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- **Suds, Songs & Smiles: A Summer to Remember**
- **Exciting new ministry opportunities sprouting up!**
- **Get in the game—Upward Basketball kicks off soon!**



VBS 2025: Faith at Campfire Light

VBS was an adventure under the stars! Twenty-two kids joined us for a week of songs, games, crafts, and Bible lessons—growing in faith and friendship around the ‘campfire.’



Faith in Full Color: Art Camp 2025

Art Camp was bursting with color and creativity! A dozen kids dove into crafts, games, tie-dye, and Bible lessons—making memories, messes, and lots of joy along the way.



Suds for Scholarships

Our youth rolled up their sleeves, grabbed the sponges, and worked hard—and thanks to your support, we raised an incredible \$850 at our car wash fundraiser! The day was filled with laughter, teamwork, and lots of soapy fun as cars got cleaner and hearts grew fuller. We’re so proud of their efforts and so thankful for everyone who donated, drove through, or simply cheered us on. Every dollar raised goes directly to our Higher Education Grant Fund, investing in the future of our students!

God Reaching Our World —one child at a time.

G.R.O.W. (God Reaching Our World) is more than a name—it's a vision for discipleship. This growth-based model reminds us that spiritual formation is a journey: it begins with planting seeds of God's love and truth in young hearts, nurturing those seeds within a caring community, and helping children develop deep roots in Christ. As they grow, those roots enable them to stand firm in their faith and weather life's storms. At its core, G.R.O.W. is about God reaching the world—one child at a time.



Growing Strong



Key Scripture Passage

Jeremiah 17:7–8

But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in Him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green.



Our Mission:

At First United Methodist Church, our Seedlings, Sprouts, and Rooted ministries work together to nurture children and youth from their first steps to their first mission.

We are committed to planting seeds of faith in the youngest hearts, helping children grow strong in biblical truth, and guiding students to root their identity, choices, and calling in Jesus Christ. Our goal is to create age-appropriate environments that grow disciples who love God, serve others, and bear fruit for the Kingdom.



Seedlings

BIRTH - 3

From the very beginning of life, even in the earliest years from birth to age three, children are soaking in the love and security that shape their hearts for the future. Our ministry creates a safe, nurturing space where little ones are surrounded by God's presence through Scripture-based songs, simple Bible stories, and gentle prayers. In these first stages of life, we believe it is essential to plant seeds of faith—introducing children to the God who loves them while they are cared for by consistent, trusted adults who reflect His tenderness. Every cuddle, smile, and moment of play becomes a reminder that they are deeply loved, both by God and by the community around them. Our hope is that these earliest experiences of safety and love will form the foundation of a faith that will grow strong for years to come.

PROGRAM INFORMATION:

On **Wednesday nights** from **6:00–7:15 PM**, our nursery provides a safe, loving environment designed especially for children from birth to age 3. During this time, little ones are introduced to God's love through age-appropriate activities, simple Bible stories, songs, and prayer, all led by consistent caregivers who reflect Christ's heart. It's more than childcare—it's the earliest step in planting seeds of faith and helping children feel secure in God's presence. In addition to weekly gatherings, families can also look forward to special events scheduled throughout the year, giving even our youngest children opportunities to grow, celebrate, and experience the joy of community together.



Nurturing faith from the nursery to the nations.



For children in Pre-K through 5th grade, our Wednesday night ministry is all about helping faith take root and grow strong. Through engaging Bible stories, meaningful times of worship, hands-on service opportunities, and a steady foundation in Scripture, kids are invited to experience God's love in ways that are both fun and life-shaping. Our goal is to nurture a personal connection with Jesus, helping each child not only learn about God's Word but also begin to live it out in their daily lives. As they grow in understanding of His truth, character, and love, they are building a spiritual foundation that will guide them for years to come.

Time and Info:

Wednesday Nights | 6:00–7:15 PM

- Interactive Bible stories
- Worship and Scripture lessons
- Hands-on service activities
- Building a personal connection with Jesus

Special Events

- Seasonal gatherings and activities scheduled throughout the year
- Sunday School | 9:30–10:30 AM
- Age-appropriate lessons
- Friendships and community
- Building a strong foundation in God's Word



Registration Open: September 1 – October 18



Families can register for Upward Basketball and Cheer online anytime between September 1–October 18, or sign up in person during evaluations in the Family Ministry Center. Whether registering from home or at evaluations, the process is quick and easy, and our team will be there to guide you along the way.

