



# THE SEWANEE MOUNTAIN MESSENGER

Volume XLI No. 47

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Friday, Dec. 19, 2025



On Dec. 12, the Mountain Goat Trail Alliance with the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation cut the ribbon for our four trail sections completed in 2025. Thanks also to Fiery Gizzard State Park, Friends of South Cumberland State Parks, Inc., and South Cumberland Community Fund for their support of the trail!

## Swing into the New Year with Cumberland Community Dance

Cumberland Community Dance is putting on an evening of square dancing from 5–7 p.m., Friday, Jan. 2, 2026, at the old gym in the Littell-Partin Center in Tracy City, located at 14399 Hwy 41.

Open to all ages and experience levels, the evening will include traditional dancing such as square dance and contra dance styles along with live old-time music from The Stones River Reelers. Whether you're a seasoned dancer or a complete beginner, everyone is encouraged to join in the fun. No partner is required. A live caller will guide dancers through every step.

There will also be a cakewalk which, for \$10, will give dancers the opportunity to take home a cake or homemade baked good. If you are interested in donating a baked good to the cakewalk please contact <cumberlandcommunitydance@gmail.com>.

Attendees are encouraged to make a donation of \$5-10 to help support Cumberland Community Dance. This event is made possible with support by Grundy Area Arts Council. Refreshments and snacks will be provided.

Please come out and help Cumberland Community Dance in their mission to keep the ever-evolving, living tradition of Southern Appalachian music and dance alive.

For more information, visit the Grundy Area Arts Council webpage: <<https://www.grundyarea.art/community-dance>>.

## Monteagle to Pursue Tree City Recognition

by Leslie Lytle, Messenger Staff Writer

At the Dec. 15 Monteagle Council meeting, Alderman Nate Wilson reviewed the benefits of receiving Tree City designation by the National Arbor Day Foundation and the steps Monteagle would need to take to qualify. Mayor Greg Maloof championed the idea, "It's a worthwhile project." Alderman Grant Fletcher agreed, "It's a great idea." Fletcher especially appreciated the ordinance requirement stipulating Monteagle plant only native tree species.

Monteagle has already met two of the milestones necessary for Tree City designation: host an Arbor Day celebration, which Monteagle did the past two years; and form a tree board, which Monteagle did in May of 2024 as an administrative function of the Beautification Committee. David O'Neill from High Canopy Tree Service has volunteered to serve as the tree board arborist. The third benchmark requires allocating \$2 per capita for trees and tree care. For Monteagle, this amounts to \$2,400. Wilson noted the \$3,000 in the Beautifica-

tion budget could be used for this purpose. The fourth requirement calls for a "tree ordinance" governing tree planting and tree care.

Wilson drafted an ordinance modeled after that of other municipalities. He pointed out Tullahoma's tree ordinance, as well as others, regulated planting and care of trees on private land. Wilson removed all references to trees on private land except in the case of diseased, dying, or unsafe trees. A "landmark tree" designation would be available to landowners who chose to pursue recognition. The proposed tree ordinance does not contradict or change the stipulations of Monteagle's landscaping ordinance for commercial property. The landscaping ordinance already recommends saving existing trees whenever possible and has a formula for replanting trees in the case of tree removal.

The council will vote on the first reading of the ordinance at the Jan. 26 meeting. "Tree City designation means a town cares for and encour-

(Continued on page 5)

## SUD Commissioner Election: Meet the Candidates

by Leslie Lytle, Messenger Staff Writer

The three candidates scheduled to appear on the ballot for the upcoming Sewanee Utility District Board of Commissioners election are Ronnie Hoosier, Donnie McBee, and Phil White. Two seats are open to be filled. SUD customers can vote Jan. 2 through Jan. 20 at the SUD office during regular business hours. Other prospective candidates who wish to appear on the ballot must submit a petition signed by 10 SUD customers no later than Dec. 30. Read on to learn about the candidates' qualifications.

Ronnie Hoosier grew up in Sewanee and in 1979 went to work for the University as an electrician, a position he held until his retirement after 43 years. Hoosier also served 40 years as a volunteer fireman with the Sewanee Fire Department. He cites his mechanical skills and knowledge as valuable assets he will bring to the SUD board, as well as the experience gleaned from serving two prior terms as a SUD commissioner. Hoosier was forced to step down because he was term limited by the rules in place at the time. "I want to serve the community as a board member and to continue the great work the Sewanee Utility district is already doing," Hoosier said. "SUD's challenges are no different from anyone else's — high inflation and the cost of doing business. I have confidence SUD can meet these challenges head-on and continue to supply safe, clean drinking water to Sewanee and the surrounding area."

Current SUD board member Donnie McBee is seeking reelection. Aside from two years in Winchester, McBee has lived in Sewanee his entire life. "I care about SUD customers and their concerns as well as the sound operation of the water department as a whole," McBee said. "This sometimes requires making tough decisions," McBee acknowledged, "but I enjoy the challenge." He has a track record of bringing customer concerns to the table bridging the gap between the customer and administration. In the past year, McBee introduced discussions about water service for Deepwoods residents, scheduling of leak repair, and fire department ISO ratings. "The biggest challenges facing SUD are an aging water and sewer treatment plant that requires regular updates to meet the needs of our current customer base," McBee said. "Looking forward, potential housing developments — including single-family homes and townhouses — will place an additional load on the existing water and sewer system, creating an even greater need for upgrades as our population grows."

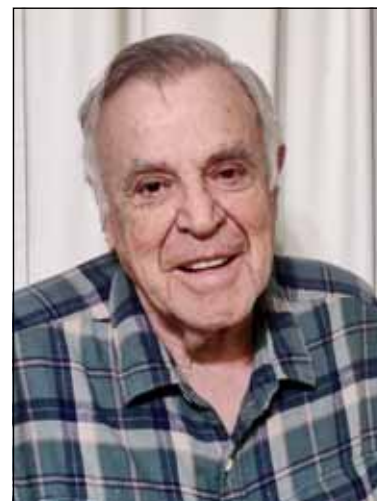
No stranger to community service, Phil White has served 20 years on the Sewanee Community Council and led the movement to fund and construct the dog park. White came to Sewanee as a University student in 1959 and never left. He taught and coached at Sewanee prep schools for over 40 years, winning recognition at the state level for teaching and coach-



Ronnie Hoosier



Donnie McBee



Phil White

ing. In the 1990s White wrote a computer program for SUD. "I am concerned that if requests for new taps keep increasing at the current rate, SUD resources will be stretched thin. I am also concerned about the number of deteriorating supply lines that need to be replaced. The one on my road is over 100 years old. SUD will need to receive some large grants to take care of these needs," White said. "I am running for SUD commissioner because I have seen other towns suffer when they did not keep their infrastructure sound. I do not want that to happen to Sewanee."

P.O. Box 296  
Sewanee, TN 37375

## SUD: Commissioner Election, University Apartments, Water Pumps

by Leslie Lytle, Messenger Staff Writer

At the Dec. 16 meeting, the Sewanee Utility District Board of Commissioners approved a slate of three candidates for the upcoming commissioner election. The board also approved the University's request for availability for water and sewer service for 48 apartments and the purchase of two raw water pumps to replace aging pumps at the water treatment plant.

Two seats on the SUD Board of Commissioners will come open in January. As required by regulations, the board nominated a slate of three

(Continued on page 5)

## Critical Park Inholding Purchased for Protection

The Tennessee State Parks Conservancy and Friends of South Cumberland State Parks today announced that they have partnered to purchase a critical inholding within the Grundy Lakes area of Fiery Gizzard State Park. The groups intend eventually to transfer ownership to the state park.

Although small — only about an acre — protecting the property has large implications. Particularly because it is completely surrounded by the park, potential private use and development could have disrupted visitors and park management alike. The property has significant recreational, ecological, cultural, and historical value. It contains portions of an important archaeological site (Lone Rock Stockade); a park trail crosses the property; and it is in plain view of Grundy Lake and the beach.

"The Conservancy is thrilled to join forces with the Friends of Parks. Together, we are preserving an acre of ground that preserves such an important part of Tennessee's history," said Alex Wyss, Executive Director of the Tennessee State Parks Conservancy.

The acquisition does not noticeably change anything for current park visitors, but officials note that

(Continued on page 5)



# The Hospitality Shop is on the Move

The Hospitality Shop Auxiliary Board has completed negotiations with the University to assume the lease of the building at 574 Georgia Ave., that once housed the University Childcare Center.

The present building at 1096 University Ave., is now too small to house all the activities at the Hospitality Shop thrift store. The new location is easy to reach off of Sollace M. Freeman Highway at the Finny Lane turn. Pay close attention to the Messenger in the month of January for the announcements of moving sales. If you would like to help the Shop staff and Board as they work to make the move, stop by the Shop and sign up to volunteer. Folks who can lift boxes or who have trucks and time to share, please let us know. Contact Julia Bates at <jrbates217@gmail.com>.

