



MONTEAGLE SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

• A CHAUTAUQUA EST. 1882 •

PO Box 307
Monteagle, TN
931-924-2286

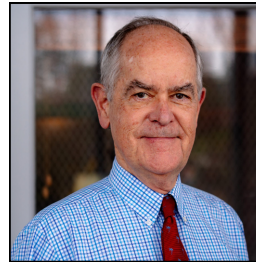
Volume 27 Issue 7.3
July 19, 2026

WEEK 7 PLATFORM PREVIEW

Former Congressman Jim Cooper, who represented middle Tennessee in Congress over a span of 40 years, will speak Tuesday morning on the topic of, “What on Earth is Space Force?” Cooper served in the U.S. House of Representatives until the Nashville congressional district was gerrymandered in such a way to make his reelection nearly impossible. During his tenure in Congress, though, Cooper worked closely with



Representative Mike Rogers to propose the Space Force under the U.S. Department of the Air Force. He views satellites as critical infrastructure for national security and global communications. Cooper now teaches at Vanderbilt University Law School and works with a private equity firm in Nashville. He and his wife, Mary, split their time between Nashville and Shelbyville.



Generative artificial intelligence is making waves in all facets of life, from work to school to home. Mel Oliveros works at Coursemojo, an AI-powered platform used by school districts across Tennessee to improve support for K-12 students. Her Thursday morning lecture, “Beyond the Hype: A Practical Look at AI,” will focus on a practical introduction to what AI is today, how it works in plain terms, and dispelling common myths about it.



Though J.S. Bach’s Six Cello Suites were written 300 years ago, they continue to inspire musicians and listeners alike. Cellist Hamilton Berry brings three of those Suites to a concert Thursday evening at the Stone House at Sunset Rock. Berry is a member of the Grammy-nominated PUBLIQuartet, a Nashville native, and the assistant program director of the Musicambia program at Sing Sing Correctional Facility, where he teaches string students.

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Page 11 has the week’s Platform schedule at-a-glance, with all changes through the print deadline.

HIGHLIGHTS

The History of Home, with
Stephane Sabbe
Wednesday, 10:45 am
Warren Chapel
CHANGE

Usonian Houses: Frank Lloyd Wright’s
Vision of Affordability through
Architectural Design, with Jeff Ford
Friday, 10:45 am
Warren Chapel

Annual Meeting of MSSA
Cottage Owners
Saturday, 9:00 am
Auditorium

PROGRAM CHANGES TO NOTE

Here's a reminder that Stephanie Sabbe's lecture on "The History of Home" lecture will be replacing Eric Ross, who lectured earlier this season. Stephanie and Eric switched programs due to a family emergency in Week 1.



PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT WEEK UPDATES

The Pickleball Tournament Kick-off Party has been rescheduled to Tuesday evening, July 21st, 6:00 pm at Shirley and Jimmy Stansell's home, Providence Cottage (#165)! Please join us Tuesday evening as we gather to celebrate our pickleball family. All are invited, whether you are playing or not!

Please bring an appetizer and a beverage!

It's pickleball tournament week so join us at the courts for our Women's "B" tournament all day Monday, Women's "A" beginning Tuesday, Men's and Mixed beginning Wednesday.

It's going to be a great week and there will always be a crowd at the courts. Finals are scheduled for Saturday, July 25th! See you there!!!

At right: Debra Reed sent this photo from the delicious shrimp boil at Harton Hall. Pictured are Susan, Debra, and Jack.



BE AWARE OF THE WILDLIFE

Be aware of the wildlife living with us on the Assembly grounds. Black bears have recently been spotted in Monteaule.

Skunks normally do not spray unless threatened. If you see one, slowly back away. Snakes are found around the creek and in rocky areas. Do not antagonize them. Coyotes have been spotted in the Assembly previously; increased activity may cause them to leave the campus, but we must all be mindful of letting small pets roam at night.



Please secure your garbage cans!

FOOD DELIVERIES STOP AT THE GATE

We're grateful to live in a time when having groceries delivered is an option! To help keep our Assembly safe during the summer season, we ask that all Walmart (and other grocery) deliveries be picked up at the front gate.



If you are placing a delivery order, please include delivery instructions asking the driver to meet you at the gate, and plan to be there to receive your groceries. For the safety of our community, delivery drivers are not permitted to enter the Assembly grounds or deliver directly to cottages.

Thank you for helping us keep our community safe while enjoying the convenience of grocery delivery!

QUICK BITES

Pressure washing is not permitted during the season.

