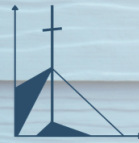


September
2026

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

Chelsea Kyme

Asst. Nursery Attendant

Helene Kasongo

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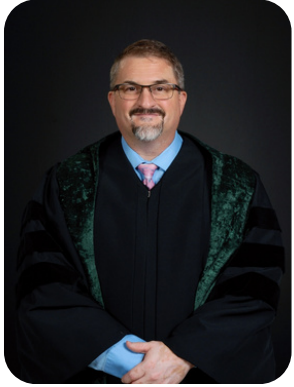
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FROM OUR PASTOR



Rev. Dr. Brian Sixbey

WHEN I AM WEAK,
THEN I AM STRONG

Isn't it interesting that, whether you are in elementary school, college, or decades out of school, the start of the new school year is still something we notice and think about? I have to admit that there have been times when I wondered why the school buses were running or not running because I had lost track of the school schedule, but the start of the new school year is hard to miss. It's in the papers, on the news, in the ads, and on billboards online and in real life. But does it matter, not just to students, teachers, faculty, parents, and guardians? I think it does.

“We are chosen, not for our strengths, but precisely because God can work through our weaknesses.”

The start of a new school year marks progress in their lives. There are new teachers, new schools, new clothes, books, backpacks, and so forth. There might be a new bus, or new classrooms, or even new potential friends. We cannot erase the past, but the new gives us a chance to maybe not keep making the same mistakes all the time. A new school year is like getting the chance to reboot some part of our lives, perhaps even more than a new calendar year.

Even as I write this, though, I see two problems. First, we always have a chance to reboot! In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Forgiveness is not just a chance to restart, but it is the essence of restarting. Second, it might be time to look at life in a different way. For instance, when Jesus forgave Peter for denying him three times, did Jesus give Peter a new start, or was he redeeming who Peter was already? Follow me a moment – Jesus knew Peter would deny him because he knew Peter's personality. Likewise, Jesus knows our sins and faults, as well as our strengths. Jesus chooses Peter to be a disciple despite knowing how he would fail; therefore, when we are chosen, it is not because of our perfection, but because of something else.

Paul wrote about the “thorn” in his side: “Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Corinthians 12:8–10 NRSV) It seems that we are chosen, not for our strengths, but precisely because God can work through our weaknesses.

Now, strengths, weaknesses, sins, faults, personalities – these things are not exactly equivalent, so let me rephrase the question: Perhaps we do not need a reboot or a fresh start (although these things can be helpful!)– perhaps what we need instead is, a fresh understanding: God has chosen us to be the light of the world, and the way we show light is by letting God use our weaknesses. As an example, our friend Pastor Becky has a significant weakness, which is her very poor eyesight. And yet, we experience God's strength through her weakness, because God gives her the ability to work through that weakness.

“THIS MONTH, AS SCHOOL RESTARTS, PRAY THAT GOD WOULD USE THAT WEAKNESS TO DISPLAY GOD'S STRENGTH!”

So, here is our assignment: What is a weakness I have, something I wish would go away? Perhaps I think too much about what others think. Perhaps I have a medical condition, a mental condition, an issue where it seems like I am always weak. This month, as school restarts, pray that God would use that weakness to display God's strength! And then, be prepared to share the story of how God blesses others through your weakness.

While we are not numerically the church we were when I arrived in 2010, with God, not only are all things possible, but the best days are yet to come!

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

Brian K. Sixby

ALL HAMPTON UMC COOKOUT!

On Saturday, September 19, from 11am-2pm, please join us for a cookout and fellowship time with your fellow United Methodists from around Hampton at Sandy Bottom Nature Park. We will be gathering in the shelters directly off Hampton Roads parkway, by the restrooms and playground.

A SURPRISE GIFT!

We want to acknowledge an unexpected and generous gift from Lighthouse Community Church this past month. Thank you for your service to our community, and for blessing us.

SUNDAY SCHOOL THANKS!

Many thanks for all who are helping Becky move her elementary class downstairs.

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.

September Team Leader: Marilyn Eubank & Jean Pickin

September Members: Kay Foster, LaRose Richardson, Kathy Fisher, & Patty Biondolillo

FINANCIAL FUNDAMENTALS

SEPTEMBER 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.

I would love to say that First Fox Hill finances have improved this past month, but we continue to be very tight for 2026. We are still working to catch up on our Apportionment shared expenses and planned set-asides for major maintenance.

A special thank-you to everyone who helped to provide school supplies to Jones Magnet Middle School. Your regular donations can give us the ability to support multiple programs both locally and worldwide.

Last month I mentioned our utility bills noting that in the first 7 months of the year we have paid over \$25,430 for electricity; this past month added \$6,843 to that total. As we all know from our personal lives, the "cost of doing business" can be steep.

Thank you for ALL your support.

If you haven't received your second quarter donation statement, we may be missing a good e-mail address for you. If you didn't receive an expected a statement (which is not a bill, but a way for you to help us be certain we have recorded your information correctly), we may be missing your contact info. Please contact the church office to update your address or with any questions. 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.

Remember, 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.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.

