

From the Treasurer:

As you plan your year-end giving, please note the following deadlines for contributions to be recorded as 2016 gifts. Keep in mind that December 31 falls on a Saturday and January 1 on a Sunday.

-Checks must be received in the church office or postmarked no later than **December 31**. Gifts received in the January 1 offering will be recorded in 2017 regardless of the date on the check.

-Gifts made through the church's online payment service or through your bank's online bill pay service must have payment dates no later than **December 31**.

Please contact Rhonda Simmons, Treasurer, if you have questions.

Use this QR Code to access online giving.



Year-to-Date Operating Funds as of 11/30/16

Revenues	469,134
Operating Expenses	490,790
Surplus/(Deficit)	(21,656)

Church staff:

- Rev. Jane Taylor, Pastor
jane.taylor@1stchurchjc.org
(423)929-3137
- Billy Walker, Dir. Of Worship & Music
billy.walker@1stchurchjc.org
(423)361-9255
- Kathie Battista, ELC Director
elc1986@1stchurchjc.org
(423)943-1015
- Steve Reis, Dir. Outreach/Discipleship
steve.reis@1stchurchjc.org
(614)208-3454
- Kati Uelhof, Dir. of Children's Ministries
kati.uelhof@1stchurchjc.org
(423)557-6844
- Susan Davidson, Dir. Jr. hi youth
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(423)943-4781
- Drew & Sharon Cradic, Sr. hi volunteers
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(423)676-5510 (D)(423)676-5511(S)
- Susan Dove Fields, Organist
 Rhonda Simmons, Treasurer
treasurer@1stChurchJC.org
- Jennifer Boarman, Bulletin Coordinator
jennifer.boarman@1stchurchjc.org
(423)943-8388
- David Gbaa, Custodian
 Joshua Gbaa, Custodian
 Finley Cook, Wednesday Night Chef
finleyac@gmail.com
 Christi Henn, Nursery
 Website: *www.1stchurchjc.org*
 Phone: (423) 928-9222

**WEEKLY CALENDAR
 DECEMBER 18-24 2016**

- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18**
 9:15 Sunday School
 9:45 coffee & fellowship—welcome center on gym balcony
 10:30 Worship Service
 3:00 Church-wide Christmas caroling
 4:30 youth activity
 5:30 snack supper
 6:15 The Branch
- MONDAY, DECEMBER 19**
 7:00 Women's Bible Study
 7:00 Boy Scouts
- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20**
 5:30 staff meeting
- WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21**
 7:30 Chancel Choir
- THURSDAY, DECEMBER 22**
 6:00 Girl Scout Troop #978
 7:00 Connections Pillar meeting—conference room
 7:00 East TN Intl. Folk Dancers—gym
- SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24**
 11:00 Celebration at Skate Inn for children and youth
 4:30 Family-friendly/Informal Christmas Eve Service
 6:30 Traditional Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEERS for TODAY:

- USHERS:** David Denny, Ernie Walker, Ken Talley, Dale Schmitt
GREETERS: Ken & Linda Talley, Kent & Midge Merrill, Bob Peebles, Karen & Dale Schmitt
PRAYER: Ben Peoples **CROSSBEARER:** Molly Huff
ACOLYTE: Claudia Davidson **BEADLE:** Jalen Pack
AUDIOVISUAL: John Cradic



First United Methodist Church

900 Spring Street Johnson City, TN 37604

Worship Guide & Church Life Information Bulletin

Welcome to 1st Church! We are glad you are here!

Please sign the red registration pad at one end of each pew.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

December 18, 2016

Fourth Sunday of Advent

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

PRELUDE "Variations on 'Sleepers, Wake!'" arr. Robert Lau

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

INVOCATION

***HYMN OF PRAISE** "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" No. 195

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Lord, we confess that we are rushing headlong into Christmas.

People: We have cluttered our lives with schedules so busy we barely have time to breathe.

Leader: We have planned, prepared, cooked, cleaned, partied, and in the process, wound up scattered and exhausted.

People: We confess that we have been so caught up in our own plans that we have spent little time pondering the profound meaning of this Christmas season.

