

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

First Word



NEWSLETTER DATE
JANUARY 2011

Worship Preview for January & February 2011

January 2—Epiphany Sunday

January 9—Baptism of the Lord

January 16—To Be Arranged

January 23— Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations:
Service

January 30-- Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations:
Worship

February 6-- Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations:
Faith Development

February 13-- Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations:
Hospitality

February 20-- Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations:
Generosity

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Special points of interest:

- WATTS
- January Calendar
- Red Cross Blood Drive
- Youth News
- Confirmation News
- Discovery Preschool
- Shickle/Omps Scholarship





2011 Confirmation Class

This class is for sixth graders and others who have not yet been confirmed. Confirmation is an eight week series of classes taught by Rev. White and Mary Vorous. The confirmation experience will help young people learn what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. All of the sessions below will be held in the “Confirmation Room” (classroom, left side of the balcony). Classes will be held at 10am and will last about an hour. Below is a schedule of this year’s plans.

January 15 Confirmation Parents Meeting

Come meet with Rev. White and Mary Vorous. Hear a little more about what confirmation means. Provide input into the upcoming plans for a confirmation retreat and Confirmation Sunday which has traditionally been held on the Sunday after Mother’s Day (May 15th).

January 23

God, Sin and Grace

January 30

Jesus Christ—Our Lord and Savior

February 6

The Gift of the Spirit

February 13

Worship and The Word

February 20

The Body of Christ in Action

February 27

Our UMC Heritage

March 6

United Methodists Believe

March 13

Claim the Name

(If classes are canceled due to inclement weather, then confirmation class will be extended.)

May 15

Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation Retreat (subject to arrangements from January 15th parents meeting).



Shickle/Omps Scholarship

High School Seniors interested in applying for the Shickle/Omps Scholarship, may pick up the application forms in the church office. Application forms must be returned to the church office by March 31. If you have any questions please contact the church office.



Please Join Us for Coffee



Especially for newcomers...
Sunday, January 9 at 10:00 am
in the Fellowship Hall

What is “Coffee with the Pastor”? This is a time for newcomers to meet with Rev. White, hear about First United Methodist Church, and to have some discussion about membership. It is also a time to learn about the various ministry opportunities within the church. If you are considering membership at First UMC, this is an important starting place. Coffee and a few goodies will be provided. Please join us!



Visioning ~ Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations

According to many lay persons from around the country, and UM Bishop Robert Schnase, there are five practices that demonstrate congregational health, vitality, and fruitfulness. By repeating and improving these practices, churches fulfill their mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ. These five practices are as follows: Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity. Of course, the foundation for each of these principles can be found in the Holy Bible and the tradition of the church. People who participate in these practices often find their lives transformed. Sunday school classes are encouraged to study the five practices during January. For materials, please contact Robbin Wilfong. Rev. White will also preach on these practices from appropriate biblical texts.

January 23~ Service

January 30~ Worship

February 6~ Faith Development

February 13~ Hospitality

February 20~ Generosity

After this time of study, people are encouraged to participate in a time of congregational visioning.



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

IS CURRENTLY REGISTERING FOR
THE 2011-2012 SCHOOL YEAR



We have classes available for two through five-year olds. We offer a program filled with fun and learning in a developmentally appropriate atmosphere.

The children participate in a weekly music program, structured PE class, chapel service, and take field trips. They are taught in a structured learning environment geared towards preparing the children for kindergarten.

Please call **665-1696** for more information and to set up an appointment to tour our facility.

Debbie MacKnight-Director



Discovery Preschool News

Discovery Pre-school enjoyed a wonderful holiday break. Hope yours was filled with many blessing too. The children are back and ready for the second half of the year. It's hard to believe the year is half over already. That also means it is time to start registration for the next school year. We

will be conducting registration for the children currently enrolled and our church family through the month of January. We will open up registration to the public starting January 31st. Please don't hesitate to register because the spots fill up fast and once we open it up to the public I won't be able

to guarantee a spot. If you are interested or know someone with a child preschool age please pass the information along or if you have questions you can contact me at the preschool 665-1696.

Thank You,
Debbie MacKnight

January Calendar



January 1
Happy New Year!

January 2
8:30 am Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service
No Sunday Evening Youth

January 4
Noon Blood Drive
7:00 pm SRPC Mtg

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

January 8
7:00 am Pancake Breakfast
8:00 am UMM Mtg

January 9
8:30 am Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
10:00 am Coffee with the Pastor
11:00 am Worship Service
4:00 pm Sunday Evening Youth

January 10
6:45 pm Trustee Mtg

January 12
5:15 pm 3-F Dinner
6:00 pm Hand Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

January 16
8:30 am Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
9:45 am Confirmation begins
11:00 am Worship Service
4:00 pm Sunday Evening Youth
4:30 pm Kids for Christ

January 17
6:45 pm Worship Mtg

January 19
5:15 pm 3-F Dinner
6:00 pm Hand Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

January 20
10:00 am CCAP Mtg

January 23
8:30 am Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
9:45 am Confirmation
11:00 am Worship Service
4:00 pm Sunday Evening Youth

January 24
7:00 pm WATTS begins

January 26
5:15 pm 3-F Dinner
6:00 pm Hand Bell Choir
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

January 28
4:00 pm District Youth Winter Retreat

January 30
8:30 am Worship Service
9:45 am Sunday School
9:45 am Confirmation
11:00 am Worship Service
11:00 am Youth return from retreat. No Sunday evening youth.

