

# The First Epistle

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

900 Spring Street ~ Johnson City TN 37604

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December 2013



### E-VOTION

Dear Friends,

Before I start with today's Bible reading, I want to offer an apology, an explanation, and perhaps even a disclaimer.

You all know by now hopefully how much I love Jesus and how much of a privilege it is for me to serve Him and to serve him here in this place. First UMC is such a blessing. We have much work to do--as churches everywhere have much work to do for the Kingdom. I also am a believer in talking about things, communicating who I am, where I am coming from, and how we can work together to offer Jesus to the world.

Two things I want to share:

1. I do have gum in my mouth most Sundays. I try hard not to make it be a distraction for the congregation. It is not what I would prefer, but it allows me to preach and to lead worship without a lot of interruption. When I don't, I am miserable, my mouth is so dry I cannot talk. I know that it is A NO-NO for public speaking, but it's my best option. I hope you understand.

2. We are receiving mixed reviews on the use of video in the worship service. I understand completely that we don't always like that during our time of worship. As in so many things in life, we must remember our purpose, which is to make disciples for Jesus Christ. Depending on your point of view, some of us love adding the element of video to the worship, and some don't love it. In today's world, video is used in churches around the world. It is part of sharing the gospel in a relevant way. I try to remind myself that when we do ANYTHING that reaches someone for Jesus Christ, God is smiling on us. Let us pray for the people who aren't here yet, who might receive the Word in a new way, and allow the videos to work FOR us in our Kingdom work.

On to the Scripture reading of the day--Colossians 1:11-20:

*May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers--all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of the cross.*

A few years ago I had a friend who adopted twins from another country. They were preschoolers but not infants--maybe 3 or 4 years old. I remember what an adjustment it was for that family--they did not speak English, the food was different, the sounds and smells were different, the culture was radically different, and I remember thinking, "At least they have each other."

For the Apostle Paul, becoming a Christian means a radical adjustment. We get moved, transferred, deported even, from one kingdom to another kingdom. We change from one way of living to another way of living--and often a way of living that is unknown to us. Nothing is the same. Jesus is our new worldview. Jesus is the lens through which we view everything else

in our lives. John Wesley searched the world over for the "assurance" of God's love, and even went so far as to tell a mentor that he didn't know how he could preach about God's love because he wasn't sure of it. His friend said, "Preach it until you believe it." (FYI -- I have had some dark times, some wrestling with my faith, but I have never had to preach something I did not believe in. Just in case you are wondering. LOL).

The truth is that words shape us, they "create" us, they shape our belief. I have always believed that we become who we are told we are as young children. And there is some truth to the statement, "Fake it until you make it." So for the early church at Colossia, and for us, we are looking for answers to the question, "How do we understand God's role in the creation of the world?" This can be a divisive issue but we do not have to have all the answers of HOW exactly God did it, but more of who GOD is and why God created. And that lies in our understanding of Jesus Christ, (at least I think it does) as Paul says, "All things have been created through him and for him." So as we try to make sense of everything around us--politics, philosophies of living, family, jobs, etc. hopefully the good news is that God rescued us from the power of darkness. TO follow Jesus is a new way of living. And in Christ everything fits together and we can hold onto a world view that is large enough to address the questions and problems that we face every day.

This Sunday is Christ the King Sunday--with Christ as our King we acknowledge him as Lord over all of life. Remember him -- And crown him Lord of all! May it be so!!!

Blessings,  
Rev. Jane Taylor

Email: [revjetaylor@gmail.com](mailto:revjetaylor@gmail.com)  
phone: 423.928.9222, ext. 2

**SERVICES OF PRAISE AND WORSHIP  
FOR  
CHRISTMAS EVE**

**4:00pm**

**FAMILY FRIENDLY, INFORMAL,  
DAY-LIGHT WORSHIP**

A more informal time for families with children and adults who may not want to be out after dark.

Worship will include a pre-service craft for children and families, lighting of the Christ candle, meditation around the manger scene, carol singing, explanation of the Chrismons on the tree, special music, a Christmas message, Communion and a Service of Light.



**6:30pm**

**CLASSIC CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP**

A service for all ages!

Worship will include:

lighting of the Christ candle,  
meditation around the manger scene,  
a service of lessons and carols,  
music by the choir,  
a Christmas message,  
Communion  
and  
candlelight.

