

# The Anchor

## LOVE GOD LOVE PEOPLE

We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. Hebrews 6:19 (NIV)

### “Coming Down off the Mountain”

One of the most powerful things about the Bible is how it can inform how we live our lives. There are direct teachings (such as thou shalt not) and indirect teachings (such as honor one another), and metaphors that make sense of our experiences. If we face insurmountable odds, we can reflect on David and Goliath. If we face trials and temptations, we can ponder Shadrack, Meshack, and Abednego, and if we just had a tremendous experience and now we have to settle back to reality, we have the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17, Mark 9, Luke 9) to draw on for guidance.

In each account, Jesus brings his closest disciples to the top of a mountain and is transfigured, where his clothes and appearance becomes blazing white, and Moses and Elijah appear with him. At the end, they disappear and they all walk back down the mountain and head into Jerusalem where Jesus will be betrayed, arrested, crucified, and after three days, resurrected.

I am reflecting on the story today because I believe we as a congregation are now walking down the mountain top to experience everyday life. We pooled so many resources, prayers, and efforts to bring our Navajo brothers and sisters here and we so enjoyed our time with them that it will feel like a let down for some time. As I reflect on the story, I find several suggestions from it, and I think one of these will speak to you, if not all of them.

First, when Peter said, “Let’s build a tabernacle for you, Moses, and Elijah” he wanted to hold onto the experience. He is not criticized for wanting to hold on, but the voice from heaven makes it clear, that is not part of the plan. The plan is to go back down the mountain, because the work is in the valley, not on the mountain. The mountain top experience is to get us ready to live in the valley. In the same way, enjoying time with the Navajo is meant to strengthen us for ministry in our back yards, whether they are literal back yards or figurative back yards. Let the experience inspire you – don’t let it stop you!

Second, it is an invitation to spiritual discipline. When they come down the mountain, the disciples encounter a boy whom they can’t save from a fire, and when Jesus does, he says in essence, we must have more faith, and we must be in prayer and fasting more often. We have great and important work to do in the valley – the mountain top experience gives us hope that we can do it if we stay rooted in faith and prayer.

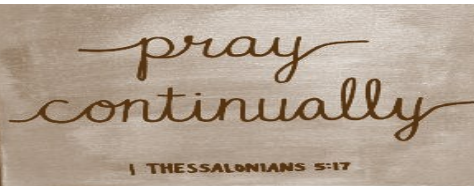
Third, in each of the stories, Jesus gives them an important teaching – he will be betrayed, because he is doing God’s will. The disciples aren’t ready to hear the

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## August 2022

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Mary Plum/Hogge  
Selena Landon  
Carolyn Bradley  
Glenda Helms  
Sandy and Allan Williams  
Jessica: Bonnie Hulton  
Roland Stanworth &  
Donna Greer

We continue to pray for our homebound, those with chronic conditions that may require ongoing treatment, and those unspoken prayers.

## Prayer Shawl Ministry

If you or someone you know are in need of healing or strength please come take a prayer shawl out of the case in the west hallway. Anyone who is interested in joining the Prayer Shawl Ministry to knit or crochet should join us in the Edith Spenser Room on Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.

teaching, but they will remember it later, when they face persecution. In much the same way, let me suggest that the Holy Spirit probably said something to each one of us during the VBS week that we need to remember. When you realize some time later that you learned the lesson during this time with the Navajos, don't feel bad about it – instead rejoice that you did get it! The Lord doesn't "fuss" at us because we are stupid, but because we are beloved. Show the same charity to those who persecute you as the Lord shows you.

Now that we are climbing back down the mountain, may we have new eyes to see, new ears to hear, new hearts to trust, and new spirits to follow the way that leads to life. We are travelling on new ground, but it is the same ground the disciples traveled years ago. It is my joy to continue serving this amazing family!

Your fellow servant in Christ Jesus,

Brian K. Sixby



Thank you, thank you, thank you to all of the volunteers who helped with Vacation Bible School this year. Your love and enthusiasm was always apparent, your adaptability amazed me, and your unity as the body of Christ showed me how powerful this church can be as we find ways to serve and grow God's kingdom together. I have been blessed not only by our Navajo brothers and sisters but also with your demonstration of love of God and neighbor. Indeed, what a blessing it has been to be able to work with all of you. To God be the glory.

