



- 1 Church Council Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 4 UMW Circles
- Martha Circle in Library 10:30 a.m.
- Lydia Circle in Austin Chapel 7:00 p.m.
- 7 Valentine Painting Class 6:00 p.m.
- 8 Finance Committee Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 9 Trustees Meeting 6:30 p.m.
- 10 Ash Wednesday Service 6:00 p.m.
- 14 White Wedding 2:00 p.m.
- 17 Men's Breakfast 7:00 a.m.

RECORD OF FAITHFULNESS—JANUARY 2016

DATE	3	10	17	24	31
Joy! Service	22	15	15	-	20
10:30 Worship	117	111	68	60	130
Total Worship	139	126	83	60	150
Sunday School	39	37	31	-	47
2016 BUDGET.....	\$281,000.00				
YTD BUDGET Tithes and Offerings Received.....	\$ 23,998.06				
YTD NON-BUDGET Receipts Received....	\$ 1,021.03				



- Feb. 7 Kyndal Mitchem
- Feb. 14 David Brown
- Feb. 21 Peyton Terry
- Feb. 28 Bruce Terry/Chase Brown

Parents are reminded if your child cannot acolyte on their assigned Sunday, it is your responsibility to get a substitute.

First UMC wants to remind you that we offer **ELECTRONIC GIVING**. Contributions can now be debited automatically from your checking or savings account. If you have plans to travel, electronic giving gives you a convenient way to keep up with your intended offerings. See the church's website for more information.

CHURCH STAFF

- Dr. Brad Scott, Pastor  
Cell Phone: 276-722-0346
- Carolyn Quesenberry, Secretary
- William Elliott, Music Director/Organist
- Jack Goins, Choir Director
- Jessica Cole, Youth Director
- Heather Hurley, Nursery Coordinator
- Wade Dillon, Custodian

Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Permit No. 71  
Bluefield, VA

First United Methodist Church  
200 South College Avenue  
Bluefield VA 24605  
**ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED**

Our church now can offer our members and friends access to over 10,000 video based Bible Studies and Kid's programs, called **"RIGHT NOW MEDIA!"** It's like the Netflix of Video Bible Studies, and has a huge library of faith-based videos that you can access whenever and wherever you want--on your phone, iPad, computer, or at home on your TV. Videos are available for everyone: kids, youth, parents, married couples, college students, single adults, working professionals, all aimed at helping you grow in your faith. If you would like to participate, please write your email on the registration pads when you sign in today and we'll see that you receive an email invitation. You will then click the link and sign up for your free account. Or contact the church office at [info@bluefieldfumc.org](mailto:info@bluefieldfumc.org).

Tom Graham recently received notice that some of our **SHOEBOXES** went to Belize, Ghana and to a restricted country thus no named country. Please let Tom know if you have received news about your box. Our church created 221 opportunities, over 500 in the Tazewell area, and over 1500 in the Bluefield area. Check out clearance sales and prepare ahead for next year. Continue to pray for the kids and volunteers.

**LENTEN LUNCHEONS** at First Presbyterian Church on the corner of Duhring Street and Tazewell Avenue in Bluefield, WV will begin on Wednesday, February 10 through March 16. Lunch will be served in the fellowship hall at 11:45, with inspirational message following at 12:20 p.m. Everyone is welcome. Speakers:  
February 10/Rev. Steve Aker  
February 17/Father Russ Hatfield  
February 24/Rev. James Palmer  
March 2/Rev. Jerry Manning  
March 9/Father Chad Slater  
March 16/Kellan Sarles

First Baptist Church of Princeton is offering **GriefShare**, which is a video series that features some of the nations' foremost Christian experts on grief and recovery. The program will begin on Sunday, February 21 at 6:00 p.m. They invite anyone who would like to participate.



BLUEFIELD FIRST UNITED  
METHODIST CHURCH  
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Bluefield, VA 24605  
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Parsonage: 276-326-1390  
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Website: [bluefieldfumc.org](http://bluefieldfumc.org)  
Like us on Facebook



FEBRUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER

GIVING UP, TAKING ON

February is upon us, bringing hope that spring won't be far behind. In these days of swelling buds, returning songbirds, and lengthening of daylight hours, we are greeted with the coming of a holy season. Lent will be here as of February 10, Ash Wednesday. This day is marked with a special time of worship as we will gather in the sanctuary at 6 p.m. that evening to sing, pray, read scripture and be marked with ashes as a sign of repentance. This Lenten season is a time of preparation to help us get prepared to celebrate the great truths of Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday. We need a time of reflection, confession, and assurance of forgiveness that is offered by this season.

