



# The First Epistle

Newsletter of First United Methodist Church Dec. 2021

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Directors of Sr. High Youth

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Susan Dove Fields, Organist

Wayne Holloway & Elisa Wardeska

Treasurers

treasurer@1stChurchJC.org

Jennifer Boarman, Bulletin Coordinator

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Finley Cook, Wednesday Night Chef

finleyac1@gmail.com

## 5 Ways to Have a "Mary" Christmas

Dear First Church Family,

Merry Christmas! For some of us, Christmas is a season of joy and excitement, full of fun activities and meaningful moments. But it can also be a difficult time for some, a time when feelings of loneliness and loss, stress and strain come to the surface. And for many of us, it is all of these emotions and experiences. As I reflect on the first Christmas, I am certain that the full range of emotions were in play for the Holy Family, especially Mary. From her encounter with the angel to the moment of looking upon the face of the Savior in her arms, Mary experienced all the joy, fear, excitement, and stress that any of us may feel this time of year. So to celebrate the birth of Jesus, I am looking for ways to engage more deeply with that first Christmas and find ways to be a little more like Mary, and I invite you to join me.

### 5 Ways to Have a "Mary" Christmas

1. **Spend time with family— Luke 1:39, 2:4-5**

Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth and Joseph's family in Bethlehem and received support, encouragement, and care. Spending time with family in person, over the phone, or in a video call can be a way to find connection and support.

2. **Praise God with singing— Luke 1:46-55**

Mary rejoiced in God's gift of Jesus by singing a praise song. Lifting your voice in song with a Christmas carol or any song can draw us into the story of Christ and into God's presence.

3. **Be open and available— Luke 1:38**

Mary said "Here I am Lord, your servant," even though the angel's words caught her by surprise. In the midst of all your holiday plans be sure to leave room to accept God's invitation to do something unexpected.

4. **Ponder and wonder and pray— Luke 1:29, 2:19**

Mary pondered the words of the angel and the words of the shepherds, and these words remained in her heart. Taking a break from the busy-ness of the season to ponder and pray can give you peace and perspective.

5. **Bring Christ into the world— Luke 2:7**

Mary gave birth to Jesus, bringing him into the world. We, too, can bring Christ into the world by sharing God's love with those around us, in this Christmas season and always.

Have a "Mary" Christmas and a Merry Christmas!

Blessings,  
Pastor Jodie, Pastor Gary  
Lydia and Lily Ihfe

### Men's Basketball

The church is sponsoring an adult men's basketball team. Games will begin in December and last until February. The schedule is TBD, but Steve Reis will have details soon. We hope you can come support our young men!

### Christmas Eve Worship

Candlelight Christmas Eve service will be Friday, December 24 at 7:00 pm in the sanctuary. The service will include candlelight, communion, familiar hymns, and special music as we retell the story of Christ's birth. The service is appropriate for all ages and abilities, and nursery will be available. Livestreaming and online options will also be offered.

### Prayer List

Byron Barker	Penny Hudson & family
Susie Barker	Scott Huff
Betty Burleson	Deb King
Bill Carter	Linda Kostreva
Catherine Cartus	Jeong-il Kwak
Scott Combs	James Lessly
John Cradic	Roy & Sharon Lessly
Vernon Crawford	Luanne Love
Ernie & Jo Cross	David McElveen
Lindsay Daniel	John Melendez & family
Kristen Daniels	Helen Mills
Fran Dennison	Tom Palmer
Jackie Denny	Bob & Athena Peebles
Hank DeVault	Joanne Peterson
Vivian Eckerson	Richard Rollins
Bob Feagins	Cathie Rosecrance
Jim Furches	Sandy Sanders
Alex Garrison	Mary Shomaker
Juanita Gray	Nancy Stevenson
Ben Gouge	Kenzi Tipton
Betty Gouge	Doris Welch
Juanita Gray	Family Promise
Mendy Hall	Brother's Keeper
Steve Harris	Haven of Mercy
Josh Hinkle	Kairos Ministry
Tom Holmes	Healthcare workers
Traci Honeycutt	

*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)*

### Taste of First

The Taste of First returns this year on Sunday, December 12th at 4:00 in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in hosting a table (as an individual, class, or group), please call the church office to sign up. Hosts are responsible for providing the food and table decorations for their respective tables.

