

## Worship OPPORTUNITIES

### Sunday, December 16

Third Sunday of Advent

#### Worship

8:30 & 11 a.m. – Nave

Rev. Chuck Starks

“Go to the Well”

Luke 3:7–18

### Blue Christmas Service

December 19

12 p.m. – Chapel

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](mailto:reservations@churchstreetumc.org).

### Poinsettia Sales

#### Sunday, Dec. 16 in the Chapel Hall

Help decorate the church this Advent 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**.

The order deadline is

Sunday, Dec. 16.



### Christmas Eve Services Monday, Dec. 24

12 noon – Traditional Service with soloists

3 p.m. – Family service with soloists

5:30 p.m. – Traditional w/ Parish Adult Choir  
(Nursery for children up to 4 years old available)

10:30 p.m. – Traditional w/ Parish Adult Choir

All services include candlelight and Holy Communion open to all

### Beacon of Hope Angel Tree

Reminder: Please return gifts **unwrapped** to the church office by **Friday, December 14**. If you have questions, please contact Dona McConnell at **865-599-5047**. Thank you to all who have helped on this fun ministry project!



### The Christmas Pageant is coming this Sunday!

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. All are welcome to participate or just come and watch the performance!

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

*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 online with this QR code or contact Gabe Blake at [gabe@franklinkyle.com](mailto:gabe@franklinkyle.com) or **865-300-8186**.



- December 18—*Messiah* Master Arts Series at 7:30 p.m. (3 more needed)
- December 23—Combined Service at 11:00 a.m. (8 more needed)
- December 24—Christmas Eve Services, multiple times (over 20 more needed)
- December 30—Combined Service at 11:00 a.m. (11 more needed)

## Habitat House Dedication

Join the celebration on Saturday, December 15 at 10 a.m.

Shoulder to shoulder we worked together to build a house for Alneshia and her sons. Over several weeks we watched a vacant lot transform into a beautiful structure they can now call home. Everyone is invited to come to the celebration to be held on **Saturday, December 15 at 10 a.m. at 4133 Van Dyke Drive.**

## 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.

+

# 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 December 11, we have received 259 pledges for a total of \$1,276,766. 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](mailto:kspencer@churchstreetumc.org) as soon as possible, so the Finance Committee will know how to plan for 2019. Thank you!



### 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 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](mailto:jbwade@churchstreetumc.org)

## Calendar: December 16 – December 22

### 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  
Blue Christmas Service  
Wednesday, 12 pm, Chapel

### Sunday School–9:40 AM

### Master Arts Series

*Messiah*, part 1 by G.F. Handel  
Tuesday, 7:30 pm, Nave  
Reception follows, Parish Hall

### Meetings & Ministry

Poinsettia Sale  
Sunday, 8:30 am, Chapel Hall  
Benevolence Team  
Monday, 12 pm, CLC 124  
Soup Kitchen  
Thursday, 11 am, Gym

### Personal & Spiritual Growth

*Full of Grace* Nativity Art Exhibition  
Monday, noon–6 pm, TBA  
Tuesday, noon–10 pm, Par. Hall  
Wed, noon–6 pm, rm 204  
Men of God  
Tuesday, 10 am, rm 202

### Leisure Activities & Fellowship

Fellowship Lunch (RSVP 524-3048)  
Wednesday, 12:30 pm, rm 118  
Downtown Church Tours  
Friday, 5 pm, Welcome Center

### Youth

Youth Christmas Parties  
Sunday, 9:40 am, Lower CLC  
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)

### Music

Parish Adult Choir Rehearsals  
Wednesday, 7 pm, rm 306

### Singles

Bridge  
Monday, 6 pm, rm 201C  
FOCUS / Singles Council  
Tuesday, 6 pm, Panera Bread  
Yoga Class  
Monday, 7 pm, rm 204

### Beacon of Hope

Benevolence Team  
Tuesday, 12 pm, Vestal UMC  
BOH Food Co-op  
Thursday, 9 am, Vestal UMC

# Blue Christmas Service

Wednesday, December 19  
at 12 p.m. in the Chapel



The service is designed for those who have experienced any kind of loss—a death, an illness, a loss of relationship or employment or experienced any life change. Lunch follows in room 118; please make lunch reservations by contacting the office at [524-3048](tel:524-3048) or [reservations@churchstreetumc.org](mailto:reservations@churchstreetumc.org).