Save time at the gate and pre-order your tickets using the MSSA 2026 Ticket Order Blank. You may also call the office (931) 924-2286.

Shop local at the Thursday Morning Mountain Market, 7-10:00 am, in front of Harton Hall.

Call Steve First! Home repairs/upgrades are generally not permitted during the season. Contact the Executive Director before calling a contractor.

Auto permits must be displayed at all times, else a ticket may be issued.

Gate tickets (or wristbands) should be on your person at all times.

Harton Hall accepts cash, check (with legible phone number), Venmo, PayPal, or payment via house account.

ALL golf carts, including rental carts, must be registered (or re-registered) to receive the 2026 decal. Only licensed drivers are legally allowed to drive carts.

Dogs must be registered at the office, including proof of rabies vaccination. Pick up after your pets.

Intergenerational bells play at 9:30 am Tuesday & Wednesday in Warren Chapel. All are welcome.

Lawn trimmings are collected on Wednesdays.

Quiet Hour is daily from 1:00-2:30 pm. Children should be indoors at their cottages. Tennis is only permitted on the East Gate courts. No deliveries during this time.

SEASON OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday: 8:00-4:00
Saturday: 8:00-12:00

(931) 924-2286

QUICK BITES

Trash pickup begins at 5:00 am on Monday & Thursday. Secure garbage can lids to avoid critters from getting into them. Garbage crews can only collect bagged trash located inside garbage cans.

Golf cart parking at Warren Chapel is for the benefit of those who need mobility assistance. Please do not move carts during services and programs.

The possession or use of alcohol or controlled substances on public grounds, in public places, or at public functions on the Assembly grounds is prohibited and subjects the offender to disciplinary action by the Board of Trustees.

Safety first! Call (931) 607-8615 when the main office is closed for any security questions or concerns.

PICKLEBALL HOURS

Monday-Thursday: 10:00 am-1:00 pm & 2:30-5:30 pm
Friday: 10:00 am-1:00 pm & 2:30-7:30 pm
Saturday: 10:00 am-Noon & 2:30-5:30 pm
Sunday: 2:30-5:30 pm

FROM THE COURTS

It was an amazing week of tennis, starting with the men's one day blitz tournament! What a great turnout! We had 26 men competing, and **Steve Rixham** and **Matt Montgomery** took home the gold in a very competitive match against Buddy and Ben Weddam. We kicked off the women's and mixed doubles tournaments at a gathering at Margaret and Steve Rixham's cottage. We so appreciate their hospitality!

It was a very busy week of tennis with some incredible matches! Despite the weather, we pulled it off and were able to finish the week with probably the most competitive finals in women's and mixed that I've ever seen on the mountain! **Alice Weston** and **Katherine Arney** won the women's championship, defeating Laurie Peacock and Brooke Reibling, and **Alice and Scott Weston** beat Brooke Reibling and Matt Montgomery in the mixed.

What a week! Thank you to all who came out and supported our players, and a big thank you to all who came out in the rain to enjoy the food truck! I really appreciated that, and they did too! One more shout out to the folks who showed up with blowers and towels to get the court ready for the matches! It takes a village for sure, and I am so thankful for ours!!

Youth Tennis Tournament

Calling all youth tennis players...beginners, intermediate, and advanced! The sign-up sheets will be up at the Mall on Sunday evening. We will also have a Kickoff Pizza party at Summertown Cottage (#68) at 6:00 pm Tuesday, July 21.

— Jane Jackson



Above: When summer rain soaked the courts, volunteers showed up with blowers and towels to get the courts ready for matches! Below: Relaxing after Cardio Tennis. Come join this great class on Thursday mornings at 10:00 am.



Below: Winners of the adult tennis tournament. At left: Alice Weston and Katherine Arney won the women's doubles, defeating Laurie Peacock and Brooke Reibling. Middle: Steve Rixham and Matt Montgomery defeated Buddy and Ben Weddam in the men's doubles. Right: Alice and Scott Weston defeated Brooke Reibling and Matt Montgomery in the mixed doubles.



FROM THE MINISTRY COORDINATOR

Week Seven offers meaningful opportunities for worship, fellowship, service, music, and reflection. We are excited to be joined by the Rev. Nathan Huddleston as our minister of the week.

This Sunday, July 19th, is Outreach Sunday. All proceeds from the offering will benefit the South Cumberland Community Clinic, which provides essential healthcare services to members of the surrounding community. Please give generously in support of this important local ministry.



