



*Equipping People in Becoming Deeply Committed Christians*

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

200 West Jefferson St., Pulaski, TN 38478

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December 2016

### FROM PASTOR LEE

Memory is a powerful tool. When singing Joy to the World my mind returns to my home church, a Sunday night probably early in Advent. I wasn't aware of Advent at an early age, not that we didn't celebrate, but once the Sears and Roebuck catalogue came I didn't care about Advent candles or Christ coming again. I was focused on gifts gotten on Christmas morning.

It was a service, probably one I slept through once or twice when at the end we stood, sang Joy to the World, lit our individual candles and followed the choir down the isle (my family usually sat in the third or fifth pew) and out the doors. It was here that we were greeted each year with sidewalks lined with luminaries leading us to the rear of the church where a large juniper tree was adorned with Chrismons around twelve inches in size.

As we gathered we sang, brass instruments would play from the roof of the educational Sunday school part of the church. As a youngster I thought they were in the tree. As we sang, I dripped the melted wax from the candle onto my hand, seeing how much of the warm wax I could drip and cover my hand. It was an unspoken competition among my brothers Michael, Stephen, Daniel, and me. When my brothers got older the competition intensified.

During one of the songs a switch was thrown, maybe the pastor, maybe the trustees chair, maybe the choir director, maybe the finance chair, I'm not sure. The thrown switch caused electricity to flow to the temporary lights, causing the tree to be illuminated. It was a grand moment in the life of our church and a positive memory for

me in my preschool, elementary and older years.

It's those positive memories of my first church family that still reside with me and refresh my mind on occasion. This past weekend, this month, and throughout the year we create positive memories for preschool, elementary, and older youth. Some of those occur during choir and bell practice, Sunday school, children's time in worship, special events and ministries, Christmas parade, serving others; the list is quite exhaustive. Thank you for being a congregation where these positive memories can happen, where God's love is felt and realized, where one generation takes an interest in younger generations.

I saw our children's Christmas tree this morning coming into the office – a positive memory maker. I imagined years from now when this conifer is planted, a plaque is placed and it has grown considerably, one of our children grown in stature and knowledge of the Lord, will walk by and remember the event, the congregation, and the individuals who showed them what it means to be a Jesus follower.

*Pastor Lee*

### Assisting those who need help

While at the church you may be approached by someone needing assistance, a bill paid, gas for their car, food, the list can be endless. The church does not have a "Pastor's fund" or petty cash available to assist those who ask. Through our Matthew 25 ministry we offer help for individuals and families in need. When you are approached at the church, please refer those asking to our Matthew 25 Ministry which operates our benevolent ministry Monday through Thursday 9:00 AM till 11:00 AM.

*Pastor Lee*

### DIRECTOR OF YOUTH & COLLEGE

The youth group as been busy, as per usual! The youth have decided to name themselves something other than UMYF. We are now called Pyros: Setting young hearts on fire for God! We had a blast working the Fall-o-ween Jesus Festival with Ashley Blair! Then we handed out popcorn for Trick-or-Treat on the Square! Last year we had 16 packs of popcorn for the machine and we had enough for everyone. This year, we went through 60 packs of popcorn and handed out over 1,200 cups of popcorn!

In early November we took charge of the sanctuary by leading the second service in worship. We sang the anthem, led prayers, helped with communion, and preformed a skit. On November 20, Raetta Miller and Bill and Marjorie Wiseman hosted the youth group at Raetta's house. They went on a hike in the wood and had a great night of fellowship. December 4, we took a trip to Columbia to shop for New Canaan Ranch. We will be hosting them on December 18 for a Christmas dinner and to shower them with gifts and the love of Jesus. We are giving to 18 men this Christmas and we are still accepting donations to help cover the cost of the gifts! Each man will receive a pair of jeans, shirt, winter coat and some small gift!

December 11 was the progressive dinner for Pyros. We were hosted by Colby and Catherine Baddour, Matt and Ashley Blair, Sally Hobbs, and West and Teresa Chiles. We are looking forward to the New Year and all the ways we are going to be able to serve our church and community! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!

*Rebecca Sewell*

[rebecca@fumcpulaski.com](mailto:rebecca@fumcpulaski.com)

## MINISTER OF MUSIC



It is our tradition to invite friends and family to sing in the choir on Christmas Eve. If you would enjoy rubbing shoulders with some of our choir regulars, please join us at 5:30 in the choir room on Christmas Eve. The service begins at 6:00 p.m. If you sing in the choir, you have a reserved seat!

