

Worship OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday, December 9

Second Sunday of Advent

Worship

8:30 & 11 a.m. – Nave

Rev. Chuck Starks

“Completely Clean”

Luke 3:1–6

Noonday Worship

Wednesdays, includes Holy Communion

December 12

Rev. Dawn Chesser

in the Nave at 11:40 a.m.

Midweek Advent Services
are held in the Nave and
preceded by a recital at 11:40 a.m.

Logan Campbell, Baritone

Logan Campbell is a candidate for Master of Music in Orchestral Conducting and Voice Performance at UT Knoxville. A graduate of Furman University, he will sing pieces for the Advent and Christmas season including an aria from *Magnificat* by J.S. Bach.

Wednesday Fellowship Lunches are served in room 118 following the service. Lunch is \$8 and includes salad and dessert. For lunch reservations, call 524-3048 or email reservations@churchstreetumc.org.

Christmas Eve Services Monday, Dec. 24

12 noon – Traditional

3 p.m. – Family service

5:30 p.m. – Traditional, with Parish Adult Choir

10:30 p.m. – Traditional, with Parish Adult Choir

All services include candlelight
and Holy Communion



Messiah (part 1) by G.F. Handel
Tuesday, December 18 at 7:30 p.m.

The Parish Adult Choir, soloists and orchestra will present this classic seasonal favorite featuring:

- Jami Rogers Anderson, soprano
- Madeleine Wolfenbarger, mezzo-soprano
- Joshua Allen, tenor
- Daniel Johnson-Webb, bass

The performance will be followed by a reception and Nativity Art Exhibition entitled *Full of Grace—Mary, Mother of God*, coordinated by the Rev. Jan Wade.

Greeters Needed for Christmas Events

With the many services and Master Arts Series performance, there is a variety of needs for greeters. Welcoming church goers, members, and visitors into our doors is one simple and meaningful way we can show the love of Jesus to others. If you can help greet on any of the following dates, please sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a4fcae2caaf85-christmas> or contact Gabe Blake at gabe@franklinkyle.com or 865-300-8186.

- December 18—*Messiah* Master Arts Series at 7:30 p.m.
- December 23—Combined Service at 11:00 a.m.
- December 24—Christmas Eve Services, multiple times
- December 30—Combined Service at 11:00 a.m.

A Suggested Prayer

This past Sunday in the sermon, I suggested a prayer that I have found to be personally helpful. Several persons have requested that a copy of the prayer be printed in the *Messenger*. God bless you as you open your heart further to God's Presence. —Pastor Chuck

**Lord Jesus, I receive You now. Fill me with as much of Yourself
as I can possibly receive. I honor You first. Amen.**

CONVERSATIONS ON RACE

Book Discussion Group Sunday, Dec. 9 at 5 p.m.

All are invited to read the books listed below and join us for discussion on these Sundays:

- December 9: *White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism* by Robin Diangelo
- January 13: *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide* by Carol Anderson

On Sunday, December 9, we will covenant together in CLC 120 for respectful and authentic conversation about what we are reading. Facilitated by Celia Ferguson.



Thanksgiving Basket Ministry Needs You

Each November, Church Street comes together to serve our community in one of my favorite projects of the year. The Children's and Youth Ministries of Church Street host our annual Thanksgiving Basket Blitz in collaboration with our Mission Committee and the Beacon of Hope. If you've never been a part of it, it really is something special. **This year, we packed a record number of 260 boxes (130 pairs — the food is too heavy for just one box!) in just under 24 minutes.** The gym is buzzing with excitement, hands are full of canned goods and jars of peanut butter, and teamwork is at an all-time high. It is such a joy seeing the body of Christ in action in such a tangible way.

We were overwhelmed by the requests to receive boxes this year and served 130 individuals and families — this is 30 more boxes than last year. We sent boxes to the Beacon of Hope, and delivered food to 8 different zip codes. The recipients were beyond grateful for the generosity from our congregation.

