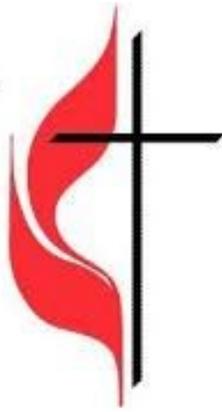


open hearts
open minds
open doors



The First Epistle

First United Methodist Church

900 Spring Street, Johnson City, TN 37604

Phone: (423)928-9222

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Website: 1stchurchjc.org

November 2019

Church staff:

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Rev. Gary Ihfe, Associate Pastor

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Wayne Holloway & Elisa Wardeska,
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Jennifer Boarman, Bulletin Coordinator

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Finley Cook, Wednesday Night Chef

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Beth Louthian, Tammy Crawford &
Emma Berning, Nursery

From the pastoral staff...

Each November we bake some pumpkin pies, roast a turkey, break out our cornucopias, and celebrate Thanksgiving. I hope that each of you will have a special time to gather with friends or family and celebrate all the blessings you have. As you are getting ready for Thanksgiving, our stewardship team wanted to send you a message: **"Thanks For Giving!"**

Our stewardship committee is tasked with putting together a stewardship campaign each year, but this year they have decided to do things a little differently. Instead of saying, "Give. Give. Give." we want to say, "Thank you. Thank you. Thank you."

Thank you for supporting your church with your prayers, your presence, your gifts, your service, and your witness. God is doing great things in the lives of our members, guests, and neighbors through the ministries of First Church. These ministries can only exist because you support them, so thank you.

Of course we want you to keep giving and supporting the church next year. We even want you to grow in your support of our church so that God's impact in our community can grow through our ministries. To that end, this year's "Thanks-For-Giving" Stewardship Campaign has 3 parts:

First, we have made a "Thanks-For-Giving" brochure for you to read over. It has 4 devotions for you to do this month to help you see the great things that God has done and will do through First Church. It also has a commitment card you can tear off after doing the devotionals. It allows you to commit to continue supporting First Church with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. You can keep that card as a reminder of your commitments for next year, or you can turn it in by placing it in the box at the front of the sanctuary. If you have not received one of these yet, we have plenty available in the church office and in the narthex.

Second, on November 24, we are hosting a Thanks-For-Giving Potluck. We will celebrate all the great gifts we have received, we will bless all the commitments that have been made and we will say thanks to you again for the way you have supported our church and its ministries. We will provide the turkey, dressing, and drinks. You are invited to bring a side, salad, or dessert to share.

Lastly, each Sunday in November we will show a video highlighting one specific ministry so you can see how by offering up your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness, God changes people's lives. These videos will in no way show you every great thing that is happening at First Church, but they will show you four great things that are happening.

We are so excited about what God has been doing at First Church and we hope that you are too. We also hope that you are excited about all the great things God has in store for us in the next year. Our ministries will impact lives and invite people to begin living in the Kingdom of God, and these miracles will happen because you support your church with your prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness. Thanks for Giving.

All Saints Sunday

November 3, 2019, is All Saints Sunday, where we remember those who have joined the cloud of witnesses this past year:

Joan Garland

Louise McMackin

Ralph Garland

Sam Miller

Edna Johnson

Helen Saylor

Bill McClellan

Aldon Speer

Mary McClellan

Betty Speer

Carolyn Wood

Live flower arrangements may be placed in the chancel area in honor or in loving memory of someone special for any Sunday of the year. Please notify Pat Faber by leaving a message in the church office at 928-9222. Requests for specific dates will be honored based on the date the request was received. On Sundays when there is no request we will continue to enjoy the lovely flowers that Susan Fields provides for our church.

Capital Campaign Update

Please prayerfully consider additional donations.

Campaign Goal	\$150,000
Total Donations (6/23-10/20)	\$72,170
Needed to Meet Goal	\$77,830

Save the Date!

11/12 Church Council Meeting
11/17 UMW Bake Sale
11/17-24 Family Promise Host Week
11/23 Food Pantry & Clare's Closet
12/1 Children's Christmas Play
12/8 Taste of First
12/15 Children's Shopping Day
12/22 Church-wide Caroling
12/24 Christmas Eve Worship
12/21 Food Pantry & Clare's Closet

The September Food Pantry distribution was a very successful Saturday morning thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers who are so faithful and to all of you who support the pantry in other ways. It was a very busy two hours where we distributed 98 boxes of food that served at least 161 family members. Everyone enjoyed a special treat of pancakes served at the pavilion by the Open Door Class. It was a success!

Saturday, November 23 & 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.

Mexico Medical Mission

Would you like to serve on a medical team to Mexico?

A team will be forming to travel to Ixtepec and Tatoxcac, April 18-26, 2020. The Methodist Church from Holston Conference has been leading a medical team to this area since 1983. The opportunity to serve the Mexican people is a rewarding experience. Many do not have access to care or medications. Our team is in the area every six months and attempts to have medications for at least six months. Please note this is not on the border and a much safer place in Mexico to work. This is a camping-type experience. Our team will need doctors, nurses, interpreters, and people who are willing to serve. Please email Anna Kapoor at mexicomedicalmissiontn@gmail.com for an application as soon as possible. Our team leaders are Frank Snyder (pharmacist), Rev. Ramon Torres, Dr. Paul Brown (physician), Angela Bowker (treasurer), and Anna Kapoor (logistics).

Trunk or Treat

Even though it rained and we had to move indoors, it was still lots of fun for all!



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

Upcoming Wednesday Night Programs

11/6 Thankfulness

11/13 Thankfulness

11/20 Thankfulness

11/27 no Wednesday Nighter

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

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