In January, the Board will host a town meeting to update the community on the move and to recruit eager volunteers. We are also looking for people who would like to serve on the Board for 2026-2029.

Any qualified person interested in applying for the short term contract Project Manager position at the Hospitality Shop can find the application form here <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdRHMNgGzlpOa8Jo3yzPocN5oJBScga9RyH\_j2o5ulBHBmJXQ/viewform?usp=dialog>.

## Messenger Break Ahead

For the upcoming Christmas and New Year's holidays, the Messenger will be on break Dec. 22, 2025 through Jan. 9, 2026. The staff will return to the office on Monday, Jan. 12, 2026, with the first issue of the new year on Friday, Jan. 16, 2026.

Important updates will be available on the website <http://sewaneemessenger.com> or on our Facebook page during these breaks.

If your organization or church has a different schedule during these upcoming holidays than we normally post, please send the updates to <news@sewaneemessenger.com> or call the office at (931) 598-9949.

# Temporary Change to Glass and Aluminum Recycling

The small glass and aluminum hoppers in Sewanee will not be available through Jan. 5. Please unbag and place recyclables in the large dumpsters labeled for glass and aluminum.

## Local Food Available

The South Cumberland Farmers' Market has breads, fruits, vegetables, eggs, coffee, meats and more available. Ordering is online from Friday at 9 p.m. to Monday at noon. Pickup is on Tuesdays, 4-6 p.m., at the Sewanee Community Center. To order go to <https://openfoodnetwork.net/south-cumberland-farmer-s-market/shop>.



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# Holiday Hours

McClurg: Friday, Dec. 19, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Closed Dec. 20 through Jan. 10. Sunday, Jan. 11, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Return to regular hours on Monday, Jan. 12.

Stirling's Coffee House: Friday, Dec. 19, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed Dec. 20 through Jan. 4. Monday, Jan. 5 through Friday, Jan. 9, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 10 and Sunday, Jan. 11, closed. Return to regular hours on Monday, Jan. 12.

Cup & Gown: Closed Dec. 19 through Jan. 11. Return to regular hours on Monday, Jan. 12.

Biehl Commons Cafe: Closed Dec. 18 through Jan. 11. Return to regular hours on Monday, Jan. 12.

Tiger Bay Pub: Closed through Jan. 13. Return to regular hours on Wednesday, Jan. 14.

Hours for duPont Library: Friday, Dec. 19, 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Saturday, Dec. 20 through Sunday, Jan. 4. Open 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday, Jan 5-9. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 10. Open 1-10 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 11. Regular hours resume Monday, Jan. 12. <https://library.sewanee.edu/library\_hours>.

The Fowler Center will be closed Christmas Day.

Franklin County Convenience Centers will be closed Wednesday, Dec. 24, Thursday, Dec. 25, Wednesday, Dec. 31 and Thursday, Jan. 1. <https://www.franklincotn.



— THE SEWANEE MOUNTAIN —  
**MESSENGER**

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us/assets/pdfs/holiday\_schedule.pdf>.

The Post Office will be closed Thursday, Dec. 25, and Thursday, Jan. 1.

Richardson Waste will alter the Christmas and New Year holiday garbage pickup for Sewanee residents. They will pick up garbage on Friday, Dec. 26 (for Christmas week) and Friday, Jan. 2 (for New Year's) instead of the normal weekly Thursday pickup.

# Hospitality Shop News

The Hospitality Shop will be closed for the holidays Monday, Dec. 22 and will reopen Saturday, Jan. 10.

Regular hours for the Shop are 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday. The Shop is located at 1096 University Ave., Sewanee.

As you consider donations for the Shop please evaluate your gifts using the following criteria. Donations can be left in the bins by the back door if the Shop is closed. Good donations are: fully assembled, working, and clean with all parts and pieces; free of mold, mildew, and smells; free of chips, breakage, food residue, grease, rust; free of rips, tears, stains, missing buttons, broken zippers or excessive wear.

Children's clothing can be taken to Good Samaritan in Winchester or to Goodwill in Kimball. We do accept children's books and puzzles.

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## Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the editor are welcome at the Sewanee Mountain Messenger and are a vital part of our community's conversation. Letters need to be no longer than 250 words and may be edited for space and clarity. We make exceptions from time to time, but these are our general guidelines.

Letters and/or their author must have some relationship to our community. We do not accept letters on national topics from individuals who live outside our print circulation area. Please include your name, address and a daytime telephone number with your letter. You may mail it to us at Sewanee Mountain Messenger, P.O. Box 296, Sewanee, TN 37375, come by our office, 418 St. Mary's Ln., or send your email to <news@sewaneemessenger.com>. — KB



## SERVING WHERE CALLED

Please keep the following individuals, their families and all those who are serving our country in your thoughts and prayers:

Brandon Brawley  
Justin Brawley  
James Gregory Cowan  
Mark Gallagher  
Nathaniel P. Gallagher  
Peter Green  
Zachary Green  
Jackson B. Guenther  
Steven Tyler Jeffery  
Gabriel Lloyd  
Waylon Case McBee  
Bailey Jackson McLean  
Andrew Midgett  
Jose D. Ramirez III  
Troy (Nick) Sepulveda  
Zachary Sherrill  
Allison Tucker  
Nick Worley

If you know of others in our Mountain family who are serving our country, please give their names to American Legion and Auxiliary member Shirley M. Lawson at <slawson@sewanee.edu>.

## MESSENGER INFORMATION

Phone: (931) 598-9949

**Display Advertising**  
Deadline: Monday, 5 p.m.  
<ads@sewaneemessenger.com>

**News and Calendar**  
Deadline: Tuesday, 5 p.m.  
Kiki Beavers  
<news@sewaneemessenger.com>

**Classified Advertising**  
Deadline: Wednesday, noon  
April Minkler  
<classifieds@sewaneemessenger.com>

## MESSENGER HOURS

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday  
9 a.m. to noon  
Thursday — Production Day  
Closed  
Friday — Circulation Day  
Closed



# Upcoming Meetings

## Monteagle-Sewanee Rotary Club

The Monteagle-Sewanee Rotary Club will not meet on Dec. 25, or Jan. 1.

The Monteagle-Sewanee Rotary Club is scheduled to meet at 8 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 8, at St. Mary's Sewanee. Mike Partin with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association will present the program.

The Monteagle-Sewanee Rotary will meet at 8 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 15 for a club assembly, at The Mountain Top Restaurant.

## Town of Monteagle

The Monteagle Planning Commission is scheduled to meet at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 6, in the conference room at City Hall.

The Town of Monteagle will have a special called public hearing on the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program at 9 a.m., Thursday, Jan. 8, 2025. The hearing will take place at Monteagle Town Hall located at 16 Dixie Lee Avenue, Monteagle, TN 37356. The meeting's purpose is to discuss possible projects the town may apply for under this program. CDBG funds may be used for water and sewer improvements, imminent threat issues, and community livability projects. Anyone with disabilities requiring special accommodation for the meeting should contact the Town of Monteagle at (931) 924-2265. The Town of Monteagle supports equal opportunity providers and does not discriminate based on race, sex, age, national origin or physical handicap.

## American Legion

American Legion Post 51 is scheduled to meet at 9 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 10, at the Legion Hall in Sewanee.

## Franklin County School Board

The Franklin County School Board is scheduled to meet at 6 p.m., Monday, Jan. 12, at 215 S. College St., Winchester.

## Sewanee Utility District

The Sewanee Utility District of Franklin and Marion Counties Board of Commissioners is scheduled to meet at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 20, at the utility office, 150 Sherwood Road. If a customer is unable to attend but wishes to bring a matter to the board, call (931) 598-5611, visit the office, or call a board member. The board members are Johnny Hughes, Chris McBee, Donnie McBee, Charlie Smith, and Clay Yeatman.

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December 21 at 10:45 am:  
Morning Prayer with sermon  
Christmas Eve at 5 pm:  
Holy Communion with Carols  
Christmas Banquet  
Christmas Day at 11 am:  
Holy Communion  
December 28 at 10:45 am:  
Holy Communion  
January 4 at 10:45 am:  
Epiphany Service

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# CAC Pantry Sunday

Pantry Sunday for the Community Action Committee (CAC) is scheduled for the first Sunday of the month, Jan. 4. All are welcome to contribute. Please bring your food offerings to St. James Episcopal in Midway, the Parish of St. Mark and St. Paul for collection, or deliver directly to the CAC located at 216 University Ave., Sewanee.

The typical bag of groceries includes beans, pasta, macaroni and cheese, peanut butter, vegetables, fruit, and canned soup.