Monday morning, Peaceful Practice at the Point with Pace Verner is back at 10:45 am. Join us for a quiet and restorative time surrounded by the beauty of the mountain. That evening at 6 p.m. everyone is invited to gather for Dinner on the Grounds. Please bring extra side dishes to share so there will be plenty for all. Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am join us at the Chapel for Ring with Pam Maloof! Join our Minister of the Week and myself for a conversation with the pastors at Winfield Porch on Thursday at 9 a.m. End each day with Twilight Prayers, a peaceful time of prayer, reflection, and gratitude at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel.

We look forward to another full and meaningful week together on the Mountain.

Blessings,
— Mary Balfour Van Zandt, Chapel Committee Chair

DOG DAYS (AND RULES) OF SUMMER

The State of Tennessee and Town of Monteagle have changed laws for pets that affect our beloved Assembly dogs. **Dogs may not roam unaccompanied or at large anymore.** You can walk your dog off-leash under two conditions:

- 1) This can only take place between 5:00 am-9:00 pm. These hours were set by the MSSA Board. Overnight, dogs must be on a leash.
- 2) All dogs must be accompanied (at all times) and kept reasonably under control.

Please pick up after your dogs at all times, just as you would outside the Assembly gates.

Also: Longtime Mountain Voices readers know that if you send platform@mssa1882.org a picture with a pet, it'll probably get printed in a future newsletter.

JOIN US FOR DINNER ON THE CHAPEL GROUNDS

Join us for Dinner on the Chapel Grounds, every Monday at 6:00 pm on the Porch of the Warren Chapel! This week, the entrée will be Deanna's chicken fingers.



All are welcome to attend. Each family should bring a side dish to share! Suggested side dishes include crispy salads, cut vegetables, cheeses, cut fruits, vegetable casseroles, breads, and desserts. Be sure to label your serving dish, but we no longer need your utensils—leave those at home!

Pick up your serving dish/utensil after Twilight Prayers

Entrée, paper products, serving tables, and lemonade /water will be provided by the Chapel Committee. Meet Week 7's pastor, the Rev. Nathan Huddleston. Bring a blanket or chair, as seating is limited.

Dinner on the Chapel Grounds provides an opportunity for Assembly members and guests to gather in the spirit of community—with old friends and newcomers alike—and to sustain ourselves with food and fellowship. It is a welcoming and traditional way to meet the Minister of the Week before joining the Twilight Prayers service.

Questions? Call Virginia Curry (901) 493-3045 or email vacurry1981@gmail.com.

LEASEHOLD AVAILABLE

#23 Edgeworth Inn \$1,923,000

To arrange a tour or for more information, contact Steve Williams, Executive Director, steve.williams@mssa1882.org or (931) 924-2286.



Look how well this dog (and its owner) are following the rules! Are you?



WOMAN'S ASSOCIATION UPDATES

Another successful Cottage Tour and Bazaar was held last Friday, and we are so very grateful for all of our volunteers, vendors and cottage owners who opened their homes to all of our visitors and friends! And this year's Tour and Bazaar was no less than fabulous thanks mostly to the great leadership of Julia Curry and Ginny Gordon! They put together the one million details needed to create such an event in a way that seemed effortless. So many thanks to them, their committee chairman and all of the volunteers. The Volunteer Party was a success and a lot of fun too. Annis Cox headed the Butterfly Boutique and Volunteer Party Auction as well. Volunteer next season, come to the Party and get the chance to bid on some great pieces of art, Assembly memorabilia and furniture. Another great year in the books. Organizations who will receive donations from Tour and Bazaar profits will be announced next week.

This week's activities include Mahjong on the Porch on Monday with lessons for beginners on Tuesday. Adult Card Party and Mahjong are played on Wednesday. Special events this week are Arty Party on Tuesday from 4:00-6:00 pm. This is a time change from the time in the Program! Virginia Curry will be holding a creative workshop that she says will be memorable and fun! Sign up at Winfield, as a limited number of spots are available. Cost is \$40. Bring a snack and a beverage to share. Book Club will be held on Thursday. This week's book discussion will be on Project Hail Mary by Andy Weir. All are welcome to join us in any activity, in the library, or some rest and fellowship on the Porch.

Looking forward to seeing you at Winfield!

— Frannie Smith, WMSSA president

MAH JONGG TOURNAMENT

The annual MJ tournament will be held week 8 at the Winfield House.

