



The Plumbline

Newsletter of the Wilmore Free Methodist Church

June/July 2026



THE CURSE OF FORGETFULNESS

By Pastor Daryl Diddle

As I write this article, we are in the midst of graduation season. I don't mean the "people graduating to Heaven" season, though we've certainly had our share of that in recent weeks. I'm talking about more "earthly" graduations—from fifth grade, eighth grade, high school, or higher education. With graduations come parties.

At one recent party, a high school graduate told me he was going to college to major in history. In response, I said what I say to anyone with any interest in history: "Great! That means you'll be smart, because the smartest and wisest people I know are people who know history!"

That's really so, by the way; truly wise, truly smart people always have some level of informed interest in history. You know why? Because people who understand the past tend to better handle the present and the future. Put another way, people who can identify those decisions of the past that wound up disastrous tend to not make the same dumb decisions. When presented with a choice, they recall the choice formerly made and say, "Ah, we don't want to go down that road again; we tried that before, and it was not a pretty drive."

To put all that in principle form, one might say: "Making good decisions for the future requires learning—and then learning from—the bad decisions of the past." Good futures require a knowledge of history. In fact, I'd suggest that one of society's biggest problems is our lack of knowledge of history. On the whole, we're too present-oriented. We neither plan well for the future nor make good decisions in the present—primarily because we don't know, or learn from, what's happened in the past. Of course, we're far from the first culture to suffer from this. The Bible mentions several nations—peoples—who contracted the same illness: forgetfulness.

Ancient Egypt comes to mind. Joseph, the Israelite, saved Egypt—their nation and people—from the famine; yet, within a short time, the Egyptians enslaved his people, the Jews. Why? Because the Egyptians forgot who Joseph was and all the good he and his people did (Exodus 1:8). Think how different they could be today—and how much less Egypt would have had to suffer—had Egypt remembered Joseph and her own history.

Of course, Scripture mentions over and over again how Israel forgot its history too, and that forgetfulness may be the single biggest reason for its suffering. For example, not long after God

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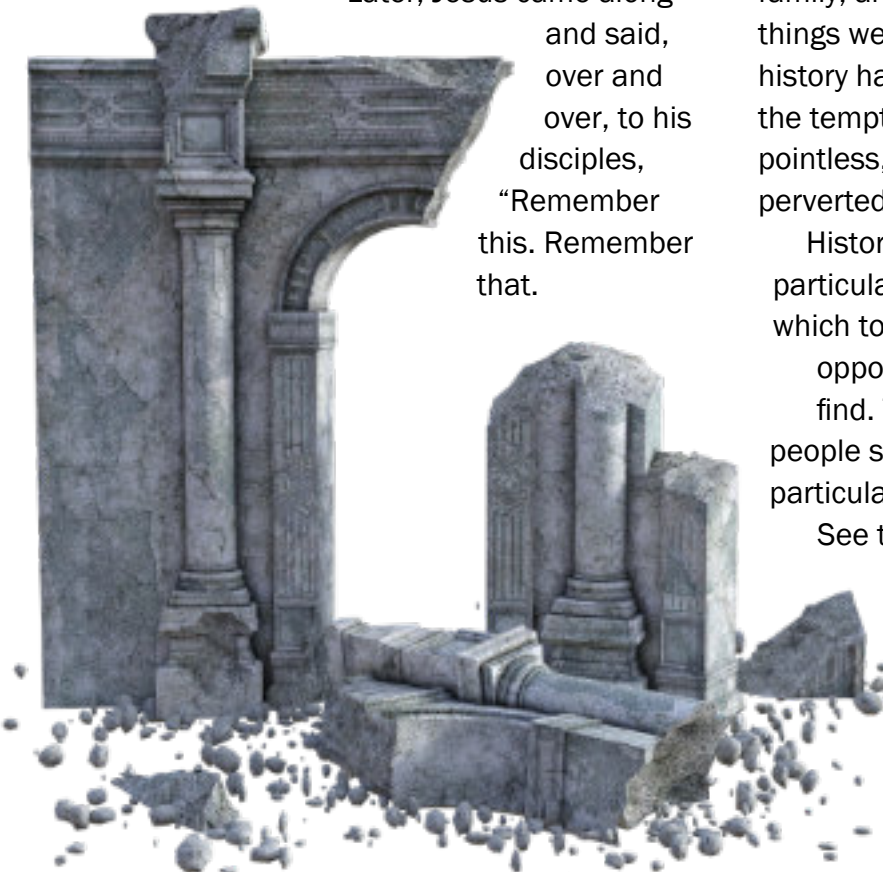
delivered them from their Egyptian captivity by miraculously parting the Red Sea, they totally forgot how powerful, and powerfully loving, their God was. Psalm 106:13–14 describes that event: “But they soon forgot what [God] had done and did not wait for his plan to unfold. In the desert they gave in to their craving; in the wilderness they put God to the test.”

Had they remembered the character and past actions of God, how different their future would have been! How different the world might be today! But alas, they forgot their past almost as quickly as it became the past.