The CAC is an outreach ministry of the Parish of St. Mark and St. Paul, with generous support from the Sewanee Community Chest, other organizations and individuals across the Mountain. For more than 50 years, the CAC has provided food, financial assistance, and educational support for persons in the greater Sewanee community. The CAC is open 9–11 a.m., Monday through Friday. For more information contact the CAC at (931) 598-5927.

# MMUMC Food Distribution

Morton Memorial United Methodist Church located at 322 W. Main St., in Monteagle, will be distributing food on Saturday, Jan. 10, from 8–10 a.m. All in need are welcome to come. Drivers should enter the line from behind the church and park where our helpers will guide you. Volunteers will load your car for you. Expect several bags of groceries, so please make room for these shelf stable items, some frozen items, and produce before you come. Morton Memorial distributes food the second Saturday of every month come rain or shine.



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# Winter Solstice Market Party and Potluck

The South Cumberland Farmer's Market is hosting a Winter Solstice Market Party and Potluck from noon to 3 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 21, at the Sewanee Community Center, 39 Ballpark Rd., Sewanee.

Vendors will be set up indoors and along the sidewalk with everything from the last of the season's veggies, teas and tinctures, juices and prepared meals, meats and cheeses, craft and gift items, to sourdough, French pastries, cookies, cakes, and more. Pre-ordering is not required, but will take place online from 9 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 17 until noon, Saturday, Dec. 20, if customers would like to secure holiday items in advance.

Bring a dish or a drink to share and come enjoy mingling with other customers and meeting all the people that produce the food sold online at the market all year.

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your Christmas and  
holiday season.**

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**LiveWell makes it possible for you to age in place at home on the Mountain.**

## CONTACT US:

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[Mary.Dosen@Blakeford.com](mailto:Mary.Dosen@Blakeford.com)



# Church News

## All Saints’ Chapel

Sundays during Academic Break, Dec. 21, Dec. 28 and Jan. 3, the service is at 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist, Rite 1. Regular services will resume on Jan. 11. Sundays, 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist, Rite 1, and 11 a.m., Holy Eucharist, Rite 2.

## Chapel of the Apostles

The School of Theology welcomes the plateau community to a Christmas Eve service in the Chapel of the Apostles on Wednesday, Dec. 24. The service begins with carols at 6 p.m., followed by Holy Eucharist at 6:30 p.m. The Chapel of the Apostles is located at 335 Tennessee Ave., in Sewanee. All are welcome.

## Christ Church

The Fourth Sunday in Advent was somewhat solemn as far as church services go. Solemn does not mean sad. Reflective might be a better description. Christ Church will have Morning Prayer with Advent hymns.

Our Christmas Eve service will be at 5 p.m. We will have our Christmas Banquet after the service. On Christmas Day we will have a celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 11 a.m. Christmas Day can be lonely for some people. Ironically, many churches are locked up and dark. We won't have a Christmas Day food feast, but we always have hot coffee and snacks.

We have an advertisement in this issue of the Messenger which shows our services during the rest of 2025 and the beginning of 2026. We are very grateful for the way

church services and activities are included in each issue.

## City Light Church

City Light Church in Monteagle exists to see people changed by the love of Jesus and fulfill their purpose. We are located at 841 W. Main St., Monteagle (right next to Ace Hardware) and offer services at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. on Sundays. You will experience passionate worship, powerful preaching, and a fun and exciting environment for your children. Our children's ministry offers a safe and exciting environment for children newborn to fifth grade. Find out more at <www.citylightchurch.cc>.

## Draw Near

Draw Near is a new church at 301 Montgomery St., Cowan, that is all about becoming disciples of Jesus one person at a time through real relationships. This means you matter. Come as you are and experience authentic worship at 10 a.m., Sunday. Classes for 2 years through fifth grade.

## Good Shepherd, St. Margaret Mary

Dec. 24, 5 p.m. Christmas Vigil Mass at St. Margaret Mary, Alto  
Dec. 24, 10 p.m. Mass of Christmas Night at Good Shepherd, Decherd  
Dec. 25, No Mass at St. Margaret Mary, Alto  
Dec. 25, 10 a.m. Christmas Day Mass at Good Shepherd, Decherd  
Dec. 25, 12:30 p.m. Spanish Mass of Christmas Day  
Jan. 1, 2026, 10 a.m. Bi-lingual

Mass at Good Shepherd, Decherd for The Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

## St. James Episcopal

St. James Episcopal Church celebrates The Holy Eucharist each Sunday at 9 a.m. We have a Parish Potluck the first Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m. Our Daughters of the King chapter meets the second Tuesday of the month at 1:30 p.m. The Men's Breakfast Group meets the first Saturday of the month. We gather each Sunday after church for refreshments and fellowship. St. James is located at 898 Midway Rd., Sewanee. All are welcome to experience love, hope, and joyful fellowship at St. James.

## St. Mark and St. Paul

This Sunday the Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. The 11 a.m. service will be livestreamed on our Facebook page and remains available there.

Christmas Eve Services: 4:30 p.m., Holy Eucharist, All Saints' Chapel; 9:30 p.m., Christmas Music and Holy Eucharist, St. Mark and St. Paul.

Christmas Day: 10 a.m., Holy Eucharist, St. Mark and St. Paul. No Sunday School or Nursery.

Christian Formation Classes will not meet Dec. 21 and Dec. 28.

Join a Winter Foyer Group! This is a small group of parishioners meeting together for fellowship, guided scripture reflection, and prayer (scripture, discussion ques-

tions, and prayers provided by the church).

Groups are encouraged to meet in a host home. You will have the opportunity to indicate whether you are willing to host when signing up. The group will meet every week for three weeks, Jan. 25-Feb 13 (depending on the day of the week your group meets) for 1.5 hours each.

Why: To deepen our relationships with God and one another, and connect with new people.

How: Sign up to be included in a group by completing the form at this link: <https://acesse.one/Pjd4L>. You'll rank your preferences for meeting day and time. We hope to have enough participants to

(Continued on page 5)

# Church Calendar

10:30 a.m. Morning Service, Sunday  
5 p.m. Evening Service, Sunday  
6 p.m. Mid-week Service, Wednesday

## Midway Baptist Church

9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Sunday  
10:45 a.m. Morning Service, Sunday  
6 p.m. Evening Service, Sunday  
6 p.m. Bible Study, Wednesday

## Midway Church of Christ

10 a.m. Bible Study, Sunday  
11 a.m. Morning Service, Sunday  
6 p.m. Evening Service, Sunday

## Monteagle Church of Christ

11 a.m. Morning Service, Sunday  
6 p.m. Bible Study, Wednesday

## Monteagle First Baptist Church

11 a.m. Worship Service, Sunday  
6 p.m. Bible Study, Wednesday

## Monteagle Seventh-day Adventist Church

10 a.m. Bible Study, Saturday  
11 a.m. Worship, Saturday  
7 p.m. Prayer and Study, Tuesday

## Morton Memorial United Methodist, Monteagle

10 a.m. Sunday School, until 10:45 a.m.  
11 a.m. Worship Service, Sunday

## Mountain of God Tabernacle, Monteagle

Online worship services. Call (931) 924-5339 or go to

<https://www.tdworlDMINISTRIES.org>

11 a.m. Worship Service, Sunday  
6 p.m. Prayer Service, Wednesday

## New Creations Ministries, Rayburn Chapel

4 p.m. Prayer Meeting, Sunday

## New Hope Church of God in Christ, Cowan

11 a.m. Sunday Service, Sunday  
6 p.m. Sunday Service, Sunday

## Pelham United Methodist Church

9:45 a.m. Sunday School, Sunday  
11 a.m. Worship Service, Sunday

## St. Agnes’ Episcopal Church, Cowan

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Sunday

## St. James-Midway Episcopal Church

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Sunday

## St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church, Alto

8 a.m. Mass, Sunday

## St. Mark & St. Paul

8:20 a.m. Nursery, basement of Kennerly Hall, Sunday

8:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Sunday

9:45 a.m. Godly Play

9:45 a.m. Youth Sunday School

9:45 a.m. Sunday Forum

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Sunday, also available livestream Facebook

## St. Mary’s Sewanee Retreat Center

4 p.m. Centering Prayer Group, Thursday

## Sewanee Church of God

10 a.m. Worship Service, Sunday

## Sewanee Zen, Stone Nest Dojo

7 a.m. Zazen, Tuesday-Thursday

10 a.m. Zazen and Ceremony, Sunday

## Sisters of St. Mary Convent Chapel

7 a.m. Morning Prayer, Tuesday–Friday

5 p.m. Evening Prayer, Tuesday–Friday

7:30 a.m. Morning Prayer, Saturday

5 p.m. Evensong, Saturday

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Sunday

5 p.m. Evensong, Sunday

## Tracy City First Baptist Church

10:45 a.m. Morning Worship, Sunday

## Trinity Episcopal Church, Winchester

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Sunday

12:30 p.m. Lectionary Bible Study, Tuesday

## Unitarian Universalist Church, Tullahoma

10 a.m. Service, Sunday

## Valley Home Community Church, Pelham

10 a.m. Sunday School

11 a.m. Morning Service, Sunday

## Winchester First United Methodist

10 a.m. Worship, Sunday

# Obituaries

## John McCrady

John McCrady was born on Nov. 7, 1936, and died of Covid-related heart failure on Sept. 14, 2025. He left the world surrounded by family and folk music. He is survived by his brother James Waring McCrady; sister, Sarah “Sally” McCrady Hubbard; wife, Diane McCollum McCrady; sons, Edward Heath (Victoria Holt) and John Waring (Bethany Alice) McCrady; grandsons Robert Theron, John Roland, and Tucker Hunan McCrady; and adopted son Billy Browning.

