

A BIWEEKLY PUBLICATION OF
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
DECEMBER 12, 2012 ISSUE

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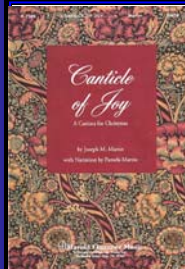
Kenny Summers
Maintenance



Advent and Christmas

First United Methodist Church

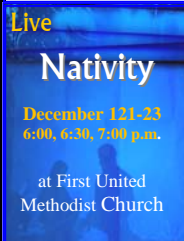
Schedule of Worship and Events



CHANCEL CHOIR CANTATA

Sunday, December 16th, 11:00 a.m.

From the lighting of the first candle to the final celebratory chords, *Canticle Of Joy* praises the newborn King. Included are arrangements of: *Away In a Manger*; *Awake! Sing Gloria!*; *The Wexford Carol*; *Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*; *Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*; *O Come, All Ye Faithful* and others. Join us for worship and experience the joy of the blessing of Christ's Incarnation.



LIVE NATIVITY

Friday, December 21st—Sunday, December 23rd @ 6:00, 6:30, 7:00 p.m. (weather permitting)

On the South lawn of the church, live presentations take place at thirty minute intervals accompanied by special music. Through the years, the Live Nativity has become a special time for families and individuals to contemplate the Incarnation.



SERVICE OF LESSONS, CAROLS, CANDLES, AND COMMUNION

Monday the 24th, 5:00 p.m. & 10:30 p.m.

Hear again through scripture and song the wonderful gospel story of God's acts of salvation and grace in human history, culminating in the Incarnation in Jesus Christ. The service ends with a candlelight singing of *Silent Night*, and includes the Sacrament of Holy Communion. All Christians are welcome to partake of the Sacrament.

NOTICE - We'll be taking a (newsletter) break for the holidays...the next issue of Focus will be distributed on January 9.

CHURCH CONFERENCE - The Building Committee is ready to bring a recommendation to a Church Conference on January 6 at 9:35 a.m., in the sanctuary.

The recommendation is for the church to have the architect go forward with detailed drawings and for Rose Construction to begin preliminary preparations once at least \$500,000 is in the church's hand. The Finance Committee and Administrative Board have given their approval of this recommendation.



We are pleased with the results of the Campaign so far. Currently, we have \$286,657.69 in hand, three year pledges of \$1,040,984.00, and a gift in kind of \$37,479.50. The total of all is \$1,365,121.19.

Looking forward, the process is as follows:

- If the recommendation is adopted on January 6, then the detailed drawings would be completed once the condition is met. The Building Committee would then bring those drawings and a plan of financing for approval by the church.
- If that is approved, we could then begin building. That will take an additional church conference.

Any gifts or additional pledges to the Building Fund made this year would be very welcomed, as the sooner the monies are in hand the sooner we can hopefully move forward.

The Methodist-Presbyterian Nursery School's Baby Jesus Program is presented on December 13th & 14th at 11:00 am in the Presbyterian sanctuary. You are cordially invited to come and see children share the Christmas Story.



ATTENDANCE AND GIVING

December 2, 2012

MorningSong -	95
Sunday School -	134
Traditional Worship -	137
Bread of Life Worship (12/1/2012)-	60
MorningSong Offering -	\$ 3,125.00
Traditional Worship Offering-	\$ 8,161.00

December 9, 2012

MorningSong -	85
Sunday School -	157
Traditional Worship -	176
Bread of Life Worship (12/9/2012) -	79
MorningSong Offering -	\$ 1,635.00
Traditional Worship Offering -	\$ 17,955.00



Hoover Jones, the brother of FUMC's Stanley Jones died in late November. Please keep Stanley and his family in your prayers. Stanley and Charlotte's home address is 322 East Church Street, Covington 38019



The white poinsettia was placed in the sanctuary is in memory of Earl Culver whose 100th birthday would have been on December 5, 2012. The poinsettia is donated by Wayne, Mary, Michael and Anthony Culver.