All players are welcome! As always, the format will be round robin with no elimination, highest point score wins. Players must be able to play all three days (July 28-30, 2:30-4:00 pm);

if you would like to share a spot with someone, let Regan know and we'll try to work it out to make sure we have all of the seats filled. Let's end the season with a BANG! No fee, but space is limited. To register, contact Regan Greer 615-306-4393.

COTTAGE TOUR THANK YOU!

Thank YOU for making it happen!

This year's Cottage Tour & Bazaar would not have been possible without the incredible dedication, generosity and enthusiasm of our volunteers. I would like to extend a special and heartfelt thank you to the cottage owners, Stephen and Jamie Green, Ruth Patterson and Sallie Stevens, Russell and Brooke Riebeling, Larry and Frannie Smith, and Graham and Susannah Walker,

who graciously opened their homes to our community. The time and effort you put into preparing your homes and your hospitality truly made this a special event.

To all the volunteers who helped with early morning logistics, welcomed our guests, baked scrumptious treats, handed out box lunches, donated unique finds and drove golf carts, thank you! Your willingness to give your time and talents made the day run smoothly from

beginning to end.

The success of the 62nd Cottage Tour & Bazaar will benefit our extended Plateau community. The proceeds will support outreach efforts and provide meaningful assistance to deserving organizations. Together, we are helping make a positive and lasting difference where it is needed most.

Thanks everyone!

— Julia Curry

TIME CHANGE

The Arty Party on Tuesday, July 21st, will take place from 4:00-6:00 pm. This is a change from the program book.



Kee Sloan lectured on faith and imagination July 14th. Photo from Rick Boeth.

BAZAAR THANK YOU!

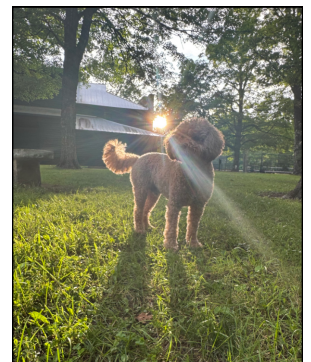
Thanks to:

- ALL who shopped til they dropped,
- our security guys,
- Rick and his crew,
- husband volunteers at the vendor gate,
- our creative vendors, and
- Ellie B, Helen D, and Anne Byrn for 'day of' assistance.

A banner day!

— Ginny Gordon

At right: Leroy Jenkins Blane, a cavapoo member of the Blane household, is depicted at his very finest during the golden hour. Photo from Hayden Blane. Send pet pics to platform@mssa1882.org to see your family friend featured!



YOUTH UPDATES

The youth have been an integral part of the Assembly from its beginning, and many consider Monteagle a place where children can develop both spiritually and physically in a safe environment. Programs for children ages 3-18 are available throughout the summer. Please see the program book, pages 11-16 for guidelines, policies, and rules.

Week 6 is officially over and what a great week it was. Youth and Spirit Week was very much a success with special dress up days for all our youth. A special thank you to the Reverend Keith Gunter for making it such a fun week with youth group every night! This fun week ended with animal show enjoyed by all.

As always, there are a few people I would like to thank that made this week possible. Thank you to Jenny Verner, Jessie Yancy, Anne Byrn Floyd, Katherine Carter, Libby Craig, and Louise Beasley for hosting Buzzards & Falcons and Eagles progressive suppers! Thank you to Jamie Green and Debby Poitevent for being our storytime readers this week! Lastly, thank you to the parents that drove the Eagles on their excursion Wednesday! The youth program would not be possible without our great volunteers!

It's hard to believe that it's already the start of Week 7. Week 7 is Youth Tennis Week and sign-ups are posted on Monday and Tuesday. There are many fun excursions for all age groups coming up so be sure to check the Youth Bulletin Board for more information and updates. This is the last week of caving excursions. The Eaglets will go to Soda Straw Cave on Tuesday and the Eagles will go to Dry Cave on Thursday. The Eagles will also go to Lake Cheston. The Buzzards & Falcons will go to Sycamore Falls and Twin Falls in Rock Island State Park on Tuesday and Thursday, respectively. More information is to follow on the Youth's Remind App and Youth Bulletin Board. Excited for this next week!

"Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified."

-Galations 2:16

— McTyeire Davis, Youth Coordinator/
Christian Coordinator

YOUTH BULLETIN BOARD & PARENTS' MEETING

Reminder: You should always check the youth bulletin board!!!

