



# The First Epistle

Newsletter of First United Methodist Church Oct. 2021

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## Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor Appreciation Month and First Church would like to thank our Pastors for all they have done and do for our church. We welcomed Jodie and Gary, and their children Lydia and Lily, into our church family in July of 2019.

During the unexpected challenges of the pandemic, our pastors worked hard to keep our church family connected and to continue the ministries of the church.

We would like to thank them for their service and the ways they have adapted their ministry during the last two years. We look forward to continuing our ministry together in the future.

We would like for you to take the opportunity this month to thank Jodie and Gary for their leadership in our church.



## Neighborhood Center Renovations

The Holston Conference Congregational Development Grant was awarded to First Church for upgrading and continuing renovations for the Neighborhood Center. There are new light fixtures in place and air conditioning and painting is planned for the inside and outside of the building, along with bathroom improvements. Additionally, the outside of the structure had some areas that needed to be replaced. These changes will make this building available for new and existing ministries of our church.

## Prayer List

Susie Barker	Mary Lewis
Bill Carter	David McElveen
Catherine Cartus	Betty McGaha
Scott Combs	Barbara McQuain & family
John Cradic	John Melendez & family
Vernon Crawford	Ashley Moya & family
Ernie & Jo Cross	Tom Palmer
Lindsay Daniel	JoAnne Paty
Kristen Daniels	Bob & Athena Peebles
Fran Dennison	Conley Poole
Carrie Denny	Cathie Rosecrance
Vivian Eckerson	Judy Rust
Jim Furches	Mary Shomaker
Alex Garrison	Nancy Stevenson
Ben Gouge	Summer Strasser
Betty Gouge	Phil Torbett
Juanita Gray	Doris Welch
Nannie Green	Family Promise
Mendy Hall	Brother's Keeper
Tom Holmes	Haven of Mercy
Traci Honeycutt	Kairos Ministry
Scott Huff	Afghanistan
Deb King	Haiti
Linda Kostreva	Hurricane victims & workers
James Lessly	Healthcare workers
Roy & Sharon Lessly	

*If you would like to add or remove prayer concerns from this list, please contact Pastor Jodie at [jodie.ihfe@1stchurchjc.org](mailto:jodie.ihfe@1stchurchjc.org)*



The Carpenter's Crew is off and running! We are scheduling weekends throughout the fall to do small home repair projects and yard work for members of our community who need physical and financial assistance. Our Team Leader Grady DeWitt has already begun working. In September he grabbed his chainsaw to help with a tree that fell on someone's house. This month we will have more opportunities to get involved. We will do yard work on the morning of October 23 and have more dates soon. If you want to help, you can email the Carpenter's Crew ([cc@1stchurchjc.org](mailto:cc@1stchurchjc.org)) or call/text Grady DeWitt at 910-585-3719. If you or someone you know is in need of this kind of assistance please contact us at [cc@1stchurchjc.org](mailto:cc@1stchurchjc.org) or reach out to Rev. Gary Ihfe ([gary.ihfe@1stchurchjc.org](mailto:gary.ihfe@1stchurchjc.org)). If the cost of labor and supplies means something around your house is not safe, we want to help. To begin with, our projects will include carpentry, painting, and yard work.

## Clare's Closet Update

Donations are welcome for Clare's Closet. If you have any slightly worn coats, other including you would donate, the box is in the new or used winter hoodies, or outerwear gloves that like to collection Connector. We appreciate your support for this ministry!



The Outreach Committee of FUMC is collecting UMCOR Hygiene Kits and Cleaning Kits to be given to victims of natural disasters. The Three Rivers District is being asked to complete 200 cleaning buckets, 200 hygiene kits, & give \$100 per church. Please leave all donations in the print room by **October 24**.

