



February 2021

The First Epistle

Newsletter of First United Methodist Church

Staff Contact Information

Rev. Jodie Ihfe, Senior Pastor
jodie.ihfe@1stchurchjc.org
(423)202-6164

Rev. Gary Ihfe, Associate Pastor
gary.ihfe@1stchurchjc.org
(423)303-6851

Billy Walker
Director of Worship & Music
billy.walker@1stchurchjc.org
(423)361-9255

Kathie Battista, ELC Director
elc1986@1stchurchjc.org
(423)943-1015

Steve Reis
Director of Outreach & Discipleship
steve.reis@1stchurchjc.org
(614)208-3454

Kati Uelhof
Director of Children's Ministries
kati.uelhof@1stchurchjc.org
(423)557-6844

Bree Nelson, Director of Jr. High Youth
bree.nelson@1stchurchjc.org
(423)833-6016

Drew & Sharon Cradic
Directors of Sr. High Youth
sharon.cradic@1stchurchjc.org
(423)676-5510 (D)
(423)676-5511 (S)

Susan Dove Fields, Organist

Wayne Holloway & Elisa Wardeska
Treasurers
treasurer@1stChurchJC.org

Jennifer Boarman, Bulletin Coordinator
jennifer.boarman@1stchurchjc.org
(423)943-8388

Finley Cook, Wednesday Night Chef
finleyac1@gmail.com

Returning to In-person Worship Soon

We are excited to announce the return of indoor worship services in the sanctuary! The projected start date is Sunday, March 7, 2021 at 10:30am. This is a projected date because the number of COVID-19 cases in our area may require a slightly later start date. It is our hope that COVID-19 cases will continue to drop, and we feel that meeting together in-person, while not risk-free, is an acceptable option when using the appropriate safety measures detailed below.

Online worship services will continue to be available, and those who do not feel comfortable gathering in person are encouraged to worship at home. We will be livestreaming the sanctuary services, and those at home can participate in real-time on Sundays at 10:30.

SAFETY MEASURES AND GUIDELINES

- Those who feel sick and those who are awaiting test results for COVID-19 or have a positive diagnosis must stay home.
- Those who cannot safely wear a face covering should stay home (including children under 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, or anyone who is unable to remove the mask without assistance)
- Those who are in a vulnerable age category, live with vulnerable persons, or have pre-existing conditions are encouraged to stay home.

Those in attendance, *including those who have already been vaccinated*, will be required to understand and follow these safety guidelines:

- Face coverings are required
- Distance of 6ft between household groups is required
- No group singing
- Designated entrances and exits
- Limited access to the rest of the building
- Nursery will not be provided
- Attendance will be taken
- Reservations are strongly recommended

Looking forward to seeing you!

First Church Pastors and Reopening Team

Food Pantry

Distributed 45 boxes, serving 93 family members.

Melting Pot

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

Prayer List

Elizabeth Bailey	Tom Palmer
Nate Berning	JoAnne Paty
Bill Carter	Spencer Pickle
Finley Cook	Steve Robbins
John Cradic	Taylor Rodriguez
Ernie Cross	Samantha Sams
Vivian Eckerson	Kyle Shell
Phyllis Eorgan	Tiffany Strasser
Jim Furches	Joe & Jessica Story
Dalton Gough	Phil Torbett
Amy Gross & family	Steve Wilkinson
Tom Holmes	Family Promise
Lynda & Fridaye Honeycutt	Brother's Keeper
The Huff family	Haven of Mercy
David McElveen	Kairos Ministry
Helen Mills	Treatment & vaccine for COVID19
	USA

We extend our sympathy to the family of Larry Blazer, who passed away on January 27.

If you would like to add or remove prayer concerns from this list, please contact Pastor Jodie at jodie.ihfe@1stchurchjc.org

Resurrection Revised

Since the youth across our region could not travel to Resurrection this year, the conference planning team brought Resurrection to the youth. They incorporated talent, music, speakers, missions, entertainment, and special guests into the 2 hour event. The FUMC youth participated in the online worship service on Saturday, January 23, 2021.

Junior High youth director, Bree Nelson, said "This was a great opportunity for siblings and families to watch together! I feel like they really enjoyed the fellowship with others and the snacks and prizes. Holston Conference did a great job condensing it into a 2-hour event to keep everyone's attention."

In preparation for the event, youth directors Sharon Cradic & Bree Nelson delivered goodies to our youth so they could all share snacks and do activities together. During the online event, the youth watched together via Zoom and even played games and won prizes. Thank you for your support of our youth and the Holston Conference youth ministries. Bree says "We got great feedback from the kids and parents about how they enjoyed Resurrection 2021."

Financial Reports

Thank you so much for your generosity during this past year. Because of your support, we have been able to sustain and expand the ministries of First Church. This small chart compares contributions for 2019 and 2020. As you can see, contributions and expenses were down for 2020, but overall, we came out ahead at the end of the year. In addition, the PPP loan that we received through the CARES Act has already been forgiven. Your continued support in the coming 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>

The Rebuild, Replace, Restore Loan was paid off in December 2020! Thank you for your support!

FINANCIAL REPORT		
	2019	2020
Contributions	\$600,840	\$542,107
Expenses	\$578,533	\$540,479
Income/(Loss)	\$22,307	\$1628
PPP Loan		\$58,767
Income/(Loss) Adjusted for PPP Loan forgiveness	\$22,307	\$60,395
RRR Loan Balance	\$30,779	\$0

Little Free Pantry

Our Little Free Pantry, located on Maple Street near the Neighborhood Center, functions to "fill the gaps" in food supply for those in our community, and it needs replenishing. Below is a list of items that can be donated by placing them directly into the pantry box or dropping them off at the church office.

Non-Perishable Foods (pull-tab/pop-top cans preferred): canned fruits & vegetables, canned meat & fish products (ravioli, tuna, corned beef, spaghetti, etc.), canned beans (all types), canned soups, boxed pasta (mac & cheese, hamburger helper, noodles), rice, cereals, granola bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, packaged drinks (hot chocolate, tea, juice boxes, water, etc.), healthy kid snacks (crackers, nuts)

Hygiene Items: soap, deodorant, shampoo, toilet tissue (individual rolls), toothpaste, toothbrush, **NO razor blades**