Please check the bulletin board located by the Auditorium for additions and details about our weekly programs. Also, plan on attending the weekly Parents' Meeting each Tuesday for information about weekly activities. Some excursion times may change, but the most current information will always be at the bulletin board. We will always try to keep true to the program, but sometimes changes need to be made because of weather or logistics that come up after the program was printed.



Above: Scenes from the Talent Show.
Photos from Rick Boeth.

STAY CONNECTED!

To receive notifications on all things youth, please download the Remind app and join our summer group using code @mssa82, or simply text @mssa82 to 81010.



Sunday: My Big Fat Greek Wedding (2002, PG)
Wednesday early-bird: How to Train Your Dragon (2010, PG)
Wednesday: Smart House (1999, G)
Friday: Teen Beach Movie (2013, G)

POOL HOURS

Monday-Friday: 8:00-9:30 am
(adult water exercise only)
Monday-Saturday: 10:00 am-Noon
Daily: 2:30-5:30 pm
Friday only: 5:30-7:30 pm

FROM THE ARCHIVES

In the fall of 2025 Dr. Melody Lehn, a professor at Sewanee, contacted me to discuss a project for her rhetoric class. She asked if the students could have access to the Archives to research women who had lectured at MSSA beginning in 1882 and write essays about what they had discovered. In return, the students scanned the original programs for the Archives! The essays will be printed in Mountain Voices during the summer season. Dr. Lehn will be lecturing again in Week 8. Enjoy!

— Morgan Merrill, Archives Chair

Silena Holman: The Clever Woman Who Captured Monteagle, Tennessee

By Sarah Grace McDowell, Elizabeth Slade, and Ayre West

When Silena M. Holman (1850-1915) died, more than two thousand people crowded in to say goodbye. It was an extraordinary turnout, but in many ways unsurprising: Holman had spent decades traveling across Tennessee, moving through Knoxville, Nashville, and Memphis, captivating audiences with a voice that was both sharp and steady. She was a mother, a temperance worker, a church reformer, and above all, a woman who refused to shrink herself. Every summer, she returned to the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly (MSSA), where her speeches “exceeded all expectations” and helped grow the Tennessee Woman’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) to over four thousand members. Her work left an impact on how Tennesseans perceived women in the church, and it played a significant role in the state’s passage of temperance laws in 1909.

Understanding Silena Holman’s connection to the Assembly helps explain her reach and influence. The MSSA became her annual stage, a place where she could speak about education, morality, scripture, and women’s public roles all at once. While the reasons she chose Monteagle may never be fully known, Holman’s writing and speeches reveal why it suited her: it was one of the few places in Tennessee at the time where women’s intellectual lives were taken seriously enough to give them a platform, however limited by customs of the time. By 1907, Holman had become a fixture at the MSSA. During the WCTU Women’s Congress Week that year, she delivered the presidential address. The structure of the Assembly’s daily schedule says a great deal about the era’s expectations for women. Mornings began with “opening exercises and mothers’ hour,” and on other days, a designated “child’s hour.” Even in a place devoted to education, women’s public roles were carefully tethered to their domestic ones. Holman spoke within that tension, never once denying the importance of motherhood but also refusing to let it define the limits of her voice. This is why Holman is often remembered as a “New Woman,” part of the broader late nineteenth-century movement in which women began challenging social constraints placed on their appearance, their education, and their public influence. Critics insisted these women were abandoning their God-given duties. Holman proved otherwise. With eight children at home, she still found time to

write, organize, and lead a statewide movement. Rather than seeing motherhood and activism as competing identities, she blended them at and beyond the Assembly.

While raising children ranging in age from seven to twenty-three, Holman ran for president of the Tennessee WCTU and won. Under her leadership, the organization reached its most influential moment and eventually helped secure statewide prohibition in 1909. Her work in the WCTU also gave her a platform to challenge assumptions about women in the church. She approached scripture with the same confidence she brought to politics. In letters to David Lipscomb, the influential editor of the Gospel Advocate, she pushed back against his insistence that women could not pray or teach in public. She cited alternative translations, biblical scholars, and early Christian practices, especially the Apostle Paul’s guidance that women could pray alongside men. Holman famously wrote, “Christ

and the Christian religion have been a woman’s best friend,” a reminder that she saw faith not as a cage but as an avenue toward empowerment.

Holman’s annual visits to the MSSA helped make these views visible. Before she was elected WCTU president, the Assembly and the WCTU appeared together in newspapers only thirty-four times. During her presidency, that number jumped to 623. Though none of her Assembly speeches survive, newspapers routinely described her crowds there as overflowing. Year after

year, she returned to Monteagle, speaking about temperance, women’s religious authority, and what she called the “new women of Tennessee.”