Leader: In this place and on this day, You have called us together to hear Your words of encouragement and to remind us that You are with us.

People: Open our hearts to Your presence. Help us to reach out to one another in joy and peace. Remind us again that You hold each and every one of us gently and lovingly in Your constant care. Forgive us, we pray. Make us truly ready to receive Your love and the gift of the Christ Child.

(a time for personal confession)

Leader: In Christ, the light of God's love shines into the darkness of our lives.
Rejoice! You are loved by God, now and forever.

People: Let us give thanks that Jesus, Emmanuel, loves us, forgives us, and is with us. Glory to God in the highest! AMEN

MORNING PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

***HYMN OF REFLECTION** "Love Has Come" Supplement No. 3059

OFFERTORY "Emmanuel" Setting by Joel Raney

***DOXOLOGY** No. 94

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Matthew 1:18-25

ANTHEM "A Prayer for Advent"

Veni, veni, Emmanuel, Come Lord Jesus, come.

Deliver us from doubt and fear; grant us joy and peace.

Restore our hope, redeem our hearts, let our sorrows cease.

Let all our bitterness and hate surrender to Your loving way.

Veni, veni, come, Emmanuel.

Veni, veni, Emmanuel, Come Lord Jesus, come.

Our longing hearts are waiting Lord, waiting in the night.

Let all the clouds of sin and shame give way to truth and light.

Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease, fill all the world with joy and peace.

O Veni, veni, come, Emmanuel.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.

Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

SERMON Mary and Joseph: In the Beginning Rev. Jane Taylor

***HYMN** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" No. 211
verses 1, 6, and 7

***BENEDICTION AND CHORAL RESPONSE**

*Rejoice! Rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee O Israel.*

GO IN PEACE, GREET ONE ANOTHER IN THE NAME OF CHRIST, AND TAKE THE LOVE OF CHRIST WITH YOU THIS WEEK TO SHARE WITH ALL YOU MEET.

We will have two worship services on Christmas Eve— an informal, family-friendly service at 4:30 and a traditional candlelight service at 6:30. Communion will be served at both services.

On Christmas Day, we will have one combined service at 10:30 (no Sunday School or evening activities.) We hope you will be able to join us!

—Church-wide Christmas caroling is today. Meet at church at 3:00.

—FUMC is co-sponsoring a Birthday Celebration for Jesus at the Skate Inn for all children and youth on Christmas Eve from 11:00-1:00, with a brunch at 11:30. We would love for all children and youth to join us!

—Thanks to the United Methodist Women for their generous donation of 150 jars of peanut butter to the food pantry. This item is always needed in the pantry and our neighborhood friends will really appreciate it!

—There is a new Young Adult group forming at First Church. For more information or to get involved, please contact Barbara LeClair, Katie Keinath, or Steve Reis.

—Wednesday night dinner and programming will resume January 11.

—Our prayer list will start over with the new year. Please submit any prayer requests via the tear-off portion of the bulletin or by calling/emailing the church office.

December 18, 2016 Prayer Requests

Publish in bulletin? Y ___ N ___

Requested by _____

Prayer list:

Margaret Mohap	April Hamilton
The Arnold family	Cash Hicks
Eric Perkins	Helen Holyfield
Lanita Salem	Ralph & Joan Garland
Betty & Aldon Speer	Nancy Jewell
Mary McClellan	Calvin Garland
Kristy Hodge Pratt	Bobbie Wells
Grier Washam	Sharyn Lessly
Carolyn Adsit Haywood & family	Megan Smith & family
Kristy Foster	Catherine Cartus
Jean Thayer	Kyle Cook-McCrary
Barbara Marrs	Kerry Loche
Clay&BonnieMarrs	Layla & Teddy
Elizabeth Bailey	Irene Brown & Rene & Joshua
Brian Milby	Bernice Stephens
Kim Slade	Trygve Thayer
Aubrey Pack	Jo Ann Rorrer
anonymous	Jessica Higginbotham

Please remember to turn in your 2017 pledge cards as we are planning for the coming year.