John was an electrical engineer and part of the team that developed the first hand-held electronic calculator; a musician and one of the founders of the Dallas Folk Music Society; a teacher of computer science and other sciences at several schools; a scoutmaster for multiple Boy Scout troops; a lover and restorer of musical instruments; an active member of first the Episcopal and later the Unitarian Church; and a loving support to everyone who knew him. He had a great love for the outdoors, and particularly for his childhood home of Sewanee and its many caves. He also had a great love for his “curiosity bug” and many patented inventions. His life was defined by a profound love of music; the sheer joy he took in learning, teaching, and maintaining a properly scientific attitude; and his unstinting care for the people around him. He will be deeply missed.

A memorial service was on Oct. 11 at First Unitarian Church of Dallas. John's funeral service will take place Saturday, Jan. 17, at 2 p.m. in the chancel of All Saints Chapel, followed by interment in the Sewanee Cemetery next to his wife of 56 years, Martha Fogarty McCrady. A reception will follow at McGriff Alumni House.

## Bobby G. Tate

Bobby G. Tate, age 88, died on Nov. 30, 2025. He was born on March 26, 1937, in Palmer, to Herbert and Virginia Bryant Tate. He was preceded in death by his parents; wife of 63 years, Alma Jean Tate; and son, Garry Tate.

He is survived by his daughter, Beverly (Jeffrey) Griggs; sister, Jeanette Smith, and one grandson.

Funeral Services were on Dec. 3, 2025, at Mt. Ararat Methodist Church with Bro. John Childers officiating. Interment followed in Orange Hill Cemetery. For complete obituary go to <www.cumberlandfuneralhome.net>.



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**Church** *(continued from page 4)*

offer groups at the following times:

Saturdays, Jan. 25, Feb. 1 and Feb. 8 at 5 p.m. Sundays, Jan. 26, Feb. 2 & Feb. 9 at 2 p.m. or 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28, Feb. 4, & Feb. 11 at 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 30, Feb. 6, and Feb. 13 at 6:30 p.m.

We will be in touch in mid-January with the details of your group meeting. In the meantime, if you have any questions, you may reach out to Kelly at <curate@stmarkstpaul.org> or call Dan in the office.

The St. Mark & St. Paul office will be closed on Monday, Dec. 22–26 as well as Jan. 1, 2026.

CAC will be closed Dec. 25–26, and Jan. 1, 2026.

The Rev. Rob Lamborn will be out of the office Dec. 26–Jan. 3. The parish office will be open Dec. 29–31, and Jan. 2, 2026.

Centering Prayer Groups: The Monday group will not meet on Dec. 29, but will otherwise maintain its regular schedule.

Lectionary Bible Study will continue on the regular schedule through the end of the year. The bible study at Saint Mark and Saint Paul's meets every Tuesday at 2:30 p.m. in Brooks Hall. The class begins with a brief prayer and a reading of the Gospel lesson appointed for the coming Sunday. The group is convened and the conversation moderated by the Rev. Scott Lee.

Adult Choir: Adult choir practice is Sundays 12:30–1:30 p.m.

Children's choir is on hiatus and will resume on Jan. 14, 2026. Rehearsals are on Wednesday after school. To enroll your child contact Wyatt Poe at: <music@stmarkstpaul.org>

Godly Play and Youth Sunday school are on hiatus and will resume on Jan. 4, 2026.

Rite-13 and J2A: are on hiatus and will resume on Jan. 4, 2026. Young people in grades 6–10 are invited to participate in Rite 13 and Journey to Adulthood (J2A) on Sunday afternoons. Please contact Hilary Bogert Winkler <hbwchurch@gmail.com> for details.

Education for Ministry is on hiatus until Monday, Jan. 5, 2026

The Feast of the Epiphany: will be celebrated at Christ Church, 530 10th St, Tracy City with a service on Tuesday, Jan. 6, at 5 p.m., followed by a potluck supper.

**Sewanee C. P. Church**

We invite everyone to join us for our special Christmas services at the Sewanee Cumberland Presbyterian Church. On Sunday, Dec. 21, we will celebrate with lessons and carols. The congregation is invited to join in the singing of hymns. Two of our members who sing with the Winchester Civic Choir will perform solos. Services at 9 a.m. On Dec. 24, you are invited to join us for the Holy Communion by families from 4–4:30 p.m. We are located adjacent to Bob Stewman Road on Cumberland Circle.

**Farris Chapel UMC**

Farris Chapel United Methodist Church invites you to our Children's Christmas Program at 5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 21. Join us for a beautiful retelling of the story of our Savior's humble birth. Afterward we will gather for refreshments and fellowship. Farris Chapel is located at 2981 Rowe Gap Road in Winchester (near the foot of Keith Springs Mountain).

**St. Agnes'**

St. Agnes' Episcopal Church in Cowan invites you to celebrate "The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord" on Christmas Eve, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m. This will be a traditional evening service with lessons and

carols. After the service we will invite everyone to join us in the parish hall for the Werlein Memorial Christmas Reception. St. Agnes' is located at 105 E. England St.

**Cowan Fellowship Church**

Cowan Fellowship Church welcomes you to join us for special times of worship on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We will gather for a Christmas Eve service with lesson and carols at 4 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 24. We will gather again on Christmas Day, Thursday, Dec. 25, at 10 a.m. Cowan Fellowship Church is located at 609 E. Cumberland St.

**Abundant Life**

Together with your friends and families on Christmas Eve, joins us for a special time of worship at Abundant Life. We can't think of a better place to be than worshipping King Jesus. This will be a candle-light service at 5 p.m. Abundant Life Assembly of God Church is located at 3310 Cowan Hwy., between Cowan and Winchester.

**Cowan C.P.**

Christmas Eve Communion will be served at Cowan Cumberland Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, Dec. 24, between 5 and 6 p.m. This will be a come-and-go service. We invite to come inside, enjoy a moment of silence, and then come forward to be served and to join in prayer. Cowan C.P. Church is located at 206 W. Cowan St. Our sister congregation in Sewanee will offer a service at 4 p.m. Sewanee C.P. Church is located at 91 Cumberland Dr.

**Goshen C.P.**

All are welcome to the Lord's Table as Goshen C.P. Church gathers to celebrate Christ's birth. Join us at 7 p.m. for a traditional candle-light lessons and carols service with communion. Goshen is located at 1260 Williams Cove Rd., between Cowan and Winchester.

**Monteagle** *(from page 1)*

ages its tree canopy," Wilson said. "There are several reasons to do this. We all like trees. They provide the town with a lot of benefits. But one of the other things this does is help us qualify for grants." Wilson observed a grant recently received by the Mountain Goat Trail Alliance for stormwater mitigation will fund tree planting at several Monteagle trailside locations.

In other business, the council approved an ordinance amendment prohibiting the following activities on city managed property: overnight parking, ATVs, fires, camping, loitering, and soliciting. An unchanged section of the ordinance prohibits the following activities at Laurel Lake and other city owned property: gasoline powered boats, trotline fishing, camping, fires, ATVs, and golf carts. The amendment removed swimming from this list.

On a split vote, the council rejected a proposal to update the rate study conducted a year ago. The study recommended that Monteagle implement a graduated rate increase over a five-year period to fund capital improvements to the water and sewer system. Maloof argued a new study was needed to fund capital improvement needs identified since the study: mitigation of inflow and infiltration (I&I) of storm water into the sanitary sewer system, I&I mitigation equipment, and a sewer system lift station at the Waffle House. Wilson argued Tracy City grant funding would pay for a Monteagle rate study and capital improvement plan at no cost to Monteagle. Maloof and Alderman Dan Sargent voted in favor of Monteagle contracting for an update to the rate study conducted a year ago. Alderman Wilson, Fletcher, and Dean Lay voted against Monteagle contracting for an updated study.

