

CALENDAR

**Sunday, September 1:**

9:30a-Discovery Class (201\*)  
 9:30a-Discipleship Journey (209)  
 9:45a-Searchers Class (205\*)  
 9:45a-Christian Friendship (206)  
 9:45a-Unity Class (213)  
 9:45a-Children’s Sunday School (CW)  
 9:45a-Youth SS (WC)  
 11:00a-Traditional Worship (S)  
 1:00p-Shower Ministry (AC)  
 No Youth Chapel Bells  
 No Sanctuary Bells  
 No Youth Group

**Monday, September 2:**

*Labor Day-Office Closed*  
 No Weekday Preschool  
 No Harmonia Rehearsal

**Tuesday, September 3:**

9:00a-Weekday Preschool  
 9:30a-Christian Women’s Fellowship Board Meeting (209)  
 11:00a-Staff Meeting (BCR)  
 1:00p-Care Team (BCR)  
 2:30p-Lectionary Bible Study  
 6:30p-AA Meeting (WC)  
 7:00p-ESOL

**Wednesday, September 4:**

9:00a-Weekday Preschool  
 9:30a-AA Meeting (WC)  
 4:00p-Come Paint with Us! (Art Room)  
 5:00p-Wednesday Night Supper (AC)  
 5:30p-Cherub Choir (MC)  
 5:30p-Melody Bells (210)  
 5:45p-Making Sense of the Bible (209)  
 5:45p-Living Our Beliefs (203)  
 5:45p-Covenant Bible Study (201)

**Wednesday, September 4 continued:**

6:20p-Wesley Singers (MC)  
 7:30p-Chancel Choir (MC)

**Thursday, September 5:**

9:00a-Weekday Preschool  
 12:00p-Worship Team (WC)  
 2:30p-Red Cross Blood Drive (WC)  
 6:30p-AA Meeting (WC)

**Friday, September 6:**

9:00a-Weekday Preschool  
 10:00a-Backpack Buddies (WC)  
 7:00p-City of Tucker First Friday Concert (Greenspace)

**Saturday, September 7:**

10:00a-Advent Hope Seventh-Day Adventist Church (C, J, CW)

**Sunday, September 8:**

*Bring a Friend Sunday!*  
 9:30a-Discovery Class (201\*)  
 9:30a-Discipleship Journey (209)  
 9:45a-Searchers Class (205\*)  
 9:45a-Christian Friendship (206)  
 9:45a-Unity Class (213)  
 9:45a-Children’s Sunday School (CW)  
 9:45a-Youth SS (WC)  
 9:45a-Confirmation Class (WC)  
 11:00a-Traditional Worship (S)  
 12:30p-Acolyte Training (J)  
 12:30p-Trustees (BCR)  
 1:00p-Shower Ministry (AC)  
 2:00p-Girl Scout Troop 17176 (WC)  
 4:00p-Youth Chapel Bells (210)  
 4:30p-Tucker ACTS (C)  
 5:15p- Sanctuary Bells  
 5:15p- Youth Group

(C) Chapel	(BCR) Becker Conf. Room	(AC) Activities Center
(J) Jenkin’s Hall	(WC) Wesley Center	(AR) Art Room
(S) Sanctuary	(CW) Children’s Wing	*Contact Group Leader for Zoom
(GR) Gathering Room	(MC) Music Center	Link

Reminder: Our Tucker First worship services are live-streamed each Sunday and recorded services are available on our website. To ensure the privacy of our congregation, individuals will not be identified without permission. (lyrics used by permission CCLI# 1456853)

PRAYER CONCERNS

Pat Hicks	Donna Powell	Alice Shepard	Jo Anne Maxwell
Garnett Halstead	Olevia Thrasher	Ethel Bay	Dot Melo
George Bonito	George Mize	Henry Wall	Shelly Thomas
Rev. Jess Walter	Cliff Walter	Mary Smith	Charles Bannister
Chuck Stevenson	Marjorie Foster	Julia Torbert	Gail Cook
Garnett Fisher	Carole Fisher	Dawn Hines	Barbara Higgins
Gloria Jones	Lisa Tink	Jim Cook	Linda Brooks

