

The First Epistle

open hearts
open minds
open doors



First United Methodist Church

900 Spring Street, Johnson City, TN 37604

Phone: (423)928-9222

Email: office@1stchurchjc.org

Website: 1stchurchjc.org

December 2019

Church staff:

Rev. Jodie Ihfe, Senior Pastor

jodie.ihfe@1stchurchjc.org

Rev. Gary Ihfe, Associate Pastor

gary.ihfe@1stchurchjc.org

Billy Walker, Dir. Of Worship & Music

billy.walker@1stchurchjc.org

Kathie Battista, ELC Director

elc1986@1stchurchjc.org

Steve Reis, Dir. Outreach/Discipleship

steve.reis@1stchurchjc.org

Kati Uelhof, Dir. of Children's Ministries

kati.uelhof@1stchurchjc.org

Bree Nelson, Junior High youth

bree.nelson@1stchurchjc.org

Drew & Sharon Cradic, Sr. High youth

sharon.cradic@1stchurchjc.org

Susan Dove Fields, Organist

Wayne Holloway & Elisa Wardeska,
Treasurers

treasurer@1stChurchJC.org

Jennifer Boarman, Bulletin Coordinator

jennifer.boarman@1stchurchjc.org

Finley Cook, Wednesday Night Chef

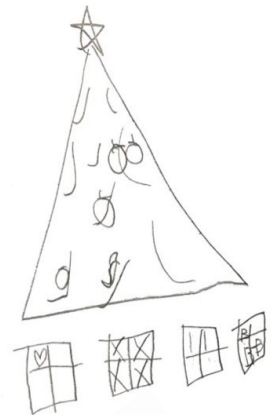
finleyac1@gmail.com

Beth Louthian, Tammy Crawford &
Emma Berning, Nursery

Dear Church Family,

It has been a privilege and honor to be in ministry with you these past six months. We look forward to the upcoming year knowing that God will continue to bless the ministries of First United Methodist Church. We pray that the Light of God who entered the world at Christmas will fill your hearts this season. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you now and always.

Christmas Blessing
Jodie Ihfe



Have a very merry Christmas.
Love, Lydia

Have a joy-filled Holidays,
Peace,
Gary Ihfe

Merry Christmas
Love, Lily.

Attention Church Leaders:

A special leadership event is scheduled on Saturday, January 11, 2020 from 9 am-12 pm in the fellowship hall. This event will include a time of training for leadership roles and a time of planning for our future ministry together at First Church. All members of committees and ministry pillars should plan to attend. A light breakfast and child care will be provided.

Thank you to all the leaders for your willingness to serve the Lord through serving on committees and ministry pillars. Be in prayer for this special event, and thanks in advance for your participation. Please contact Pastor Jodie if you have questions.

Gifts and Memorials

- Gifts have been given to the Food Pantry in memory of Linda Orren by Dick & Peggy Eddy, Mike & Lana Scott, Fran Waterbury, and Nancy & Ernest Campbell.
- Deborah Grant has given a gift to the General Fund in memory of Clifton Robinson.
- The Friendship Sunday School Class has given a gift to the Food Pantry in memory of John Collins.
- Joanne Peterson has given a gift to the Capital Campaign in memory of Helen Saylor, John Collins, Buck & Mary McClellan, & Linda Orren.

The new Chrismon tree in the sanctuary was graciously donated by Mrs. Elizabeth Bailey.

Capital Campaign Update

Please prayerfully consider additional donations.

Campaign Goal	\$150,000
Total Donations (6/23-11/17)	\$74,962
Needed to Meet Goal	\$75,038

The UMW would like to thank all those who took part in the UMW Fall Bake/Craft Sale. Thanks to your generosity, the UMW raised over \$2,000. All proceeds will be given to the Neighborhood Center Renovation Project.

