



# The First Epistle

Newsletter of First United Methodist Church May 2021

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## Graduate Recognition

On Sunday, May 16, 2021, during worship, we will celebrate with our high school seniors who are graduating this year. We will congratulate them on their hard work and hear from them about their experiences in youth group and future plans. Let's show them our support by attending worship in person or online and writing each of them a letter or card. You may email your letters to [sharon.cradic@1stchurchjc.org](mailto:sharon.cradic@1stchurchjc.org) or drop off letters and cards in the designated boxes in the connector and print room. The letters are needed before May 14, 2021.

### Senior High Youth Graduates

- Caleb Bumpass– Science Hill High School
- Stephen Cradic– Science Hill High School
- Mikeal Dukes– Science Hill High School
- Rowan Mills– Science Hill High School
- Preston Trent– Science Hill High School

In addition to the high school graduates, we know that other members of our church family will be graduating from colleges, universities, and other institutions. If you or someone in your family is celebrating this important milestone, we want to celebrate with you.

Please contact Pastor Jodie at [Jodie.ihfe@1stchurchjc.org](mailto:Jodie.ihfe@1stchurchjc.org) with the following information by May 12, 2021:

1. Full name of graduate
2. School name
3. Degree earned
4. Future plans (optional)
5. Picture of graduate

In addition to the worship service, we will also highlight our graduates in the June newsletter. Congratulations to all of our graduates who have accomplished so much during such a difficult time.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jodie

# Mission & Outreach

## Hands-On Mission Project for Holston Conference 2021

First Church has been assigned backpacks for school children in Liberia. Backpacks are **due by May 7, 2021**.

- 1 **backpack** (new or gently used)
- 1 **12" ruler**
- 2 **boxes chalk**
- 1 **compass for math**
- 1 **protractor**
- 1 **10-12 pack pens** (blue or black ink)
- 1 **10-12 pack pencils**
- 1 **pack erasers**
- 2 **pencil sharpeners**
- 3 **spiral notebooks** (70 ct.)
- 1 **small Bible** (new or used)

### Instructions

- ◆ Remove price tags from all items
- ◆ Place school supplies inside backpack
- ◆ Use only quantities listed (note that 10 or 12 count packs of pens and pencils are allowed)
- ◆ No substitutions or additional items are allowed due to Customs regulations, including notes, cards, photos, religious tracts, food items, or anything else not on the list

Please make \$5 donation for each backpack to First Church with the note "LIBERIA BACKPACKS," to help us cover the shipping costs. Do not place donation inside the backpack.

Additional information can be found at the church website [www.1stchurchjc.org](http://www.1stchurchjc.org).

## Youth Mission Trip

The youth mission trip is scheduled for June 20-25, 2021. If you are interested in attending the Mission Trip, please contact Sharon Cradic at (423) 676-5511 or [sharon.cradic@1stchurchjc.org](mailto:sharon.cradic@1stchurchjc.org). Registration is due by **May 4, 2021**.

## UMCOR Cleaning Buckets

The United Methodist Committee On Relief (UMCOR) works help communities after disasters. Individual and groups are invited to create and bring cleaning kits to First Church by **May 7, 2021**.

- **One five-gallon round bucket with lid**
  - \* 14.35" h x 12.19" w x 12.19" d
  - \* No screw lids
  - \* May be used, but must be free from all residual product
  - \* Advertisement on the outside acceptable
- **One 32-64 oz. bottle liquid laundry detergent**
- **One 16-40 oz. bottle liquid concentrate household cleaner**
  - \* No spray cleaners
- **One 16-34 oz. bottle liquid dish soap**
- **One 4-8 oz. pump spray air freshener**
- **One 6-14 oz. pump spray insect repellent**
  - \* pack of 10-20 wipes also acceptable
  - \* With or without handle
  - \* Pump spray bottles must have protective covers
- **One scrub brush** (With or without handle)
- **18 re-usable cleaning wipes**
  - \* No terrycloth, microfiber or paper towels
  - \* Remove from packaging
- **Five scouring pads**
  - \* No stainless steel or pads with soap in them
  - \* Remove from packaging
- **36-50 clothespins**
- **One 50-100 ft. clothesline** (Cotton or plastic)
- **24ct Roll of heavy-duty trash bags**
  - \* 33-45 gallon sizes
  - \* Remove from packaging
- **Five N95 particulate respirator dust masks**
  - \* 1-3 mm thickness
  - \* No surgical masks
- **Two pairs kitchen gloves**
  - \* Durable for multiple uses
  - \* Remove from packaging
- **One pair work gloves**
  - \* Cotton with leather palm or all leather

Assembly and packing instructions can be found on the church website [www.1stchurchjc.org](http://www.1stchurchjc.org).

