



# Staying Connected

Newsletter

## December 2021

It is the most wonderful time of the year!!! It is time for our Santa's Elves Christmas Project. This project always stretches our wallets, faith, joy and patience yet expands our love as we put in many hours to make sure

### 40 children in Smyth County

have a wonderful Christmas.

Please consider supporting this project through your financial gifts. We could never take on this project without your financial support and prayers.

Supporting this project is easy:

- Place your contribution in the offering plate
- Bring your contribution by the church office
- Mail your contribution to the church.

Also, please note on your check "Christmas Project". Thank you.




*A Celtic Christmas*  
**at First!**

Sunday - December 12      9:00am & 11:00am

Director: Jim Regin with  
First Praise Band & guest musicians.

*You are invited*

to join us for a special morning of  
Christmas joy and Christmas music  
with a Celtic Flare!



**One Night In Bethlehem**

Sundays at 6pm  
December 5 & 12

Christmas Fun & Dinner  
Open to kids PreK - 5



First UMC

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES**

December 24 | 5 & 7 pm      Candlelight & Communion



THE ANNUAL FIRST UMC

**CHRISTMAS SWEATER & TIE SUNDAY**

Sunday - December 19  
at 9 & 11 am



**CHURCH WIDE CAROLING & HOT CHOCOLATE**

Sunday December 19      Meet at the church at 3:00pm

Elementary Children & Youth may ride the church bus.

Call church office to reserve bus seat by 12.12.21

A note from: Teri McCall—Administrative Assistant

The December Newsletter is later this month because of technical difficulties. Monday, November 29, I had unexpected Carpel Tunnel surgery on my right hand and was out of the office for several days.

I am back in the office now and healing, but my computer skills are slow. I hope to have the full use of my hand soon, which will be very helpful.

Also, I would like to extend an apology to the church family concerning the email sent November 24 titled "Why Update". This email was intended to be an update about the 2022 commitment cards received so far.

In an effort to prepare for my surgery and get several things done before I would be off, I did not realize I had left out vital and encouraging information. As soon as I realized the mistake, another email was sent, with Lisa's help, to the church family titled "Correction-Why Update" on November 27. This email included the information inadvertently left out of the first email. If you did not receive the second email please let me know and I will be sure to send it to you again.

Thank you for your understanding and I hope everyone has a Blessed Christmas. *Teri*

## December Calendar

### SUNDAY: Worship

- 9:00 am Contemporary Worship
- 10:00 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Traditional Worship with Children's Church

### Morning Classes

- 10:00 am Adult Seekers Class - Fellowship Hall Teacher - Tony Graham
- 10:00 am First Youth - grades 6-12 Teacher - Mike Albano
- 10:00 am First Kids - grades K-5 Teacher - Ginger Moore
- 10:00 am Pre-K I Wonder Class Teacher - Amy Martin

### Evening

- 6:00 pm First Youth Bible Study including supper

### Activities

- 6:00 pm First Kids Fun including supper

### MONDAY:

- 5:00 pm Hand Bell Practice

### THURSDAY:

- 7:15 am First Youth Breakfast Club
- 10:00 am **Prayer In Action**  
**Time to pray for First UMC and each other**
- 11:30 pm Food & Fellowship
- 6:30 pm Band Practice

### Events & Activities:

- Dec 14 1:00 pm First Food Pantry

### Committee & Ministry Meetings

Nominations & Leadership Development Committee  
Sunday, Dec 12 at 4:00 pm

Finance Committee  
Tuesday, Dec 14 at 6:30 pm



**FOOD PANTRY**  
Thursday, December 14 1 - 4 pm



**Thursdays at 10am or anytime during the day, let's pray together.** As a church family let's pray for the staff, ministries and programs at First UMC. We need God's guidance in these challenging times. Thank you for your prayers.

Our Giving 2021	
<b>General Budget:</b>	
Giving Needed Each Month	\$ 43,195.67
YTD Giving as of 10/31/2021	\$ 398,052.41
YTD Expenses as of 10/31/2021	\$ 424,378.14
YTD Deficit as of 10/31/2021	\$ (26,325.73)
YTD Deficit as of 10/31/2021	\$ (26,325.73)
YTD Tithe due as of 10/31/2021	\$ 21,720.54
<b>Actual YTD Deficit as of 10/31/2021</b>	<b>\$ (48,046.27)</b>

**3rd Quarter Contribution Statements** are available upon request. Please call or email the church office if you would like a copy emailed or mailed to you.

**James Bennington** - Pastor  
jlb@marionfumc.org

**Denton Staley** - Program Dir.  
denton@marionfumc.org

**Jim Regin** - Director of Music & Worship Arts  
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**Laura Robinson** - First Youth Dir  
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**Ginger Moore** - Director  
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**Alicia Martin** -  
First Preschool Teacher

**Lisa Moore** - Business Admin.  
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**Teri McCall** - Admin. Asst.  
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**First United Methodist Church**  
115 S. Church St.  
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*First with First*  
Podcast





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