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

AV Team: Craig Coleman, David Smallwood, Eric Hunt

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2024

Prov. 22:1-2,8-9,22-23 | Psalm 124,125 | James 2:1-17 | Mark 7:24-37

**Last Week’s In-Person Worship Attendance 162**  
**Last Week’s Online Worship Attendance 14**

STAFF DIRECTORY

Rev. Dr. John Mattox, Pastor  
[john.mattox@ngumc.net](mailto:john.mattox@ngumc.net) | ext. 4033  
 Rev. Katie Mattox, Pastor  
[katie.mattox@ngumc.net](mailto:katie.mattox@ngumc.net) | ext. 4026  
 Dr. Nathan Frank, Director of Music & Arts  
[nfrank@tfumc.org](mailto:nfrank@tfumc.org) | ext. 4023  
 Mimi Sanders, Director of Family & Children’s Ministries  
[mimi\\_sanders@tfumc.org](mailto:mimi_sanders@tfumc.org) | ext. 4038  
 Shay McClung, Preschool Director  
[preschool@tfumc.org](mailto:preschool@tfumc.org) | ext. 4020  
 Stephanie Shanholtzer, Administrative Assistant  
[sshanholtzer@tfumc.org](mailto:sshanholtzer@tfumc.org) | ext. 4025  
 Cindy Petersiel, Church Administrator  
[cpetersiel@tfumc.org](mailto:cpetersiel@tfumc.org) | ext. 4035

Church Office: 770-938-3030 | Direct Dial: 678-325- and the extension.  
 Office Hours: Monday-Thursday: 9:00 am-4:30 pm; Friday: Closed  
[w.tuckerfirst.org](http://w.tuckerfirst.org)

Scan the QR Code to give to Tucker First UMC electronically.



United Methodist Church  
**TUCKERFIRST**

**September 1, 2024**  
 15th Sunday after Pentecost

**Church Mission:**

*To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.*

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

PRELUDE *Glorious Is Thy Name* Arr. Varner  
 Dr. Soo Jin Kim, Organ

*Unchanging God, you have blessed us forever through the Beloved One, Jesus Christ our Lord. Born again by your word of truth, let us live out your love, doing your word, caring for the weak and vulnerable in their distress, and ever pursuing your reign of justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*Please let us know you’re here and take a moment to fill out the pew pad located at the end of each row. Then pass it down to others on your row.*

WELCOME & INVOCATION **Rev. Dr. John Mattox**

*From Psalm 15*  
 O Lord, who may abide in your tent?  
 Who may dwell on your holy hill?  
**Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right and speak the truth from their heart;**  
 who do not slander with their tongue  
 and do no evil to their friends  
 nor heap shame upon their neighbors;  
**in whose eyes the wicked are despised**  
**but who honor those who fear the Lord;**  
**who stand by their oath even to their hurt;**  
 who do not lend money at interest  
 and do not take a bribe against the innocent.  
**Those who do these things shall never be moved. Alleluia! Amen.**

*\* Please stand as you are able*

**Vision Statement:**

*To be a church in connection with God, our community, and each other.*

\*HYMN NO. 384      *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*      Verses 1-3

CONFESSION & PARDON

Rev. Dr. John Mattox

Ever-faithful God, you create each of us to be a presence of healing and love in our world. You equip us to resist intentions and actions that hurt ourselves and others.

**Forgive us when we forget your desire for us.  
Forgive us when we put aside your vision.  
Remind us of the love and goodness that you have planted within us.**

Draw our hearts close to you and bless us as we live in your ways. **Amen.**

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Rev. Dr. John Mattox

God has chosen to give us new life. This is God’s choice, given freely to us, as is every other good gift God has given. Rejoice in this God new!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, We are forgiven. Alleluia! Amen.**

\*SUNG RESPONSE      *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*      Verse 4

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Dr. Nathan Frank

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

God has gathered us here today, **a day in which we bring our full selves—our simplicity, our complexity, our joy, our sadness, our vigilance, our apathy, our hopes, our fears.**

In the midst of our own stories, we gather here to be found in God’s story— **a God who welcomes all people, a God who loves all people without conditions, and beyond measure.**

So let us gather, and let us greet one another with words of grace and peace. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE LESSON      James 1:19-27      Rev. Dr. John Mattox

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE      Rev. Dr. John Mattox

PRAYER RESPONSE      God of Light, **hear our prayer.**

OFFERTORY      *Oceans*      Houston  
Dr. Nathan Frank, soloist

\*DOXOLOGY NO. 98      *To God Be the Glory*

**To God be the glory, great things he hath done!  
So loved he the world that he gave us his son,  
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory, great things he hath done!**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION      Rev. Dr. John Mattox

SCRIPTURE LESSON      Mark 7:1-8,14-15,20-23      Nora Frank

SERMON      “The Heart of the Matter”      Rev. Katie Mattox

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING NO. 13      Rev. Katie Mattox

