

# The Anchor

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

## June 2026

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## 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
4:00 p.m.:	Women in the Word
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



## “The Joy of the Lord Is Your Strength”

I am not a big fan of “sound bites” and “bumper sticker” thinking. I don’t like it in political life, because the world is far more complicated than anyone wants to admit, and I don’t like it for personal life for the same reason. Bumper stickers are fine as bumper stickers, and sound bites are fine as political theater, but life is complicated.

That said, I have discovered there are some bumper sticker ideas that make a great deal of sense. In fact, there is one phrase that I have found true on every occasion. That phrase is not “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13). In context, Paul isn’t talking about getting a new job, acing a test, or getting a raise, which is how

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we often use it. No, Paul is talking about how Christ strengthened him to do the hard things in life: dealing with hunger, loss, and hurt, as well as with abundance. I agree with Paul absolutely that we can do all things through Christ, but without the context, we can twist that truth into places it was never meant to go. Christ strengthens us to handle the hard things life throws at us.

The phrase I find useful in nearly every setting, though, comes from Nehemiah, and I have no doubt it also lives on a bumper sticker somewhere: “The joy of the LORD is your strength.” (Nehemiah 8:10) Understanding the context helps, but once that is understood, the truth can be used almost anywhere in life. In context, Nehemiah has gone to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls of the city so that the people can live in safety and begin to flourish. As the project nears completion, Ezra, the scribe, comes and brings the books of the Law (that is, the Torah). Nehemiah and Ezra work together to gather all the people to hear the Law, and when they hear it, they are struck with grief, probably because they had never heard the Law before and realized that they had been doing wrong in God’s sight. But Nehemiah stands up and tells them not to grieve, but to celebrate with a feast and to look after their poorer neighbors so they could celebrate too. Then he spoke these words, that the joy of the Lord is their strength.

The reason I am perfectly happy for this to be a bumper sticker is because once we think it through, it applies everywhere. For instance, when I feel overwhelmed or anxious, my thoughts and my spirit spiral in tight circles. I can’t think of solutions, because all I see are problems. Fear constricts our vision, and because our vision is narrowed, a solution—or any good solution—could be hitting us over the head while we are blind to it. However, tapping into joy — not happiness or glee, but joy — opens the eyes, expands the vision, and makes things possible. Diving deeper into the idea — what I often do when I am fearful is look for quick fixes, easy solutions, distractions, or anything that could free me from fear. The reason I want to escape fear is often because beneath the fear is judgment, and I am judging myself, often in ways God would not judge me.

Here, I run into another possible, though longer, bumper sticker saying: “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with

punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love.” (1 John 4:18) Getting back to the idea of fear constricting my thoughts because I am judging myself wrongly, when I fear judgment, I want to blame someone else, something else, or just wallow in self-pity. Blame, shifting responsibility, or pitying ourselves has never helped anyone. In fact, that is why our world seems so upside down these days. We are as a nation living under a blanket of fear, and until we throw that blanket off, we will not see the light of a better day. Thus, the joy of the Lord can be our strength.

Allow me to elaborate on this joy and how it strengthens us. Nehemiah is not talking about being silly or ignoring reality. He isn’t distracting anyone either, as if he had YouTube videos to pacify the people. To have the joy of the Lord is to see reality and take it seriously, but not to take ourselves too seriously. Would a good God create us only to have us suffer, hurt each other, and hurt ourselves? Would a loving God place us in a world without beauty or hope? Would a God of steadfast love abandon us as soon as we had transgressed? No, for all the trouble, all the problems, and indeed, all the mistakes and wrong you and I perpetuate, a loving God provides a way to turn it around.

That way is Jesus, through his life, death, and resurrection. And joy is the response when we are forgiven, when we find hope, when we are loved despite ourselves, and joy is the response when we do not know what we should do, because we realize we do not have to possess the answers. We need only possess a loving relationship with our Maker, with our neighbors, and with ourselves. The rest will be sorted out one day at a time. We cannot think our way out of a problem we have felt our way into. Rather, when we find the Light, we celebrate and move into the light!

In truth, I have here only scratched the surface of this “bumper sticker” theology. It goes even deeper than I can express. I encourage you to contemplate it and practice it. Test it out when life is challenging, and I pray you will also discover that “The joy of the Lord is your strength.”



