

WINTER 2020

THE LINK

The Newsletter of First United Methodist Church, Buckhannon WV

52 S. Florida St. Buckhannon, WV 26201

304-472-9494 fumc26201@gmail.com

CHURCH FAMILY ZOOM CHRISTMAS PARTY

The First Church family will join together to celebrate Christmas at a ZOOM Christmas Party, Sunday, Dec. 20, 5 PM to 6:30 PM. **BYOR...Bring Your Own Refreshments**, and let's have a party. The ZOOM Link will be shared closer to the Party date. Renee will have a couple of games to enjoy. Stop by and wish your Church Family "Merry Christmas," if only for a few minutes or stay the entire party.



CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP ON YOUTUBE



The Christmas Eve Service will be recorded on YouTube, including the lighting of the Advent Wreath, scripture, music and song, and an opportunity to light your own candle. The YouTube link will be active on Christmas Eve. Set a time for you or your family to worship together. And, have a candle or candles ready to light during the service. We may be apart this Christmas Eve but we will be drawn together by the Light of the World.

CHURCH FAMILY PHONE TREE



During the pandemic many of us regularly communicate using technology like Zoom, video chat, Facebook, email, and texting. However, there are some that don't have access to that technology or prefer not to use it. If you have time and enjoy brief phone conversations, please consider volunteering to call isolated church members. We suggest calling once or twice a week just to check in and see how things are going.

To volunteer, contact Barbara Loftis at 304-472-1975, text 304-439-5108, or email barbaraloftis9@gmail.com. If you already call someone regularly, let me know too. Requests to receive calls are also welcome.



2021 TEAMS

STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

- Steven Meadows, Pastor
- Lay Leader, Karen Cartwright

Chairperson: Linda Wellings

<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>
Regina Atkins Tammy Crites	Phil Loftis Mark Lynch	Bill Mallory Woody Martin Linda Wellings

FINANCE COMMITTEE

*** member without vote

- Pastor, Steven Meadows
- Staff-Parish Relations, chosen by SPRC
- Financial Secretary, Janet Chandler***
- Trustees Representative, chosen by Trustees
- Lay Leader, Karen Cartwright
- Church Treasurer, Jane Crutchfield
- Church Council Chair, Lorilyn Linger

Chairperson: Lewis Simmons

<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>
Tina Horstman Carrie Wallace	Steve Atkins Yvonne Foster Lewis Simmons	Jamie O'Brien Shea Phillips

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Chairperson: TBA

Secretary: Patty McComas (non-voting)

<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>
Janis Allen Karen Cartwright Jeff McDowell	Naomi Lynch Lori Hagi John Mathias	Danny Green Isaac Casto Keri Phillips

LAY LEADERSHIP (NOMINATIONS) COMMITTEE

- Karen Cartwright, Lay Leader
- Steven Meadows, Pastor

<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>
Brooke Scott	Andy Scott	Mary Gum

CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Council Chairperson: Lorilyn Linger

Pastor: Steve Meadows

Recording Secretary: Janis Allen

Lay Leader: Karen Cartwright

Chair/Staff Parish: Linda Wellings

Chair/Finance: Lewis Simmons

Board of Trustees Representative: TBA

Treasurer: Jane Crutchfield

Financial Secretary: Janet Chandler

Ministry Assistant: Renee Warner

United Methodist Women: Barbara Loftis

Chairperson of Nurture: Cheryl Reger

Chairperson of Outreach: Tena Shannon

Chairperson of Witness: Alison Whitehair

Lay Member/Annual Conference: Amanda Webb

At Large:

2021: Charles Washington, Brooke Scott

2022: Marvin Carr, Sarah Carr

2023: Greenbrier Almond, Phil Petrosky



ADDITIONAL LEADERSHIP

Lay Member of District Conference: Ben Crutchfield

NURTURE MINISTRY TEAM

Chair	Cheryl Reger
Ministry Assistant	Renee Warner
Choir Director	Valarie Huffman
Prayer Team Coordinator	Ben Crutchfield

At Large: Deidra Casto	Sandy McDowell
SarahJean McGee	Patty McComas
Sandra McCutcheon	Alice Poling
Charlie Washington	Dan Martin

OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM

Chair: Tena Shannon

At Large:

Marvin Carr	Marjorie Richter	Jane White
Sarah Carr	David Rowan	Kristi Wilkerson
Herb Coston	Kim Walls	Ricki Green
Bill Mallory		

WITNESS

Chair: Alison Whitehair

Usher Group Leaders: Junior McGee/Nate Kennedy/
Ben Crutchfield/Katherine Huffman

Greeters Coordinator: Lynne Petrosky

Web Master: Danny Green

At Large:

Yvonne Foster	Jeff McDowell	Amy Hayslette
Chris Hayslette	Keri Phillips	Brooke Scott
Kelci Friend	Garrett Friend	