January 31
6:00 am WATTS ends
7:00 pm Church Council



Thank You!
The staff of First United Methodist Church thanks the congregation for their generosity shown with the Christmas Love Offering. We wish the congregation a very blessed New Year!
Blessings,
Pastor Will, Mary Vorous, Queenie Dockeney, Kristen Grzywacz, Jennifer White, Debbie MacKnight, Wayne Corbett, Gary Fisher, Melinda Russell





Red Cross Blood Drive

First Church will be hosting a Red Cross Blood Drive on Tuesday, January 4, 2011 from noon till 6:00 PM in the fellowship hall. Our goal for this drive is 30 units. On our last two drives, we have collected 40 and 41 units, exceeding our goals by over 30%. We have established a reputation for supporting the Red Cross and our local community by rolling up our sleeves and giving the gift of life. Each unit of blood can potentially save up to three lives.



Most people can donate. If you are 16 or older and feeling good, **YOU CAN DONATE!** If you have never donated before, **PLEASE** consider donating this time. It takes approximately one hour of your time and you could be saving three lives with your donation. There are some medical conditions, medications, and travel restrictions that might prevent you from donating. If you are unsure whether you can donate, call the Red Cross at 1-800-236-3276 and they will answer any questions you may have.

“Ask friends, neighbors, co-workers, or anyone you know to come to First Church and roll up their sleeves and donate.”

Sign-up sheets will be available beginning in mid December. Additional volunteers are needed to act as greeters, escorts, and refreshment providers. We also need donations of cookies and sandwiches for those donating and volunteering. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated. We schedule the January blood drive in early January to hopefully catch our college students before they return to campus. Ask friends, neighbors, co-workers, or anyone you know to come to First Church and roll up their sleeves and donate. It is a wonderful feeling, knowing that you may have saved someone's life with your donation.

If you have donated in the past, we want to thank you. If you decide to donate for the first time, we really want to thank you. If you have donated since November 9, 2010, you will not be eligible to donate at our blood drive. We encourage all members of First Church to become regular donors. You may donate every 56 days or roughly six times per year.

Susan Cain & Tim Anderson
Blood Drive Coordinators



January Youth News



Jan. 2nd- No Sunday Evening Youth. **Happy New Year!**



Jan. 9th- "TOP" Teens Opposing Poverty from 12:00-2:00 pm. We are currently taking donations of food that can be prepared in a microwave, toiletries, warm clothing items and blankets. Come help prepare and serve a

hot meal to those in need in our area. This is in place of our Sunday evening program.

Jan. 16th- Sunday Evening youth from 4:00-5:30 pm. Come for a snack, fun games and a relevant message and discussion!

Jan. 16th- Confirmation Class starts. Please meet in the upstairs confirmation room during the Sunday school hour for class.

Jan. 23rd- Sunday Evening Youth from 4:00-5:30 pm. Come for a snack, fun games and a relevant message and discussion!



Jan. 28th-30th- Junior High District Winter Retreat at Hunting Ridge Retreat Center. This is a new event offered to our youth. It will be a time to come together with other youth from the Winchester District UMC and have a time of

fun, fellowship and worship. The cost is \$75.00 per person, which includes the weekend retreat and food.

Senior High "Devo-Coffee Hour" Every Friday afternoon from 3:30-4:30pm. We will meet at the church and walk downtown for a time of devotion and a cup of your favorite beverage. Hope you can make it! It has been a wonderful time of sharing and caring together.



"We are servants of Christ witnessing to His people through our words and actions as we grow in discipleship."

**Youth Group
Mission
Statement**

WATTS up?

WATTS up? Excitement is in the air! Our WATTS homeless shelter week starts Mon. Jan. 24. Is it too late to get involved? Surely not! There's something for everyone to do to help support this important mission.

Volunteers and donations are needed to insure our shelter runs smoothly.



*“WATTS
Winchester
Area
Temporary
Thermal
Shelter”*

- Volunteers: The enthusiasm for volunteering has been outstanding! There are a few more volunteer slots available. So if you have an hour or two to spare, we sure could use you. After I volunteered one time last year, I found myself asking if they needed more help on other nights. The volunteer signup poster is located in the Narthex (lobby).
- Donations: Donations needed for breakfast: orange juice, breakfast bars, milk, instant oatmeal packets, fresh fruit, canned fruit, coffee, tea bags, hot chocolate mix, and to-go coffee cups with lids. Monetary donations are needed as well to cover any last minute expenses for food or supplies. The signup sheet for donations is in the Narthex (lobby).