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come.  
Thy will be done on earth,  
As it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
As we forgive those that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*All are invited to receive. We receive communion by intinction. Take the bread, dip it into the chalice, and partake. We have a station for gluten-free elements.  
If you need to be served in your pew, please let the ushers know.*

\*HYMN NO. 422      *Jesus Thine All Victorious*

\*BENEDICTION      Rev. Katie Mattox

\*SENDING FORTH      *Halle, Halle, Halleluja!*

**Wednesday Night Supper**  
5:00 pm - 6:30 pm; Take-Out until 7:00 pm  
Adults \$10; Kids (12 and under) \$5; 2 and Under - Free; Family Maximum \$30  
Please make reservations by Monday through Realm, the church website or by calling the church office at 770-938-3030.  
*Hot Dog Bar with chili, coleslaw, chopped veggies, French fries, salad bar and dessert.*

SPOTLIGHT

**Staff Parish Relations Announcement**

The Staff Parish Relations Committee is delighted to share that Dr. Nathan Frank has accepted the role of Part-Time Interim Director of Youth Ministries at Tucker First UMC. In addition to these new responsibilities, Nate will continue to serve as our Director of Music and Arts. We are grateful for his willingness to step into this expanded role during this transitional period until a permanent director is hired.

**Make a Reservation for Wednesday Night Supper!**

We’d love to see you at our Wednesday Night Suppers! By making a reservation by Monday night, you’re helping us plan better, keep food costs down, and reduce waste—so thank you in advance!

Adult Plates: \$10 | Kids Plates: \$5 | Family Maximum: \$30

*Beginning September 4, weekly reservations received after Monday or walk-ins will be charged \$12 for adults and \$6 for kids.*

Want to make things easier? Grab a semester season pass, and skip the weekly sign-up hassle! Register on the church website, Realm or by calling the church office. Reservation cards are also available on the table in the Gathering Room.

**Come Paint with Us!**

Let’s Paint Watercolor Together! Join us Wednesdays from 4:00-5:15 pm beginning September 4 in the art room just behind Jenkins Hall. If you’re new to watercolor, we will give you ideas and help you get started. Supplies provided. For the more experienced watercolor painters, bring your current project and supplies. We will fellowship together while we work. ALL ages are welcome. (Families encouraged!) Questions? Contact Claire Wheeler at [homeclairewheeler@icloud.com](mailto:homeclairewheeler@icloud.com).

**Exciting News: A New Partnership for Growing Faith Together!**

We’re excited to announce a new partnership with the Hope Advent Seventh-Day Adventist Church, who will be planting a new congregation in Tucker. Starting September 7, they will use our Chapel, Jenkins Hall, and two Children’s Classrooms on Saturdays as they search for a permanent home. This collaboration supports their faith journey while enriching our community and mission efforts. Let’s keep them in our prayers as we grow in faith together. Thanks be to God! Amen.

**Bring A Friend Sunday**

September 8, 2024, is a special opportunity to extend a warm, personal invitation to friends, loved ones, or neighbors to visit our faith community. Research shows that nearly 90% of people would attend church if invited, underscoring the power of a heartfelt invitation. This day allows us to welcome new faces with open arms, offering visitor gift bags, ministry information, and tours. Let’s also remember those we haven’t seen in a while and invite them back. As we prepare, let’s lift up our church and friends in prayer.

**Tucker ACTS (Acting, Creative, Theatre, Song) Begins September 8!**

The first rehearsal for Tucker ACTS is Sunday, September 8 at 4:40 in the Chapel. Our musical this year will be Godspell Jr. This is a great place to learn and make friends. The musical is a free program. For more information visit [tuckeracts.org](http://tuckeracts.org). Tucker ACTS is a supportive music and arts program that fosters creativity and artistic exploration for all students grades 6-12.

**Small Group Bible Studies are Underway**

It’s not too late to join! We are offering 3 adult studies on Wednesday evenings.  
Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today by Adam Hamilton  
6-wk. study through Oct. 9th, 6:00-7:30 pm | Facilitator: Barbara Goodwin | Rm. 209  
Living Our Beliefs, The United Methodist Way by Kenneth L. Carder  
8-wk. study through Oct. 23rd, 5:30-7:00 pm | Facilitator: Rev. Dr. John Mattox | Rm. 203  
Covenant: Creating (Part 1)  
Study God’s covenantal relationships with humankind in an in-depth Bible study.  
8-wk. study through Oct. 23rd, 5:30-7:00 pm | Facilitator: Rev. Katie Mattox | Rm. 201