



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.

Summer 2019

STAFF:

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Calvin Robinson, Custodian

Susan Dove Fields, Organist

Beth Louthian, Tammy Crawford, &
Emma Berning, Nursery

Dear Friends,

I want to thank all of you for the many ways you have allowed me to be your pastor. I am profoundly grateful for our time together and know that I will always remember our adventure together in ministry with great love and thankfulness. I hope the same will be true for you.

We have walked a road in these last 6 years that few congregations are able to successfully navigate. God has led us through a journey that initially appeared to be filled with difficulty, but has given us great hope for the future of the church, the community, and the work of the kingdom of God.

We have shared a lot! Some of you have come to First UMC since I have been here. All of you have brought your gifts and support to the church, making us stronger by your presence. I've had the great privilege to perform weddings and baptize children. I've watched our children grow up. I've visited hospitals and shut-ins, and I've been part of too many funerals to count. Through it all, I have been grateful for the presence of God's Spirit.

One of the great joys of my time here with you has been watching the leaders grow and develop over the last few years. I appreciate the diversity, the talent, the wisdom, and the passion for ministry that I have witnessed through our time together. Our leaders rely on each other and seek the best ways to serve God together, even when it isn't easy. Together we have laughed and cried, dreamed, prayed, and persevered.

While I am leaving you as your pastor and will not perform any pastoral duties after June 30, 2019, I will always be your friend. I also want you to know that God never ever leaves any of us alone. God continues on the journey with you just as God has traveled with people since the beginning of time. God's love never fails us! Bishop Taylor is sending you two of the best and brightest pastors our conference has to offer, Rev Jodie Ihfe (senior pastor) and Rev. Gary Ihfe, part-time associate pastor. I am so excited for you! Please pray for them, support them, offer them help as you are able, and work with them to continue the kingdom work here at First UMC. As our baptismal covenant says, "Do all in your power to increase their faith, confirm their hope, and perfect them in love." It won't be easy, because it never is! With God and the wonderful membership of First UMC, great things will continue to occur!

I will continue to pray for each and every one of you. I pray that First UMC will have a future like we read in Jeremiah 29: "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for good and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope." I know that First UMC has a wonderful future ahead with more and more connections to the community and more and more people joining into your midst. My prayer is that you deepen in your relationship with God and be confident that God is the source of all strength and hope for you. I also pray that more people will come to know God, and God's unconditional love, through you. And I pray most that you will continue to BE exactly who you ARE--beloved by God and loving people of God. Remember that God loves us all the same! I'll be seeing you around. Andy and Bree, Avery, Ellie, and Drew are very active members here and I plan to worship here with my family from time to time. Remember your purpose each and every day--to make disciples of Jesus Christ. You are GOOD AT THAT!

God bless you. Love and prayers always,

Jane

Around the church

FUMC Staff Parish Announcement

First United Methodist Church Johnson City is pleased to announce the projected appointments of Reverend Jodie Ihfe as our new Senior Pastor and Reverend Gary Ihfe as our Associate Pastor effective July 1st, 2019. We also welcome their two daughters, Lily and Lydia. The Order for the Celebration of an Appointment Service will take place at the morning service on Sunday, June 30th, 2019.

Additionally, we offer our sincere congratulations to our current Pastor, Reverend Jane Taylor, who has been projected to become the new District Superintendent of the Clinch Mountain District. Following the morning service on June 30th there will be a church-wide luncheon in the Fellowship Hall to welcome the Ihfe family and to wish Jane well. We ask that you remember these individuals in prayer as they move forward in their new ministry journeys.

The Staff Parish Committee (speaking for the entire church family) would like to express our sincere appreciation to Calvin Robinson for serving as Church Custodian during the past two years. Calvin came forward to take this position during a time when we had a great need for someone with the skill-set and knowledge of the many needs to keep an older building "going." Thank you, Calvin!!

In Celebration

Congratulations to Ben & Natalie Bateson, and son Ephraim, in the birth of Mirran Guy Bateson, who was born on May 2;

On Sunday, May 27, Anee McCarthy Mahlo Keinath was baptized



Congratulations, Graduates!