–Judy Grigg

## Food Pantry Second Quarter Update

In the months of April - June we were able to serve 146 households, a total of 464 people, 24 of these were new households. We were able to distributed a total of 220 bags. We have had a 21% increase in households from the first half of 2021 (Jan - June) and the first half of 2022 (Jan-June), with a 25% increase of individuals during the same time period.

The chart details the volume of products purchased from the Food Bank and at the local supermarket, products Food Bank did not carry, and the expense for those products for the Second Quarter of 2022.

Month	Weight of Products	Expense for Products
Purchased from the Food Bank		
April	853 lbs.	\$70.90
May	1378 lbs.	\$77.80
June	300 lbs.	\$19.60
Purchased from local grocery store (not available at Food Bank)		
	10 lbs.	\$54.94
	90 lbs.	\$103.62
Total	2631lbs.	\$326.86

The Food Pantry team wishes to THANK everyone at First UMC Fox Hill for all your help in making this possible!

Sincerely,  
Mary and The Food Pantry Team

## “Joy”

“I have had great joy and encouragement because of your love, for the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, brother [and sister]” (Philemon 1: 7 NET).

Joy! That is the word that I keep hearing in my head when I reflect on this year’s Vacation Bible School experience and in the worship and praise we shared with our Navajo brothers and sisters.

Joy in the children as they proudly displayed the sheep they made in crafts. Joy in their laughter as they played games, especially with the water balloons. Joy in retelling the stories they heard about Jesus and about life of the Navajos. Joy especially as they sang “Jesus Loves Me” in the Navajo language. Joy so contagious that it spilled over to their families and VBS volunteers who sang along. May they continue to experience that joy as they learn about Jesus.

Joy in the volunteers, not only because they were enjoying their time with the children, but also because they witnessed that gift of the spirit in our Navajo brothers and sisters which spilled over to them. Joy also in working together as a team, experiencing what the body of Christ can do when all “members” do their particular job. Joy in sharing meals, from potlucks, to fish dinners, to Navajo tacos with the fry bread that is simple yet amazingly good. Joy in knowing that our church has received a special gift, a renewed awareness of just how the Holy Spirit moves us in worship and in love of one another.

Joy in our Navajo brothers and sisters. Joy in knowing that they have a gift to offer to our children and to us—sharing the love of Jesus with no bounds of race, color, or nation. Joy in receiving the gift of hospitality, not only from the families who gave them a place to sleep, but also from the welcomes they received from all they met, the interaction, the respect and honor as we recognized we are all God’s beloved children.

Joy in worship. Filled with this fruit of the spirit, the atmosphere of worship changed, from the service on July 10, to the time of praise and worship on Monday night, to the testimonies during the service on July 17. The people of First UMC Fox Hill saw praise offered in song, the joyous uplifting of voices loud and clear, the tambourines and clapping, as the message of their songs permeated their entire bodies. Joy in the prayers, not only at times that we would expect, but the spontaneous outpouring of love and thanksgiving, the petitions for healing, for peace, for comfort—indeed, the invitation to and recognition of the Holy Spirit’s presence and their knowing the Holy Spirit was there, leading them in worship. Joy in the relationships that were formed, deep, meaningful, lasting relationships of brothers and sisters in Christ praying for one another and for the work of God’s kingdom.

Joy is a state of being, a fruit of the Spirit, that brings about a way of looking at the world so that, despite the violence, sorrow, injustices, disease, and death—all of those things the enemy throws our way to discourage us—we know, we know that we are God’s children, bought by the blood of Jesus Christ, adopted into the family, and that nothing “will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” How often did I hear those words from Romans 8: 39 spoken this past week. The strength of that joy may waver, but it will

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by Judy Grigg

### 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.

**August Team Leaders:**  
Marilyn Eubank & Evelyn Boone

**August Members:** Nancy Browning, Kathy Day, Amy Johnson, Jo Ann Smith, Joyce Wilson, Beverly Stanley, Pat Brooker

nevertheless remain as we continue to love and trust and worship and serve God. Paul recognized that the faith and love of Philemon brought joy and encouragement to him; we recognize the gift of joy that our Navajo brothers and sisters have left with us. With that gift, as God promised through the prophet Isaiah, "Indeed [we] will go out with joy; [we] will be led along in peace; the mountains and hills will give a joyful shout before [us], and all the trees in the field will clap their hands" Isaiah 55:12 NET.