**Do your part to keep Christ in Christmas.  
Pass your Christian values on to your family  
and witness to your friends.  
Pick your service, bring your family,  
invite your friends.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**COMBINED WORSHIP  
FOR ADVENT**

The Advent season is a wonderful time for our church family to share the beauty of the Christmas season together. On these Sundays, there will be communion, Children's Christmas Play, Worship with the Chancel Choir, the lighting of the Advent Candles, a weekly trip to the stable, and much singing of seasonal music and carols.

Please note that the Early Service will resume in January.

**First Sunday Social**

On the first Sunday of each month, you are invited to the parlor at 10:10am for coffee, juice and a time of fellowship prior to the 10:30am worship service.

**A Note from our Treasurer,  
Rhonda Simmons:**

To comply with Internal Revenue Service requirements, FUMC will record the following offerings as received in 2013:

- Contributions received in the church office (Financial Office mailbox) by the end of 12/31/2013.
- Mailed contributions post-marked by 12/31/2013.
- Checks from pay-by-phone or online bill payment services dated 12/31/2013 or earlier.

Please call the Treasurer's Office:  
(423-928-9222, extension 3)  
if you have questions.



*Our mission is to nourish the body, replenish the spirit, and grow the community so that all might be fed.*

**What is One Acre Café?** One Acre Café is a non-profit community restaurant which has been established to provide a means by which all can participate in addressing the growing hunger issues of the day. This is a place where all in the community can gather to eat healthy delicious food and strengthen our community by offering hope through the enjoyment of a meal.

**How do I pay for my meal?** There are two ways to pay: one is the traditional [cash, check or credit/debit] payment, the other is through volunteering in the cafe or perhaps at another non-profit partner in the area.

**If I am paying, how much should I pay?** In an effort to reduce cost and eliminate food waste we offer by donation three plate sizes [small \$4.00] [medium \$6.00] and [large \$8.00] dessert and drink included. Those who are able to "pay it forward" by donating an additional amount will ensure that we can continue to provide meals for others in our community.

**If I would like to volunteer today, how will that work?** If you would like to volunteer for a meal or volunteer to help in the café, simply see our Volunteer Coordinator.

**What volunteer opportunities are available?** At One Acre Café, you might set or clear tables, wash dishes, work in the garden, or help out with general cleaning. In return for your time toward the operation of the café, you will receive a card providing you and your dependents a meal at the café.

**Would others know that I am volunteering for my meal?** No, we treat all with dignity. No one knows who is volunteering for a meal and who is here just to help out. We know times are tough - if you have trouble paying the suggested donation, we encourage you to volunteer and save your money for other necessities.

*Please choose the right plate size for you in order to keep our carryout container cost low.*

*Thank you!*

[www.facebook.com/OneAcreCafe](http://www.facebook.com/OneAcreCafe) • [www.oneacrefcafe.org](http://www.oneacrefcafe.org)

### **Special Wednesday Niter**

December 4<sup>th</sup> @ 5:30pm

MEAL AND PROGRAM

held at

**ONE ACRE CAFÉ**

All invited!

Come eat and learn of this unique ministry just down the road! After dinner, the program (at 6:15pm) will include a 45-minute training on how to serve at One Acre, as it's a volunteer operated mission.

Meal plus desert (without donation) is \$6/person. As we understand it, this will be the first group meal to be served at One Acre! Just sign up as we regularly do for the Wednesday Niter meal, and we'll deliver the order to One Acre!

Provisions will be made for the children and support staff to stay at the church. The children's menu for that evening will be spaghetti.

### **December 11**

Baked Potato Bar, Chili, Salad Bar,  
Bread, Dessert

Kid's Meal: PBJ & Tator Tots

### **December 18**

Ham, Sweet Potato Casserole, Peas,  
Apples, Bread & Dessert

Kid's Meal: Corn Dog & Apples

Call the church office  
(423-928-9222, ext. 1)  
to make your reservations.

# Songfest 2013

Bluegrass, Mountain Music and More

*Benefitting  
Family Promise of Greater  
Johnson City*

Sunday, December 1, 2013  
3:00—5:30 p.m.