ROOTED

YOUTH

Our Youth Ministry (grades 6–12) meets on Sundays from 4:00–5:30 PM, where students come together for fellowship, discipleship, and fun. We also gather for Sunday School from 9:30–10:30 AM, diving into God’s Word and building a strong foundation of faith. Beyond weekly meetings, our youth ministry is active throughout the year with special events, weekend retreats, and lock-ins that give students opportunities to grow deeper in faith and friendships. We also encourage our youth by supporting them in their extracurricular activities—celebrating the ways God is at work in their daily lives. Several times a year, youth have the chance to lead in worship on Sundays, stepping into roles of service and leadership as they grow into the next generation of the church.

Rooted in Purpose

For students in grades 6–12, our ministry is designed to help youth take the next steps in their faith journey while building authentic connections with others. With a focus on discipleship, identity in Christ, service, and spiritual depth, teens are encouraged to explore what it means to follow Jesus in real and practical ways.



The Harvest We Seek

Our goal is to equip students to develop firm roots in their faith and to navigate the challenges of life through the lens of God’s Word. As they grow in confidence and character, they are empowered to step into the world as servant leaders—reflecting Christ in their schools, their community, and beyond.



Upcoming Events

SEPTEMBER 2025

ROOTED EVENTS:

Bluefield Princeton Tailgate

Join us on 9/5/2025 for a Youth Family Tailgate at 5:30 p.m. before the Princeton vs. Bluefield football game! We'll gather in the parking lot for food, fun, and fellowship before heading in to cheer on the Tigers.

Amys House of Hope

Join us for our Acts of Service Night on Sunday, September 7, 2025! We'll meet at the church at 3:00 PM and head out together to serve meals for 50-60 people. This is a great opportunity to put our faith into action, bless others in our community, and grow together through serving.

Generations Sunday

The last Sunday of every Month, we'll gather for a special time where our youth and church family come together to share a meal, hear a testimony, and build meaningful connections across generations. Dinner will be provided.

IMPORTANT DATES

SEPT

1

Upward
Registration Opens

SEPT

17

Wednesday Night
Programing Begins

SEPT

27

Autumn Fest

MEETING TIMES:

- Sunday School - Sun 9:30-10:30
- Kids (0-5th grade)- Wed 6:00-7:15
- Youth Bible Study - Sun 4:00-5:30

CONTACT INFO

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OCTOBER

Special Events

Family/Community

Pumpkin Patch

Join us for a fun-filled afternoon as our Youth and Kids Ministries team up for a Pumpkin Patch Outing! After worship, we'll enjoy a pizza lunch together before heading out to Sinkland Farms for pumpkins, fall fun, and fellowship. It's a great chance for all ages to connect and make lasting memories—don't miss it!

Fall Fest

Join us for an evening of family fun at our Fall Festival! We'll have games, crafts, food, and plenty of fall-themed activities for all ages. Come dressed in your favorite costume (nothing too scary, please!) and enjoy a safe, welcoming night of fellowship with friends and neighbors. Mark your calendar and bring the whole family—we can't wait to celebrate the season together!

Sprouts


Nerf Night

Get ready for an action-packed evening! Join us on Thursday, October 3, from 6–8 PM for Nerf Night at FUMC. Bring your friends, your best aim, and plenty of energy for a night filled with games, fun, and friendly battles. We'll provide the darts—just bring your own Nerf gear (labeled if possible). This is the perfect chance to invite a friend, laugh a lot, and enjoy some safe competition together!



Seedlings Sensory Saturday

Join us on Saturday, October 11 from 10–11:30 AM for a fun sensory play morning! Kids will explore textures, colors, sounds, and more through hands-on activities that spark curiosity and creativity. Parents are welcome to join in the fun too!



