/5	Diego Capriotti	7/13	Beverly Stanley	7/26
Ronnie Steele	7/5	Ron Belbin	7/14	Austin Savage	7/26
Karl Cole	7/5	Steven Johnston	7/14	Dail Miller	7/26
Lynn Landrum	7/5	Katie Phillips	7/15	Linda Ayer	7/27
Gayle Landon	7/6	Cailin Brown	7/15	Ethan Fatkin	7/29
Bob Casey	7/6	Kellie McCabe	7/16	Evelyn Boone	7/29
Heidi Langdon	7/6	Larissa Luma	7/17	Bobby Hearp	7/29
Patty Biondolillo	7/6	Shanell Brown	7/17	Bradley Greer	7/31
David Foster	7/6	Matthew Holden	7/18	Kathy Day	7/31
Patrick Brooker	7/6	Scott Roberts	7/18	Wanda Peake	7/31

Anniversaries

Brian & Megan Fatkin	7/1		George & Sandra Palko	7/18
Jeremy & Amber Palmer	7/2		Scott & Pam Roberts	7/20
Matthew & Abby Durkee	7/3		Norman & Carrie Ward	7/23
Alan & Sandy Williams	7/8		Jesse & Jane Barbour	7/23
Mark & Crystal McKenney	7/10		Royal & Donna Greer Jr.	7/25
Lesley & Jamie Tonkin	7/15		Jennifer & Michael Pavusa	7/29

July

Saturday, July 4 Independence Day

Wednesday, July 8

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting: Tri-X Room

Sunday, July 12

10:00 a.m. Elevate Youth Tech Services

Monday, June 13

6:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting: ESR

7:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting: Tri-X Room

Wednesday, July 15 Anchor Newsletter Deadline

12:00 p.m. Fellowship of Circumstance for Women

Tuesday, July 21

11:00 a.m. Bagging for Food Pantry

6:30 p.m. CS Pack 151 Summer Activities & Parent Planning

7:00 p.m. PPSRC: Tri-X Room

Wednesday, July 22

10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting: Tri-X Room

12:00 p.m. Food Pantry

Saturday, July 25

2:00 p.m. Book Club: Robinson Home

Monday, July 27

6:00 a.m. Phoebus Women's Club Meeting: Faithlink Room

Tuesday, July 28

8:00 a.m. Facilities Team Workday

6:30 p.m. Cub Scout Pack 151 Knife Safety Activity (rising 3rd, 4th, & 5th graders only)

July 19 – 25, 2026 Elevate Youth Mission Trip

Martha's Ministry

Martha's Ministry is a wonderful group of ladies who give their dedicated service and outpouring of love to grieving families in their time of need. These ladies graciously prepare a reception for family and friends either at the church or in their homes. This ministry of the church, can always use more help! If you are interested, please call or email Marilyn Eubank.

July Team Leader: Marilyn Eubank

July Members: Marilyn Eubank, Pauline Snider, Glenda Helms, Jo Ann Markel, Shelby Sours, Sue Morehouse, C. J. McCarthy

Small Groups

Monday

10:00 a.m. Yoga: FH Stage

1:00 p.m. "The Book" Club: Tri-X Room

Tuesday

10:00 a.m. Shawl Makers: ESR

12:00 p.m. Dominoes: FH Stage

Wednesday

9:30 a.m. Soul Sisters: Faithlink

3:00 p.m. Love Unites: ESR

Thursday

11:00 a.m. Hour of Prayer: Tri-X Room

5:00 p.m. TABS: Tri-X Room

6:00 p.m. Karate for Christ: FH Stage

7:00 p.m. Ballroom Dance Lessons: FH Kitchen

Saturday

9:00 a.m. Saturday Morning Sisters in Christ: Faithlink

6:00 p.m. Elevate Youth: The Collective

7:00 p.m. Worship Team Rehearsal: Sanctuary

Scouts

Tuesdays: 7 p.m. Scout Troop 151: FH
See Calendar for Cub Scout Pack 151 Summer Activities

3rd Thursday 6:30 p.m. Girl Scout Troop 1038: Ed Wing

2nd & 4th Friday 6 p.m. Crew 1151 Meeting: Tri-X

AA Meetings

Wednesdays & Fridays - 6 p.m.

Buckroe New Hope AA Group: FH - Kitchen

Saturdays - 9 a.m.

Buckroe Men's AA Group: FH - Kitchen

Scan the QR code below to subscribe to our email updates.



Check the bulletin and weekly emails for calendar updates. Meeting times and dates may change during the summer and/or holidays.