

Facts From First

A Weekly Newsletter

First United Methodist Church

3425 Ocoee Street North

Cleveland, TN 37312-4456

Phone (423) 476-4504

Fax (423) 476-4505

Parsonage (423) 472-1897

www.clevelandumc.com

Child Development Center

Phone (423) 478-1426

Our Staff

Senior Pastor.....Rev. Tom Seay
Associate PastorRev. Leann Crandall
Minister to Senior Adults Rev. Patricia Hogan
Administrative Assistant Molly Near
Financial Secretary..... Mae Wilkins
Director of Children's Ministry Jill Ingram
Chancel Choir DirectorDr. Jim Burns
Pianist..... Susan Peay
Organist..... Jean Henderson
Custodian Robert Haney
Maintenance..... Johnny Staton
Director of CDC Lynne Curry
Director of PDO Rachel David

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
Cleveland, TN
Permit No. 321

Return Service Requested

«Mailing_label»

«Address1»

«City_State» «Zip_code»

Gifts to the Church

To the Sudan Orphanage Fund

In honor of Charlotte Leach's Birthday:

Sue Ledford

In memory of Glen Lewis:

Ken and Charlotte Adcock

Facts From First

A Newsletter from First United Methodist Church
Cleveland, Tennessee

Rev. Tom Seay, Senior Pastor

December 21, 2011

"Putting Christ First"

From the Pastor...

Each year we end the calendar year with the celebration of Christ's birth, then we turn around and experience the birth of a New Year. I hope you had a wonderful Christmas season. Let the joy of Christmas be the launching pad for a great New Year.

Coach John Wooden would teach his players to try and make every day a "masterpiece." I would like to look for the "Incarnate Love of God" to anoint us with so much joy, that every day would approach the word masterpiece. I know we have to live one day at a time, but WOW! What if our goal for the year would be "growing masterpiece lives one day at a time?"

To start the year, Pastor Lu is planning a great time of new beginnings with a focus including Holy Communion. The second Sunday, we will be offering a service of "Baptismal Renewal." (We hope to be using local spring water) Both of these will help us take steps growing in love and grace.

As a discipline for the congregation, I would like to ask that we all read the Gospel of Mark at least three times before Easter. I believe God may want to throw us a little chaos for opening the mind, followed by a unity of Mission and Spirit!

Merry Christmas!

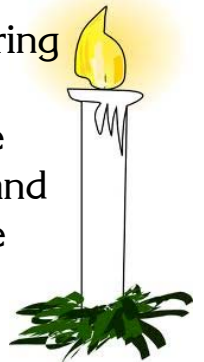
Happy New Year!

God loves you and there's nothing you can do about it!

In Christ,
Tom

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION at 6:00 PM

There will be an Advent offering opportunity with all funds being divided between the Samuel Orphanage in India and the new Sudan Orphanage being developed by Libby and Fred Dearing.



Sunday, December 25th

We will gather for refreshments at 10:15 AM and Worship at 10:45 AM. We will not have Early Worship or Sunday School.

The children (only up through Kindergarten) may bring *one non-noise* making gift for gathering time for "Younger Saints" during the worship service.



Merry Christmas

RESURRECTION

January 13-15, 2012

We will have a Parent Meeting on Sunday, January 8 at 4:00 PM in the Commons. Please make arrangements to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Lu.

FOR SALE

We are in the process of selling the current parsonage. There has already been an offer made, but it is still open if anyone would like to make an offer. Please contact Tricia Haws or Cindi Richardson by Monday, December 26th.

Thank You!

We would all like to express how very loved your cards, goodies, and gifts have made us feel! It is an honor to be serving Christ along side of an amazing church family. Thank you so very much!

Tom, Lu, Pat, Mae, Jill, Molly, Jim, Jean, Susan, Johnny, and Robert

Helping Share the True Christmas Story!



Santa and Mrs. Claus reading the story of Jesus birth at Breakfast with Santa.



The Joyful Noise Choir and the Good News Puppets presented "A Telling of the Christmas Story."



Pastor Tom leads the carolers as they spread the joy of Christ through song.



Our youth, gathering for a Christmas party and spreading God's love to our community.

Weekly Activities

Sunday, December 25

- 8:30 AM NO Early Worship
- 9:30 AM NO Sunday School
- 10:15 AM Fellowship
- 10:45 AM Morning Worship

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!

Monday, December 26

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

- 7:30 AM C.D.C. CLOSED
- 9:00 AM P.D.O. CLOSED

Tuesday, December 27

- 7:30 AM C.D.C.
- 9:00 AM P.D.O. CLOSED

Wednesday, December 28

- 7:30 AM C.D.C.
- 9:00 AM P.D.O. CLOSED

Thursday, December 29

- 7:30 AM C.D.C.
- 9:00 AM P.D.O. CLOSED

Friday, December 30

- 7:30 AM C.D.C. CLOSED
- 9:00 AM P.D.O. CLOSED

Saturday, December 31

Have a Safe & Happy New Year!

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 26 th	Church Office Closed
January 1 st	Happy New Year
January 2 nd	Church Office Closed
January 7 th	UMM Breakfast
	Seekers Circle
January 8 th	Baptismal Renewal Service
January 10 th	Membership Committee Mtg
January 13-15 th	Resurrection
January 15 th	Ratcliff Baby Shower
January 29 th	District-Wide Training Event

OUR STEWARDSHIP

"I will be loyal to the United Methodist Church and do all in my power to strengthen it ministry by my prayers, my presence, my gifts, my service, and my witness."



Altar Flowers

There is a new flower calendar for Altar Flowers outside the church office. Reserve your date today!

OUR PRAYERS

NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE TO ADD OR REMOVE NAMES FROM THE PRAYER LIST.

- Our country, our leaders, and our troops
- Lorene Gibbons
- Charmaine Ball
- Dowe Ownby
- Kara Davidson
- Tom Grissom
- Joe Lippard
- Family of Joe Davis
- Austin and Mary Glen Davis
- Shawn Bottomlee
- Barbara Miller
- Bobby Blankenship
- Gil Frederick
- Lee Howell
- Tommy McLain
- Terry Phillips
- Ed Brown
- Carmen Orr
- Kim Martin
- Freida Hindman
- Doris Mabry
- Betty Staton
- Reese Martin
- Elaine Larson
- Karen Fisher
- Maxine Baker
- Greyson Wallace

If you would like to have anyone put on the prayer chain, please call Charlotte Leach at 478-3773.

OUR PRESENCE

	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Worship</u>
12/04/11	88	370
12/11/11	110	298
12/18/11	97	315

OUR GIFTS

Budget Receipts 12/18/11	12,258.19
Receipts to date:	612,042.04
Expenditures to date:	616,837.03
Receipts/Expenditures + or [-]	[4,794.99]
Budget to date:	686,408.49

OUR SERVICE

Ushers: John Wilkins, Head; Lynn Gobble, Frank Calfee, Don Wood, Joe Hogan, Ron Merz, Mark Grissom.

Acolytes: Brian Byerly and Alex Haws

Sonshine Kids: Katie Simpkins and Terry Cruise

JAM: No JAM during the month of December

Greeters: The Seekers Circle

Altar Flowers -sign up outside the office. We have a new Flower Calendar up!