

The Link

DECEMBER 2017



The Newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Buckhannon WV

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NATIVITY CELEBRATION

The children and youth will present the **Nativity Celebration** on December 10th during worship. Practices will be held Dec 3 and 10 during the Sunday School hour (9:30 am in the sanctuary). *Please let SarahJean McGee or Pastor Steve know if your child(ren)/youth will or will not participate so that we can make sure all roles are covered.

JOIN US FOR THE CHURCH FAMILY CHRISTMAS DINNER!

**DECEMBER 10, GATHER AT 5 PM,
EAT AT 5:30 PM**

It's a great time of Christmas celebration!
Meat, bread and drinks will be provided. Bring a large dish to share (salads, vegetables/side dishes, or desserts). In lieu of a Micah Meal in December, donations will be collected at the Christmas Dinner for Heifer International.

Also we will be having a Holiday (Ugly) Sweater contest and Christmas Carol Karaoke.



GINGERBREAD HOUSE MAKING

for all FUMC children and youth
**Sunday, December 3 following worship
12 noon - 2 pm (approximate time)**

Join us in Godwin Fellowship Hall and decorate a gingerbread house to be displayed at FUMC throughout December. Bring a bag or two of candy to share for decoration!

The houses will be displayed in Linger Hall and congregation members will be asked to "vote" for the ones they like with monetary donations of coins (or dollars). All money raised will benefit Heifer International, and the kids will help decide what to purchase from Heifer.

Contact Pastor Steve or Alice Poling if you are planning to attend.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday					
DECEMBER 2017					1 +	2 + Scrapbooking - GFH - 10am					
3 First Sunday of Advent + Sunday School 9:30am Worship - Sanctuary 10:40am Gingerbread Houses - GFH 12:00pm	4 + Exercise Group - #18E 9:00am Boy Scouts - Scout Room 7:00pm 	5 + Early Birds - Library 8:00am Chancel Choir 7:00pm	6 + Exercise Group - #18E 9:00am	7 + UMW - GFH 7:00pm	8 + Cookie Walk Setup - GFH 1:00pm	9 + Cookie Walk - GFH 8:00am - 9:00am 					
10 + CHURCH FAMILY DINNER Sunday School 9:30am NATIVITY PLAY 10:40am Worship - Sanctuary 10:40am	11 + Exercise Group - #18E 9:00am Boy Scouts - Scout Room 7:00pm	12 + Early Birds - Library 8:00am Chancel Choir 7:00pm	13 + Exercise Group - #18E 9:00am	14 +	15 +	16 +					
17 + United Methodist Men - GFH 8:00am SSchool 9:30am LESSONS AND CAROLS - Sanc - 10:40am WVWC Concert Chorale - wVWC 7:00pm	18 + Exercise Group - #18E 9:00am Boy Scouts - Scout Room 7:00pm Cub Scouts-GFH 7:00pm	19 + Early Birds - Library 8:00am Chancel Choir 7:00pm	20 + Exercise Group - #18E 9:00am Morning Circle - Fleming Lounge 9:30am Afternoon Circle - Fleming Lounge 1:30pm - 9:00am	21 +	22 +	23 + 					
24 Christmas Eve + CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE Sunday School 9:30am Worship - Sanctuary 10:40am	OFFICE CLOSED					25 Christmas Day +	26 +	27 +	28 + Wellings Event	29 +	30 +

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Betty Weimer
Deidra Casto
Ellie Siegel
David Wasson
- 3 Larry Loudin
- 7 Charlie Watts
- 12 Leon Linger
- 14 Cheryl Reger
Alex Edwards

- 15 Lynn Linger
- 21 Clint Green
- 26 Diana Simmons
- 27 Jamie O'Brien
- 29 Angie Botzet
Judy Knorr
- 30 Yvonne Foster
- 31 Grace Clawson

Ben Crutchfield (head), Matt Hymes, Sandra McCutcheon, Jeff McDowell

DECEMBER USHERS

DECEMBER GREETERS

- December 3 TBA
- December 10 TBA
- December 17 Todd Whitehair & Alison Clausen
- December 24 Lynne & David Petrosky
- December 31 Tony & Mary Gum

DECEMBER ACOLYTES

- December 3 Micah & Elizabeth Brittain
- December 10 Nativity Celebration
- December 17 Mason & Clay Lantz
- December 24 Tori Adams & Hannah Boyles
- December 31 Rebekah Wilkerson & Darcy Kincaid



December is "Soups" Month, the monthly collection for the Parish House & sponsored by the Micah Outreach Ministry Team. Please leave your gift in Linger Hall on Sunday or leave at the church office.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The Annual Christmas offering will be divided with one half going to defray the Annual Conference Apportionments and the other half of the offering going to Crosslines.

