

Brainerd
CHURCH
A United Methodist Congregation



**We demonstrate the love of Jesus by welcoming our neighbors,
growing disciples and serving those in need.**

The Table keeps extending.



Even to the unknown.

AUGUST 16, 2026

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

4315 Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37411
Phone: 423.698.6951 • www.brainerdumc.org

Worship at 10:00 a.m.

Please turn down the volume of your cell phone and other electronic devices.

Welcome and Invocation

Liturgist and Congregation

Good Morning.

We come together as the Spirit calls us, let us now join our voices and hearts in prayer:

Lord of love and life, we pray that your spirit will be our strength, your word will be our guide, your love will be our comfort, and your promises will be our hope now and always. Amen.

Prelude

Call to Worship - Adapted from Psalm 133

Liturgist and Congregation

How good it is, and pleasant to behold when kindred live together in unity!

Unity is like precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, the collar, and the robe.

Like the dew of the Mountains that fall upon us.

For the Lord is Holy, and blesses us with life forevermore. Amen.

*Opening Hymn 547

O Church of God, United

ELLACOMBE

*Affirmation of Faith 881

Apostles' Creed

Liturgist and Congregation

*Gloria Patri 70

Glory Be to the Father

MEINEKE

Call to Prayer TFWS 2215

Cares Chorus

CARES CHORUS

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Offertory Anthem

I Will Sing Praise

Joseph Martin

*Doxology 95

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD 100th

*Hymn 88

Maker, in Whom We Live

DIADEMATA

Scripture

Acts 17:16-31

Liturgist

Message

"Unknown"

Rev. Sam Ward

*Closing Hymn 111

How Can We Name a Love

TERRA BEATA

Benediction

Postlude

(Please remain seated during the Postlude and reflect on God's presence during the morning's worship.)

*** Please stand as you are able.**

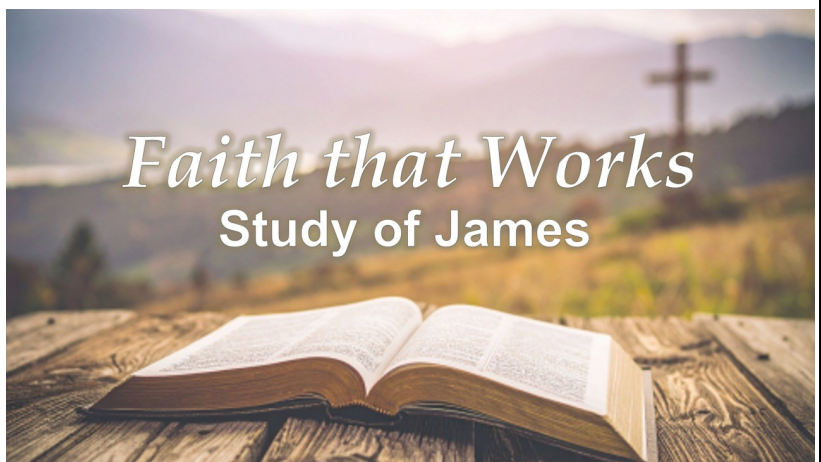
We welcome you to Brainerd United Methodist Church. If you are interested in learning more about the church or in joining, please visit us at www.brainerdumc.org.

If you would like to check out the bulletin online, go to www.brainerdumc.org and click on "Ministries/Weekly Bulletin."



Join us each Thursday at 12 noon in the Wesley Conference Room for a time of prayer, fellowship, and discussion on the Holy Bible. Whether you're a lifetime learner, or new to faith and study, you are welcome to be a part of this conversation.

There has always been a great debate about which is more important in the Christian life - faith or works. **Monday, August 17**, we will begin a new study class that will use the book of James to answer this great question and hopefully lead us to a ***faith that works*** for the glory of God. This study will meet at 10:30 am each Monday in the Wesley Conference Room. We hope you will join us for a great time of discussion and prayer.



Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

There are now openings in the
Brainerd Bells and the Chancel Choir.
Come make a joyful noise unto the Lord!

For Chancel Choir, contact Carmen at swigart2003@yahoo.com

For Bells, contact Scott at scott.mckenzie@marchadams.com

B U M C W E E K L Y E V E N T S

Sunday, August 16

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Fellowship, **Atrium**
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship, **Sanctuary and Online**
- 11:15 a.m. Sunday School, **Classrooms**
- 3:00 p.m. District Conference, **Tyner UMC**
- 6:00 p.m. Scenic City Sax Society, **Truman Brooks Room**

Monday, August 17

- 10:30 a.m. Bible Study, **Wesley Conference Room**
- 2:00 p.m. Pickleball for All, **Gym**
- 7:00 p.m. Volleyball, **Gym**

