

**Friendly reminder:** if you are not able to gain access to the church via the connector door fingerprint scanner, you can use the key pad at each scanner to page someone in the church. Press 1 for the church office between 9 and noon; at other times or if no one answers, press 2 for an ELC staff person. If you need your finger scanned, or if your fingerprint is not working consistently, contact Kathie Battista (ELC director). Thanks. It's for safety. And please do not prop doors open or leave them unlocked.

Use this QR Code to access **online giving**.




**Year-to-Date Operating Funds as of 11/30/17**

Revenues	457,941
Operating Expenses	506,079
Surplus/(Deficit)	(48,138)

**Church staff:**  
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 Christi Henn, Nursery  
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**WEEKLY CALENDAR**  
**DEC. 31, 2017-JAN. 6, 2018**  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31**  
 9:15 Sunday School  
 10:30 Worship Service  
 4:30 Children & Youth Activities  
 5:30 Children & Youth Snack Supper  
 6:15 The Branch  
**MONDAY, JANUARY 1**  
 2:00 East TN Intl. Folk Dancers– gym  
 7:00 Boy Scouts  
**TUESDAY, JANUARY 2**  
 4:30 Staff Meeting  
 6:00 Trustees Mtg.– Conference Room  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3**  
 7:30 Chancel Choir  
**THURSDAY, JANUARY 4**  
 10:00 Circle of Faith– Conf. Room  
 6:00 Girl Scout Troop #978  
 6:30 Finance Committee–Conf. Room  
 7:00 East TN Intl. Folk Dancers– gym  
**FRIDAY, JANUARY 5**  
 6:30 Circle of Friends

**SUNDAY MORNING VOLUNTEERS for TODAY:**  
**USHERS:** Judy Cook, Janet Mentgen, Donna Robbins, Pam Heaton, Ann Mohap  
**GREETERS:** Ken & Linda Talley, Kent & Midge Merrill, Bob Peebles, Karen & Dale Schmitt  
**PRAYER:** Mike Eddy **CROSSBEARER:** Abraunya Roe  
**ACOLYTE:** Abrugayle Roe **BEADLE:** Ellie Nelson  
**AUDIOVISUAL:** Karl Kapoor



**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 31, 2017**  
**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING**  
**PRELUDE** "Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine" Arr. Lani Smith  
**CALL TO WORSHIP**  
 Leader: Christmas Day came and is now fading from our memory,  
**People: but the baby born to be our Savior lives on.**  
 Leader: The gifts we gave and received are all opened and put away,  
**People: but our God, who came to love us, keeps on giving.**  
 Leader: The world's observance is over,  
**People: but we, the church, still celebrate.**  
 Leader: If we listen, we can still hear the angels' song.  
**People: We hear, we remember, and we lift our voices with theirs in singing praise to the newborn King.**  
**INVOCATION**  
**\*HYMN OF PRAISE** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" No. 224  
**\*PSALTER READING AND CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** Psalm 148  
*Please sing when invited:* Let all things their Creator bless:  
 Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
**NEW TESTAMENT READING** Galatians 4:4-7  
**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**  
**\*HYMN OF REFLECTION** "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen" Supplement No. 3052  
 Verses 1, 2, 3, & 5

**OFFERTORY** "Now is Born the Divine Christ Child" Arr. Fred Bock

**DOXOLOGY** No. 94

**GOSPEL READING** Luke 2:22-40

**ANTHEM** "Celtic Christmas Lullaby"

*In a lowly stable in Bethlehem, under starlight glowing above,  
A gift was given, a Child was born, and heaven spilled over with love.  
From a quiet hillside near Bethlehem came shepherds seeking the Child;  
And they fell to their knees as they worshipped Him, Mary's baby so tender and mild.  
And the manger cradled a holy sight, and the stars began to sing  
As the angels danced in the morning light, all the bells of heaven did ring!  
And the rocks and the rivers and mountains rejoiced, and the whole wide world did sing,  
"Emmanuel, Emmanuel. Welcome the newborn King."  
And as Mary whispered a lullaby, heaven's angels sang of His birth  
Of joy to the world, of love's pure light, and the promise of peace on earth.*

**SERMON** "Renewing the Covenant" Mr. Steve Reis

**COVENANT PRAYER**

Leader: O Righteous God, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, see us as we fall down before You.