Police Chief William Raline urged drivers to use their headlights during fog. Raline said during extremely foggy conditions on Dec. 7 and Dec. 8, nine minor crashes occurred. "People failed to see other cars," Raline stressed.

**SUD** *(continued from page 1)*

candidates: Ronnie Hoosier, Donnie McBee, and Phil White. All three expressed an interest in serving prior to the November meeting. Just prior to the Dec. 16 meeting, board President Charlie Smith heard from several other SUD customers interested in being candidates. To appear on the ballot, prospective candidates must submit a petition signed by 10 SUD customers no later than Dec. 30. (See "SUD Commissioner Election" to learn more about the candidates already approved for the ballot.)

SUD commissioners serve four-year terms. New commissioners must complete 12 hours of training the first year and an additional six hours of training in subsequent years.

The proposed University apartment complex is located at the intersection of Hwy. 41A and Kennerly Road. Previous plans for an apartment complex at that location stalled. In May of 2023, the University contacted SUD about constructing a 60-unit complex. Reporting to the Sewanee Community Council in May of 2024, Vice President for Economic Development and Community Relations David Shippis said plans called for six buildings with eight apartments in each. Current plans call for two three-story buildings with a total of 48 units, 12 studio apartments, 12 two-bedroom apartments, and 24 one-bedroom apartments. The projected average daily usage is 10,800 gallons per day.

Smith asked if the projected usage was reasonable. "We have the capacity," said SUD manager Ben Beavers. "There is no reason we should or could deny the request." SUD's guarantee of availability is good for 120 days from the time the letter is issued. Two sewer taps would serve the apartment complex and a single water meter. A monthly minimum service fee would be assessed for all 48 units, totaling \$600, even if no water was used. Plans call for a fire hydrant in front of each building and one private hydrant in back, meaning SUD would bill for usage.

Taking up the need to replace the raw water pumps at the water plant, Beavers said, "Originally they were putting out 650 gallons per minute. They're down to 430 gallons per minute. They're worn out." Beavers presented the board with two options: one, pumps that would bolt directly into the system, cost \$58,565; two, pumps requiring a plumbing adaptation, cost \$47,582 (including adaptation and installation expenses). In addition to the higher cost of the direct bolt-in pumps, Beavers noted that the brand of pump was no longer manufactured. The board took Beavers' recommendation to go with the less costly solution. He anticipates a 14-weeks lead time with installation in February or March. "This is a good time of year to do the replacement, since usage drops in the winter," Beavers observed.

The SUD board meets next Jan. 20.

**Critical Park** *(continued from page 1)*

protecting it now prevents the possibility of future disruptive use or development.

"This is an important milestone for the park, and Friends of the Parks is proud to partner with the

State Parks Conservancy to protect this critical site in perpetuity," said Ned Murray, Friends' Executive Director, "We are also grateful to the Hales for their vision and willingness to help us protect it."

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The 2025-26 Sewanee Community Chest Fund Drive is underway! We're halfway to our \$118,500 goal to support 19 local organizations providing essential services—quality of life programs, community aid, children's initiatives, and more.

Your donation makes a real difference. It's your generosity that fuels the Sewanee Community Chest's outreach and keeps our local organizations running. Check in with our friends at the Sewanee Children's Center, Animal Harbor, Folks at Home, the Sewanee Elementary Parent Organization, and many other organizations, and you'll hear the same story — they couldn't fulfill their missions without funding from the Sewanee Community Chest.

The Sewanee Community Chest is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and donations are tax-deductible. Send your donation to Sewanee Community Chest, P.O. Box 99, Sewanee, TN 37375. To receive a year end tax deduction, envelopes must be postmarked by Dec 31, 2025.

For more information go to <[www.sewanee.org](http://www.sewanee.org)>. To give through PayPal Giving go to <<https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/119597>>.



# SCHOOL CALENDAR

Dec. 19, Abbreviated Day, Franklin County, Grundy County  
Dec. 19-Jan. 5, Christmas Vacation, SAS  
Dec. 22-Jan. 2, Christmas Break, Franklin County, Grundy County, Marion County  
Jan. 5, No School, Staff Development, Franklin County, In Service Grundy County  
Jan. 12, First Day of Classes, University  
Jan. 16, Winter Convocation

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# SES MENUS

Monday-Friday  
Jan. 5-9 and Jan. 12-16  
BREAKFAST

All reimbursable breakfast meals must include a minimum of three items with at least one being fruit or fruit juice. A variety of fruit, fruit juice & milk offered daily. All entrees = 2 items. Every effort will be made to follow the published menu; however, last minute changes may be necessary.

Monday, Jan. 5: No school.  
Tuesday, Jan. 6: Steak slider, juice, fruit, milk.  
Wednesday, Jan. 7: Waffle, juice, fruit, milk.  
Thursday, Jan. 8: Sausage biscuit, juice, fruit, milk.  
Friday, Jan. 9: Cinnamon roll, juice, fruit, milk.  
Monday, Jan. 12: Banana bread, juice, fruit, milk.  
Tuesday, Jan. 13: Steak slider, juice, fruit, milk.  
Wednesday, Jan. 14: Pancake on stick, juice, fruit, milk.  
Thursday, Jan. 15: Sausage biscuit, juice, fruit, milk.  
Friday, Jan. 16: Donut pull-apart, juice, fruit, milk.

# LUNCH

All reimbursable meals must include a fruit or vegetable on the tray. Students may decline 2 of the 5 meal components – meat/meat alternative; grain; fruit; vegetable; milk. Daily offerings may include Yogurt Fun Packs and/or PB&J Power Packs.

Monday, Jan. 5: No school.  
Tuesday, Jan. 6: Barbecue riblet sandwich, baked beans, sweet potato fries, fruit, milk.  
Wednesday, Jan. 7: Taco soup, tortilla chips, potato smiles, steamed broccoli, fruit, milk.  
Thursday, Jan. 8: Chicken tenders, creamed potatoes, green beans, dinner roll, fruit, milk.  
Friday, Jan. 9: Hamburger/cheeseburger, trimmings, fresh carrots w/Ranch, French fries, fruit, milk, cookie.  
Monday, Jan. 12: Beef dipppers, creamed potatoes, pinto beans, dinner roll, fruit, milk.  
Tuesday, Jan. 13: Breakfast for Lunch: egg patty/sausage, biscuit/gravy, tater tots, veggie cup, Ranch, fruit, milk.  
Wednesday, Jan. 14: Chili w/cheese bites, emoji potatoes, fresh broccoli, fruit, milk.  
Thursday, Jan. 15: Spaghetti, meat sauce, side salad, corn, dinner roll, fruit, milk.  
Friday, Jan. 16: Pizza, potato wedges, fresh carrots w/Ranch, fruit, milk.  
For meal pricing, go to <<https://franklincountytn.schoolsites.com/menus-mealpricing>>.



The Scout Troop 14 headed into Lost Cove Dec. 5, hiking by headlamp as snowflakes drifted down. Saturday was spent exploring streambeds, sliding down muddy slopes, gathering drinking water, and cooking together. If your scout is ready for real adventure, we'd love to have you join us. Contact Elizabeth Christopher at <[elizabeth.grace.christopher@gmail.com](mailto:elizabeth.grace.christopher@gmail.com)>.

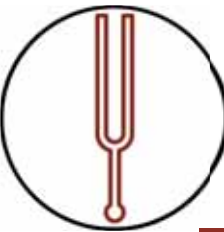
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Pilates is particularly beneficial for individuals with scoliosis, osteopenia, and osteoporosis, offering a low-impact way to manage these conditions while building strength and flexibility. It's also an excellent option for those recovering from surgery, helping to rebuild strength, improve posture, and ensure proper healing after physical therapy.  
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Coach Zeitler strategizes with seventh grader Patch Wilson and eighth graders Jack Roberts, Dagen Latham, Ian Tucker, and Ryan Kanya during a time out.

# SAS Middle School Boys' Basketball Battles On; Wilson Named to All-Conference Team

On Dec. 15, the Mountain Lions defeated Swiss Memorial 30-29 in the first round of the Super Five Tournament. Eighth grader Ian Tucker hit the game-winning, 3-point shot to put the team up by two points. Seventh grader Patch Wilson, who has been named to the Super Five All-Conference Team, led the scoring with 14 points. Tucker contributed six total points to the win, and eighth graders Isaiah Shelby and Dagen Latham contributed eight and two points, respectively.

Last week, SAS was defeated by Pelham 30-29. Wilson played another strong game, hitting eight shots from behind the arc and adding two jumpers to lead all scorers with 28 points. Shelby scored six, and eighth grader Jack Roberts scored three points.

The Mountain Lions will resume regular season play on Jan. 12 at Whitwell before hosting Whitwell at home Jan. 16.

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# SAS Varsity Boys' Basketball Update

Heading into the holiday break, the SAS Mountain Lions basketball team suffered its sixth season loss, falling to South Pittsburg at home.

