



The First Epistle

First United Methodist Church
900 Spring Street, Johnson City, Tn 37604
Phone: (423) 928-9222
Email: office@1stchurchjc.org
Website: 1stchurchjc.org

...make more and better
disciples of Jesus Christ for the
transformation of the world.

February 2019

STAFF:

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From our pastor:

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth." - 1 Corinthians 13:4-6

We often think of February as the month of love because of the celebration of Valentine's Day. The greatest expression of love comes from the love of God for us in the gift of his son, and the commandment Jesus gave us to "Love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength" and to "Love our neighbor as ourselves."

One worship song says "Your love never fails, never gives up, never runs out on me. And on and on and on and on it goes."

God's love never fails us, never gives up on us, even when we give up on ourselves, and never ever leaves us.

This love is good news. Let's celebrate love in February and every other month. Friends, love each other as God loves us!

*Love in Christ,
Jane*



February Highlights

February 2 - Church wide
baby shower for Baby
Berning

February 9 - Evening on
Spring Street

February 17 - Church
membership orientation
class

February 23 - Food Pantry/
Clare's Closet

Around the church

Church Membership Orientation Class

February 17 at 9:15 in the Parlor

A 1-hour class on what it means to be a member of FUMC. Information includes: the church structure, its mission, opportunities for activities & involvement, questions & answers.

Sign-up is requested. Please contact the church office at 928-9222 or let Pastor Jane know by emailing her at jane.taylor@1stchurchjc.org



It's a Boy!



You are invited to a church-wide baby shower for Nate Berning and Sydney Davis on Saturday, February 2 from 10:00 - 12:00 in the Church Parlor. Please drop in to help us celebrate and welcome Baby Boy Berning into the First Church Family. They are registered at Target and Wal-Mart. For more information, contact Jamee Roberts at 741-6901 or any member of the Open Door Sunday School Class.



Kelly Logan joined the church on January 13, 2019. She comes to us by transfer of membership from FUMC Bristol, where she attended prior to moving to Johnson City. Kelly works at ETSU as the 911 Dispatch Supervisor, and has worked for the Department of Public Safety for 17 years. She is also a CPR Instructor with the American Heart Association. Outside of work, she likes to read, play games, hike, and bike. She also plays trumpet and dabbles with acoustic guitar and mountain dulcimer, and says that "coffee, cheese, chocolate, and music are her weaknesses". Kelly first visited First Methodist because Vivian Eckerson spoke fondly about the church and encouraged her to come visit. Kelly also had attended a few Vesper services at First Church back in the 90s, and she was curious to see the church again. On her first visit, she immediately felt welcomed by the congregation, and loved the music and the choir. She says having contemporary woven in with the traditional is "refreshing" and she feels that this church is truly blessed to have such an amazing choir and musicians. During one of her first visits to the church, the youth reported about their summer service work, which gave Kelly the sense that this church is alive and loves to serve the community, and she immediately wanted to be a part of it. She has already made herself at home by joining the choir. Welcome, Kelly!

Join us for our annual
Evening on Spring Street!

Saturday, February 9 at 6:00 pm

An evening of dining and entertainment by our youth!

Suggested donation:
\$15 adults/ \$8 children
(childcare will be provided)

Money raised goes to support the summer mission trip for the youth

For more information or to RSVP, contact Sharon Cradic

UMW news

Circle of Friends - February 1 at 6:30

Executive Committee - February 7 at 10:00 am in the Conference Room

General meeting and luncheon - February 7 at 11:00 am



It's almost time for softball signups! Please let Kristen Clements or Cal Klem know if you are interested in playing in our church league team this year.

New Member

Getting to know....

Steve Reis, Director of Outreach and Discipleship



I spent the first 18 years of my life in Gahanna, Ohio, before I moved to Evanston, IL to study music at Northwestern University. I earned a Bachelor of Music in percussion performance in 2007 and moved here to Johnson City where my older brother worked for the Appalachia Service Project. I met my wife, Lisa, while we were both working at Starbucks, and we have been married since 2010. We now have two children, Ephraim (3) and Samuel (1).