This is a valuable ministry, serving those in our own backyard who are in need. Would you prayerfully consider partnering with us? If you feel led to contribute financially to this project by sponsoring a "basket," the cost of one pair of boxes is \$55. We would greatly appreciate your support. And please mark your calendars for the Sunday before Thanksgiving next year to join us for our 2019 Basket Blitz! —JENNY CROSS

Poinsettia Sales

Sundays, Dec. 9 and 16 in the Chapel Hall

Help decorate the church this Advent and by purchasing a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one. The cost is \$12 per plant. You may also order by calling the church office at [865-524-3048](tel:865-524-3048).



SINGLES EVENTS

Friday Fun Night & Dance

Friday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m., Gym
DJ John Rutherford will play music suitable for line dancing, swing, ballroom, country couples, and freestyle dance. Doors open at 7 p.m. for a line dance or couples dance lesson, starting at 7:15 p.m. Your \$8 admission (\$5 for students) includes the dance, lesson, soft drinks, snacks, birthday cake and door prizes. Everyone is welcome! For more information, contact Barb at barbarastinnett@charter.net.

Lunch Bunch

Sunday, Dec. 9 at 12:30 p.m.
We will meet for lunch at Calhoun's on Bearden Hill. Lois Smith is our host.

Christmas Celebration

The Island in Pigeon Forge
Saturday, Dec. 15 at 5:00 p.m.
We will gather at the church to leave at 5 p.m. and van and carpool to Pigeon Forge for dinner, Christmas lights and to explore the shops and amusements of The Island in Pigeon Forge. The Island closes at 10 p.m. so we should return no later than 11 p.m. RSVP to the church office at [524-3048](tel:524-3048) by 2 p.m. on Friday Dec 14, so we will know to watch for you. The Singles Council is hosting this event and it is open to all.

Calendar: December 9 – December 15

Worship

Worship
Sunday, 8:30 am, Nave
Sunday, 11 am, Nave
Rejoice! TV Broadcast
Sunday, 8:30 am, WVLT-TV
Sunday, 2:30 pm, MyVLT
Midweek Advent Service
Wednesday, 12 pm, Nave
(recital begins at 11:40 am)

Sunday School—9:40 AM

Beacon of Hope

Benevolence Team
Tuesday, 12 pm, Vestal UMC
BOH Sharing Shop
Thursday, 12 pm, Vestal UMC

Meetings & Ministry

Poinsettia Sale
Sunday, 8:30 am, Chapel Hall
Conv. on Race Book Discussion
Sunday, 5 pm, CLC 120
Benevolence Team
Monday, 12 pm, CLC 124
Sharing Shop
Monday, 12 pm, Gym
Soup Kitchen
Thursday, 11 am, Gym

Leisure Activities & Fellowship

CSA Holiday Concert & Reception
Tuesday, 6:30 pm, Nave
Fellowship Lunch (RSVP 524-3048)
Wednesday, 12:30 pm, rm 118

Singles

Lunch Bunch
Sunday, 12:30 pm, Calhoun's
Bridge
Monday, 6 pm, rm 201C
Yoga Class
Monday, 7 pm, rm 204
Christmas Celebration
Saturday, 5 pm, Pigeon Forge

Music

Parish Adult Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, 7 pm, rm 306

UMW

UMW Staff Luncheon
Tuesday, 11:30 am, CLC 120

Personal & Spiritual Growth

Dr. Wender's Bible Study
Sunday, 4 pm, rm 204
Men of God
Tuesday, 10 am, rm 202
Meditation & Prayer Group
Wednesday, 10:30 am, rm 211

Youth

Youth Christmas Parties
Sunday, 12:30 pm, off-site
Wesley House Tutoring
Tuesday, 4:15 pm, Wesley House
Youth Band
Wednesday, 6:45 pm, CLC 11
High School Prayer Breakfast
Thurs, 7:15 am, Chik-fil-A (W. Hills)

Youth Christmas Parties



December 9, 12:30–2:30 p.m.