# Financial Fundamentals June 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.

First Fox Hill finances continue to be very tight for 2026. Our cancelations due to weather early in the year did not help, but we thank everyone whose contributions have helped support our programs and ministries. We are pleased to report that we were able to bring our Virginia Conference apportionments up to date through the end of April. Still to be addressed are our planned set-asides for future major maintenance which inevitably arises. We know finances may be an extra challenge for many and appreciate your efforts to sustain your giving.

It is hard to believe summer is just around the corner, but here it is. Don't forget your church if you are enjoying some time away. Our expenses continue every day and with the summer come high electric bills to keep the church cool and comfortable.

You'll note below that we have a very significant loan balance due to the expense of our 2025 major HVAC expenses and total roof repair. We are eager to pay down that principle to reduce interest expense. If you expect to receive a tax refund, or have already, some of it can be an opportunity to help; just mark your "over and above" contribution for Roof Repair.

Our initial foray into sending Donation Statements by e-mail proved successful saving time and postage. If you did not receive yours, please let us know so we can address the issue. And be sure your e-mail address is up to date in the office. You can report it by phone call or, better yet, by emailing it to [churchoffice@firstumcfoxhill.org](mailto:churchoffice@firstumcfoxhill.org). If you don't have email, that's fine, we will catch you in person at church or send it by postal mail.

Have you tried on-line giving? For many folks, this can be a convenient way to provide their church support. 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.firstumcfoxhill.org](http://www.firstumcfoxhill.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](mailto:billb-1111@cox.net).

Total One Fund – Through April 2026		
Income For Planned Expenses <sup>1</sup>		\$140,958
Total One Fund Expenses (excludes pass through <sup>2</sup> )	Planned	\$183,920
	Actual	\$152,193
Pass Through Income <sup>2</sup>		\$4,658
Pass Through Expense <sup>2</sup>		\$4,313
"Pay-It-Forward" Contributions		\$807
LUMENS Fund Raiser Income		\$20
LUMENS Fund Raiser Expense		\$0
Roof & Boiler Repair Income 2026 <sup>3</sup>		\$2,644
Roof & Boiler Repair Expense 2026		\$13,634
Loan Principal Balance – May 1		\$147,862
<sup>1</sup> Includes regular and memorial contributions, building use income, interest, not listed, etc. <sup>2</sup> Represents contributions for non-budget items, e.g., flowers, special mission programs, not listed, etc. <sup>3</sup> Does not include \$153,922 net loan for roof project.		



## Annual Conference

Annual Conference this year is in Harrisonburg, June 17-20. We thank Mike Williams for years of faithful service as the Lay Delegate – our new delegate is Melanie Souder. In addition, Larissa and Ferdinand and Tony Clement are attending as part of the youth delegation.

## Reminder

If your group or ministry is taking a break over the summer, please send Cassandra an email at [churchoffice@firstumcfoxhill.org](mailto:churchoffice@firstumcfoxhill.org) so that we can know what is happening around the church.

## Welcome the Rainbow Puppets again!

On Monday, June 15, at 6:30, the Rainbow Puppets will be performing/practicing their summer history show. Please invite your friends and neighbors, and if you can, come early to help set up, welcome our guests, and make popcorn for our guests.

Rainbow Puppet Productions  
presents

# Footsteps in History



a musical by  
David Messick



Monday, June 15, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.  
First UMC Fox Hill  
1 Salt Pond Road, Hampton, VA 23664  
[www.rainbowpuppets.com](http://www.rainbowpuppets.com)

## 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.

**June Team Leader:** Marilyn Eubank

**June Members:** Anne Bryan, Ann Drummond, Donna Fleenor, Gail Gulla, Bonnie Hulton, Betty Knaub, Karen Nolin, Sue Morehouse, Jennifer Williams

## Fifty Plus

Our 2025-26 season is wrapping up with the Tony award winning patriotic musical **1776** performed **Sunday afternoon, June 14** by the **Williamsburg Players** in celebration of our nation's 250th birthday! We are sold out, but we are happy to add you to the wait list in the event we have a cancellation.

