

Facts From First

A Weekly Newsletter

First United Methodist Church

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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

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Gifts to the Church

To the Bus Fund

In honor of Mary Lou Mann:

Charlotte Shaver

In honor of Pat Hogan:

The Gad-A-Bouts

To the General Fund

In memory of Frances Kibler:

AJ Arthur

To the New Hope Pregnancy Center

In memory of Robert Donaghy:

Kate Donaghy

Facts From First

A Newsletter from First United Methodist Church
Cleveland, Tennessee

Rev. Tom Seay, Senior Pastor

December 7, 2011

"Putting Christ First"

From the Pastor...

One Last Update!

This figure may yet change, however, as of December 1 the congregation of First United Methodist Church has responded to God's leading with a commitment of \$586,791 for the budget during 2012! I want to say a "Praise God" thank you for the leap of faith that so many of you have taken financially.

One More Dream!

As the congregation has stepped forward financially, it is my dream that this is reflective of a growing spiritual renewal at the heart of the church. Great accomplishments are seldom completed by leaping tall buildings in a single bound. Rather, they come one solid step at a time (maybe one shaky step). Deep in every work of God is a spiritual renewal fueled by study of scripture, prayer, dynamic fellowship, and worship.

It is my prayer that this Advent becomes one of the tools of the Holy Spirit in every one of our lives, for personal and congregational regeneration. Blessings!

In Christ,
Tom



Sunday, December 11th will be an exciting worship highlighted by our choirs, at 10:45 AM.

Down Home Christmas

Sunday, December 11th



Join us at 4:30 PM in the CLC for refreshments and music, as we celebrate the Christmas season with our very talented congregation. At 6:00 PM we will move to the sanctuary and end the evening with vespers and communion.

Christmas Shopping

for Children & Families

December 15th at 5:00 PM



Donations are greatly appreciated and should be made by December 11th to the church, marked "Christmas Shopping." If you would like to join us in shopping, please meet at the church at 5:00 PM.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 17

9:00 - 10:30 AM



Each person attending is asked to please bring a canned food item.

We will have rehearsal for the Christmas Play following the breakfast.



Youth Christmas Party

Saturday, December 17
beginning at 2:00 PM
we will return by 10:00 PM
*Join us for dinner, shopping,
and a Christmas activity. You need
only to bring money for shopping.*

"A Telling of the Christmas Story"

Presented by
The Joyful Noise Choir
and
The Good News Puppets
Sunday, December 18
during the 10:45 AM
Worship Service

Please have children in the CLC at 10 AM.

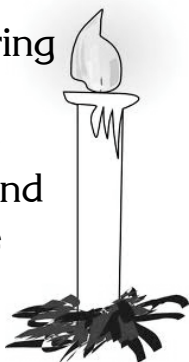


Christmas Caroling
Monday,
December 19th
5:00 PM

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

the **CARING PLACE**



We will be taking non-perishable food
donations this Sunday, December 11.
Please bag your items and place them in
the collection barrel located in the Narthex.

MESSIAH SING-A-LONG

Sunday, December 18th
Wesley Memorial Methodist
Admission is FREE!

Dr. Ron Brendel and Dr. Jim Burns, with
combined choirs from Wesley Memorial
and First United Methodist Churches, will
lead a community gathering in favorite
Messiah choruses, assisted by local
professional soloists.

RESURRECTION

January 13-15, 2012

Payments are due! If you haven't
paid your \$50, please contact Lu.



Congratulations

*Erik
Rutledge*
on receiving the honor
of Eagle Scout!

Weekly Activities

Sunday, December 11

- 8:30 AM Early Worship
- 9:30 AM Sunday School
- 10:45 AM Morning Worship
- 4:30 PM Down Home Christmas

Monday, December 12

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

Tuesday, December 13

- 7:30 AM C.D.C.
- 9:00 AM P.D.O.
- 10:00 AM May Dooley Circle
- 1:30 PM Martha Hall Circle
- 6:00 PM St. Andrew's Class Party

Wednesday, December 14

- 7:30 AM C.D.C.
- 9:00 AM P.D.O.
- 6:00 PM Children's Choirs
- 6:00 PM Chancel Choir

Thursday, December 15

- 7:30 AM C.D.C.
- 9:00 AM P.D.O.
- 5:00 PM Children's Christmas Shopping

Friday, December 16

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

Saturday, December 17

- 9:00 AM Breakfast with Santa
- 2:00 PM Youth Christmas Party

OUR PRAYERS

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

- Our country, our leaders, and our troops
- Clem Bedwell
- Lorene Gibbons
- Charmaine Ball
- Joe Lippard
- Matt and Lacy Staton
- Austin and Mary Glen Davis
- Shawn Bottomlee
- Barbara Miller
- Gary Farner
- Sue Ledford
- Bobby Blankenship
- Gil Frederick
- Lee Howell
- Tommy McLain
- Terry Phillips
- Ed Brown
- Ken Greve
- Carmen Orr
- Kim Martin
- Betty Reno
- 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 18th Children's Christmas Play
Messiah Sing-A-Long
- December 19th Christmas Caroling
- December 20th Bell Choir to Nursing Home
- December 23rd Church Office Closed
- December 24th Christmas Eve Service
- December 25th MERRY CHRISTMAS
10:15 AM Fellowship
10:45 AM Service Only
- December 26th Church Office Closed
- January 1st Happy New Year
- January 2nd Church Office Closed

OUR PRESENCE

	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Worship</u>
11/20/11	102	255
11/27/11	76	205
12/04/11	88	370

OUR GIFTS

Budget Receipts 12/04/11	21,611.85
Receipts to date:	591,086.90
Expenditures to date:	590,383.62
Receipts/Expenditures + or [-]	703.28
Budget to date:	659,490.51

OUR SERVICE

Ushers: Jerry Clevenger, Head; Ernest Adams, Kirk Gobble, Bob George, Mark Johnson, Jim Rufener.
Acolytes: Mary Emily Buchanan and Lily Bradney
Sonshine Kids: Katie Simpkins & Stephanie Thacker
JAM: No JAM during the month of December
Greeters: The Seekers Circle
The Poinsettias on the Altar are in honor and in memory of our loved ones, given by the church.

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."