God tried to remedy this. Time and again, he told them, “Hey, set up this stone here to remind you of what I did. Build the monument over there so when you notice it, you’ll remember and say, ‘Oh yes! God did so and so back then. Maybe we should trust Him for this situation we’re in today?’”

So monuments were built and items were saved and things were written down. But nothing, it seemed, worked for very long. Israel just kept forgetting and forgetting.

Later, Jesus came along and said, over and over, to his disciples, “Remember this. Remember that.”



Remember what I’m telling you now, so what happens in the future will make more sense to you.” But their memories proved as short as their forebears’.

Phrases about remembering actually show up nearly 550 times in the Bible. God’s big on his people remembering the past, not because he likes to test us. He wants us to remember so we avoid unnecessary pain, so we can succeed and be fruitful in life, so we don’t condemn ourselves to repeat unremembered mistakes and bad choices.

It’s staggering to think of how much harm forgetfulness has caused in our world. When you consider that, coupled with the pain that diagnosed forgetfulness/dementia causes to people and families, I think lack of memory may just be the part of the Fall that our enemy most exploits and uses for his purposes. I can imagine Screwtape saying something like, “Get them to forget what’s happened before and they’ll destroy themselves. We won’t have to do a thing!”

To teach and discipline ourselves to intentionally remember, personally, as a church family, and nationally may be one of the holiest things we can do, because if we’ll learn from what history has to teach, we’re less likely to give in to the temptation to wander down previously proven pointless, profitless, prohibited, and even perverted paths.

History is not a popular college major. It’s not particularly sexy or cool. It’s also a tough field in which to make a living unless you teach it, but opportunities for teaching history are hard to find. That’s because, of course, not many people seem to want to learn it, because it’s not particularly sexy or cool.

See the vicious circle there?

Many see history as passé and irrelevant to life today, but nothing could be further from the truth. Our only good future is found in remembering the past. That’s where we find, in crystal clear language, who God really is and what God has really done.

LADIES NIGHT OUT

By Ginny Proctor and Rachael Proctor

All ladies are welcome to join us on the first Monday evening of each month* at 6:00 p.m. for Ladies Night Out (LNO). Our season began in March and goes through November. Please add the following dates to your calendar:

June 1

Chicken Salad Chick
254 E Brannon Rd, Nicholasville

July 6

Smashing Tomato
3801 Mall Rd #195, Lexington

August 3

Chili's
108 Marketplace Dr, Lexington
(turn left onto Man-O-War, then take the first right)

September 14*

BJ's Restaurant
3297 Nicholasville Rd, Lexington
(at the far north end of Fayette Mall's parking lot)

October 12*

Sonny's BBQ
109 N Plaza Dr, Nicholasville

November 2

Culver's
961 N Main St, Nicholasville



**If the first Monday is a holiday, LNO will take place on the second Monday (e.g. April, September, etc.). We look forward to having you with us! Questions? Call or text Ginny Proctor at 859-553-9784.*

TECH TALK: IF IT QUACKS LIKE A DUCK...

By Dan Dotterweich

If it looks like a duck, swims like a duck, and quacks like a duck, it might be Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI has gotten so sophisticated that it can make almost anything look and sound real. If someone has a large sample of audio clips from you, they can put the sounds together to make a recording that sounds just like you saying virtually anything, even if you never said it. With a large sample of video clips, they can even make a video of you saying whatever they want to make you say. Combine this with the ability to spoof phone numbers, and someone could create a message to leave on your phone that sounds like one of your loved ones in trouble, asking you to send money. If your loved one has a large online presence, they have already provided the audio and/or video clips to make this scam a reality.

Like email scams of the past in which a (supposed) friend claims to be trapped in a foreign

country with a stolen wallet, needing money to get home, similar requests in audio or video format today should be followed up with

due diligence. When I got such an email years ago, I called the person who supposedly sent the message and reached him at home here in Wilmore. His email had been hacked and, after the messages were sent, all his contacts were deleted so he couldn't warn people of the scam. Don't assume a panicked message is legitimate until you contact the (supposed) sender directly to ask for confirmation. Remember Matthew 10:16, "Be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves."





Works displayed in the WFCM Gallery (in the church foyer on the main level of Building A), serve as a bridge between the seen and unseen, drawing hearts toward the ultimate source of all beauty and creativity—Jesus Christ, who deeply desires an intimate, transforming relationship with all who seek him.

We hope to create moments where persons encounter the mysteries of God through realistic and sometimes abstract images meant to stimulate the mind to see anew. The art mediates where we have failed to perceive God “crying in the child, the nail driven cleanly into the wood, in the ordinary dawn sun that merely to see clearly is sufficient prayer and praise” (Wiman). Perceiving beyond ourselves helps to clear the clutter from seeing more fully that God is with us in the wilderness so we may learn to follow through his moments of surprising deliverances.

This modest display reminds us of the need to hear and see together what has been written down, spoken, sung, built, and played by others—composers, writers, poets, arrangers, architects, animators, and performers—to bring into consciousness the thing that is oftentimes found only in the arts, which is—we are not actually in control.