**People: Forgive my unfaithfulness in not having done Your will, for You have promised mercy to me if I turn to You with my whole heart.**

Leader: God requires that you put away all your idols.

**People: From the bottom of my heart I renounce them all, covenanting with You that I will not willingly let sin into my life. Against Your will, I have turned my love to the world. In Your power, lead me away from temptation and into Your grace.**

Leader: Through Christ, God has offered to be Your God again, if you would let Him.

**People: Before heaven and earth, I acknowledge You as my Lord and God. I take You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for my portion. I give up myself to serve You in holiness and righteousness all the days of my life.**

Leader: God has given the Lord Jesus Christ as the only way and means of coming to God.

**People: I accept Christ as the way, the truth, and the life, and join myself in covenant with Him. I come to You, Lord Jesus, as an unworthy servant. You are the Lord, my righteousness. I renounce my own wisdom and take You for my only guide. I renounce my own will and take Your will as my law.**

Leader: Christ has told you that you must suffer with Him.

**People: I covenant with You, O Christ, to take my lot as it may fall. Through Your grace I promise that neither life nor death shall part me from You.**

Leader: God has given holy laws as the rule of your life.

**People: All Your laws are holy, just, and good. I take them as the rule for my words, thoughts, and actions. I promise that I will strive to order my whole life according to Your direction to love You with my whole heart, soul, strength, and mind, and to love my neighbor as myself.**

Leader: The Almighty God searches and knows your heart.

**People: O God, I make this covenant with You today without deception or reservation. If any falsehood is in it, guide me and help me make it right. Glory be to You, God the Father, whom from this day forward I will know as my God and Father. Glory be to You, God the Son, who have loved me and washed me of my sins with Your own blood. Glory be to You, God the Holy Spirit, who by Your power have turned my heart from sin to God. Almighty God, Father, Son, Holy Spirit, You have become my covenant friend, and through Your infinite grace, I have become Your covenant friend. Amen.**

**\*HYMN** "Take My Life, and Let It Be" No. 399

**\*BENEDICTION** A Covenant Prayer in the Wesleyan Tradition

I am no longer my own, but Thine.  
Put me to what Thou wilt, rank me with whom Thou wilt.  
Put me in doing, put me in suffering.  
Let me be employed by Thee or laid aside for Thee,  
Exalted by Thee, or brought low by Thee.  
Let me be full, let me be empty.  
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.  
I freely and heartily yield all things to Thy pleasure and disposal.  
And now, O glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
Thou art mine, and I am Thine. So be it.  
And the covenant which I have made on earth,  
Let it be ratified in heaven. AMEN

**\*CHORAL RESPONSE**

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,  
Pure and holy, tried and true.  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for You.*

**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.**

December 31, 2017 Prayer Requests

Publish in bulletin? Y \_\_\_ N \_\_\_

Requested by \_\_\_\_\_

**Prayer list:**

Betty & Aldon Speer	Carrol Waterbury
Mary McClellan	Kevin Jones
Kristy Hodge Pratt	Carrie Denny
Barbara Marrs	Janie Peterson
Elizabeth Bailey	Bob & Dee Lentz
Harold & Nannie Greene	Carolyn Wood
Dot Woodby	Joan Tansil
Mack Peterson	Bobby & Viola Seay
Ralph & Joan Garland	Sue Speer
Nancy Jewell	Jo Cross
Bobbie Wells	Our church
Marian Cocke	Our nation
Elizabeth Wells	Kim Church
Willie Hughes	LaMarr Talley
Clare Warren & parents	Evelyn Moore
Howard Smith	Beth Woodby & family
Catherine Cartus	Steve Holmes
Tom Palmer	Donna Royston
	Vicky Coffman
	Linda Church



Regular Wednesday Night activities  
will resume January 10