



July 2020

# The First Epistle

## Newsletter of First United Methodist Church

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### Update from the Pastors

We are approaching our fourth month of off-site ministry for First Church. During that time, many of our ministries have shifted from in-person to online forms of worship, Sunday school, and small groups. Some of our ministries have been on pause, and we have started some new ministries. And I know we are all looking forward to the time we can safely gather together again.

We have created a task force to make plans for re-opening the church building. As of right now, no date has been set for returning to in-person gatherings. However, we do know that whenever we are ready to return on-site, those gatherings will look different than we are used to. Here is a brief description of what to expect for any in-person gatherings during this time:

- Masks required by all participants
- Seating 6 feet apart between households
- Limited building and restroom access
- Household members seated together for the entire time
- No nursery or children's church
- Music by soloists only with no congregational singing or choir
- No congregational or unison speaking or prayers

In addition, it is recommend that persons over the age of 65, persons who are high-risk or care for high-risk individuals, and children under the age of 2 continue to worship from home.

These changes will not be permanent, but they may last for a while. We plan to continue to offer online worship services and mail printed materials for all who desire them. If you have not already, please complete the Returning to In-Person Worship survey that is available on our website and Facebook page. Your input will help us make the best and safest decisions for our church. As always, we have appreciated your support, encouragement, and prayers during this times, and we know that it will continue as we move forward together.

Blessings, Pastor Jodie and Pastor Gary

Worship online every Sunday (or any day)



[www.1stchurchjc.org](http://www.1stchurchjc.org)



[1stchurchjc](https://www.youtube.com/1stchurchjc)



[facebook.com/1stchurchjc](https://facebook.com/1stchurchjc)

## Camp Is Where the Heart Is



Camp in the Community has put together at-home camp kits for churches to distribute this summer. First Church has already started handing out kits in the parking lot and will make deliveries to

those families that need them. Though we will miss the opportunity to spend time with the kids this summer, there are still ways we can support this ministry. Sunday School classes have already made donations for snacks to be included with the kits. In addition, you could pray for the kids by name using the list below. There is not a specific time when the kids may use the kits, but anytime you want to pray for them will be a good time. We have appreciated your support for Camp in the Community in previous summers, and we hope we can continue to host in-person next year.

### Camp Is Where the Heart Is Roster 2020

Camdyn Basinger	Kyler Keen
Anthony Faw	Nathanael Longmire
Dawson Halsey	Hannah Matthews
Kahron Hayes	Kaitlyn Matthews
Emerie Hoyle	Avery Nelson
Mac Hoyle	Elliot Nelson
Zane Huff	Mallorie Reis
Lily Ihfe	Elijah Reis
Lydia Ihfe	Isaiah Spears
Kaiden Keen	

### Prayer List for July 2020

Anthony Battista	Bill Carter
Billy Walker	Brother's Keeper
Clay Wilkey	Family of Sherry Clift
Family Promise	FUMC Pastors and Staff
Julie Dove Andrews	Karl Kapoor
Samantha Sams	Steve Holmes
Tom Palmer	Teachers, Students, Schools
Wayne Flint	United States
Treatment & vaccine for COVID19	

We extend our sympathy to Gerald & Susan Fields and family in the death of Susan's mother, Betty Dove Squires, on June 25.



## Virtual Annual Conference

The Holston Annual Conference made history on Saturday, June 27, 2020 with its first ever virtual annual conference. The 3-hour webinar conducted by Zoom included a sermon by Bishop Taylor and an address by conference Lay Leader, Del Holley. Both shared about the need to continue working for justice for all people. Most of the usual business of the Annual Conference was streamlined into brief reports and attendees were directed to the Book of Reports. The full recording of the Virtual Annual Conference, along with the Memorial Service, can be found at [www.holston.org](http://www.holston.org).



## Family Promise Support

First Church has long been a host site and supporter of Family Promise. During the pandemic, Family Promise has continued its work of helping families stay together and find sustainable independence. Since so many church buildings have been closed, Family Promise has placed families in local hotels. It costs over \$400 per week per family for Family Promise to place families in hotels. In addition, there is the cost of food and other necessities for the families. Family Promise usually relies on churches to provide lodging and meals, so these additional expenses have been challenging to the program. You can give to the ministry of Family Promise through First UMC by giving a designated gift online at [www.1stchurchjc.org](http://www.1stchurchjc.org), mailing a check to First UMC designated to Family Promise in the note, or giving directly to Family Promise of Greater Johnson City on their website [www.familypromisejc.com](http://www.familypromisejc.com).