



The Link

January - March 2025

The Newsletter of First United Methodist Church

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Holiday Season Recap



This Christmas season was truly a special time to gather as we celebrated the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Our Church family helped to fill this season with love and joy.

FUMC kids provided us with a wonderful Nativity celebration that we will never forget. A special thanks to SarahJean for taking the lead this year and thank you to all who helped

The church family Christmas dinner was a great time for fellowship and great food!

The lighting of the Advent candles by FUMC members were fervent reminders of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

The sanctuary was filled with poinsettias in remembrance of loved ones.



"See What Blessings!" When Martha and I gratefully look for the blessings in our lives, our hearts swell with glad thanksgiving for our First Church family. Thank you for your Advent and Christmas greetings and gifts. Every blessing from you is appreciated and treasured. Most of all, thank you for your faithfulness to First Church, each other, and to us. "See What Blessings!" the Lord has in store for us in the New Year.
Steve and Martha

United Women in Faith



United Women in Faith had a highly successful year. We had regular monthly meetings with programs that provided information and fellowship for all who attended. The attendance may be low in numbers, but those there always enjoy each other's company. 2024 was also successful financially. We received over \$3,000 in pledges and raised \$5,000 from 2 basement sales and the Cookies, Crafts and More sale in December. Along with money withdrawn from the UM Foundation of WV, we supported our community with \$5,000 including Upshur Parish House, Habitat for Humanity, C.O.M.E., Centers Against Violence, Burlington UM Family Services, The 180 Center Ruth House, and Literacy Volunteers. \$500 helped a homeless mother and child with lodging over Christmas. First United Methodist Church received \$1,300: \$500 for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund, \$300 for Children and Youth Fund, and \$400 for yearly gifts to all staff members. A special gift of \$2,000 was sent in November to UMCOR for flood relief. We feel blessed, but also a bit worn out.

2025 will look a bit different for our group. As mentioned above, the number of women able to participate has dwindled. Basement sales require a huge amount of work, and only a handful of ladies organized the last few. There will be no basement sales in 2025. Please donate to the charity of your choice. We will have Cookies, Crafts, and More sale in December, and will continue to support the same organizations as in the past with additional funds from the UM Foundation.

A 13-year-old gave an inspired program for us in January about religions of Civil War soldiers and had many artifacts to share. Our February 5 unit meeting will feature Nan Summers with information about VFW Buddy Poppies, then March 5 will be stories about "Grandma's Apron" led by Lynne Petrosky. Come join us!

Picture caption: Autumn Crisp shares Civil War artifacts and facts about religions of soldiers.



United
Women
in Faith





Stewardship Nugget: Why Is Money So Dangerous?

John Wesley said, "I fear, wherever riches have increased, (exceeding few are the exceptions) the essence of religion, the mind that was in Christ, has decreased in the same proportion. Therefore do I not see how it is possible, in the nature of things, for any revival of true religion to continue long. For religion must necessarily produce both industry and frugality ; and these cannot but produce riches. But as riches increase, so will pride, anger, and love of the world in all its branches." [Selections from the Writings of John Wesley, Herbert Welch, ed.]

Ironic, isn' t it?

The more God blesses us financially, the more difficult our decision to keep putting first in our lives the God who blesses us.

What kinds of choices are you making with your money?

You can give online: www.firstchurchum.com, and on the Homepage, find DONATE.

**FUMC '25 PLANNING RETREAT
GODWIN FELLOWSHIP HALL
LUNCH PROVIDED**

SATURDAY. JAN. 25TH

- GATHER @ 9:30 AM
- MORNING SESSION BEGINS @ 10:00 AM
- PAUL NICKERSON - ZOOM @10:30 AM
- LUNCH PROVIDED @ NOON
- AFTERNOON SESSION @ 12:45 PM
- DISMISS NO LATER THAN 2:30 PM



Spaghetti Dinner

February 7, 2025 5:00PM - 7:00 PM

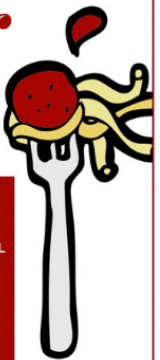
SPONSORED BY: FUMC MICAH OUTREACH TEAM

*Sponsored By:
FUMC Micah Outreach Team*

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH ● 52 S. FLORIDA STREET ● GODWIN FELLOWSHIP HALL

