



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

315 Kerens Avenue

Elkins, West Virginia 26241

304-636-0660

www.fumcelkinswv.com

Advent has often been called the season of waiting, waiting for the Celebration of The Birth of Christ, waiting for family visits, waiting for gift exchanges, and waiting to do that special Christmas activity. It is also a season of getting ready for, looking forward to, preparing for, and expecting the Second Advent or the Second Coming of Christ.

I believe God is celebrating an Advent season at this present time. The Angels are ready to announce that "CHRIST HAS COME" to set up God's kingdom.

I believe Christ, the one sitting on the right hand of God, is ready to make the Second Advent become a reality.

However; God says: "Let us wait."

The Angels, the heavenly beings, the cherubim, the seraphim, and The Christ are all asking God: "What are you waiting for?"

I believe God replies each time, "I am waiting for just one more soul to believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. I am waiting for one more person to come to the altar, one more person to fall on their knees in prayer, one more person to receive forgiveness and find salvation."

That one more person might just be someone you encounter in the crowds of shoppers, it might be someone you greet with a "Merry Christmas" or someone in your circle of friends or family. It might be----someone you know.

Yes, God is celebrating Advent by waiting for just one more soul.

It is now up to us in the church to make the invitation to that someone who is also waiting to find God's love through Jesus Christ. This season of Advent might just be the time when God is waiting for you to bring that someone to church during Advent. God is waiting at 315 Kerens Avenue in Elkins for that someone. Maybe that someone is you.

Advent is a time to "Make Disciples of Jesus Christ." God is waiting.

Grace and Peace

Dallas

The Christmas Scripture tells us that "When the shepherds were told about Christ, they went with haste to see this that had come to pass." Let us go with haste to tell the "Good News" and to invite others to know Christ. God may not wait much longer.

BUDGET and APPORTIONMENTS

Most of us at First United Methodist Church in Elkins are aware that we are falling behind on our Annual Church Budget for 2015, resulting in the fact that we may not be able to pay our Annual Conference Fair Share Apportionments in full for the year. If this were to happen it would be the first time in the history of our church that we are unable to make 100% payout. Several of our members are concerned and have developed an Apportionment Challenge. At this time we are twenty four thousand dollars (\$24,000.00) short on reaching 100% payment. Two persons in our congregation have agreed to each pay one fourth (\$6,000.00) for a total of one half (\$12,000.00) of the amount due on the Apportionments if the rest of the church can come up with matching funds for the other half or \$12,000.00 by December 20, 2015. We believe we can do this. Perhaps someone else might want to match their gift, or match one half of their gift. Others might be able to give some. Remember, there is no gift too small or too large. We realize that times are hard and for many income is fixed and you may not be able to help with the challenge or may not be able to give any extra and we understand that fact and want you to know that is OK.

Another fact we want you to understand and take into consideration is that we are also running a little short on our general budget for 2015 and we are operating in the red for the year, so we would encourage you to not forsake giving to the general fund budget in order to give to the apportionments. The Challenge is to be in addition to regular giving; however, if you feel paying 100% of apportionments is a priority you may choose to mark a part of your regular giving to apportionments as they are a part of our general fund budget. All of the items in our budget are important and we need to do the best we can to meet our total budget, and in doing so we will meet our apportionments and our mission giving.

Pray about our church and attendance and pray about our finances, our budget and our apportionments. Listen to God's voice and do what you can.

If you want to give toward the Apportionment Challenge mark your check or envelope as "Challenge" or simply "AC" and it will be directed as you wish.

If we meet the challenge by raising more than the twelve thousand matching fund, then the excess would be put into the General Fund Budget to help meet our total budget needs.

Again, please be in prayer for our church, invite others to attend, and remember that we are here to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Church Mice

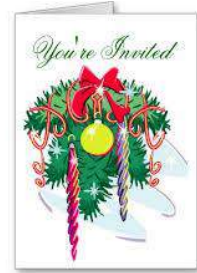


Christmas Open House



Brenda and Dallas invite you to a Christmas Open House at the Parsonage of First United Methodist Church in Elkins. The Parsonage is located at 26 South Randolph Avenue (across from Hardees) On Sunday, December 13, 2015, stop by and visit for a while anytime between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM. Refreshments will be served.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
DECEMBER 24, 2015
7:00PM Youth-Led Service
11:00PM—Traditional Communion Service
Candlelight at both services.



ADVENT CANDLE FOR MISSIONS: Beginning November 29th, the 1st Sunday in Advent, we will keep a candle burning on the altar for missions. For each \$1 donated, that candle will remain lit for one hour. This year the money collected will go to support our Communion Fund which is helping needy families by assisting with food, medicines, rent, shelter, utilities bills, Ensure for the Senior Center and quarterly donations to Women's Aid In Crisis, Tyrand Cooperative Ministry and Helping Hand Clearing House.

