

## THE CIRCUIT RIDER

Susan is a woman of many talents. She is a great singer, wonderful piano player, and as you can see, a tremendous baker (to name a few of her abilities). This first picture is from our Grandson Bryce's birthday this past May. The second picture is from our grandson Carter's birthday this past November. Susan really goes all out – and it shows!



Of course, it is such a joy watching all of our kids and grandkids enjoy their birthdays. We think their days are special – as well as each person. This really reminds me, though, of the most important birthday of all – Christ's birthday – which we celebrate on December 25<sup>th</sup>. God sent his one and only son, as John wrote in 3:16, so that whoever believes in him won't die but have everlasting life. What a present! What a great, great day!

Remember friends, Christmas is not our birthday (well, for most of us, for indeed, some were born on Christmas). It is Christ's birthday. Rather than getting caught up in what we got or didn't get, remember that we gather in honor of the Savior. Some families make a cake for Jesus (great idea), others read the Christmas story (another good one). Most exchange gifts. Funny how we get presents on someone else's birthday. I guess that's grace, because a true Christmas is a spiritual gift that keeps on giving.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Brian



First United Methodist Church ☩ 315 Kerens Avenue ☩ Elkins, West Virginia 26241 Church:  
304-636-0660 ☩ [www.fumcelkinswv.com](http://www.fumcelkinswv.com) ☩ Rev. Brian Seders, Pastor ☩ Parsonage: 304-636-0406

**TYRAND COOPERATIVE MINISTRIES  
CHRISTMAS STORE  
ADOPT-A-CHILD**

Your donation of \$20.00 will help purchase the following items for one (1) child for Christmas



**A New Toy  
Socks  
T-shirts  
Underwear  
Gloves  
Toboggan**

**PLEASE HELP US BRING A SMILE TO A CHILD'S FACE. YOU CAN MAIL YOUR DONATION TO:**

**Tyrand Cooperative Ministries  
P. O. Box 365  
Mill Creek, WV 26280**

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**THE ANGEL TREE:** We have angels from the tree that we can send a Merry Christmas to and these children are from WV Choice, Right to Start and local families. When you receive a tag from the Angel Tree, please provide your name and tag number to Lynn Ritter. Please bring gifts back no later than Dec. 11. If you cannot shop for an angel but would like to make a donation for us to shop for you, please ear mark your check Angel Tree. Thank you to everyone who helped with the Angel Tree.



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**MITTEN AND SOCK TREE:** We will decorate the Angel Tree with children's mittens, gloves, scarves, hats and socks. These will be distributed in our community for needy children. These items need to be in by Sunday, December 16.



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**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES  
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
DECEMBER 24, 2018  
7:00PM Service  
11:00PM—Traditional Communion Service  
Candlelight at both services.**

## THE CIRCUIT RIDER

Director of Christian Education  
Kary McAtee

### CARPET PROJECT

On November 9<sup>th</sup> new carpet was installed in our Children's Church room! Thank you to the family of Mary Sue Daniels for choosing to support this project. The new carpet was able to be purchased through the donations made in her memory, and we are so very grateful.



### PROGRAM UPDATES



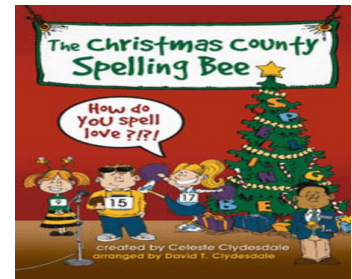
In Sunday School and Children's Church this month, we are learning about Advent and preparing for Christmas. We are learning about Jesus' birth and about his parents, Mary and Joseph. We are also learning about his extended family through Elizabeth, Zechariah, and John about his faith family through Simeon and Anna.

- December 2<sup>nd</sup> – Elizabeth and Zechariah: An angel tells Zechariah that Elizabeth will have a son, who will be named John. (Luke 1:5-25)
- December 9<sup>th</sup> – Mary: An angel tells Mary that she will have a son, who will be named Jesus. (Luke 1:26-38)
- December 16<sup>th</sup> – Mary and Elizabeth: Families celebrate with joy. (Luke 1:39-66)
- December 23<sup>rd</sup> – Joseph, Mary, and Jesus: Jesus is born. (Luke 2:1-20)
- December 30<sup>th</sup> – Simeon and Anna: Faith families love and celebrate. (Luke 2:25-38)


\*\*Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> is our Christmas Cantata. Some of our children will be performing and there will NOT be Children's Church on this Sunday. There will be Sunday School that day.

### ADVENT PROGRAM

Join us on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Family Life Center for the annual Advent Dinner at 6:00 followed by *The Christmas County Spelling Bee* performed by 28 of our children and youth. We look forward to seeing you there!