When Silena Holman died of complications after an appendectomy on September 15, 1915, her family chose to read one of her best-known lines at the funeral: “I want no man to apologise for my work.” It remains one of the clearest windows into her personality, direct, sharp, and unwilling to be minimized. Soon afterward, a portrait of her was hung in the Tennessee State Capitol, where it remains as a reminder of her legacy. Although Holman did not live to see every change she worked toward, she saw enough to know her voice mattered. She teaches us a familiar but necessary lesson: you can raise children, shoulder responsibilities, and still step into public life with conviction. Even when change comes slowly or not at all, your work can still shift the world forward—just as she did at the Assembly each summer.



At right: Bowie and Hayden Blane are seen with their fairy house creation. Photo from Hayden Blane (#42).

MSSA ANNUAL MEETING FOR MEMBERS SATURDAY

The MSSA Annual Meeting is just around the corner! If you are a cottage owner, we urge you to make your plans now to attend the MSSA Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 25th at 9:00 a.m. in the Auditorium. All Assembly fees must be paid in full in order to be eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting.

NOTE: The Annual Meeting is not open to pets. Please remember to leave your dogs at home.

— Lori Davis

A GENTLE REMINDER ABOUT QUIET HOUR (AND A HALF)

Quiet Hour (and a half) is one of our Assembly's longest-standing traditions, dating back to the earliest days of our community. From 1:00-2:30 pm, we ask everyone to help preserve this special time by keeping the grounds quiet and peaceful.

This is an opportunity for families to rest, read, nap, or simply enjoy a slower pace before the afternoon activities begin. Please help us honor this tradition by avoiding playgrounds, group games, golf cart rides, and other activities that create noise during Quiet Hour.

Thank you for helping make this treasured Assembly tradition possible for everyone.



Assembly's Got Talent! Photo from Rick Boeth.

DENOMINATIONAL CAUCUS CHANGES

If you have changed caucuses this year, we will need to update MSSA records before you will be eligible to vote in your new caucus next week. Please email any caucus changes to the Secretary for the 2026 Annual Meeting, Lori Davis, at lorigracedavis@gmail.com by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, July 22nd.

In addition, the Membership Committee has adopted the following new policy which will require a letter of verification from your new church:

“When transferring your denominational caucus membership from the caucus for which you were originally approved to a different caucus, you will need to submit a new church letter verifying membership within the new denomination. Until your caucus transfer has been approved, Assembly members will only be allowed to speak and vote in the denominational caucus originally approved.”

That church verification letter can be emailed to Lori Davis at the above email address as well. Please feel free to contact Lori Davis at (662)415-9449 if you have any questions.

MEET THE GATEKEEPERS!

Our gatekeepers are always the first, smiling face you see when you return to the Mountain. Each week this season we are highlighting our gatekeepers so you can learn more about them and their lives when they're not manning the front gate.

Welcome Tara Curtis! Tara is a returning gatekeeper. She is married to her husband, Kevin, for five years. Tara has four children: Maddie, Mason, Austin, and Tyler. She has two grandbabies and one more on the way. Tara loves spending time with her family, reading, and the beach.



FROM HARTON HALL

Sunday Buffet

- Chicken cacciatore
- Dijon pork loin
- Parmesan orzo
- Local vegetable melange
- Dessert

Sunday buffet is \$25 per person, \$15 for children under 4-11 years, free for those under 3. Doors open at 11:45 am.

FARM-TO-TABLE DINNER JULY 25TH

A French-inspired farm-to-table dinner will be offered Saturday, July 25th at 6:30 pm in Harton Hall. Reserve your spot by calling the MSSA Office. Cost is \$35/person.

Menu:

- Pork Normandy
- Chicken Fricassee
- Gruyere scalloped potatoes
- Haricot verts almondine
- Honey and thyme roasted carrots
- Rustic French bread with whipped herb butter
- Salad of mixed greens with pears and apples, toasted pecans, crumbled blue cheese, and Dijon vinaigrette
- French apple cake

CULINARY GUILD PROGRESSIVE DINNER

Wednesday, July 22nd

5:30 pm: Appetizers at Amen (#132, Frannie & Larry Smith)

6:45 pm: Main course at Sylvan Lodge (#21, Emily Frith and Joel McAlister)

8:00 pm: Desserts at Eagle's Nest (#171, Helen Bird)

We can take a few last-minute reservations. Text Emily Frith at (615) 604-9487 if you want to attend, and you will be assigned to bring an appetizer, side dish, salad, or dessert. Bring your own beverage.

