

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# First Word



## Thanksgiving

### Special points of interest:

- November Calendar
- Christmas Play
- Pastor's Corner
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My family always celebrated Thanksgiving the same way. My Mom and Dad would put four children into our Rambler station wagon and we would either drive to grandparents in Southwest Virginia or Pittsburgh. After the completion of I-81, the Southwest Virginia trip was a piece of cake. The Pittsburg trip was sometimes a little dicey when we had to drive the Pennsylvania Turnpike at night. When we arrived at either set of grandparents, however, we were always greeted by super celebrative meals: traditional southern heart bi-pass cooking in Southwest Virginia and cardiologist mocking German fare in Pittsburgh. I do recall, amidst the over eating, having conversations with my Mom and Dad over that for which we were thankful. I wonder what your Thanksgiving traditions might be like. Do you give thanks at Thanksgiving?

Though family traditions differ, Thanksgiving practices in the U.S are usually traced to 1621 when Pilgrim leader, William Bradford, proclaimed a day of feasting after a long year of suffering but the holiday did not catch on. In 1822 Sarah Hale decided to revive it. A mother of five children and an editor of a women's magazine, she began a 40-year campaign of writing to governors and presidents to get Thanksgiving officially observed as a national holiday. Three Presidents turned her down, but in 1863 Abraham Lincoln made a presidential proclamation. It is interesting that Lincoln was the president who took action. With two years of Civil War fighting weighing upon him, he recognized that giving thanks was essential even in difficult times.

While Thanksgiving dinners are not generally healthy, giving thanks certainly is. Giving thanks reminds us of the source of our blessings—namely, God in Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul incessantly gave thanks. (Romans 6:17, II Corinthians 9:15, Colossians 1:12, I Thessalonians 2:13, I Timothy 1:12, II Timothy 1:3 and Philemon 1:4). For Paul, there was a connection between thanksgiving and joy. Colossians 1:12 states, “and giving joyful thanks to the Father...” Giving thanks to God made Paul well up with joy even in difficult times. Writing from the hardship of prison, he penned these words, “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:7).

Please take time to give thanks this Thanksgiving. May your own thanksgiving during this holiday produce in you joy and peace!

Pastor White

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## From the Worship Committee

We are fast approaching the time of year when many events take place and family activities become more demanding. This is probably a good indication that we need to stop for a moment and reflect on the goodness and tranquility that God has brought to us through his son, Jesus Christ. Between now and the beginning of the new year, there are many worship services designed to encourage you to renew your faith and service in Christ.

### **All Saints Day**

On Nov. 6, we will celebrate All Saints Day. This will encompass the reading of the name of each **member** that has passed away since November 1, 2010 (All Saints, 2010). As each name is read, a candle will be lit by the acolytes. After the reading of the list of members, you will have the opportunity to name aloud other persons for whom a candle will also be lit.

### **Thanksgiving**

On November 20<sup>th</sup>, we will make a special observance of Thanksgiving during the worship service. The apostle Paul was devoted to giving thanks. Come learn how this may help you in your own life.

### **Hanging of the Greens**

Immediately following the worship service on November 20<sup>th</sup>, everyone is invited to join in the decoration of the church for Advent. "Hanging of the Greens" will take place between noon and 4:00pm. We will be serving pizza during this time and participants are encouraged to bring a drink or side dish to share. If more time is needed, decorating will continue on November 21 (time to be determined).

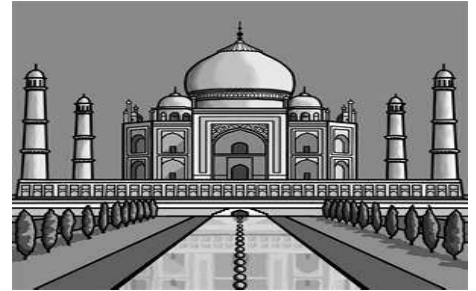
## Mediation Process

At the recommendation of the District Superintendent, some church leaders will meet with Barbara Robbins (a potential consultant) on Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2011. After meeting with her, a report will be given to the Church Council. There are no other available details on the mediation process at this time. Please watch the newsletter and bulletin for more information as it becomes available.