Wellmont Regional Center for  
the Performing Arts at  
Northeast State Community  
College

Featuring Sunnyside, ETSU  
Bluegrass Band, Trey  
Hensley Band, Ed Snodderly  
& Friends

**3rd Annual  
Children's Christmas  
Shopping Day!  
Saturday December 7**

*But we need your help.  
Please help us make this  
event a success again.*

**If you have new or slightly  
used gifts to donate please  
bring them to the Open Door  
Classroom and place in the  
donation box.**

It is a Christmas Shopping day for  
our church children and friends.  
The children will be able to buy gifts  
for their loved ones at a minimal  
cost and experience the  
joy of giving!  
Any Proceeds go to the Children's  
Department.

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If you would like to be  
involved in this exciting event  
(wrapping gifts, helping children  
shop, etc.) please contact Jan Gen-  
try 833-2995, Janine Berning 534-  
7823 or Sharon Cradic 676-5511

## From the Executive Director of Family Promise

As I contemplate the past 13 years of Family Promise and hosting guest families, I am amazed that so much goodness can flow from one ministry. Where else do you see denominations working in cooperation? That's the "real" church! Time and time again families express that volunteers in congregations were the most important factor in helping them through a tough time in their lives and they are forever grateful. I am in awe of God's work here that transforms sad and worried faces into smiles and hope for the future. I am thankful for the congregations and volunteers for their service and the difference they are making in the lives of others.

I am thankful for the commitment of the Board of Directors over the years. They have been amazing workers, upholding the vision and mission of this great ministry. I have never worked for a more dedicated board than that of Family Promise. And to the staff, I thank all who serve and have served to transform lives of young parents and children while still taking out the garbage and spending long hours doing tedious paperwork. They perform a work of love and a pledge to service rather than obligation.

And to the businesses, civic organizations, other service agencies, public institutions and governments; they have all applied their gifts and talents to assisting Family Promise with its mission of lending a hand up to families whose faces are looking down. And for the many financial contributors whose hearts beat strong for the values and mission of Family Promise; you keep the pulse going so the work can continue. The last thirteen years have blessed my life immeasurably. I am grateful for each one of you, because you have been that blessing for me. As I approach retirement at the end of the year, my mind keeps recalling the faces of so many families that have gone through the program. The fact that you are a blessing to me and to this ministry is one thing, but the fact that you have blessed the lives of over 480 families and their beautiful children is even greater. Many of them are "passing it on" in what they do. That's a world changing action called "love."

Praise be to God for what He has done with and for this ministry through you, and God bless each one of you!

~ Brian Rosecrance,  
Executive Director

## Family Promise's Resource Center Gets New Roof



Left to right:  
Earnest Buck, Ernest Campbell and Jason Cobin.

If you visited or stopped by the offices of Family Promise during the past few weeks your attention was drawn to the work going on atop the Family Resource Center. For the past few years we have been making repairs to a flat rubber roof. For the past two years we have been using waste baskets to catch the leaking water coming through the roof and into our rooms. When we ran out of waste baskets, we determined it was time to do something!

We contracted with Ernest Campbell of Campbell Development Corporation to do the work. Ernest and his workers provided a professional and quality service that will shelter Family Promise's services and families for many years to come. We are grateful to Ernest and the great guys he has working with him. Other contractors involved were Johnson Electric and Newman Heating & Air Conditioning. Thanks to all for your good work!

The expenses for this roof were covered by an anonymous contributor that provided funds to stimulate the beginning work of Family Promise's strategic plan for growth. A new roof was first on the priority list. We thank this person for their generosity and vision.

Praise God!

~ Brian Rosecrance, Executive Director



Carrie Denny will graduate cum laude from ETSU on December 14. She will receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. This will be a dream realized! Carrie is the daughter of Lyndell & David Denny.

Congratulations, Carrie!



*Dan McGuire*  
*Director of percussion/  
assistant Science Hill Band Director*

## SHHS Percussion Ensemble

The SHHS Percussion Ensemble is the recipient of one of the highest honors in the world of percussion music, and months of practice and rehearsal culminated with a performance on November 15 that was seen by percussion peers from around the world.

The ensemble is one of only a pair of high school percussion ensembles in the world to be selected to take the stage for a showcase concert at the Percussive Arts Society International Convention held in Indianapolis. Each year, two high school and two collegiate ensembles are chosen to perform at the convention.

"This is arguably the highest honor achievable for high school percussion ensembles in our country," said Dan McGuire, director of percussion/assistant Science Hill Band director following the group's selection to perform at the PASIC. "Percussionists from around the globe, representing regions such as Ghana, Japan, Southeast Asia, Europe, South America and the United States, will be in attendance at PASIC in 2013."