Sheri Gilbreath is proud to announce the arrival of her grandson, Cole Robert Timothy Todd, born on December 4 in New Orleans, LA. Cole is welcomed by his 2 year old brother, Carter Joseph Todd. Cole's FUMC great-grandparents are Tom and Shirley Bready. Sheri's address is 874 Pisgah Rd, Brighton 38011. Tom and Shirley's home address is 823 Irene Circle, Covington 38019.

Thank You...

David and I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, food, visits and well wishes during his illness. We are also very appreciative of the time Pastor Tim and Brother Bill have spent visiting David in the hospital. David is progressing well, but there is still a long way to go in this journey to recovery. We know you will continue to keep him in your prayers. We are very grateful for our FUMC family! "Thank you" seems so very little after all you have done. It is simply said but grandly felt.

Ruby Marshall

THE FUMC
STAFF WISH
THE VERY
BEST TO YOU
AND YOUR
FAMILY THIS
HOLIDAY
SEASON!



FUMC CHILDREN VISIT FESTIVAL OF TREES IN RIPLEY.



January 1 -

January 15



Jan 1	Taylor Aday Martha Thornton Ty Tyler	Jan 10	Gary Liles
Jan 3	Yvonne Bryant Deb David Keith Watson	Jan 13	Jackie Delashmit
Jan 4	Kevin Childers	Jan 14	Abbigale McDaniel Amelia Sullivan Tanner Sullivan Shirley Wingate
Jan 5	JoAnna Tyler	Jan 15	Kristi Escue Melanie Maxwell Caitlyn Pemberton
Jan 8	Peggy Nyberg		
Jan 9	Annette Maxwell Becky Stalcup		

FOUND - A man's suede coat was found in the front entrance vestibule near the choir loft. Please contact Peggy at 476-9694 to claim the coat.



COUNSELING. . .

Counseling is available for individuals or couples. *Fees are based on ability to pay.*

Faye Beckett, D.C.C. Doctorate in Christian Counseling, Master of Science in Psychology. For an appointment call the FUMC office 476-9694, ext. 19.



Cindy Pease, M.H.S.P., Licensed Professional Counselor, Nationally Certified. For an appointment call the FUMC office 476-9694, ext.18.



MEMORIALS AND TRIBUTES...