## Youth Events SUMMER 2022

11:30 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.  
JULY 10TH  
POTLUCK FOR NAVAJO GUESTS

5:30-8:30 p.m.  
JULY 12-15th  
VOLUNTEERING FOR VBS

7:00 P.M.-7:00 A.M.  
AUGUST 12-13TH  
LOCK-IN

SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER  
DATE TBD  
KAYAK TRIP

\*\*\*\* WE WILL BE TAKING JULY OFF FROM OUR  
THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY, AND WILL RESUME  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 4TH.

\*\*\*WE WILL MEET ON SUNDAYS FROM 5:00-6:30  
EVERY SUNDAY EXCLUDING: JULY 10TH AND  
AUGUST 28TH



## Young Adults

JULY 30TH 3:00-5:00  
STARBUCKS (W. MERCURY)

AUGUST 27TH 3:00-5:00  
SWEET BEANS  
3355 COMMANDER SHEPARD BLVD.  
SUITE B, HAMPTON

SEPTEMBER 24TH 3:00-5:00  
FIREHOUSE COFFEE

## Financial Fundamentals

This report briefly addresses finances at FUMC Fox Hill. The latest weekly and year-to-date information is in the weekly bulletin available at the church or through the link on our web site.

Your financial support of FUMC Fox Hill, both long term and short term has been great! In June we reached a huge milestone when we paid off our 20-year mortgage – 7 months early! This is truly a tribute to our terrific congregation of faithful givers. We will celebrate in August in a way yet to be set. Please remember, your continued contributions are no less important as they will help support future programs and missions of First Fox Hill.

Your most notable recent short term support is clearly demonstrated by the giving of your time, talents, and treasure to help us have an amazing experience as we hosted our new Navajo friends for an exciting Vacation Bible School. We are all richer for the experience in so many ways. As this event was much bigger than anything we could have envisioned when we set our 2022 budget, your over-and-above giving made it possible and set us on the path for future missions and related events.

In addition to the above, our bills are up to date.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

You should be receiving your quarterly statement of giving by early August. Please check it carefully to make sure we have recorded your information correctly. If you have any questions or do not receive a statement you are expecting, let Pat Parker, Financial Secretary, know promptly so we can address the issue.

Amazon shoppers: Don't forget to sign-in to smile.amazon.com (instead of just amazon.com) and pick FUMC Fox Hill as the charity of your choice. At no additional cost to you, Amazon will send us a small portion of your purchase amount. The last payment received was \$35.53 so every little bit counts.

Thanks to everyone for your financial support.

Please direct **any concerns or questions** about FUMC FH finances to our financial staff through the office or Bill Bryan, Finance Chair, at 851-0748 or by e-mail to billb-1111@cox.net.

## Fifty Plus Activities for 2022-23

As we get ready for a new season of activities, we will gather for a **Fifty Plus Potluck Picnic in the Park at Gosnold's Hope Park, 901 E. Little Back River Road**. Plans are to meet at the **Cherry Shelter** (fourth left after entering the park). Mark your calendar now for **5 pm, Tuesday, August 9**. We will provide fried chicken, soft drinks, and paper products; you provide a dish to share. **Cost is just \$3.00**. When you sign up, be prepared to tell us what you plan to bring, e.g., appetizer, salad, vegetable, entrée, dessert, other. In addition to great fellowship, we'll chat about possible future activities so bring your suggestions and thinking caps too. See **Anne or Bill Bryan to sign-up and pay; do it now as time is short**.



