



# The First Epistle

Newsletter of First United Methodist Church March 2021

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## RETURNING TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP

We are excited to return to in-person worship services beginning Sunday, March 7, at 10:30am. After many months apart, we will gather in person, but the ways we gather and move around the space may be different than usual. Please take note of these instructions for worshipping in person:

### **Parking**

Park in Pine Street or Maple Street lots or along the street. Parking on Spring Street is reserved for those who need access to the elevator.

### **Entrance**

Enter the building through the Pine Street stairway entrance or Maple Street entrance. Ascend the stairs and stop at the Welcome Table in the narthex to register attendance.

### **Offering**

Place offering in the wooden box in the narthex before entering the sanctuary, or place offering in the wooden box at side doors when exiting the sanctuary.

### **Seating**

Enter the sanctuary through the center doors. Ushers will seat worshippers at available pews to ensure social distancing. Households should sit and stay together during the entire service.

### **Elevator Use**

Park or drop off at the Spring Street connector entrance. Enter the connector through the Spring Street door. Stop at the Welcome Table to register attendance. Proceed to the 3rd floor on the elevator. Enter the sanctuary through the door closest to the elevator. Ushers will seat worshippers in available pews near the front door.

### **Exit**

Ushers will dismiss pews from back to front. Exit down outer aisles and out the side doors at the back of the sanctuary. Descend the stairs toward Pine Street or Maple Street doors. Exit to the parking area.

### **Safety Procedures**

Masks or cloth face coverings are required during the entire service, including before and after the service, even outside. All households and family groups should stay at least 6 feet apart. Please be especially mindful of this as you move around the facility and enter and exit the building. There will be no group singing. There will be limited access to the other parts of the building. Everyone is required to register their attendance. Reservations are strongly recommended for planning purposes. All safety procedures are still required of those who have received a vaccination. Those who are sick, vulnerable, or unable to wear a mask should stay safe at home.

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 livestream the sanctuary services and those at home can participate in real time on Sundays at 10:30.

**To make reservations for worship each week, please visit [www.1stchurchjc.org/in-person-worship.html](http://www.1stchurchjc.org/in-person-worship.html) or leave a message at the church office at 928-9222.**

We look forward to seeing you!

## Prayer List

Nate Berning	JoAnne Paty
Bill Carter	Bob Peebles
John Cradic	Spencer Pickle
Ernie Cross	Sam Reid
Vivian Eckerson	Cal Robinson
Phyllis Eorgan	Samantha Sams
Jim Furches	Bob Seay
Dalton Gough	Kyle Shell
Nannie Green	Larry Street
Amy Gross & family	Joe & Jessica Story
Tom Holmes	Phil Torbett
Deb King	Steve Wilkinson
Mary Lewis	Family Promise
Barbara Marrs	Brother's Keeper
David McElveen	Haven of Mercy
Helen Mills	Kairos Ministry
Jason Mills	Treatment & vaccine for COVID19
Tom Palmer	

We extend our sympathy to:

Martha Squibb and family in the loss of her son, Gary, on February 9

Susan Davidson and family in the loss of her father, Claude, on February 11

The family of Elizabeth Bailey, who passed away on February 12

The family of Ina Powell, who passed away on February 16

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)

## Save the Date

- Holy Week Service– Thursday, April 1 at 7:00 pm
- Graduate Recognition– Sunday, May 16 at 10:30
- Johnson City Doughboys game– June 16
- Youth Mission Trip– June 20-25
- Camp in the Community– July 5-9

## Holston Annual Conference Update

Annual Conference (AC), usually held in June in Lake Junaluska, NC will not meet as previously planned. An AC Subcommittee has been formed to research other venues and ways to hold this year's AC. Additional information will be forthcoming.

## United Methodist General Conference Update

The General Conference (GC), which had previously been rescheduled for August 29-September 7, 2021, is now postponed until August 29-September 6, 2022, in Minneapolis. A special one-day GC will be held on May 8 to formalize changes created by the pandemic, such as postponing the gathering and creating online options for gathering. To read more, visit [www.umnews.org](http://www.umnews.org)

## Community Easter Celebration

The Easter Celebration and Egg Hunt is scheduled for Saturday, March 27 from 10:00 am-noon. For health and safety purposes, this event will be held entirely outside, and the size of groups will be limited. Each household must register in advance and choose one of the 30-minute time slots to attend the event. Register online at <https://www.1stchurchjc.org/easter2021>

We are asking church members to please donate individually wrapped candy items for eggs, individually wrapped snacks and drinks or juices for the snack table, and 6-count or 12-count egg cartons. Drop off donations by March 19 in the narthex on Sundays or the print room during the week.

Volunteers will also be needed to help on March 27. Sign up at the link above. Contact Kati Uelhof at [kati.uelhof@1stchurchjc.org](mailto:kati.uelhof@1stchurchjc.org) for more information.

## 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