Veronica Anne Meredith, graduated from Baylor University in Waco, TX on May 18, 2019, with a Major in English and a Minor in Film and Digital Media. Veronica is the granddaughter of Calvin and Nancy McMann.

Olivia Woosley graduated from Science Hill High School. She plans to attend ETSU in the fall. She is the daughter of Seth and Meredith Woosley, and the granddaughter of Mickey and Nancy Honeycutt.

Elizabeth Simmons is receiving her Master's in Horn Performance and Literature from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY. She plans to continue living in Rochester, where she is a professional freelance musician and maintains a private teaching studio. Elizabeth is the daughter of Rhonda and Greg Simmons.

Nathan Narain Kapoor graduated on May 10, 2019, receiving his doctorate in The History of Science, Technology and Medicine from the University of Oklahoma. He is the son of Karl and Anna Kapoor.

Amber Butcher Kapoor received a Master's degree in Mechanical Engineering The University of Massachusetts on May 11, 2019. She is the daughter of Dwight and Donna Butcher of Oak Ridge, and the daughter-in-law of Karl and Anna Kapoor.

You have the power to make a difference! We have rebuilt, replaced, and restored the roof and HVAC in the Education Building. Details to follow. Day of Giving and Commitment is Sunday, June 23.

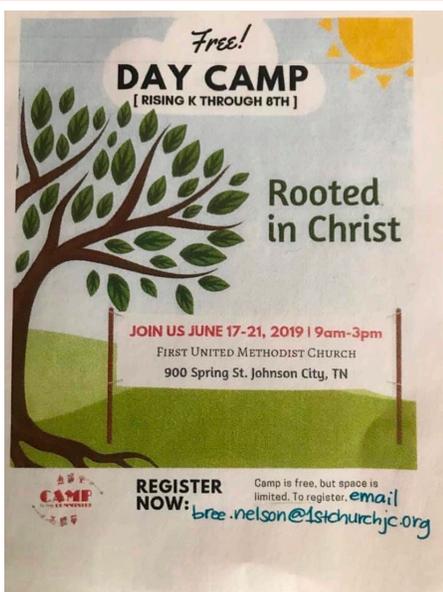
In Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to:

Art & Vivian Eckerson in the death of Vivian's aunt, Velma Simerly;

Steve & Donna Robbins in the death of Steve's mother, Arlene Frouz.

Summer Programs and Activities



Camp in the Community is partnering again this year with First United Methodist Church in Johnson City to provide a FREE Day Camp where children in our community can learn and grow through Christ. We are blessed to share in ministry with you again this summer! We will have organized activities throughout the week, including recreation, story time, crafts, games, and much more. This powerful summer camp experience is designed for children (rising K- 8th grade) from 9 am-3 pm, the week of June 17-21 at First

United Methodist to share the gospel and invite people into our church community.

Summer Schedule Change

During the month of June, the morning and evening services will be combined during the 10:30 worship service. The Sunday evening service, The Branch, will resume on Sunday, July 7 at 6:15.

Summer mission trip



The youth will be going back to Smokey Mountain Outreach in June. This mission trip combines dynamic worship, preaching, and the adventure of camp with the opportunity to be God's hands and feet through on-mission outreach. We are looking forward to a wonderful time to serve and fellowship. The date for the mission trip is June 16th thru 21st. If you would like to have more information please email Sharon.cradic@1stchurchjc.org.



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Come out and support our softball team, on June 3rd as they play Living Word Lutheran Church at 7:30 at Winged Deer Park. Also, look for more information in June about TOURNAMENT GAMES!





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



June & July Highlights:

June 16-21 - Youth Mission Trip

June 16-23 - Family Promise host week

June 17-21 - Camp in the Community

June 22 - Food Pantry Distribution

June 23 - Day of Giving

June 23-29 - Youth to Montreat Music Camp

June 30 - Church-wide Luncheon

July 7 - The Branch service resumes

July 17 - Church night at JC Cardinals game

July 27 - Food Pantry Distribution