

November
2026

The Anchor

First United Methodist Church Fox Hill

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

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
Helene Kasongo
Nursery Attendant Asst
Jeanne Chapman

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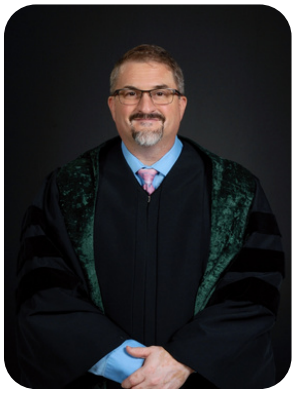
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FROM OUR PASTOR

“CHANGE IS ... CHANGE”



Rev. Dr. Brian Sixbey

Over the years, I have been told many conflicting things about change: Change is good, change is bad, change is difficult, change is easy. Often, there is a rhyme and a reason to why people feel a certain way about change. If we feel like we have control, change is good and easy, but if it feels like change is being forced on us, it feels bad and difficult. Allow me to remind us about some significant changes we have had this past year before talking about the significant change happening in the near future:

In September of 2025, Pastor Tommy stepped down as the Assistant to the Pastor, after well over a decade – in fact, nearly two decades, of faithful service. None of us, including Tommy, wanted to see that change take place, but it was necessary, and we are grateful he is being cared for and is still very vital. Months later, in fact earlier this year, Pastor Becky Holland stepped into the position. Becky is not Tommy, but she has brought a spirit to our church, a willingness to work and to make things work that has been a benefit to us.

> “Change creates not only a feeling of vulnerability, but also the possibility for new life, new directions, and new growth.”

The other significant change I want to highlight is more of a slow-burn kind of change: We have been, for years, struggling with our aging congregation (by the way, I am an aging pastor!). It is beautiful to have so many seasoned saints who each bring us their gifts, but aging often means that we lose people over time – whether we lose them to death, dementia, illness, moving, or decreased ability to come to worship or volunteer in their usual places, we find ourselves with more and more big shoes to fill. Meanwhile, the world around us is changing, and while our population of youth and children has been growing, we cannot expect to be able to do the same things in the same way. We are learning how to let go, and we are learning how to say no and say yes.

So, in this season of new changes, when we say goodbye and thank you to our youth director and modern worship leader, Larissa Luma, it is an opportunity to grow yet again. How will we answer the call? Will we find the person God wants to serve in the way God wants? What possibilities are there to make good changes in the process, and perhaps to change the way we think about ministry with younger people? While I want to find someone to pick up the slack left by Larissa, I also realize that change creates not only a feeling of vulnerability, but also the possibility for new life, new directions, and new growth.

While Larissa's moving on may not directly affect you, it affects all of us, because we are part of a larger whole: Our youth are not only our future, but our present reality, and we do not ultimately want to do ministry "to" youth. Rather, the way to sustain and grow is to have a ministry "with" youth, so that we learn to listen and grow ourselves.

> "MAY WE ROOT OUR HOPES IN THE PROMISES OF GOD SO THAT WHATEVER CHANGES COME OUR WAY, WE CAN MEET THEM WITH COURAGE AND LOVE."

Moreover, I write this while many of us are experiencing changes much closer to home: We have lost loved ones, we are facing difficult decisions, we are learning to let go and what to hold on to. This is a good time to remember a few things: The Lord will never leave or abandon us. (Hebrews 13:5) The Lord cares for us in our needs. (Psalm 139, Psalm 23) God has plans for us, plans for our welfare with hope. (Proverbs 23:18, Jeremiah 29:11) May we root our hopes in the promises of God so that whatever changes come our way, we can meet them with courage and love.