## Mission Presentation

We are excited to announce a mission presentation on Wednesday, November 16th. Theresa Hill, is a missionary in India. She was active in our church 20 years ago and will be in the United States on furlough for a couple of months.

We will share a meal with her and have an opportunity to hear about her work in India. Please join us on Wednesday, November 16th from 5:30 to 6:45 pm. Watch for more details in the church bulletins.



## Thanksgiving and Christmas Offerings



The Finance Committee has committed the Thanksgiving Offering to be split 50% towards the church heating expenses and 50% to the Community Heating Assistance Program.

The Christmas Offering will be split 50% towards the FUMC WATTS program scheduled in February and 50% towards District Apportionments. If you have any questions

please contact a member of the Finance Committee.



## CCAP Christmas Give-away

Monday, December 19th  
&  
Tuesday, December 20th  
From 8:30 am to noon  
Mt Carmel Baptist Church



1317 South Pleasant Valley Road in the Family Life Center  
If you would like to help with this event please sign up on the board located in the church narthex. If you have any questions contact Jill Johnson at 667-0575.

## Caretakers of God's Creation

**“The rains came down, the streams rose, and the wind blew and beat against that house, yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.” Matthew 7:25**

Recently on October 13, I was presenting to a meeting of United Methodist Women who could have had the same thoughts as expressed in Matthew 7:25 as they shared ideas on identifying the source of their drinking water and what it means to live in a community built upon Karst. Many acknowledged that they did not understand the term “karst”, however when I mentioned limestone and sinkholes, I immediately received comments regarding personal experiences especially with sinkholes. From that point on the discussion heightened, just like the storm outside! It was exciting to hear the conversation flow into seeking understanding to terms like the difference between ground water and surface water. Often it takes a raging storm or an earthquake to get our attention to focus on what is really important in our lives today.

Several of them expressed the realization that we often take our drinking water for granted, especially living in a country where we do not have to give a second thought about not being able to have an abundant source of water. Even if the local authorities have to shut off our water supply for a few hours or even a day, we can go buy water in local stores. Therefore, as compassionate people, we hurt deeply when we see pictures of children in 3rd world countries drinking from filthy sources, and immediately set out to raise money to help drill wells in order to get these children a drink of clean water. I truly believe that God wants all His children to have everything they needed to live a happy, beautiful, productive lives here on earth. What happened? Now let's not start pointing fingers. Negative thoughts and actions are not productive. Why don't we just look at identifying the source of one problem, and as good stewards of God's creation let's look for a positive solution. I believe deep down all of us want to be part of the solution not part of the problem.

I leave you with this thought: “Rivers don't know county boundaries or state borders. It's watersheds that connect us to our waters.... and you can make a difference.” Perhaps you might ask, “Why should I care what watershed I live in?” Just remember that everyone lives downstream, and the way that land is used upstream has a direct effect on your water!

Patsy Gochenour  
Caretakers of God's Creation

# November Calendar

## November 1

7:00 pm PPRC Meeting  
**All Saints Day**

## November 2

5:15 pm 3-F Dinner  
6:00 pm Hand Bell Choir  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

## November 3

7:00 pm Disciple 1 Bible Study

## November 5

9:00 am Women's Bible Study

## November 6

### Daylight-Saving Time Ends

8:30 am Worship Service  
9:45 am Children's Choir  
9:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship Service  
4:00 pm Play Practice  
5:00 pm Youth Meeting

## November 9

6:00 pm Hand Bell Choir  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

## November 10

7:00 pm Disciple 1 Bible Study

## November 11

### Veterans Day

## November 12

8:00 am UMM Meeting  
9:00 am Women's Bible Study

## November 13

8:30 am Worship Service  
9:45 am Children's Choir  
9:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship Service  
4:00 pm Play Practice  
5:00 pm Youth Meeting