Thank you to everyone who decorated our church building for the Christmas season- Janice Moore for putting up the wreaths and garland, Amy & Grady Dewitt for putting up and decorating the Christmon tree, and all their helpers. You are appreciated!

Choir practice resumes on Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at 7:30 pm

### Clare's Closet Update

Donations are welcome for Clare's Closet. If you have any new or used winter hoodies, or coats, outerwear gloves and hats that you would like to donate, the box is in the collection Connector. We appreciate your support for this ministry!



To our church family:

A short note but one full of heartfelt gratitude for all the love, prayers, caring support, patience, cards and phone calls to check on me during the two recent surgery procedures to correct some long-term problems. I am feeling much better and quite overflowing with thanksgiving.

-Karl & Anna Kapoor

### Job Title Changes

**Steve Reis** joined the staff at FUMC in 2015 with the title of Director of Community Outreach and Discipleship Ministries. As a part of that job, Steve has worked with children, youth, & young adults; led contemporary music in multiple worship services; coordinated hands-on mission projects; and worked alongside the pastors in various capacities. Effective January 1, 2022, Steve will continue his ministry with FUMC under the new title of **Director of Contemporary Worship and Young Adult Ministries**. Steve will continue much of the same ministry such as planning, preparing, and leading music in worship, and expanding the excellent children and youth program by working with young adults as they graduate from the youth group. The SPRC and Church Council feel that changing this job title will better define the role and help grow the ministries of First Church.

**Jennifer Boarman** joined the staff at FUMC in 2016 with the title of Bulletin Coordinator. Over the years, Jennifer has taken on additional responsibilities as the methods of sharing information have changed and grown. Effective January 1, 2022, Jennifer will continue her ministry with FUMC under the new title of **Communications Coordinator**. Jennifer will continue to prepare the weekly bulletins while also serving as the point of contact for sharing announcements in other formats throughout the week. The SPRC and Church Council feel that changing this job title will help expand the role to meet current and future needs of First Church.

### New Worship Series

Join us for a new worship series during Advent and Christmas called "You Shall Name Him." We will prepare our hearts and lives to welcome Jesus by looking closely at the names and titles given to Jesus by those who expected him to come, by those who followed him, and even by himself. Who is this man we call the King of Kings, the Messiah, the Prince of Peace, the Son of God, our Emmanuel, and the Savior? What do you call someone who is all of those things? Mary and Joseph were told to name him Jesus. Please plan to join us for this Advent sermon series that will carry us through the end of the year.

Remember to stay in touch with our college students! They might appreciate an encouraging note this holiday season. If you have a college student not on this list, contact Steve Reis.

Stephen Cradic- ETSU  
400 JL Seehorn Jr. Rd.  
Box 14151  
Johnson City, TN 37614

Preston Trent- ETSU  
1833 Presswood Rd.  
Johnson City, TN 37604

Rowan Mills- ETSU  
Student Quarters  
1301 Seminole Dr.  
Johnson City, TN 37604

Josie Roberts- Northeast State  
5 Province Dr.  
Gray, TN 37615

## First Church By The Numbers

### Food Pantry

Distributed 26 boxes, serving 56 family members.

### Melting Pot

Prepared 160 sack lunches, including ham & cheese sandwiches, granola bar, potato chips, & water.