INDEPENDENT TEAMS

CIRCLE OF PRAYER TEAM (relates to Church Council via Nurture)

Janis Allen
Christy Benson
Ben Crutchfield (Chair)
Diane Tuggle
Steve Meadows
Shea Phillips
Linda Wellings
Kristi Wilkerson

ALTAR GUILD

Jane Crutchfield (Communion)
Lynn Linger
Barbara Loftis (Coordinator)
Sue Pugh

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

(relates to Church Council via Trustees)
Karen Cartwright (chair)
Mark Lynch
Ellen Nickell

HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP TEAM

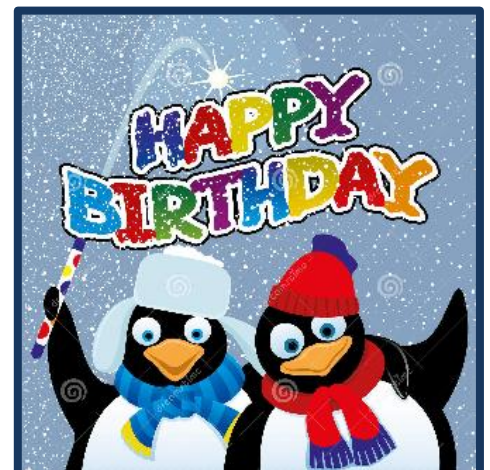
(relates to Church Council via Trustees)
Steve Meadows
Bill O'Brien, chair
Marje Richter
Brooke Scott
MaDora Wildman
Kristi Wilkerson

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Betty Weimer
Deidra Casto
3 Larry Loudin
14 Cheryl Reger
Alex Edwards
15 Lynn Linger
26 Diana Simmons
27 Jamie O'Brien
30 Yvonne Foster
31 Grace Clawson

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Leonard Wachob Paula McGrew Mark Lynch	14 David Godwin Sue Boring
2 Sam McComas "Mac" McGraw	15 Brenda Wachob Kim Walls
3 Ron Pugh Andrew McDowell Evan McDowell	22 Eric Lantz
4 Sue Pugh	23 Greenbrier Almond Gary Connell
5 Valarie Huffman	25 John Lynch
6 Norma Ruhlow	31 Rosemary Heatherly Lisa Calef-Boring
11 Graham Scott	
12 Mary Ellen Finegan	





2020 CHRISTMAS OFFERING GIFT

Traditionally, the First Church family receives a special Christmas Offering. This year, the Christmas offering will be divided equally between the **UPSHUR PARISH HOUSE/CROSSLINES, AND THE VISUAL PROJECT AT FIRST UMC** to help with the recent costs of visual equipment and expenses needed to provide On-line Ministry.

You may give your gift in honor or memory of **SOMEONE**. A register of your gift will be placed on the Communion Table for worship on the last Sunday of Advent, Dec. 20 and Christmas Eve. What a great way to honor or remember someone special by offering help and reaching the Good News to others.

Audio/Visual Cockpit Photos



FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

The Festival of Lessons & Carols is WV Wesleyan's annual Christmas celebration. This year WVWC Greek Life and the Music Department will be singing carols and poems, songs, and lessons will be delivered by WVUMC Conference members, laity, and members across the Buckhannon and WV Wesleyan community. We will finish with our annual tree lighting. Your church is invited to join virtually this Sunday Dec. 6 @ 7pm on the WV Wesleyan Youtube page.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/WestVirginiaWesleyan>

STEWARDSHIP 2021



First United Methodist Church gratefully extends to you a heart-felt "Thank You" for your financial support. Unable to worship together now, First Church is doing its best to offer meaningful worship, Christian education, gathering opportunities, and study groups via internet. For now, the welfare of the Church Family and Staff is paramount. If being apart now is what it takes for us to keep everyone safe and together until we can safely return to the "in-person" life of the church, that's what we must do.

And so, ministry continues in different ways...by internet, ZOOM, social media, YouTube, phone, and some have met outdoors in distanced gatherings. The Online Worship will continue after we return to the Sanctuary. First Church has reached hundreds of persons through our Online presence that has developed into a vital Outreach ministry.

With life so fluid and unpredictable now, First Church was unable to celebrate faithful Stewardship with the Annual Stewardship emphasis series. The proposed 2021 budget, presented at the Charge Conference, is just less than a 1% increase over 2020. The increase (\$3,387) is due to apportionment increases and a Cost of Living raise for the employees. While ministry continues, we will finish 2020 with our expenses, the staff intact, and our apportionments 100% paid. Again, Thank You!

Remember, you can mail your gifts of Tithes and Offerings to First UMC, leave your gifts in the Parsonage mailbox, or you may give electronically by visiting the First UMC Webpage: firstchurchumc.com, and on the home page look for the DONATE button.