## November 14

6:45 pm Trustee Meeting  
7:00 pm Finance Meeting

## November 16

5:15 pm 3-F Dinner  
6:00 pm Hand Bell Choir  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

## November 17

7:00pm Disciple 1 Bible Study

## November 18

5:00 pm UMYF Retreat

## November 19

9:00 am Women's Bible Study  
5:00 pm UMYF return from retreat

## November 20

8:30 am Worship Service  
9:45 am Children's Choir  
9:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship Service  
11:30 am "TOP" Mission  
12:00 pm Hanging of the Greens  
4:00 pm Play Practice  
5:00 pm Youth Meeting

## November 21

6:45 pm Worship Meeting

## November 24

**Office Closed for Thanksgiving**

## November 25

**Office Closed for Thanksgiving**

## November 26

9:00 am Women's Bible Study

## November 27

### First Sunday of Advent

8:30 am Worship Service  
9:45 am Children's Choir  
9:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship Service

## November 30

6:00 pm Hand Bell Choir  
7:00 pm Chancel Choir



## Advent, Christmas, and New Year's at First UMC

The season of Advent begins on November 27<sup>th</sup>. This year's theme is "Journey to Bethlehem". Join us as we trace the footsteps of Joseph and Mary as they make their way to the manger where our savior was born. Watch the progress that Joseph and Mary make each week through time with children. Hear about the journey through the spoken word and choir music. Join us on Sunday mornings at 8:30 and 11:00am unless otherwise designated.\*

**November 27<sup>th</sup>: The Annunciation**

**December 4<sup>th</sup>: Joseph of Bethlehem**

**December 11<sup>th</sup>: Mary's Visit to Elizabeth**

**December 18<sup>th</sup>: From Nazareth to Bethlehem**

**\*Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve**

*5pm, The Grumpy Shepherd (Children's Christmas Eve)*

Children are important at First UMC. Join us for a service especially designed for them on Christmas Eve. Grumpy Joram will be encouraged to find the Christ child. Just as the birth of the Messiah changes his life, the savior can change our lives today. Based on the book by Pattie Devon, this service will feature dramatic characters and carols. Communion will not be served at 5pm. Join us for a family-fun children's worship service.

*7pm and 11pm, This Will Be a Sign*

*(Candles, Choir, Carols, and Communion)*

In some ways, the mystery of the word becoming "flesh" (John 1:14) is most fully expressed in the liturgy and scriptures associated with Christmas Eve. If a traditional candlelight service is the way you prefer to celebrate the Messiah's birth, please join us at 7 or 11pm. Not only are the candles beautiful, but lighting them reminds us that Jesus Christ has enlightened all of us. Come revel in the love of God in Christ on Christmas Eve.



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### **\*Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Day (One Service Only)**

*10am, A Birthday Party for Jesus*

Adults and children alike will enjoy throwing a real birthday party for Jesus including a cake and candles. Please join us in the fellowship hall. We'll sing Christmas carols and hear the spoken word through the reflections of a few time honored members as they share the meaning of Christmas with the next generation. This type of service will only happen once every several years, so don't miss it! Come celebrate the reason for the season with your church family on Christmas Day.

Melody Harmon and Melinda Russell will coordinate the reflective testimonies and Susie Brown and Kathy Baccary will head up the refreshments for this true birthday party. If you feel moved to participate or help with either of these activities, please contact them directly:

Melody Harmon      667-3514      Melinda Russell      858-3731

Susie Brown      323-2834      Kathy Baccary      667-5529

You may also call the church office if you like to offer help: 662-3151

### **\*Sunday, January 1, 2012 New Year's Day (One Service Only)**

*10am, Covenant for a Holy New Year*

God is serious about covenants! In the book of Genesis alone we see God making covenants with Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses. In Matthew 22 (the upper room), Jesus describes a "new covenant" between God and humans. The sign of this covenant is the sacrament of Holy Communion. The early Methodists saw in these texts (and others) the covenantal relationship that humans have with God. They found covenant making to be helpful in their own spiritual growth, so they developed covenant services that are unique to Methodism.