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

### 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 on page 2)

Monday: noon – 6 p.m. (room 204)

Tuesday: noon – 10 p.m. (Parish Hall / Welcome Center)

Wednesday: noon – 6 p.m. (room 204)

### 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 with soloists

3:00 p.m. – Family Service with soloists

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)

## DISCIPLE PROPHETS CLASS COMPLETES STUDY

For the past 12 weeks, 12 persons have been engaged in an in-depth study of the prophets of the Old Testament and approximately 500 years of Israel's history. Beginning with the prophet Nathan (1000 BCE) and continuing through the divided kingdoms, through the exile into Assyria and Babylonia, the return to Jerusalem (539 BCE) and the rebuilding of the Temple (515 BCE), the study conclude with the last prophet in the Old Testament, Malachi.

We learned the role of the prophets in Israel's history, their messages and relevancy to today's world. This was the first of the Disciple Fast Track courses. It required daily scripture readings, reading of the study book and attendance in the 90-minute course that met on Sunday afternoons.

Those that completed the course are **Cody Bancroft, Barry & Nancy Christmas, Larry & Linda Cox, Stephanie Boyd, Frank Moore, Jamie McKinney, Julie Thornburg, Rob & Pat Freeland, Martha Pierce**. Rev. Rick Isbell led the study.

## Women's Bible Study begins new study in 2019 *Discerning the Voice of God* (Updated edition) by Priscilla Shirer

If hearing God has seemed challenging, Priscilla Shirer invites you to explore a more intimate relationship with Him, one that can make hearing Him—His will, His heart, and His voice—your ongoing experience. Discover how you can listen with greater confidence, clarity and discernment.

Updated and substantially expanded, this revised study includes weekly insights from author and pastor (and Priscilla's father), Dr. Tony Evans, plus daily opportunities to:

- More deeply understand the Holy Spirit's role in your life
- Differentiate His voice from imposters' voices, even from your own
- Glimpse His guidance in your everyday life
- Grow consistently in obedience, surrender, stillness, and humility
- Prepare to continually and expectantly hear from Him.

The workbook and DVD study will last seven weeks and will begin on Wed. Jan. 9, 2019. We meet in room 201A from 9:30–11:30 a.m. The cost of the workbook is \$10 and will be handed out the first day of class. Childcare is available but must be requested prior to class starting. Please contact Juanita Cowles at [865-712-3262](tel:865-712-3262) or by email at [Juanita.cowles@att.net](mailto:Juanita.cowles@att.net) to sign up or for more information.



## COMMISSION ON A WAY FORWARD

### Action of Church Council

At the September meeting of Church Council, a motion was made for Church Council to adopt the following: (for decision at the November meeting of Church Council):

“We the Church Council of Church Street United Methodist Church, in regular session on 11-27-18, do hereby request the Clergy and Lay Delegation of The Holston Annual Conference to The Called Session of The General Conference of The United Methodist Church, to be held February 23–26, 2019, to vote in favor of preserving the unity of the church

by removing the restrictive language regarding human sexuality found in the 2016 Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church. Further, we request the Delegation to vote in favor of the One Church Model as proposed by the Commission on a Way Forward and endorsed by The United Methodist Council of Bishops.”

The motion was considered, debated and voted on by Church Council at its November 27 meeting. The motion was adopted by a vote of 20 to 6. Present were 31 of the 46 members of Church Council.

Further, the Church Council considered and passed a resolution to take this matter to a full Church Conference, the date for which has not been determined.

It is important to note that this resolution does not commit Church Street to do anything beyond communicating Church Council’s support of the One Church Plan to the Holston Conference delegates to the Called Session of the General Conference in St. Louis in February, 2019.

