



# THE CHIMES

## December 2021

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF



**"When a woman is giving birth, she has sorrow because her hour has come, but when she has delivered the baby, she no longer remembers the anguish, for joy that a human being has been born into the world." John 16:21**

The journey to Bethlehem had been long. A wearied trip, swollen ankles, and a wrestling match between fear and faith, had just about been more that she could handle. "Weeping may stay for the night, but joy comes in the morning." And now it is the morning, a baby coos along with the dove on the rafters above. A child is born, a Son is given. He has the eyes of his Mother, and the heart of his Father. Like a light that vanishes the darkness, joy and love have cast out her sorrows.

Thirty three years later He would bring back memories of that Bethlehem morning. Now, another evening had come, and a long hard night awaited. She had given him birth, and she would watch him die. (Remember Bethlehem Mother. We can't stop the night, but neither will they stop the morning.)

These are His words: "... A woman has pain when her time to give birth comes. But after the child is born, she doesn't remember the pain anymore because she's happy that a child has been brought into this world. Now you are in a painful situation. But I will see you again. Then you will be happy, and no one will ever take that happiness away from you." John 16:20-22

The words of Jesus are faithful and true, and I especially hope that all who have tears and broken hearts today will keep on believing. Christmas morning will come again soon, and so will our Lord come with the morning of a new day. Then "Merry Christmas" will be realized in a way that we could never have imagined possible.



*Grace and Peace  
Merry Christmas*

*Rev Ray & Pat*





## December Mission of the Month

Assistance and Resources Ministries mission is to identify and secure the necessary human, financial, and material resources required to efficiently and fairly provide basic emergency necessities to those in need throughout Carter County. A.R.M. provides information regarding the short-term needs present within our community to secure resources locally and collaborates with outside entities to obtain funding and resources through grants and awards. A.R.M. has distributed each week to the housing projects--200 lunch snack bags with extras on Friday such as cereal for the weekend with drinks. Also, 400 drinks are distributed each week. There are 300 children's snack bags given out each month with regular boxes.

**A.R.M. currently provides services to 700-930 persons each month by providing assistance with:**

FOOD, CLOTHING, REFERRALS TO OTHER AGENCIES, VOUCHERS FOR SCHOOL SUPPLIES, SHOES, COATS; HYGIENE SUPPLIES, NON-FOOD ITEMS AS AVAILABLE, LINENS, CURTAINS, AND HOUSEHOLD ITEMS; THANKSGIVING BOXES.

Assistance and Resources Ministries is located at 714 West C Street in Elizabethton, Tennessee. Their building is behind the Ingles shopping center, next to Carter County Bank.



## Offering Counters

December 6th	Jobelle Hood
December 13th	Jean Madgett
December 20th	Susan Heaton
December 28th	Jobelle Hood



*Budget funds needed as of 11/21/21*  
**\$420,261.31**

*Budget funds received through 11/21/21*  
**\$406,806.61**

*Mission of the Month (Good Samaritan Ministries)  
received as of 11/21/21: **\$1,570.00***

## Hanging of the Greens Service

Sunday, November 28th at 6:00 PM.



### *What is Hanging of the Greens?*

Many churches hold a service of preparation for Christ's coming, which includes hanging greenery traditionally associated with everlasting life. Greens such as cedar for royalty, fir and pine boughs for everlasting life, holly symbolizing Jesus' death and ivy representing the resurrection are used.



**FUMC Card Ministry** thanks you for your donations of cards and helping with postage.

Donations of Get Well Cards are most needed. Baskets have been placed in the Narthex and outside the Church Office for you to place donations. The group would like to also extend the invitation to anyone interested in joining them in spreading cheer. The group meets every other week. The next meeting date is Monday, November 29th.

## Christmas Cantata

**Everlasting Light**  
**The Promise of Christmas**

Sunday, December 19th at 10:00 AM



The Blessing Bag and Basket Dedication will be held on Sunday, November 28th. I will let everyone know how many we collected. There is a nice corner full right now! Much love and appreciation to all who have contributed in any way.

Thankful,

*Susan Hathaway*





2nd...Rachel Bentley Embry  
 3rd....Pam Witherspoon, Vincent Strano  
 4th...Andrew Bentley  
 6th....Peggy Jones  
 7th....Ed Johnson  
 8th....Nancy Deal, Ty McElyea  
 11th..Monnie Kechter, Debby Nolan  
 12th..Laura Hughes  
 13th..Chris Harrill  
 15th..Jeff Weatherford  
 16th..Tom Tull  
 17th...Kimber Russell  
 22nd..Dana Winningham  
 23rd...Matt Branham  
 24th...Bobbie Wood  
 26th...Merry Schaff  
 28th...Bobby Morton  
 30th...Caleb Lovette, Richard Parker  
 31st...Jerry Freeman



**\*Please notify the Church Office of additions or corrections**

## *Tea Social*

All the ladies of the church are invited to a tea social on Saturday, December 11th at 1:00 in our church fellowship hall. Bring cookies and wear a festive hat (optional). We will be filling goody boxes for the homebound.