### Hygiene Kit

#### Materials:

- **1 hand towel**, 15x25 inches to 17x27 inches. Kitchen, cleaning, & microfiber towels NOT acceptable
- **1 washcloth**
- **1 toothbrush**, adult size only. Do NOT remove from original packaging
- **6 adhesive bandages**, 3/4 inch-1 inch size
- **1 bath-size soap**, 3 oz. and larger sizes only. No Ivory or Jergens soap due to moisture content. Do NOT remove from original packaging
- **1 comb**, sturdy and longer than 6 inches
- **1 metal nail file or nail clippers**. No emery boards please
- **1 plastic bag**: 1 gallon sealable bag only
- **\$1 to purchase toothpaste**. UMCOR is now purchasing toothpaste in bulk to be added to the kits before shipping to ensure that the product does not expire before they are sent.

#### Assembly Directions:

Set the \$1 aside. Lay out the hand towel. Lay the washcloth flat in the center of the towel. Place all remaining items on top of the washcloth. Fold over the sides of the towel to cover all of the items. Fold over one end of the towel so that it covers all of the items. Grasp the bundle of items tightly and roll over the remainder of the hand towel tightly. Place the tightly rolled bundle in the plastic bag. Remove as much air as possible and seal the bag.

#### Important:

- All items must be new
- Do not wash any of the items
- Please remove all packaging, unless otherwise specified above
- Please only include the requested items, NOTHING MORE
- UMCOR requires that all patriotic symbols be removed from the kit contents

### Cleaning Kit

#### Materials:

- **One 5-gallon bucket with lid** (14.35" h x 12.19" w x 12.19" d). No screw lids. May be used, but must be clean
- **One 32-64 oz. bottle liquid laundry detergent**
- **One 16-40 oz. bottle liquid concentrate household cleaner**. No spray cleaners
- **One 16-34 oz. bottle liquid dish soap**
- **One 4-8 oz. pump spray air freshener**
- **One 6-14 oz. pump spray insect repellent** (or pack of 10-20 wipes) Bottles must have protective covers
- **One scrub brush**, with or without handle
- **18 reusable cleaning wipes**— no terrycloth, microfiber, or paper towels. Remove from packaging
- **5 scouring pads**— no stainless steel or pads with soap in them. Remove from packaging
- **36-50 clothespins**
- **One 50-100 foot clothesline** (cotton or plastic)
- **24 roll of heavy-duty trash bags (33-45 gallon sizes)**, remove from packaging
- **Five N95 particulate respirator dust masks** (1-3 mm thickness), no surgical masks
- **2 pairs kitchen gloves** Remove from packaging
- **One pair work gloves**, cotton with leather palm or all leather

#### Assembly Directions:

- Place all liquid items on the bottom of the bucket
- Place remaining items in the bucket, fitting them around and between the liquid items
- Scouring pads and trash bags may be separated in order to fit all items in
- Clothespins may also be placed in a small resealable bag
- Secure the lid on the filled bucket



## YOUTH NEWS

- The Senior High is taking a fall retreat November 5-7 at Carowinds Camp Wilderness in North Carolina. This will be a great time for the youth to enjoy some fellowship time together!
- Family Skate Night is October 7 from 6-8 at the skating rink
- Senior High is going to Beware of the Bear Corn Maze at Doe River Gorge on October 13

## Upcoming Events

- The River Craft & Goodies Fair– Saturday, October 16 from 10:00-2:00 in the pavilion behind The River at First Presbyterian Church. For more information, contact The River at 423-926-8111 or theriverministryforwomen@yahoo.com
- Charge Conference Meeting– Sunday, October 24 at 3:00 online. Link for meeting will be available on our church website and Facebook page
- Trunk or Treat– Wednesday, October 27. Sign up on Sunday mornings to provide a trunk. Candy donations also needed

## WHAT SHALL I BRING?

JUSTICE

LOVE

DEVOTION

A THREE-WEEK SERMON SERIES AT FIRST CHURCH  
BASED ON MICAH 6:8  
OCTOBER 17, 24, AND 31

## New Sermon Series

Join us in October in person or online as we explore the familiar words of God spoken through the prophet Micah: **“do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.”** Each week will be an opportunity to expand our faith and grown in justice, love, and devotion as we respond to the question, “What shall I bring?”



*Wednesday Nights with the Youth packing flood buckets and enjoying dinner in the pavilion*