I returned to school and earned a master's degree in exercise science from ETSU in 2013. I hold coaching certifications from USA Triathlon, USA Cycling, USA Track and Field, and the National Strength and Conditioning Association. I spent a year working for Health Fitness Corporation as a contractor at the Eastman Chemical Company before leaving that position to follow a call to the ministry.

I have completed a year of a Master of Divinity program at United Theological Seminary and will continue that program next fall as I ultimately seek ordination in the United Methodist Church. Lisa and I have been attending First Church since 2008. We were married here in 2010 and I began working for the church as the Director of Outreach and Discipleship in 2015.

My responsibilities to the church in the areas of outreach and discipleship are broad, and as a part-time employee, my primary duties are necessarily flexible to match the specific priorities in the different seasons of the church. I am currently the worship leader for The Branch at 6:15 on Sunday nights. I plan music, liturgy, and preach each week. In conjunction with this service, I help teach music at our Wednesday after school program. The Branch is an opportunity for our young people to use their new skills and become better disciples by being leaders in worship and I have been incorporating our children and youth into that service in different roles.

I currently oversee our young adult ministry, which is split into two overarching categories. Our Wayfinder group is for recent high school graduates who may or may not be in college, but fall close to that 18-24 year old range. I facilitate a weekly gathering every Thursday at 6pm in the neighborhood center. This group is critical for our growing youth group as they graduate and transition to adult status in the church.

The other group is our older young adults. I teach a Sunday school class called S.A.L.T. (serving and learning together) that is geared toward this group. In addition, I create opportunities for these people to connect outside of the church, such as meals in each other's homes, or outings to special events.

In collaboration with the connections pillar, I ensure that we follow-up with first-time visitors in a timely manner, and reach out to repeat visitors to help them explore ways to get more connected.

I occasionally serve as liaison between the church and various community events that may align with our mission, such as LoveJC last year sponsored by the Church Mobilization Network.

I generally field requests for assistance from the church and make decisions regarding how to spend funds set aside for that purpose. I also oversee our Faith Promise missions giving campaign, and with the help and approval of the Outreach Pillar, we make decisions regarding the missions our church supports with that fund.

I have recently assumed responsibility for the monitoring and maintenance of our security cameras.

In 2019 I look to expand the reach of The Branch as an entry point to the church, and to emphasize small group ministry, especially with our young adult groups. The church will continue to grow so long as our members have opportunities to find meaningful personal and spiritual connections, because disciples make other disciples.



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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



William & Mary Choir Performs in Johnson City on March 18 - Host Homes Needed!!

The Choir of the College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, VA, will be making a stop in Johnson City on its annual Spring Tour. They will perform a concert at St. John's Episcopal Church on Monday, March 18, at 7:00 PM. In order to support this event, we are joining with the St. John's congregation in efforts to provide one night's housing and breakfast for students in groups of 2 or more. Please contact Joy Nagy at **423-833-2291** or **jdjwnagy@aol.com** if you would like to volunteer to be a host, or for more information about the event.



THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The Council of Bishops has called a Special Session of the General Conference of The United Methodist Church to be held February 23-26, 2019 in St. Louis, Missouri. The purpose will be to receive and act on a report from the Commission on a Way Forward based on the recommendations of the Council of Bishops. The 32-member Commission was authorized by General Conference 2016 and appointed by the Council of Bishops to examine paragraphs in The Book of Discipline concerning human sexuality and exploring options to strengthen the unity of the church. The full report is available on the United Methodist Church website, www.umc.org.

Did you know.....?



Boy Scouts Troop 36

FUMC sponsors a local Boy Scout Unit. This troop is the oldest continuing scout troop in Johnson City.

Scoutmaster Bill Donaldson and numerous other volunteers coordinate weekly meetings, camping trips, summer camp, and help boys interested in scouting to progress from rank to rank. Troop 36 has a long list of young men who have achieved the highest rank scouting offers: Eagle Scout.

Troop 36 meets on Monday nights at 7 pm in the gym.