The Gallery’s Current Installation

May–July

Approaching the world through a childlike lens, Joel Schoon-Tanis combines both realistic images and whimsical kid drawings in retelling the

Gospels. The result lets him shed new light on these centuries-old stories, inviting the viewer to think in new ways as well.

Over his 30-year professional art career, Schoon-Tanis has often explored biblical themes. His love of animals and children initially had him painting a lot of Noah’s Ark images. Soon, he started exploring other stories, which led to the illustration of the NIV Kids’ Study Bible.

In 2015 he took on the entire biblical narrative in his first large format art book, *40: The Biblical Story*. In the years since the first “40,” Schoon-Tanis has taken multiple trips to the Holy Land, and these trips piqued his interest in diving deeper into the Gospel narratives. Specifically, he became interested in the different viewpoints and themes taken by the different Gospel writers.

And so a new set of 40 images was born, *40: The Gospels*—the next show to be displayed on our Gallery Wall. Through fun, color, and whimsy, this collection will take viewers both young and old through Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Holy Week in new ways. The paintings will inspire both joy and inspiration.

Joel’s book, *40: The Gospels*, is available for purchase. Contact Tim Campbell to learn more.



“40: The Gospels” by Joel Schoon-Tanis

LIBRARY NEWS

By Bonnie Koteskey

New Children's Books: (Loan Period: 3 Weeks)

- *Raggedy Ann Stories* by Johnny Gruelle
- *Milo's Pet Egg* by Rebecca Elliott
- *Crocodaddy* by Kimberlly Norman
- *I'd Be Your Princess* by Kathryn O'Brjian
- *Bugs* by Ruth Martin
- *Thank You, Lord, for My Home* by Gigi Graham Tchividijan



New Adult Books: (Loan Period: 3 Weeks)

- *The Bishop's Daughter* by Wanda Bruntetter
- *Whispers* by Robin Jones Gunn
- *Echoes* by Robin Jones Gunn
- *A Undivided Heart* by Vonette Bright
- *Everyday Epiphanies* by James A. Harnish

Please Renew Items Promptly

If you need to renew items, please check with the librarian, Bonnie Koteskey, at 859-859-3436 or leave a note on the library bulletin board. It is important to return the materials when they are due so that others can check them out.

SERVICE FOR THE HEALING OF HUMAN HURTS

June 21, 2026 6:00 p.m.

God says to come to him if we are weary and heavy-laden, and he'll give us rest. Scripture says we are to pray for those who are sick and anoint them in faith for healing. Jesus says to ask and it will be given to us, seek and we'll find, knock and the door will be opened to us.

We seek to do these things in this special service. Come and ask, seek, knock, and pray, and let the Lord meet the deepest needs of your body and soul. If you've never been part of a healing service before, it's natural to have some questions. Here's how it works:

We pray for all types of healing—certainly physical, but also relational, spiritual, emotional, and financial. Whatever brokenness the Fall has caused, the Lord can heal. In the service, everyone sits in the sanctuary. As the Lord leads and as space at the altar permits, those seeking healing take a card from a table in the back of the sanctuary and fill it out.



You can state your need as specifically as you like, and then come to the altar as there is room. All three pastors will be at the altar and available; it doesn't matter which one you approach.

If your need is confidential, it will be kept confidential. You can come to any of the pastors with a confidential need, and you'll be anointed with oil and quietly prayed for. If you don't mind the congregation knowing about your need, it will be shared generally, and then the congregation will be asked to focus their prayers upon you. Then, we'll anoint you and pray for your healing. Once you've been anointed and prayed for, you can return to your seat and take some time to give thanks to the Lord for his perfect will and care for you—for all of us, his children.

We continue like that until all who want prayer have been prayed for. The entire service generally lasts no more than one hour.

FOOD FOR KIDS MINISTRY

By Jessica Bowers

The School Outreach Team thanks the congregation for your support of the Food for Kids Ministry during the 2025–2026 school year. You have helped assist many of our neighboring families who struggle to provide food for their families over the weekends during the school year. Each week, our teens packed 70–80 bags, which were distributed to five district schools: Wilmore Elementary, Head Start, Jessamine Early Learning Village, West Jessamine Middle, and The Providence School. The bags include enough food for six meals and three snacks per weekend. In addition, we contribute food items to the boxes of food that East Jessamine Middle School provides once a month to needy families. We are working alongside other churches in our area who aid our Jessamine County schools.

Lori from the Family Resource Center at Jessamine Early Learning Village said:

We have had 126 students on the Food for Kids program this year and are currently serving 111 students weekly. Several of the students have been displaced, and at least one family has been living in a hotel for several months due to homelessness. ...Eleven students in the program are from non-English speaking families.... We really can't thank you enough for the way you support our families through this program. We couldn't do it without sponsors like you!

Jennifer, the Youth Service Center Coordinator at West Jessamine Middle School, said:

Students and their families have expressed so much appreciation for the help. Many students have shared that they now feel comfortable coming to me at school as a safe place to talk and express their needs.



Each week, our teens packed 70–80 bags.