THE ANGEL TREE: We have angels on the tree that will send a Merry Christmas to children from the West Virginia Children's Home in Elkins and children from Child Protective Services. When you pick up a tag from the Angel Tree, please provide your name and tag number on the information sheet provided by the tree. Bring gifts back no later than Dec. 15, except gifts marked for the Children's Home which need to be returned by Dec. 7. Thank you to everyone who takes an angel from our Angel Tree.

MITTEN AND SOCK TREE: As the angels on the Angel Tree are taken we will decorate it with children's mittens, gloves, scarves, hats and socks. These will be distributed in our community for needy children. We will also be collecting towels and socks on the tree for all ages and the PULSE High School and College Students will take with them to the Passion Conference to be distributed to the homeless. These items need to be in by Sunday, December 27.



Christian Ed Corner

It's the Christmas season! The year has flown by! We are excited for the month of December and all the activities our children and youth program will be participating in!

PULSE Jr/Sr High Ministry

In the months of November and December we will be doing a series entitled "BAE: Before Anyone Else" where we will be discussing what happens when we choose to follow Christ fully and wholly. It will be a fun and challenging series.

We will be collecting funds through November and December to put towards a Micro-Loan through World Vision to help people in under-resourced countries become entrepreneurs.

The PULSE Bible Study meets Wednesday Nights @ Bobby B's House @ 5:57pm. We will be working through a book by Judah Smith entitled "Jesus is _____" and developing our understanding of who Christ is to us and others. We are having a great time meeting together. Anyone is welcome to join!

If you would like to assist with snacks or meals for our PULSE meetings on Sundays, please go to: www.takethemameal.com; go to FIND RECIPIENTS: Last Name: Group and password 4937 to sign up for a Sunday to help feed the students that participate in our youth program. If you would like to make a financial contribution to assist with food costs, please make checks payable to: FUMC Youth (memo: PULSE Snacks). Thank you very much!

Please make sure we have your contact information to keep you informed of upcoming activities or follow us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/PULSEfumcelkinswv>

SCHEDULED UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

December 6: Advent Dinner

December 11-12: Leadership/Bible Study Retreat @ The Fretwell Farm and Snowshoe

December 20: Christmas Card Delivery/Caroling and "Ugly Christmas Sweater Party" w/ White Elephant Gift Exchange

December 24: Youth-Led Christmas Eve Service

ARISE-Sunday School

In this new school year, we are going to emphasizing service and missions. Our kids will have opportunities to serve in different ways, along with scheduling a few family service trips in the spring. The months of November/December, our students will be doing a 100 Ducks for 100 Bucks event. For every dollar a child gives a duck will be put in a pond. The money collected in that time period will be used to purchase ducks for families in foreign countries for food and income.

Our children in the ARISE program will be working on Jesse Tree Ornaments through Advent. We will be placing the ornaments on the tree during the second service through the Advent season beginning November 29th.

We expect this month to be filled with great fun and energy for our kids to experience the great message of God to His people!

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!!!

PLEASE NOTE: We are always looking for new teachers to join in the fun; whether it is part-time, full-time, or substitute roles. If interested please contact Bobby Benavides or Marcia Myers @ (304) 636-0660.

252 Orange CREW (Christ Revealed in Exciting Ways) Update

Our Kids in Orange CREW learned all about the value of service in November. It was a great month for our kids to learn the importance of serving others and using the little things that we have to glorify God.

There were great crafts led by Penny Friddle and the other leaders (Faye Cowgill, Jane Corley, Hobert Corley, Marcia Myers, and Bob Cowgill).

We appreciate all the volunteer leaders for Orange CREW! We have had some middle school and high school leaders helping as well (Jensen Kenney, Addison Berdine, Braxton Kenney, Kori Weirich, and Ravyn Weirich)! It's great to see these young leaders stepping in to help! Thanks to all of you!

The month of December is focused on showing compassion and caring. It is entitled "TRIPLE DOG DARE: A Challenge in Compassion". If you look at the Christmas story, it's easy to see that one aspect of God's character is compassion. God saw our greatest need, and He met it in the most remarkable way. To get kids thinking more about this we're taking the entire Christmas season to talk about compassion and ask a

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different question each week to get kids and families thinking about how they can show compassion this Christmas.

The key points of the month will be:

- 1) God loved you first. How will you love others?
- 2) God saw our greatest need. Whose needs do you see?
- 3) God gave us the greatest gift. What will you give?
- 4) God gave us great news. Who will you tell?