**\$10 Adults \$5 Children Age 10 & Under
Children 2 & Under Eat Free**

**Spaghetti, Salad, Bread, Dessert, Lemonade, Coffee and Water
Gluten Free Available**



Sing For Joy

Lift your voice in songs of praise and thanksgiving. The Chancel Choir invites you to join in bringing celebration to worship. Choir rehearsal is Sunday mornings, 9:30 AM before Sunday Worship.

"Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing." -from Psalm 100

Ash Wednesday



*Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.*

ECCLESIASTES 3 : 2 0

**Ash Wednesday Worship and Imposition of Ashes
Wednesday, March 5, 7 PM, First United Methodist Church
Rev. Paul Rebelo (Chapel Hill UMC), preacher
(In connection with Upshur Cooperative Parish)**

**Parish Pastors and Laity are invited to participate, and EVERYONE is Welcome!
An informal, brief Imposition of Ashes will be at Noon in the First Church Sanctuary.**

2025 First UMC Laity Leadership	
Church Council	
Church Council Chairperson	Lorilyn Linger
Church Council Recording Secretary	TBA
Lay Leader	Carolyn Brown
Staff Parish Committee Chairperson	Alison Whitehair
Finance Committee Chairperson	Lewis Simmons
Board of Trustees Representative	To be selected by Trustees
Treasurer	Jane Crutchfield
Financial Secretary	Ryan Conover
Ministry Assistant	Renee Warner
Ministry Assistant	Brittany Conover
United Women in Faith President	Barb Loftis
Nurture Ministry Team Chairperson	Cheryl Reger
Outreach Ministry Team Chairperson	Tina Shannon
Witness Ministry Team Chairperson	Alison Whitehair
Lay Member-Annual Conference	Lorilyn Linger
Church Council Members at Large	
2025	Sarah Carr, Marvin Carr
2026	Phil Petrosky, Greenbrier Almond
2027	Charles Washington, Brooke Scott

Finance Committee	
Chairperson	Lewis Simmons
Pastor	Steve Meadows
Lay Leader	Carolyn Brown
Finance Secretary	Ryan Conover
Church Treasurer	Jane Crutchfield
Church Council Chairperson	Lorilyn Linger
Staff Parish Relations Committee	To Be Selected by SPRC
Board of Trustees Representative	To Be Selected by Trustees
Finance Committee Members	
2025	Lewis Simmons, Gary Summers, Janis Allen
2026	Sandra McDowell, Jamie O'Brien
2027	Scott Wilson

Staff Parish Relations Committee	
Lay Leader	Carolyn Brown
Pastor	Steve Meadows
2025	Mark Lynch, Phil Petrosky, Brooke Scott
2026	Alison Whitehair (Chair), Woody Martin
2027	Tammy Crites

Staff Parish Relations Committee	
Lay Leader	Carolyn Brown
Pastor	Steve Meadows
2025	Mark Lynch, Phil Petrosky, Brooke Scott
2026	Alison Whitehair (Chair), Woody Martin
2027	Tammy Crites

Lay Leadership (Nominating) Committee	
Chairperson	Rev. Steve Meadows
Lay Leader	Carolyn Brown
2025	Patty McComas
2026	Andy Scott
2027	Brooke Scott

Board of Trustees	
Recording Secretary (non-voting)	Patty McComas
2025	Karen Cartwright, Jeff McDowell
2026	Keri Phillips, John Mathias, Isaac Casto
2027	Jeff Irwin, Danny Green, Debra Harrison

Nurture, Outreach, and Witness Ministry Teams are working toward a possible reformation into the N.O.W. group, a blend of ministry teams to work and support each other and to provide better communication with each other and the church family.

STAFF DIRECTORY

Pastor: Steve Meadows-stevowvu@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: Ryan Conover

Director of Music: Eva Atha

Ministry Assistant: Renee Warner

Ministry Assistant: Brittany Conover

Custodian: Tena Shannon