Additionally, more students are expressing how having access to weekend food has lessened the stress of trying to find meals at home. Families who have recently become homeless or have just moved into the district and are experiencing financial hardship have expressed how lucky they are to have access to this program to help ensure their children have consistent access to meals outside of school hours.

So again, thank you for your ongoing gifts of food and funds for this ministry. We are grateful God is able to use us to bless our neighbors and to be an encouragement to those who work in our schools, enabling them to meet the many needs of families in our district.

WOMEN'S PRISON MINISTRY

By Pauline Blanka



The women's prison ministry consists of three members (Carolyn Hale, Kaye Payne, and Pauline Blanka), who go to the local jail the first Thursday of every month. On April 3, right before Easter, our devotion was about Jesus' last week on Earth and how he taught and served. We offered communion and had a prayer time with the ten women who attended.

We always take time for any woman who wants to accept the Lord as her Savior, to receive more information about becoming a Christian, and/or resources about how to live for him now and especially when she gets out.

We will go again on June 4.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU: ANTHONY AND VICTORIA POORE

By Sue Adkins

Victoria Allen was born in 1987 in Atlanta, Georgia. In 1996 her family moved to the rugged hills of Clay County, Kentucky.

Victoria says:

Life moved slowly in those hollers, where everyone knew everyone and the mountains felt like old friends. In 1999 when I was just twelve years old, I met a boy named

Anthony Poore on our school bus. He was thirteen, born in 1986, and lived just up the holler from me. That old yellow bus took nearly an hour and a half each way to school every day, bouncing along the roads winding through the trees. Those long rides became the best part of my day. Anthony and I quickly became the very best of friends—talking, laughing, and dreaming about the future while the world rolled by outside the windows.

Childhood friendships aren't always simple. Life pulled Anthony and Victoria apart at times and distance created rough patches between them, but something deep and steady always remained. As the years passed and they stepped into their early twenties, they realized that their friendship had grown into something more. In 2007, they chose to marry—not just as best friends, but as life partners under God's divine protection. They wanted to build something solid, something lasting, especially for the family they were starting.

Their first daughter, Jade, arrived in 2006 while they lived in Tennessee. She was their joy from the very beginning. "After our wedding," Victoria says, "we set out on a big adventure together. We



moved to Rhode Island for about a year, then returned to Kentucky for two years, spent three years in Florida, another five back in Kentucky, four years in Georgia, and now we're home again in Kentucky. Those years of traveling taught us resilience, flexibility, and how to make a home wherever we landed."

In 2018 and 2019, the family grew again

with the births of Solaina and Iris, born less than a year apart. Jade, who had been an only child for years and was happily homeschooled, welcomed her little sisters with open arms. She had been spoiled with attention, but she was never a material girl, so she was excited to become a big sister. The transition was smoother than they could have hoped.

Today, Anthony is a business owner and runs a non-profit, pouring his heart into serving others. Victoria is a stay-at-home mom, homeschool teacher, wife, and his biggest supporter. Their days are full—lesson plans in the morning, laughter and learning all day, and quiet evenings with Victoria supporting her husband's dreams.

Although life hasn't always been easy, it has been rich with love, faith, and the kind of friendship that started on a dusty school bus in the Kentucky hollers and grew into a beautiful family. From a twelve-year-old girl riding the bus with her best friend to being married and building a life rooted in love and faith, this is their story, and it's still being written, one blessed day at a time.

Welcome to WFCM, Victoria and Anthony, Jade, Solaina, and Iris!

BIRTHDAYS / ANNIVERSARIES

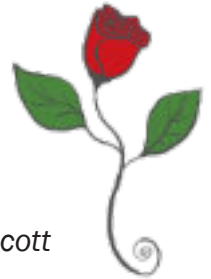
June Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Ellie Bryant, Colleen Weaver, *Wayne & Joan Johnson, Charlie & Kaye Payne*
- 2 Joanna Crabtree, Larkin Dietrich
- 3 June Lintemuth, David Horn, Eric Walsh, *Jim & Joan Lee, Burnam & Machel Reynolds*
- 4 Mia Campbell, Melissa Johnston, Joan Lee
- 6 Wes Eisemann, *Mark & Sue Wiggam*
- 7 Jim Lee, *Del & Lyn Searls*
- 8 Nathan Diddle
- 9 Amy Kinnell, *Paul & Sue Hamann, Dexter & Dickie Lee Porter*
- 10 Chloee Adams,
- 10 Mark Schell, *David & Carol Coulliette, Colin & Jamie McGlothlin*
- 11 Bob Erny, Joy Ireland, Bonnie Lashbrook, Emma Padgett, Colin Winter
- 12 Kenny Isaac Proctor, *Bruce & Laura Branam, Don & Devon Roxberry*
- 13 Phil Halley
- 14 Violet Madill
- 15 Beth Boisvert, Art Brown, Eileen Wright
- 16 Amy Cannon, Jake Dunn, Nellie Kester, Aaron & *Danielle Raymond, Joe & Virginia Valentino*
- 17 *Kris & Merianne Dietrich*
- 18 Burnam Reynolds
- 19 James Demaray, *Ed & Sharon Bryson, Michael & Carole Dickie, Raj Mariyanandam & Hepziba Arputharaj, Lee & Noel Taylor*
- 20 David McPeake, Jeremy Wheelock, *Skip & Darlene Elliott*
- 21 John Oswalt, *Joe & Barb Crouse*
- 22 Addie Poor, Emmie Poor, *Carson & Ashlyn DiFranco*
- 23 Paul Kellogg, Ben Shafer, *Royce & Susie Bourne*
- 24 Jan Coleman, Rose Evans, Maura Todd, *Charlie II & Hilary Fiskeaux*
- 25 *Paul & Miriam Langford*
- 27 Sharon Bryson, *Rod & Beth Williamson*
- 28 John Coffee
- 29 Amanda Bailey, Leighton Poor, *Thad & Ruth Gouge, Curt & Timberly Kidwell, Bob & Mary Ann Wiley*
- 30 *Sam & Rachel Powdrill, Brent & Colleen Weaver*