It's going to be a great month!

We are always looking for creative minds to assist with environment design and skits. If you have any desire to work with the children of our church, please don't hesitate to join in the fun!

There is a CUE Box sign-up sheet with one of the leaders. The CUE Box for the new month will be ordered the week before the new month begins. These are boxes that assist in continuing the lesson at home! If you are interested, the box will cost \$5 and you will receive a DVD, a fun widget (a tool to assist with the message), cards, access to 252tv.com which gives videos, music, songs, etc. and more!

If you have any questions please contact Bobby Benavides @ (304) 636-0660 ext. 16 or email @ bobby@fumcelkinswv.com or any of the 252 Orange CREW group (Bob Cowgill, Jane and Hobert Corley, Dallas Forren, Lisa Kerns, and Marcia Myers).

If you would like to join in the fun of planning and implementing the strategy, please don't hesitate to contact one of us!

There is a lot of work going on in the church for our children and youth. We would love to see more faces stepping into roles as volunteers, mentors, disciple-makers. Please prayerfully consider jumping in and participating in some way with our children and/or youth of the church.

Peace and Blessings,
Bobby Benavides
Christian Education Director

"CARE BEARS" stuffed animals will be delivered to our homebound and nursing home residents when the Youth go caroling on December 20. The animals will be loved and named by the youth prior to delivery, and will wear a tag saying that they are "delivered with love from First UMC." If you would like to provide a new stuffed animal, bring it to the church by Dec. 13 and place it in the box in the lobby.

MUSIC NOTES



Gale Poe Howell

The music ministry is in exuberant, revelatory rehearsals for Advent-to-Christmas. The cantata, “One Night, One Star, One Child” will be presented at the 11:00 worship service on Sunday, December 20. There is such promise in the music and texts to touch everyone, listeners and participants, with the miraculous and the Divine, and the flat-out happy.

ConwayRingers will be in worship all of the Sundays of Advent, and they are also part of the cantata. Barbara Goff was welcomed into handbell ringing in early November. In addition to ConwayRingers, Grace Roy was at the organ console on November 22 to accompany the concertato, *Come, Ye Thankful People, Come*. With all of the unrest in the world, it was a moment when we gathered as a redeemed people to express gratitude in our living.

Rehearsals with the Children’s Choir began in mid-November; there are thirteen children singing. Linda Wagner is directing. They are cheerful, helpful singers; their first rehearsal was intuitive, and grand, just grand. Linda and I consider it a privilege to be with them, sharing music.

The Chancel Choir continues their work on Advent music and the cantata. Extra rehearsals are scheduled for December 6 and 13 after the 11:00 worship service, and combinations with ConwayRingers and the children will begin.

The music ministry is going to ERCC on Thursday, December 17, to participate in the Christmas Candlelight Service with the residents, families and staff. Dr. Basil Hensley, the Center’s chaplain, will be leading worship. This is our eleventh consecutive year of saying yes to this outreach. Grace Roy and Betsy Jones were the persons behind the initial idea of our sharing music with the folks in the facility in 2005. It became an idea worth continuing. Listeners, singers, and ringers become blessed to be a blessing.

One of my favorite texts that begins the prophesy of Jesus’ life is the text from Isaiah, used by Handel in *Messiah* (over three hours of music, written in three weeks, by hand, in 1741).

The first chorus is from Isaiah 40:5:

“And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.”

God speaks. Glory is revealed.

And it is so.

Come Listen and Enjoy...the cantata this year, “**One Night, One Star, One Child**”, **Sunday, December 20** at the **11:00 worship service**. The Children’s Choir will participate under the direction of Linda Wagner. **There will only be one service!**





Thank you to the U.M. Men for co-hosting the EHS Football Team's Banquet with the EHS Athletic Boosters in the FLC. The Men served lasagna, salad, cake and drinks. The players were recognized for their hard work and dedication. A great time was had by all.

FAMILY ADVENT DINNER



On Sunday, Dec. 6 at 6:00 p.m., we will be sharing in a Church Family Advent Dinner and Advent Celebration. The United Methodist Men will be cooking a great dinner for us with ham loaf or turkey served with dressing, gravy, bacon & cheesy potatoes, green beans, biscuits and cake. The delicious meal will be followed by a time of Advent celebration performed by the Arise Sunday School students. There is no cost for the meal, but donations will be accepted to help defray expenses for the food. Plan now to be there on Dec. 6.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Another Operation Christmas Child project ended on November 23rd. We exceeded our goal of 1,000 boxes. If you haven't packed a shoe box you can pack one online at samaritanspurse.org.