It is time to prepare for our annual Christmas Shopping Day for the church children. Because of your kindness, last year over 40 happy and excited children went home with handpicked, wrapped gifts to give their loved ones. Please help us make this possible again this year by donating any new or slightly used items to include in the sale. Children’s Shopping Day will be on December 15th from 3:30-5:30. Please leave any items for donation in the empty classroom on the left just before entering the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to get involved or have questions please contact Janine Berning at (423)534-7823.

Saturday, December 21 & all Food Pantry Saturdays through March

Neighborhood Center

10:00 a.m.-12 noon



Please remember your new or slightly used coat donations for this community outreach. A collection box is in the Connector.

*Note: Outerwear of all sizes is needed– infants to adults– including coats, jackets, sweaters, sweatshirts, hoodies, socks, gloves, and mittens.

To volunteer to help with the distribution or to request a pick-up of your items, please call 647-7270.



Advent Activities

Sunday 12/1 10:30 Worship: 1st Sunday of Advent– Hope

Children's Christmas Play

3:00 Downtown Tour of Churches

4:30 Children & Youth Activities

6:15 The Branch

Tuesday 12/3 Friendship Class Party– General Morgan Inn

Wednesday 12/4 Wednesday Night Fellowship– Carols of Christmas

Friday 12/6 Circle of Friends Christmas Party

Saturday 12/7 Junior High Youth in the JC Christmas Parade

Sunday 12/8 10:30 Worship: 2nd Sunday of Advent– Peace

4:00 Taste of First Methodist

4:30 Children & Youth Activities

6:15 The Branch

Wednesday 12/11 Wednesday Night Fellowship– Carols of Christmas

Saturday 12/14 Noon UMW Christmas Luncheon

Cantata Rehearsal

Sunday 12/15 10:30 Worship: 3rd Sunday of Advent– Joy

Christmas Cantata

3:30 Children's Shopping Day

4:00 Pathfinders Class Party

4:30 Children & Youth Activities

6:15 The Branch

Tuesday 12/17 5:00 ELC Christmas Program

6:00 Circle of Hope Christmas Party

Wednesday 12/18 Wednesday Night Fellowship– Carols of Christmas

Christmas Parties: Children (at church) & Youth (at Skate Inn)

Friday 12/20 The Melting Pot Lunch Ministry

Saturday 12/21 10:00-12:00 Food Pantry & Clare's Closet Distribution Day

6:00 Scripture Study Class Christmas Party

Sunday 12/22 10:30 Worship: 4th Sunday of Advent– Love

Christmas Caroling

4:30 Children & Youth Activities

6:15 The Branch

Tuesday 12/24 Christmas Eve

4:30 Family Focused Candlelight Service

6:30 Traditional Candlelight Service

Wednesday 12/25 Christmas Day

Sunday 12/29 10:30 Combined Worship– no evening activities

Join us for worship!

Sundays:

9:15 Sunday School

10:30 Worship Service

4:30 Children & Youth Activities

5:30 Children & Youth Snack Supper

6:15 The Branch– contemporary, youth-led worship

Wednesdays:

4:15 Youth Choir

5:00 Guitar Class

5:30 Fellowship Dinner and Program

6:15 Youth & Children Activities

Thanks to the First Methodist Boy Scout Troop and their leader, Bill Donaldson, for the huge number of bags of canned foods that were collected and delivered to the Food Pantry. This took a lot of work on their part and was not an easy job. We were truly blessed by your efforts and we will be able to bless others in our community with these donations.

Upcoming Wednesday Night Programs

12/4 Advent: The Rest of the Story About Christmas Carols

12/11 Advent: The Rest of the Story About Christmas Carols

12/18 Advent: The Rest of the Story About Christmas Carols

12/25 & 1/1 no Wednesday Nighter

Church family– have you had a change of address, phone number, or email? We want to keep in contact with you! Please notify the church office at 928-9222 or office@1stchurchjc.org of any changes so that we can update our records. Thank you!

If you would like to place a poinsettia in the sanctuary in memory or in honor of a loved one, please call 928-9222 or email office@1stchurchjc.org by December 15. The cost is \$10 each.

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