In Honor of **JoAnn Anderson**

Samaritan Fund by Peggy Massey

In Memory of **Carole Barham**

Samaritan Fund by Gladys Whitley and Family

In Memory of **Paul Blankenship**

UMCOR Sandy Storm Support from Bill and Ann Enzor

In Honor of **Ed and Tina Bradley**

Emory and Dora Mae Bradley Scholarship by Emory and Malinda Bradley

In Honor of **John and Debra Bradley**

Emory and Dora Mae Bradley Scholarship by Emory and Malinda Bradley

In Honor of **Tim and Dawn Carpenter**

Samaritan Fund by Skip and Kendy Erwin

In Honor of **Mary Eve Dawson**

Samaritan Fund by Skip and Kendy Erwin

In Memory of **Dan Elliston**

Family Life Building Fund by Carol and Eddie Daniel

In Memory of **Charles Glass**

Family Life Building Fund by Don and Carliss Chastain

Samaritan Fund by Carol and Eddie Daniel

UMCOR Sandy Storm Support from Bill and Ann Enzor

Family Life Building Fund by Chris and Sara Ganaware

Altar Guild Fund by New Beginnings Class

Family Life Building Fund by Gladys Whitley and Family

In Memory of **Hoover Jones**

Family Life Building Fund by Chris and Sara Gangaware

Altar Build Fund by New Beginnings Class

In Memory of **Lorene Moore Jones**

Family Life Building Fund Norma and Landon Bailey

In Honor of **Bob and Wanda Lakey**

Samaritan Fund by Sue Jones

In Honor of **Clyde and Jane Ann Lane**

Emory and Dora Mae Bradley Scholarship by Emory and Malinda Bradley

In Memory of **Betty McAlister**

Family Life Building Fund by Carol and Eddie Daniel

Landscape Maintenance Fund by Mary Eve Dawson

Family Life Building Fund by Chad and Kim Stewart

Family Life Building Fund by Carolyn and Ted Turner

In Honor of **Peggy Massey**

Samaritan Fund by Skip and Kendy Erwin

In Memory of **Walter McBride**

Samaritan Fund by Carol and Eddie Daniel

In Honor of **Ed Timberlake**

Food Pantry Fund by Peggy Massey

In Honor of **Michael and Hope Turner**

Emory and Dora Mae Bradley Scholarship by Emory and Malinda Bradley

In Honor of **Savage and Laurene Turner**

Family Life Building Fund by Barbara Turner



SAMARITAN REPORT -



November 24, 2012 through December 7, 2012:

- 1 household received lodging totaling \$64.00 (paid to vendor).
- 2 household received rent assistance totaling \$100.00 (paid to the vendor).
- 15 households received \$690.79 towards utilities (paid to the vendor).

Year to Date totals - January 1, 2012 through December 7, 2012:

- 2 persons received bus tickets totaling \$192.80 (paid to the vendor).
- 22 households received food items totaling \$735.00 (paid to the vendor).
- 76 households received lodging totaling \$4,028.99 (paid to the vendor).
- 34 households received miscellaneous items totaling \$2,415.71 (paid to the vendor).
- 36 households received rent assistance totaling \$3,162.57 (paid to the vendor).
- 330 households received utility assistance totaling \$19,379.43 (paid to the vendor).
- 59 households received vehicular gas totaling \$1,400.00 (paid to the vendor).

Total households assisted: 559
Total amount expended: \$ 31,314.50

Current Samaritan Fund Balance is \$ 3,406.82
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We assisted a family under Operation Round-Up this week who have shown much progress and had some really good news this week! Here is the family profile...

- Single mom, age 34, with three children ages 16, 14, and 13 – two boys and a girl.
- They live in Covington. The kids attend CHS and Crestview Middle.
- The children's father works full-time and pays child support of \$322 a month. The couple have never been married.
- FUMC first assisted the family in August 2011. The mother was cleaning houses to pay their bills. Since that time she worked briefly at the Nike warehouse in Memphis through a temp service, but did not have dependable transportation and could not get there.
- In July 2012, she started working at Delfield through a temp service; to insure that she could get to work every day, she bought a used car – she said she was afraid to take on that debt, but she wanted to keep the job badly and knew good attendance was very important. She also has insurance for her car. As she made that transition, we assisted her under Operation Round-Up because her household had finally become sustainable.
- FUMC has assisted the family again, under Operation Round-Up because she only had a 3 day work week during the Thanksgiving holiday and that left her short to pay one of her utility bills.
- She shared today that she had been offered a **full-time position with benefits at Delfield** and starts next week. That will mean an increase in base wage, a consistent 40 hour work week, and benefits like health insurance and holiday pay!
- She is very careful with her money – no pay day or title loans, no expensive phone or cable package, and she feeds herself and her three teenaged children (one son is 6'2" and plays both basketball and football) on \$565 a month food stamps.

This woman's positive attitude and determination has allowed her to provide for her family. She completed her GED at Dyersburg State because she knew it would help her obtain a stable job. She has come such a long way since we first met her 16 months ago. She and her children are regular church goers at Laughter Missionary Baptist Church, both Sunday School and worship.

God's Grace Sunday School class will be assisting this woman and her children with Christmas gifts.

Outreach ministry of Covington First UMC has many highlights

*By Grace Phelps, Minister of Program and Outreach
Covington First UMC*

As we prepare our hearts for the coming of the Christ Child this season, we are buffeted from all directions by a culture that insists that we must shop, decorate, entertain, and we must have perfectly wrapped presents for everyone under a glistening Christmas tree. Yet at the heart of the message that the child in the manger brought us is a different kind of giving – his focus was on those who were poor in some way – the outcast, the leper, the blind and lame, those who were hungry or lonely or hurting in some way. If the truth is told, we are ALL poor in some way, in need of Jesus' love and compassion.