Thanks to all who packed boxes, made donations, or helped in any way. I will have a report of how many shoeboxes were packed at FUMC and the Elkins Collection Area. in the next church bulletin.

United Methodist Women

U. M. Women Hold Fall General Meeting

The fall general meeting was held on Thursday evening, November 12 in the FLC. The meeting was opened with uplifting comments from president Betty Linger. Katie Kerns provided inspirational devotions titled “Christmas as Saints” which appropriately led into recognition of members who passed during the past year. Millie Ware and Millie Gregoire. Both women were cited as dedicated members throughout their tenure with the organization and will be missed as part of our church family. Those who have achieved 50 year membership in U. M. Women were also honored during the evening. These women who have served this organization with their many talents and time are Judy Vandenberg, Marge Shields and Margie Sutton.

Following a dinner of pork and dishes of culinary delight provided by those attending, G. Philip May shared his calling into the ministry and his obviously joyful service in Sierra Leone, Africa. His God led ministry was accented with pictures of churches, schools, orphanages and the people of Sierra Leone who continue to be instrumental in spreading the message of Jesus Christ in this country.

The evening was culminated with the installation of new officers” President, Mary Durham; Co-Vice Presidents, Beverly Armentrout and Betty Linger; Secretary, Kathy Hitchcock and Treasurer, Donna Hamrick.

Any woman is welcome to join this group that actively supports our church and the missions of U. M. Women at large. Current co-chairs of membership are Carolyn Gola (304-636-2881) and Toni Herron (304-636-4128). Contact them, join and enrich your life with the fellowship of many outstanding women.

The next event for U.M. Women will be the Christmas Bazaar which includes the luncheon and craft sale on Thursday, December 3rd and Country Store on December 3rd and 4th. See advertisement for further details.

****The U. M. Women will be making candy, crafts and setting up for the Christmas Bazaar on Monday, November 30 – Wednesday, December 2 in the FLC and kitchen. All women are welcome to help and enjoy great fellowship!**

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Marge Shields accepts award for 50 year membership in U. M. Women.



G. Philip May speaks about his calling and ministry.

Cary Wetsch speaks with May about his work in Sierra Leone, Africa.



Members participate in installation ceremony. Left to right: Betty Linger, outgoing president and incoming co-vice president; Mary Durham, incoming president; Beverly Armentrout, incoming co-vice president; Donna Hamrick, incoming treasurer; Donna Trulik, outgoing secretary and Betty Roberts, outgoing reasurer. Missing is Kathy Hitchcock, incoming secretary.





**First United Methodist Church
Women's Christmas Bazaar**

315 Kerens Avenue Downtown Elkins



**Thursday, December 3rd
Luncheon 10:00 - 2:00**

Luncheon Menu

Soups: Choice of Chili, Potato, or Chicken Noodle

Hot Dogs Pepperoni Rolls

Salads Desserts

Complimentary Drinks

\$1.00 for each item purchased



Country Store, Crafters, and Baked Goods

Country Store Hours:

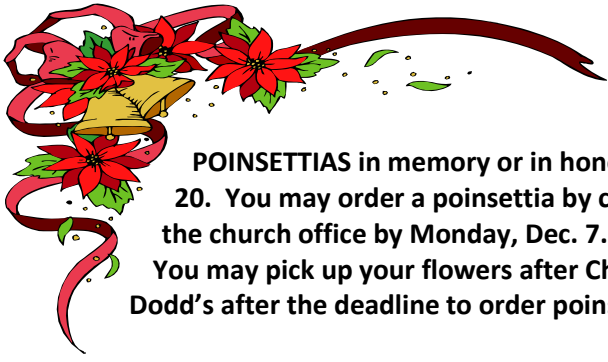
Thursday December 3rd 9:00-3:00

Friday December 4th 9:00-12:00



Crafters: December 3rd - Thursday Only 9:00-2:00





POINSETTIAS in memory or in honor of loved ones will be in the Sanctuary on Sunday, Dec. 20. You may order a poinsettia by completing the form below and returning it to Rhonda in the church office by Monday, Dec. 7. All poinsettias will be ordered from Dodd's Greenhouse. You may pick up your flowers after Christmas Eve or Christmas day Services. Please do not call Dodd's after the deadline to order poinsettias for the church. Thank you!

2015 POINSETTIA ORDER

In memory of (deceased): _____

In honor of (living): _____

Given by:

Mailing Address

(where florist should send bill):

Additional Ways to Honor/Remember Loved Ones: You may also choose to honor or remember your loved ones this Christmas by making a special gift to the CHURCH BUDGET. Complete the form below and return it with your check (may place it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church office, First UMC, 315 Kerens Ave. Elkins, WV 26241) by Sunday, December 7.