Please express your appreciation to all of the volunteers who work to make our worship services meaningful. Our children's choir leaders are Jennifer Jones, Shannon Shirey, Susan Neal, Raetta Miller, Wendy Hibdon, and Azza Salah. Doris Wossum-Fisher works with the children's handbell choir. Connie Chick and Sadie Marchant assist me with the youth bell choir. Rebecca Sewell conducts the Chancel Choir. Bill Wiseman and his sound crew—Cate Pride, Ellie Reynolds, Joyce Moore, and Sheryl Kemp—are the unseen heroes in our worship services. Edwin Moore and Phyllis Dugger load the Power Point. They and Will Pride, Donnie Moore, Doug Wong, Kathy Harvey, and Cedrik Nkulu operate the Power Point in our services to keep us singing and speaking together. Joyce Moore keeps the attendance pads and pencils straight and filled. Catherine Baddour leads the visual design/decorating crew. We have generous members who contribute flowers to beautify our sanctuary. In each service we have dedicated singers who practice each week to lead the congregational singing and provide special music. We have seasonal

needs that willing volunteers step up to meet. Sally Hobbs recruited her Sunday school class to place the drip protectors on the 300 candles we will use on Christmas Eve. Thank you, Sojourners Class!

The United Methodist Church plans to present a new hymnal to General Conference for approval in 2020. We want this hymnal to represent the whole denomination, and invite all United Methodists to participate in several surveys related to hymnal content. The link for the first survey, which is about favorite and least favorite hymns in The United Methodist Hymnal, The Faith We Sing, and Worship & Song, is below.

<http://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/new-hymnal-survey-favorite-and-least-favorite-hymns>

Please take just a few moments to let those developing the new hymnal know your preferences.

Blessings, *Cheryl Wood*

[cheryl@fumcpulaski.com](mailto:cheryl@fumcpulaski.com)

## PASTORAL CARE

There are times in our lives when we need a pastoral visit before, during, and after surgery, sickness, hospitalization, or simply feeling overwhelmed. Our pastoral staff is ready and willing to visit and pray with you for these and any other reason. As members of the congregation, it is our responsibility to notify our pastoral staff via cell phone, e-mail, text, or calling the church office when we are in need of such visits. Our pastoral staff respects the sacredness of information shared and your need for privacy, and we do not share your condition or situation without your permission.

## Children's Ministry

I want to thank everyone who came out and supported our Candy Cane Christmas on December 10. The kids had a wonderful time decorating gingerbread houses and cookies and making crafts. They decorated a Christmas tree outside of the church which we will donate to the city later this month to be planted.

There will be no Sunday School classes on Christmas Day. We are inviting the Children to come dressed in their pajamas and bring their favorite toy on Christmas morning.

I hope everyone has a very merry and blessed Christmas.

*Ashley Blair*

Director of Children's Ministry



Items needed for Soul Food Sunday December 18 are Spaghetti Sauce and Spaghetti noodles .

There will also be a box in each buggy for money donations for soul food Sunday for anyone who has forgotten or prefers to donate money instead!

## THANK YOU

Thank you to the Circle of Care and those who sent cards, phone calls, & visits during my illness and recovery.

Harold Bass



Sympathy is expressed to Jim Hill & Family & Friends in the death of his mother, Mrs. Dot Hill.

Sympathy is expressed to Angeta Andersen & Family & Friends in the recent death of her husband Mr. Bob Andersen.

Sympathy is expressed to Donna Bain & Family & Friends in the death of her father Mr. Leslie Vanderbilt.

Sympathy is expressed to the Family & Friends of Mrs. Edith Rich in her recent death.

Sympathy is expressed to Jerry Hibdon and Family & Friends in the recent death of his brother, Mr. Fred Hibdon.

#### IN MEMORY OF:

**Mr. Joe Rackley** by Mr. W. P. Murrey, Edwin & Joyce Moore, Steve & Karen Spivey, Dr. & Mrs. Fred Abernathy, Mary Catherine Abernathy, Sam Abernathy, Freddy Rose Long, Bob & Elizabeth Massey, Phil & Connie Carpenter, Joe & Ann Henry, Betty Murray

