



# First United Methodist Church

To make more and better disciples of Jesus  
Christ for the transformation of the world.

900 Spring Street, Johnson City, Tn  
(423) 928-9222

September 2018

1stchurchjc.org

## STAFF:

Jane Taylor, Pastor  
Jane.taylor@1stchurch.org

Billy Walker, Music/Worship  
Billy.walker@1stchurch.org

Steve Reis, Discipleship/Outreach  
Steve.reis@1stchurchjc.org

Kati Uelhof, Children's Ministries  
Kati.uelhof@1stchurch.org

Susan Davidson, Jr. High Ministries  
Susan.davidson@1stchurch.org

Sharon & Drew Cradic, Sr. High  
Sharon.cradic@1stchurch.org

Rhonda Simmons, Treasurer  
treasurer@1stchurchjc.org

Calvin Robinson, Interim Custodian  
office@1stchurchjc.org

Kathie Battista, Early Learning  
Center  
elc1986@1stchurch.org

Surely it is God Who saves me. I  
will trust in Him and not be  
afraid. For the Lord is my strong-  
hold and my sure defense. And,  
He will be my Savior.

~ Isaiah 12 :2

## From our pastor:

We have much to celebrate over the last few months at First United Methodist Church!!! This brand new newsletter is a great celebration! The church website and our Facebook page are live and look fantastic and are such a wonderful resource for those who are new to our area and church and want more information about our congregation. We are working on the church Instagram page as another social media site. We have kicked off fall ministries with Sunday night activities and The Branch outside for the month of August. Adult bible studies are beginning September 5 with our Wednesday niter starting up again. We have welcomed new members into our church and hope more will soon follow! God is Good!

We have much to look forward to! Love JC- a day of service in our community with other churches is scheduled for September 22. SIGN UP!! Tailgate activities at the Science Hill footballs games are planned for our youth. Four children and youth choirs are meeting on Wednesdays at the church! Charge conference season is upon us and we are working to reflect the life that we are experiencing in our church in report form.

God is giving us a number of opportunities to touch people's lives--both inside the church and in the community and world beyond us. We are so privileged to be able to share his love, grace, and presence with others. I hope you will prayerfully consider how you might be a part of God's great plan for this church.

Peace and Love to all,  
Jane Taylor, Sr. Pastor



## September Highlights

September 1 – GLO & JAM to Willow Springs Park

September 2 – Combined worship, no evening activities

September 5 – Wednesday Niter resumes

September 9 - ELC Open House

Sunday Funday Block Party

September 13 – Family and Faith Skate Night at Skate Inn

September 15 – LIGHT to Willow Springs Park

September 22 – Love JC Mission Projects

# Serving others through Christ

## *RAGS—Random Acts of Grace and Service*

Eight of our junior high youth members spent a few hours over the summer picking up trash around Founders Park and the Pavilion in downtown Johnson City. They were even featured in Johnson City Press!



## love JC

What: A day of service in our community

When: Saturday, September 22

Why: To be living examples of Jesus Christ

For more information, contact Steve Reis:

(614) 208-3454

[Steve.reis@1stchurchjc.org](mailto:Steve.reis@1stchurchjc.org)



It's that time of year again to start packing boxes for Operation Christmas Child! Boxes are already available to be picked up, and it's easy to pack a box! Simply decide if it's for a girl or a boy, then decide which age range you are packing for, and then fill it up with appropriate gifts. Packing instructions are included with each box, or you can see Dee Minutolo for more information. Boxes will be collected in November. Help us make this the best year yet!



It's time again to begin collecting items for Clare's Closet. This ministry provides new or gently used winter wear items to those who need them. The Steve and Novice Gross family established this to give thanks and to honor God for their granddaughter Clare. Later in the fall, the items will be distributed. Bring new or gently used winter coats, gloves, hats, scarves to church.

# Wednesday Niter

## Wednesday evening schedule:

3:00 pm - After School Arts and  
Music (Jr High & Sr High)

5:30 - pm Wednesday Niter Meal  
(Dinner is \$6.50 per person.)

6:15 pm - Children & Youth  
Programming/Wednesday Niter  
Programming

7:30 - Chancel Choir

GOD HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES  
AND OTHER THINGS THE BIBLE DOESNT SAY



## WEDNESDAY NIGHT

DINNER, FELLOWSHIP AND PROGRAM  
BEGINS SEPTEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup> AT 5:30 PM

study series: *Half Truths* by Adam Hamilton

## Wednesday After School Program!

We offer after school pick up for Indian Trail, Liberty Bell, and Science Hill Students to come to our Wednesday After School Program. During the afternoon, students will use our New Computer lab to do their homework, have a snack, and then participate in either a time of Arts, Piano, Guitar, Jr Choir, or Sewing Classes.

Youth who participate in our After School Program can earn a trip to Montreat during the summer. This is a Music and Worship Conference in North Carolina, and it is always an amazing experience for our Youth. Our Wednesday After School program goes until Wednesday Niter Dinner starts at 5:30 pm and then they have Youth Activities from 6:15-7:30 pm.