It is commonly practiced in Christian communities to decide to deny one's self a self-indulgent habit or practice during this season. Some Christians "give up" things for Lent (some like to deny themselves chocolate or coffee or soda pop). It has been suggested in recent years that we start to "take on" new habits of spiritual disciplines like reading scripture daily, praying daily, or doing an act of kindness for someone in need. Whether we "give up" or "take on" or possibly do both, we need to remember that we do these things to honor the Lord Jesus Christ who "gave up" his life on the Cross, and was enabled to "take on" himself the sins of the whole world. Because of Christ's great sacrifice we can live a life of joy and peace in this world. This is why giving up and taking on have meaning. In choosing to change course for a few weeks, we are following the leadership of Jesus Christ and learning how to sacrifice for something larger than ourselves.

It is my hope that in the worship in which we engage this season, in the Bible Studies, devotional times, prayers, and service opportunities, we will find ourselves growing closer to the One who loves us. I invite you to "give up" and "take on" this season. May God have the glory as you and I grow in God's compassionate love.

See you Sunday,

Pastor Brad

## CHURCH MEETINGS/ACTIVITIES

**UNITED METHODIST WOMEN** will meet on Thursday, February 4. Martha Circle will meet in the library at 10:30 a.m. Lydia Circle will meet in Austin Chapel at 7:00 p.m.

**PAINTING CLASS FOR ALL AGES** Sunday, February 7th, 6-7 p.m. in Palmer Hall. Create an abstract work of "Heart" to keep or give for Valentine's day. All materials will be provided.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** will meet Monday, February 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the church Library. This committee oversees the church's finances and seeks to fund ministry approved by the Church Council.

**TRUSTEES** will meet on Tuesday, February 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the library.

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE** on Wednesday, February 10 at 6:00 p.m. This is a Service of Worship in the sanctuary to mark the beginning of the Lenten season. We will sing, pray, read scripture, and observe the imposition of ashes as a mark of repentance. All are welcome.

**FAMILY NIGHT** hosted by the Woolwine Sunday School Class will be on Wednesday, February 17 at 6:00 p.m. A program on Missions will be presented. We are promoting this as a time for family and would like to encourage everyone to attend this special time together. Drinks and bread will be provided.

**MEN'S BREAKFAST** will be Wednesday, February 17 at 7:00 a.m. in Palmer Hall. Devotions: Rev. Jerry Manning Cooks: Roscoe Matney and Crew

**FRIENDSHIP CLUB** will be meeting in Palmer Hall on Tuesday, **MARCH 15, 2016** at noon. Meal will be provided. If you are 55 or older, please make plans to join us for a time of fellowship and games. Should you have any questions, please call Charlotte Rich at 276-322-4572.

**JUBLILATION 2016** will be on April 17-19 at MainStay Suites in Pigeon Forge, TN with registration on April 17 at 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Theme is "Our Never Ending Story." This is a retreat for older adults (50+) who desire to explore and enhance their relationship with Christ. Registration deadline is March 15. Brochures are available in the church office.

*Betty Ann Murray and John Wayne White  
will pledge their love as one on Sunday, the fourteenth of February  
Two thousand and sixteen at two o'clock in the afternoon*

*First United Methodist Church  
200 South College Avenue  
Bluefield, Virginia*

*Our joy will be more complete if you can share this celebration with us  
Reception following the ceremony in Palmer Hall  
In lieu of gifts donations may be made to the  
First United Methodist Church General Fund*

## HEARTS FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES HEARTS

<b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY!</b>		16	Ricky French
2	Lane Austin	16	Diane Shott
3	Daniel Frost	18	Russell Garrett
4	Chad Goins	21	Robert Wilson Edwards IV
4	Michael Shroyer	24	Morgan Brewster
4	Lynn Burnette	24	David Hale
6	Corion Cornette	25	Pam Brewster
9	Robert Gillenwater	26	Shirley Glover
9	Jeff Metcalfe	28	Jerry Hickman
9	Paul Scott		
10	Jim Wilkinson		
14	Samuel Stowers	18	<b>HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!</b> Robert/Terry Trenton
15	David Kovach II		