2015 SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFT TO CHURCH BUDGET

In memory of (deceased): _____

In honor of (living): _____

Given by:



**ORDER
YOUR
Poinsettias**

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DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Jack Basil	7	Amy Simmons	15	Larry Jones	22	Sue Wolfe
1	Connie Caudy	7	Matt Tyre	15	Julia Preusch	22	Bill McWorter
1	Rhys Lefler	7	Manda Pawelczyk	16	Vince Johnkoski	22	Dianne Marstiller
2	Amon Marstiller	7	Holly Conklin	16	Monica Wamsley	22	Brooks Spears
2	Jessica Wilmoth	7	Olivia Seibert	16	Emma Pingley	22	Lexi Reger
2	Autumn Trupo	8	Susan Sneed	17	Bud Rexrode Jr	23	Jin Rhee
3	Jeff Barb	8	Eli McWhorter	17	Donna Mouser	23	Bill Basil
3	Beth Conklin	8	Cassandra Lawson	18	Jack Batdorf	23	Juliann Harlan
3	Bryan Davis	9	Toni Herron	18	Emily Bennett	25	Barbara Tyre
3	Ryan Merriam	9	Sheila Gregoire	18	Becky Cain	26	Jo Ellen Jones
3	Dallas Poyner	10	Elsie Bucher	18	Ella Berdine	27	Roy White
4	Leigh Fletcher	11	Carroll Martin	18	Maggie Conrad	27	Mike Ebel
4	Maxine Varney	11	Margie Sutton	19	Mary Ann Gay	27	Tara Standridge
4	Betty Jo Kostakos	12	Mike Pizzino	19	Frank Gola	28	Barbara Criss
4	Paul Grindle	12	Carol Holt	19	Barbara Wetsch	28	Buck Hammer II
5	Katie Pingley	13	Annis Martin	19	JoJo Rhee	28	Linda Patterson
5	Bonnie Marstiller	13	Lloyd Teter Jr	19	Patrick Thompson	28	Jessica Johnson
5	Stephanie Reed	13	James Smith	19	Matthew Spessert	30	Chris Patella
6	Eric Ferguson	13	David Ferguson	20	Kathy Hitchcock	30	Michelle Pratt
6	Sam Tuning	14	Simmie Hoeft	20	D.K. Curtis-Golden	30	Todd Schoonover
7	Shawna Davis	14	Mike McDowell	21	Carol Pizzino	31	Hollie Pritt
7	Jay Dailer	14	Emily Shobe	21	Donnie Teter	31	Lorrie Downs
7	Phil Hinkle	14	Alexa Sanders	22	Judy Vandenberg	31	George Mallow
7	Jennifer Gouer	14	Jacob Pritt				

DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

2	Russ & Joy Shepherd	14	Bob & Sara Hinkle	29	Vince & Phoebe Johnkoski
3	Dave & Donna Simmons	16	Jerry & Bobbi Trimboli	29	Vilas & Norma Stalnaker
4	Denver & Jean Barnett	20	John & Laura Chapman	30	Jim & Wilma Crowley
6	Glenn & Patty Godwin	22	Basil & Janis Hensley	31	Steve & Kristin Satterfield
8	Jim & Sue Sayres	22	Bill & Linda Patterson		
11	Brad & Missy Reger	25	Calvin & Margaret Bennett		

A thank you goes out to Debbie Fortney and Jo Conway and to those who turned in their devotion for the 2015 Advent Booklet and a special thank you to Marcia Myers for compiling the information and creating the cover for the Booklet.

You may pick up your 2015 Advent Booklet from the ushers or pick one up from the table in front of the church office. The first Sunday in Advent is November 29.

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315 KERENS AVENUE
ELKINS, WEST VIRGINIA 26241-3852

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FIRST U.M. CHURCH
ELKINS, WV
PERMIT NO. 14

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December 2015

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 8:30 AM – 3 PM / Friday 8:30 AM – 12-noon PH: 304-636-0660

Pastor: Dallas Forren (304-636-0406 Home)

dallas@fumcelkinswv.com

Office Manager/Treasurer: Rhonda Elmer

rhonda@fumcelkinswv.com

Director of Christian Education & Youth Minister: Bobby Benavides

bobby@fumcelkinswv.com

Chief Financial Officer: Marcia Myers

marcia@fumcelkinswv.com

Music Director: Gale Poe Howell

Praise Team Director:

Pastor Emeritus: Basil Hensley

Nursery Worker: Jennifer Wanless

Custodian: Angela Kisner



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church™