### CONFIRMATION 2019

  
Confirmation

Any students sixth grade and above who would be interested in participating in a confirmation class, please contact Kary McAtee 304-636-0660 or 304-642-0518. The class is expected to start in February and will last around 9 weeks. Any

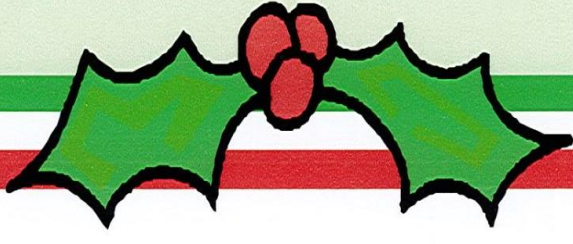
adults willing to be mentors, provide snacks, or assist in lessons and activities can also contact Kary.



# The Christmas County Spelling Bee



First United Methodist Church of Elkins  
Children's Musical Program  
Sunday, December 2, 2018 6:00 pm



## MUSIC NOTES



Gale Poe

The first overnight snow of the season in mid-November has given way to a bright clean morning. There are many folks who really dislike the idea of winter; I have never been one of them. I really enjoy and actually embrace the stillness of nature in winter. We see spring waking up, pushing out bud and leaf and flower, summer producing gardens and sunlight and late afternoon showers to enjoy, autumn as nature says, oh boy I am getting tired, but before I rest, one more thing — and the trees (usually) regale us with color across the Appalachians. It really is no wonder that winter arrives, and says, I need to rest and recharge, because spring is just around the corner...

Each year as we celebrate Thanksgiving, we employ an arrangement of “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” as our first hymn. It is an arrangement by Mary McDonald, who writes musical configurations that suit us at FUMC. Thank you to Grace Roy who provides the pipe organ accompaniment, and for ConwayRingers, Chancel Choir, and congregation who sing that particular anthem on that particular day with such strong gratitude.

Music Ministry folks are putting the finishing touches on the cantata, *Noel! Emmanuel!* You will find us all gathered on Sunday, December 16 at the 11:00 a.m. service to share music celebrating Jesus’ birth - two narrators, percussion, guitar, handbell choir, adult and child voices, soloists, vocal ensembles. Extra rehearsals are on the December horizon, and our dress rehearsal involving everyone is December 12.

In 2005, Grace Roy and Betsy Jones approached us with the idea of doing a Christmas Candlelight Service at Elkins Rehabilitation and Care Center. It is interesting to think back to that first year - the handbell choir, ConwayRingers, had just been reorganized six months prior. The invitation was presented to ringers and singers, and it was an immediate yes to go. Fourteen consecutive years later, we still say yes to that event (this year, on Thursday, December 13). Even in the busyness of December, both personally and musically, this is the one event that is a calendar priority. In many instances, the sharing of the Bethlehem story with folks who are facility-bound, helps us to remember the reason we make the effort to go and be with them, which is simply, love.

As we watch and wait in this season of Advent, we pray that you recognize blessings that are extended to you, with a response of grace and thanksgiving. We also pray that you will be a blessing to others, as God has blessed you.

Merry Christmas.

## OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thanks to everyone who participated, our church has packed 1,185 gift filled shoeboxes that will be processed at the Charlotte, NC Processing Center.



The Elkins Team of Operation Christmas Child will send volunteers to the Charlotte Processing Center on December 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup>. Charlotte is the largest of the Processing Centers and will process approximately two million shoeboxes that will go to children in crisis situations all over the world.

If you have not had the opportunity to participate, donations that will be used to help with transportation expenses and also for the Purchase of The Greatest Journey Bible Lessons that are made available to the children who receive shoe boxes can be made through Nov.30<sup>th</sup>.

For information see Bob Cowgill or phone 304-636-6367



### FAMILY ADVENT DINNER

Come celebrate with us!

On Sunday, Dec. 2 at 6:00 p.m., we will be sharing in a Church Family Advent Dinner and the Children's Advent Program. The United Methodist Men will be cooking a great dinner for us with ham loaf or turkey served with mashed potatoes, dressing, gravy, bacon & cheesy potatoes, green beans, biscuits and cake. The delicious meal will be followed by the Children's Musical Program – The Christmas County Spelling Bee coordinated by Susan Seders, Praise Team Director and Kary McAtee, Christian Ed Director. There is no cost for the meal, but donations will be accepted to help defray expenses for the food.



# United Methodist Women

## United Methodist Women's News

### Fall Bazaar 2018

The annual Fall Bazaar did not fail to bring a sense of community with good food, fellowship and shopping opportunities. The following pictures show Betty Roberts and Patty Simmons working in the missions area with Donna Trulik's beautiful quilt exhibited behind; Katie Kerns and Hazel Wood welcome shoppers to the craft and baked goods area; servers like Marg Shields cheerfully greet hungry luncheon goers; Sharon Hinchman and Carolyn Gola collect money for a very reasonably priced meal and Jerri Snyder assists a customer in the downstairs Country Store.

As Mary Durham reported at the 11 am service all this happened because volunteers, both male and female, came together to make this event a grand success. Thank you to all the helpers and those who attended.



### Operation Christmas Child Packing Party

FUMC women assisted in providing lunch for volunteers who packed shoeboxes on Sunday, November 11. Thank you to those who came back to the kitchen to work three days after the Bazaar.