**Mr. William Rackley** by Mr. W. P. Murrey;

**Ms. Dot Rackley** by Joe & Ann Henry

**Mrs. Mary E. Abernathy** by Joe & Ann Henry

**Mrs. Hazel Hibdon** by Betty Murray

**Mrs. Helen Abernathy** by Mr. W. P. Murrey, Edwin & Joyce Moore, Dick & Pat Sailors

**Mrs. Mary E. Abernathy** by Harry & Jean Bryan

**Mrs. Martha Fisher** by Betty Murray

**Mr. Bob Andersen** by Charles & Jane Jenkins, Chattie Roe, Ica Coggin, Bill Lay Coggin, Jeff & Diane Coggin, Chuck & Jane Paysinger, Robert Browder, Gene & Jeannie Morris, Bill & Callie Morris, Frances Wiseman, Harry & Jean Bryan, Linda Mooney, Louise Henry/Open Door Class, Mr. W. P. Murrey, Claudia Oakes, Dr. & Mrs. Malcolm Cox, Jim & Sandra Ferrell, Greg & Phyllis Dugger, Carl & Elizabeth Whitson, Eugene & Phyllis Childress, Jeanne Baddour, Bob & Linda Wamble, John & Beverly Murrey, Morgan Stone Bible Class, Bruce & Ki Chiles, Jerry & Wendy Hibdon, Bill & Mary Dunnavant, Bob & Linda Wamble, Jeanne Baddour, Dick & Pat Sailors, Harwell & Jane Murrey, Justine Roe, The Worshipful Master and Brothers of Bethel Lodge 194, Carolyn Petty, Roby Petty, Jean Francis, Joe & Ann Henry, Bill & Marjorie Wiseman, Chancel Choir

**Mr. L. F. Carpenter** by Harry & Jean Bryan, Freddy Rose Long, Freddy Rose Long

**Mr. Charles "Chaddy" Baker** by Harry & Jean Bryan, Bill & Callie Murrey, Greg & Phyllis Dugger, Eugene & Phyllis Childress, John & Cynthia Lancaster, John & Beverly Murrey, James D. & Janice Taylor, Betty Murray

**Mrs. Frances Awbrey** by Harry & Jean Bryan, Bill & Callie Murrey, Freddy Rose Long, Linda Mooney, W. P. Murrey, Jr.,

**Mrs. Nettie Scott** by Bob & Elizabeth Massey

**Mrs. Laura Allen** by Bob & Elizabeth Massey

**Mr. Leslie Vanderbilt** by Charles & Jane Jenkins, Bill & Lisa Blair, Chuck & Jane Paysinger, Michael & Connie Bass, Greg & Phyllis Dugger, Edwin & Joyce Moore, Gene & Jeannie Morris, Bill & Callie Murrey, Justine Roe, James D. & Janice Taylor, Mike & Lizabeth Burns, Jerry & Wendy Hibdon, Jim & Sandra Ferrell, Bill & Marjorie Wiseman, Chancel Choir, Harry & Jean Bryan

**Mrs. Edith Rich** by Freddy Rose Long, Alabama Board of Nursing, Bill & Julia Gibbons, Leon & Hilda Reed, Carolyn Petty, Roby Petty, Frances Wiseman, Joe & Ann Henry, Louise Henry/Open Door Class, Chuck & Jane Paysinger, Garland & Betty Moore, Dugenia Curtis, W. P. Murrey, Jr., Mike & Jane Lee Robertson, Joe & Ann Henry, Betty Ingram, Oakerlene Corpier, Debbie Benson, Harry & Jean Bryan

