



# First Edition

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | FUMCFV DECEMBER 2016

## A Note from the Pastor

Life seems busy, all the time, but even more so now that December is upon us. In the midst of everything else we do all year long, we are now in a season of preparation. And usually preparation means work. We prepare our home with decorations, we prepare cookies to decorate and give away, we prepare cards to reach out to family and friends, we prepare presents for Christmas morning. In the midst of that busyness, we can forget to prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Christmas—the coming of Christ.

In the midst of my own busyness, I discovered this poem by Mary Oliver. It reminds me to pray, simply and often, that my prayers don't have to be an elegant, intricate work of art. But simple words of thanks. And anything can be a call to prayer: a flower or a stone, a beautiful Christmas tree or a tree laid bare of its leaves, a present received or one given.

### Praying

It doesn't have to be  
the blue iris, it could be  
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few  
small stones; just  
pay attention, then patch  
a few words together and don't try  
to make them elaborate, this isn't  
a contest but the doorway  
into thanks, and a silence in which  
another voice can speak.

by Mary Oliver

In this season of busyness, may we prepare our hearts with prayer. Pausing, often, in the midst of our busy preparations, to say thank you for the true gift of Christmas, Jesus Christ.

Grace and peace,  
Anne

## Church Events

Dec 2<sup>nd</sup> - Birthday Party for Jesus

Dec 4<sup>th</sup> - Hanging of the Greens Service

Dec 7<sup>th</sup> - Love Thy Neighbor

Dec 7<sup>th</sup> - Wednesday Night Dinner

Dec 15<sup>th</sup> - Sister Acts Meeting

Dec 18<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Cantata

Dec 18<sup>th</sup> - Churchwide Christmas Caroling

Dec 24<sup>th</sup> - 5:30pm Family Christmas Eve Service

Dec 24<sup>th</sup> - 11:00pm Traditional Christmas Eve Service

Dec 25<sup>th</sup> - 11:00am Christmas Day Service

Dec 28<sup>th</sup> - Walk Through The Bible

# Children's Events

## December 2016

### December 2nd: Birthday Party for Jesus at 6:30pm

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall for supper, cake and activities. This is a special night to spend with your church family as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.



### December 4th: Superhero Sundaes at 12:15pm

All Kindergarten-2<sup>nd</sup> graders are invited! Join us in the basement from 12:15-1:15pm as we explore the Superheroes of the Bible. We will learn about Superhero Paul—When Bad Guys Turn Good! Our meeting will include the lesson, activity and lunch. Bring a friend!

### December 4th: God Squad meeting at 5pm

All 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> graders are invited! We will meet in the basement for supper, fellowship, games and our devotion from 5-6:45pm. Our lesson is entitled "Can You Read the Writing on the Wall?" Bring a friend!

### December 18th: God Squad going caroling at 3:50pm

We will meet in the Fellowship Hall to get organized for our caroling outing. We will then come back to church for our God Squad Christmas party in the basement, which will conclude at 6:45pm.



### December 24th: Christmas Eve Program at 5:30pm

The Christmas Eve Service begins at 5:30pm and is very kid friendly. The children will meet with Pastor Anne for the Children's Moment and then be dismissed to dress in costume for the program. We invite children of all ages to participate.





Helga Bogardus, Director of Music Ministry

Ellen McCord, organist  
music@fumcfv.org

### **Christmas! I Love to Tell the Story!**

Annual Christmas Cantata

Presented by the Chancel Choir and organist, Ellen McCord

Sunday, December 18

Excerpts at 8:30 Full presentation at 11:00 worship.

### **Student Musicians celebrate the season!**

Each Sunday in December will begin with a gift of music by one of our First UMC young musicians. Plan to arrive a few minutes early to hear them play the prelude for 11:00 worship. Thanks to Noah Wyatt for beginning the Advent season on Sunday, November 27 playing "Go Tell It on the Mountain" on piano.

Sunday, December 4

Evan Setzer and Connor Bost, guitars, "Silent Night" and "Away in a Manger"

Sunday, December 11

Kaylee Markle, piano, "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Sunday, December 18

Katelyn Hinkle, piano "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy" from The Nutcracker and Lydia Hinkle, violin, "O Come Little Children"

Family Christmas Eve Service, December 24, 5:30pm

Emma Rese Vaughn, piano, "Little Drummer Boy"

**Children's Choir** will be singing "How Quietly" with the help of children's choir alumni at the Family Christmas Eve Service at 5:30pm. Rehearsals are Sunday, December 4 and 11 at 4:15pm. On Sunday, December 18 children will be going Christmas Caroling. Rehearsals will resume on January 8, 2017 after the Christmas and New Year break.