With gratitude and appreciation, the Finance Committee asks that you continue your loyal and sustaining support of the ministries of First United Methodist Church. May we continue to be faithful with our prayers, presence, gifts,

Be safe! Be well! Grace and peace,

Lewis Simmons, Chair, Finance Committee



CHRISTMAS BASKET FOOD COLLECTION FOR THE UPSHUR PARISH HOUSE



The Upshur Parish House and Crosslines work to ensure that our community neighbors celebrate the Christmas season with traditional, healthy meals.

If you can help with the ministry of the Upshur Parish House, here is a list of Christmas Basket things needed (before December 11th) if possible:

canned yams, boxed stuffing, cake mixes, tubs of frosting, corn, and green beans.

If you care to make a monetary gift for the Christmas Meal Baskets or to the Parish House or Crosslines, please send your check to First UMC or directly to Upshur Parish House and mark your gift, "Christmas Meal."

The Parish House also needs volunteers to help pre-pack Christmas Baskets the week of December 7th and distribute December 12 and the following week. If you are available to serve as a volunteer, call Kristi Wilkerson, 304-552-7909 or email Kristi: krlwilkerson@gmail.com.

Thank you!

RE-START TEAM REPORT

The Re-start Team with Church Council and Staff Parish Relations Committee met via ZOOM on Monday, Nov. 23 to discuss resuming In-person worship and gatherings. After receiving strong encouragement from Bishop Sandra Steiner Ball to suspend In-person worship and indoor gatherings and remain fully On-line, the Upshur County Schools being fully remote until January, the trends of surges and expected surges of Covid-19 following the holidays, the **Re-start group unanimously decided to remain online only for worship and other gatherings and revisit the situation on January 25, 2021.**

Thank you for your understanding and supporting the Church family in doing its best to be good stewards in modeling our care for one another. If being apart now is what is needed to keep us together and well, this is our best and most prudent option.

Be safe. Be well. Be blessed.

ISSUE INVITATIONS!

Inviting others to First Church has never been easier. If you use Facebook and receive posts for Worship and Sunday School from First United Methodist Church, LIKE those posts and share them with others. Or, if you receive the weekly emails that invite folks to On-line worship, Sunday School, and list other First Church opportunities, you can forward those emails to others. What a great way to grow the First Church On-line congregation.

COLLEGE STUDENT NEWS!

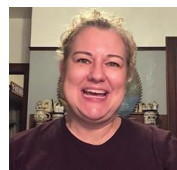
First United Methodist Church congratulates its College Students upon completion of this difficult Fall 2020 semester. Our college students are Sean Crites, Morgan Gifford, Alex Edwards, and Nick Calef-Boring. First Church sent to the students Finals Care Gifts. And, as they prepare for the Spring '21 semester, their Spring scholarship checks will be mailed to them early January along with our prayers for safety and a great Spring Semester.

YOUTH NEWS!



First Church Youth...watch for details for a couple more Youth Meetings this December on ZOOM with Sarah Wilmoth and Renee Warner.

FUMC CHILDREN NEWS!



Each week, Renee Warner shares a Sunday School YouTube and mails to each child in the First Church family a Weekly Children's Bulletin. If your child is not receiving the Sunday School YouTube Link or the Weekly Children's Bulletins, Renee wants to know. Please email Renee: refwarner@gmail.com.

A "THANK YOU..."

We are home now but there is still much to do. Please thank our church family and especially Pastor Steve for the calls, texts and cards. Most of all, we are thankful for the prayers. They surely are what's holding us up right now. Lane is with our mighty God and that also brings great peace during our grief.

Janis and Chris Allen



COME WORSHIP WITH US

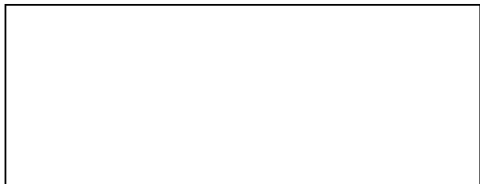
★ **First UMC, Buckhannon, Livestream Worship on Facebook.**
10:45 AM
<https://www.facebook.com/firstumcbuckhannon>

★ **Subscribe to First UMC YouTube**
(FirstChurchUMBuckhannon):
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCydw6hKQYnBfJ7T8n7t9iNw>

★ **Sermon by Phone: 1-304-250-4556**
(Scripture and sermon only)

★ For the **Sermon on the Web**: Go to First Church Website: www.firstchurchum.com, look for **SERMON** tab on the home page

★ **Sharefaith App**---Go to Google Play or the App Store, search for the Sharefaith App. Download the app, and then search for First United Methodist Church, then select.



YOUR OPPORTUNITIES

TUESDAY STUDY GROUP (ZOOM),
“The Resurrection-Shaped Life”
Tuesdays, 6 PM.
Email Rev. Steve for the ZOOM link to join the study.



THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY (ZOOM), led by Renee Warner,
Thursdays, 7 PM.
Email refwarner@gmail.com for ZOOM link to join the study



STAY SAFE MY FRIENDS!