July Birthdays and Anniversaries

- 1 Chase Bricken
- 2 Lane Stidom
- 3 Bill Descoteaux, *Jeremy & Beth Wheelock*
- 4 Tony Headley
- 5 Cathi Blankenship, Caelan Dietrich, *Ricardo & Beth Gomez, Ben & Nichole Shafer*
- 6 *Ethan & Charlotte Adams, Ben & Renee Riffell, Clay & Meagan Winter*
- 7 Wesley Cannon, Lydia Evans
- 8 Bob Cassidy, Don Koehn
- 9 Evie Barnard, Jody Brock, LeAnn Roberge
- 10 Dale Hale
- 11 Carole Dickie, Jackson Poor, *Scott & Eileen Wright*
- 12 Dick Crane, *Harold & Caroline Schmul*
- 13 Dalton Cannon, *Gerry & Judy Graham*
- 14 Brian Bowers, Letha Jones, Rick Maynard, *Curtis & Arlene Allen, Joel & Genia Schumacher*
- 15 Elias Arndt, Jana Johnston, Luke Johnston, *John & Marilyn Swaim, Gil & Cheryl Waterman*
- 16 Susan Folsom, Micah Foster, *Phil & Lee Anna Halley*
- 17 Kennedy Roberge, *Mark & Rose Evans, Bob & Faye Neal*
- 18 Machel Reynolds, Don Zent, *Bob & Teresa Cassidy, Doug & Carol McGlothlin*
- 19 Ariel Miller, Emily Walsh, *Andy & Hannah Miller*
- 20 Caitlin Gothay, Mike Tillson, *Warren & Marguerite Brude*
- 21 Skip Elliott, Priscilla Probst, Gretchen Stidom
- 24 Kristi McConnell
- 25 Carson DiFranco
- 26 Caspian Fiskeaux, Don Sweigard, Sadie Upton, James Walsh
- 27 Will Montoya, *Jerry & Becky Guthrie*
- 28 *Major & Missy Upton*
- 29 Gerry Graham, Avery Robershaw, Vera Steury
- 30 Cathy Thompson, Parker Weinberger, Stan Wiggam, *Earle & Dottie Bowen*
- 31 *Todd & Janet Adams, Keith & Jenny Madill*



EXCESS FUNDS FROM 2025 DISBURSED

By Pastor Daryl Diddle

Decades ago, our Finance Team and Board of Administration determined an amount of cash we want to keep on hand for some unseen need/emergency, etc.—an Emergency Reserve Fund. That amount has changed through the years relative to the size of our budget and is currently \$300,000. Also decades ago, because the church's purpose is not to gather funds but instead to invest funds quickly in Kingdom work, we determined that any balance over and above our determined Emergency Reserve would be put to use in some needed way at year-end, with the approval of the Finance Team and Board of Administration (BOA).

At the end of 2025, our Emergency Reserve Fund reached just over \$450,000, leaving \$150,000 to invest in some extra-budgetary Kingdom purpose. After prayer and consideration and at the recommendation of the Finance Team, the BOA approved giving a third of the excess funds as a one-time designation to the following teams/projects to be given at their discretion:

- Home Mission Team
- A special church project, with Finance Team and BOA approval
- World Mission Team (WMT)

Thank you so much for your faithful giving to the Lord's work. Please know that everyone involved in the financial life of our church tries to be, at the same time, frugal and generous, using what we need to do the ministry to which we're called but also giving generously to worthwhile needs in our community and

around the world. The Lord has blessed these efforts through the years, and our prayer is that we might be worthy of his blessing for years to come.

Home Mission Team

The Home Mission Team is still evaluating where their third should be invested.

Special Church Project at WFMC

The special church project portion of the excess funds has been applied toward the covered drop-off, which is now fully funded and underway.