### Total One Fund Through June 2022

<b>Income For Planned Expenses<sup>1</sup></b>		<b>\$227,347</b>
<b>Total One Fund Expenses</b> (excludes pass through <sup>2</sup> )	Planned	<b>\$317,802</b>
	Actual	<b>\$272,176</b>
Pass Through Income <sup>2</sup>		\$10,269
Pass Through Expense <sup>2</sup>		\$27,973
"Pay-It-Forward" Contributions		\$1,847
LUMENs Fund Raiser Income		\$3,515
LUMENs Fund Raiser Expense		\$0

1 Includes regular and memorial contributions, building use income, interest, etc.

2 This item represents funds contributed, but passed through to non-budget items, e.g., flowers, special mission programs, etc. [Some pass through income was received in 2021; paid 2022.]

## Church Info

www.firstumcfoxhill.org  
www.facebook.com/  
firstumcfoxhill

### Church Office:

Hours: M-F 9-4

churchoffice@firstumcfoxhill.org  
757-851-6302

### Sunday Worship Services:

9 a.m. Traditional Service  
10:30 a.m. Modern Service

## Staff

### Pastor

Brian Sixbey

### Assistant Pastor

Tommy Markham

### Music Director/Organist

Mark Biondolillo

### Youth Director

Larissa Luma

### Administrative Assistant

Kassandra Brown



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Peggy Horsley	8/1	Dennis Perry III	8/18
Don Rye	8/2	Courtney Darden	8/20
Emma Rogers	8/2	Janice Vannoppen	8/20
Lauren Maninga	8/3	Connie Rowe	8/21
Mark Biondolillo	8/3	Doug Peters	8/22
Ashley Conner	8/4	Bill Satterfield	8/22
Sandy Williams	8/4	Lesley Tonkin	8/22
Danielle Gaskins	8/5	Kelly Ogdin	8/23
Ashley Harris	8/6	Brendan Nicosia	8/23
Martin Dunn	8/6	James Hancock	8/23
Teresa Seekins	8/6	Mary Johnson	8/23
Tommy Thompson	8/6	Rachel Felix	8/23
Laura Blackmon	8/6	Chris Moore	8/24
Jennifer Killmer	8/6	Donnie Brookman	8/24
Ronnie Gurganus	8/8	Glenn Emory	8/24
Logan Lindeman	8/8	Nancy Jo Reynolds	8/24
Mark Stanley	8/8	Madison Reynolds	8/24
Beth Hearp	8/8	Joseph Palma	8/24
Jeremiah McKenney	8/8	Teresa Hodges	8/25
Cindy Pereira	8/9	Kaitlyn Walden	8/25
Tiona Harsley	8/9	Ryan Ferguson	8/25
Graham Currin	8/10	Brian Eubank Sr.	8/26
Royal Greer Jr.	8/10	Kenny Holmes	8/26
Michael Hoyt	8/10	Courtney Blodgett	8/26
Bruce Fleenor	8/11	Janet Holden	8/26
Jeff Verry	8/12	Dakota Maninga	8/26
Patrick Parker	8/13	Tiffany Quinn	8/27
Glenda Helms	8/13	Mary McAnally	8/27
Becky Barnes	8/13	Kim Sagaser	8/28
John Rochelle	8/14	Cade Black	8/29
Nanci Browning	8/14	Chris Bartlett	8/29
Tom Hite Jr.	8/14	Mary Branch	8/29
Samuel Gillespie	8/15	Brian Gibbons	8/29
Sean Norton	8/15	Parker Tuttle	8/30
Rebecca Cross	8/16	Rhonda Chesson	8/30
Mark McKenney	8/16	Steven Alhouse	8/30
Donna Leavell	8/16	Terrie Galay	8/30
Susan Compton	8/16	Crystal McKenney	8/31
Holly Blackmon	8/18	Ginny Tuttle	8/31
Shanaya Brown	8/18		