—SALLY LIGHTER, CHAIR OF CHURCH COUNCIL,  
JOHN ELDRIDGE, CHAIR PRO TEMPORE



### Welcome Barbara & Jack Bratton! Sterchi Lodge’s new caretakers

On September 1, we welcomed new caretaker hosts, **Barbara and Jack Bratton**, to Sterchi Lodge. Not only do the Brattons have family ties to the area, but they have also been visiting Sterchi Lodge for the past five years.

Married since 2003, the Brattons have 2 children and 4 grandchildren. They relocated to Sterchi Lodge from Union, South Carolina, where Jack worked as a logistics supervisor for a luxury car supplier and Barbara was employed with the local Council on Aging.

An adventurous couple, they enjoy traveling, hiking, cooking, and spending time with family. The Brattons are very excited to be serving in this role, which they consider a ministry. As they settle in as residents at our beloved Sterchi Lodge, Barbara and Jack look forward to many years of welcoming guests and working hand in hand with Church Street UMC.

### 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](mailto:delegation@holston.org)

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

## WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR CHURCH STREET?



### 4-Course Fellowship Returns Revitalized

Our 4-Course Fellowship dinner groups will begin again starting in January. This dinner fellowship ministry will return renewed and revitalized. If you are interested in meeting new people from Church Street in a relaxed setting around a great meal with no serious agenda except to meet and get to know people, this ministry is made for you.

**The 4-Course Fellowship potluck and information night will take place on Sunday evening, January 6, 5:30–7 p.m. in our new Parish Hall.** If you have *never* been in a 4-course fellowship group or if you *have been* in a previous one, you are invited to this special evening of renewal. Come find out what you might’ve been missing. Come and reconnect with old friends and make new ones over a shared meal. There will be time to learn more about 4-Course Fellowship and sign up for one of the dinner groups. New members are especially invited! For more information, contact Tim and Kim Kazmier, [kimkazmier@gmail.com](mailto:kimkazmier@gmail.com).

### Holiday CareNotes Available

The holidays can bring on stress, grief and a multitude of other feelings due to the loss of a loved one or the remembrance of times past. The Congregational Care Committee is providing excellent CareNotes addressing these issues. You can find these holiday CareNotes in the special rack on the hallway table outside room 201-A. Pick one up today.

## SINGLES EVENTS

### Christmas Celebration

The Island in Pigeon Forge  
Saturday, Dec. 15 at 5:00 p.m.

We will leave from Church Street 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 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.

### FOCUS and Singles Council

Tuesday, Dec. 18 at 6:00 p.m.  
Panera Bread in Bearden

We will attend the Master Arts Series Messiah presentation at 7:30 p.m. followed by the art exhibition. For those who would like to join us for a sandwich before the concert, we will gather together at Panera Bread in Mercedes Place in Bearden at 6 p.m. Our FOCUS host is Mary Lewis.

## STEPHEN MINISTRY—Helping Others with “Blue Holidays”

As Christmas approaches, some people are hurting due to the loss of a loved one, a difficult diagnosis, a job loss, or other significant life challenge. These losses and experiences can make an ordinarily joyful season feel hard, lonely, or even painful. Holidays can magnify unhappiness or anxiety. People may feel there is nothing to be happy about this year, or even begin to think the holidays are just making everything worse.

We can suggest some ways you may be able to help friends or family members who are grieving and finding it hard to celebrate.

- First, it is helpful and supportive to let people know it's okay to feel whatever way they are feeling.
- Give them “permission” to observe holidays in whatever way feels comfortable and right to them.

**Dawn Chesser**  
Clergy Liaison

(865) 521-0279

[dchesser@churchstreetumc.org](mailto:dchesser@churchstreetumc.org)

- Offer to help in specific ways. “Would you like help in decorating the tree? Could I help you with baking? Could we go shopping together?” Listen to what they need or want; don't impose your agenda or needs on them.
- Ask how they are feeling and doing, and listen to them with your heart as well as your ears. Remember that grief is personal, and there is no right timetable or right way to grieve. Be patient, giving them respect and love.
- Help them decide which traditions they want to observe and what they want to skip this year. Encourage them to take time to rest and be kind to themselves.

By relating in these ways, you can help hurting people find comfort and hope in a difficult time. Remember that Stephen Ministers are always glad to help wherever they are needed.