**Christmas Caroling Sunday, December 18, 4:00pm** Christmas Caroling is an opportunity for our church family to spread the joy of Christmas. Sometimes spreading joy is with singing but more often it's with a smile, holding a hand, giving a hug or just by showing up. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 4:00pm to divide into groups to go to church members' homes, Windsor Point, Carillon Assisted Living and Universal Health Care Assisted Living.

**"Sings from the Heart" CD** As we hear classic Christmas songs this month, First Church members will remember hearing Jerry Currin sing "In the Bleak Midwinter." Thankfully Jerry created a CD as a gift to his church family. Now your Christmas can be complete hearing Jerry Currin sing his favorite Christmas Hymn again. See Helga about getting a CD.

**Grace Notes Handbell Choir** will ring "Coventry Carol" on Sunday, December 11. Grace Notes will be on Christmas Break from December 12 - January 8. Rehearsals will resume Tuesday, January 10. Positions are available. Please contact Helga if you are interested in joining First UMC Handbell Choir.

### **Love Thy Neighbor: Wednesday, December 7th at 11:20am**

Join us for lunch, worship and fellowship at First Baptist Church (105 N West St) on Wednesday, 12/7! We will meet at First UMC at 11:20am to load supplies and then head over to First Baptist Church (meet there during the cooler months). Our main meal will be chili. We are in need of the following supplies to complete the meal: 2 large pots of chili, 2 large salads with dressing and 2 sodas. Please contact Dana Vaughn at [djjv\\_vaughn@yahoo.com](mailto:djjv_vaughn@yahoo.com) if you can provide any of these items.

### **Sister Acts Ornament Exchange on December 15th**

Sister Acts will have their annual Ornament Exchange Christmas Party on December 15th at the home of Victoria Benditz beginning at 7pm. Please come and bring a friend! Just bring a wrapped Christmas Ornament and join in on the fun and fellowship. For more information, contact Angela Cameron at [angela.w.cameron@gmail.com](mailto:angela.w.cameron@gmail.com). We're looking forward to seeing you!

### **Habitat for Humanity Build in Holly Springs**

Would you like to help make housing affordable for your neighbors in Wake county? Come help build a house side-by-side with other local churches in Holly Springs. Our church has two dates set aside to sign-up:

- January 28 (Saturday)
- February 25 (Saturday)

If you would like to participate, you must sign-up at <http://vhub.at/southwestwake2017>. You must be 16 to be on the worksite.

If you would like to contribute, but don't want to build, we will need to provide lunches for roughly 20 people for the two dates above.

Contact Matt Jackson at [jacksonm3@gmail.com](mailto:jacksonm3@gmail.com) if you can help with food.

### **Coffee and T-shirt Sale**

For the month of December, the church t-shirts have been reduced to \$10. Haitian coffee will be reduced to \$8 per 12 oz. bag for the same duration. These will be available in the fellowship hall before the 11:00 services.

### **Stop Hunger Now and Chili Cook-off - January 8, 2017**

Directly following the 11:00 service, join the rest of the church in the Fellowship Hall as we enjoy the best chili our church's chefs have to offer. If you would like to enter a chili, contact Matt Jackson at [jacksonm3@gmail.com](mailto:jacksonm3@gmail.com).

Directly after the heartburn, we will be packaging 10,000 meals for Stop Hunger Now to send to those in need throughout our world. All are welcome to participate regardless of age or ability. It is a fun and rewarding time for the whole family. If you would not like to wear a hairnet, it is suggested you bring your own hat.

# Birthdays

12/1 Kay Delle Arnold  
12/1 Malcolm Buck  
12/2 Robert Munzenmaier  
12/3 Wendy Avery  
12/3 Joshua Boyette  
12/3 Linda Skiles  
12/5 Mason Vaughn  
12/6 Lisa Campbell  
12/6 Betsy Crabtree  
12/6 Linda Cromwell  
12/7 Leah Boyette  
12/8 Karen Krauss  
12/8 Davis Ruffin  
12/13 Jason Parigoris  
12/14 Jared Jessee  
12/15 Dominique Babbitt  
12/16 Tim Ruffin  
12/16 Norma Tesson  
12/17 Graham Dianaty  
12/19 Margie Scheller  
12/20 Linda Miller  
12/21 Carrie Jackson  
12/21 Liam Woodbridge  
12/22 Regina Zamzow  
12/23 Marge Pelton  
12/25 Carl Zamzow  
12/26 Robert Senter  
12/29 Emily Jessee  
12/30 Carmen Boyette

# Anniversaries

12/1 Fred & Rachel Walters  
12/14 Chad & Victoria Benditz  
12/16 John & Sally Stewart  
12/17 Mark & Tena Beauchamp  
12/20 Dean & Shirley Fasolt  
12/20 Bill & Sara Mountford  
12/21 Lee & Donna Thompson  
12/27 Mike & Linda Whitley  
12/28 Chet & Mary Butcher