ROOTED

YOUTH



"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts."-Colossians 3:16



YOUTH LEADING WORSHIP

We're planning a special Youth-Led Worship service and need volunteers to help bring it to life! Whether you feel called to sing, read scripture as a liturgist, dance, preach, or serve in another unique way, this is your chance to use the gifts God has given you to lead and inspire. Let us know how you'd like to be involved—we can't wait to see our youth step up and shine for His glory!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19
WORSHIP @ 10:50



SCHEDULE

NOVEMBER

2025

01
SAT

GAME DAY-GET READY FOR A FUN-FILLED DAY OF FOOTBALL AND FAMILY! JOIN US AS WE CHEER ON COLLEGE FOOTBALL TOGETHER, THEN HEAD OUTSIDE FOR A FRIENDLY GAME OF FLAG FOOTBALL. STARTING AT 1.

07
FRI

FINAL QUARTER-AJOIN US AFTER THE LAST GAME OF THE SEASON FOR OUR YOUTH AFTER-GAME EVENT! FROM THE END OF THE 4TH QUARTER UNTIL MIDNIGHT, WE'LL ENJOY FOOD, GAMES, AND FELLOWSHIP AS WE CELEBRATE TOGETHER.

11
TUE

VETERANS DAY FUN-ACELEBRATE VETERANS DAY TOGETHER WITH THE DOWNTOWN PARADE, FOLLOWED BY BOWLING AND A BOUNCE HOUSE FOR ALL AGES. WE'LL MEET AT THE CHURCH AT 9:45 TO CARPOOL—A FULL DAY OF FAMILY FUN AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT!

15
SAT

PEANUTS & POPCORN-BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY AND JOIN US FOR A CHARLIE BROWN THANKSGIVING MOVIE PREMIERE AT 6:30. WE'LL HAVE FREE POPCORN AND PLENTY OF FUN AS WE KICK OFF THE HOLIDAY SEASON TOGETHER.

23
SUN

FRIENDSGIVINGS-YOUTH THANKSGIVING NIGHT: BRING YOUR OWN THEMED CHARCUTERIE FOOD BOARD TO SHARE! GET CREATIVE—SWEET, SAVORY, OR SEASONAL—AND ENJOY A FUN NIGHT OF FOOD, FRIENDS, AND FELLOWSHIP FROM 6-8, LOCATION TBD.

Upcoming Events

12/07

Christmas Caroling

Join us for Christmas caroling from 2–4, followed by soup, sandwiches, and holiday movies back at the church. We'll meet at the church at 1:30 to carpool—come ready to spread cheer and enjoy a cozy evening together!

12/10

HBD Jesus Party

Come celebrate with us at a “Happy Birthday Jesus” Party during our Wednesday night meeting, from 5:30–7 in Schell Hall. All families are welcome as we celebrate with food, fun, and fellowship!

12/13

Youth Christmas Party

Youth Christmas Party from 6–8, location TBD. Come celebrate the season with games, food, and plenty of holiday fun!

2025

HEGF

YOUTH FUNDRAISERS



Krispy Kreme Donut Fundraiser — September 14 to October 20

Support our youth by preordering your donuts! Please see an individual youth to place your order and help us reach our fundraising goals.

Youth Wrapping & Christmas Decorating Fundraiser Dec 1-12

Let our youth help make your holiday easier! From December 1-12, we'll be offering gift wrapping and Christmas decorating based upon donation. Spots are limited, so reserve yours soon and support our youth ministry this season.



PSALM 1

Psalm 1 describes the blessed person as one who delights in the law of the Lord and becomes like a tree planted by streams of water. That tree does not wither in dry seasons, but instead stays nourished and fruitful because of where it is rooted. In the same way, families who center their lives on God's Word draw from a source that never runs dry. No matter the storms or distractions of life, they are able to stand firm together because their roots reach deep into God's truth.

When we think of the family as a unit, we see how each person plays a part in helping the whole grow. Parents lead by example, children bring joy and curiosity, and together they remind one another to keep turning back to the living water of Scripture. Families thrive not just by being busy, but by being intentional—gathering for prayer, reading God's Word at the table, or even pausing in the middle of the week to speak blessings over one another. These small choices nourish the soul and strengthen bonds in ways that last far beyond a single season.

The promise of Psalm 1 is that those rooted in God will bear fruit in season. Families who live this out become a testimony to others—showing patience, kindness, forgiveness, and love that comes only from the Lord. As we grow together, we are called not only to receive God's blessings but to share them, becoming a source of encouragement and hope for neighbors, friends, and the wider community. When our roots go deep in Christ, our branches reach farther than we could ever imagine.

Blessings,



Kalin Folden
Children's/Youth Director