



November 2020

The First Epistle

Newsletter of First United Methodist Church

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In-Person Worship in the Sanctuary and Livestreaming Begins

On November 1, First Church resumed in-person worship in the sanctuary, and we held our first live-streamed worship service. While some worshippers were gathered in the sanctuary, many others were gathered at home and joined the service online in real time.

The live-streaming upgrade that we have been working on for a couple of months was installed on October 22 and training on the system began immediately. The system includes a new sound board, new microphones, additional sound equipment, 2 new video cameras, a unit that receives and sends out the audio/visual content to the internet, and several other technical components.

This live-streaming system allows us to worship together at the same time from many different places. It also allows us to record and keep the services for viewing at a later time. We know that this system is more than electronic equipment, it is a ministry for maintaining spiritual connection and building the kingdom. We are so grateful to those who financially supported this project.

The live-streamed services can be accessed through several online locations: www.1stchurchjc.org
www.vimeo.com/1stchurchjc
www.facebook.com/1stchurchjc

Links to the online services are sent out through email every Saturday night. If you are not already getting these emails, you can sign up for them at <http://bit.ly/1stchurchjcemail>

Each week, the live-stream feed will begin at about 10:20 with on-screen announcements, giving you plenty of time to find the service and get ready for worship before the service starts at 10:30. During the service, you can use chat or comment features to connect with others, share prayer requests, applaud the musicians, or shout "Amen!"

Though some are currently worshipping in-person in the sanctuary, we strongly encourage those who do not feel safe or comfortable gathering in person to continue to worship at home. The live-streamed services will help keep us connected to God and to one another as we navigate these times.

We hope to see you or be seen by you in person or online.

Blessings,

Pastor Jodie and Pastor Gary

October by the Numbers

Children/Youth Treat Bags

Distributed 125 bags of candy to children and youth

Food Pantry

Distributed 95 boxes, serving 193 family members.

The food pantry is in need of large paper bags with handles for those who walk to the food pantry. Also, some of the food pantry guests need backpacks to carry food and other supplies. Donations can be left in the narthex on Sundays or in the print room during the week.

Prayer List for September 2020

Elizabeth Bailey
 Nate Berning
 Bill Carter
 John Cradic
 Dalton Gough
 Austin Green
 David McElveen
 Calvin McMann
 Jason Mills
 JoAnne Paty
 Judy Roberts
 Samantha Sams
 Steve Wilkinson
 Family Promise
 Brother's Keeper
 Treatment & vaccine for COVID19

We extend our sympathy to Johnny Moore & Linda Hodge and families in the death of their sister, Patricia Brown, on October 1,

To Marth Trevathan and family in the loss of her grandson, Matthew Barnett on October 17,

And to Linda Ellenburg in the loss of her husband.

All Saints Remembrance

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| Belle Crowder | Robert Kostreva |
| Jim Crowder | Kathryn McClellan |
| Ellen Ferguson | Brian Milby |
| Bryson Harding | Evelyn Moore |
| Nancy Jewell | Elizabeth Wells |

Financial Reports

Thank you so much for your generosity during this time of crisis. Because of your support, we have been able to sustain and expand the ministries of First Church. This small chart compares contributions January-September 2019 and January-September 2020. As you can see, expenses are down for this year, but also giving is down through this time last year. We are currently behind in our budgeted expenses versus actual income, but we are hopeful to see increases in giving as we close out the year. Your continued support 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>

FINANCIAL REPORT

| | 9/2019 YTD | 9/2020 YTD |
|----------------------|------------|------------|
| Contributions | \$431,189 | \$347,564 |
| Expenses | \$434,018 | \$411,415 |
| Income/(Loss) | \$(2829) | \$(63,852) |

CAPTIAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

| | 9/2019 YTD | 9/2020 YTD |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|
| RRR Loan Balance | \$35,288 | \$14,840 |

Since last year, we have decreased the RRR loan balance significantly. We are thankful for your continued support as we work to reduce this debt.



Offering Boxes

A very special thanks to Kent Merrill for designing and building beautiful offering boxes to use on Sundays in lieu of passing plates during in-person worship in the sanctuary.