Twenty-three students with the Science Hill Percussion Ensemble, which is made up of students in grades 9 through 12, left for Indiana the evening of November 13. The group received the invitation to perform at the convention after previously submitting a performance tape to a PASIC judging committee. This will mark the ensemble's first concert at the convention.

# C HURCH C ALENDAR

## Sunday, December 1

8:15am Early Service  
 9:15am Sunday School  
 10:30am Worship Service  
 4:45pm Children's Play Rehearsal  
 5:30pm Snack Supper  
 6:00pm PTJ  
 6:00pm UMYF  
 6:30pm Confirmation (6-7 graders)

## Monday, December 2

9:30am Staff Meeting  
 7:00pm Boy Scouts  
 7:00pm Women's Bible Study  
 Conference Room  
 7:00pm Worship Pillar Meeting

## Tuesday, December 3

6:30pm Girl Scout Troop #90  
 7:00pm Trustees Meeting—  
 Conference Room

## Wednesday, December 4

5:30pm Wednesday Niter—Advent  
 Study  
 7:30pm Chancel Choir

## Thursday, December 5

8:00am Finance Committee Meeting  
 Conference Room  
 9:15am ELC Chapel  
 12:00pm Bible Study (and lunch)  
 Neighborhood Center  
 5:30pm ELC Board Meeting  
 Conference Room  
 7:00pm Spiritual Development—Parlor  
 7:30pm East TN International Folk  
 Dancers—Gym

## Saturday, December 7

9:00am AA @ Annex  
 10:00am Children's Play Rehearsal  
 2:00pm Children's Christmas  
 Shopping Day

## Sunday, December 8

9:15am Sunday School  
 10:30am Combined Worship Service  
 Children's Christmas Play  
 5:30pm King's Kids Mission Day  
 5:30pm Holiday Taste & Toy Drive

## Monday, December 9

9:30am Program Staff Meeting  
 11:00am Full Staff Meeting  
 7:00pm Boy Scouts  
 7:00pm Women's Bible Study  
 I John Conference Room

## Tuesday, December 10

6:30pm Circle of Hope  
 Christmas Party  
 Katie Mahoney, hostess  
 7:00pm Pillar Chair Meeting  
 Conference Room

## Wednesday, December 11

9:00am Intercessory Prayer Ministry  
 "Praying for Others" - Chapel  
 5:30pm Wednesday Niter  
 Advent Study  
 7:30pm Chancel Choir

## Thursday, December 12

9:15am ELC Chapel  
 11:30am Circle 2 Christmas Luncheon  
 Peggy Eddy, hostess  
 12:00pm Bible Study (and lunch)  
 Neighborhood Center  
 7:30pm East TN International Folk  
 Dancers—Gym

## Friday, December 13

6:30pm Circle of Friends  
 Sharon Cradic, hostess

## Saturday, December 14

9:00am Choir Cantata Rehearsal  
 12:00pm UMW Christmas Luncheon  
 Fellowship Hall  
 1:00-3:00pm Outreach sponsored  
 "Toy Shop" for families who  
 come to the Food Pantry.

## Sunday, December 15

9:15am Sunday School  
 10:30am Combined Worship  
 Christmas Cantata  
 3:00pm ELC/FUMC sponsored  
 2nd Annual Reindeer Run &  
 Santa Stroll—5k stroll/walk  
 5:30pm Snack Supper-Youth, PTJ &  
 Confirmation Class  
 6:00pm PTJ  
 6:00pm UMYF

## Monday, December 16

9:30am Program Staff Meeting  
 7:00pm South Side Neighborhood  
 Association Meeting  
 Neighborhood Center

## Tuesday, December 17

5:30pm FUMC feeding Wesley  
 Foundation Students

## Wednesday, December 18

5:30pm Wednesday Niter—  
 Advent Study  
 7:30pm Chancel Choir

## Thursday, December 19

9:15am ELC Chapel  
 12:00pm Bible Study (and lunch)  
 Neighborhood Center  
 12:00pm Young at Heart Christmas  
 Luncheon—Hosted by Bob &  
 Athena Peebles  
 5:30pm ELC Christmas Program  
 Sanctuary  
 7:30pm East TN International Folk  
 Dancers—Gym

## Sunday, December 22

9:15am Sunday School  
 10:30am Combined Worship

## Monday, December 23

9:30am Program Staff Meeting  
 11:00am Full Staff Meeting  
 7:00pm South Side Neighborhood  
 Association Meeting  
 Neighborhood Center

## Tuesday, December 24

Church Office Closed  
 Christmas Eve Services:  
 4:00pm Informal/Family-Friendly/  
 Daylight Service  
 6:00pm A Service of Lessons & Carols  
 with Choir, Communion & Candlelight

## Wednesday, December 25

Christmas Day  
 Celebrate! Christ is Born!