Come participate in the time honored tradition of the covenant service on January 1. Copies of the covenant will be available through the adult Sunday School classes during the month of December. You are invited, and encouraged, to pray over the covenant prior to January 1.

Let's start the New Year in unity and love! Let's embrace one another in the love that Christ has bestowed upon us and commit ourselves to doing His work in the world outside our doors! This commitment can only strengthen and reinforce our goals and sincerity as Christians.

***There will be no Sunday School classes on December 25, 2011 and January 1, 2012.***

## From PPRC

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee would like to provide an opportunity for members and friends of First United Methodist Church to thank and honor those who have been in ministry here at our church. Our organist recently retired and our youth director is moving into a different ministry. We have asked them to choose local, conference or global ministries that are special to them. In honor and appreciation for their years of service and their focus on ministry we hope you will donate to the ministry they have chosen and send them a note of appreciation.

Wayne Corbett  
117 Asbury Court  
Winchester, VA 22602

Mary Vorous  
252 McGuire Road  
Winchester, VA 22603

Ministry chosen:  
Teens Opposing Poverty

Ministry chosen:  
Teens Opposing Poverty

Checks to the ministry chosen can be made to First United Methodist Church with the check memo designated "TOP" Advance Special or checks can be mailed directly to the following address:

Teens Opposing Poverty  
PO Box 933  
Berryville, VA 22611



## Pastor-Parish Relations Committee Update

With the vacancy in our church custodial position, the Pastor Parish Relations Committee has temporarily contracted with a local cleaning agency to handle the custodial duties until a permanent solution is determined for our church and the preschool. Please speak with anyone on the PPRC for more information or feedback that will help during this transition.

The church council has approved the salary and position of organist/accompanist for 2012 to be permanently filled. The PPRC is in the process of advertising for applicants to this position.

## To Honor Queenie

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, our church custodian, Esther (Queenie) Dockeney, started in a full-time position closer to home. This opportunity became available very quickly and she did not want to pass it up. Although, we are glad for the opportunity this provides her and her family we will miss her sweet spirit and are so grateful for her years with us.

The Pastor Parish Relations Committee would like to provide an opportunity for members and friends of First United Methodist Church to thank and honor for her ministry among us. We have asked her to choose a local, conference or global ministries that is special to her. In appreciation for their years of service and their focus on ministry we hope you will donate to the ministry she has chosen and send her a note of appreciation.

Ministry Chosen:  
Esther (Queenie) Dockeney  
First United Methodist Church

1091 Mitchem Lane  
Hedgesville, VA 25427

Queenie asked that donations be made to our church to help the church during this time. Please put in the memo line "To honor Queenie".



## Children ages 4-10

Keep your eyes and ears open..... After Christmas we will be starting "Clubs" just for you. Think about friends you would like to invite to join us. Ask your moms and dads to contact me for more information.

Martha Inglis                      marthamartha\_1@hotmail.com



**First United  
Methodist Church**  
308 North Braddock Street  
Winchester, VA 22601  
& Apple Pie Ridge  
Campus directly across from the Apple  
Pie Ridge Elementary School

Web site: [www.fumcwinchester.org](http://www.fumcwinchester.org)  
Church: 540-662-3151  
Fax: 540-662-1462

Staff

**Rev. William M. White**  
Pastor

**Kristen Grzywacz**  
Office Manager

**Allyson Allison**  
Preschool Director

**Susan Brown**  
Lay Leader

**Jennifer White**  
Treasurer

**Ellen Cavanagh, RN**  
Faith Community Nurse

**Jim Harmon**  
Choir Director

**Melinda Russell**  
Hand Bell Director & Children's Choir  
Director

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## Dinner Theater: "In Bethlehem Inn"