First United Methodist

Church will be offering *FREE* guitar lessons for both youth AND adults again this fall! This is an 8-week session that will be held on Wednesday evenings.

To Register please

Email [Dave.Trent@1stChurchJC.org](mailto:Dave.Trent@1stChurchJC.org)

## **Report from the Trustees:**

The Trustees oversee both the maintenance of and best usage for our church and other properties including the church building, the education building, the neighborhood center and the grounds. A great deal of time, effort and money are spent keeping the heating and air-conditioning systems (HVAC) running. Because of the age of our building and the HVAC system, there are many issues in different areas of the church. Most recently, the HVAC in the balcony required repair. The Trustees are currently considering several options for upgrading the heat and air conditioning in the Education Building. This will be a major project and we are doing our due diligence to make the best decision.

Most recent major projects completed:

- . Replacement of light fixtures in Education Building and hallway outside church offices.
- . Installation of new kitchen equipment
- . Securing bathroom windows in gym
- . Installation of crash bar on Maple Street door
- . Replacing light bulbs in the sanctuary
- . Replacing the roof on the neighborhood center

## **Did you know.....?**

First United Methodist Church has had some amazing things happening in the last few years. The explosion of our children and youth groups has been recognized by our community, and by the leadership in our United Methodist Conference. Last year, our District Superintendent, Lauri Jo Cranford, made us aware there were grant applications available for congregational development and we might qualify for one of these.

We put together our request for funds, along with a narrative and some pictures, and several months later we received notification that our church had been granted funds that could be used for various projects pertaining to the growth and development of our children and youth programs. The additional money has been very beneficial to the growth and support of our young people. They have become such a part of us and we see every week how they are growing in their faith and in their numbers!

The grant money has been used for van drivers, mission trips, camp in the community at our church, Sunday activities, food support, and many other important ministries.

Additionally, we applied and received a grant from the United Methodist Church Global Ministries which will also be used for activities this fall and winter, and will help with our newly formed college age ministry. Our church should be very proud of the wonderful adult leadership we have in our children and youth departments, and in the volunteers who help and supplement these ministries. They are outstanding and will make a huge difference in the lives of these young people going forward. When several of our staff and leadership have attended various district and conference meetings they are often asked by others in attendance about the children and youth ministries at First Church and how we did this. The answer is very simple.... God had a hand in making it happen! - Steve Gross



Come out and support our softball team! All games are held on Mondays at Winged Deer Park:

September 3—No games

September 10—6:30 against Trinity Baptist,  
7:30 against Redeemer

September 17—7:30 against Lynn Valley Baptist  
8:30 against Believers Church

September 24—6:30 against Believers Church

# The Back Page

Dear Reader,

Perhaps you're like me -- a bit of a news junkie, but tired of being constantly exposed to fear tactics and facts twisted out-of-context.

*Fear sells products*, so it is hurled into our faces all-day-every-day to push pills, liquor, toilet paper, toothpaste and war -- among a billion other things -- and we're stuck in a Zombie-trance under this bombardment unless we actively seek alternatives.

Fortunately, for every Yin there's a Yang; **the fix may lie in the simple idea of opposites.**

I used to be a pew-squatting heavy complainer and said goofy things about our church, like: "This place is nothing but a country club without a golf course." No view beyond Sunday morning held my gaze because that's the only view I attempted. After a couple of years of bearing this attitude, my wife -- notably wiser than I -- said: "Why don't you get off your hind end and see if things don't look better from a standing position?"

**Ouch.**

But she was right. Once I sought out those already in motion -- those who worried less and acted more -- those who turned fear into action and cleansed their brains of negativity in the process ... *all my complaints fell away.*

First United Methodists brought me to see the world differently through the lens of the Appalachia Service Project, Family Promise, our food pantry, edible gardens, Mexico Mission, and Kairos Prison Ministries. And these projects are **just a taste** of what's offered at 900 Spring Street.

FUMC is a love-spreading, Jesus-oriented, community-centered close-knit "tribe" familiar with the concept of generosity and seeing its just rewards: youth graduating in high numbers and pursuing higher education or technical training that will sustain their lives and create positive futures *for their own children*, young adults bringing kids in for a Christian education among loving mentors, middle-agers eager to continue giving time, effort, and treasure to folks on both ends of the spectrum, and our elderly, doing their part in a myriad of ways, both physical and financial. A group effort, indeed.

**There is an alternative to fear and loathing.**

Come see for yourself.

Yours in JC,

Mike Scott



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***To make more and better disciples of Jesus  
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**We are a local denomination of the United Methodist Church. We have a long history of an active, Christian congregation in Johnson City which has been and continues to be involved in our community and world. We celebrate the richness in our tradition and heritage, but also strive to expand our experience by adapting and changing to meet the needs of our community and world today. All who desire to grow in the grace and knowledge of the love of Christ are welcome to join us on the journey.**