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

Brian K. Sisley

THANK YOU

Thank you for the laity and lay leaders who made our Laity Sunday service a great blessing, who made our charge conference a blessing, who give of their time, tithe, and talents to keep us going and help us make a difference in our community. Thank you for all who served during the pumpkin patch, who have helped strengthen our partnership with Jones MMS, and who step up when help is needed. Thank you for the new volunteers who stepped up on Stewardship Sunday, and finally, thank you for all the prayers, visits, and cards you send every single week to keep our congregation vital and active.

YOUTH DIRECTOR OPENING

We are looking for someone who can step into the role of youth director. The candidate will have some familiarity with the UMC, a deep spirituality, along with integrity and gumption to bring their own spirit and talents to this important ministry. The brief outline is to provide for weekly gatherings, help the youth grow as leaders and servants, connect them in the life of the church, the district, and the conference, and to participate in leadership in the church body. If you know of someone who is interested and willing to be interviewed for the role, please get them in touch with Pastor Brian or Cindy Robinson, chair of PPSRC. We hope to have someone in place by November 22, or as soon as possible.

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.

November Team Leader: Marilyn Eubank & Jean Pickin

November Members: Jean Pickin, Marilyn Eubank, Jane Barbour, Becky Thompson, Bonnie Harper, Donna Leavell, Donna Fleenor

FINANCIAL FUNDAMENTALS
NOVEMBER 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.

We need your help to finish the 2026 year with all out financial obligations met. At this time, while our monthly operating bills are current, we are several months behind in our shared Virginia Annual Conference obligations and have not been able to make our planned set-asides for future major maintenance. This has been a challenging year for us, as it may have been for many of you reading this. As previously noted, our electric bills alone have totaled $43,900 through October.

This is the time for year-end giving. Many of us have reached the point where we have an IRA Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) obligation which may be more than we need for comfortable daily living. If you are in that group, consider making a Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD) to First Fox Hill which, if you are eligible, may save on taxes by reducing your taxable income. Another option may be a gift of actual shares of appreciated stock. [Note, this is actual shares; do not sell and donate.] Always discuss your options with your financial/tax advisor before taking any unfamiliar actions. Also, talk to Bill Bryan, Finance Chair, with questions. Thank you for doing all you can for your church.

On October 12, the Church Council, following a review by the Finance Committee, approved the 2027 spending plan (budget). The approved plan, at $578,945, is a nominal $3,216 (or 0.56%) reduction in the General Fund. However, with our annual roof loan payment of $10,902 which was not budgeted in 2026, the total amount is $578,945 or an increase of $7,686. The results will be presented at the annual Charge Conference on November 1.

About the time this Anchor is posted, you should receive your third quarter giving statement by e-mail. These are not bills, but a way to help us ensure our records are correct and for you to know the information. Please check your statement carefully. If you don't receive an expected statement or have any questions/issues, please contact the church office so we can review the data with you. You can call 757-851-6302 or send an email to churchoffice@firstumcfoxhill.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.

If you are not already using on-line giving, you may find it a convenient way to provide 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.firstumcfoxhill.org, scroll down and click on Give, then click on GIVE ONLINE. There you can set up one-time gifts or automatic regular giving on a weekly, twice a month, or monthly schedule. Donations from your bank account are best, but credit and debit cards also work.

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.

Scan to Support First UMC Fox Hill

Total One Fund – Through September 2026		
Income For Planned Expenses[1]		**$322,570**
Total One Fund Expenses (excludes pass through[2])	Planned	**$413,820**
	Actual	**$322,878**
Pass Through Income[2]		$46,253
Pass Through Expense[2]		$5,869
"Pay-It-Forward" Contributions		$1,802
LUMENs Fund Raiser Income		$520
LUMENs Fund Raiser Expense		$0
Roof & Boiler Repair Income 2026[3]		$6,496
Roof & Boiler Repair Expense 2026		$18,176
Loan Principal Balance – October 1		$146,718

[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. Includes $40,250 special donation.
[3]Does not include $153,922 net loan for roof project.





FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2026



The weather was just right—not too hot or too cold—for our team to be out in the parking lot. However, our team was quickly outnumbered with cars lined up to Salt Pond Road. We came just shy of matching our record number of households served in August 2026.

113
Households Served

402
Persons Served

180
Bags Distributed

14
New Households

This month, we were blessed to have enough meat and non-perishable items available through the food bank, along with the generous food donations from our congregation, to maintain the usual amount of food in each bag. We are grateful that we did not have to reduce the quantity of food provided to our families.

Thank you for helping keep the Red Food Pantry stocked and serving our neighbors.

Mary and the Food Pantry Team



FIFTY PLUS UPDATE

Plan to join us on **Saturday afternoon, Dec 12,** when we will travel to **Williamsburg Community Chapel** for their presentation of ***Praise***, a fun afternoon of Christmas music by their combined choirs and orchestra with some time for sing-along. We were invited by our long-time friend and past FUMC FH member Linda Poinsett who will be singing. Afterward we will stop to eat. **Price is just $3 plus your meal.**

Coming in **January** will be our **annual breakfast**. Watch for details.

Mark your calendar! Coming on **Sunday afternoon, February 21**, will be the opportunity to experience ***Come From Away*, performed by Theatre CNU** in partnership with Virginia Stage Company. On September 11th, 2001, thirty-eight planes carrying nearly 7,000 passengers are diverted to the tiny town of Gander, Newfoundland. This acclaimed Broadway hit tells the remarkable true story of kindness in the face of crisis. With a soaring score and an ensemble cast playing dozens of characters, the play celebrates the generosity that can appear when we need it most. And reminds us how deeply connected we really are. **Don't miss out; reserve now! Cost is just $12 plus your meal afterwards.**

AMERICAN STORIES & A RIVERBOAT Here it is…the information you have been awaiting!!! **Tuesday, May 18 – Saturday, May 22, 2027, the Fifty Plus** folks will be travelling to **Cincinnati, Wytheville,** and **Roanoke.** From a behind the scenes tour of the still operating 146 year old Rockwood Pottery, through nearly 100 years of signs at the **American Sign Museum**, stepping back centuries and up to current day in the **National Underground Railroad Freedom Center**, viewing the history of travel at **Virginia Museum of Transportation**, sharing the theatrical suspense of the gripping psychological thriller that inspired the 1948 Alfred Hitchcock and Jimmy Stewart film ***Rope***, tapping toes to the tunes of the our younger years at the **Red Stag Dinner Theatre**, dining on the **Captain's dinner cruise** aboard an **Ohio River sternwheeler**, and thrilling to the **thousands of butterflies** in the **Krohn Conservatory & Butterfly Show**; it will be a great trip. Details are on the rack in the Narthex and on the FUMC Fox Hill web page. **Seats are limited; don't miss out; sign-up now!**

Contact Anne or Bill Bryan with your ideas and for sign-ups. You can do so in person, at abandbb1@cox.net, or by phone to 757-851-0748.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX

Please consider participating in the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child by packing a Shoebox with small gifts and donating $10.00. **See display in the Narthex** for free boxes and label/donation envelopes. Please be sure to identify on the label the child's correct age and gender. **Return filled boxes to the display table area no later than Sunday, Nov. 22, 2026.** For more information contact Mary Jane King 757-851-8628 or mjking757@gmail.com