Struggling on both ends of the floor, the Mountain Lions allowed 42 points and scored only nine in the first half. In the third quarter, the team showed more enthusiasm and scored 18 points while only allowing eight.

According to Coach Larson Heitzenrater, several players contributed outstanding performances: Senior Sam Goodpaster of Sewanee (14 points, two assists, one steal); Junior Bryce Archambault of Sewanee (13 points, one rebound, and six steals); and Junior Harper Thompson of Sewanee (nine points, five rebounds, and one steal).

After the break, the Mountain Lions travel to Riverside Academy Jan. 9. Their next home game is Jan. 16 against Silverdale Academy.



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# HOME GAMES

1 p.m./3 p.m., Monday, Dec. 29, Women's Basketball, Sewanee Classic

noon/2 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 30, Women's Basketball, Sewanee Classic

1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 3, Women's Basketball vs. Centre College

3 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 3, Men's Basketball vs. Centre College

5 p.m., Friday, Jan. 9, SAS Swimming, Senior Night

6 p.m., Friday, Jan. 9, SAS MS Boys' Basketball vs. Whitwell Middle School

6 p.m., Friday, Jan. 9, Women's Basketball vs. Rhodes

8 p.m., Friday, Jan. 9, Men's Basketball vs. Rhodes

Saturday, Jan. 10, SAS Wrestling, Mountain Top Tournament

1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 10, University Swimming and Diving, Sewanee Invitational

noon, Sunday, Jan. 11, Women's Basketball vs. Millsaps

2 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 11, Men's Basketball vs. Millsaps

6 p.m., Monday, Jan. 12, University Swimming and Diving vs. Asbury

5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 13, SAS Varsity Boys' Basketball vs. Silverdale Baptist

7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 13, SAS Varsity Girls' Basketball vs. Winchester Christian Academy

6 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 15, SAS Wrestling vs. Silverdale Baptist, Chattanooga Charter School of Excellence



## Late Surge Sends Covenant Past Sewanee

Fletcher Bigham and Nikolas Avaliani posted 17 points each, but Covenant used a 10-2 run late in the second half, defeating Sewanee on Dec. 10, in the Barnes PE Center, 98-88.

Bigham added 11 rebounds, and Avaliani posted eight, while Reid Carrier recorded 15 points and Phillip Ryan added 14. Jack Bakken added 13 rebounds with eight points, and JD Gardner added 10 rebounds and nine points.

Sewanee (2-7) built a 19-5 advantage midway through the first half behind a 12-0 run sparked by three straight baskets from Fletcher Bigham and a three from Philip Ryan. The Tigers led by as many as 17 and shot 40 percent from beyond the arc in the opening period, but Covenant (2-8) closed the half on a 20-7 surge, including a deep three at the buzzer, to tie the game at 48-48 heading into the break.

The second half remained tight through the opening minutes, with Sewanee pushing ahead 61-53 after a Reid Carrier three and a layup from Aidan Treacy. However, the Scots responded with a decisive 22-7 run fueled by seven Covenant players registering points. Covenant scored 37 points off turnovers and finished the night shooting 46 percent from the field.

Covenant was led by Logan Patterson's 23 points and five steals, while Noah Pence and Korbin Long each added 14 and 13 points, respectively.

Sewanee dominated the glass 61-40 and scored 46 points in the paint, but Sewanee shot just 15% from behind the arc and Covenant's pressure and perimeter shooting proved the difference late.

The Tigers return to action on Dec. 29-30 at the Jack Berkshire Classic, facing Brevard and La-Grange in Atlanta, Ga.

## Sewanee Names Freitag to Lead Football Program

Sewanee Director of Athletics John Shackelford announced the hiring of Monmouth College's Joe Freitag as the 33rd head coach in program history on Dec. 11.

Freitag has served the last 11 years as the offensive coordinator at Monmouth, a Division III institution in Monmouth, Ill., in the Midwest Conference. He coached the offensive line for 10 years and moved to working with quarterbacks this past season for the Scots, who have posted an 85-21 record over 10 seasons (no games were played in 2020) during Freitag's tenure on staff.

"We are excited to introduce Joe Freitag as the next head football coach of the Sewanee Tigers," Shackelford said. "Joe brings a wealth of competitive Division III experience and is widely known as a strong recruiter, an innovative strategic coordinator, and a player's coach who has successfully built transformational relationships with his student-athletes. He has a record of helping student-athletes balance a rigorous academic curriculum with a demanding athletic schedule, and the ability to participate in many leadership roles across campus."

Monmouth has registered a 68-4 mark in the Midwest Conference since the start of the 2015 season, reaching the NCAA postseason in 2016, 2017, 2019 and 2025 and winning conference championships in 2016, 2017, 2019, 2022 and 2025.

"I am honored and excited to be named the next football coach at Sewanee," Freitag said. "I want to extend my sincere gratitude to Athletic Director John Shackelford, Associate Athletic Director Carrie Austin, and Vice-Chancellor Rob Pearigen for their confidence in me and their support of this program. It is evident that Sewanee has a rich tradition, commitment to excellence, and a strong sense of community. I look forward to working with our student-athletes, staff, and community as we build a winning program, one that strives

for success both on-and-off the field. My family and I are thrilled to join the Sewanee community and make the Domain our home."

The Springfield, Ill., native helped Monmouth to back-to-back league championships in 2016 and 2017, averaging more than 500 yards of offense per game in 2016. DeAndre Wright posted consecutive 1,000-yard rushing seasons during those campaigns.

Joe Krall garnered All-Region honors on the offensive line in three straight seasons from 2017-19 and he was named an All-American by the Associated Press, the American Football Coaches' Association and D3football.com in 2019. Derek Brown earned All-Region accolades on the offensive line in 2022 and 2023 as well.

Freitag worked three seasons at Benedictine University in suburban Chicago from 2012-14, reaching the postseason in his last year with the Eagles.

Freitag played on the offensive line at Monmouth from 2003-06, helping the Scots to an undefeated regular season in 2005, winning their first conference title since 1976. During his four-year playing career, Monmouth registered a 34-7 overall record. He was named All-Conference three times and earned All-Region honors from D3Football.com and the Don Hansen Football Gazette as a senior.

Freitag began his coaching career as a graduate assistant at Coe College in 2007 and then worked two years at Augsburg College in Minnesota as the offensive line and special teams coach. From there he went to Benedictine as the offensive coordinator before returning to Monmouth for the 2015 season.

Freitag earned his bachelor's degree in history from Monmouth in 2007 and received his master's in teaching from Coe College in 2010. He and his wife, Amy, also a 2007 Monmouth graduate, have two children – daughter Etta and son Graham.

## Boyd, Falvey Power Sewanee Past Covenant, 90-65

Janie Boyd scored a career-high 22 points with four rebounds, while Olivia Falvey added 25 points to lead Sewanee to a 90-65 win over Covenant on Dec. 12, inside the Barnes Physical Education Center.

Boyd also tallied seven steals and four assists in the victory. Eliza Everett finished with 12 points, seven rebounds, four assists, and three steals, while Hannah Cleveland added 13 points, four rebounds, three assists, and two steals.

Sewanee set the tone early, jumping out to a 12-3 lead behind 11 quick points from Falvey and baskets from Boyd and Cleveland in the opening two-and-a-half minutes. The Tigers forced six steals and nine Covenant turnovers in the opening quarter, closing the period on a 15-3 run highlighted by scores from Boyd, Cleveland, Micha Lovelace, and Falvey to take a 32-13 lead after one.

The Tigers continued to control the game in the second quarter, opening the period with a steal and fast-break layup from Everett. Sewanee shot 69.2 percent from the field in the quarter and knocked down three three-pointers from Grace Gavin and Brianna Keating-Rendon. Covenant found some success in the paint late, but Sewanee answered with a 10-3 run over the final three minutes to carry a 55-29 advantage into halftime.

Sewanee maintained momentum in the third quarter, opening the half with five unanswered points to extend the lead to 31. Boyd and Falvey continued to pace the offense as the Tigers capitalized on Covenant turnovers. Despite an 11-3 run by the Scots late in the quarter, Sewanee held a 30-point lead heading into the final period.

The Tigers maintained control in the fourth quarter, scoring eight points while limiting Covenant to 13, to close out the 90-65 victory.

Sewanee will host the Sewanee Classic on Dec. 29-30, opening the tournament against Covenant before facing Berea on Dec. 30 at 2 p.m.