It's not too late to join the Culinary Guild! Dues are \$20. Pay at the MSSA Office.

— Emily Frith

PACKAGES: THE CASE OF THE DISAPPEARING PORCH

When the urge to click “buy now” hits, remember that those packages will arrive at the MSSA Office. So many packages...! To ensure smooth operations (and because we have limited space), please ensure you pick up your packages in a timely fashion. Track those boxes and come by once they've been delivered.



Thanks for helping us maintain a safe and tidy front office!

— Jen Reynolds, Office Manager

At right: Performers from the Sewanee Summer Music Festival shared music in the Auditorium. Photo from Anne Williams.



Below: A scene from Shakespeare on the Mall. Photo from Rick Boeth.



The Monteagle Sunday School Assembly was organized by Charter issued by the State of Tennessee on October 4, 1882 for the purpose of: “... the advancement of science, literary attainment, Sunday School interests, and the promotion of the broadest popular culture in the interest of Christianity without regard to sect or denomination.”

The Mission of the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly is to be a welcoming community of Christian faith where people gather to engage in spiritual growth and renewal, lifelong inquiry and learning, recreational and cultural enrichment, while being good stewards of our natural resources and our Assembly heritage.



WEEK 7 CALENDAR • JULY 19-25, 2026

Guest Minister: Rev. Nathan Huddleston

Sunday, July 19

Sunday School (adults/youth)

10-10:45 am • Various locations; see Mall kiosk

Worship service

11:00 am • Warren Chapel

Movie: My Big Fat Greek Wedding (2002, PG)

7:45 pm • Auditorium

Monday-Thursday

Twilight Prayers

7:00 pm • Warren Chapel

Monday-Friday

Adult Exercise, 8-9:00 am • Gymnasium

- Ageless Strength & Vitality with Brendie (Mon./Wed.)
- YoMassage with Lauren (Tues.)
- Pilates with Kim (Thurs.)
- ExerFIT with Brandy (Fri.) — **please wear sneakers!**

Adult Aqua Exercise, 8:30-9:15 am • Pool

- Aqua Yoga with Liz (Mon.)
- Water Workout with Jimmy (Tues., Thurs., Fri., Sat.)
- Hydro Yoga with Helen (Wed.)

Monday, July 20

Peaceful Practice at the Point, with Pace Verner

10:45-11:45 am • Warren's Point

Dinner on the Chapel Grounds

6:00 pm • Chapel Porch

All-Assembly BINGO!

7:45 pm • Harton Hall

Tuesday, July 21

Lecture: What on Earth is Space Force? with Jim Cooper

10:45 am • Warren Chapel

Family Walk: Bats on the Plateau, with Maggie Whitt

7:30 pm • Meet at North Gate

Wednesday, July 22

Lecture: The History of Home, with Stephanie Sabbe

10:45 am • Warren Chapel **CHANGE**

Make and Take Culinary Event: Emily's Tomato Pie

3:00 pm • Harton Hall

Early Bird Movie: How to Train Your Dragon (2010, PG)

6:00 pm • Auditorium

Movie: Smart House (1999, G)

7:45 pm • Auditorium

Thursday, July 23

Thursday Morning Market

7-10:00 am • Front of Harton Hall

A Conversation with the Pastors, with the Rev. Mary Balfour Van Zandt and the Rev. Nathan Huddleston

9:00-10:00 am • Winfield Porch

Lecture: Beyond the Hype: A Practical Look at AI, with Mel Oliveros

10:45 am • Warren Chapel

Make-and-Take Workshop: Hand-painted wooden village, with Colby Henderson-Black

2:30-4:30 pm • Shady Dell

Performance: Bach at Sunset, with Hamilton Berry (cellist)

7:45 pm • The Stone House

Friday, July 24

Lecture: Usonian Houses: Frank Lloyd Wright's Vision of Affordability through Architectural Design, with Jeff Ford

10:45 am • Warren Chapel

MSSA Denominational Caucuses

2:30 pm:	Consolidated	Warren Chapel
	Episcopal	Auditorium
3:30 pm:	Presbyterian	Warren Chapel
	Methodist	Auditorium

MSSA Board Meeting

4:30 pm • Pulliam Center

Movie: Teen Beach Movie (2013, G)

7:45 pm • Auditorium

Saturday, July 25

Annual Meeting of MSSA Cottage Owners

9:00 am • Auditorium

MSSA Board Meeting

1:00 pm • Pulliam Center

All-Assembly Dinner: Farm to Table

6:30 pm • Harton Hall

SCOTT FITZHUGH MAY, SR.