For those of us who seek to follow his ways, our call is to give and love as he did and what better way to honor the Christ in this season celebrating his birth than to give of yourself to someone who is poor or in need.

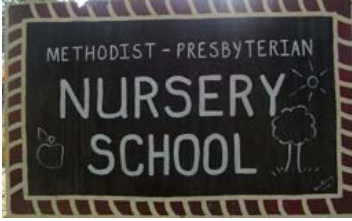
- Mary Catherine Turner, a fourth grader at Tipton Rosemark Academy, understands what that kind of giving can be like. She recently killed her first deer – an eight-point buck – and insisted that the meat be donated to the Bread of Life food pantry at her church.
- A retired couple in their 80s donated turnips from their garden and pecans from their trees.
- Members of Tabernacle United Methodist Church offered tomatoes, cucumbers, okra, corn, squash and eggplant from their gardens.
- Several local farmers contributed thousands of pounds of fresh sweet potatoes, squash and sweet corn from their fields.
- A couple who owns a local grocery store provided more than 6,000 pounds of fresh meats in the course of the year.
- Students and faculty at Covington Integrated Arts Academy, Tipton Rosemark Academy, Munford Middle School and Austin Peay Elementary contributed to canned food drives which provided more than 5,000 pounds of food to Bread of Life recipients.
- Cash donations from \$5 to \$5,000 from churches and individuals throughout the community have provided funds to pay for food at the Mid-South Food Bank and local grocery stores. Students from the Covington Future Farmers of America (FFA) regularly unload the food from the truck when it arrives from the Food Bank.



Contributions like these have enabled the volunteers of [Bread of Life](#) ministry to provide more than 80 tons of food to more than 1,100 Tipton County households this year – some on a monthly basis. More than 200 persons from 19 different churches, scout troops, civic clubs, and caring individuals of all ages from all over the county make that possible each Saturday morning.

Opportunities abound in our community and with them come rich and unexpected blessings. To learn more about opportunities for service and caring ministries through [Bread of Life](#) Outreach, contact Rev. Grace Phelps at First United Methodist Church in Covington, 901-476-9694 of gphelps_fumc@bellsouth.net

excerpt from Memphis Conference News



Methodist-Presbyterian Nursery School is a licensed daycare provider. The center accepts children 36 months to 5 years old. Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

The center is expanding their hours to accommodate early drop-off (7:00 - 8:00 a.m.) and after school care (12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.)

For more information or to speak to a child care center representative, call First Presbyterian at 476-2434 or go by the school any weekday.

POINSETTIA TRIBUTES - Poinsettias decorating the sanctuary are in tribute to the following. Poinsettias can be take from the sanctuary after service on December 30.

IN HONOR OF...

Nina Anderson

by the Go Class

Tim, Dawn, Jordan and Ethan Carpenter

by Dot Peyton

Ellen Clark

by the Friendship Class

Bob and Shirley Hensley

by Peggy Miller

Ruby Marshall

by the Friendship Class

Pete McDow

by Peggy Miller

Ema and Andi Richardson

by Kirk and Emily Richardson

Bonnie Wright

by the Friendship Class



IN LOVING MEMORY OF...

W.T. and Sarah Bailey

by the Russell Bailey Family

Ben and Ruth Billings

by Kaye and Stephen Smith and Family

Gene Butler

by Dot Butler and Family

Bobby Mayfield

by Jasen, Kelly and Scott Mayfield

Blair Peterson

by Tim and Kathy Wallace

Margaret Peterson

by Tim and Kathy Wallace

Jack Peyton

by the Jack Peyton Family

Jim Portis

by Marsha Greenwood and Peggy Portis

Newt & Dollie Portis

by Marsha Greenwood and Peggy Portis

Edward Rogers

by Wally, Sheri, Nathan, Jared and

Katie Burdette

Graydon Simpson

by Nancy Simpson; Adam Simpson and Family

Lola and Lyman Smith

by Kaye and Stephen Smith and Family

Martha Wallace

Bill Wallace and Family

FUMC CALENDAR DECEMBER 12, 2012 - JANUARY 8, 2012

Wednesday, December 12, 2012

6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl - Go Classroom
 6:00 p.m. Youth and Adult Studies
 - Education Bldg.
 6:30 p.m. Orchestra Practice
 7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday, December 13, 2012