### Operation Christmas Child

45 Christmas shoeboxes were donated

### UMCOR

17 cleaning buckets and 22 hygiene kits were assembled

70 people attended the Thanksgiving dinner for youth, children, and their families



## YOUTH NEWS

- Resurrection is January 21-23, 2022**

Resurrection is an awesome annual event of worship and spiritual growth for youth and youth mentors. We are so excited to be able to come together again for this incredible weekend event. If you are interested in going, please contact Sharon Cradic at [sharon.cradic@1stchurchjc.org](mailto:sharon.cradic@1stchurchjc.org). The deadline to sign up is January 12.



13 Senior High youth and 4 adults had a retreat at Camp Bays Mountain on November 5-7







Experience the magic of the season during Johnson City's Candy Land Christmas! 150 brightly lit, community decorated Christmas trees will span from Founders Park to King Commons in Downtown Johnson City. Candy Land Christmas begins on November 27 at 7 pm and continues through January 2. First Church is proud to participate in this community event with a Christmas tree decorated with handmade ornaments. Be sure to find and vote for the FUMC tree!



*The children, youth, & their families shared a Thanksgiving dinner on November 17, with 70 people in attendance*



*FUMC hosted Trunk or Treat for the community on October 27. We had over 120 children and youth attend.*



# FIRST UMC LEADERSHIP 2022 PAGE 1

CHURCH COUNCIL			
<b>Chair</b>	Kathy Feagins	<b>Trustees</b>	Ernest Campbell
<b>Secretary</b>	Carla Peterson	<b>Finance</b>	Steve Love
<b>Lay Leader</b>	Anna Kapoor	<b>Financial Sec.</b>	Finley Cook
<b>Assoc. Lay Leader</b>	Debbie Eddy	<b>Treasurer</b>	Elisa Wardeska
<b>Lay Member AC 1</b>	Anna Kapoor	<b>Stewardship</b>	Fred Sharpe
<b>Lay Member AC 2</b>	Billy Walker	<b>Endowment</b>	Scott Huff
<b>Nominations</b>	Miriam Robinson	<b>Outreach</b>	Mike Eddy
<b>SPRC</b>	Steve Gross	<b>Nurture</b>	TBD
<b>Membership</b>	Anna Kapoor	<b>UMW</b>	Pam Heaton, Judy Cook
<i>All staff are also participants in church council</i>			

STAFF PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE		
<i>includes Lay Leader and Lay Member to Annual Conference</i>		
<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Betty Moore	Cal Robinson	Donna Robbins
<b>Steve Gross*</b>	Dave Trent	Bonnie Sampson
Johnny Qualls	Janine Berning	Carla Peterson

NOMINATIONS AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT		
<i>includes Lay Leader</i>		
<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Judy Story	Stephen Cradic	Mike Scott
Jamee Roberts	<b>Miriam Robinson*</b>	Ann Sharpe
Caroline Story	Katie Mahoney	Jim Heaton

TRUSTEES		
<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Jeff Kleven	Grady DeWitt	<b>Ernest Campbell*</b>
Larry Street	Janice Moore	Nancy Honeycutt
Kendal Fox Eden	Steve Robbins	Ben Peeples

WELCOME & SECURITY			
Keith Bailey	Mickey Honeycutt	Dee Minutolo	Calvin Robinson
Chris Berning	Mike Hopson	Frank Mohap	Ken Talley
Finley Cook	Scott Huff	Ben Peeples	David Trent
<b>Jim Heaton*</b>	Keith Jones	Steve Robbins	

# FIRST UMC LEADERSHIP 2022 PAGE 2

## FINANCE

<b>Chair</b>	Steve Love	<b>Stewardship</b>	Fred Sharpe
<b>Lay Member</b>	Anna Kapoor	<b>Lay Leader</b>	Debbie Eddy
<b>Council Chair</b>	Kathy Feagins	<b>Financial Sec.</b>	Finley Cook
<b>SPRC Chair</b>	Steve Gross	<b>Treasurer</b>	Elisa Wardeska
<b>Trustees Rep</b>	Ernest Campbell	<b>Endowment</b>	Scott Huff
<b>At-Large</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
	Art Eckerson	Malissa Trent	Steve Love