Scott Fitzhugh May, Sr., a lifelong Memphian, attorney, outdoorsman, conservationist, raconteur, and devoted family man, passed away peacefully on July 7, 2026. His family extends heartfelt gratitude to all who have offered prayers, love, and support during this time.

Scott lived a life shaped by an unwavering love for the people and places he cherished most. His greatest joy was spending time outdoors with his family and friends. He relished entertaining his patient friends and family by telling lively and usually lengthy stories of his past adventures.

Born on January 8, 1943, in Memphis, Tennessee, Scott was the son of Helen Fitzhugh May and Walter Davis May, Jr. He grew up in Memphis, attended Presbyterian Day School, and graduated from Memphis University School. During his youth, he proudly earned the rank of Eagle Scout, an achievement he carried with him for the rest of his life.

Scott attended Auburn University, where he was a member of the Kappa Alpha Order fraternity. After graduating, he continued his education at Vanderbilt University Law School, earning his Doctor of Jurisprudence degree before returning to Memphis to practice law for more than 50 years.

For his entire life, Scott enjoyed spending summers at the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly on the Cumberland Plateau, where he developed passions for hiking, camping, caving, and exploring waterfalls—interests he later shared enthusiastically with his sons and their friends. Known affectionately as “Uncle Scott,” he was always eager to guide young people on adventures, encouraging them to discover the beauty of the natural world. He later sought to encourage youth athletics and played a role in the development of the youth sports complex that later became pickleball courts. In Monteagle his greatest love was the stewardship of the Warren’s Point Overlook and the creation and use of the nature trails which are and will continue to be enjoyed by hikers for years to come.

In his 20s and 30s, Scott became an avid kayaker and whitewater rafter. He also took up scuba diving. His final dive—off the coast of Belize—was completed in his 70s.

Over his life, Scott’s passion for the land grew into a lifelong commitment to conservation. He served on boards including the Friends of South Cumberland State Park and the Tennessee Parks and Greenways Commission, helping to preserve countless acres of at-risk land for future generations.

An accomplished and avid sportsman, Scott spent innumerable hours hunting and fishing across West

Tennessee, North Mississippi, and Eastern Arkansas. He treasured time in the field with his sons and friends, hosting dove hunts at Fox Den and Mound City farms. He relished hunting dove and deer in the fall, ducks in the winter, and turkey in the spring. He was a former member of Hatchie Coon and Duck Lake hunting clubs. He was also enthusiastic about wildlife conservation and supported organizations including Ducks Unlimited, Delta Waterfowl, Wild Turkey Federation, and Trout Unlimited.

Above all, Scott treasured his family and his faith. He was deeply devoted to his three sons, two daughters-in-law, and three granddaughters, each of whom he loved beyond measure. His happiest moments were spent with them—watching them hunt, hike, perform, swim, shoot trap, and play sports. He adored hosting cookouts, sharing stories, and creating memories that will endure for generations. Scott was a faithful member of Second Presbyterian Church since 1986.

Scott will be remembered for his warmth and his desire to be surrounded by others. His was a life well lived, and he leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and adventure that will be cherished by all who knew him.

Scott was preceded in death by his parents, Walter Davis May, Jr. and Helen Fitzhugh May.

He is survived by his former wife, Linda May Magevney (Dick); his sons Scott Fitzhugh May, Jr., Walter Preston May (Eloise), and George Kirby May (Windy); and his beloved granddaughters Brooks, Eloise, and Wesley.

He is also survived by his sister Agnes May Short (Lindsey) along with his nieces Ashley Short Grigsby (Stedman), Shelley Short Matthews (Colin), Sidney Short Fagan (Jason); and Shelly Morse Malone (Patrick) and their children.

He is additionally survived by his devoted companion, Sandra Shinault.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Monteagle Sunday School Assembly’s Nature Trails, Give to MSSA or 1 Assembly Avenue P.O. Box 307, Monteagle, TN 37356. Memorial contributions can also be made to the Memphis University School, Give to MUS or 6191 Park Avenue, Memphis, TN 38119.

A memorial service will be held Friday, July 31 at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary at Second Presbyterian Church (4055 Poplar Ave, Memphis, TN 38111). The family will receive visitors in the Connector to the Sanctuary from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.