Crosslines Inc. is an ecumenical ministry located in the Parish House, providing information and referral services to individuals through cooperation with other social agencies (American Red Cross, The Salvation Army, The Department of Human Services, etc.) Services provided by Crosslines Inc. include assistance with: food, rent, mortgage, medical prescriptions, school needs, utilities, and gasoline vouchers for medical appointments.

DECEMBER MICAH MEAL

The December Micah Meal will be held in conjunction with the Family Christmas Dinner. All donations will go to Heifer International.

Heifer International's mission is to work with communities to end world hunger and poverty and to care for the Earth. We empower families to turn hunger and poverty into hope and prosperity – but our approach is more than just giving them a handout. Heifer links communities and helps bring sustainable agriculture and commerce to areas with a long history of poverty. Our animals provide partners with both food and reliable income, as agricultural products such as milk, eggs and honey can be traded or sold at market.



When many families gain this new sustainable income, it brings new opportunities for building schools, creating agricultural cooperatives, forming community savings and funding small businesses.

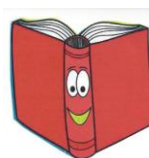
WV Wesleyan Concert Chorale



Final performance of their December concert tour!
December 17 at 7 pm
in the FUMC sanctuary

All are welcome and invited to attend!

FROM THE LIBRARY



The church library is always open. You are welcome to browse through the books at any time, and borrow one to read at home. Just sign the card in the back of the book and leave it on the desk. Here's some good reading:

"Christmas Stories from the heart"
compiled by Alice Gray

These short stories will greatly renew your faith, hope, and love for the Christmas Season. Christmas can sometimes become a season of extra demands and stress, with complicated preparations and extra expenses. What happens to the simple joys and wonder of Christmas? These stories will help you remember what the season is all about and Whom the season is all about.

JOIN US IN CELEBRATION!



Please join us on Dec. 28th from 2:00 pm – 5:00 pm at First United Methodist Church to honor Linda Wellings and her years of dedicated service

leading MPL Corporation. Linda retired on November 11th, 2017 after over 32 years serving MPL Corporation as President. Please join us in celebrating her many achievements and her hard work in shaping the company into what it is today. RSVP requested but not required. (Christy Benson – cbenson@mpl.com – (254) 845-4087 home or (386) 628-7186 cell)

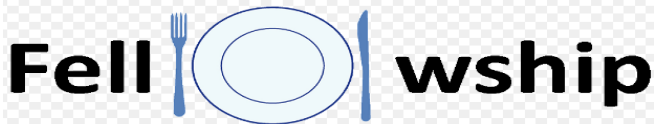


THE GIVING TREE IS BACK



The Mid-High Youth will be sponsoring the "Giving Tree". You may bring hats, gloves, scarves, etc. to be placed on the tree to be distributed at the Parish House after Christmas. Give the gift of warmth to those in need, so please help us continue this support.

Here we go a'caroling!
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 6 PM
MEET US AT ST JOE'S.....
WE WILL CAROL ON 3RD FLOOR!



Church Night Out!
WE'RE TAKING A BREAK,
SEE YOU IN JANUARY!



Coffee sold December 10th after worship!!!
K-cups, coffee, tea, chocolate and cocoa available!
*These make great Christmas gifts
and stocking stuffers!*



A huge Thank You to everyone, including the Mid-Hi Youth, for helping decorate the First Church Sanctuary for Advent and Christmas. And thanks to the muscle and brains that got the Chrismon tree up straight and all aglow!

NOTES WE HAVE RECEIVED

Thank you for the Pillowcase that you sent to me. Just knowing that you are keeping me in your prayers means so much to me. This is a wonderful outreach for those in need and really touched me. It is good to know my daughter Deidra Casto and her family have such a wonderful church family!
-Karen Click

Dear First United Methodist Church Folks, Your kindness is greatly appreciated. Thank you for dinner at parent-teacher conferences!
-Gini McCourt-Davison, BUHS teacher

Thank you so much for hosting our Reaching New People Tune Up last Saturday. Your welcome and hospitality were extra special. It is a blessing to be welcomed in such a special way. Thanks for all that you do to make it possible for all of us to reach new people for Christ.
-Rev. Amy Shanholtzer

Thank you so much for remembering us this week. We always appreciate a little chocolate. It's good to know we have our community's support.
-Beth Post, BUMS teacher

United Methodist Women

It's holiday season and time for our annual "Cookies and More" sale on December 9. It's been called Cookie Walk because you walk the perimeter of Fellowship Hall to choose from homemade cookies, candy, and bread. Cookies and candy are \$6 a pound. Crafts and other potential gift items will be for sale in the adjacent room. Doors open at 8:30 am. Come indulge your sweet tooth, or buy gifts for guests, family members, and friends. Proceeds provide about one third of our annual receipts available for donations to local and worldwide missions.