The end of one season means **planning time for the 2026 – 27 season** will be here soon. In late July or early August, we will probably do another potluck picnic in the park. **What would you like to do or see; where would you like to go for a day outing or a multi-day trip?** Let us know as soon as possible so we can look into it. Watch the First Fox Hill publications for the latest news and **contact Anne or Bill Bryan with your ideas – in person, at [abandbb1@cox.net](mailto:abandbb1@cox.net), or by phone to 757-851-0748.**



CELEBRATE OUR  
*graduates*



SUNDAY, JUNE 14TH  
10:30 SERVICE

Please have all graduates send the following information to [larissa@firstumcfoxhill.org](mailto:larissa@firstumcfoxhill.org) to be recongized in the service:

- Full Name
- School Graduating From
- Degree (if applicable)
- If they will be attending the service

## Birthdays

Bonnie Herncall	6/1	Claudia Seely	6/10	Linda Williams	6/22
Megan Pudliner	6/1	Peter Capriotti	6/10	Morgan Barbour	6/23
Carl Andrews	6/1	Sandra Palko	6/10	Mark Doughty	6/23
Sarah Green	6/1	Marji Cochran	6/10	Jonathan Musser	6/24
Keith Melanson Jr.	6/1	Richard Shearer	6/11	Ron Charlton	6/24
Luna Lauffer	6/2	Jaxon Daniel	6/11	Christine Brooker	6/24
Walt Taylor	6/2	Heather Dunn	6/12	Greg Fisher	6/25
Matthew Delk	6/2	Shelby Wright	6/12	Jeremy Palmer	6/26
Joyce Fly	6/3	Elizabeth Casey	6/12	Amy Johnson	6/26
Laura Scott	6/3	Zachary Godwin	6/13	Annobe Clement	6/26
James Johnston	6/5	Mason Green	6/14	Nancy Johnston	6/26
Charles Winston Jr.	6/6	Jeffrey Verry Jr.	6/15	Carol Johnson	6/27
Tom Gore	6/7	Lotus Johnson	6/17	Jeanne Godwin	6/27
Ella Ferguson	6/8	Delsie Sasser	6/19	David Messick Jr.	6/27
David Fly	6/8	Katie Kessler	6/21	Donna Greer	6/29
Patrick Overby	6/8	Brittany Dow	6/21	Christopher Brooks	6/29
Seth Luma	6/8	Les Sapp Jr.	6/22	Gabriel Scott	6/29
		Jacob Caricofe	6/22		

## Anniversaries

Brian & Marilyn Eubank Sr.	6/5	Janet & Rick Holden	6/19
Matthew & Laura Delk	6/6	George & Carroll Honeycutt	6/25
Nick & Kim Quinn	6/13	John & Jean Pickin	6/25
Samuel & Lori Gillespie	6/14	Sally & Robert Brown	6/26
Stephen & Emily Struck	6/16	Robert & Judy Smith Jr.	6/26
Bill & Anne Bryan	6/17	Marshall & Mary Johnson	6/28
Josh & Sarah Beth McNutt	6/17	Cliff & Connie Rowe	6/30
Cindy & Mark Robinson	6/18	Bob & Maude Casey	6/30



## June

**Monday, June 1 Church Office Closed 1:45 p.m.**

**Tuesday, June 2 Church Office Closed 1:00 p.m.**

### Monday, June 8

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

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

### Wednesday, June 10

2:00 p.m. Staff Meeting: Tri-X Room

5:00 p.m. Elevate Youth: End of the School Year Party

### Thursday, June 11

11:00 a.m. UMW Thursday Morning Circle Luncheon: Crab Shake on the James

### Saturday, June 13

4:00 p.m. Unraveled Group: Tri-X Room

5:00 p.m. Elevate Youth: Parent's Night Out Fundraiser: FH

### Sunday, June 14 Graduation Sunday

10:00 a.m. Elevate Youth Tech Services

12:30 p.m. Fifty Plus Williamsburg Player

### Monday, June 15 Anchor Newsletter Deadline

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

6:30 p.m. Rainbow Puppets

### Tuesday, June 16

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

### Wednesday, June 17– Saturday, June 20 Annual Conference

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

5:30 p.m. Howe Farms HOA Meeting

### Sunday, June 21 Father's Day

### Monday, June 22

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

### Tuesday, June 23

8:00 a.m. Facilities Team Workday

11:00 a.m. Bagging for Food Pantry

### Wednesday, June 24

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

12:00 p.m. Food Pantry

### Saturday, June 27

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

## 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

### 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:

6:30 p.m. Pack 151 Meeting: FH

7 p.m. Scout Troop 151: FH

### 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

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