World Mission Team

Consensus among the WMT was that the funds should be used primarily to support Free Methodist mission work, so Free Methodist Missions was asked to identify FM missionaries who are currently experiencing significant funding needs. They also considered any missionaries we currently support who have significant needs. Based on these interactions, the following disbursements have been made:

FM Missionaries with Significant Needs (\$4,000 Each)

- Gene & Minor Hall (Japan)
- Michael & Maria Long (Greece)
- Mark & Leena (Creative Access)
- Kay Stotts Godoy (Latin America)

WFMC Sponsored Missionaries Who Lack 3-Month Reserves (\$6,000 Each)

- Eduardo & Cindi Angelo
- Scott (Creative Access)
- Darin & Jill (Creative Access)

Special Needs in the Middle East (\$5,000)

The total distributed thus far is \$39,000, with the balance to be disbursed later this year.



BIBLE QUIZZING

By Ashlyn LeBaron

It is that time of year when our quizzes are now in postseason preparation for nationals. This year's nationals are June 29–July 3 at Spring Arbor University. The teens have been doing well this year and have put so much time and dedication into what they do. I am amazed at their ability to make connections between material spanning multiple months and to do so with such confidence. They are now actively preparing for nationals as they continue to quiz at each practice, with fun, timed trials of quotes, while learning how to work better as a team.

Quiz Nationals is an event in which quiz teams from across the nation are invited for a week of heavy competition to conclude the quiz season. The quizzers will stay at a Christian college and quiz multiple days in a row, both team and individual style. In addition to quizzing, there is a worship service each day, a testimony service, fun games hosted by the college, and time to connect with friends. As a former quizzer myself, some of my favorite memories from high school were made at nationals and were also very formative in my walk with God, as they taught me how to better witness to and serve others.

All the quizzers and the rest of the coaches and I are so incredibly thankful for how the church has helped to support

this ministry through prayer, volunteering at quizzing events, and supporting our fundraisers to help get our teams to nationals and other meets.

In particular, I want to take a moment to thank everyone who was involved in this ministry as a prayer partner. This year, we had over 75 individuals sign up to pray for our quizzes and quiz coaches, which is truly incredible. Our teens have felt so supported and are able to feel God's love in a tangible way through your thoughts and prayers. It is truly a blessing to see how our quizzers are able to hide so much of God's Word in their hearts at such a young age. Through quizzing, they will be equipped to better live for Christ and bring glory to God, and it is all made possible through your support. Please continue to be in prayer for the whole quizzing team as we prepare for nationals. To God be all the glory. Amen.



MISSIONS WEEK: SEPTEMBER 19–27

By Lorrie Liversedge

The 2026 Missions Week is all set for this September:

Sept. 19–20 Eduardo and Cindi Angelo, Free Methodist missionaries to Portugal and West Africa

Sept. 26–27 OMS missionaries Thane and Laura Ury will share about Thane's impactful ministry in Mongolia.

Other activities include:

- Missions seminars during Sunday School.
- Men's/Women's Mission Breakfasts (Sept 26)
- International Potluck (Sept 27)

Mark your calendars for these wonderful opportunities to hear about some of the international and home ministries in which we have a part.

THE WORK PLANNED IN ESTONIA

By Andy Bowen

Wilmore Free Methodist Church takes the Great Commission seriously. We pray for, promote, and partner financially with missionaries all over the world and transformational ministries closer to home. We invest a significant percentage of our budget into giving to missions, and we believe that sending our own members to minister alongside our missionary partners is an important demonstration of our commitment.

In the northern European country of Estonia, our missionary partners, Brent and Colleen Weaver, serve the Estonian Methodist Church, training leaders at the Baltic Methodist Theological Seminary, coaching a church planting team, and helping churches make disciples. The Weavers put us in contact with Ele Paju, who pastors a Methodist church in the town of Võru, in southeastern Estonia, not far from the Russian border. She and her church have very kindly invited us to bring a team to serve alongside them in late July.

The Võru church partners with a church in the neighboring village of Viitka, where we will also be ministering. The Viitka church plans to hold a two-day vacation Bible school (VBS) while we're there, and we will be helping with crafts and activities at the VBS. They've also asked us to help with some construction work at the Võru church and to fellowship and worship with the Võru and Viitka congregations.

Each of the twelve team members has prepared a testimony to share at some point during our visit. Six of the participants are high school students, and for several team members, it's their first time to leave the U.S.

Fellow team leader, Ruth Gouge, and I are committed to several important elements that make this trip much more than an exciting journey to another country. First, we consider this a chance to invest in each team member. Leaving your own context and going to a place where things are done in ways that may seem unfamiliar and even uncomfortable, is a wonderful opportunity to grow in understanding, patience, and faith. As we share with believers in a culture different from our own, we anticipate understanding our faith from a new perspective and getting fresh insight into what it means to follow Jesus. Our intent is to mentor the younger team members, helping them grow through the challenges and celebrate their accomplishments.

We've already begun that through a series of Sunday-evening meetings where we're working together through the book *Before You Pack Your Bag, Prepare Your Heart* by Cindy Judge. It asks

readers whether they are Americans first, or whether being followers of Jesus is their first identity.

We hope to get a deeper understanding of the Church in Estonia and bring that knowledge back to WFMC to encourage the church's missionary heart. Our prayer is also that a clearer grasp of the Church beyond our own culture will result in one or more of the team members responding to a call to follow Jesus into cross-cultural service.