## Thursday, December 26

9:15am ELC Chapel  
 12:00pm Bible Study (and lunch)  
 Neighborhood Center  
 7:30pm East TN International Folk  
 Dancers—Gym

## Friday, December 27

5:00pm Kipfer/Marrs Wedding  
 Rehearsal & Rehearsal Dinner

## Saturday, December 28

10:00am Community Mission Food  
 Distribution—Neighborhood Ctr.  
 5:00pm Kipfer/Marrs Wedding

## Sunday, December 29

9:15am Sunday School  
 10:30am Combined Worship

## Monday, December 30

9:30a Program Staff Meeting  
 7p Boy Scouts

# Entry Form

## 2nd Annual 5K Reindeer Run and 5K Santa Stroll

First United Methodist Church

900 Spring St

Johnson City, TN

Parking available at 210 W. Maple St, Johnson City, TN

**12/15/2013**

Race day registration: 1:30 - 2:30 pm

Race start: 3:00 pm

After a successful first year in 2012, The Early Learning Center at First United Methodist Church is again hosting a 5K run/walk. USA TF-certified Course through the historic Johnson City tree streets.

Awards will be given to the most festive male and female costumes. Children under the age of 12 can participate untimed without a fee. Please complete an entry form for them. If they would like a shirt, it may be preordered for \$10. Dogs on leashes will be allowed.

**Pre-** \$20 - 5K Run  
**registration:** \$15 - 5K Stroll  
(ends 11/27/2013) \$10 - Timed Runner Under age 12  
Long sleeve Tee Shirts Guaranteed to all pre-  
registrants.

**Regular** \$25 - 5K Run  
\$20 - 5K Stroll  
**Registration:** \$15 - Timed Runner under age 12  
A tee shirt will not be guaranteed.  
Race Day Registration ends at  
8:30 AM.

**Make checks payable to:** Early Learning Center

**Mail this form to:** Early Learning Center

First United Methodist Church

900 Spring St

Johnson City, TN 37604

Headphones are permitted on the course | Strollers are permitted on the course

For more info contact Kathie Battista 423-926-0700 elc1986@charter.net	<b>5K Reindeer Run Male &amp; Female Awards:</b>
	Top Overall
	<b>Age Groups (top 3)</b> ...9,10-14,15-19,20-24,25-29,30-34,35-39,40-44,45-49,50-54,55-59,60...

## **2nd Annual 5K Reindeer Run and 5K Santa Stroll**

LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_

SEX \_\_\_ DATE OF BIRTH \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ AGE ON RACEDAY \_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

RACE DAY EMERGENCY CONTACT (NAME AND PHONE) \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\* **CIRCLE SHIRT SIZE:** YT, YS, YM, YL, SM, MD, LG, XL, XXL

IN CONSIDERATION FOR ACCEPTING MY ENTRY IN THIS RACE, I FOR MYSELF, MY HEIRS, EXECUTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS, WAIVE AND RELEASE FOREVER ANY AND ALL RIGHTS AND CLAIMS FOR DAMAGES I MAY HAVE AGAINST THE ORGANIZERS AND SPONSORS OF THIS EVENT. I ALSO RELEASE THE ABOVE NAMED FOR ALL CLAIMS OF DAMAGE DEMANDS, AND ACTIONS IN ANY MANNER DUE TO ANY PERSONAL INJURIES, PROPERTY DAMAGE, OR DEATH SUSTAINED AS A RESULT OF MY TRAVELING TO AND FROM AND MY PARTICIPATION IN SAID RACE. I ATTEST AND VERIFY THAT I AM PHYSICALLY FIT AND HAVE SUFFICIENTLY TRAINED FOR THE COMPETITION OF THIS EVENT. IN FILLING OUT THIS FORM, I ACKNOWLEDGE I HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND MY OWN LIABILITY AND ABILITY.