The Children's Ministry Team and the United Methodist Men are sponsoring a dinner theater for Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:30pm. You are the guest of Eli Merriman (the Inn Keeper), his wife, children, and some misguided servants. Join us in the fellowship hall for a scrumptious turkey dinner, great music from the choir, strange astral ap-

pearances, and interruptions from some travelers. Watch and hear the traditional Christmas story in a way that is fresh and fun. Cost: \$8 adults; \$4 children. Purchase your tickets from members of the youth group or the United Methodist Men. Tickets will also be on sale in the church office. The proceeds from the ticket sales will be divided between Youth Missions and Winchester District Apportionments.

## CCAP Christmas Wish List 201

As always we are in need of many items for our Christmas Shopping Day. It is especially nice to have new items for our clients. We do accept good clean items for our White Elephant room. Our folks really love this area of our event.

Listed below you will find specific items to bring cheer to our families in need:

Books  
Coloring Books & Crayons  
Barbie Dolls and outfits, other dolls are also appreciated.  
Baby Toys  
Toddler Toys  
Educational Toys  
Trucks and Cars (such as Tonka and Matchbox)  
Hair Accessories  
Glamour Kits  
Jewelry Making Kits  
Gift certificates for CD's from area music stores  
Footballs, Basket Balls, Soccer Balls, Sports Equipment  
Gift Certificates to the area movie theaters  
Jewelry (both genders)  
Purses and Wallets  
CD Players and CD's  
Nightgowns, Robes, Slippers and Toiletry Sets for our senior citizens  
Gifts for our homeless (tarps, sleeping bags, tents, flash lights, batteries, propane heaters and propane cooking equipment).  
Household cleaning products like Laundry Detergent, Fabric Softener, Dishwashing Liquid, Bathroom and Kitchen Cleaners, Toilet Paper and Paper Towels.  
Decorations for Home and Tree (New and Used)  
Wrapping Paper, Ribbons, Cards, Boxes, Bags and Tape.  
Walmart gift Cards in increments of \$10.00 each.  
Hats, Scarves, Gloves all sizes and both genders  
Blankets and Throws  
Toys for ages newborn to 16 both genders  
Fishing Poles or Sets  
Dart Boards

**These are just a few suggestions for gifts, however as we know there will be tons of sales circulars coming to us as the holidays draw near. All are filled with items that are on every kids "Wish List". Please take time to go through these and choose some items that you will be able to donate to fulfill a child's Christmas Wish!**

## Items needed by CCAP

### Food Items:

Canned Vegetables - Green Beans, corn, peas, tomatoes, greens

Canned fruit - peaches, pears, mixed fruit, applesauce

Canned Beans - Lima, Kidney, Pinto, also in bags

Boxed Foods - Macaroni and Cheese; rice, grits and noodle mixes

Bagged Noodles, rice/instant rice and potatoes, and dinners

Canned Meats: Tuna Fish, Spam, Corned Beef, Canned Chicken, etc.

Cereals of any kind - Oatmeal

Peanut butter and Jelly

Sandwiches - Sliced bread for sandwiches, crackers

Cheeses, sliced and small pieces; Hot dogs, bologna, lunch meat  
eggs, butter, margarine

Milk - canned and powdered

spaghetti sauce, bottled or canned spaghetti and  
noodles/meatsauce/meatballs

Fresh produce

Bottled water, and any kind of bottled drinks

Baby Food and Baby Formula; Diapers and wipes- all sizes; Baby  
clothes/blankets

Cat and Dog food

Books and small household items; toys

### CLOTHING ITEMS NEEDED:

Socks - all sizes - men, women and children

Jeans - all sizes - men, women and children

mens and womens slacks, shirts

Jackets and Coats - for men, women and children

Underwear - All sizes - men, women and children

Sleepwear - Men, women and children (all sizes)

Shoes - all varieties, Tennis shoes, sandals and also work boots

Blankets, linens, towels, sheets, Pillows, mattress covers