Major Margaret Eggers, who recently returned home from Afghanistan, was our guest speaker at our November meeting. Our ladies also prepared blessing bags for the homeless in our community.



***The United Methodist Women will meet on Thursday, December 9th at 11:30 AM for our annual Christmas Luncheon. Ham will be provided. Please bring a side dish. All the ladies of the church are invited!***







The Coolagers assembled 39 Cleaning Buckets for our Conference Mission Project. A special thank you to Jen Bradley for her leadership.

The children prayed over the buckets during Rev. Ray's blessing.

Great job Coolagers!







Dona Dvorak reading  
the scripture

# Let us WORSHIP Together



Children's time  
with Rev. Ray



Rochelle and baby Ella Roan pictured  
with Margo in our newly renovated  
nursery



Ladies of the  
Chancel  
Choir



David & Teresa Pinckard recently  
renewed their wedding vows.  
Congratulations to this beautiful  
couple.



Acolytes Jack  
Blevins and Jewell  
Weatherford





Bill, Catherine and great-grandson Bo.



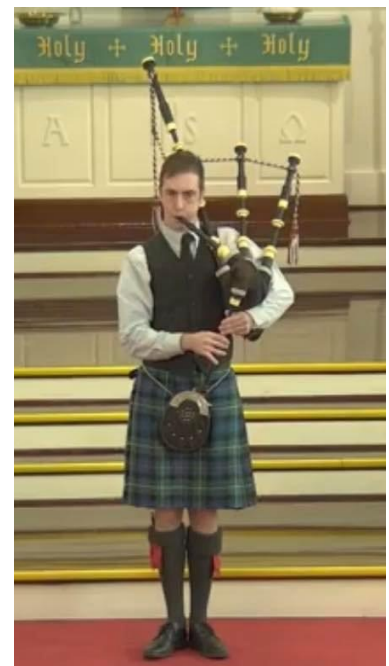
Sam Shipley and  
City Councilman  
Jeff Treadway



Bill and  
Rev Ray



Bill Armstrong was honored during our Veteran's Day Service on November 14th with a special proclamation from the City of Elizabethton for his service to his country, community and church. Bill is a World War II Veteran and a faithful member of First UMC for over 60 years.





In 2022 I will be 72 years old, and I will be mandated to take distributions from my retirement account in 2022 and every year after that.

This tax event is called a Required Minimum Distribution or RMD. I call it a tax event because as we all know distributions from retirement accounts are taxable. I am sure many of you are already dealing with this currently or may face it in the near future. Each year the amount that is required to be withdrawn is calculated based on the previous 12/31 balance of your retirement account.

Currently the federal tax code allows you and me to make a tax free withdrawal from our retirement accounts **IF** the distribution goes directly to a non-profit organization. This direct transfer to a non-profit counts toward your RMD for that tax year.

So if you are faced with RMD withdrawals and also want to take advantage of your gift to the church to be tax free dollars then you need to contact Vickie Shipley, our Financial Secretary, to get the bank information needed to allow for this tax free transfer.

Another way to gift tax free to the church can come from your REGULAR investment account. For example, if you have a stock or mutual fund that has appreciated in value you can gift shares of the investment to the church, the church turns around and liquidates the investment and you avoid having to report any capital gains on your tax return. It is a win-win for you and our church, allowing you to take advantage of the legal tax laws on the books.

Should you have any questions regarding these ideas please feel free to call me or discuss this with your tax professional. I can be reached at 423-943-8250 or [fairway718@yahoo.com](mailto:fairway718@yahoo.com).

*Dave Wortman*  
**2022 Finance Chairman**



**IRA Charitable Rollover**

Give to Your Church,  
Charity or other  
Nonprofits; Save on your  
Taxes

## Casserole Brigade

Saturday, November 20th the Brigade provided 15 casseroles to Loaves and Fishes Feeding Program at River's Edge Church. Our December Serving Date is Saturday, December 18th.

Here is the 2022 Casserole Brigade Calendar for Serving Dates: Remember it is always the third Saturday of each month. I will be giving everyone a printed copy of this as well.

January 15	April 16	July 16	October 15
February 19	May 21	August 20	November 19
March 19	June 18	September 17	December 17

As always, a million thanks and much appreciation for this very worthwhile community mission to feed those in need in our area.