**Mr. Terry Minatra** by Buddy & Diane Butler

**Mr. Robert Roe** by Jim & Sherry Hill, Joe & Ann Henry

**Mrs. Dot Hill** by Owen & Betty Foster

**Mrs. Martha Lay** by Louie Weed

**Mr. Fred Hibdon** by Chuck & Jane Paysinger, Bob & Linda Wamble, Charles & Jane Jenkins

#### HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:

12/17: Carole Eubank, Foster Harlow Maddie Rosacia Barbara Thompson  
 12/18: Cole Curtis, Brenda Perdue  
 12/19: Melanie Blankenship Marsha Rogers Sue Whittemore  
 12/20: Harry Bryan, Sims Curry  
 12/22: Malcolm Cox, Will Lamon Mary Jane McCaig Katie Stevenson Jacob Dunnavant Sandy Henry  
 12/25: Bethany Kirk  
 12/26: Beau Curtis  
 12/27: Jeff Coggin, Grace James  
 12/28: Lyndsey Beecham  
 12/29: Carter Blanton, Olivia White  
 12/31: Harold Bass, Susan Childers Jerry Hibdon, Randy Shay Katherine Eaker Adams Taylor Laviolette  
 01/02: Johnny Herd, Richard Holt  
 01/08: Brenda Fernandez, Ian Sailors  
 01/09: Phyllis Dugger  
 01/10: Mary Beth Minatra  
 01/11: Monique Wong  
 01/12: C. J. Lake  
 01/13: Gerrod Shirey  
 01/14: Lee Blankenship, Brett Case Jim Ferrell, Charlie Marchant  
 01/15: John Cox IV, Robert Hunter Lindsay Rolin  
 01/16: Jim Edmondson  
 01/17: Lauren Blair, Ryan Case Sue Harper, Claire Pride  
 01/18: Olivia Schultz Jordan Stevenson  
 01/19: Coy Blair, Conner Blair  
 01/20: Taunia Green  
 01/21: Kevin Coggin Kathyrene Jensen Carter Wiseman  
 01/22: Rachel Bain  
 01/23: Maggie Lamon, Karl Mace Judy Stevenson  
 01/24: Haley Phillips, Ann White Cheryl Wood  
 01/25: Corey Beecham  
 01/26: Carol Abernathy, Clara Mace  
 01/27: Lauren Rogers  
 01/28: Karen Spivey  
 01/29: Cheyenne Blankenship Willa Dugger  
 01/30: Jack Coltrane, Kaden Killer  
 01/31: Rex Hobbs, Jane Paysinger  
 02/01: Danny Powell, Ellie Reynolds  
 02/02: Ben Owens  
 02/03: Judith Eubank  
 02/05: Mackenzie Liggett  
**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:**  
 01/01: Roger & Sharon Fuller  
 01/04: Richard & Leigh Ann Holt  
 01/18: Malcolm & Rita Cox  
 01/18: Steve & Karen Spivey  
 01/28: Chris & Sherry Philpot  
 02/08: Michael & Connie Bass  
 02/10: Bill & Connie Marks  
 02/14: Harold & Sara Bass



**OPPORTUNITIES:**

**Thursday, December 15:**

8:30 AM – Circle of Care  
 11:00 AM – Soup & Sandwich

**Saturday, December 17:**

9:00 AM – 6:00 Joyce Young (F/S Hall)

**Sunday, December 18:**

7:00 AM- UMM's Breakfast  
 8:15 AM – Worship  
 9:30 AM – Sunday school  
 10:30 AM – Worship (WKSR 100.9)  
 5:00 PM – 7:00 Youth/New Canaan  
 Ranch Party (F/S Hall)

**Monday, December 19:**

6:00 PM – United Methodist Women  
 6:30 PM – NO Ukulele Band

**Tuesday, December 20:**

6:30 PM – Stephen Ministry  
 6:00 PM – 7:30 Financial Peace Class (last class)

**Wednesday, December 21: no activities**

**Thursday, December 22:**

8:30 AM – Circle of Care  
 6:00 PM – Soup & Sandwich Ministry Christmas  
 Dinner (Lisa Butler) (F/S Hall)

**Saturday, December 24:**

6:00 PM – Christmas Eve Candlelight  
 Communion Service

**Sunday, December 25:**

9:30 AM – NO Sunday school  
 10:30 AM – Worship (WKSR 100.9)  
 (There will be one service.  
 Dress casual; children welcome to  
 bring a toy and wear PJ's.)

**Friday, December 23 &**

**Monday, December 26:**

Church Offices closed

**Tuesday, December 27:**

6:00 PM – 7:30 Boy Scout Pack 107 (F/S Hall)

**Thursday, December 29:**

8:30 AM – Circle of Care

**Sunday, January 1:**

10:30 AM – Worship (WKSR 100.9)  
 (There will be one service:  
 Wesley Covenant Service with communion)  
 5:00 PM – NO PYROS

**SUNDAY WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

Sunday School 9:30

Worship 8:15 & 10:30

(10:30 Service Broadcast on 100.9 WKSR)

First United Methodist Church  
 200 West Jefferson St.  
 Pulaski, TN 38478

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**As of November 30, 2016**  
 2016 Spending Guide: \$546,281.00  
 Total Income to date: 426,254.11  
 Total Expenses to Date: 421,226.97  
 Operating surplus/deficit to date: +5,027.14

Apportionments: \$83,831.00  
 Paid toward Apportionments: \$69,859.20

Average SS attendance: 118  
 Average Worship attendance: 220

**NEWSLETTER**

**The newsletter is  
 now available on  
 the Church**

**Website—  
 www.fumcpulaski.  
 com**

**THE STAFF:**

Rev. Lee Stevenson..... Pastor  
 Rev. Cheryl Wood.....Minister of Music  
 Brenda Barrett.....Church Administrator  
 Rebecca Sewell ..... Youth & College  
 Ashley Blair ..... Children's Ministries  
 Adelaide Daniel ..... Office Volunteer  
 Fred Lindsey ..... Maint. Supervisor  
 Carolyn Holbert, Courtney Morris ..... Nursery  
 Terri Adams..... Managing Director of  
 "Growing Tree" Nursery School  
 Custodians.....Randy Shay & Joe Appleton  
 Sherry Hill..... Stephen Ministry Coordinator