Total One Fund – Through July 2026		
Income For Planned Expenses¹		\$245,026
Total One Fund Expenses (excludes pass through ²)	Planned	\$310,240
	Actual	\$263,805
Pass Through Income ²		\$4,913
Pass Through Expense ²		\$5,010
"Pay-It-Forward" Contributions		\$1,517
LUMENs Fund Raiser Income		\$270
LUMENs Fund Raiser Expense		\$0
Roof & Boiler Repair Income 2026 ³		\$4,906
Roof & Boiler Repair Expense 2026		\$17,459.22
Loan Principal Balance – August 1		\$147,183
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.		



Scan to
Support
First UMC
Fox Hill



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!



FOOD PANTRY UPDATE



Our Food Pantry had an extraordinary August, and we are so grateful to all of our volunteers who worked hard to make sure everyone who came for food was served.

***We SHATTERED ALL PREVIOUS RECORDS**
— not by a bit, but by a mile!



111

Households
Served
(*previous 104)



410

Persons Served
(167 children, 148
adults, and 95 seniors)
(*previous 352)



184

Bags
Distributed
(*previous 166)



19

New
Households
(*previous 15)

Each bag included 10 non-perishable food items, one bottle of maple syrup, and approximately 3 pounds of frozen protein.

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



Mary and the Food Pantry Team

FIFTY PLUS UPDATE

As many of you know, we had our latest Potluck Picnic in the Park in the much cooler Tri-X Classroom at church. Thanks to all for the delicious dishes you shared. And for completing the annual questionnaire about possible destinations for the group.

Our **first planned outing of the 2026 – 27 season** is a trip to the **Surry Nuclear Power Plant Visitor Information Center** scheduled for **Thursday, September 17**. The outing is limited to 24 individuals for a tour followed by a stop for a great lunch and return via the **Scotland – Jamestown Ferry**. **Cost is \$5.00** plus your lunch.

We are hard at work on other outings, but don't yet have anything further to report. 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.

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

Tammy Winston	9/1	Kathy Graumann	9/11	Kathy Monteith	9/19
Donna McDowell	9/1	Xavier Scott	9/11	Kyan Pereira	9/19
Parker Ferguson	9/2	Alan Williams	9/12	Jessup Triplett	9/19
John Capriotti	9/2	Fred Foster	9/12	Lindsay Gulla	9/20
Steve Riss	9/2	Andrea Sanderson	9/13	Julie Bell	9/20
Loretta Sherlock	9/3	Evelynn Moon	9/14	Betty Knaub	9/21
Kathy Kromoff	9/3	Ean Moon	9/14	Ben Godwin	9/21
Jackson Westphal	9/4	Treyson Seely	9/15	Hunter Francis	9/22
Mimeo Soriano Jr.	9/5	John Blake Jr.	9/15	Alex Winston	9/23
Robert Smith	9/6	Don Tackett	9/15	Lawrence Musser III	9/24
Donna Evers	9/6	Sofia Seely	9/15	Michele Winston	9/25
Mark Knaub	9/8	Holley Snider	9/16	Kaylyn Greer	9/26
Christine Woods	9/8	Tony Kromoff	9/16	Martina Lee	9/26
Glyne Conner	9/8	Raymond Hodges	9/16	Carrie Hopkins	9/26
Lori Peters	9/8	Janae Stupica	9/17	Connor Hawley	9/26
Jack Morehouse	9/9	Bev Stanworth	9/18	Ferdinand Clement	9/27
Ryan Eanes	9/9	Timothy Holden	9/18	Martha Stocker	9/27
Carmen Stupica	9/10	Kathy Cato	9/18	Beth Hughes	9/27
Nick Quinn	9/10	Raygen Pavusa	9/18	Miriam Ridout	9/28
Jordan Moffat	9/10	Kim Pudliner	9/19	Nathan Evers	9/28
Erika McLemore	9/10	Stephanie Craven	9/19	Wayne Lewis	9/28
Alice Cheslock	9/10	Sharon Priddy	9/19	Stuart Speth	9/29
Donna Hamby	9/10			Brian Currier	9/30
Elizabeth Ridout	9/10			Elizabeth Barroso	9/30

ANNIVERSARIES



Susan & Terry Dow	9/3
Beverly & Reb Godwin	9/4
Ben & Katie Kessler	9/4
Phyllis & Jody James	9/6
DeeDee & Chuck Bullock	9/7
Terrie & Charles Galay	9/7
Ryan & Ginny Tuttle	9/8
Bruce & Roxanne Milne	9/10
Catherine & Michael Westphal	9/15
Gary & Terri Greer	9/15
Pat & Calvin Leary	9/25
Tony & Kathy Kromoff	9/25
Diego Capriotti & Jeanne Godwin	9/28

SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Monday, September 7 Labor Day
Church Office Closed

Wednesday, September 9

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

Sunday, September 13

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

Monday, September 14

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

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

Tuesday, September 15 Anchor Newsletter Deadline

1:00 p.m. Vibrant Worship: Tri-X Room

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

Wednesday, September 16

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

5:30 p.m. Girl Scouts Info Session: Tri-X Room

Thursday, September 17

8:30 a.m. Fifty Plus: Surry Nuclear Power Plant

Saturday, September 19

11:00 a.m. All Hampton UMC Cookout: Sandy Bottom

Monday, September 21

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

Tuesday, September 22

8:00 a.m. Facilities Team Workday

11:00 a.m. Bagging for Food Pantry

Wednesday, September 23

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

12:00 p.m. Food Pantry

Saturday, September 26

7:30 a.m. Masonic Lodge's Parking lot Usage

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

Monday, September 28

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

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.