Much Love and Appreciation,

*Susan Hathaway*  
423-895-2683



## *Altar flowers are given for the Glory of God and.....*

November 7th: Given in recognition of three generations of *Dvorak men* who have served our country.

November 14th: Given in honor of *Bill Armstrong Sr.* with thanks for his service during World War II, FUMC and our community.

November 21st: Given in honor of *Dona Dvorak* and *Gaye Stanton* for their November birthdays by Maryetta Elliott



### **HELP KEEP OUR CHURCH SAFE AND SECURE!**

If you are in the church for any type of gathering, after normal church hours, please be sure that the doors are locked and the alarm is set when you leave. We pay a fee to monitor our buildings against unauthorized entry, but if the alarm isn't turned on, the police don't know that there is a problem!

The newer keypad in the elevator lobby seems to be easier to use. If you would like to try setting the alarm with a helping hand nearby, Robin Folse has offered to be of assistance. Thank you, Robin! If you need an access code, please contact our Custodian, G. Lynn Carroll, to get your very own code!

Please be assured that the fire alarm is working ALL THE TIME.



## **December Usher Schedule**

December 5th	Team 3 (Kelly Geagley-Captain)
December 12th	Team 4 (Paul Powers-Captain)
December 19th	Team 5 (Wesley Bradley-Captain)
December 26th	Team 6 (Richard Lovette-Captain)



*In Honor*

*Donation to the Building Fund in  
Honor of Rev Ray & Pat By:  
James & Jama Frazier*

*Donation to the Music Ministry Fund  
in Honor of Richard Tetrick By:  
The Buddy Little Family*



**Pre-school**







A special **Thank You** to the Mike James and the UMM for building us a new manger! It is beautiful!

Their next meeting will be on Saturday, December 11th at 8:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. All of the men of the church are welcome! Coffee will be provided.



Join us on Wednesday nights at 6:00 PM  
in the Fellowship Hall for  
“Life Lessons” with Rev. Ray



## JOIN US FOR **BIBLE STUDY**

Sunday Nights at 6:00



With Rev. Ray in the Fellowship Hall

Join us on Sunday nights at 6:00 PM  
in the Fellowship Hall for  
Bible Study with Rev. Ray



# Happy Thoughts

By Steva Danielle Nave Gentry

I will think of my blessings instead of my woes,  
Cast sad thoughts to the wind, if I'm feeling low.  
I'll breathe in the fresh air—raise my face to the sky,  
Smile as the butterflies go flitting by.

I'll feel the sun's warmth on my skin with it's light,  
I'll think happy thoughts, let my fancy take flight.  
I'll look at the blue sky with fluffy white clouds,  
Be thankful for nature where beauty abounds.

I'll examine the flowers, the fields, and the trees,  
Observe the all the marvelous intricacies of these.  
I'll raise my eyes toward heaven—thank God I'm alive,  
Appreciate nature's beauty and the life God provides.

## Advent Memorials & Honorariums

Donations will be designated to our Contingency Fund to help those in need in our community.

Acknowledgements will appear in our next Chimes Newsletter.

The deadline for submission will be Thursday, December 16th. Please notate "Advent" on the memo line of your check.

In memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Given by: \_\_\_\_\_



# *In Memory*

*Donations to the church have been received in Memory of: Dr. John Crockett*

*Missions Ministry Fund*



Dr. John Crockett

David & Christine Harrill  
Dick & Mary Ryan  
Dave & Debbie Wortman  
Maryetta Elliott  
Patricia Patterson  
Richard & Jennie Lovette  
Tommy Horton  
Jean Madgett  
Tom & Pam Witherspoon  
Bill & Danielle Gentry  
Susan Hathaway  
Paul & Myong Powers  
Richard & Norma Tetrick  
Sam & Vickie Shipley  
Jody Combs Construction Boys  
Keith & Stephanie Young  
Doug & Lynn Hulshult  
Pam Keller  
Cleta Quarles  
Tyler & Elizabeth Tetrick  
Alexander Insurance (Joe Alexander & Letha Stricklin)  
Dr. Lewis & Marcia Songer  
Jackie Maggard  
Pat & Joyce Sweeney  
Thomas Hager Jr.  
Jim & Clara Perkins  
University High School Class of 1965  
Dr. Clarence W. Baskette  
Glenn & Janice Bettis  
David Hart  
Richard & Charlotte Armstrong  
Susan Huntington  
Joyce Birchfield & Leta Hale  
Pairs & Spares Sunday School Class  
Charles Snell  
Duffie Jones  
Tom & Liz Baker  
Shirley Stafford  
John & Karen Bradshaw