- ✻ Lunch & White Elephant Gift Exchange
- ✻ High Schoolers: The Hamilton's House
- ✻ Middle Schoolers: The Powell's House
- ✻ RSVP through the weekly Youth Update

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Sunday, December 9

Youth & Children's Choirs present **Advent & Christmas music**
8:30 & 11 a.m. in the Nave

Youth Christmas Parties

12:30 p.m. (see article above for locations)

Tuesday, December 11 at 6:30 p.m. in the Nave

Community School of the Arts Holiday Concert

Wednesday, December 12 at noon in the Nave

Midweek Advent Service (recital begins at 11:40 a.m.)

Sunday, December 16

Festive Carols and Anthems accompanied by the TN Brass Quintet
8:30 & 11 a.m. in the Nave

Annual Children's Christmas Pageant

9:40 a.m. in the gym

Monday, December 17 – Wednesday, December 19

Full of Grace Nativity Art Display (see article at right)

Tuesday, December 18 at 7:30 p.m.

Master Arts Series: *Messiah* (part 1) by G.F. Handel presented by the Parish Adult Choir, soloists and orchestra. Reception follows.

Wednesday, December 19 at noon

Blue Christmas Service in the Chapel

Friday, December 21 at 5:00 p.m.

Downtown Church Tours

Sunday, December 23 at 11 a.m.

Combined worship service (No 8:30 service or Sunday School)

Monday, December 24

12 noon – **Christmas Eve Service**

3:00 p.m. – **Family Service**

5:30 p.m. – **Traditional service with Parish Adult Choir**

10:30 p.m. – **Traditional service with Parish Adult Choir**

Sunday, December 30 at 11 a.m.

Combined worship service (No 8:30 service or Sunday School)

Downtown Church Tours

Friday, December 21 from 5:00–7:00 p.m.

City People is hosting a downtown church tour (Church Street, First Baptist and First Presbyterian) from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, December 21. The tour is open to everyone. Music and refreshments will be provided in our newly renovated Parish Hall. Enjoy the decorations in our Nave, and take a tour of our newly built Welcome Center. Parking is available in our Cumberland Avenue lot, and you can enter through the Welcome Center. Docents will be available.

The Church Street Christmas Pageant is coming Sunday, December 16!

The annual Christmas Pageant will be held during our Sunday School hour on **Sunday, December 16**. This is not your typical pageant: there are no rehearsals and anyone and everyone is able to participate! If you have been to the pageant in previous years it will be a little different. First, we will be performing it in the gym rather than the nave. Instead of dismissing everyone together to get costumes, we will drop the kids off to get dressed before going to the gym. All of the costumes will be in the education hallway.

If you have any questions about this or would like to help out, please contact Katryn Bancroft at kbancroft@churchstreetumc.org or 865-256-4636.



FULL OF GRACE – MARY, MOTHER OF GOD IMAGES THROUGH THE AGES

On December 17, 18, and 19 all are invited to view twenty images of Mary as envisioned by artists through the centuries. This unique display will be housed in the new Welcome Center and will feature not only the remarkable renderings of grand masters of early eras, but also includes an arresting array of contemporary paintings. The striking beauty of these works is unquestioned, yet each is sure to deepen your faith during this Advent Season. Greeters will be on hand to welcome you during these hours:

Monday, Dec. 17 — Noon – 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 18 — Noon – 10:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 19 — Noon – 6:00 p.m.

For more information, contact Rev. Jan Wade at [865-521-0264](tel:865-521-0264); jbwade@churchstreetumc.org



COMMISSION ON A WAY FORWARD

Holy Conferencing Group Meets for the Second Time

WHO WE ARE

The twenty members of this group are church leaders who represent the full spectrum of viewpoints on human sexuality and the current language of the church Discipline. Our hope is to pave a path, through love, prayer, and study, for the healthy and thriving future of Church Street UMC. This body is not an administrative entity of Church Street and has no structural or assigned power to affect decisions. We are simply a group of people who were invited by the clergy to enter into conversation together. It is our great desire that by communicating frankly but gently with one another we can tend to the great longing of the congregation to hold steady through this denominational storm.