Tuesday, August 18

- 7:00 p.m. Volleyball, **Gym**

Wednesday, August 19

- 2:00 p.m. Pickleball for All, **Gym**
- 7:00 p.m. Men's Volleyball, **Gym**

Thursday, August 20

- 12:00 p.m. Bible Study, **Wesley Conf. Room**
- 2:00 p.m. Pickleball for All, **Gym**
- 7:00 p.m. Sr. Olympics Volleyball, **Gym**

Friday, August 21

- 12:00 p.m. Organ Practice, **Sanctuary**
- 6:00 p.m. Co-Ed Volleyball, **Gym**

Saturday, August 22

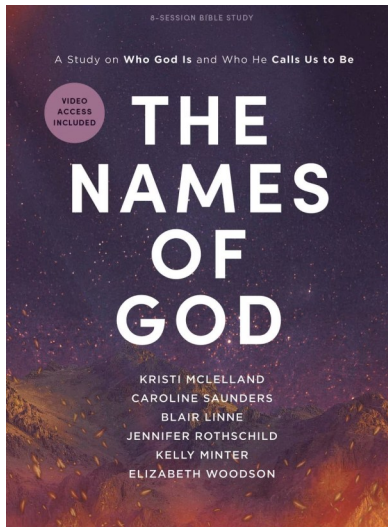
- 9:00 a.m. KBTOC Birdie Team, **Gym**

Sunday, August 23 Regular Sunday Schedule

- 9:30 a.m. Sunday Morning Fellowship, **Atrium**
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship, **Sanctuary and Online**
- 11:15 a.m. Sunday School, **Classrooms**
- 6:00 p.m. Scenic City Sax Society, **Truman Brooks Room**

Staff of Brainerd United Methodist Church

Reverend Sam Ward ~ Senior Pastor ~ sam@brainerdumc.org
 Jenny Bacon ~ Executive Assistant ~ jbacon@brainerdumc.org
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 Carmen Swigart ~ Director of Music ~ swigart2003@yahoo.com
 Jeff Scofield ~ Organist ~ traveldeskmindspring.com
 Terry Sanford ~ Pianist ~ trsanford@gmail.com
 Jerry Wescott ~ Head Custodian



The Sister's Bible Study Group at Wesley Memorial UMC is starting a new study, *The Names of God*, on Monday, August 24. This is an 8-week video-driven study about who God is and who he calls us to be. It features Jennifer Rothschild, Kristi McLelland, Kelly Minter, Elizabeth Woodson, Blair Libby, and Caroline Saunders.

We would love for any interested ladies at Brainerd UMC to join us. We meet every Monday at 10:00 in the History Room/Library or on Zoom at 7:00 pm. There is a study book that each participant needs to purchase. You can purchase at [Lifeway](https://www.lifeway.com), Amazon or Christian books; <https://www.lifeway.com>

Please let Pam Varnell know if you are interested in this study.

pamelavarnell63@gmail.com

Scenic South District Conference

The 2026 Scenic South District Conference will be conducted on Sunday afternoon, **August 16th at 3:00 at Tyner United Methodist Church.**

Rev. Dr. Angela Hardy Cross will be the preacher for the worship portion and Rev. Nathan Malone, our District Superintendent and Mission Strategist, will conduct the business portion. Clergy and other leaders of churches and in district roles are encouraged to participate in this connectional gathering.

Let's celebrate our life together in the Scenic South!

Forward is an ecumenical group which offers mutual support for those who have lost a spouse. First-Centenary United Methodist Church in downtown Chattanooga will host a new small group, seven sessions in all, beginning Saturday, September 12, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., in the Church Parlor. These groups, which run on consecutive Saturdays, offer space for the newly and sometimes not so newly bereaved to share experiences and begin to find ways to step Forward into the future.

If you or someone you know is interested in joining this group, please contact the First-Centenary UMC office at 423/756-2021.

There is no charge to participate.

Plan ahead

The Ministry Team is once again partnering with Barger Elementary for back-to-school needs. We are collecting money to go toward their hygiene and basic clothing closet. The money collected from the congregation will be used for shampoo, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, body wash, underwear, socks, and tennis shoes for all ages. There will be a collection basket in the atrium through September or you can write a check to BUMC, designated for "Ministry Team project."

Thank you for your support!

Starr Gentry



The Women's Fellowship Group

The Women's Fellowship Group, formerly known as "Women's Prayer Group," will meet @ 11:30, Tuesday, September 1, at Rib & Loin, 5946 Brainerd Road, next to Sir Goony Golf.

This Fellowship Group is open to all women in the church.

If you have questions, contact Gloria Scott.



Join Us for a
Fellowship Meal
church family
LUNCH

Sunday, October 4

11:30 - 1:00

It's Back!

Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 4. As Methodists, we love to fellowship over a meal. Invite your friends to join us in Worship and a meal.