Susan Carson  
Ted Tipton Family  
Jim & Helen Wilson  
Big John's Closeouts  
Joe & Brenda Collins  
Hungate Engineering  
Kingsport Dental Lab  
Jane Chambers  
Dean & Jeanna Zeiler  
Darlene LaPorte  
Jennifer Stroupe  
Sara Bowers & Bob Fetzer  
Gayle & Jobelle Hood  
Bill & Julie Tetrick  
Catherine Sanders  
Sid & Joyce Oakley  
Robert & Leslie Luttrell  
Louie Gump  
Art & Hannah Harris  
Christopher & Quinita LaPorte  
Richard & Martha Harris  
Tim & Vicki McCurry  
Wayne & Norma Hyder  
Larry & Norma Proffitt  
Donna Knight  
David & Teresa Pinckard  
Richard & Arliss Reece  
Brenda McEwen  
David & Renee McNeely

John & Margaret Holland (2nd Harvest Ministry)  
Libby Cornett (2nd Harvest Ministry)

# *In Memory*

*Donations to the church have been received in Memory of:*



Claudette Howerton

## *Claudette Howerton*

*David & Debbie Wortman (Music Ministry)*  
*Gary & Meg Brown (2nd Harvest Ministry)*  
*Sam & Vickie Shipley (Worship Fund)*  
*Jean Madgett (Christmas Décor Fund)*  
*David & Christine Harrill (General Memorial)*  
*Gayle & Jobelle Hood (Christmas Décor Fund)*  
*Maryetta Elliott (General Memorial)*  
*Susan Huntington (General Memorial)*  
*David & Teresa Pinckard (Isaiah 1:17 House)*



Tyler Fleming

## *Tyler Fleming*

*Jennifer Stroupe (Music Ministry)*  
*Tom & Pam Witherspoon (Music Ministry)*  
*Susan Hathaway (Music Ministry)*  
*David & Renee McNeely (Music Ministry)*  
*Bobbie Wood (Handbell Choir)*



Maxine Davidson

## *Maxine Davidson*

*Gayle & Jobelle Hood (Library Fund)*





## December Regular Weekly Schedule

Sunday Worship	10:00 AM
Sunday School	11:20 AM
Sunday Night Bible Study	6:00 PM
Sunday Night 4:12 Jr. & Sr. High	6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Wednesday Life Lessons	6:00 PM
Wednesday Coolagers	6:00 PM
Wednesday Choir Practice	7:00 PM

# December 2021

Sun

Mon


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

			1 Life Lessons 6:00 PM	2 Worship Meeting 7:00 PM	3	4
5 Worship Service 10:00 AM  Bible Study 6 PM	6	7	8 Life Lessons 6:00 PM	9 UMW Luncheon 11:30 AM	10	11 UMM 8:00 AM  Tea Social 1:00 PM
12 Worship Service 10:00 AM  Bible Study 6 PM	13	14 Operation Christmas Child Boone NC 2-6	15 Life Lessons 6:00 PM	16	17	18
19 Worship Service Cantata 10:00 AM  Bible Study 6 PM	20	21	22 Life Lessons 6:00 PM	23	24 Christmas Eve Service: 5:00 PM  Church Offices Closed 	25
26 Worship Service 10:00 AM  Bible Study 6 PM	27 Church Offices Closed 	28	29 Life Lessons 6:00 PM	30	31	

# Acolyte Ministry

December 5th: Jewell & Piper Kate

Acolyte Parent: Weatherford

December 12th: Caroline & Bentley

Acolyte Parent: Forinash

December 19th: Taylor & Sophie

Acolyte Parent: Campbell

December 26th: Kate & Jack

Acolyte Parent: Blevins



**Free Little Pantry Donations** can be placed in the red tub beside the Memory Garden entrance of the first floor. Donation suggestions: small bottled water, drink pouches/boxes, nuts, nutrition bars, fruit cups, travel size toiletries, etc.

*Thank you for your support!*



*Worship With Us*  
IN-PERSON & ONLINE  
*Sunday mornings at 10:00*



## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

325 EAST E STREET, ELIZABETHTON TN 37643, (423) 543-3505

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Church Office, Robin Folse, Email: [soblessed@fumcelizabethton.com](mailto:soblessed@fumcelizabethton.com)

Church Financial Secretary, Vickie Shipley, Email: [finance@fumcelizabethton.com](mailto:finance@fumcelizabethton.com)

Chimes News Editor: Vickie Shipley Email: [vshipley@chartertn.net](mailto:vshipley@chartertn.net)



Visit Our Website

[fumcelizabethton.com](http://fumcelizabethton.com)







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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