OUR VISION

We hope to play a role in supporting our church before and after the decisions of the February 2019 Special Session of

the UMC General Conference. We are committed to exploring these difficult concepts together through conversation and longtime learning, and to truly listen to different points of view. While we all do not share the same view on human sexuality, our point of unanimity is our love for our church, for the universal United Methodist Church, and for our role in sharing God's Good Word as far as our reach can take us. As much as individuals in the discussion love this church, no one is losing sight of the primary mission for the church. That calling is that we remain true to God's Word and that we disciples bring people to the healing and wholeness that Christ offers in this place.

OUR WORK

Our assignment for the December gathering was to complete the reading of *Unity of the Church: Toward a Faithful United Methodist Witness* compiled by the General Board of Higher Education and

Ministry. After scripture and sharing of Holy Communion together, we divided into small discussion groups of three to four persons. Each group wrestled with questions lifted from the book. For example, we shared our personal views on the importance of unity in the church going forward, some of the ways in which we as human beings settle conflicts, and which of the qualities of the fruit of the Spirit might be most important for this effort (Galatians 5:22–26).

People did not necessarily come to unified conclusions but our small groups had meaningful conversations and put in the tough effort. Answers seemed not as important as the willingness to be in conversation. This group of Church Street servants invite you to read the books along with us and to pray that the Holy Spirit guide our endeavor and lead us in the path for the current and future health of this body called Church Street UMC.

—SUBMITTED BY JEAN GALYON

How to contact Holston Conference Delegates

If you wish to write to the delegates of the Holston Conference you may send an email message to:

delegation@holston.org

Messages are forwarded on to each member of the Holston Conference delegation.

Pastoral Deaths

We have recently learned of the deaths of two beloved pastors who served Church Street in the past. The **Rev. Dr. Toombs H. Kay, Jr.** who served as Senior Pastor 1974–1987 died Dec. 4. His Memorial Service will be Sat., Dec. 8 at 2 p.m. at St. Paul's UMC, Pawley's Island, SC. The **Rev. Eldon A. Moore**, who served as Associate Pastor 1979–1981 died Nov. 29. The family will receive friends on Dec. 9 at 2 p.m. at First UMC, Maryville, TN with service to follow at 4 p.m.

The Sharing Shops

Thank you for continuing to share with our neighbors. Currently, we need:

- Children's coats
- Children's fall & winter clothing
- Adult coats
- Blankets
- Men's boots

Thank you for your generosity!

CSA Holiday Concert

Community School of the Arts will host a holiday concert and reception on **Tuesday, December 11 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Nave. A reception will follow in the Church Life Center Hallway. Church Street is proud to be home to CSA's students, families and teachers each week day. Mark your calendars and plan now to attend this fun-for-the-family event.

Beacon of Hope Angel Tree

The Angel Tree is located in the Chapel hallway. Gifts are for children in Vestal. Parents appreciate your generous help. Please return gifts **unwrapped** to the church office by **Friday, December 14.**

Olive Branch Olive Oil

Olive oil bottles are still for sale until Christmas! The organic olive oil from Palestine is a fair trade product and has received the Palestine Standards Institution extra virgin certification. We did not sell all the bottles at the UMW Bake Sale. If you would like to order a bottle (\$15/bottle), please contact Elaine Ralston at aralston1025@tds.net.



CLERGY CORNER

Let's think together about . . . Holy Communion

In recent months we have occasionally been receiving Holy Communion in a different way. Instead of small individual cups, we have been dipping our bread into a common cup. But did you ever consider that how we receive Holy Communion expresses something about our understanding of the holy meal? For example, in some traditions, instead of coming forward to receive the bread and the cup, trays of wafers and cups are passed along the pews. Remaining seated as others bring the bread and cup to us reminds us that we are somehow called to sit at and participate in a banquet. It also reminds us that God first comes to us in Jesus Christ with the offer of love and grace. Gathered around the one table of the Lord, we are served, often with trays of silver and gold, from the abundance of the feast.