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ / \_\_\_ (Parent signature if under the age of 18)

This entry form was generated with the SFTC Calendar Utility at [www.runtricity.org](http://www.runtricity.org)



Kings kids will not meet for the month of December. There are too many things the kids will miss during Advent!

Kings kids mission day will be on Dec. 8 at 5:30 during the Taste of First. This will be our Christmas party. Please send a new toy item with your child for the outreach toy shop fundraiser and a treat to share.

Children's shopping day- Dec. 7 at 2 pm. Children can shop for their loved ones at minimal cost.

Have a Blessed Week!

Brandy Robinson, Director of Children's Ministries:

Email: [children.fumc@charter.net](mailto:children.fumc@charter.net)

Office: 423-928-9222, ext. 7

Cell: 423-483-2980



### Youth Christmas Party December 15

During UMYF on December 15, the youth will celebrate Christmas together by sharing food, games, and a \$5 gag gift exchange. If you would be willing to assist in hosting this evening of fellowship, contact John Rowe ([firstumyf@gmail.com](mailto:firstumyf@gmail.com)) or Nancy and Ernest Campbell.

### Sunday Servants

#### December 1

Crucifer: Ethan Morelock

Acolytes: Abigail Robinson and  
Elijah Robinson

Beadle: Macy Shell

Snack Supper: **Jamee Roberts**

#### December 8

Crucifer: Frankie Cradic

Acolytes: Steven Cradic and  
Chloe Cradic

Beadle: Claudia Davidson

Snack Supper: **First UMC Holiday  
Taste/Toy Drive**

#### December 15

Crucifer: Martha Campbell

Acolytes: Josie Roberts and  
Marcus Grant

Beadle: Molly Huff

Snack Supper: Youth Christmas Party  
**Servants Needed!**

### Snack Supper Servants Needed!

December 1 — Jamee Roberts

December 8 — First UMC Holiday  
Taste/Toy Drive

December 15—Youth Christmas Party

December 22—Hosts needed!

December 29—No Snack Supper

January 5—Hosts needed!

January 12—Hosts needed!

### Sunday UMYF Discussion:

#### Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Packing

Thanks to all the youth who came out last Sunday to help our Children's Department pack boxes. Those that participated did an amazing job building relationships and offering direction to our kids and future UMYF students. At the end of the evening we packed enough boxes to reach our desired goal of 125 boxes. These boxes will go all over the world to spread the Gospel and the joy of the Christmas season.

### Holiday Taste and Toy Drive

On Sunday, December 8, 5:30-7:00 we will be having a Holiday Taste and Toy Drive in the gym at church.

We will be sponsoring a table by providing appetizers and/or desserts to share, along with decorations for your table. Each person attending is asked to bring 2 new toys (1 boy and 1 girl), ages 0-12. These toys will then be taken to the Neighborhood Center on Saturday, December 14 for a "Toy Sale" for our Food Pantry families to shop for their children for Christmas. These toys will be for sale at a very reduced price, with the proceeds going to our Food Pantry.

Resurrection Registration Deadline –  
December 10

grace and peace,

John Rowe  
Director of Youth Ministries  
First United Methodist Church

## GIFTS & MEMORIALS

A gift has been given by the Eastern Star Chapter, Nolachuckey-Grand View Chapter #194 in memory of Mary Helen Shearin, a 50 year member.

Peggy & Dick Eddy has given a gift in memory of Mary Helen Shearin.

A gift has been given in memory of Mary Helen Shearin by Coolidge & Edna Johnson.

Roller Pharmacy in Erwin, TN has given a gift in memory of Mary Helen Shearin.

A gift has been given to the Restoration Fund by Bill & Carolyn Wood in memory of Mary Helen Shearin.

Southern Appalachian Ronald McDonald House Charities, Inc. has given a gift in memory of Mary Helen Shearin.

A gift has been given in memory of Thomas O'Brien Patton Sr. by Morris Cohen of Morris' Best Buys.

Dr. Mark D. Clemons has given a gift in memory of Butch Farr.

A gift has been given in memory of Sheldon L. McGuire by Bryson Harding.

The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation has given a gift in memory of Mary Helen Shearin.

### CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Poinsettias will grace the sanctuary on December 15th, 22nd & 24th. If you would like to order a Christmas poinsettia to be placed in honor or memory of loved ones, please complete the form below. The cost is \$10.00 each. The deadline to order is **SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9th.**

# OF POINSETTIAS: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \$: \_\_\_\_\_ Paid

IN HONOR OF: \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF: \_\_\_\_\_

GIVEN BY: \_\_\_\_\_

## IN SYMPATHY

Sympathy is extended to:

Martha & Bob Hale and family  
in the death of Martha's  
mother, Mary Helen Shearin,  
who passed away on Tuesday,  
November 12.



### You are invited!

Join the Young at Heart on  
Thursday, December 19, at noon  
for a Christmas luncheon hosted by  
Athena & Bob Peebles at their home,  
located at 701 Crowell Lane, Johnson City.  
Bring a covered dish to share and  
a small gift (\$10) to exchange.

Call the church office to make your reservation!

## COMMUNITY NEED

### Giving Warmth...

The Johnson City Downtown Day Center is in need of coats and blankets. If you have any you would like to donate, please contact John Collins (423-767-1619).

## BIBLE STUDIES

### Women's Bible Study

Monday evening at 7:00pm  
Conference Room

### Neighborhood Bible Study & Lunch

Thursdays at 12:00pm ~ Neighborhood Center  
Facilitated by Johnny Humphreys

## THANK YOU

A huge thanks to everyone who contributed to this year's Operation Christmas Child shoe box drive. FUMC donated 211 boxes, which greatly exceeded our goal of 175!

"Thank you so much for your donation to One Acré Café. We really appreciate your support."

Michelle Watt

First United Methodist Church  
900 Spring Street  
Johnson City, TN 37604

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit #216  
Johnson City, TN 37604

"RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED"

**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!**

**SUNDAYS:**

8:15am Early Service  
9:15am Sunday School  
10:30am Worship Service  
5:30pm Youth Snack Supper  
6:00pm UMYF

**WEDNESDAYS:**

5:30pm Wednesday Niter  
6:30pm Youth/Adult/Children  
Small Group Studies  
7:30pm Chancel Choir

**VISIT THE CHURCH  
WEBSITE  
at  
[www.1stchurchjc.org](http://www.1stchurchjc.org)**

**Soup Labels & Box Tops Needed!**

The UMW requests your help in collecting Campbell's soup labels and General Mills box tops (for education) for our missions at Red Bird Mission School. For soup labels, clip only the UPC label. Please be sure that the complete barcode and the "Labels for Education" trademark remains intact. Place labels and box tops in one of the collection containers which have been placed around the church for your convenience.

**United Methodist Women**

**Circle 2 Christmas Luncheon:**

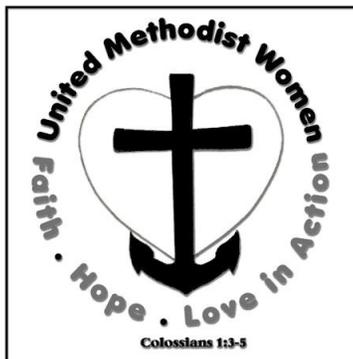
Thursday, December 12, at 11:30am  
Hosted by Peggy Eddy  
(Transportation provided—call the church office to reserve a spot on the bus.)

**Circle of Friends:**

Friday, December 13, at 6:30pm  
Sharon Cradic, hostess

**Circle of Hope Christmas Party**

Tuesday, December 10, at 6:30pm  
Katie Mahoney, hostess



**UMW Christmas Party**

Saturday, December 14, at noon  
Fellowship Hall  
\$9.00pp / payable in advance

Bring check to church office or  
give to your Circle Chair  
no later than December 8.

(Toilet paper will be the food pantry item  
for this meeting.)

Our United Methodist Women have demonstrated their commitment to helping others locally and throughout the world with their contributions to Mission work. This summer FUMC's UMW women have made donations to the Second Harvest Food Bank for the Food for Kids Backpack program; our area Church Women United; the Sneedville, TN Jubilee Project; the Southeastern, KY Red Bird Mission; the National Children's Defense Fund; the Good Samaritan Melting Pot; and throughout the US and globally with our significant gifts to UMW Holston Conference Missions. All women in the Church are welcome to be part of this dedicated caring group of women, join with us in our commitment to helping God with His work by helping others.