Would you please join us in praying that God would unite us as a team and give us a heart for service and witness? Pray that the \$1500 that each team member needs to raise would come in. Please also pray for safety and health as we travel July 19–30.



(Back row) Keith Madill, Parker Weinberger, Gwendolyn Crabtree, William Howard, Ben Howard, Ruth Gouge, Elyssa Maynard; (Front row) Andy Bowen, Jenny Madill, Eden Ireland, Evie Johnson, Lydia Evans

WHEN ARE YOU PRAYING? WHEN ARE YOU SLEEPING?

Contrasting pictures of Jesus and the disciples at prayer

By Dennis Ditto

Jesus Calms the Storm



Jesus is sleeping, while the disciples are afraid due to the storm (Mark 4:37-39)

Jesus could sleep with the storm raging because his daily life of prayer gave him peace and assurance. The disciples, on the other hand, were agitated and

afraid due to lack of faith-sustaining prayer in their daily life.

The Transfiguration



Jesus takes Peter, James and John up a mountain to pray (Luke 9:28-32)

Jesus is being glorified in prayer and the disciples were missing it because they were sleeping right through it!

Jesus in the Garden

Jesus had tried to warn the disciples what was coming; that they would all desert him in his hour of need. Peter was adamant: “You can count on me, Master. I’ll never desert you!” But of course he did. Later, after Jesus rose from the tomb, Peter had learned the importance of keeping prayed-up. And he wrote 1 Peter 5:8, “Be sober, be watchful

[in prayer]... your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking someone to devour!”

So What About You and Me?

Are we sleeping, being distracted by daily life, when we should be praying? Do we carelessly let days go by without spending quality time focused on God and conversing with him in the dialogue of prayer—speaking and listening in conversation with him?

Are we afraid, lying awake with worry, when instead we should be able to lay our head down and sleep in peacefulness and trust because we have kept renewed in prayer?

I have found that the best way to learn about the practice of prayer is to look at Jesus. If the press of people was too great to pray during the day, Jesus would stay up late into the night to spend time in prayer with the Father (Luke 6:12). Or, if he knew the day was going to be filled with demands, Jesus got up very early, before everyone else, so he could have undisturbed time with the Father (Mark 1:35).

I have tried to follow that pattern and practice. If Jesus didn’t try to get by without daily prayer, then certainly we can’t do it! When we are practicing prayer daily as we should, as Jesus taught us by his example, life events will never catch us unprepared. Maybe they will take us by surprise, but never unprepared.



Jesus is agonizing in prayer, while Peter, James and John can’t keep awake (Mark 14:32-38)

POTENTIAL COSTS & BENEFITS OF INHERITANCES

By Kimberly Barnard

Estate Planning and Elder Law attorneys love working with financial advisors and accountants, because having more than one advisor on an issue can be a great benefit. As an attorney, one

question I hear a lot is: “Will my estate have to pay death taxes?” In a typical attorney fashion, the answer is: “It depends.”



I recommend you discuss your particular situation with your subject matter experts. Below is

some general information that is commonly needed when determining your estate planning.

Estate Tax

Most of us fall within the federal estate tax exemption amount. Currently, we each have a lifetime gift tax exemption of \$15,000,000. The IRS will attribute the gifts that you give through your lifetime and at your death to figure out the amount that will be taxed. (Remember that any gift over the annual exclusion should be reported to the IRS each year. The 2026 gift exclusion per person given is \$19,000.) If you are under the lifetime gift exemption threshold, your estate will not need to pay federal estate taxes. Kentucky currently holds the same exemption amount as federal estate taxes.

Inheritance Tax

Kentucky is one of only a handful of states that has an inheritance tax. Unless your beneficiaries fall within one of the classes of exempted beneficiaries, then your estate will need to pay the inheritance tax if you are a resident of Kentucky at the time of your death. The good news is that

parents, siblings, spouses, children, and grandchildren (including stepchildren and step grandchildren), and non-profits are all exempt. Nieces and nephews, sons-in-law and daughters-in-law, aunts, uncles, and great-grandchildren are not exempt unless then receive less than \$1,000.

Step-up Basis

Income tax may be due on gifts that create income, which is a greater discussion for another time. However, I will give you a very important example when the income taxes are impacted by the death of the giver. One benefit of your heirs inheriting an asset rather than receiving it as a gift before your death is the step-up basis that can be given with the asset. For example, if you bought a house at \$50,000 that is now worth \$250,000 and if you give your son the house now, he receives the gift at the base value of \$50,000. If it is not his primary residence and he sells it for \$250,000, then he will pay taxes on the capital gains of \$200,000. If he received it after your death as an inheritance with a fair market value of \$250,000 and then sold it for \$250,000, then he would not owe any taxes for capital gains as his step-up basis was \$250,000.

TOP 'O THE MORNING TO YA!

All ye lads and lassies, join us!



—VBS—

June 8–12, 2026

9:00 a.m.–Noon

Sign up today!