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NATURENOTES

by Yolande Gottfried

Hawks (and a Kestrel)

Now that the trees are bare, it seems that we notice more frequently the hawks hunting from their branches or other perches. The most common one in the Sewanee area seems to be the Red-shouldered Hawk. It is a resident of deciduous woods, especially around water. One hangs around our pond, keeping the frog population, especially the bullfrogs, under control. An adult in flight has a narrowly banded tail in black and white. Its call, a repeated “kee-yur,” is imitated by Blue Jays. In general, the most common roadside hawk is the Red-tailed Hawk, which indeed has a red tail. It is stockier than the Red-Shouldered and hunts in more open areas, feeding mainly on small rodents. These two hawks are in the group called *buteos*, hawks with broad wings and wide, rounded tails. A third hawk in this group, the Broad-winged Hawk, is seen less often in our area but can sometimes be spotted by its distinctive high-pitched whistle while soaring. Otherwise it lives mainly in the tree canopy. Its banded tail has only two or three white bands as compared with the more narrowly banded tail of the Red-shouldered Hawk. It is also smaller. This is the hawk that has been observed migrating in great numbers at Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania in the fall heading to tropical South America. The other two mentioned here are year-round in our area. Another group of hawks, the *accipiters*, are smaller, with short, rounded wings and long, barred tails. In our area one may see the Sharp-shinned Hawk or the larger Cooper’s Hawk. They feed on small birds, so they may show up at your feeder. They mostly do not soar, as the *buteos* do. Finally, the American Kestrel, or “Sparrow Hawk,” should be mentioned, as one may see it hunting from power lines in the valley. It is not a hawk but a falcon, about the size of a large jay, with rufous coloring. It hunts by hovering and dropping on its prey. It is year-round in our area.

State Park Offerings

To confirm that these events will occur as listed and to register, go to Fiery Gizzard State Park <<https://tnstateparks.com/parks/events/fiery-gizzard>>, (931) 924-2980; Head of the Crow State Park <<https://tnstateparks.com/parks/head-of-the-crow>>, (615) 762-5917; Savage Gulf State Park <<https://tnstateparks.com/parks/events/savage-gulf>>, 931-692-3887. All times are central.

**Winter Solstice Hike — Fiery Gizzard State Park, Sunday, Dec. 21, 1–3:30 p.m. Donations accepted. Register for event.** Meet at 498 Foster Falls Rd., Sequatchie. Join Ranger Bovee for a special Winter Solstice hike through one of Fiery Gizzard State Park’s most dramatic landscapes. As the longest night of the year approaches, we’ll take advantage of the daylight to see how the changing season shapes the plateau’s forests, cliffs, and waterfalls. This guided hike will follow the Climbers Loop to the base of Foster Falls, traveling through rocky terrain, past impressive rock faces, and up along the gorge rim before reaching the peaceful overlook at Esther Falls then returning to Foster Falls trailhead. What to expect: Distance: 2-2.5 miles (moderate to strenuous); Terrain: Rocky, uneven footing with steep sections; cold weather. Bring sturdy hiking shoes, water, warm layers, a headlamp or flashlight (we should be out before sunset but just in case), and curiosity. If trails are unsafe due to winter conditions or heavy rain, the hike may be canceled. Registrants will be notified by email the evening before.

**Hike and Coffee with Ranger — Fiery Gizzard State Park, Sunday, Dec. 28, 9–11:30 a.m. Donations accepted. Register for event.** Meet at 131 Fiery Gizzard Rd., Tracy City. Start your morning in one of Fiery Gizzard State Park’s most scenic areas with our Coffee and Hike with a Ranger program. We’ll meet at the pavilion at the Fiery Gizzard North Trailhead, where participants can enjoy a complimentary cup of coffee or tea while chatting with a ranger and learning about the natural and cultural history of the area. Afterward, we’ll hit the trail on the Grundy Forest Day Loop, a beautiful trail featuring flowing creeks, hemlock groves, rock formations, and rich forest scenery. Along the way, the ranger will share insights about local plants, wildlife, geology, and park history. This program is free, but registration is required and space is limited.

**Winter Tree Identification Hike — Head of the Crow State Park, Tuesday, Dec. 30, 1–3:30 p.m. \$3. Register for event.** Meet at Pack Hollow Trailhead, 2036 Old CCC Rd., Sewanee. Looking to improve your tree identification? Winter is the hardest time of year to ID trees because of the lack of leaves, so it is a great time to challenge yourself. If you can ID trees in the winter, you can ID them year-round. Join Ranger Allen for a 2.9-mile hike around our Sherwood Day Loop, where you will learn how to identify various tree species by their bark, buds, and twigs.

**First Day Hike — Fiery Gizzard State Park, Thursday, Jan. 1, 1:30–2:30 p.m. Donations accepted. Register for event.** Meet at Grundy Forest Pavilion at 131 Fiery Gizzard Rd., Tracy City. Have you ever wondered about The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and their significant contributions to our natural areas? Discover the fascinating story of Company 1475, which once called our very own park home. Examine the impactful work these young men undertook and the historical events that brought them to the South Cumberlands. We will hike on a natural surface for 1.5 miles. Please dress for the weather and wear appropriate attire.

**First Day Hike — Head of the Crow State Park, Thursday, Jan. 1, 3–5 p.m. Donations accepted. Register for event.** Meet at Pack Hollow Trailhead 2036 Old CCC Rd., Sewanee. Looking for a good way to close out New Year’s Day? Join Ranger Allen for a sunset hike around our beautiful Sherwood Day Loop. A moderate hike around Head of the Crow State Park’s 2.9-mile Sherwood Day Loop with a stop to enjoy the sunset from one of the trail’s beautiful overlooks near the end of the hike. Bring appropriate clothing and footwear for winter hiking, water plus any desired snacks.



June



Snuggles

MARC’s Mountain Adoptables: Meet June & Snuggles

June is a vibrant, happy puppy (16 weeks, 18 lbs) who shines with the joy of a summer’s sun! She’s a social butterfly who adores children and chew toys, guaranteeing a life free of boredom. This stunning honey tan pup, possibly a Dutch Shepherd/Plott Hound mix, is eager and ready to learn great manners to become your perfect companion. June is actively seeking her forever family and is ready to start bonding immediately. Ready to welcome your newest best friend?

This handsome, velvety black Domestic Short Hair is Snuggles, and he’s been patiently waiting for a place to call his own. At about one year old and ten pounds, he is a sleek, adult companion ready for a calm home. While his name suggests constant cuddles, Snuggles is an independent spirit who gives affection on his own terms, making those moments extra special! He loves to be in the same room as his people, enjoys gentle exploring, and is a truly devoted companion. Snuggles is ready to enrich the life of the lucky person or family who recognizes the quiet charm of a cat who knows his own mind. Could you be the one to end his long wait?

If you would like to learn more about June and Snuggles, please fill out an Adoption Application found on our MARC website <[www.marc4change.org](http://www.marc4change.org)> and/or contact Sue Scruggs, cell phone (423) 619-3845. All MARC animals ready for adoption are spayed or neutered and up-to-date on their vaccines and preventatives. MARC has a trainer available to work with dog adopters and dog fosters as needed.

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## WEATHER

DAY	DATE	HI	LO	Week's Stats:
Mon	Dec 08	38	24	Avg max temp = 46
Tue	Dec 09	47	35	Avg min temp = 25
Wed	Dec 10	49	26	Avg temp = 36
Thu	Dec 11	41	32	Precipitation = 0.00"
Fri	Dec 12	56	35	
Sat	Dec 13	61	15	
Sun	Dec 14	33	10	

Reported by Sandy Gilliam  
Domain Ranger



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## PUBLIC NOTICE

**NOTICE:** The Sewanee Utility District of Franklin and Marion Counties Board of Commissioners is scheduled to meet at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 20, at the utility office on Sherwood Road. If a customer is unable to attend but wishes to bring a matter to the board, call (931) 598-5611, visit the office, or call a board member. The board members are Johnny Hughes, Chris McBee, Donnie McBee, Charlie Smith, and Clay Yeatman.

## Calendar (continued from page 12)

### Thursday, Jan. 8

- 8 a.m. Monteagle-Sewanee Rotary, program Mike Partin, National Rural Electric Cooperative, St. Mary's Sewanee
- 9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m.
- 9 a.m. Nature Journaling, email <mpriestley0150@gmail.com> for details/meeting location
- 9 a.m. Town of Monteagle special called public hearing on CDBG grant, conference room, City Hall
- 9:30 a.m. Body Recall, Judy, conference room, City Hall

### Friday, Jan. 9 • No Messenger

- 9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m.
- 10 a.m. YouFit, Betsy, Sewanee Community Center, also at noon

### Saturday, Jan. 10

- 9 a.m. American Legion Post 51, Legion Hall
- 10 a.m. Hospitality Shop open, until 2 p.m.