### MEMORIAL GIFTS—JANUARY 2016

#### In Memory of Conner Litton

To: General Budget  
By: Dr. and Mrs. Donald Robertson  
Charles and Sallie Graham  
Robert and Mary Honeycutt  
Thomas and Catherine Griffen  
Betty Litton Cadwell  
Johnny and Ruth Ann Lazenby  
Mac and Elizabeth Smith  
DLH Associates LLC  
Michael and Nina Hancock

#### In Memory of Anne Calo, Chris Calo's Mother

To: General Budget  
By: Carl and Lynn Burnette

#### In Memory of Louise Osborne, Linda Hash's Mother

To: General Budget  
By: Carl and Lynn Burnette  
Chancel Choir  
Her children: Linda Hash, Mary Lester, David Osborne

#### In Memory of Audrey Clay

To: General Budget  
By: Diane Shott

#### In Memory of Shirley Tibbs

To: Higher Education Loan Fund  
By: Woolwine Sunday School Class  
Doug and Dean Coon  
Elizabeth Snyder



### ILLNESS

Eddie **Abshire**, Joe **Akers**, Fran **Alba**, Andy **Anderson**, Patsy **Arnold**, Jim **Ayers**, Barbara **Bailey**, Janet **Barker**, Charlotte **Bass**, Catherine **Beamer**, Dennis **Bennett**, Jim **Betts** (Bronwyn Owen's Dad), John & Carol **Bohoboy**, Edna **Bone**, Suzanna **Bovenizer**, Jim & Ruth **Brewster**, Robin **Calo**, Lester **Coomes**, Doug **Coon**, Tim **Corrigan**, Debbie & Herbert **Creasy**, Dorothy **Culberston**, Velda **Davidson**, Anna **Deitrich**, Clint **Dillon**, Richard and Patty **Dillon** (Wade's Parents), Richard **Dillon, Jr.**, Darlene **Dolin**, Jayce **Evans**, Gertrude **Farmer** (Kimberly Edwards' Grandmother), Vicki **Furrow**, Debbie **Gillespie**, Shirley **Glover**, Laura **Gooch**, Stephanie **Gressett**, Gus **Hartsock**, Ginger **Hawkins**, Carrie **Hendrick** (Gerry Stowers' granddaughter), Erinn **Hollo**, Arlin **Honaker**, Jim **Houchins**, Trina **Jackson**, Jim **Justice**, Brad & Ellen **Kitts** (Charla Wilkinson's Parents), Dr. David **Kovach**, Mary Virginia **Lester** (Linda Hash's Sister), Louise **McVey**, Richard **Morsan**, Betty **Murray**, Ethan **Oliver**, Gary **Pardue**, Patty **Ramage**, Carol **Riddle**, Mark **Riley**, Brian **Rose** & Family, Ruby **Roten**, Deb **Sarver**, Kenny **Sawyers**, Suzette **Sawyers**, Carol **Scott**, Mary Ruth **Scott**, Ruth **Shrader**, Iris **Snow**, Ellie **Spencer**, Roger **Stacey**, Amanda **Stephenson**, Russell **Synan**, Jimmy **Thompson**, Terry **Trenton** (Nancy Trenton's daughter-in-law), Dave **Trippett** (Shirley Saunders' Nephew), J. D. **Turner**, Charles **Weaver** (Kimberly Edwards' dad), Mark **Webb**, Viola **Wilborn**, Edith **Wilkinson**, Ellen **Windle**, Michael & Susan **Williams** (Mary Ruth Scott's nephew), Ted **Yost**

### OUR MILITARY

Ryan **Shott**, Lucas **Graham**, Jeremy **Woody**, and those serving our country

### HOMEBOUND

Roy **Atkins**, Smokey **Blaylock**, Joe **Davidson**, Leon **Devor**, Syd **Ellison**, Russell **Garrett**, Pat **Jones**, Charles **Miller** (Pam Rose's father), Wilma **Shay**, Nancy **Trenton**, Irma **Webb**

Please remember the family of **Bill Lineberry** who was killed in an accident this week.

### GOD'S VALENTINE GIFT

God's Valentine gift of love to us	He gave us sweet salvation, and
Was not a bunch of flowers;	Instruction, good and true--
It wasn't candy, or a book	To love our friends and enemies
To while away the hours.	And love our Savior, too.

His gift was to become a man,	So as we give our Valentines,
So He could freely give	Let's thank our Lord and King;
His sacrificial love for us,	The reason we have love to give
So you and I could live.	Is that He gave everything.

By Joanna Fuchs