



# The First Epistle

First United Methodist Church  
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*...make more and better  
disciples of Jesus Christ for the  
transformation of the world.*

December 2018

## STAFF:

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## From our pastor:

Some of my happiest memories come from spending time with my family--particularly the women of my family. When I think about it, a bit of sadness comes over me. I remember my grandmother and my dad spending lots of time in the garden, loving the plants to produce an abundance of assorted vegetables. I remember making Apple Butter in the fall over a fire. I remember shopping with my mother and my sister, and taking my grandmother to the grocery store and lunch at Picadilly. What I recall most was the joy we all felt being together-- aunts and uncles, cousins, sisters, mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, grandmothers and grandchildren. We discovered who we were with older family members as our role models. It was wonderful.

That was way before Black Friday even existed. That was before the day after Thanksgiving and sometimes even Thanksgiving Day were about shopping. That was when we feasted together on Thanksgiving Day. That was when we could rest and sleep, have leisurely meals, and look at the Sears and Penney's catalogs for fun.

At that time in our lives, we still needed things. We didn't go out and buy at every whim or desire, or get on a computer and order for next day delivery. We made wish-lists. School clothes and church clothes for the winter months came at Christmas. We always got a new pair of pajamas. We made things for one another as gifts.

I find myself wanting to pare down the gift giving. I wish we could go back to those days. My hope for all of us is that we remember why and who we celebrate, that we spend time with those people we love the most and who love us, and that we take time to breathe during this busy season.



*Join us for*



Monday, December 24

4:30 - Family Oriented service

6:30 - Traditional Candle Light Service

## *December Highlights*

- December 2 - Reindeer Run and Santa Stroll
- December 9 - Junior High Christmas play  
(during 10:30 worship service)
- December 9 - Children's Shopping Day
- December 9 - Taste of First Methodist
- December 13 - Faith and Family night at Skate Inn
- December 15 - Food Pantry and Clare's Closet distribution
- December 16 - Christmas Cantata
- December 19 - Children's Christmas Party
- December 24 - Christmas Eve services
- December 31 - Children's New Year's Eve party

**FOR TO US  
A SON IS GIVEN**

*Merry Christmas*

From First United Methodist Church

# Around the church

## 1stChurch Fundraiser Cross and Flame Logo Clothing Items:

-polo shirt, hoodie, t-shirt, sweatshirt, hat,  
adult sizes, youth and children;

Visit [fumc2018.itemorder.com](http://fumc2018.itemorder.com)

**Sale ends December 8th!!!**



If you are interested in serving as a greeter before the 10:30 worship service, please contact Brian Rosecrance. We are in need of more friendly faces to welcome visitors and members on Sunday mornings!

**REMINDER!** Support First UMC or the Early Learning Center through **Amazon Smile**. At no charge to you, Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases once you choose us as your favorite charity.

To sign up, go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), log in to your Amazon account, and follow the instructions. To find the church, type "first 37604" in the search box. From there you can select First Methodist Church or Early Learning Center.

Every time you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), Amazon will make a donation!

### In Celebration

On Sunday, November 25th, the Deakins-Sohn Family, their extended families, and the church family celebrated and were witness to the baptism of Katherine Mae Deakins-Sohn.



### Wednesday Niter News

We have some special treats coming up on our Wednesday evenings during Advent. Please consider joining us!

Wednesday, December 5

"The Shepherds at the Manger" - Roger Bailey

Wednesday, December 12

"The Three Magi" - a Christmas program by special guests from Central Baptist. We will meet in the Sanctuary on December 12 for this dramatic presentation.

Wednesday, December 19

No adult meal or programming. Children and youth ages 0 to 18 will have a Christmas party at the Skate Inn.

The Staff-Parish Committee is pleased to announce the hiring of Cheryl Jones to fill the position of Church Treasurer. Cheryl work full time at ETSU. She has two daughters, Rose and Linnea, and has been a part of the FUMC family for the past three years.

### In Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to:

Wayne and Grace Holloway, in the death of Wayne's mother, Jean Holloway;

Lindsay and Casey Carmical, in the death of Casey's mother;

Chuck and Andi Ozment and their children , in the death of Church's mother, Martha Ozment;

Kathy Feagins and her family, In the death of her mother, Becky Feagins;

John Collins and family, in the death of his aunt, Juanita Knight;

To the famiy and friends of Mary Ann Hunt, widow of Bishop Earl Hunt.