United Methodist Women have five channels or ways to make gifts to mission. One of those is a special offering we collect each November. The "World Thank Offering" is a monetary response "to God's abundance and grace" with a "gift of gratitude"(unitedmethodistwomen.org). Other channels include a pledge to mission, gift in memory, special mission recognition, and gift to mission. Funds are used for mission and advocacy worldwide.

The UMW organization strives to be a supportive fellowship and helps members get to know God a bit better. At each monthly unit meeting we share joys and concerns, pray, and have a brief devotion. The three individual circles: morning, afternoon, and evening provide another opportunity to bond with a smaller group of ladies and do additional activities and mission projects.

In November, Judge Jake Reger spoke at the unit meeting. He outlined a typical week, and told us about the variety of cases he sees and some of the successes of the Drug Court program. Judge Reger travels lots to Lewis County for trials as he and Judge Kurt Hall share duties in Lewis and Upshur Counties.

Kim Walls and Jane White will share some of their experiences from a mission trip to Alaska this past summer at our December 7 unit meeting. All are welcome to join us at 7 pm in Fellowship Hall.

Future dates:

- November 30 - Executive Board, 4:30 pm
- December 7 - Unit meeting, 7 pm
- December 9 - Cookies and More, doors open @ 8:30 am
- January 7 - Unit meeting 2 pm, "Responding to God's Call" by Lynne Petrosky

The Evening circle is selling bean soup mix for \$4.00 per packet. Money from the sales will help mission projects of the United Methodist Women. See Lynne Petrosky or Barb Loftis to make purchases.



Judge Jake Reger discusses his responsibilities.

COOKIES & MORE



**Homemade
Cookies,
Candy, Crafts
And More**

\$6.00 a pound

**Saturday,
December 9th**

Doors open at 8:30 am

No Early Bird Sales!

**FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
52 S. Florida St.
Godwin Fellowship Hall
304/472/9494**





Invite FRANK to our Advent & Christmas worship services & activities (Friends, Relatives, Acquaintances, Neighbors & Kids)



Decorating for the greatest time of the year!



Lessons &

CAROLS

**Presented by First United
Methodist Chancel Choir
Join us on Sunday, December 17
10:40 am, Morning Worship**



**CHILDREN'S
SABBATH
2017**



THE CHURCH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED DECEMBER 22 – JANUARY 2.



MID HIGH YOUTH FUN



Mid Highs meet with Pastor Steve in the parsonage



Mid Highs meeting at McDowell home to eat pizza and make pottery

TRUSTEES REPORT

Even though there has not been a report for a few months, rest assured that Trustees have been busy taking care of our church properties adequately. The following projects were completed recently:

- 1) new blinds in Board Room #21
- 2) new rug shampooer for small jobs
- 3) some new fluorescent light units
- 4) new dumpster in parking lot
- 5) organ repair

As always your monetary gifts are appreciated. It takes both our line item budget and the Improvement Fund to keep things repaired and replaced each year. We thank you for your help!

Karen Cartwright, Chair '19
 Rick Loar, Treasurer '19
 Patty McComas, Secretary
 Naomi Lynch '18
 John Mathias '18

Pat Hoover '17
 Lori Hagi '18
 Janis Allen '19
 Tom Bozet '17
 Junior McGee '17



You are invited to help to decorate our sanctuary with live poinsettias for our Christmas Eve service. This year we are offering red and white plants. You may order a poinsettia in memory of someone, in honor of someone, or simply to the glory of God. The cost will be \$17.50 per plant. Please fill out the form below, put it in an envelope with a check made out to FUMC and place it in the offering plate or bring it or send it to the church office (52 S. Florida St.) no later than December 12.

NAME OF DONOR-----

I WOULD LIKE TO ORDER: Circle: RED WHITE

PLANT(S) IN HONOR OF -----

PLANT(S) IN MEMORY OF: -----

____PLANT(S) GIVEN FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.

Buckhannon Choral Society invites you to a community sing-along of the Advent portion of
Handel's Messiah
Saturday, December 9
Wesley Chapel, 7:00 p.m.
Admission \$8 Children under 5, free
Singing along is welcome but not required!

Save the Date and Mark your Calendar now!
 The Martin Luther King, Jr. Male Chorus
 from Charleston returns
 to FUMC on Sunday evening, January 21.



THAT'S THE BEST ONE-STAR HOTEL THAT I'VE EVER SEEN

*Christmas Eve
Candlelight &
Communion Worship
December 24, 7:00 pm*