In contrast, when we process to the altar rail and kneel, we are responding to the invitation to come to the Lord's table. We come forward at God's invitation, knowing that God already has come to us and waits for our response. Our kneeling at the rail reminds us that the one who invites us is Lord of all heaven and earth. The rail, which prevents us from coming too close to the holy place of the table, reminds us of our place before God. Unworthy as we are to approach the holy throne of God, we come with bended knee and bowed head, humbly beseeching God's mercy and grace.

Remaining standing while we receive reminds us that we come to the table in a posture and attitude of joy and thanksgiving. Having confessed our sins and heard the assurance of our forgiveness, it is a "right, and a good and joyful thing," to give thanks to God as we gather before the table.

Church Street has traditionally used a single loaf of bread and individual cups served in a kneeling position around the altar. The use of individual cups became popular in the early twentieth century in part because of the increased knowledge about the transmission of disease and in response to an influenza epidemic. Their use today often continues from this concern for hygiene.

When we think about the character of the Communion itself, however, the use of the individual cups tends to emphasize the communion between the individual and God rather than the communion with one another. Some congregations address this concern by asking people to hold the bread and cup until all have been served, so that the congregation can eat and drink together.

The use of the common cup and single loaf has been the most common practice throughout the church's history. It draws our attention to the biblical stories of the upper room, in which Jesus shares a single cup and breaks a single loaf of bread with the disciples. It also calls to mind Paul's words from 1 Corinthians 10:16–17 (NRSV): "The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread."

Whether we sit, kneel, or stand, whether we use a common cup or individual cups, our sharing in the Lord's Supper calls us to a holy communion with God and one another.

—REV. DAWN CHESSER

STEPHEN MINISTRY—Time is Running Out!



The Stephen Ministry of our church is recruiting new members, and we want (and need) you. If you have been considering Stephen Ministry, please let us hear from you by Dec. 12.

- To join the ministry, call or email Dawn Chesser or Palmer Cantler. Their contact information is below.
- The training carries no obligation. We are familiar with the uncertainty some

people feel. Happily, most people thrive in the training and feel ready to serve. But the choice is always yours.

- The Stephen Ministry is a nurturing and caring group of people, and the training is designed to help you develop skills you can always use.
- So if you feel yourself being called to this ministry, we encourage you to pray about it, talk to Dawn or Palmer about it, and make your decision soon. Training starts January 6 and will be completed in May.

Dawn Chesser
Clergy Liaison
(865) 521-0279
dchesser@churchstreetumc.org

Palmer Cantler
Stephen Ministry Leader
(865) 521-0298
pcantler@churchstreetumc.org

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COUNT ON ME

Thank you to all who have turned in your Prayer Request sheet, *Lord, Here I Am to Serve* sheet and your Financial Commitment Card.

As of November 30, we have received 249 pledges for a total of \$1,254,746. We need at least \$500,000 more to meet the same budget as 2018 in 2019. If you have not made a pledge, please fill out a card or email Kate Spencer at kspencer@churchstreetumc.org as soon as possible, so the Finance Committee will know how to plan for 2019. Thank you!

WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR CHURCH STREET?

Our Prayers

In the hospital

UT: Henry Guigou, Jim Lees,
Doris Martinson

Ft. Sanders: Claire Shepherd

Home from the hospital

Daniel Cheatham, Jim Reego,
Natalie Walker

Christian Love and Sympathy to:

Catherin Miles and Ivey Miles Slate
on the death of Catherin's son, (Ivey's
brother), William Miles, Jr.

The family and friends of Betty Gentry
who died on Nov. 28, in Knoxville, TN.

The family and friends of the Rev. Eldon
Moore who died on Nov. 29.

Alan and Judy Fethe on the death of
Judy's father, George Russell Hanks,
who died on Dec. 1 in Chattanooga.

John and Sandy Mann on the death of
John's mother, Freda Mann, who died
on Dec. 3 in Knoxville.

The family and friends of Dr. Toombs H.
Kay, Jr., who died on Dec. 4.

Our Presence: December 2

Sunday School	375
Sunday Worship	686

Our Gifts: November 25

Received Toward Budget	\$ 21,243.75
Building for Christ campaign	\$ 31,246.60
Other	\$ 20,894.77

Altar Flowers

Sunday, December 9

The Chancel altar flowers are given
in loving memory of
Carl and Betty Bell
given by Celia and Andy Ferguson,
Rachel and Alan Burley and families.