## Around the church

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Our annual **Christmas Shopping Day** for the church children is December 9. The kids get so excited about being able to buy gifts for their loved ones at a minimal cost! Please help us make this possible by donating any new or slightly used items to include in the sale. Please leave any items for donation in the Open Door Classroom. If you would like to get involved or have any questions please contact Janine Berning at 534-7823.



The sanctuary will be decorated with poinsettias beginning December 16! If you would like to purchase one in memory or honor of a loved one, the cost is \$12. Names will be listed in the December 16th worship guide and you are welcome to take your poinsettia home with you after the 6:00 Christmas Eve service. For more information, contact Pat Faber or call the church office at 928-9222.

### Holiday Taste of First Methodist

Sunday, December 9 from 4:30-6:00 in the Fellowship Hall

A night of gathering and giving to support the Food Pantry

Sponsored by Outreach Pillar

Join us for an evening of food and fellowship while supporting our Food Pantry. Small groups (Sunday School classes, UMW circles, Bible Study groups, Choir, Youth, etc.) are asked to provide treats to share. The plates, napkins, and beverages will be supplied by the Outreach Pillar. Since we are in the Fellowship Hall, Outreach will also take care of the decorations.

The Food Pantry Committee has requested support in the form of **jars of peanut butter, boxes of saltine crackers (4 sleeves per box), and monetary contributions.** You may bring these items the night of our event. If you cannot attend the Holiday Taste, you may drop off food items outside the church office. Monetary contributions designated for the Food Pantry can be made through your normal process of giving.

For any questions about this event, contact Lana Scott, Nancy Campbell, or Janice Moore.

Thanks from the Outreach Pillar for supporting this event!

## New Members

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**Barbara and Cal Klem** joined First United Methodist Church on Sunday, November 4. Cal is the owner of a financial planning practice associated with Ameriprise Financial Services in Johnson City, and Barbara is a full time mom, wife and Nana. They have three adult children (Kerri Epling, Andrew Klem, and Kristen Clements), and four grandchildren (Kaitlyn age 13, Peyton age 11, Joshua age 10 and Abby age 1). Cal enjoys playing and coaching softball, and spending time with his family. Barbara is an expert seamstress and finds great joy in her newest role as Nana. The Klems also enjoy traveling when they get the chance. Cal and Barbara joined the Methodist church soon after they were married 42 years ago. They had been searching for a new church home in Johnson City for the last several years and jokingly called themselves "Roaming Methodists." They visited First Methodist after being invited to the church three times within a one week period. It seemed to be a message. They say they felt at home from the very first visit. They were especially excited to see the diverse congregation and how the church contributes to the local community in so many ways. While they do not currently have any children involved in the youth programs at FUMC (with the exception of young Abby), they are energized by the number of youth within the church. Cal and Barbara have been attending for a couple of years and are excited to join the church, and they look forward to becoming more involved in the future.



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 900 Spring Street  
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### JOIN US FOR WORSHIP!

#### Sundays:

- 9:15 Sunday School
- 10:30 Worship Service
- 4:30 Children and Youth activities
- 4:30 Wayfinders
- 5:30 Snack Supper
- 6:15 The Branch worship service

#### Wednesdays:

- 3:00 After school Arts and Music for youth
- 4:15 Youth Choir
- 5:45 Wednesday Niter
- 6:15 Children and Youth programming
- 7:30 Chancel Choir

For more information,  
 visit the church website  
[www.1stchurchjc.org](http://www.1stchurchjc.org)



ATTENTION SHOPPERS:  
 GOOD NEWS! GREAT JOY!

A Christmas musical for kids

Sunday, December 9

During the 10:30 worship service

*~Christmastime is filled with sound - so much sound that we can hardly hear the real message of Christmas!~*



*Experience the beauty of the incarnation story as if you're experiencing it for the first time*

Sunday, December 16

During the 10:30 worship service

## Food Pantry Update



**We have given out 325 coats so far this season!** We still have several distribution dates left, and we would love to see more donations in the boxes in the connector! We need new and gently used winter wear for all ages, including gloves, scarves, socks, hoodies, etc.



Thanks to all of the volunteers who helped with the November food distribution day! Our Boy Scout troop, as part of "Scouting for Food," provided over 1300 items to help restock the pantry. Thank you to the scouts as well as those who shared items for the scouts to pick up! Community outreach and community helping each other. The next Food Pantry will be on December 16.