Contact Jill Johnson at 667-0575 with questions.

Thank you

Thank you to all the dedicated committee members that have served during the last couple of years. With the New Year beginning and new members beginning their terms on various committees please keep them and First Church in your prayers as this transition begins. A list of all the committees and members is posted on the bulletin board outside the church office.

Prayer Concerns



SHUT-INS

- Hilltop Mary Everline, Clara Kerns, Thelma Rockwell
(111 Denny Lane Winchester, VA 22603)
- Spring Arbor Hazel Fries, Jean Loy
(2093 North Western Pike Winchester, VA 22603)
- Amerisist Assisted Living Home Pearl Gaines
(110 Spanish Oak Road Stephens City, VA 22655)

Please remember the following members in your prayers:

Bonnie Keplinger, Rose Patton, Hilda Patton, Velma Ritenour, Edith Anderson, Carole Lineberg, our church and church leaders, Kathy Dunn, Richard Swisher, Madge Fries & Helen Abshire, Susan Horton-Pannell, Faye & George Weidig, Betty Dunn, Betty Carper, Robbin Wilfong, Sami Day, Tim & Ruth Anderson, Tara Aycock and Family, Bobby Vorous, Jane Carson, Pearl Gaines, Hazel Fries, Jean Loy, Clara Kerns, Thelma Rockwell.

Please remember to add the following friends and family in your prayers:

Don Smallwood, Janice Dickerson, Jennifer Carper, Our Military, Alexandra Combs, Fran Ricketts, Barbara Rinker & Family, Andrew Partlow, The homeless in our community, Ruth Holmes, Mike Jenkins, The Family of Robert Shickle, Bobby Shives, Spc. Bowe Bergdahl.



Sincere Thoughts and Appreciation

Thank you to my dear church family during the passing of my son Paul Stuart Carper, Jr. How can one begin to say how much the prayers, cards,

thoughts, visits and the delicious food meant?

During this difficult time the love shown by my church family has helped me

more than I can express. Thank you and God bless you all.

Betty Carper



News from the Virginia Annual Conference

A time of prayer, fasting and discernment! This fall, Bishop Charlene Kammerer invited us to join her in a weekly time of fasting and prayer, to ask God to work within us for the future of the church. This invitation came following a motion adopted by the 2010 Annual Conference that calls on all Virginia Conference United Methodists to "fast, wait before the Lord, confess our sins related to sharing our faith with those not connected with any faith community, and repent of all that has kept our faith communities from being as fruitful as God desires."

This request from Bishop Kammerer could not have come at a more perfect time, a time of change. We are experiencing re-alignment of our district boundaries, reforming of some of our boards and agencies, and a renewal within the mission of many of our churches. What better time to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit for our church and in our lives.

Some may have some trouble with this way of thinking. First of all that nasty word "change" is being said again. We hope that all can see that our God the Creator, is continually at work in this world, and with every new creation there is a change. A new baby changes a family forever, new inventions change how we live. Change is one of the signs that we live in a world alive and full of God's grace and love.

As we look toward the beginning of a new year, resolve to set aside a block of time to think and dream. During this time, think about your church, the people, and the future it holds. What do you think that your church will look like in five years? Do you think it will look the same? Most likely not, change comes. Will there be more people? Fewer people? Will your church be alive and vibrant, or possibly closed? During this continued time of prayer and fasting, ask the Holy Spirit to lead your thoughts to a vision of your church in five years, God's vision for a vital faith community. Don't be afraid of the changes that you see. Let your faith in God be stronger than your fear of change.

Take some time for prayer, fasting and dreaming!

The Board of Discipleship Annual Conference



FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH
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THE APPLE PIE RIDGE
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Jennifer White
Treasurer

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Queenie Dockeney
Custodian

Wayne Corbett
Organist and Music
Director

Gary Fisher
Choir Director

Melinda Russell
Hand Bell
Director

Wayne Corbett &
Melinda Russell
Children's Choir Directors

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Permit No. 136
Winchester, VA

Pancake Breakfast

When: Saturday, January 8th
Time: 7:00 am to 11:00 am
Where: First United Methodist Church in the Social Hall

Menu:

Pancakes, Gore's Sausage and Sausage Gravy, Scrambled Eggs, Fresh Fruit, Baked Apples, Orange Juice, Ice Tea, Coffee and Milk.

Country Ham Sandwiches will also be for sale!

Adults~\$6.00

Children under 12~\$4.00

Take out or eat in available.

**PANCAKE
BREAKFAST**

