

October
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

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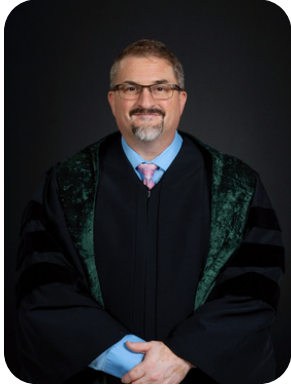
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“HUSTLE & BUSTLE”



Rev. Dr. Brian Sixbey

“Our lives are not a race to the finish line. Rather, our lives are meant to be a story in the tapestry of the world’s story.”

I remember being told how time would move faster as I aged, and for the first 40 years of my life, I didn’t quite understand it. But when kids came and started growing, it became a very real truism for me. When I first came to First UMC Fox Hill, 16+ years ago, summers seemed slowed, and the fall seemed like a blur. Now, it all seems a blur! In fact, the last time I looked, September was a ways away, and October was not on the horizon.

However, I have also read that one of the ways we can keep our brains younger is to have new or significant experiences. Fortunately, the fall of the year provides many of those experiences for us at First UMC Fox Hill. From the pumpkin unloading on October 15, to the opening on the 17th, a visit from our DS, preparing for charge conference (Nov 1), Blessing of the Pets (Oct. 24), spaghetti with our youth (October 17, 6pm) Stewardship, Laity, and Time and Talent Sunday (October 25), and crowning out the month with All Saints’ Sunday (Nov. 1 this year!), there will be plenty of chances to share significant moments with others this fall – and I haven’t counted regular meetings and gatherings in this listing – only the special ones for the month.

While we are at it, there will be more opportunities during the fall to be part of special experiences: We will again be putting together shoeboxes for Samaritan’s Purse, collecting gifts for our angel tree, offering a staff bonus, getting ready for Thanksgiving, and of course, enjoying all the special moments that come as Christmas draws near.

So – I invite us to take moments of rest and relaxation whenever and wherever they come, as well as to participate in the events and moments that will bring significant value to your life. And I invite us to also take some moments to give thanks for the blessings already in our lives – for friends, family, people who love us and whom we love, as well as the beauty that comes in each season – not just the seasons of the year, but also the seasons of our lives. Most of all, remember that our lives are not a race to the finish line. Rather, our lives are meant to be a story in the tapestry of the world’s story – a story that begins with the overflowing love of God who created us in God’s image, and that will end in a great banquet table where we will sit in awe that the God of the Universe knows us and loves us by name.

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

Brian K. Sixbey

FINANCIAL FUNDAMENTALS

OCTOBER 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.

Fall is here and everything is getting really busy for most everyone. That certainly applies to the church financial world also. This is the time we plan for the new year while working to fulfill our current financial needs before the end of this year. 2026 has been a tight year financially and we are behind in our Conference Apportionments and planned set-asides for future major maintenance. By the way, our electric bill so far this year has totaled just under \$38,000.

You can help, and we need it. We know that for many, personal finances may be a current struggle, especially with food and gas prices. We ask you to review what you can do. Are you where you want to be with your support of First Fox Hill? If you still need to take a required minimum distribution from your IRA, consider making a qualified charitable donation to the church which can save on your tax obligation whether or not you itemize. Always discuss your options with your financial/tax advisor before taking any unfamiliar actions. We thank you for doing all you can for your church.

As noted above, we are in the process of compiling anticipated expenses for 2027. Work area chairs are providing their input and your Finance Committee and Church Council will be voting on our 2027 Spending Plan (budget) at their meetings on October 12. The results will be presented at the annual Charge Conference on November 1.

You should soon be receiving your third quarter donation statement, which we will be sending to you by e-mail. These are not bills, but when you receive yours, please check it 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@firstumcfoxfhill.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.

On-line giving can be 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.firstumcfoxfhill.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.



Scan to
Support
First UMC
Fox Hill



Total One Fund – Through August 2026		
Income For Planned Expenses ¹		\$280,508
Total One Fund Expenses (excludes pass through ²)	Planned	\$318,734
	Actual	\$279,508
Pass Through Income ²		\$45,765
Pass Through Expense ²		\$1,955
"Pay-It-Forward" Contributions		\$1,705
LUMENs Fund Raiser Income		\$520
LUMENs Fund Raiser Expense		\$0
Roof & Boiler Repair Income 2026 ³		\$4,906
Roof & Boiler Repair Expense 2026		\$17,459.22
Loan Principal Balance – September 1		\$146,963
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.		



ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
Sunday, October 25 will also be stewardship Sunday. In addition to our annual pledge, when we consider our yearly giving to God through our church, we will also be offering a time and talents survey, where we can consider places to serve.

PSST – KEEP IT QUIET!
On Sunday, October 18 at 9am, our fearless District Superintendent, Rev. Lyndsey Baynham-Freeman will be joining us for worship. No need for special treatment for her – simply welcome her and her family as you would any guest.

BLESSING OF THE PETS
On Saturday, October 24, from 12:00–2:00 PM, bring your pets—and invite your neighbors to bring theirs—for an individual blessing. The Blessing of the Pets will take place outside in the Pumpkin Patch. In case of inclement weather, we will move to the portico by the front entrances. All pets and their people are welcome!

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.

October Team Leader: Marilyn Eubank & Jean Pickin
October Members: Marilyn Eubank, Jean Pickin, Judy Adams, Kathy Cato, Bonnie Herncall

LAITY SUNDAY
Sunday, October 25 will be both stewardship and laity Sunday. Laity Sunday is the service, usually in October, when the people of the church lead the entire service. Of course, every Sunday, our service could not happen without laity – from the liturgists, to the choir, to the a/v system, ushers, and the hundreds of things that require extra hands, we would not have a meaningful service, but Laity Sunday is a special date when we can experience together how much our people do and provide.

HELP!
Every year, we want to make sure we have sufficient help to unload and operate our pumpkin patch. This year, we anticipate extra help from Jones students as well as our cub and possibly our boy scouts. Of course, feel free to invite neighbors and friends

ELEVATE YOUTH

UPCOMING EVENTS

17 OCT	SPAGHETTI DINNER FUNDRAISER @ FUMC FOX HILL FELLOWSHIP HALL
30 OCT	HALLOWEEN PARTY @ PHEBUS UMC
6-8 NOV	CALLED TO SERVE RETREAT @ RAPPAHANNOCK CAMP & RETREAT
20 DEC	ELEVATE YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY @ FUMC FOX HILL FELLOWSHIP HALL
31 DEC	NEW YEARS EVE ROLLER SKATE NIGHT @ PENINSULA FAMILY SKATE CENTER

FALL 2026

THE PUMPKINS ARE COMING!!!

Arrival time is scheduled for **4 p.m. on Thursday, October 15**, so MARK YOUR CALENDAR! This is a BIG day, and we will need your help—rain or shine, on time or not!

Following the unloading of the truck, we will enjoy dinner together, hosted by the Phoebus Women's Club.

The Annual Pumpkin Patch is an important event for First UMC Fox Hill! The Patch is a wonderful opportunity to share fun and fellowship with your fellow church members and the community that surrounds us. People come from near and far to shop, play, and take photos in the church's Pumpkin Patch.

Most importantly, the Pumpkin Patch gives us a chance to connect with our community while raising substantial funds to support our programs and ministries.

So mark your calendar, bring your energy, and come help us unload those pumpkins!

Pumpkin Patch

- Open Now: Sign up in the Narthex
- 10/14/26 9:00am: Outdoor Set up
- 10/15/26 4pm: Unload Pumpkins & Dinner
- 10/17/26 - 10/31/2026 Pumpkin Patch Open
- 10/24/26 12-2pm: Blessing of the Pets
- 11/1/26 9am: Pumpkin Patch Cleanup



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX

It is Operation Christmas Child Shoebox time again! Our church can help fulfill the Great Commission and send the Gospel worldwide. A Shoebox is more than the toys and supplies you pack inside. It is a tangible expression of God's love. Thirty three years ago Samaritan's Purse, a Christian relief organization, began the Operation Christmas Child project with a few thousand Shoeboxes collected by a church in Charlotte, NC. Since then boxes have been sent to 175 countries and territories. By the grace of God, last year more than 12 million were sent from our country. The worldwide total was over 244 million. All who receive a box are offered a follow up 12 lesson discipleship program by trained volunteer teachers.

A table display in our Narthex will have preprinted boxes and labels for your use to prepare a gift by November 23, 2026. That is the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Or you may use any type shoe box of your own, but add the preprinted labels provided. Students from Jones Middle School will be also providing filled boxes as part of this years partnership.