LECTIONARY READINGS

December 9

Malachi 3:1-4
Luke 1:68-79
Philippians 1:3-11
Luke 3:1-6

December 16

Zephaniah 3:14-20
Isaiah 12:2-6
Philippians 4:4-7
Luke 3:7-18

Our Church Family

New Members:

We extend a warm welcome to **Matthew
and Allison Thompson** who joined on
Sunday, December 2, at the 11 a.m. service.
Allison joined by transfer from First UMC,
Knoxville and Matthew joined by transfer
from Trinity UMC, Bradenton, FL.

IN MEMORIAM

Betty L. Gentry

Joined: 09/03/1961 Died: 11/28/2018

Memorials

In memory of:

- **Eileen Ellison**
Building Fund: Bob & Mary Carmichael
- **Bob Goff**
Building Fund:
Barry & Nancy Christmas
Keith & Jenny Poveda
Lois & Blake Thatcher
Anne Davidson
Rem & Louise Edwards
Music: Verna McLain & Herman Sain
Memorial: Faye Sapp
- **William Miles, Jr.**
Beacon of Hope: Anonymous
- **Madge Neblett**
Memorial:
Peggy & Lonnie Hale
Doris Lanning
Dr. Lynda Lanning & Scott Green
- **Mary Jane Ripley**
Building Fund: Louise Petty
- **John von Weisenstein**
Soup Kitchen:
Stephanie Boyd
UMW Service Circle

Building for Christ Capital Campaign Update

Total Project: \$8,600,000

Total Received: \$6,041,648

2018 Extended Capital Campaign

Goal: \$2 million

Pledges received: 86 totaling \$1,387,693

Amount needed to avoid debt: \$612,307

(*As of November 7, 2018)

You may make a gift or pledge to the
Building for Christ project today by
contacting Kate Spencer at
kspencer@churchstreetumc.org

Contact Us

Church Office (865) 524-3048

Hours: Mon.– Fri., 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Fax number (865) 521-0288

Pastor On-Call Number (865) 320-9100

For emergencies, call the On-Call Number and
the pastor on call will answer or you may leave
a message and the pastor will return your call.

www.churchstreetumc.org

Follow us on Facebook: [@csumcknoxville](https://www.facebook.com/csumcknoxville),

Twitter: [@ChurchStreetUMC](https://twitter.com/ChurchStreetUMC) and

Instagram: [churchstreetumc](https://www.instagram.com/churchstreetumc)

Staff Directory

Dial 521-0 + extension

Senior Pastor	Chuck Starks–260
Senior Associate Pastor	Dawn Chesser–279
Associate Pastor	Palmer Cantler–298
Minister of Spiritual Enrichment	Jan Wade–264
Minister of Discipleship	Rick Isbell–266
Visitation Pastors	
	Rev. Larry Best: 865-705-2993
	Rev. Andy Ferguson: 865-236-0951
Director of Music Ministries	Tim Ward–276
Music Associate/Organist	Edie Johnson–277
Children's Ministry	Katryn Bancroft–282
Child Care Coordinator	
	Sarah Burtch: 865-567-0913
Youth/College Ministries	Jenny Cross–287
Preschool Director	Beth Libby: 524-3511
Church Administrator	Kate Spencer–268
Bookkeeper	Francine Jenne–267
Administrative Assistant	Kelly Woods–262
Ministers' Secretary Emerita	Loretta Best–280
Executive Secretary	Doris Lively–271
Receptionist	Brenda Flenniken–270
Part-time Secretary	Eileen Weber–278
Director of Communications	Julie Hill–299
Sterchi Lodge Caretaker	
Maintenance Supervisor	Keith Bailey–295
Head Custodian	Jeffery Rose–274
Custodians:	Dedra Ellison, Robin Crain, Kevin Bailey
Beacon of Hope	Dona McConnell: 599-5047



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