**Palmer Cantler**  
Stephen Ministry Leader

(865) 521-0298

[pcantler@churchstreetumc.org](mailto:pcantler@churchstreetumc.org)



## Staff Christmas Love Offering

We are truly blessed at our church to have a dedicated staff working to fulfill our mission. If you would like to contribute to our Staff Christmas Love Offering in 2018, please make your contribution by **this Sunday, Dec. 16**. You may:

1. Mail your check marked, “Staff Love Offering” to the church office or place it in the Sunday, Dec. 16th offering plate.
2. Go online to [www.churchstreetumc.org](http://www.churchstreetumc.org) (click on the “Give Online” button near the bottom of the screen).
3. Bring a check to the church office.

If you write a check, please note that it is for the Staff Christmas Love offering. Your gift is tax deductible. All clergy, administrative, program and custodial staff are included in this annual remembrance.

Any amount is appreciated! In this season of Advent, may we demonstrate to those who serve us a tangible form of gratitude.

—JO TERRY, CHAIR, STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS COMMITTEE

## Do you shop at Kroger?



If so, would you take a minute to follow this link to register your Kroger plus card with the Church Street Youth Choir for Kroger Community Rewards funding.



Click “I'm a customer!” Our account number is **TF634**. You'll need your Kroger Plus Card number to register. If you don't have an account, you'll need to register.

After you register, when you shop, Kroger will make a donation to the choir. Currently we have 43 households registered and we receive about \$250 per quarter. Thanks for your assistance to even more funding.

—TIM WARD

## Our Prayers

### *In the hospital*

Park West: Steve Mundy  
Tennova Turkey Creek: Don Rickels

### *Home from the hospital*

Ron Kyle to NHC Emerald Ave.,  
Jim Lees, Doris Martinson,  
Claire Shepherd

### *Christian Love and Sympathy to:*

Vance Gregory on the death of his  
father, Raymond Gregory, who died on  
Dec. 9.

Debbie Guigou on the death of her  
husband, Henry Guigou, who died on  
Dec. 9.

### **Our Presence: December 9**

Sunday School 224  
Sunday Worship (8:30 a.m. only) 309

### **Our Gifts: December 2**

Received Toward Budget \$ 43,846.57  
Building for Christ campaign \$ 19,707.00  
Other \$ 3,723.00

## Newsletter Deadline:

Next week's December 18 edition  
of *The Messenger* will be the final  
newsletter for 2018. Please submit  
written articles that you wish to be  
published by **Sunday, Dec. 16 at  
midnight** for inclusion to:  
[jhill@churchstreetumc.org](mailto:jhill@churchstreetumc.org)

## The Sharing Shops

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

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

Thank you for your generosity!

## LECTIONARY READINGS

### **December 16**

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

### **December 23**

Micah 5:2-5a  
Luke 1:47-55  
Hebrews 10:5-10  
Luke 1:39-45

## Our Church Family

IN MEMORIAM

**Henry Guigou**

Joined: 04/17/1983 Died: 12/09/2018

## Honorarium

*In honor of:*

- **Ann Marie Tugwell**  
*Sterchi Lodge:* The Weeks Family

## Memorials

*In memory of:*

- **Bob Goff**  
*Building Fund:*  
Lou & George McNutt  
Beverly Smith & John Dunlap  
Leann Trotter  
Partners Sunday School Class



BUILDING FOR

*Christ.*

## Building for Christ Capital Campaign Update

Total Project: \$8,600,000  
Total Received: \$6,542,494

### 2018 Extended Capital Campaign

Goal: \$2 million

Pledges received: 86 totaling \$1,387,693  
Amount needed to avoid debt: \$612,307

(\*As of December 6, 2018)

You may make a gift or pledge to the  
*Building for Christ* project today by  
contacting Kate Spencer at  
[kspencer@churchstreetumc.org](mailto:kspencer@churchstreetumc.org)



## 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](mailto:aralston1025@tds.net).

## 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](http://www.churchstreetumc.org)

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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



PO Box 1303  
900 HENLEY AT MAIN  
KNOXVILLE, TN 37901