7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast
 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study - New Beg.
 1-3:00 p.m. Altar Guild - Sanctuary
 6:00 p.m. Adult Scouts - Fellowship Hall

Saturday, December 15, 2012

9:00 a.m. Food Pantry - Covington

Sunday, December 16, 2012

8:30 a.m. MorningSong Worship
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Choir Christmas Cantata - Sanctuary
 12:07 p.m. SPR Committee Meeting
 - Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

12:00 p.m. Friendship Class Luncheon
 - Peggy Miller's house
 6:00 p.m. Scouts - Education Building
 6:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting
 - Friendship Classroom
 7:00 p.m. Trustee's Meeting - New Beginnings

Wednesday, December 19, 2012

6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl - Go Classroom

Thursday, December 20, 2012

7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast
 9:00 a.m. Women's Bible Study - New Beginnings
 1-3:00 p.m. Altar Guild - Sanctuary

Saturday, December 22, 2012

9:00 a.m. Food Pantry - Trust Co. Bank, Brighton

Sunday, December 23, 2012

8:30 a.m. MorningSong Worship
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

Monday, December 24, 2012 - Christmas Eve

-Office Closed -
 5:00 p.m. Service of Lessons, Carols, Candles
 and Communion - Sanctuary
 10:30 p.m. Service of Lessons, Carols, Candles
 and Communion - Sanctuary

Tuesday, December 25, 2012 - Christmas Day

- Office Closed -

Wednesday, December 26, 2012

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday, December 27, 2012

7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast
 1-3:00 p.m. Altar Guild - Sanctuary

Sunday, December 30, 2012

8:30 a.m. MorningSong Worship
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

Monday, December 31, 2012

- Office Closes at noon -

Tuesday, January 1, 2012 - New Year's Day

- Office Closed -

Wednesday, January 2, 2012

7:00 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday, January 3, 2012

7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast
 1-3:00 p.m. Altar Guild - Sanctuary

Saturday, January 5, 2012

9:00 a.m. Food Pantry - Covington

Sunday, January 6, 2012

8:30 a.m. MorningSong Worship
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 11:00 a.m. Traditional Worship Service

Monday, January 7, 2012

6:00 p.m. Go Getters - Fellowship Hall

Tuesday, January 8, 2012

6:00 p.m. Finance Committee - Friendship Class
 6:00 p.m. Scouts - Education Building
 7:00 p.m. Administrative Board - New Beginnings

**FUMC Regular Office Hours:
 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday**



FIRST
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH

Traditional Worship
Sundays @ 11:00 a.m.



Morning Song
ON THE SQUARE
SERVICE OF PRAISE
SUNDAY @ 8:30 A.M.
AT THE CHAMBER CENTER

UPPER ROOM PRAYER SCHEDULE



December 16 MorningSong Service Ray and Janice Newbill	Traditional Service Arnold Bull and Tom Rogers
December 23 MorningSong Service Ray and Janice Newbill	Traditional Service Cathy Adams, David and Tobie Smith
December 30 MorningSong Service Joey Caldwell and Dennis McDuffie	Traditional Service Melissa Mitchell and Emily Richardson
January 6 MorningSong Service Don and Carliss Chastain	Traditional Service Phyllis Richmond and Brenda Wrather

“Leading Others to Christ,
Learning to Be Disciples,
Loving through Service.”

**MISSION STATEMENT OF
FIRST UNITED METHODIST
CHURCH**

A BIWEEKLY PUBLICATION OF
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