### Upcoming Events:

Executive Meeting    Monday, November 26 at 1 pm, Parlor

THE CIRCUIT RIDER



POINSETTIAS in memory or in honor of loved ones will be in the Sanctuary on Sunday, Dec. 23. You may order a poinsettia by completing the form below and returning it with your payment of \$18.00 per poinsettia to the church office by Wednesday, Dec. 5. Please make checks payable to Tammy's Florist. You may pick up your flowers after the services on Sunday or Christmas Eve. Please do not call Tammy's after the deadline to order poinsettias for the church. Thank you!

2018 POINSETTIA ORDER

In memory of (deceased): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In honor of (living): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Given By: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address  
(where florist should send bill): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Additional Ways to Honor/Remember Loved Ones:* You may also choose to honor or remember your loved ones this Christmas by making a special gift to the CHURCH BUDGET. Complete the form below and return it with your check (may place it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church office, First UMC, 315 Kerens Ave. Elkins, WV 26241) by Sunday, December 9.

2018 SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFT TO CHURCH BUDGET

In memory of (deceased):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In honor of (living):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Given By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



ORDER  
YOUR  
Poinsettias



**THE CIRCUIT RIDER**

**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

1	Connie Caudy	7	Matt Tyre	15	Julia Preusch	22	Dianne Marstiller
1	Rhys Lefler	7	Manda Pawelczyk	16	Vince Johnkoski	22	Brooks Spears
2	Amon Marstiller	7	Holly Elbon	16	Monica Wamsley	22	Lexi Reger
2	Jessica Wilmoth	7	Olivia Seibert	16	Emma Pingley	23	Jin Rhee
2	Autumn Trupo	8	Susan Sneed	17	Bud Rexrode Jr	23	Bill Basil
3	Jeff Barb	8	Eli McWhorter	17	Donna Mouser	23	Juliann Harlan
3	Beth Conklin	8	Cassandra Lawson	18	Jack Batdorf	25	Barbara Tyre
3	Bryan Davis	9	Toni Herron	18	Emily Bennett	26	Jo Ellen Jones
3	Ryan Merriam	9	Sheila Gregoire	18	Becky Cain	27	Roy White
3	Dallas Poyner	10	Elsie Bucher	18	Ella Berdine	27	Mike Ebel
4	Leigh Fletcher	11	Margie Sutton	18	Maggie Conrad	27	Tara Standridge
4	Maxine Varney	11	Mike Pizzino	19	Mary Ann Gay	28	Barbara Criss
4	Betty Jo Kostakos	12	Carol Holt	19	Frank Gola	28	Buck Hammer II
4	Paul Grindle	13	Lloyd Teter Jr	19	Barbara Wetsch	28	Linda Patterson
5	Bonnie Marstiller	13	James Smith	19	JoJo Rhee	28	Jessica Johnson
5	Stephanie Reed	13	David Ferguson	19	Patrick Thompson	29	Max Jones
6	Eric Ferguson	14	Simmie Hoeft	19	Matthew Spessert	30	Chris Patella
6	Sam Tuning	14	Mike McDowell	20	Kathy Hitchcock	30	Michelle Pratt
7	Shawna Davis	14	Emily Shobe	20	D.K. Curtis-Golden	30	Todd Schoonover
7	Jay Dailer	14	Alexa Sanders	21	Carol Pizzino	31	Hollie Pritt
7	Phil Hinkle	14	Jacob Pritt	21	Donnie Teter	31	Lorrie Downs
7	Jennifer Gouer	15	Larry Jones	22	Judy Vandenberg	31	George Mallow
7	Amy Simmons	15	Noah Patella	22	Sue Wolfe		

**DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

3	Dave & Donna Simmons	20	John & Laura Chapman	31	Steve & Kristin Satterfield
6	Glenn & Patty Godwin	22	Bill & Linda Patterson		
8	Jim & Sue Sayres	25	Calvin & Margaret Bennett		
11	Brad & Missy Reger	29	Vince & Phoebe Johnkoski		
14	Bob & Sara Hinkle	29	Vilas & Norma Stalnaker		
16	Jerry & Bobbi Trimboli	30	Jim & Wilma Crowley		

**CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY**

*to the family of  
Charles "Neil" Stalnaker.*



**THE CIRCUIT RIDER**

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
315 KERENS AVENUE  
ELKINS, WEST VIRGINIA 26241-3852

**The Circuit Rider**  
**December 2018**

NON-PROFIT ORG

U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

FIRST U.M. CHURCH

ELKINS, WV

PERMIT NO. 14

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Thursday 8:30 AM – 3 PM / Friday 8:30 AM – 12-noon PH: 304-636-0660

Pastor: Brian Seders (304-636-0406 Home)  
blseders@gmail.com

Office Manager/Treasurer: Rhonda Elmer  
rhonda@fumcelkinswv.com

Director of Church School of Ministries: Kary Kramer-McAtee  
kary@fumcelkinswv.com

Financial Secretary: Danielle Taylor  
danielle@fumcelkinswv.com

Music Director: Gale Poe

Pastor Emeritus: Basil Hensley

Nursery Worker: Jennifer Wanless