### Sunday, Jan. 11

- 8 a.m. MMUMC monthly food distribution, 322 W. Main St., Monteagle, until 10 a.m.
- 1 p.m. Knitting Circle, Mooney's, until 3 p.m.
- 1:30 p.m. YouFit, Betsy, Community Center
- 4 p.m. Hatha Yoga, Helen, Community Center

### Monday, Jan. 12 • First Day of U of S classes

- 9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m.
- 10:30 a.m. Chair Exercise, Susan, Sewanee Community Center, until 11:30 a.m.
- 6 p.m. Franklin County School Board, 215 S. College St. Winchester

### Tuesday, Jan. 13

- 8 a.m. GC Food Bank, 114 S. Industrial Park Rd., Coalmont, until 10 a.m.
- 9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m.
- 10 a.m. Pilates, beginner, Kim, 293 Ball Park Rd.
- 10:30 a.m. Sewanee LaLeche League, call Pippa at (931) 636-5317 for venue/Zoom option
- 11:30 a.m. Grundy County Rotary, Dutch Maid Bakery, Tracy City
- noon Pilates, intermed, Kim, 293 Ball Park Rd.
- 4 p.m. S. Cumberland Farmers' Market pickup, Community Center, until 6 p.m.

### Wednesday, Jan. 14

- 9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m.
- 10 a.m. Art Wednesday, (free), Artisan Depot, 204 E. Cumberland St., until noon
- 10:30 a.m. Chair Exercise, Susan, Sewanee Community Center, until 11:30 a.m.
- 5:30 p.m. Hatha Yoga, Helen, Community Center

### Thursday, Jan. 15

- 9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m.
- 9 a.m. Nature Journaling, email <mpriestley0150@gmail.com> for details/meeting location
- 9:30 a.m. Body Recall, Judy, conference room, Monteagle City Hall

### Friday, Jan. 16 • Winter Convocation

#### First Messenger of 2026

- 9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m.
- 10:30 a.m. YouFit, Betsy, Community Center; also at noon
- 5:45 p.m. Kundalini Yoga, Nathalia, Sewanee Community Center, until 7 p.m.

*Happy New Year!*

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FROM BARD TO VERSE

by Robin Bates

Christmas

When [the Magi] had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him. (Matthew 2:13)

When it came down from HQ  
The order to shoot the kids  
We were stunned I mean really rocked  
And I remember saying  
Jesus we can't do that and some of us  
Felt like walking out but you don't do that  
In the army you don't quit without a court-martial  
So that was it we had to do it  
And a lot of us did and it got very messy  
And not pretty at all but we had to follow orders  
You got to have discipline or you can't do anything  
Except me I couldn't bring myself to do it  
I couldn't explain it I knew I was disobeying orders  
Maybe it was because I have three kids myself and one  
Of them is under two so when I found these poor people  
Hiding in a barn with a new baby I couldn't do it  
I sure as hell couldn't do it  
I told them to cool it hit the road take off  
For Egypt or somewhere and fast and not go back for anything  
I took off pretty fast myself because the rest of the patrol  
Was coming back and I would have got it for insubordination  
And no questions asked brother I would have had it  
I mean for good  
But I'm not sorry  
I'm not sorry at all  
He was a cute kid  
I hope they made it

--Scott Bates, Witness

Community Calendar

**Friday, Dec. 19 • Last Messenger of 2025**  
**Abbreviated Day, FC, GC Schools**  
**Christmas Vacation, SAS, through Jan. 5**  
9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m.  
10 a.m. YouFit, Betsy, Sewanee Community Center, also at noon  
3 p.m. Meet the Artists Reception, Artist Trading Cards, Artisan Depot, 204 E. Cumberland St., Cowan, until 7 p.m.  
4 p.m. Third Annual Nativity Exhibition, Frame Gallery, 12569 Solace Freeman Hwy. until 6 p.m.

**Saturday, Dec. 20**  
10 a.m. Hospitality Shop open, until 2 p.m. (last day until Jan. 10, 2026)

**Sunday, Dec. 21 • First Day of Winter**  
noon Winter Solstice Market Party & Potluck, Sewanee Community Center, until 3 p.m.  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle, Mooney's, until 3 p.m.  
1:30 p.m. YouFit, Betsy, Community Center  
4 p.m. Hatha Yoga, Helen, Community Center

**Monday, Dec. 22**  
FC, GC, MC Schools Christmas Break, through Jan. 2, 2026  
9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m.  
10:30 a.m. Chair Exercise, Susan, Sewanee Community Center, until 11:30 a.m.

**Tuesday, Dec. 23**  
9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m.  
8 a.m. GC Food Bank, 114 S. Industrial Park Rd., Coalmont, until 10 a.m.  
9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m..  
11:30 a.m. Grundy County Rotary, Dutch Maid Bakery, Tracy City

**Wednesday, Dec. 24 • Christmas Eve**  
9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m.  
10:30 a.m. Chair Exercise, Susan, Sewanee Community Center, until 11:30 a.m.  
5:30 p.m. Hatha Yoga, Helen, Community Center

**Thursday, Dec. 25 • Merry Christmas!**

**Friday, Dec. 26 • No Messenger**  
9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m.

**Saturday, Dec. 27**

**Sunday, Dec. 28**  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle, Mooney's, until 3 p.m.

**Monday, Dec. 29**  
10:30 a.m. Chair Exercise, Susan, Sewanee Community Center, until 11:30 a.m.

**Tuesday, Dec. 30**  
8 a.m. GC Food Bank, 114 S. Industrial Park Rd., Coalmont, until 10 a.m.  
9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m.  
11:30 a.m. Grundy County Rotary, Dutch Maid Bakery, Tracy City

**Wednesday, Dec. 31 • New Year's Eve**  
10:30 a.m. Chair Exercise, Susan, Sewanee Community Center, until 11:30 a.m.

**Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026 • Happy New Year!**

**Friday, Jan. 2 • No Messenger**  
**Voting for SUD commissioner starts**  
5 p.m. Cumberland Community Square Dance, (\$5-\$10), old gym, Littell-Partin Center, 14399 Hwy. 41, Tracy City, until 7 p.m.

**Saturday, Jan. 3**

**Sunday, Jan. 4 • CAC Pantry Sunday**  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle, Mooney's, until 3 p.m.  
4 p.m. Hatha Yoga, Helen, Community Center

**Monday, Jan. 5**  
**FC Schools no classes, Staff Development**  
**GC Schools no classes, In-service**  
10:30 a.m. Chair Exercise, Susan, Sewanee Community Center, until 11:30 a.m.  
6:30 p.m. Kundalini Yoga, Pippa, Sewanee Community Center, until 7:45 p.m.

**Tuesday, Jan. 6**  
8 a.m. GC Food Bank, 114 S. Industrial Park Rd., Coalmont, until 10 a.m.  
9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m.  
10 a.m. Pilates, beginner, Kim, 293 Ball Park Rd.  
11:30 a.m. Grundy County Rotary, Dutch Maid Bakery, Tracy City  
noon Pilates, intermed, Kim, 293 Ball Park Rd.  
4 p.m. Monteagle Planning Commission, conference room, City Hall  
4 p.m. S. Cumberland Farmers' Market pickup, Community Center, until 6 p.m.  
5:30 p.m. Easy Flow Yoga, Pippa, 293 Ball Park Rd.

**Wednesday, Jan. 7**  
9 a.m. CAC office open, until 11 a.m.  
10 a.m. Art Wednesday, (free), Artisan Depot, 204 E. Cumberland St., until noon  
10:30 a.m. Chair Exercise, Susan, Sewanee Community Center, until 11:30 a.m.  
5:30 p.m. Hatha Yoga, Helen, Community Center

(Continued on page 11)

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**Local 12-Step Meetings**  
**Friday**  
7 p.m., AA, open, Christ Church, Tracy City  
**Saturday**  
7 p.m., NA, open, Decherd United Methodist  
**Sunday**  
6:30 p.m., AA, open, the Wesley House, Morton Memorial Uniter Methodist Church  
**Monday**  
5 p.m., 12-Step Women's Study Group. Call (931) 327-5551 for information and for the Zoom link  
7 p.m., AA, open, Christ Church, Tracy City  
**Tuesday**  
11a .m., Grundy Recovery Alliance Community Endeavor Open Narcotics Anonymous Meeting  
7 p.m., AA, open, First Baptist, Altamont  
7 p.m., AA, open, Trinity Episcopal Church, Winchester  
7 p.m., AA, open, the Wesley House, Morton Memorial Uniter Methodist Church  
**Wednesday**  
10 a.m., AA, closed, Clifftops, (931) 924-3493  
7 p.m., NA, Decherd United Methodist  
**Thursday**  
6 p.m., Life's Healing Choice, Grundy County Recovery Alliance, Coalmont  
6 p.m., Celebrate Recovery, City Light Church, Monteagle  
7 p.m., Serenity in Sewanee AA, open, Brooks Hall, Sewanee  
7 p.m., Al-Anon, First UMC, Winchester