BIRTHDAYS

Florence Butler	11/1
Steven Rochelle	11/2
Chris Harman	11/2
Kathy Fisher	11/3
James Hodges	11/3
Jayson Geib	11/4
Isaac Nadeau	11/4
Margaret Fleshman	11/5
Doris Steele	11/5
Dave Rogers	11/6
Kim Taylor	11/6
DeeDee Bullock	11/6
Brad Fleenor	11/6
David Farlee	11/6
Wyatt Fatkin	11/6
Brian Thomas Eubank Jr.	11/7
Mike Monteith	11/7
Cindy Johnson	11/9
Cliff Rowe	11/9
Sherri McQuillan	11/11
Cory Hodges	11/11
Ben Landon	11/11
Nick Hopkins	11/11
Bill Bryan	11/11
Nancy Allen	11/12
Nolan Moon	11/12
Brady Broich	11/12
Danny Hodges	11/13
Justin Phillips	11/13
Beverly Godwin	11/13
Tom McLemore	11/14
Troy Monteith II	11/14
Christine Keesee	11/14
John Decker	11/15
Leon Keesee	11/16
Hunter Riss	11/16
Wes Rogers	11/16
Ellie Hopkins	11/17
Jane Barbour	11/17
Julie Colton	11/20
James Bly	11/21
Chip Herncall Jr.	11/21
Sally Brown	11/21
Darcy Eiland	11/23
Cory Lanning	11/23
Matthew May	11/23
John Routten	11/23
Mike May	11/24
Meredith Guthrie	11/24
Rachael Melanson	11/24
Jesse Barbour	11/25
Robert Allen	11/25
Dave Hopewell	11/26
Tommy Markham Jr.	11/26
Pat Parker	11/27
Jennifer Coiner	11/27
Bill Fulton Jr.	11/27
Tori Doyle	11/28
Doug Roberson	11/29
Brandi Winston	11/29
Derek Hulick	11/30



ANNIVERSARIES

Jim & Doris Dickert	11/2
Walt & Kim Taylor	11/2
Jason & Claudia Seely	11/2
Patrick & Susan Brooker	11/6
Jeff & Michele Winston	11/7
Fred & Kay Foster	11/14
Michael & Gail Gulla	11/16
David & Marcy Messick Jr.	11/17
Jared & Allison Peretin	11/19
Paolo & Ashley Hawley	11/27

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

Monday, November 1
7:00 p.m. Nominations Committee: Tri-X Room

Monday, November 9
6:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting: ESR
7:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting: Tri-X Room

Wednesday, November 11
10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting: Tri-X Room
2:00 p.m. Service for Betty Knaub
5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts Info Session: Tri-X Room
6:00 p.m. Called PPSRC Meeting: ESR

Friday, November 15 Anchor Newsletter Deadline

Saturday, November 14
1:00 p.m. EAGLE Court of Honor: Sanctuary & FH

Tuesday, November 17
1:00 p.m. Vibrant Worship Committee: Tri-X Room
7:00 p.m. PPSRC: Tri-X Room

Wednesday, November 18
12:00 p.m. Fellowship of Circumstance for Women
4:30 p.m. Helping Hands Mission Team: Tri-X Room

Monday, November 23
6:00 a.m. Phoebus Women's Club Meeting: Faithlink

Tuesday, November 24
8:00 a.m. Facilities Team Workday
11:00 a.m. Bagging for Food Pantry

Wednesday, November 25
10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting: Tri-X Room
12:00 p.m. Food Pantry

Thursday, November 26 Thanksgiving
Church Office Closed

Saturday, November 28
2:00 p.m. Book Club: Robinson Home

Monday November 30 Church Office Closed

UMM

Dinner and Meeting: 3rd Mon., 6:30 p.m.: FH

UWF

Thursday Morning Circle: 1st Thurs., 10 a.m.: FH Stage

Sunday's Schedule

9:00 a.m. Traditional Service: In-person/Livestream
10:15 a.m. Faithlink Class: Faithlink
10:15 a.m. Searchers Class: FH Stage
10:15 a.m. Rise Children's Ministry: Ed Wing
10:30 a.m. Modern Service: In-person/Livestream
6:00 p.m. Elevate Youth: FH
6:00 p.m. Junior Youth: Ed Wing

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
5:45 p.m. Wesley Bells Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. 1st Fox Hill Family Choir Practice

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. Sat. Morning Sisters in Christ: Faithlink
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

Every other Friday 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.