For questions contact Mary Jane King 757-851-8628 or mjking@gmail.com

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

OCTOBER 2026

Our Food Pantry had a remarkable strong day. We are so grateful to all of our volunteers who worked hard to make sure everyone who came for food was served.



96

Households
Served



369

Persons Served



160

Bags
Distributed



13

New
Households

Regrettably, due to very sparse meat at the food bank, we could only give out one bag of meat per household.

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



Mary and the Food Pantry Team

FIFTY PLUS UPDATE

We will **meet at the church at 12:30 pm, Sunday, October 4**, for our ride to **Theatre CNU** and their performance of the musical ***A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder***. If you aren't signed up, we can put you on the standby list in case of a drop out. **Price is \$12 plus your meal** afterwards.

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.

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.

BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER 2026

Stephen Struck	10/1	Dawn Eanes	10/11	Calvin Vaughan	10/19
Riley Roberson	10/1	Donna Francis	10/11	Jennifer Musser	10/20
Chuck Farmer	10/1	Marsha Spencer	10/12	Kathy Rogers	10/20
Dave Sharp	10/1	Howard Salake	10/12	Vicky Coiner	10/21
Stephanie Routten	10/2	Paolo Hawley	10/14	Carol Hudgins	10/21
Adrienne Soulé	10/3	David Weaver	10/14	Brett Palko	10/21
Carla Mingee	10/3	Doris Dickert	10/14	Debbie Bollinger	10/22
Miriam Meyers	10/4	Cody Simpson	10/15	Amber Palmer	10/22
Chloe Howell	10/4	Emily Struck	10/15	Brian Ward	10/24
Paxton Ward	10/5	Terri Greer	10/15	Robin Davis	10/24
Rick Nolin	10/5	Mark Robinson	10/15	Tiffany Roberson	10/24
Bobby Weaver	10/6	Joann Smith	10/16	Susan Dow	10/25
Andrew Walden	10/6	Erin Gillespie	10/16	Theresa Nystrom	10/26
Leslie Crandol	10/7	Kathy Brookman	10/17	Abbey Snow	10/26
John Pickin	10/8	Jeff Sandford	10/17	Kay Royster	10/27
Tyler Chase	10/9	Victoria Haight	10/17	Patricia Wathan	10/28
Melissa Miller	10/10	Megan Fatkin	10/18	Corey Felix	10/29
Zachary Struhs	10/10	Les Bollinger	10/19	Luke Knaub	10/30
Ron Mayo	10/11	Christopher Clinton	10/19	Kathryn Hawley	10/31
Abigail Holcomb	10/11	Jeannie Hastedt	10/19		

ANNIVERSARIES



Ron & Debra Kravitz	10/1
Don & Cindy Johnson Jr.	10/1
Mike & Pam May	10/4
James & Nancy Johnston	10/5
Ed & Joyce Fly	10/10
Jim & Mary McAnally	10/10
Marc & Susan Nadeau	10/10
Berry & Gina Simpson	10/10
Mark & Melissa Doughty	10/14
Bryce & Nicole Quinn	10/14
David & Leslie Crandol	10/17
Lloyd & Kathy Cato Jr.	10/18
Kassandra & Peter Brown	10/18
Donna & Christopher Evers	10/19
Steve & Heather Riss	10/27
Chip & Melissa Herncall Jr.	10/31

OCTOBER CALENDAR

Sunday, October 4

12:30 p.m. Fifty Plus Outing: CNU Theater

Sunday, October 11

10:00 a.m. Elevate Youth Tech Services: Narthex

Monday, October 12

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

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

Wednesday, October 14

9:00 a.m. Pumpkin Patch Outdoor Set up

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

4:30 p.m. Helping Hands Mission Team: Tri-X Room

Thursday, October 15 Anchor Newsletter Deadline

4:00 p.m. Unload Pumpkins & Dinner

Saturday, October 17 Pumpkin Patch begins!

6:00 p.m. Elevate Youth: Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Monday, October 19

7:00 p.m. The Collective: Youth Council

Tuesday, October 20

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

Wednesday, October 21

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

Saturday, October 24

12:00 p.m. Blessing of the Pets

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

Monday, October 26

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

Tuesday, October 27

8:00 a.m. Facilities Team Workday

11:00 a.m. Bagging for Food Pantry

Wednesday, October 28

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

12:00 p.m. Food Pantry

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

6:00 p.m. The Collective: Tabletop

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.