TAKE NOTE

By Rose Evans

A Word of Thanks

- To the volunteers who have participated each week, sacrificing your time to participate in this important ministry to our church. We greatly appreciate your willingness to use your gifts as a sweet offering to the Lord, and we could not minister without you.
- To the wonderful congregation for your support of the music ministry at WFMC and for the vibrant singing that you continually offer on a weekly basis. You are the most important choir of the church, and we are blessed.

*Thank
You!*

Join Us!

If you are interested in using your musical gifts at WFMC, we welcome the opportunity to talk with you. If you are an instrumentalist, please contact Mark Schell, and if you are interested in vocal music ministry, please contact Rose Evans. We want to hear from you!

JUMELI YOUTH CONFERENCE IN LIMA, PERU

By Susanna Branan

Led by Steve and Cris Flores, the conference began on April 1 with attendees from 19 countries. The mission was to bring young people together so that they might receive a spark of the Holy Spirit and then return to their own countries and take the revival with them.

We interacted with youth from many different countries, playing games, conversing, and joining together in worship for three days. The four speakers directed us on essential things for missions: hope and prayer for your own generation, the ability to form relationships, health in body and mind, and realizing that the gospel is for everyone.



L–R: Caitlin Gothay, Susanna Branan, Sara Bailey, Brittany Wagler, Nicholas Howard, Dexter Cannon, Braxton Sullivan with Maxwell Gothay, Grace O’Neil, Sophia VanHorn, and Beth Gomez.



Our music ensembles will resume weekly rehearsals in September. Please check future articles in *The Plumline* for details regarding these groups, which will be offered in the fall:

Children’s Vocal and Instrumental Ensembles

- Young Musicians (age 4 by October 1st)
- Friendship Company (K–1st Grade)
- Heaven’s Harmony (Grades 2–5)
- Chimes of Joy (Grades 2–5)

Youth and Adult Vocal Ensembles

- Youth Choir (Grades 6–12)
- Sanctuary Choir (Post-high school and up)

Youth and Adult Instrumental Ensembles

- Tintinnabulation: Youth Handbell Choir (Grades 6–12)
- We Believe: Beginner/Intermediate Adult Handbell Choir (Post-high school and up)
- Blessings: Intermediate/Advanced Adult Handbell Choir (Post-high school and up)

After the conference, Ali, a local pastor, and Ricardo and Beth Gomez, led us on a prayer walk around Lima. Wherever we went, we prayed for the people who might be there every day. We emphasized the upcoming election in Peru, praying for 25 candidates—that was a lot to pray for!

Then, we visited Pastor Ali’s church to help organize and repaint the main room. We got to

know the other youth a little bit better and practiced our Spanish.

The trip was a great reminder that though we might not speak the same language, we all worship the same God. Thank you to everyone who prayed for us!

WFMC TOURS AND OUTINGS

Off-campus Adventures

By Allen Holmes

What better way to take time away and enjoy God's creation than to explore new cultures and build new or deepening relationships with the church, your brothers and sisters in Christ? These adventures are open to all ages.

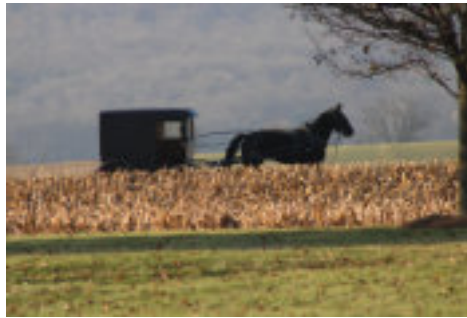


The Kentucky Castle Lavender Festival

Guests can handpick bundles from the lavender fields as well as learn about the various ways it can be used in everyday life, enjoy delicious food from local food trucks, and listen to live music while exploring the Kentucky Castle and farm grounds.

To reserve a van seat and receive all the details, email allenholmes7@icloud.com or call/text 859-553-0778.

Friday, June 26
Near Versailles
11:00 a.m.–2:00/2:30 p.m.
\$30 (at gate)
Registration ends June 19



Indiana Amish Country Tour

Because of the enthusiastic comments from last year's group there have been requests to repeat the Amish tour again this year. This is an up-close and personal journey into the Amish culture, religion, and their different lifestyle.

Call/text 859-553-0778 or email allenholmes7@icloud.com for all the details, including pricing and a complete agenda.

Space is limited, so make your reservations soon!

September 14–16
Shipshwana, IN
Cost: contact Allen Holmes
Registration ends July 20

WILMORE
FREE METHODIST CHURCH

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VISION STATEMENT

*A Community that Reflects Jesus'
Vision and Values*

MISSION STATEMENT

*Wilmore Free Methodist Church
will faithfully offer members
and neighbors the Word of God,
the love of the Father, the grace
of Jesus, and the power of the
Holy Spirit. We will be Christ's
presence in our world.*



The Plumbline

Newsletter of the Wilmore Free Methodist Church

June/July 2026



Summer Camps 2026

June 15-21

Teen Camp

June 22-25

Kids Camp

June 26-28

Family Camp

See WilmoreFMC.org for more information.