## Prayer List

|                    |                                    |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| Randy Bennett, Jr. | Scott & Ellen McElveen             |
| Nate Berning       | Helen Mills                        |
| Bill Carter        | Jason Mills                        |
| Catherine Cartus   | Tom Palmer                         |
| Jeremaine Chatman  | JoAnne Paty                        |
| Kristen Daniels    | Bob Peebles                        |
| Eddie Deakins      | Zander Pritt                       |
| Fran Dennison      | Sam Reid                           |
| Barbara Devault    | Bonnie Sampson                     |
| Vivian Eckerson    | Samantha Sams                      |
| Phyllis Eorgan     | Kyle Shell                         |
| Joe Faber          | Summer Strasser                    |
| Jim Furches        | Phil Torbett                       |
| Juanita Gray       | Linda White                        |
| Nannie Green       | Steve Wilkinson                    |
| Amy Gross & family | Family Promise                     |
| Tom Holmes         | Brother's Keeper                   |
| Deb King           | Haven of Mercy                     |
| Linda Kostreva     | Kairos Ministry                    |
| Mary Lewis         | Treatment & vaccine<br>for COVID19 |
| Barbara Marrs      |                                    |
| David McElveen     |                                    |

### We extend our sympathy to:

Rhonda Simmons and family in the loss of her mother, Freeda Garland, on April 5, 2021

The family of Spencer Pickle, who passed away on April 7, 2021

Judy Story and family in the loss of her sister, LaVerne Catherine Dollahite, on April 15, 2021

Rev. Mark & Brooke Laughlin in the loss of their infant daughter, Elizabeth Grace, on April 19, 2021

### We celebrate with:

Will & Stephanie Campbell, who were married on April 24, 2021. Will is the son of Ernest and Nancy Campbell.

*If you would like to add or remove prayer concerns from this list, please contact Pastor Jodie at [jodie.ihfe@1stchurchjc.org](mailto:jodie.ihfe@1stchurchjc.org)*

## Nursery Reopening

Beginning on Sunday, May 9, nursery for children age 5 and under will be available during the 10:30 worship service. The Reopening Team has put together the following health and safety guidelines for the nursery:

### Cleaning and Disinfecting:

- The nursery and child care areas will be cleaned after each use by the custodial staff
- Staff and volunteers will remove all items from rooms that cannot be easily disinfected
- Toys and supplies will be disinfected after use
- Bedding and nap supplies will be washed
- Washable bottles/cups will be used for water instead of the water fountain
- Regular handwashing for workers and children

### Safety Protocols:

- All adults will wear masks at all times. Masks are not required for children 2 years old and under, and masks are optional for children ages 2-5 years old in the nursery
- Social distance of 6 feet will be maintained as much as possible
- Parents/guardians will sign children in and out at the nursery
- Parents/guardians will maintain social distance of 6 feet during drop off and pick up
- Child care workers will maintain accurate attendance records of each class
- Those who feel sick or who have been exposed to or tested positive for COVID-19 should stay home
- Safe Sanctuary guidelines will continue to be followed

We look forward to offering this vital ministry to our families once again.

First Church Reopening Team

### *Save the Date!*

- Graduate Recognition: Sunday, May 16, at 10:30
- Youth Kickball Game: Sunday, May 16, at 5:00
- Johnson City Doughboys game: June 16
- Youth Mission Trip: June 20-25
- Camp in the Community: July 5-9

## SENIOR KICKBALL GAME

Sunday, May 16, 5:00-7:00 at Powell Square Park  
201 West Poplar Street, Johnson City, TN 37604  
Bring a chair and celebrate with the youth!  
Kickball game begins at 5:00, and pizza and cupcakes will be served at 6:15. The seniors will be honored with a roast during dinner. Parking near Powell Square is limited. If you are able, park in the Pine Street lot at First Church and walk to the park.

### Holston Annual Conference Update

The 2021 Holston Annual Conference will be a hybrid of online and in-person gatherings. The online or virtual gathering will be held via Zoom webinar for a time of worship and reporting. The clergy session will also be online. The in-person gathering will be a time of discussion and voting held at a later date. The in-person gathering will be live-streamed, but only those who are present will be able to discuss and vote. The in-person gathering, due to space restrictions, will be limited to voting members of the Annual Conference only. The schedule of events is listed below. Please note, all dates and times are subject to change based upon CDC restrictions and each venue's safety protocols.

**June 8, 2021:** Virtual Clergy Session  
Zoom webinar- 2:00 pm

**June 12, 2021:** Virtual Annual Conference  
Zoom webinar- 1:00 pm

**August 27, 2021:** Memorial Service  
First Broad Street UMC- 3:00 pm

**August 27, 2021:** Ordination Service  
First Broad Street UMC- 7:00 pm

**August 28, 2021:** In-Person Annual Conference  
MeadowView Conference Resort & Convention Center- 12:00-6:00 pm

Visit [ac.holston.org](http://ac.holston.org) for all the latest news concerning the 2021 Annual Conference schedules.

## Financial Report

Thank you so much for your generosity this year. Because of your support, we have been able to sustain and expand the ministries of First Church. This small chart compares contributions for the first quarter of 2020 and the first quarter of 2021. As you can see, contributions and expenses are down for 2021, but overall we are doing better than this time last year. The PPP loan that we received through the CARES Act has already been forgiven. Also, the Rebuild, Replace, Restore loan (RRR) was paid off in December 2020. Any additional contributions to the RRR will be placed in the Building Fund.

Your continued support this year is vital to the work of our church in our community and beyond. If you have not already, please consider giving to First Church through your financial institution, mailing in gifts to 900 Spring Street, Johnson City, TN 37604, or giving online at <http://bit.ly/GiveTo1st>

|                          | March 2020   | March 2021   |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|
|                          | Year to Date | Year to Date |
| Contributions/<br>Income | \$113,849    | \$96,368     |
| Expenses                 | 152,347      | 127,935      |
| Income/(Loss)            | (38,498)     | (31,567)     |

### Camp in the Community

First Church is hosting Camp in the Community during the week of July 5-9. Volunteers are needed to work with the kids and prepare food in the kitchen. Please mark your calendars and be in prayer for this exciting event.