## STEWARDSHIP

<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Jim Heaton	<b>Fred Sharpe*</b>	Dan Mahoney
Judy Story	Fran Waterbury	Joanne Peterson

## ENDOWMENT

*Includes trustees, finance, stewardship, council, and grant reps*

<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
<b>Scott Huff*</b>	Fred Sharpe (stewardship)	Steve Love (finance)
Billie Farthing	Ernest Campbell (trustees)	Kathy Feagins (council)
		Steve Gross (grant)

## NURTURE

*spiritual growth, fellowship, congregational care*

<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Pam Heaton	Amy DeWitt	Novice Gross
Jenny Haun	Susan Davidson	Ann Mohap

## OUTREACH

*mission, community outreach, evangelism*

<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Scott Huff	<b>Mike Eddy*</b>	Cathy Peeples
Johnny Qualls	Sharon Herzer	Nancy Campbell
Barbara LeClair	Polly Crowder	Lana Scott

## EARLY LEARNING CENTER BOARD

<b>Mandee Langley</b> (President)	Emily Beck	Nancy Campbell
Patrick Denton (VP)	JR Cook	Miriam Robinson
Rob Davis (Secretary)	Kristen Klem	Kathie Battista (Director)



## Committee and Leadership Changes

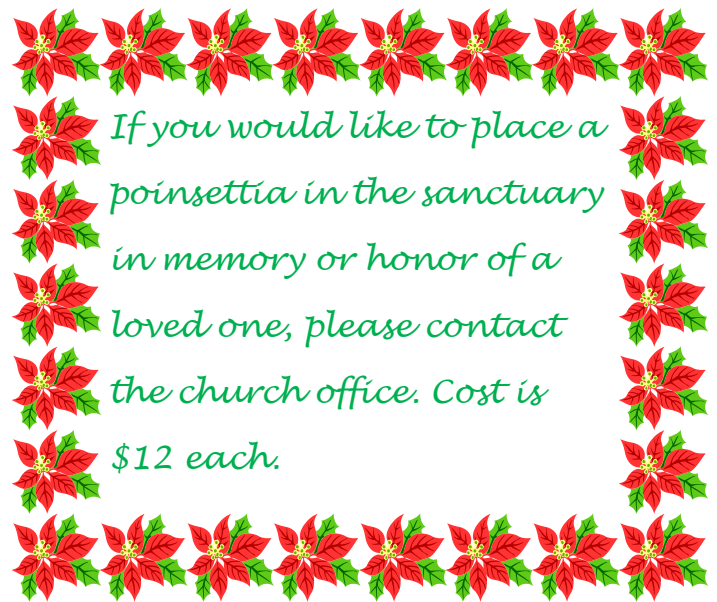
Over the years, the names and design of leadership committees have been changed and modified based on the needs of the church and the community we serve. Effective January 1, 2022, the committees known as Communications Pillar, Connections Pillar, and Spiritual Development Pillar will be combined to form the Nurture Committee. The Nurture Committee will focus on spiritual growth opportunities, age-level ministries, fellowship events, hospitality, congregational care, and other ministries that nurture the church family. In addition, the Nominations and Leadership Committee has added the new leadership position of Associate Lay Leader. The Associate Lay Leader will share the responsibilities of the Lay Leader by serving on committees and working alongside the pastors. Anna Kapoor will remain the Lay Leader, and Debbie Eddy will begin as the Associate Lay Leader in January 2022.

## Financial Report

As indicated in the chart, the contributions through October 2021 are up from previous years and expenses are down. Thank you for your generosity!

	October 2020 Year to Date	October 2021 Year to Date
Contributions/ Income	\$ 402,050	\$ 458,952
Expenses	\$ 450,154	443,913
Income/(Loss)	\$ (48,104)	\$ 15,039

wednesday night fellowship  
returns on January 5, 2022.



Due to the holidays, the dates for Food Pantry distribution have been changed as follows:

Saturday, December 18th, 10:00-noon