David & Clela Farlee	8/2	Paul & Iris Avery	8/14
Don & Karen Tackett	8/4	Alison & Larry Sheppard	8/14
Mike & Jennifer Williams	8/8	Ernie & Kitty Lawrence Jr.	8/14
Steven & Martha Alhouse	8/8	David & Kathy Rogers	8/14
Ken & Becky Felix	8/9	Brady & Lindsay Broich	8/17
Nathan Graybeal & Leah McGlynn	8/9	Nelson & Jamey Franklin	8/19
Tom & Mary Gore	8/10	Mason & Debbie Green	8/19
Les & Debbie Bollinger	8/13	Dennis & Martina Lee	8/20
Kathy & Jim Steinke	8/14	Mark & Patty Biondolillo	8/24
Brian & Shan Sixbey	8/14		

# August 2022

## Sunday's Schedule

9:00 a.m.	Traditional Service: In-Person & <a href="#">Livestream</a>
10:15 a.m.	Faithlink Class: Classroom
10:15 a.m.	<a href="#">Searchers</a> Class: FH Stage & Zoom; Passcode: 000846
10:30 a.m.	Modern Service: In-Person & <a href="#">Livestream</a>
11:30 a.m.	Intergenerational: Playground
12:30 p.m.	Praise Band Rehearsal: Sanctuary
5:00 p.m.	Elevate Youth Fellowship

## August Happenings

### Tuesday, August 2

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

### Thursday, August 4

7:00 p.m. Small Group Leader's Support: Tri-X

### Monday, August 8

5:00 p.m. Nominations Meeting: Tri-X  
6:30 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting: ESR  
7:30 p.m. Church Council Meeting: Tri-X

### Tuesday, August 8

5:00 p.m. Fifty Plus Potluck Picnic in the Park

### Friday, August 12

7:00 p.m. Youth Lock in

### Sunday, August 14

6:30 p.m. Shepherds Ministry Meeting: Tri-X

### Monday, August 15      Anchor Newsletter Deadline

### Tuesday, August 16

8:00 a.m. Facilities Team Work Day  
10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting: Tri-X  
7:00 p.m. PPSRC: Tri-X

### Wednesday, August 17

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

### Tuesday, August 23

11:00 a.m. Bagging For Food Pantry  
12:00 p.m. Men's Fellowship of Circumstance: LongHorn  
1:00 p.m. Vibrant Worship

### Wednesday, August 24

12:00 p.m. Food Pantry

### Sunday, August 28

11:30 a.m. Singles Lunch Group  
6:30 p.m. Shepherds Ministry Meeting: Tri-X

## Summer Small Groups

### Monday

10:00 a.m. Tri-X Monday School  
1:00 p.m. Daylight Bible Study

### Tuesday

10:00 a.m. Shawl Makers: ESR

### Wednesday

4:00 p.m. Love Unites: PP  
6:30 p.m. Karate for Christ: FH

### Thursday

11:00 a.m. Pastor Tommy's  
Reunion Group  
4:30 p.m. TABS: Tri-X  
7:00 p.m. Elevate Youth Bible  
Study

## Buckroe AA Meetings

Wednesdays - 7 p.m. &

Fridays - 6 p.m.

Buckroe New Hope AA Group:  
FH - Kitchen

Saturdays - 9:00 a.m.

Buckroe Men's AA Group:  
FH - Kitchen

## Scouts

Tuesdays - 6 p.m.

Scout Troop 151 & Pack 151  
Meeting: FH

Second & Fourth Fridays -6 p.m.

Crew 1151 Meeting: Tri-X

Fridays - 6 p.m.

Girl Scout Troop 1038: Ed. Wing

## Thank You!!

Thank you for your generous donations of plastic bags!! It takes at least 500 bags to make a mat so keep them coming!!



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# ***FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH FOX HILL***

## **Join us on Sundays**

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service      10:30 a.m. Modern Worship Service

Classes and groups available throughout the week.

Want to see what we are doing? Visit us on our website or our Facebook page.

[www.firstumcfoxhill.org](http://www.firstumcfoxhill.org)   [www.facebook.com/firstumcfoxhill](https://www.facebook.com/firstumcfoxhill)

### **Church Office:**

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[churchoffice@firstumcfoxhill.org](mailto:churchoffice@firstumcfoxhill.org)

757-851-6302

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